

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
September 1997
for
Nez Perce National Historical Park
and
Big Hole National Battlefield

Asotin and Okanogan Counties, Washington
Wallowa County, Oregon
Nez Perce, Idaho, Lewis, Clearwater and Clark Counties, Idaho
Park County, Wyoming
Blaine, Yellowstone and Beaverhead Counties, Montana

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PREFACE

The drumbeat, the heartbeat, of the Nez Perce people has echoed across the forests, rivers and canyons of the homeland for a very, very long time. It continues to be heard today -- loud and clear and stronger than ever. The reverberations are felt at pow wows and basketball games, at rodeos and horse shows, on the fire line, in the classroom, in the huckleberry patches and fishing places and camas digging grounds, in beadwork and cornhusk and artistry in many forms.

Once heard it is hard to forget. It carries messages for those who would listen -- messages of hope and despair, of deception and triumph, of pain and guilt, laughter and joy. It speaks to us as human beings -- where we have been and where we are going. And it helps define us as a nation.

While the words in the following document are managerial and administrative by nature, they are driven by the realization that Nez Perce National Historical Park is a park about a people for all people. It is not one place, but many. It is not one story, but a multitude of them. It is not one viewpoint, but many more than one. It is often controversial and emotional. This document acknowledges all of these things and does its best to set a course for the future.

INTRODUCTION

Almost as soon as Nez Perce National Historical Park was established in 1965, it became obvious that many more than the original 24 sites were needed to portray a more complete story of the Nez Perce people. Twenty-seven years later, 14 sites in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana were added to the park.

The process of evaluating these new sites reinvigorated park supporters. Nez Perce National Historical Park had evolved into a model for working in partnership with public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals to achieve its goals. Unlike "traditional" parks, there was very little land base; the park was managed and operated through collaborative processes, relying on cooperative agreements, memorandums of understanding, and other unconventional means for protecting and interpreting resources owned by others. Support for this innovative approach came from many individuals of diverse backgrounds, and the legislation adding the new sites passed by a wide margin in 1992.

This *General Management Plan* for Nez Perce National Historical Park provides focus and direction to guide resource management, general development, and park administration for the next 15 to 20 years. The plan is a confirmation and endorsement of the successes that have already been accomplished, and a renewed commitment to continue operation in a similar mode for the foreseeable future.

This document contains information that applies to the entire park, including its purpose and significance, desired future, and interpretive themes. A plan for the overall management of the park is presented, followed by specific information on how each site will be managed.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

The success of Nez Perce National Historical Park has been, and will continue to be, based on strong partnerships. Input from tribes, partners, park neighbors, and the general public was actively sought in the planning process from the outset. This *General Management Plan* reflects that input and acknowledges the very real possibility of additional partnerships in the future.

A newsletter announcing the general management planning process and presenting purpose, significance, and interpretive themes for the park was mailed to approximately 1,600 addresses on the park mailing list. Public meetings were held in 21 communities in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Montana in January and February 1995. These scoping meetings were attended by over 350 individuals, and 85 mail back comment forms were received. The summarized scoping results and a desired future developed by the full team were made available to the public in a second newsletter in July 1995.

The 50-page *Alternatives Newsbook* was distributed to the mailing list in April 1996. The newsbook included a summary of the planning process to that time, information that had been presented in earlier newsletters, and a request for comments on the parkwide and site-specific alternatives. Simultaneously, park management scheduled informal meetings where feedback on the alternatives was solicited. Information gathered at these meetings and from the 48 returned mailback forms was used to select the proposed action.

The National Park Service consulted with the states involved, tribes, and other federal agencies regarding the presence of sensitive resources.

Letters with proposed boundary maps were sent to the nearly 250 landowners whose properties were included within the proposed site boundaries, prior to distribution of the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*, which was mailed in October, 1996. During October and November, public meetings were held in 17 communities in the four-state park area; these were attended by 512 individuals. There were 646 written comments on the document, from federal, tribal, state, and local officials, organizations, and individuals. Revisions to the plan were made based on these comments and on further consultations with landowners. The revisions were officially published in an abbreviated *Final Environmental Impact Statement* in August, 1997.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PARK

The park purpose is why the unit was set aside as part of the national park system. It provides the most fundamental criterion against which the appropriateness of all plan recommendations, operational decisions, and actions can be tested.

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establishing legislation (see Appendix A). In addition to restating the laws, the purpose statement also documents the shared assumptions about the intent of the law.

Nez Perce National Historical Park was established as a unit of the national park system on May 15, 1965, by Public Law 89-19. The law specifies the park was created to "facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country of Idaho that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation." Specifically mentioned are sites relating to early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark expedition through the area, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining, logging, the Nez Perce War of 1877, and "such other sites as will depict the role of the Nez Perce country in the westward expansion of the Nation." Sites include historic buildings, battlefields, missions, landscapes, cemeteries, trails, archeological sites, and geologic formations important to the Nez Perce people. A total of 24 sites were established in 1965.

Public Law 102-576 of October 30, 1992, allowed sites to be designated in Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming. It specified that 14 additional sites in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana should be included in the park.

On the basis of provisions in the enabling legislation, the purpose of Nez Perce National Historical Park is to:

- Facilitate protection and offer interpretation of Nez Perce sites in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the United States.
- Preserve and protect tangible resources that document the history of the Nez Perce peoples and the significant role of the Nez Perce in North American history.
- Interpret the culture and history of the Nez Perce peoples and promote documentation to enhance that interpretation.
- The legislation provides for certain ways to support the purpose of the park, as follows:
- The National Park Service will consult with the Nez Perce people concerning the interpretation of the park and its history.
- Achieving the protection and interpretation of Nez Perce National Historical Park sites can be furthered through a broad range of partnerships and cooperative arrangements with states, federal agencies, tribes, and local and private entities.

WHY THE PARK IS SIGNIFICANT

The planning team's expression of the overarching sentiment behind the purpose and significance of the park:

*Nez Perce National Historical Park offers for all Americans an important perspective about our history as a people. It is not the view from the Gateway Arch looking west; it is a view from a homeland looking out, witnessing the march of history and change, yet continuing today and tomorrow to commemorate and celebrate Nez Perce culture and traditions. It is a park about **a** people, for **all** people.*

Park significance tells why the park is special -- why it is so important that it belongs in the national park system. Statements of significance clearly define the importance of the park's resources as they relate to the park's purpose. Knowing the park's significance helps set resource protection priorities, identify primary park interpretive themes, and develop desirable visitor experiences.

The park preserves a continuum of at least 11,000 years of Nez Perce culture. Its archeological record, museum collection, cultural landscapes, and structures are of national significance. The park contains historical and cultural landmarks that are of legendary significance to the Nez Perce people. The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail commemorates a significant event in the history of the Nez Perce people.

Nez Perce National Historical Park offers a unique opportunity for visitors to gain an understanding of present-day Nez Perce culture within and outside the Nez Perce homeland and to learn about important events of the past.

Past and present Nez Perce culture were shaped by the geography and the rich and varied resources of the Nez Perce homeland.

The park includes parts of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Lolo Trail, both of which were used by other cultures. The Nez Perce country, Nez Perce National Historical Park sites, and other Native American cultures overlap but also differ in many ways.

The park contains burial sites and sacred sites; it is also a focal point for current Nez Perce culture and allows for the continued traditional use of resources. The park honors the rights retained in the 1855 and 1863 treaties and will fully apply all applicable laws, executive orders, policies, and treaties related to the protection of cultural properties and sacred sites.

TELLING THE PARK STORIES

The primary park stories, or interpretive themes, are overview statements that tell visitors about the significance of the park and cover information that is basic to visitor understanding of the park. Interpretation is a process of education that is designed to stimulate curiosity and convey messages to the visiting public. All interpretive efforts, both media and personal services, should relate to one or more of the themes, and each should be addressed by some part of the overall program.

The following three primary interpretive themes have been identified for Nez Perce National Historical Park. Numerous subthemes and topics will be identified as the plan is implemented.

- The Nez Perce people developed a distinct culture through more than 11,000 years of interaction with the environment and landscape of their traditional homeland.
- The Nez Perce people and their culture have undergone and continue to undergo many changes as a direct result of their cooperation and conflict with Euro-American culture and the United States government.

- The treaty of 1855, the treaty of 1863, and the war of 1877 had severe consequences for the Nez Perce people, and they illustrate the difficult historical relationships between the United States and the indigenous cultures of North America.

PARK OVERVIEW

Because Nez Perce National Historical Park is so widespread geographically, the parkwide environment is difficult to describe. This section presents a broad-brush presentation of relevant information about cultural resources, natural resources, visitor experience, and facilities for park operation, to provide a better understanding of the context into which the individual sites fit.

CULTURAL HISTORY

The Nez Perce ancestral peoples have occupied the Plateau cultural area of the Northwest for at least 11,000 years. According to Nez Perce tradition, the world before humans was inhabited by animals who possessed human traits. The main animal was Coyote, who at times had superhuman powers. When a monster who lived near present-day Kamiah began to consume the animals, Coyote tricked the monster into swallowing him. While in the monster's stomach, Coyote killed the monster and set the animals free. He then carved the monster into pieces and scattered the parts throughout the land, where they became the various Native American tribes. He sprinkled the monster's blood about the area, and from the blood came the Nee-Me-Poo, or Nez Perce, people.

The earliest of the ancestral peoples lived in small groups and family units. They pursued a big game hunting cultural tradition that included fishing. By some 5,000 years ago, the basis of the historic Nez Perce peoples began to take form. Winter villages began to appear in which people lived in semisubterranean pit houses. Diets reflected an increasing use of roots and other wild-growing food. About 3,000 years ago the bow and arrow came into use, but this did not replace the atlatl (spear thrower) as the weapon of choice for another 1,300 years. By 700 A.D. most Nez Perce lived in villages along the main streams and tributaries of the Clearwater, Snake, and Salmon Rivers, where fish soon made up half of their diet.

Sites in Nez Perce National Historical Park that are associated with legends or that contain evidence of early occupation:

Spalding, which contains a site of prehistoric Indian communities dating back 11,000 years

Lenore, which contains an early occupation site dating from about 8,500 years ago

Weis Rockshelter, with remains from as early as 8,000 years ago

Hasotino Village, where there is evidence of prehistoric and historic occupation, as well as an important eel fishery site

Heart of the Monster, where two basalt outcrops, Heart of the Monster and the Liver, represent the birthplace of the Nez Perce peoples

Coyote's Fishnet, which depicts the Bear and the Fishnet of Nez Perce legend

Ant and Yellowjacket, where rock formations symbolize these fighting insects

Camas Prairie, Musselshell Meadow, Weippe Prairie and Tolo Lake, where camas roots have been gathered for thousands of years

Buffalo Eddy, with rock art that encompasses two phases of petroglyphs and an area of pictographs that date as early as 4,500 years ago.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

The expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark brought the first white men to Nez Perce Country. The Nez Perce they encountered in September 1805 were a friendly people who lived in independent villages along rivers and streams. Each village was governed by a council that chose and advised a headman. Villages in the same locality were organized into a band that was represented by a band council composed of individuals of the various villages, who elected a headman.

Using a similar structure, neighboring bands were organized into composite bands. Each of the composite bands shared a common background as well as blood and maritalties. However, there was no head chief or political group that could speak for all the bands.

Although unity was important, each village and band remained autonomous. When Lewis and Clark's party made contact with the Nez Perce in the fall of 1805, the legacy of the European had already affected them: diseases such as smallpox preceded whites to the area. During this period the Nez Perce had also obtained horses through trade with neighboring groups. The horse changed the Nez Perce culture by making buffalo hunting east of the Bitterroot Mountains easier and permitting contacts and trade with peoples over a wider portion of the region. Horses flourished in the Plateau area, and large herds were common by the early 19th century.

Fur traders found the area not long after the Lewis and Clark group departed the Nez Perce Country in May 1806. In late 1811 Donald MacKenzie and ten other members of John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company reached the Nez Perce while on their way to establish a trading post near the mouth of the Columbia River. MacKenzie promised to return and open a trading post among the Nez Perce. He reappeared in August 1812 and built a small post on the Clearwater River about 5 miles above present-day Lewiston. However, this fur trading post proved unsuccessful because the Nez Perce sought to trade food and horses but did not want to engage in trapping beaver.

Later groups of both American and British fur traders obtained a ready supply of food and horses from the Nez Perce people in exchange for guns and other implements. Consequently, the Nez Perce slowly began to value and rely on the technologies obtained from non-Indians.

Sites in the park that represent contacts with the Lewis and Clark expedition are the 1805 sites at **Weippe Prairie** and **Canoe Camp** and the 1806 **Lewis and Clark Long Camp**. The **Lolo Trail** and **Lolo Pass** units illustrate the Nez Perce use of the horse to hunt buffalo east of the Bitterroot.

MISSIONARIES AND MOUNTAIN MEN

By the 1830s Christian missionaries of various denominations began to make preparations to establish stations among the Native Americans of the Northwest. A party of Methodist

missionaries led by Jason Lee met with some Nez Perce in 1834, but this group did not settle among the tribe. Samuel Parker and Marcus Whitman arrived in the area the next year under the sponsorship of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, which represented Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and other denominations.

Parker traveled through Nez Perce country to select mission sites; Whitman returned to the East. Whitman returned to the Nez Perce in 1836, accompanied by Henry Spalding and William Gray. They parted company at the Columbia River, with Spalding remaining in Nez Perce country to establish a mission near the mouth of Lapwai Creek. The initial enthusiasm of the Nez Perce for Spalding's teachings deteriorated as the temperamental Spalding used punishments such as whipping to achieve his ends.

Mountain men like William Craig criticized Spalding. Craig had settled among the Nez Perce and married a headman's daughter. In 1837 William Gray, who had returned to the East, arrived in Nez Perce country with several more missionaries. One of these, Asa Smith, opened a mission in 1839 for the Nez Perce along the Clearwater just northwest of present-day Kamiah. Although Smith remained for only two years, Spalding continued to live among the Nez Perce.

A rift developed between the Indians who supported Spalding and the non-Christians, who ignored him. By the 1850s a Nez Perce whom the whites called Lawyer gradually exerted influence over the Christian Nez Perce. Lawyer and the "pro-white" headmen chose to follow the path Spalding had taught them. Other headmen and war chiefs such as Looking Glass, Three Feathers, and Eagle From the Light ignored the Christian teachings and retained their old practices.

The **Confluence Overlook** (formerly Donald MacKenzie Post) site of Nez Perce National Historical Park represents early contact with fur traders.

Sites in the park associated with the missionary period are the **Lapwai Mission**, where the first Spalding mission was located, **Spalding**, where Henry Spalding had his second mission, and the associated **Asa Smith mission**.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT, A TREATY, AND GOLD

In the meantime, white settlement west of the Cascade Mountains increased to the point that Washington Territory was established in 1853. The territory included present-day Idaho. Isaac Stevens became the territorial governor and superintendent of Indian affairs. Hoping to establish a route for a transcontinental railroad, Stevens sought to remove the Indians from that passage area and settle them on reservations. He called a council with a number of native groups from May 29 to June 11, 1855. Many of the Nez Perce headmen were away hunting buffalo. Consequently, the Nez Perce headmen who were present chose Lawyer to represent them. William Craig acted as interpreter.

At the point when Stevens had convinced the Nez Perce to sign a treaty, Looking Glass and other headmen returned from their hunt to argue against the proceedings. Since the proposed treaty defined a reservation that allowed the Nez Perce to keep nearly all of their land, Lawyer

prevailed in the ensuing debate. In turn, each Nez Perce headman signed the 1855 treaty for his own band or village. The treaty permitted William Craig to keep his land on the reservation in the Lapwai Valley. As a result, he became the first permanent white settler in what is now Idaho.

The 1855 treaty did not end the problems with the growing number of white settlers, it only led to more troubled times. In 1860, six months after the United States Senate ratified the 1855 Treaty, Elias Pierce found gold on Orofino Creek, a tributary of the Clearwater River. A gold rush to the Nez Perce reservation ensued. A group of prospectors had established the town of Pierce by December 1860. Succeeding mineral finds brought thousands of whites to the reservation.

The location of **Craig's Donation Land Claim** forms a site of Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The **Pierce Courthouse** site symbolizes the area's mining history and the impact of mining on the Nez Perce people.

CONFLICTS AMONG THE NEZ PERCE

The resulting conflicts between the miners and the Nez Perce led to a new council at Lapwai in May 1863 to revise the 1855 treaty. Lawyer and his headmen followers were the first to arrive at the council. After the American Commissioners manipulated Lawyer and his followers into accepting a vastly reduced reservation, a group of anti-Lawyer headmen arrived, including Old Joseph and White Bird. Those two head men refused to sign a treaty and left the meeting. Old Joseph returned to his band in the Wallowa Valley of northeast Oregon. Lawyer and his backers eventually signed.

This fateful development further divided the Nez Perce peoples between those whose headmen had signed the treaty and those whose headmen had refused to sign. By and large, the nontreaty bands lived a life based on traditional beliefs, while the bands whose headmen had signed the treaty were converted to Christianity.

Old Chief Joseph died in August 1871, insisting that he had never sold his homeland. He was moved from his burial site and reinterred in a new site at the foot of Wallowa Lake in 1926. The 1870s brought a surge in Christian missionary activity among the treaty Nez Perce who lived on the reservation. Protestant missionaries not only served their churches but also acted as Indian agents. Through their efforts, ancient village sites were abandoned. Bands settled in new church-village centers and accepted the white man's way of life. As Catholic missionaries arrived to join the Christianizing enterprise, antagonisms erupted between the Catholic and Protestant factions, partly aggravated by the fact that Protestants held more power through the Indian agent positions.

The **Saint Joseph's Mission** site of the park exemplifies the period of increased mission activity.

PRESSURE TO GO TO THE RESERVATION

The nontreaty Nez Perce came under increasing pressure from surrounding white settlement to leave their home lands and move to the reservation. The younger Chief Joseph, who replaced his father Old Joseph as the leader of the nontreaty Nez Perce in the Wallowa Valley, faced escalating pressure from white settlers and Oregon political leaders. A commission was established in late 1876 to buy Joseph's land as a precursor to relocating all off-reservation nontreaty bands to the reservation. When Joseph refused to sell, the commissioners ordered all off-reservation bands to move to the reservation by April 1, 1877.

Along with White Bird and Toohoolhoolzote, who led other nontreaty bands, Joseph met with Gen. Oliver O. Howard at Fort Lapwai on May 3 for one last attempt to remain on their land. Howard told them to move to the reservation by June 14 or be driven there by the army. The nontreaty headmen chose to move.

WAR BEGINS

Toohoolhoolzote, White Bird, and Joseph's band met at **Tolo Lake** on June 2. Angered by the forced move, several young men of White Bird's band decided to take revenge on some white men who had killed some of their people. As a result of this action and a second raid two days later, the 1877 Nez Perce War began. An army detachment from Fort Lapwai under Capt. David Perry encountered the nontreaty Nez Perce on White Bird Battlefield and was soundly defeated. General Howard met the bands at Clearwater Battlefield on July 12 but failed to subdue them. Under the leadership of Looking Glass, the Nez Perce fled over the Lolo Trail and Lolo Pass to the Big Hole River. Col. John Gibbon surprised them there in a major encounter on August 9 but failed to halt their flight. Again General Howard tried to capture the fleeing Nez Perce at Camas Meadows on August 20 without success.

After several more skirmishes the nontreaty Nez Perce, heading for refuge in Canada, reached the Bear Paw Mountains of Montana, only a day's travel from the border. Col. Nelson A. Miles's forces surprised them at Bear Paw, and the final battle was fought between September 30 and October 5. White Bird managed to escape to Canada with most of his band. The remaining nontreaty bands with Joseph surrendered.

Sites in Nez Perce National Historical Park related to the 1877 war are **Clearwater Battlefield, Fort Lapwai, Dug Bar, Tolo Lake, Looking Glass Camp, Camas Prairie, White Bird Battlefield, Cottonwood Skirmishes Site, Lolo Trail, Lolo Pass, Big Hole National Battlefield, Camas Meadows Battle Sites, and Bear Paw Battlefield.**

JOSEPH'S BAND SENT TO KANSAS

Chief Joseph was promised his band would be sent to the Nez Perce reservation in Idaho to join the mostly Christian bands who had remained at peace with the whites. Instead, his group of 410 people was sent on November 23 to a prison camp along the Missouri River about 2 miles north of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Many of them became ill in the swampy environment, and many contracted malaria. A total of 21 died before they were removed to the Quapaw Agency in northeast Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma) in July 1878.

Some of White Bird's band returned to the United States, where they were captured and sent to join the others in Indian Territory. Conditions hardly improved for the Joseph Band at the Quapaw Agency. They were relocated some 180 miles west to the Ponca Agency in June 1879. Here they lived, longing for their homeland, until they were taken back to the Northwest in May 1885.

RETURN TO THE NORTHWEST

Before arriving in the Northwest, the Nez Perce were divided into two groups. Those who professed to be Christian were sent to the Nez Perce Reservation at Lapwai, Idaho. The non-Christians, including Joseph, who numbered 150, were taken to the Colville Reservation in Washington Territory. Most of those who went to Colville soon settled at Nespelem, where they continued to live a traditional lifestyle. Joseph died there on September 21, 1904.

The size of the Nez Perce reservation was reduced several times, notably by the passage of the Dawes General Allotment Act in 1887 and the Burke Act of 1906. Schools sought to instill the white culture in Nez Perce children. Many adult Nez Perce, believing that their own culture was inferior, sought to adopt white people's ways. Others moved to population centers in search of employment. Still, many of the elders, through memory and an oral teaching, kept the stories and traditions alive. By the 1970s a growing interest developed in the Nez Perce culture.

Today the Nez Perce people take great pride in their heritage. Tribal governments representing three Nez Perce bands have become highly professional, and recently enacted federal laws, especially the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Indian Self-Governance Act, acknowledge that tribes should have more control over the governmental programs that affect them. The Nez Perce people manage many successful social and resource management programs. They are key players in many resource issues that extend beyond reservation boundaries, such as fisheries management, wolf reintroduction, and habitat conservation.

Sites in Nez Perce National Historical Park that commemorate the Nez Perce return to the Northwest are the **Nespelem Camps** and the **Nez Perce Cemetery** in Washington, as well as **the Northern Idaho Indian Agency at Lapwai, Idaho**.

"Our traditional relationship with the earth was more than just reverence for the land. It was knowing that every living thing had been placed here by the Creator and that we were part of a sacred relationship...entrusted with the care and protection of our Mother Earth, we could not stand apart from our environment."

Elsie Maynard (Nez Perce)

"We must remember that the Creator gave us one Mother Earth that provides food, one air that we breathe for life, one water to nourish our body, animal, and plant life. We must continue as caretakers of the earth, or life will surely end soon."

J. Herman Reuben (Nez Perce)

NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural resources of Nez Perce National Historical Park are diverse and complex. The park sites, scattered throughout four states, are mostly small pockets of land owned and surrounded by a patchwork of lands in private, local, state, tribal, and federal ownership. The people and culture of this park are inextricably tied to the natural resources in the area; it is impossible to separate them. If the areas did not contain natural resources -- salmon, elk, bison, camas, balsamroot, dogbane, lodgepole pine, grasses, water, minerals, fertile soil, and others -- the Nez Perce, the fur trappers, the missionaries, the pioneers, and the miners would not have come to these areas. Intimate familiarity with and use of natural resources led to the development of the Nez Perce culture. Others saw the richness of the land and came, and with them came additional resource uses. An understanding of the cultural ties to the natural resources is critical to the wise management of this park.

ECOREGIONS

Nez Perce National Historical Park falls into three basic ecoregions: the *shortgrass prairies* of the Palouse Grasslands and Missouri Basin, the *sagebrush steppe* of the Columbia and Snake River Plateaus, and the *conifer/alpine meadows* of the Blue Mountains, the Salmon River Mountains, the basins and ranges of south-western Montana, and the northern Rocky Mountains of Idaho and Montana (Bailey 1995).

Shortgrass Prairie

Shortgrass prairies are characterized by flat or rolling expanses of low to moderate relief. The elevations of shortgrass prairies in the park range from less than 1,000 feet to about 3,500 feet. These prairies are dissected by rivers and streams forming canyons and valleys.

Because these regions are relatively dry, they are dominated by shortgrass species such as wheatgrass, fescue, and bluegrass in the Palouse area and buffalo, grama, wheatgrass, and needle-grass in the Missouri Basin. Wildflower species bloom in spring and summer. The Nez Perce used many of these such as the camas lily as a source of food, medicine, and fiber. The Palouse supports an abundance of wildlife. Bald eagles are frequent visitors to the reaches of the Columbia, Snake, and Clearwater Rivers. Osprey, red-tailed hawk, and other raptors are common, as are a wide variety of migratory and resident bird life. Cottontail rabbits, ground squirrels, coyotes, bobcats, and skunks also abound in these grasslands.

The Missouri Basin was once the home of large herds of bison. Pronghorn antelope are now the most common large mammal, but deer may be found along stream channels where brush cover is available. Whitetail jackrabbits, desert cottontail, ground squirrels, coyotes, and badgers are common. Hawks are abundant, along with smaller birds such as the lark bunting, the horned lark, and the meadowlark. Rattlesnakes are also fairly common.

The Missouri Basin sites of shortgrass prairie are **the Bear Paw Battlefield and Canyon Creek**. The following sites are in the Palouse Grasslands of the shortgrass prairie ecoregion: **Ant and Yellowjacket, Asa Smith Mission, Camas Prairie, Canoe Camp, Clearwater Battlefield, Confluence Overlook, Cottonwood Skirmishes, Coyote's Fishnet, Craig Donation Land Claim, Fort Lapwai, Hasotino Village Site, Heart of the Monster, Lapwai**

Mission, Lenore, Lewis and Clark Long Camp, Looking Glass Camp, McBeth Mission, Musselshell Meadow, Pierce Courthouse, Saint Joseph's Mission, Spalding, Tolo Lake, Weippe Prairie, Weis Rockshelter, White Bird Battlefield

Sagebrush Steppe

Sagebrush steppe is characterized by the plains and tablelands of the Columbia and Snake River Plateaus. These mid-elevation (3,000 feet) plateaus include most of the Northwest's lava fields and are surrounded by lava flows that have been folded or faulted into ridges.

The climate on these plateaus is again semiarid and cool. The average annual precipitation is about 16 inches, with precipitation distributed fairly evenly from fall to spring. The predominant vegetation is a variation of sagebrush, shadscale, and short grasses. Stream channels may support a lush understory of willow and other riparian obligates but will rapidly graduate to more arid, alkali-tolerant species such as greasewood, particularly farther from the mountains.

Many wildlife species use these areas as seasonal habitat, particularly during winter. Larger mammals found in these areas are coyote, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, and bobcat. Smaller species include ground squirrels, deer mouse, and porcupine. Severe winters may force elk and mule deer from higher elevations to these plateaus. The geography of this area supports habitat that is important for many species of migratory waterfowl.

Park sites on the sagebrush steppe are **Camas Meadows, Dug Bar, Buffalo Eddy, Nez Perce Cemetery, and Nez Perce Campsites.**

Conifer/Alpine Meadows

The Idaho Batholith, which forms the Bitterroot Range over which the Lolo Trail crosses, and the Wallowa and Blue Mountains in eastern Oregon, are marked with distinctive elevation zones of vegetation. In the Idaho Batholith and the Blue Mountains, Douglas-fir is the climax dominant conifer below the subalpine zone. The Bitterroot Range is dominated by a subalpine belt of mountain hemlock. Below this, western redcedar and western hemlock dominate, but Douglas-fir, western white pine, western larch, and western ponderosa pine can be found in association. Lodgepole pine and grasses are dominant in the basin-and-range areas. Ponderosa pine is scattered below these areas and dominates west of the Continental Divide. The lower mountain slopes of all these areas may graduate from conifer to sagebrush and grass steppe lands. Some of the larger mammals in these areas are elk, deer, moose, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, beaver, and porcupine. Blue and ruffed grouse are common game birds.

Severe winters in the higher elevations are usual in these areas. Winter temperatures frequently drop below 32°F, and summer highs may reach only 70°F. Temperature and snowfall vary greatly with elevation. Precipitation varies from 20 to 40 inches per year and comes predominantly in snowfall during the winter months.

Park sites that are in the conifer/alpine meadows ecoregion are **Lolo Trail and Pass, Lostine Campsite, Old Chief Joseph Gravesite, Joseph Canyon Viewpoint, and Big Hole National Battlefield.**

INTERPRETIVE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following existing conditions and challenges relating to interpretation at Nez Perce National Historical Park were identified at both public meetings and with the planning staff. They are not in any priority order.

Telling the complex story of the Nez Perce people would be difficult under any circumstances, but Nez Perce National Historical Park presents a special challenge for both visitors and park interpreters. Because the park's 38 sites are dispersed over four states with more than 1,000 highway miles between the two most distant sites, few visitors will ever visit all 38 sites. Most visitors discover Nez Perce sites as they travel to and from other destinations.

It is hard for most visitors to put the many pieces together to understand the history and culture of the Nez Perce people. At this time the sites in the Clearwater loop offer the best opportunity to gain this understanding. The newly added sites in Washington and Oregon are being developed interpretively as a result of this plan. The Montana sites are remote from the Nez Perce homeland and the cultural roots of the Nez Perce people, but they provide opportunities to tell much of the story of the Nez Perce War of 1877.

It is very important that all information be presented accurately, within its historical context, and with sensitivity to the Nez Perce people.

The continuum of Nez Perce cultural history should be told, not just the events of the 1877 war. Visitors should be given insight into the culture - how it functioned in the past and how it functions today.

The story of the 1877 war should include the events leading up to the war, the immediate aftermath, the exile story, and the continuing impacts of these events on the Nez Perce people. The Nez Perce people feel particular ownership of the materials and information related to their culture, and they want to be sure these elements are treated sensitively and correctly. There is a strong desire to preserve the Nez Perce culture for inheritance by the Nez Perce children. This was shown in wishes to preserve the language, to collect oral histories, to collect legends and place names related to geological features and other locations, and to demonstrate traditional activities such as digging and preparing camas.

There is interest in the "real thing," the "actual site," and the desire to know accurately where events took place.

Because of the possibility of vandalism at unprotected sites, sometimes it may be better not to mark actual sites but to place interpretive media at a distance.

The sacred character of certain sites was stressed, particularly where there are burials, and there is a need for interpretation of the different viewpoints of the Nez Perce people and that of other cultures regarding the treatment and use of these sites.

RESOURCE PROTECTION CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following existing conditions and challenges relating to resource protection were identified at public meetings and with the planning team.

- Collections and archives should be retained locally rather than taken away to museums or universities.
- There is a desire to get rid of exotic species and noxious weeds, returning the land to native or historic vegetation.
- There is an interest in having studies done of edible and medicinal plants, learning how the Nez Perce used plants, and knowing which plants are "culturally sensitive."
- There is an interest in the preservation and interpretation of wildlife habitat and in developing watchable wildlife programs.
- There is encouragement to preserve the aesthetic qualities and the historic scene and character, to avoid encroachment, and to keep sites "natural" and open. The possible commercialization of surrounding areas is a concern.
- Federally listed threatened or endangered species that could occur in the park are gray wolf, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, Snake River sockeye salmon, chinook salmon, and MacFarlane's four o'clock. Additional species that are state-listed threatened or endangered species or federal candidate species that could occur in the park are California wolverine, swift fox, great gray owl, boreal owl, mountain plover, westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, fluvial arctic grayling, pygmy gentian, white-margined knotweed, Lemhi beardtongue, stalk-leaved monkeyflower, and candystick.
- Because most of the sites are in disturbed areas, no impacts on any special concern species will be expected to occur. In less disturbed areas, surveys will be conducted for special concern species, and any mitigation required to avoid impacts on those species will be implemented.
- The spread of exotic and noxious plants is a major natural resource issue at all park sites. Species such as yellow starthistle, scotch thistle, field bindweed, poison hemlock, and others are rapidly outcompeting existing vegetation.
- High water quality and quantity are major resources of many park sites. The Clearwater and Snake Rivers and their tributaries (which are adjacent to several park sites) are critical habitat for several species of anadromous fish.
- If wetlands are found in the area of planned development, steps will be taken to avoid disturbance or to mitigate any impacts through wetland restoration or rehabilitation.
- The park is designated as a Class II site for air quality. Most of the park sites are in rural areas with few sources of air quality degradation. However, lumber and paper mill activity near the Spalding and Heart of the Monster sites have negatively affected the quality of air and visual resources nearby.
- Most of the park sites are in rural or wild settings that offer an opportunity for visitors to experience natural quiet. Others are situated along busy highways where the quiet is disrupted by heavy traffic.

EXISTING FACILITIES VISITOR USE AND PARK OPERATIONS

STRUCTURES

Each year nearly 200,000 visitors come to the two NPS-staffed visitor centers in Nez Perce National Historical Park: the visitor center/headquarters facility (13,800 square feet) at the Spalding site, and another visitor center/headquarters (4,086 square feet) at Big Hole National Battlefield. There are also five historic structures, and restrooms located at Spalding. Orientation to the entire park is available at both visitor centers through the park brochure and the interpretive staff at the information desks, interpretive shelters at Heart of the Monster and White Bird Battlefield, and several public and historic structures associated with the various cooperative sites.

Two non-NPS staffed visitor facilities (Lolo Pass and Blaine County Museum) offer orientation and interpretation of Nez Perce National Historical Park sites. Five other park sites (Heart of the Monster, White Bird, Bear Paw, Canoe Camp, and Pierce Courthouse) offer non-staffed interpretive opportunities for visitors beyond an interpretive sign or two.

The remainder of the park sites are pullouts along regional highways, generally with one large interpretive sign that reveals the site's or a nearby sites' significance to Nez Perce history. A number of the newly added sites have yet to be developed interpretively.

The headquarters office for the superintendent and some of the support staff is in a modular building in the staff parking lot next to the Spalding visitor center. Some of the support staff and the facility management specialist have offices in the historic agent's residence east of the Spalding visitor center. An office automation clerk is in the visitor center building. Cultural resources personnel -- the museum curator, a museum technician, and library technician -- are in the lower level of the visitor center building.

Spalding Unit staff offices are in the upper level of the Spalding visitor center. A combined comfort station and maintenance storage shed is in the picnic area on the Spalding site. The historic Watson's Store contains storefront exhibits. The agency cabin in the picnic area has been restored to its original appearance. A maintenance facility and a large storage structure are just north of the Spalding visitor center.

Staging for maintenance work in the White Bird/Upper Clearwater Unit is done primarily from two small maintenance sheds at the Heart of the Monster site. A shelter containing fiberglass embedded interpretive panels overlooks White Bird Battlefield from U.S. Highway 95. There are also fiberglass embedded interpretive panels in the Heart of the Monster interpretive shelter. Parkwide, there are 65 wayside exhibits.

Big Hole National Battlefield's offices are in the visitor center, except for maintenance, which has its office in a former park residence. Part of this residence is also used for curatorial and archives storage. Maintenance workspace is divided between the visitor center/headquarters building and the garage of the residence that houses the maintenance office. There are 9 employee housing units at Big Hole: three seasonal or volunteer units are in a quadruplex, four

are in two duplexes, and two are single-family houses. There is also a fire-pumper storage building (162 square feet) at Big Hole National Battlefield.

There is a small picnic facility and a restroom at the Bear Paw Battlefield site.

The White Bird/Upper Clearwater Unit, Oregon/Washington Unit, and Bear Paw staff have offices in leased space.

ROADS AND TRAILS

Roads, trails, and parking lots owned by the park are limited to the Spalding, Canoe Camp, Heart of the Monster, White Bird Battlefield, Bear Paw Battle field, and Big Hole National Battlefield sites. There are some backcountry roads at White Bird Battlefield, and a wide variety of roads and trails are associated with the cooperative park sites, such as the Lolo Trail corridor, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.

THE PLAN

GOALS

The following goals are based on the information gathered from the public scoping meetings and written comments. These goals describe the vision or desired future for Nez Perce National Historical Park as it will be 20 years from now. They provide the management philosophy and basic guidance for the park.

Relationship of the Park to Contemporary Nez Perce Culture

The National Park Service and the Nez Perce people, working together and in partnership with others toward common goals, manage Nez Perce National Historical Park as a place to commemorate and celebrate the continuum of the Nez Perce culture.

Interpretation and Visitor Experience

The Nez Perce story is told from the Nez Perce perspective. It stresses the complex dynamics in the Nez Perce cultural continuum, as reflected in today's Nez Perce communities and by conflicts between traditional resource use and modern-day conditions (for example, fishing versus dams).

The interpretation of the events of 1877 seeks a balanced view, but the story is told primarily from the Nez Perce perspective. It is presented within the context of the entire continuum of Nez Perce culture, including prewar and postwar events and present-day implications. It includes insight into how the events fit within the spectrum of the Indian Wars and the nation's history.

The interpretation is sensitive to Nez Perce cultural needs. People-to-people experiences are on Nez Perce terms. Information that should not be shared is kept confidential. Visitation is controlled to avoid intrusion on cultural sensitivities and the degradation of resources.

Visitors come away from each site understanding how it fits into the overall history. They experience the integrity of the site through interpretive media where necessary and appropriate. Visitors receive enough information to be able to treat each site with respect.

Operations, Management, and Partnerships

The management and operation of the park maximize the benefits available through cooperative partnerships. Partners are fully integrated into park management functions, and they share resources. The management of the park and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail are closely tied together.

A well-staffed, properly trained, well-equipped park management team is in place, supporting a decentralized, sustainable approach to the management of park resources and the visitor experience. The team achieves a well-coordinated management structure that fosters communication and cooperation with communities and the Nez Perce people. The park's scattered sites are united through interpretation, communications, and partnerships.

Land and Resource Protection

Key elements and sites that are important to the Nez Perce people and the nation's history are preserved for present and future generations. Resources associated with the continuation of Nez Perce traditional uses and Nez Perce culture are preserved. Additional significant sites are being studied for possible inclusion in the park. Resource programs are cooperative and synergistic.

The Nez Perce people are increasingly involved in resource management. An extension program provides technical assistance in the protection of resources and land for parties outside the National Park Service.

IMPLEMENTATION CONCEPTS

Implementation concepts describe steps that will be taken parkwide to achieve the goals or desired future. Specific actions related to particular sites are included in the site-specific discussion in later pages.

Nez Perce National Historical Park will continue the existing general management philosophy and direction, but the rate of progress in reaching goals will be increased. The appropriate management techniques will be selected based on individual circumstances. Incremental steps will be taken to assure resource protection and provide visitor services.

Interpretation

Because visitors have difficulty recognizing that individual sites in Nez Perce National Historical Park are part of the larger park, many of the actions related to interpretation and visitor use are designed to unify the park sites and story.

When visitors first encounter a Nez Perce National Historical Park site, they will see the NPS arrowhead and the park's twin feathers logo. They will be referred to other locations such as visitor contact facilities and visitor centers where orientation to the park and additional information will be available. Site specific interpretive information would refer to the park as a whole so that visitors could appreciate the entire story.

The overriding goal of interpretation in the park will be for visitors to understand the interrelationship of the Nez Perce people and their homeland. This will include the entire 11,000-year continuum of cultural history as well as information about the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, the 1877 war, and the continuing consequences of that event.

Interpretive information would be upgraded and corrected. It would be expanded to encompass the entire Nez Perce cultural continuum rather than being limited to events of a specific time and place.

The current level of consultation with the community will be maintained.

The park will continue to consult with the Nez Perce people regarding interpretation.

Recognizing that contemporary Nez Perce lifeways are important resources, the park will try not to intrude on those lifeways. Cultural information will be used with sensitivity to Nez Perce cultural conventions. If visitors ask questions about sensitive areas, explanations will be given that certain information can not be shared publicly.

The names of all sites, including those of the newly authorized sites, will be adjusted to clarify what they are and to include Nez Perce names.

Sign guidelines will be developed to indicate the presence of the National Park Service. The NPS arrowhead and the park logo will be used on signs, which will be placed so as not to obscure the view. Signs will meet current standards, be of consistent and pleasing design, and reduce confusion about where the resource is located.

Modest new development will be needed at some sites for adequate visitor experience and interpretation: White Bird Battlefield, Traditional Campsites at the confluence of the Wallowa and Lostine Rivers, Old Chief Joseph Gravesite, Bear Paw, Canyon Creek, and Nespelem. These actions may be accomplished in partnership with other agencies and organizations.

The visitor centers at Spalding and Big Hole will be rehabilitated. Several overlooks and pullouts will be constructed, a few pullouts might be relocated, and additional minor visitor facilities will be developed at several sites. Some historic structures would be adaptively used.

Partnerships

More cooperative agreements and other partnership mechanisms will be developed with agencies, organizations, and individuals, and will be tended in a focused fashion. The management and operation of Nez Perce National Historical Park will continue to rely heavily on

such arrangements to protect and interpret resources. Enhancing these cooperative partnerships will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of resource protection and increase the availability of quality visitors' experiences. The involvement of greater numbers of partners will improve public support for the park mission, mandates, and operational needs.

The park will work with partners to develop, update, correct, or expand memorandums of understanding, cooperative agreements, and other agreements to reflect current resource conditions and visitor needs.

To take advantage of local resources, the staff of Nez Perce National Historical Park will continue working with local groups to increase local appreciation of the park sites and to encourage local people's feelings of ownership of the park and its resources.

Park activities will be coordinated with related observances such as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

The park will continue to work with local governments on planning or development issues that could affect park resources.

Nez Perce National Historical Park will continue to encourage and facilitate the participation of the Nez Perce people in decision-making regarding park planning, management, and operation.

The park will enhance consultation with the tribes on the history and interpretation of the park and other matters.

The National Park Service will continue or increase annual meetings required by existing agreements with managers and owners of non NPS sites.

The National Park Service will work to clarify public misunderstanding about the responsibility and authority for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, which is administered by Region 1 of the Forest Service, and the Lolo Trail, which is in the Clearwater and Lolo National Forests. Since a number of the sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park are situated along these trails, the park has an active interest in their management and preservation.

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the park will be managed as a unified resource.

The National Park Service and the Forest Service will work together to improve consistency between the park purpose and standards and the planning and management of the trails. To ensure security at all sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park, the National Park Service will furnish adequate site protection and security through cooperative agreements, contracts with local law enforcement agencies, and other mechanisms.

Boundaries and Land Protection

As a part of the current planning effort, boundaries for all 38 sites were identified based on criteria consistent with NPS management policy:

- to include significant or key natural and cultural resources that are central to protecting and fostering public understanding of Nez Perce history and culture
- to provide for visitor services and interpretation
- to protect park resources critical to fulfilling the park's purposes, and
- to address operational and management issues.

Establishing boundaries does not necessarily constitute a proposal to purchase the land within those boundaries. A variety of land protection methods are available within the authorized boundaries of the park units. In addition to fee simple acquisition, scenic, conservation and access easements might be acquired, or local zoning and cooperative planning and management can be employed.

For Nez Perce National Historical Park, a fee or partial interest will be acquired only when there is a willing seller and a willing buyer, with legislated exceptions. Such acquisition will be reserved for instances in which other land approaches are not adequate or if capital improvements by the National Park Service warrant full protection and authority to manage use.

Specific strategies for protecting the resources will be defined in the land protection plan, which will be developed upon approval of this *General Management Plan* and updated periodically.

Should landowners outside the boundaries approved as a part of this plan decide they want to develop a cooperative agreement or other types of interest with Nez Perce National Historical Park to protect and interpret resources located on their property, a mutually acceptable agreement will be drafted specifying the boundaries of the resource and what measures will be taken to protect and interpret it. Procedures for a minor boundary adjustment will be followed, which include notification of local and state officials and the Congressional delegation, and publication in the *Federal Register*. When the process is complete, the agreement will be finalized.

Surveys, Studies, and Plans for Resource Protection

Surveys and studies will be conducted as necessary to identify and protect cultural and natural resources and to amplify and correct the interpretive story. These studies would be based on clearly thought-out plans and priorities.

Needed studies include documentary history, oral history, archeology, collections analysis, and architectural and landscape documentation.

Studies also will be conducted to identify possible additions to the park. Sites in Oklahoma and Kansas are important to the story of the period of exile in those states. Sites in Canada are related to the story of the Nez Perce who escaped the Bear Paw battle. Additional legislation will be required if park sites are to be added in states not indicated in the current legislation.

Plans will be developed for managing resources to meet legislated and partnership requirements such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and traditional uses.

After an appropriate approach to vegetation control and planting is determined, plans will be developed for managing vegetation, eliminating exotic and noxious plants, and reintroducing native species.

Park Operations and Management

The National Park Service will retain the current decentralized park management structure that the park staff established in January 1994. Depending on specific needs, any or all of the following operational elements can be applied:

- enhancing cooperative agreements and contracts
- developing competitively bid contracts for certain services and operations that are not inherently governmental
- establishing "friends" groups
- working with other organizations that have goals and objectives consistent with those of the park, and
- various other partnership tools

Existing facilities will be rehabilitated or expanded, and modest site development will be added at some locations to meet operational requirements.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

The plan will be implemented incrementally over the next 15 to 20 years. Because this is a long-term plan, individual actions proposed have been divided into three priority categories to show the ideal order in which the actions will be funded and implemented. However, because of the unique partnership nature of this extended park, it must be noted that priorities can and will shift to take maximum advantage of partnership opportunities whenever possible.

First Priority. The newly authorized sites will be included in the park, and current and correct interpretive information will be made available. This will include developing land protection strategies in a land protection plan and completing the comprehensive interpretive plan and a wayside exhibit plan. It also will include developing and installing interpretive exhibits at existing and authorized park sites. The cost of these items, in 1997 dollars, is estimated to be \$1,510,579.

Second Priority. Visitor contact facilities will be developed at Traditional Campsite near Wallowa, Oregon, Bear Paw Battlefield, and Blaine County Museum in Chinook, Montana, and in the Nespelem, Washington area. Improved visitor contact facilities at White Bird Battlefield and Heart of the Monster in Idaho, and Canyon Creek in Montana will be provided. The National Park Service will assist the city information center in Laurel, Montana. These items, in 1997 dollars, are estimated to cost \$10,664,827. During implementation, the need, scale, and siting for any development will be carefully evaluated and will be subject to public review.

Third Priority. The current visitor facilities at Spalding, Idaho, and Big Hole National Battlefield in Montana will be rehabilitated or expanded. Costs, in 1997 dollars, are estimated to be \$5,609,414 for Spalding and \$2,603,674 for Big Hole.

Staffing. Implementation of this plan will require a total of 42.5 additional full-time equivalent positions for staffing, as follows:

Park Support Unit	10.0
Spalding Unit	3.0
Upper Clearwater/White Bird Unit	7.0
Oregon/Washington Unit	12.5
Big Hole Battlefield/Montana Unit	10.0

TOURING GUIDE TO THE SITES

When Nez Perce National Historical Park was created in 1965, it consisted of 24 sites scattered across north central Idaho. Four of the sites were administered by the National Park Service and the remaining 20 were a mixture of other federal, local, and private sites. In 1992 an additional 14 sites were added in the adjoining states of Oregon, Washington, and Montana. Currently, agreements with the property owners are being worked out to provide for public access to each area. Before you visit these sites, check with the park staff to make sure that you do not unwittingly trespass on private property.

Road markers indicate when you are approaching one of the sites. Two crossed feathers indicate the National Park Service number for the site. A complete tour of all the sites covers hundreds of miles, so you may want to tour only segments. Most of the sites are along busy highways, so be careful as you pull off and on the road.

Managing a park that stretches across four states and hundreds of miles presents quite a challenge for park administrators. This edition contains some minor revisions to the original document to reflect changes which have occurred since the document's original release.

Confluence Overlook (Formerly known as Donald MacKenzie's Pacific Fur Trading Post)

The site now known as the Confluence Overlook is interpreted at a highway pullout overlooking the confluence and valleys of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. The pullout is about 8 miles north of Lewiston, Idaho, on the Lewiston Grade of U.S. Highway 95. The scene is dominated by a rolling grassy foreground that slopes steeply down to the Clearwater River, more than a thousand feet below. A sense of the confluence area and the scale of the surrounding uplands -- part of the Nez Perce homeland -- can be gained from this vantage point. The actual site of MacKenzie's post is on the Clearwater River, about 5 miles above Lewiston, but is not visible from here. The fur trading post proved unsuccessful because the Nez Perce wanted to trade food and horses but were unwilling to engage in trapping beaver.

Management Issues

- The exact site of the trading post is not known.
- Except for a sign indicating "site ahead," there is no indication that the site is a part of Nez Perce National Historical Park.

Action Plan

- The existing pullout on U.S. 95 will be used to introduce the park and interpret the part of the Nez Perce homeland that is visible from the overlook.
- The site will be renamed "Confluence Overlook," and a memorandum of understanding with Idaho Transportation Department (covering sign and pullout) will be revised to reflect these changes.
- Interpretation of MacKenzie will be moved to a site nearer to the historic location of the trading post.

Coyote's Fishnet

Coyote's Fishnet is a legend site along the Clearwater River about 7 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho. Two surface geological features, one on each side of the river canyon, represent Black Bear and Coyote's Fishnet. At a pullout on U.S. Highway 95 are three large interpretive signs. One sign identifies this as a Nez Perce village archeological site over 5,000 years old; another tells the Coyote's Fishnet legend. The third sign is a map of the Clearwater Canyon region with points of interest identified.

Management Issues

- The sign does not adequately identify the feature.
- There are possibilities for the intrusions into the scene from road cuts, power lines, and possibly residential development. In addition, vegetation could obliterate the features.
- Trees at the pullout block views of the feature.

Action Items

- The site will be interpreted in context with other nearby Nez Perce legend sites.
- The sign will be replaced with a less obtrusive wayside exhibit that correctly identifies the fishnet feature.
- The current memorandum of understanding with Idaho Transportation Department (covering sign and pullout) will be retained.
- Surveys for special concern species will be conducted, and any mitigation needed to avoid impacts on such species will be implemented.

Ant and Yellowjacket

Ant and Yellowjacket is a basaltic rock outcrop formation that sits just above a highway roadcut approximately 9 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho, on the north side of U.S. Highway 12 near its intersection with U.S. Highway 95. The formation symbolizes the fighting insects that are associated with an important Nez Perce legend. There is a pullout with an interpretive sign between U.S. 12 and the Clearwater River. There is no direct access to the feature.

Management Issues

- The sign is placed so that visitors reading it are facing away from the rock formation. It could be seen better from the other side of the river.
- There is a dangerous intersection near the pullout.
- Revising the intersection of U.S. Highways 12 and 95 intersection could threaten this feature.
- Long-term threats also might include housing developments if Lewiston continues to grow.

Action Items

- Additional information will be provided to put site into context of other nearby legend sites.
- A large interpretive sign will be replaced with a less obtrusive wayside exhibit properly oriented to the feature.
- The current memorandum of understanding with Idaho Transportation Department (covering sign and pullout) will be retained.
- Surveys for special concern species will be conducted, and any mitigation needed to avoid impacts on such species will be implemented.
- The feature and viewshed will be protected.

Spalding Site

The Spalding site is along U.S. Highway 95 approximately 10 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho, at the confluence of the Clearwater River and Lapwai Creek. This area contains several different historic resources, the park headquarters, museum, and visitor center. The land surrounding the Spalding Site is used for agriculture and residences.

THE SPALDING VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center, owned and operated by the National Park Service, sits on an old river terrace. The visitor center has many roles -- introducing the public to the entire park and park themes, housing park headquarters including the park support unit and the primary museum collection, serving as a community polling place, and the location of cultural events and demonstrations.

Cultural Resources. The park's primary museum collection, housed in the visitor center/headquarters building, consists of nearly 150,000 pieces. It is a primary cultural resource, used for research by many Nez Perce people and scholars from around the world. Climate control, security, and storage for the collection have been improved over the years. The greatest need at present is adequate space and staffing to facilitate maintaining and researching the collection.

Natural Resources. The level area now occupied by the parking lot and visitor center was cultivated at one time. The area has been intensely disturbed by development. Much of the landscape is groomed exotics.

Visitor Experience and Interpretation. The Spalding visitor center gives visitors the best opportunity to receive orientation to Nez Perce culture. There is an exhibit of Nez Perce artifacts, and the film shown in the auditorium gives a 20-minute introduction to the Nez Perce cultural continuum. Other exhibits explain elements of traditional Nez Perce culture.

Visitor information is confusing, and circulation through the primary space is not obvious. The lobby was designed with an expansive view toward the river that had the potential to draw visitors toward the countryside; this was never realized because the upper windows were blocked for energy efficiency. Visitors are not sure they are supposed to go through the doors to the separate museum area, where the selection of Nez Perce artifacts is displayed. The auditorium is awkwardly shaped and poorly sized.

Operations and Partnerships. The National Park Service has agreements with the Nez Perce Tribe and others to help preserve and maintain objects and documentation important in the Nez Perce culture.

THE SPALDING SITE

Besides the Visitor Center and Park Headquarters, the Spalding site also features:

- Watson's Store, which began as a trading post in 1911

- An Indian agency cabin, built in 1862 to implement the reservation system the Indian agent's residence, also from the reservation period
- Archeological remains of the grist mill, sawmill, and associated mill-races, built in 1839 - 1840
- Remnants of the Spalding Mission, where Henry Harmon Spalding and his wife Eliza lived and worked after their move to this location in 1837
- The arboretum, which was established as part of Spalding Memorial State Park in the 1930s
- Numerous archeological remains, dating from as long ago as 11,000 years, are found throughout the entire Lapwai Creek delta at its confluence with the Clearwater River
- The Lapwai Mission cemetery is protected, maintained, and interpreted through a cooperative agreement among the National Park Service, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Spalding Presbyterian Church Board of Trustees.
- Wayside exhibits in the historic area along Lapwai Creek cover the early missionary and Indian Agency periods.

Management Issues

Action Items

- Better orientation to the site and the entire park is needed.
- Facilities are inadequate to accommodate park operations, which have expanded significantly in response to a geographically expanded resource base.
- There is little or no relationship between the functions of the visitor center and activities on the Spalding site itself.
- Cemeteries and gravesites need to be protected; recreational activities in or near historic sites and cemeteries are disruptive or inappropriate.
- An abandoned viaduct across the railroad tracks in the west part of the site is visually intrusive and an "attractive nuisance."
- Visitor facilities are obsolete and undersized.

Management Zoning. The following management zones will be established for Spalding:

The *natural zone* will include the agricultural fields, the streams, and the surrounding hills that are in the site, as well as the Clearwater River, which is adjacent to the site.

The *historic zone* will comprise the historic millpond, the agent's house, the arboretum, the Spalding Mission site, the agency log structure, inactive cemeteries, Watson's Store, remnant earthworks, and an irrigation ditch.

In the *development zone* will be the visitor center, headquarters, maintenance buildings, parking lots, access and circulation roads, the Camas Prairie Railroad, restrooms, and pumphouse.

The *special use zone* will consist of the Spalding residential area, the Nez Perce Boom Grounds, the Spalding Presbyterian Church, active cemeteries, and the former Spalding post office. Most of these lands or structures are situated on other federal, private, or Nez Perce Reservation land.

Action Plan – Spalding Visitor Center

- Orientation will be upgraded to include Nez Perce culture and Nez Perce National Historical Park.
- The visitor experience will be revised to reflect a welcoming "Nez Perce feeling."
- The visitor center building will be expanded to accommodate larger gatherings as well as administrative, curatorial, and interpretive functions.
- The information desk will be relocated.
- Access for visitors with disabilities will be included; the parking circle will be redesigned for improved access to the visitor center.
- Orientation to Spalding and entire park will be offered outside the main entry.
- Indoor cultural demonstrations and craftwork sales will be accommodated.
- A shade structure will be added contiguous to both indoor and outdoor demonstration spaces.

Action Plan – Spalding Site

- Interpretation of the Spalding site's 11,000-year history and involvement of Nez Perce people in interpretation will continue. Interpretation will emphasize changes made in Nez Perce culture by the missionary period. Interpretive media will be updated to be more historically accurate. Interpretive trails will be developed from the visitor center to the site and through the Spalding site to manage delivery of interpretation. Directional signs will be improved.
- Existing cooperative agreements will be retained.
- A plan will be developed for management of the arboretum. Surveys for special concern species will be conducted, and any mitigation needed to avoid impacts on such species will be implemented. A vegetation management plan will be developed, including screening of the railroad.
- Adaptive use of the agent's residence and Watson's Store will be provided for, possibly with leasing arrangements.
- A site development plan will be implemented, including moving parking, restrooms, and picnicking to a more appropriate location east of the cemetery, removing the viaduct, and rerouting the road.

Lapwai Mission

The site is interpreted by a sign at an unpaved roadside pullout on the east side of U.S. Highway 95 approximately 12 miles south of Lewiston, Idaho. Here was the location of the earliest Christian missionary activity among the Nez Perce. This site interprets the impact that missionaries such as Henry Spalding had upon these peoples.

Management Issues

The actual site of the mission is not known, only the general location.

Action Plan

- Interpretation on the site will be improved -- visitors will be told about the entire park, referred to the Spalding visitor center, and the interpretive sign will be upgraded.
- Actual location of the historic site and its ownership will be determined. Strategies will be developed to protect the site.
- The current memorandum of understanding will be continued.

Fort Lapwai Officer's Quarters and The North Idaho Indian Agency

The remnants of Fort Lapwai are situated near U.S. Highway 95 in Lapwai, Idaho. Two sites are listed as part of Nez Perce National Historical Park: the duplex Officers' Quarters, built in 1883, and the Northern Idaho Indian Agency building. Troops were assigned to the Lapwai Valley in response to the gold rush. The fort was in use from 1862 to 1885. It was here that General Oliver O. Howard met with the leaders of Nez Perce nontreaty bands on May 3, 1877, as they made one last attempt to remain on their land. The Northern Idaho Indian Agency, originally located at Spalding, was relocated to Fort Lapwai in 1904. Fort Lapwai was converted into a government Indian school and then into a tuberculosis sanatorium with a hospital, boys' and girls' dormitories, and a school. Fort Lapwai is held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the Nez Perce Tribe.

The agency building is owned by the Lapwai School District. The officers' quarters building has been stabilized and is vacant. The parade ground is also intact, as are some of the stables. Because of the parade ground, the site has a campus-like atmosphere.

Management Issues

- The interpretive signs are old and inaccurate.
- The ownership of the officers' quarters building is uncertain.
- One wayside is two blocks away.

Action Plan

- Interpretation will be corrected and updated.
- The story of agency and military will be told more completely.
- Way-finding directional signs will be placed on U.S. 95.
- The Park Service will offer technical assistance for the adaptive reuse of the officers' quarters and will work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Nez Perce Tribe, and Lapwai School District to facilitate preservation of the buildings and parade ground.

Craig Donation Land Claim

At a pullout on the west side of U.S. Highway 95, about 8 miles south of Lapwai, Idaho, interpretive signs identify the area of the Craig Donation Land Claim as the first place in Idaho where a white settler obtained title to a farm through the Oregon Donation Land Act. William Craig, a mountain man, interpreter, a friend of the Nez Perce and husband of a Nez Perce woman, was the only white person to have official permission from the Nez Perce to live on the reservation.

Management Issues

- The site is next to a noisy highway; access is dangerous.
- There is potential for development all around the area, including possible widening of U.S. Highway 95.
- The boundaries of the original land donation have not been determined.
- Interpretation is incomplete.

Action Items

- Information on park signs will be upgraded.
- Interpretive emphasis will include both the land donation and Craig's relationship with the Nez Perce.
- Historic boundary and present ownership of original land donation will be determined.
- The memorandum of understanding will be retained.

St. Joseph's Mission

Saint Joseph's Mission (also called Slickpoo Mission) is a semi-active Roman Catholic church that was built in 1874 in the former community of Slickpoo, Idaho. The church and grounds (about 0.33 acre) are owned by Saint Joseph's Mission Historical Society, a private nonprofit group. The mission is surrounded by neatly maintained shade trees, a lawn, ornamental shrubs, and residences. The scene is an enclave and oasis in an otherwise open, rolling agricultural landscape. The nearby cemetery, an important resource, is not included in the boundaries of Nez Perce National Historical Park. This site exemplifies the renewed missionary activity among the Nez Perce that began in the 1870s and the factionalism among missionary groups in this period.

Management Issues

- The former community and nearby Nez Perce sites are not adequately interpreted and not fully documented.
- There is potential for the site to be sold.
- Restrooms accessible to the disabled are needed at the site.

Action Items

- Current interpretive materials will be revised to cover the entire complex of sites at this location.
- Arrangements to preserve resources will continue.
- Saint Joseph's Mission Historical Society will continue to provide access and interpretation.
- Preservation of structures will be ensured and encroachment will be prevented. A strategy will be developed for long-term protection of the site.
- Consider future opportunities to work on additional protection for the nearby cemetery.

Cottonwood Skirmishes

The Cottonwood Skirmishes Site is interpreted at a 1-acre highway rest stop that is about 2 miles south of Cottonwood, Idaho, on the east side of U.S. Highway 95. This site consists of state interpretive signs and a cast concrete marker, a chamber of commerce orientation sign, and a few picnic tables. The skirmish sites associated with the Nez Perce War of 1877 are on private lands, mostly in agricultural use, near the community of Cottonwood.

Management Issues

- The relationships between the sign and events is unclear.
- Some of the wording on the sign is inappropriate.
- There is no map to indicate where the events occurred.

Action Plan

- Interpretation will be improved. Brochures will be created and special tours will be offered. Cooperative agreements will be developed to protect sites of important events. If a more appropriate site is found, interpretation will be moved.
- Sites where events happened will be marked.
- The Park Service will work with the Idaho Transportation Department and others to upgrade the present location to a full-service rest area.
- Strategies will be developed to protect features and viewsheds.

Weis Rockshelter

Weis Rockshelter is an archeological site that was inhabited by Nez Perce peoples for more than 8,000 years. It is named for the amateur archeologists who excavated and then backfilled it in 1962. The artifacts they unearthed are stored at the University of Idaho.

The site is about 8 miles south of Cottonwood, Idaho, along the Graves Creek road, 7 miles west and south of U.S. Highway 95. The few wide portions of this narrow canyon are used for ranching structures and facilities.

Management Issues

- The site is difficult to find.
- The wayside exhibit is irrelevant and inaccurate; understanding what the site is about is difficult.
- The area is overgrown and in need of maintenance.
- The archeology related to the area is outdated; analysis of the collection and notes is needed.

Action Plans

- Directional signs will be improved, interpretive information will be corrected, the sign at Cottonwood rest area will possibly be removed, and interpretation of the continuum will be included (for example, the route from Camas Prairie to the Salmon River).
- The Park Service will work with the Keuterville Highway District to protect the site.
- The pullout will be revised to remove cars from the resource and allow visitors to appreciate the site more.
- Artifacts from excavations will be restudied.
- Strategies will be developed to protect the viewshed and road from encroachment.

Camas Prairie

Camas Prairie is interpreted at a highway pullout on the north side of U.S. Highway 95, about 6 miles south of Grangeville, Idaho. This large prairie was a Nez Perce gathering place where camas roots were harvested for thousands of years. Several nontreaty bands gathered at Tolo Lake in early June 1877 in anticipation of moving to the Nez Perce reservation. In response to the forced move and other hostile actions, several young Nez Perce people took actions that precipitated the 1877 Nez Perce War.

Management Issues

- The pullout is used as a truck stop; there is traffic noise from U.S. 95; other distractions include houses in the foreground and a dumpster for residential use.
- The sign does not give visitors a sense of the size of Camas Prairie, nor does it give information about the presence of camas or biological information.
- Visitors are confused by the presence of a stock pond visible directly ahead of the sign, thinking it is Tolo Lake.

Action Plans

- Ownership of the viewshed will be determined, interpretation will be revised, and agreements will be developed as needed.
- The pullout will be redesigned so that large vehicles will not block the view.
- A strong preservation message concerning camas will be incorporated into the site interpretation.

White Bird Battlefield

The first battle of the Nez Perce War was fought at White Bird Battlefield on June 17, 1877. The battlefield is about 15 miles south of Grangeville, Idaho, between U.S. Highway 95 and the old White Bird Grade, approximately 0.5 miles from the town of White Bird, Idaho.

The site is approximately 1,245 acres of sloping topography that retains much of the appearance it probably had in 1877. The surrounding land is used for agriculture. There are excellent views across the battlefield, with minor intrusions from ranch and residential structures and associated features such as roads and fences. There are archeological sites and a few abandoned homestead remnants. There is a cultural landscape report for a homestead site that occupied the same location as a Nez Perce village along White Bird Creek.

There is an interpretive shelter on U.S. Highway 95 that overlooks the battlefield. Exhibit panels inside the shelter describe events leading up to the battle and the U.S. Army and Nez Perce perspectives of what happened. An interpretive trail leads visitors onto the battlefield from the road along White Bird Creek.

The Old White Bird Grade runs on the east side of the battlefield, and U.S. Highway 95 runs on the west side. The old grade is maintained as an alternate route. The battlefield boundaries, established in 1965, included approximately 1,900 acres. The NPS owns approximately 1,245 acres and holds scenic easements on 655 acres more. A few parcels of land within the boundary are owned by either the State of Idaho or by private landowners.

Management Issues

- Members of the local community have unfulfilled expectations about the development of this site.
- The interpretive shelter is on a busy, noisy highway.
- Vegetation and grazing need better management.
- The interpretation emphasize the battle; the Nez Perce cultural continuum is not interpreted.

Management Zoning

The following are the management zones for White Bird Battlefield:

The *historic zone* will include the actual battlefield site. It will be delineated by White Bird Creek to the southeast, the park boundary that is parallel and just east of U.S. 95, the auto tour route and park boundary to the west, and Poe Saddle to the north.

The *development zone* will cover the pullout and interpretive shelter and the signs adjacent to U.S. 95, the auto tour route, interpretive trail and site for new visitor facility.

Action Items

- The "auto tour" will be continued.
- The Park Service will improve the interpretive trail and pedestrian access.
- The Nez Perce cultural continuum will be interpreted, a vegetation management plan will be upgraded, and the Park Service will conduct detailed documentation and assessment of natural and cultural resources.
- The highway overlook will be made into a "portal" introducing visitors to the park as a whole and the entire Nez Perce story and will be redeveloped to reduce noise. A staffed visitor contact facility will be added, and guided interpretation will be offered. (The site and scope for visitor facilities has not yet been determined; detailed planning will be provided with full public involvement.)
- Additional agreements and easements will be pursued to expand protection of scenic values.

Clearwater Battlefield

The Clearwater Battlefield is interpreted at a roadside pullout on the west side of Idaho Highway 13, approximately 2 miles south of Stites, Idaho. The battle site itself is located on private property, making it inaccessible to the public. The battlefield is associated with the 1877 Nez Perce War. In pursuit of the Nez Perce, General Howard met the nontreaty bands at Clearwater Battlefield on July 12, but he failed to subdue them.

During the Nez Perce War of 1877, most of the army movements of the Clearwater Battle occurred on a broad plateau immediately east and southeast of Stites. Much of the battle area is now cultivated. The Nez Perce occupied the ravines, which are uncultivated land. The stone rifle pits and barricades raised by the Nez Perce are still present in a collapsed state, as is the smoking lodge used by the old men at various stages of the fighting. At least one Nez Perce burial reportedly occurred on the site. A sense of the large size of the battlefield has been retained through modern agricultural use. The Nez Perce village site across the Clearwater River from the present interpretive pullout is used for agriculture.

The view of the Nez Perce campsite across the Clearwater River is obstructed by vegetation, and none of the battlefield is visible from the sign. Visitors will understand the battle better if they are directed to an interpretive site where the battlefield is visible.

Clearwater Battlefield retains much of its integrity and merits protection comparable to that afforded other battlefield sites in the park. The National Park Service will attempt to provide protection and interpretation of the site by working with the landowners through agreements or through acquisition by easement or fee simple purchase on a willing seller-basis.

Management Issues

- The small pullout is on a heavily used highway.
- Visitors cannot see the battlefield from the wayside sign.
- The sign does not interpret the village or the battle appropriately.
- Nothing brings visitors to the actual battlefield.

Action Items

- New research (such as information about the village) will be incorporated into interpretation, and introductory sign text will be moved to a more appropriate location.
- The Park Service will continue working with landowners to protect and interpret the village and battle site.

Heart of the Monster

Heart of the Monster, a rock formation said to represent the heart of a monster in an important Nez Perce legend is located in East Kamiah. The site is approximately 53 acres of NPS-owned land 2 miles upstream from a bridge across the Clearwater River in Kamiah, Idaho.

This site was a major prehistoric and historic Nez Perce crossing point of the Clearwater River. The nontreaty Nez Perce forded the Clearwater at this location during the 1877 war. An interpretive shelter with two exhibits offers an audio program to give background information on the role of legends in Nez Perce culture and tell a part of the "Coyote and the Monster" legend in Nez Perce and in English. A short trail leads to the Heart of the Monster formation, where a small semicircle of seating is available to listen to the audio program there.

The site has been designated by the state of Idaho as a "watchable wildlife" site. The site is well signed and easy to find. There is a paved entrance loop with parking for eight cars. Available visitor facilities include restrooms, a bulletin board with park information, a water fountain, picnic tables, the interpretive shelter, and two short trails, one to the interpretive shelter and a loop trail that goes out to the Heart of the Monster formation.

The surrounding land is used for a mixture of agricultural, residential, and small commercial concerns. The 325-unit RV park, just across the highway from the site, is one of the largest private campgrounds in Idaho. Its expansion, together with the construction of a motel and residential housing in recent years, has encroached near the eastern part of the site.

The Kamiah community has expressed an interest in developing a walking path from Kamiah to the site. The path will run between the boundary and U.S. Highway 12.

Management Issues

- The cultural information beyond the legend is not interpreted.
- Legends may not be reported accurately.
- U.S. Highway 12 may be relocated to straighten a curve.
- There is no orientation and nothing to attract visitors or to acquaint them with the entire park.

Management Zoning. The following management zones will be established for Heart of the Monster:

The *historic zone* will contain the Nez Perce legendary geologic features the "Heart of the Monster" and the "Liver of the Monster," along with the interpretive trail and the semicircle of seating.

In the *development zone* will be a paved entrance loop with parking for 8 vehicles, a restroom, a bulletin board with park information, picnic tables, and the interpretive shelter.

Action Items

- The diversity of interpretive information will be increased on the basis of nearby resources.
- A visitor contact facility will be added.
- Surrounding scenic values will be protected.
- Agreements will be developed with local law enforcement agencies to have them patrol the site.
- Visitor information and site map signs will be revised.
- Programs will be developed to increase community "ownership" of the site.
- A vegetation management plan will be developed as will site plans to protect the viewshed and shoreline.
- The Park Service will work with the Idaho Transportation Department on the road realignment and with the community on realignment of the walking path.

Asa Smith Mission and Lewis and Clark Long Camp

The combined Asa Smith Mission and Lewis and Clark Long Camp sites are interpreted by signs at a pullout on U.S. Highway 12, approximately 1 mile east of Kamiah, Idaho. The actual Asa Smith Mission and Lewis and Clark Long Camp sites are approximately 2 miles downstream along the Clearwater River on property occupied by a privately owned logging mill.

Management Issues

- The interpretive signs are in the wrong location, as well as in an unattractive "sign garden".
- The information on the signs is inaccurate.

Action Items

- The Park Service will work with the Idaho Transportation Department to correct the wording on the signs and move them to the correct location. Cultural resource documentation will be finished.
- The Park Service will work with landowners to conduct research.

Canoe Camp

Canoe Camp is adjacent to the Clearwater River, approximately 4 miles west of Orofino, Idaho, along U.S. Highway 12. At this site the Lewis and Clark expedition, aided by the Nez Perce, built five canoes in September 1805. The National Park Service conducted an extensive archeological survey of the area in 1989 -- 1991. There are residences to the west, commercial development across the highway to the south, and a large fish hatchery across the Clearwater River to the north. The National Park Service owns, manages, and maintains this 2.65-acre site, which was completely rehabilitated in 1993.

Management Issues

- The view is dominated by Dworshak Dam and the hatchery.
- Across the highway are businesses with large, colorful signs.
- Heavy traffic on U.S. 12 causes noise intrusion.

Management Zoning. The following management zones will be established for Canoe Camp:

The *historic zone* will include most of the 2.65-acre site. This is the area where the Nez Perce helped the Lewis and Clark Expedition build five canoes in September 1805. The 0.25-mile interpretive trail, the wayside exhibits, the full-size reproduction of a canoe like those built for the expedition, and the picnic benches are components of this area.

The *development zone* is made up of the 16-car parking lot and the entrance road.

Action Items

- The Park Service will work with local groups to participate in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and to increase local appreciation of the site.
- An orientation wayside will be installed.
- The time capsule monument will be removed or refurbished.
- Vegetative screening will be developed and maintained to separate the site from external developments.

Lenore

Lenore interpretive signs are located in a highway rest area on the north side of U.S. Highway 12 about 25 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho. This archeological site contains evidence of early occupation by ancestral Nez Perce dating from about 8,500 years ago. For perhaps 10,000 years the Lenore site was inhabited by Nez Perce and their ancestors. At least part of it was excavated archaeologically. It lies in a highly maintained state rest area with mowed lawns, pruned trees, and roadways with curbs and gutter and ample parking. The landscape visible from the riverbanks gives one a sense of the natural landform and early conditions. The area is a popular access point to the Clearwater River for fishing, boating, and other aquatic activities.

Management Activities

The site merits more interpretation than a single sign.

Action Items

- The interpretive panel will be up dated and corrected.
- Visitors will be told about the entire park and referred to the Spalding visitor center.
- The Park Service will work with the state to develop the site as an orientation site with additional interpretation of Nez Perce village life and fishing. The current memorandum of understanding will be revised.
- Strategies will be developed for preservation of the site and its cultural resources

Weippe Prairie

Weippe Prairie is a swath of camas prairie trending northwest to southeast. The town of Weippe is situated within this swath along Idaho Highway 11. The site is a traditional gathering place where the Nez Perce harvested camas root, socialized, and worshiped for thousands of years. Lewis and Clark made their first contact with the Nez Perce at this site in 1805. This national historic landmark is also associated with the 1877 Nez Perce War; the nontreaty bands held a council on this prairie following the Clearwater Battle.

The roadside sign just west of Weippe introduces you to the area. The visitor must follow the directions to the actual meeting place where signs tell the story of Clark's encounter with the Nez Perce. Although the exact meeting site is on private property, it is easily visible from the signs.

Management Issues

- Directions to "actual site" are confusing.
- Interpretive signs focus on Lewis and Clark, downplaying the long-term Nez Perce use and the assistance the Nez Perce gave to Lewis and Clark.
- Further cooperative agreements are needed for the maintenance of the sign at the meeting site.

Action Items

- Interpretation will be expanded beyond Lewis and Clark's meeting the Nez Perce to include the story of the Nez Perce continuum.
- Directional signs to the site will be improved.
- Research will be conducted to identify critical resources.

Pierce Courthouse

The Pierce Courthouse, first public building in Idaho, is one block off Main Street (Idaho Highway 11) in Pierce, Idaho. A wayside exhibit summarizes the impact of gold mining on the Nez Perce. Eight panels inside the court house detail the area's history. Mining led to the reduction of the Nez Perce reservation through the treaty of 1863.

The courthouse sits on a grassy lot in a small mountain town surrounded on three sides by residential development. The 20' x 40' log building with board and batten veneer was rehabilitated in 1990. Although its original context may no longer exist, it is situated among a number of other suitably scaled mining town structures. The building is open on request and on summer weekends.

The staff and volunteers of the adjacent Pierce Historical Society Logging Museum operate the courthouse building under a long-standing cooperative agreement with Idaho State Historical Society. The contract provides for maintenance and interpretation.

Management Issues

- There is no tie-in with other sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park except in the park brochure.
- The site is hard to find because of its location off Main Street.
- The site offers an opportunity to tell about the effects of logging on the Nez Perce homeland.
- Some of the interpretive exhibits in the courthouse need repair.

Action Plans

- The Park Service will coordinate with the Idaho State Historical Society and Pierce Historical Society to upgrade interpretation.
- Efforts will be made to get the Idaho Transportation Department sign removed or replaced with a directional sign.
- The Park Service will continue to provide technical assistance with preservation as needed, and agreements will be retained.

Lolo Trail and Pass

Lolo Trail is about 100 miles long, roughly from Weippe to beyond Lolo Pass (which is on the Idaho-Montana border). From Lolo, Montana, to a few miles west of Lolo Pass, the trail closely follows U.S. Highway 12. It then follows the high mountain ridges north of the highway for more than 80 miles, eventually descending to the Weippe Prairie near Weippe, Idaho. The corridor of this trail and pass contain significant ethnographic, archeological, and historic resources associated with Nez Perce use during buffalo hunts as well as during the Nez Perce War of 1877. In addition, Lewis and Clark followed this pathway during their expedition. Recreational opportunities, natural quiet, and high air quality are important resources along this trail. Wildlife is also abundant.

The Lolo Trail is a national historic landmark. It encompasses the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Known as the Buffalo Trail in ancient times, this trail was used by the Nez Perce and the U.S. Cavalry in the 1877 war. The Lolo Motorway, closely paralleling the Buffalo Trail, was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Although much of the area has been maintained as pristine forest, from higher viewpoints along the trail corridor evidence of clearcuts and other timbering activities are obvious.

The Clearwater National Forest manages the historic trails. A Forest Service Visitor Center and rest area on the Idaho/Montana border at Lolo Pass serves as the central information station for the area.

Management Issues

- There is no cooperative agreement with the Lolo National Forest in Montana.
- Interpretation at the Lolo Pass visitor center could be expanded to make the public aware of Nez Perce National Historical Park.
- Logging takes place in this area.
- Signs along the trail are sometimes intrusive.

Action Items

- Efforts will be made to ensure consistency in NPS and Forest Service interpretation.
- Interpretation at Lolo Pass will be expanded to orient visitors to the entire park.
- The Park Service will work with the Forest Service to manage and preserve resources, and support preservation/protection alternatives in forest plans.
- Agreements will be developed with Lolo National Forest

Buffalo Eddy

The Buffalo Eddy site consists of two groups of rock outcroppings on both sides of the Snake River approximately 20 miles south of Lewiston, Idaho. On either side of an eddy formed by a series of sharp bends in the Snake River are densely grouped clusters of petroglyphs and a few pictographs. This rock art contains hundreds of distinct images associated with early Nez Perce people. These images date from as early as 4,500 years ago. Some potentially historic ranching features on the Idaho side of the Snake River set a scene of the rural West. This is a level area along the deep, narrow canyon of the Snake River, so there probably are other archeological resources in the area. Except for the road and a limited number of other visual intrusions (powerlines, fences, a small building), the viewshed is uninterrupted from ridge to ridge. The park is working with Asotin County and private land owners on issues related to the road.

Management Issues

- No agreements are in place for either side of the river.
- Vandalism of the resources has occurred, and there is no NPS protection.
- Access to the site is increasing on the Washington side by road and on the Idaho side by boat.
- The National Park Service does not do any interpretation of this site.
- Homes are encroaching on the Washington side.
- Asotin County plans to move and widen the road adjacent to the site
- On the Idaho side, there is a potential for the eventual sale and development of the active ranching operation.

Action Items

- The National Park Service will continue working with landowners on both sides of the river to protect the critical viewshed and resources, and to prevent visitor interference with ranching operations.
- Interpretive materials will be developed for owners and river users.
- Wayside exhibits will be added on the Idaho side.
- The National Park Service will provide interpretive training for tour boat guides.
- Under a cooperative agreement with the landowner, a seasonal employee will be stationed at the site for interpretation (this could require upgrading utilities to the onsite cabin).

Camas Meadows Battle Site

Camas Meadows Battle Sites in southeastern Idaho consist of Gen. Oliver O. Howard's Camp Calloway and about 3 miles away, Capt. Randolph B. Norwood's encounter site. These two skirmish sites, which are associated with the 1877 Nez Perce War, represent yet another unsuccessful attempt by General Howard to capture the fleeing Nez Perce.

At a rest stop on I-15 at Dubois, Idaho, an interpretive sign, "Nez Perce War," briefly summarizes the events of the 1877 war in this area. Access is over 25 miles of seasonal unpaved road east of Interstate Highway 15. Both sites are difficult to find.

A half-mile dirt track through the sagebrush from remote, gravel-surfaced County Road A-2 leads to Captain Norwood's encounter site. There is one large interpretive sign. The concrete monument at the site summarizes the 1877 war and gives a detailed account of the Camas Meadows battle. A small parking area accommodates three to four cars. On the slightly elevated ridges on either side of the parking area are stacked stone barricades a foot or so high. Some of these have obviously been constructed recently, but several seem to be authentic. There are no modern structures in view, and visitors can get a sense of what the siege might have been like.

To get to General Howard's camp, visitors must hike across cattle pastures on private property from a privately owned gated ranch road. The campsite is marked by a white gravestone inscribed "Bernard A. Brooks, Michigan, Trumpeter 1 U.S. Cav., August 20, 1877." Stone rifle pits also are found at General Howard's Camp on the elevated ridges. Very little development is visible to interrupt the feeling of the historic scene. Both sites are remote and the horizon lines are far away; visitors can get the feeling of the monumental effort it will take to cross the country on horse back or on foot.

The general area is uncultivated grazing land interspersed with volcanic rock outcroppings and sage. This site is in the traditional area of the Shoshone Bannock Tribes. The Idaho State Lands Department owns Norwood's encounter site. Howard's camp is on private land. There is much local interest in their preservation but concern about whether attention should be attracted to them.

Management Issues

- There is limited protection for the extant features from the 1877 war.
- The sites might best be interpreted from a different location.

Action Items

- The Park Service will develop interpretation at the I-15 rest area to introduce visitors to the concepts of Nez Perce National Historical Park, and will continue working with the Forest Service on use and interpretation of the Nez Perce (Nee Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.
- Communication with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes will continue.

- The Park Service will develop a cultural landscape report, and develop cooperative agreements for resource protection

Hasontino

Hasotino Village archeological site, once the largest village along the Snake River, was occupied until the end of the 19th century. The site is on a broad, sloping plain overlooking the east bank of the Snake River, just upriver from its confluence with the Clearwater. It is adjacent to the developed part of Hell's Gate State Park. There is little visual evidence of the large village and eel fishery that was once here. The Nez Perce name for the site is *Hesutiin* (pronounced He-soo teen). A small display in the Hell's Gate State Park Visitor Center describes early occupation of the site.

Management Issues

- The National Park Service does not have any cooperative agreements with the Idaho State Parks or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- There is a potential for vandalism or wear and tear from visitors to the state park.
- High voltage power lines crossing the site detract somewhat from the scene.

Action Plans

- A cooperative agreement will be developed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Hell's Gate State Park to include strategies for preservation of the site and its cultural resources.
- An interpretive strategy will be developed that includes strong preservation messages.

Looking Glass' Campsite

The Looking Glass Camp is interpreted at a sign on the north side of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River off U.S. Highway 12, 3 miles east of Kooskia, Idaho. A small U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery occupies the village site, across the river, where the U.S. Army attacked the Looking Glass Band during the 1877 Nez Perce War. The University of Idaho excavated parts of the site in 1993; the collection is currently stored at the university. The site has been altered by the construction of roads, the fish hatchery, and other modern modifications. Most of the surrounding land is heavily forested, interspersed with occasional residences. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the Kooskia Fish Hatchery and an interpretive trail which leads through part of the original settlement.

Management Issues

- The narrow pullout is on a noisy, heavily used highway.
- The sign interpretation available does not include the story of the Nez Perce continuum.
- There is nothing to draw visitors to the actual site of the camp.

Action Items

- The Park Service will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through an agreement on trail development and interpretation, helping to expand interpretation to include the Nez Perce continuum.
- Efforts will be made to preserve the viewshed and remnants of the occupational site.
- The Park Service will continue working with local citizens on a visitor information center at the junction of U.S. 12 and Idaho 13.

Tolo Lake

Tolo Lake, a shallow lake covering about 35 acres, is the largest natural water body on the Camas Prairie. It is a natural lake that has been enhanced to provide habitat for fish and waterfowl. The lake, 6 miles west of Grangeville, Idaho, is accessible via several unpaved section roads from U.S. Highway 95.

The Nez Perce name for Tolo Lake is Tepahlewam (Split Rocks). The lake, which is just east of Rocky Canyon, is an ancient rendezvous site the Nez Perce used for gathering foods such as camas root and for meeting with neighboring bands. Rocky Canyon was part of a transportation network in the area, connecting with the Salmon River and Snake River drainages. Take Highway 95 south out of Grangeville, Idaho, to the second road to the right past the Grangeville Country Club.

Several nontreaty bands gathered here on June 2, 1877, in preparation for moving to the Nez Perce reservation. Angered by the forced move, several young Nez Perce decided to take revenge on some white men who had killed some of their people. As a result of this action and a second raid two days later, the 1877 Nez Perce War began. There is no interpretation at the site, but more than half of the interpretive sign for Camas Prairie is occupied by discussion of Tolo Lake's connection to the beginning of the war.

Significant remains of Pleistocene mammoth and prehistoric bison were excavated from the lake in 1994. To date, there has been no evidence of direct association of ancient humans with these remains. After the excavation was completed, the lake was allowed to return to its normal size. Although wheat fields have replaced the camas meadows, Tolo Lake and its vicinity remain otherwise largely unencumbered by development. The sweeping perspectives across the high prairies retain a clear sense of the historic and prehistoric landscape.

The site is owned by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and is surrounded by privately owned agricultural land. The National Park Service has a cooperative agreement with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to work cooperatively to include Nez Perce interpretation as part of any site planning and development activities. The manager of the White Bird Unit also has worked with the state and with citizens regarding the interpretation of the paleontological finds.

Management Issues

- No interpretation is offered at this site.
- The site has significant connections to the 1877 war, but also to the Nez Perce continuum.
- There are concerns about local traffic.

Action Items

- Interpretive materials and waysides will be developed to include a full range of events and resources, including camas prairie and canyon transportation corridor.
- The Park Service will offer technical assistance to interested local groups.

- The Park Service will promote preservation of a wider area of prairie and canyon.
- The Park Service will support traditional uses by the Nez Perce people and cooperate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and others to prevent encroachment on the site and retain the status quo for site development.
- The cooperative agreement with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be retained.

Big Hole National Battlefield

Big Hole National Battlefield is 10 miles west of Wisdom, Montana, on Montana Highway 43. The Nez Perce were camped in this area in 1877 when they were attacked by Col. John Gibbon's troops. The 655-acre unit of the National Park System is managed by the National Park Service. Two self-guiding trails lead from the lower parking area to the location of the Nez Perce camp and the seige area where U.S. soldiers were pinned down during the second half of the battle. Another self-guiding trail leads to a site on the hill overlooking the scene where a prolonged battle took place. The U.S. Army brought a 12-pound mountain howitzer. After the army fired two rounds into the village, Nez Perce warriors subdued the howitzer detachment and captured and dismantled the howitzer.

The Big Hole Battlefield Visitor Center interprets the Big Hole Battle and the War of 1877. Wayside exhibits, trail guide booklets, and battlefield markers supply details of the battle on the battlefield.

The National Battlefield, which is surrounded by ranching operations and the Beaverhead National Forest, retains much of the character of 1877 when Col. John Gibbon's forces attacked the Nez Perce at their camp next to the Big Hole River. The few visual intrusions are the National Park Service visitor center and housing, and a single light-colored ranch outbuilding in the distance. This area is traditionally used by the Flathead, the Kootenai-Salish, and many other Native American tribes.

Land use in the vicinity is cattle ranching. The National Park Service does not have title to the subsurface minerals under some of the national battlefield; this could be a potential threat. As an addition to the 655 acres now in federal ownership, 355 acres along the east boundary are being appraised for NPS acquisition in cooperation with the landowner. NPS visitor and operational facilities on the battlefield are a Visitor Center, five residential structures (providing ten living units), a water treatment plant, a picnic area, interpretive trails, and parking lots. There are minor roads for internal circulation.

As a separate unit of the National Park System, Big Hole receives administrative support and management oversight from Nez Perce National Historical Park headquarters in Spalding, Idaho. The battlefield is a site along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, and the National Park Service works closely with the Forest Service in managing and interpreting associated resources.

Management Issues

- The exhibits and slide presentation are outdated and inadequate.
- There is insufficient interpretive space.
- The trails are not accessible to visitors with disabilities.
- There is an existing non-NPS water right.
- The use of cavalry hats and feathers as symbols may be offensive.

Management Zoning

The following management zones will be established for Big Hole National Battlefield:

The *historic zone* will cover the battlefield and will include the siege area, the howitzer capture site, the Nez Perce camp, and a section of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me Poo) National Historic Trail.

Lands in the *development zone* will be those used for nonhistoric park development and intensive use. The developments in this zone serve the needs of park management and park visitors. When the battlefield was enlarged in 1963, the top of Ruby Bench was added to be used for the developed area. It contains the entrance road, the visitor center, the employees' residence, the sewage lagoons, and the access road to the battle area parking lot. The battle area road and the lower parking lot will also be in this zone.

The *special use zone* encompasses the irrigation facilities used by the owners of private water rights. Although the National Park Service owns the land, the deeds reserve the private use of four irrigation ditches and the right of access to maintain and repair them. Three ditches are on the slope of Ruby Bench, which includes a service road. The vehicles of the water rights owners traverse this special use zone to maintain the ditches. The ditches on the northeast and southeast corners of the battlefield do not have service roads. Each ditch has a different combination of rights claimants.

Action Items

- The visitor center will be rehabilitated on the basis of functional analysis, and displays will be expanded.
- Curatorial and maintenance space will be expanded.
- A monument for the Nez Perce will be established.
- A visitor circulation plan will be developed and implemented.
- The lower parking lot will be redesigned to minimize visual impact.
- The housing and parking intrusions will be mitigated through redesign, realignment, and screening.
- The historic scene will be retained, and the viewshed north and south of the site will be preserved.
- The Park Service will facilitate understanding of the entire park and nearby sites.
- Trail interpretive media will be rethought and redesigned, to replace the hats and feathers.
- Artifacts from the archeological survey will be incorporated into exhibits.
- The Park Service will continue strong ties with the Forest Service.
- Shoshone-Bannock and Flathead Tribes will be consulted about their traditional uses in the area.
- Land acquisition of 355 acres will be completed.
- Surveys for special concern species will be conducted, and any mitigation needed to avoid impacts on such species will be implemented.

Canyon Creek

Canyon Creek is the site of a skirmish in the continuing flight of the nontreaty Nez Perce during the 1877 war. After emerging from Yellowstone National Park, the Nez Perce went north toward Canada. Just north of the Yellowstone River they fought a series of successful rear guard actions. Their success delayed the pursuing army troops and permitted the flight toward Canada to continue.

The site, which is 8 miles north of Laurel, Montana, can be reached by the Buffalo Trail Road. It is marked at a roadside pullout with a stone monument and bronze plaque erected by the Yellowstone Historical Society. The battlefield site occupies a vast open ground accentuated by the monumental proportions of Horse Cache Butte and adjacent rim-rock landforms that form the entrance and sides of Canyon Creek Canyon. The battlefield is largely unaltered; it visually evokes a strong feeling of its 1877 past, when it consisted of undulating grassy sage-covered ridges and plains.

Management Issues

- The visitor experience at the pullout is poor; the area is littered with broken glass and other trash.
- There is no way for visitors to understand the events that took place here.
- The message on the plaque does not reflect NPS or Nez Perce views.
- The importance of this site needs to be scaled relative to the entire story.
- The land, in checkerboard private and state ownership, is now in agricultural use, but there is potential for quick conversion to subdivisions.
- Vandalism is a concern.
- There is much local interest in the site.
- The "friends" group has money and a deadline for using it.

Action Items

- The Park Service will help the Friends of Canyon Creek with development of accurate, appropriate interpretation at the current location.
- The Park Service will formally consult with the Crow Tribe about interpretation.
- The viewshed and resources will be inventoried and strategies will be developed to protect viewsheds.
- A park/Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail portal will be developed in Laurel with Friends of Canyon Creek, Laurel Chamber of Commerce, and other partners.

Bear Paw Battlefield

Bear Paw Battlefield, a national historic landmark, is about 16 miles south of Chinook, Montana, along Cleveland Road (County Highway 240). This battlefield is the site of the attack upon, siege, and eventual surrender of the nontreaty Nez Perce at the end of their 1877 flight. The White Bird Band succeeded in escaping to Canada, but after Chief Joseph's surrender, the rest of the Nez Perce were exiled first to Kansas and later to Oklahoma.

The locations of events that occurred during the 1877 attack, siege, and surrender form the primary historical resources of the site, as well as a landscape that remains relatively undeveloped.

A self-guiding trail guide is available that has text keyed to numbered stops along the trail. An NPS ranger and a seasonal interpreter are assigned to the site. Ranger guided walks are available in summer.

The Blaine County Museum in Chinook, Montana, has devoted one of its exhibit rooms to the Bear Paw Battle. A sophisticated 20-minute audiovisual presentation on the war of 1877 is also available in the museum's auditorium.

Management Issues

- Many of the interpretive waysides need repair or text revision.
- There is a "mixed bag" of facilities and signs, and the trails are not up to standards.
- "Social trails" cause degradation of resources.
- The site's resources have not been adequately inventoried.
- There is exotic and changing vegetation.
- There is potential for oil and gas development in the area.

The following management zones will be established for Bear Paw Battlefield:

The *historic zone* will be the actual battlefield site where General Miles's troops charged on the first day of the battle and the siege positions of the next five days (headquarters, field hospital, rifle pits, Napoleon and Hotchkiss gun sites, and troop locations). It also will incorporate the Nez Perce Village site, the warriors' defensive positions, and the retreat route of some of the Nez Perce during the opening engagement.

The *development zone* will be occupied by a parking lot, an interpretive trail, the wayside exhibits, picnic tables and shelter, the wind-sheltered benches, the pit toilet and a visitor facility.

Action Items

- Visitor facilities and operational support will be provided at the battle field. (Detailed planning will be provided with full public involvement.) Ranger presence onsite will be increased.

- Resource impacts from "social trails" will be reduced and strategies developed to protect the viewshed and resources outside current boundaries.
- The Park Service will conduct resource surveys. A vegetation and resource management plan will be developed.
- Existing cooperative agreements will be continued, and consultation with Fort Belknap tribes also continued.
- The Park Service and the Blaine County Museum will cooperate in having the museum serve as interim visitor center.
- The site will be used as a portal to expand on Nez Perce culture, the park, and the Nez Perce (Nee-Me Poo) National Historic Trail. The aftermath of the events at Bear Paw will be added to the interpretive program.
- The NPS role in partnership with the museum will be increased through technical assistance.

Dug Bar

The Dug Bar site is in Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area and on the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. The site is accessible via a poorly maintained single lane dirt road 25 miles long or by the Snake River. This is the traditional crossing site where the Chief Joseph band forded immediately before the 1877 Nez Perce War. Although they did not know it at the time, this treacherous crossing was the band's final farewell to their homeland. There are important archeological resources along the river; the Forest Service has conducted extensive archeological surveys.

The flat bench above the river contains historical ranching structures dating from the early 20th century. A primitive airstrip, hayfields, a boat ramp, primitive campsites, and a cluster of ranch buildings are prominent features in the immediate Dug Bar landscape. In summer an abundance of jetboat traffic passes the site. The distant views are intact except for a power line with wood pylons, which is visible where it crosses the river downstream from the site.

The winding 25-mile drive into Dug Bar follows the Imnaha River, the traditional route between summer camps in the Wallowa and winter camps along the Imnaha and Snake Rivers. The 5-mile hiking and horse trail offers an opportunity to experience the landscape as the Nez Perce did. Visitors coming to the site by boat also see many riparian areas that were used by the Nez Perce. Recreational activities available at Dug Bar are hiking, horseback riding, boating, fishing, camping, and hunting.

The site is in Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area and thereby is afforded all the protections of federal ownership and management. A memorandum of understanding between the Forest Service and the National Park Service has been completed that allows for comanagement of the Dug Bar site.

Management Issues

- Most visitors to this site are interested in recreation, not cultural resources.
- The heaviest access is by jetboat.
- There is potential for upgrading the road to the site, which might increase visitation.
- The possible development of a through-link of the Snake River Trail could increase use.

Action Items

The Park Service will work with and encourage the Forest Service to:

- Maintain and sign the trail.
- Keep the road in current condition to keep use at present level and avoid resource damage.
- Maintain trail integrity.
- Upgrade signs on the site.
- Maintain the site (within the national recreation area) as a cultural and natural resource site.

- Explore the possibility of a job-share seasonal interpretive position or create a Student Conservation Association interpretive position.
- The Park Service will also work with tour operators and other agencies on interpretation of stories of cultural resources and resource protection, including the Nez Perce perspective.

Joseph Canyon Viewpoint

The Joseph Canyon Viewpoint is at a highway pullout along Oregon Highway 3. The pullout is approximately 30 miles north of Enterprise, Oregon and 11 miles south of the Oregon-Washington line.

The privately owned Joseph Canyon is an example of the canyon-bottomland environment where the Nez Perce people lived in winter. Archeological potential is high in the canyon bottom. Some old ranch buildings visible in the canyon bottom may be historic. Future archeological inventory and documentation is recommended.

Surrounding stands of timber are primary candidates for harvest, since this area is not affected by the salmon recovery program. Joseph Creek is designated a wild and scenic river. The pullout is owned by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. There is a right of way across the site held by the Oregon Department of Transportation. The site is on the designated and signed Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. The far viewshed and the canyon bottom, which are privately owned, are used for grazing.

Management Issues

- There are no restrooms at this heavily used rest stop.
- There is potential for timber harvesting in this area.
- The bottom of the canyon and much of the viewpoint are privately owned.

Action Items

- The Park Service will continue to work with the Forest Service to install new interpretive panels.
- The Park Service will develop agreements with public agencies and private landowners to protect the viewshed.
- Agencies will work in partnership to enhance the site. The overlook and wayside sign will be placed slightly below the brow of the hill to remove them from highway noise; restrooms will be added.

Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite

The Old Chief Joseph Gravesite is a 5.1-acre cemetery on the west side of Oregon Highway 82, just north of Wallowa Lake and 1 mile south of Joseph, Oregon. Old Chief Joseph was reinterred at this site in 1926. The beautiful scenic view encompasses Wallowa Lake, the Eagle Cap Wilderness, and an imposing glacial moraine.

The cemetery, a national historic landmark, is sacred and sensitive for the Nez Perce people. Old Chief Joseph's grave is marked by a tall stone marker bearing the legend, "To The Memory of Old Chief Joseph, Died 1870." The cemetery is separated from the highway by a cobble wall and gateposts built by the Umatilla Tribal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1938 -- 1940. A path cuts through the cemetery giving access to the popular swimming and fishing area at the dam and water diversion flume at the outlet of Wallowa Lake. The highway is busy, and the pull out for parking is quite narrow and just over the crest of a hill in the road. The lake, a reservoir for irrigation water, is also a recreational attraction. Several residences are across the highway from the site, and other residential sites have been platted to the northwest.

The cemetery is held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Umatilla and Nez Perce Tribes. The land is now administered by Nez Perce National Historical Park under the direction of the tribes. Adjacent lands are owned privately and by a consortium of irrigation companies. For protection of the resource, it is necessary that the 8-acre parcel north of the cemetery be acquired.

Management Issues

- Traffic on the highway is heavy and parking is inadequate.
- The Nez Perce people do not want the site to be "manicured," but visitors need to be educated about their reasons for this.
- There is concern about people trampling unmarked graves.
- Visitors are confused about which Chief Joseph is buried here.

Action Items

- The tribes will decide visitation levels and timing, and appropriate activities for this sacred site.
- Methods will be developed to preserve the landscape between the cemetery and lake.
- Visitors will be discouraged from using the cemetery as a shortcut to the dam.
- The Park Service will cooperate with the county and Oregon Department of Transportation to analyze parking issues and options or the potential for moving parking, and improving access for tribal elders and visitors with disabilities.
- The site may be seasonally staffed.
- The Park Service will cooperate with others to preserve the setting and the wildlife corridor.
- Surveys for special concern species will be conducted; any mitigation needed to avoid impacts on such species will be implemented.
- The 8 acre buffer zone will be acquired.

Lostine Campsite

The Lostine Campsite represents a traditional Nez Perce home site and fishery at the historic junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers. It is about 12 miles northwest of Enterprise, Oregon, just off Oregon Highway 82. This location epitomizes the long-term occupation of the Wallowa Valley by the Nez Perce people.

The valley floor and hillsides contain a significant number of archeological remains; no archeological studies have been done in the direct area of concern. The valley landscape is predominantly agricultural, with grazing and cultivation on the flat bottom and grazing on the slopes away from the river. Local ranching and agriculture affect the vista in a relatively minor way. Some power lines, communications structures, and roads intrude slightly on the vista. In the southern view is a forested ridge, backed by the snowcapped peaks of the Wallowa Mountains.

Management Issues

- The foreground viewshed potentially could be threatened by development, the far viewshed by logging.
- The emphasis should be on the Nez Perce continuum, including the events of 1877.

Action Items

- The Park Service will continue cooperating with local citizens and a nonprofit group and will work with landowners to identify and protect wayside viewshed and riparian and wildlife areas.
- The Park Service will negotiate a cooperative agreement to install a way side exhibit on the Minam grade to interpret Wallowa Valley cultural stories.
- Research will be facilitated to identify information about cultural resources and Wallowa Valley locations that will be shared among the Nez Perce Bands.
- Strategies will be developed to protect the site and viewshed.
- The Park Service is participating in developing an interpretive facility in the Wallowa area and will work with partners on operations and maintenance.

Nez Perce Cemetery (Nespelem)

The Nez Perce Cemetery is an active, traditional Nez Perce cemetery. It occupies about 5 acres in Nespelem, Washington about 16 miles north of Coulee Dam on Washington Highway 155. The cemetery, has an association with the return of the Joseph Band from exile in Oklahoma. The site is administered by the Colville Confederated Tribes, with special attention from the Joseph Band of the Nez Perce. There are no visitor facilities and visitation is discouraged due to the extreme sensitivity of this cemetery.

This private cemetery holds the remains of many Nez Perce, including members of the Joseph Band and members allotted/enrolled on the Umatilla and Nez Perce Reservations. It is the primary active cemetery for the Joseph Band, holding the remains of participants in the Nez Perce War of 1877, including the younger Chief Joseph and Yellow Wolf. A 1905 monument has been placed on Chief Joseph's gravesite. A number of historic grave markers date from throughout the 20th century. There are many unmarked graves.

Only the Joseph Band, through the Colville Confederated Tribes, can decide what, if anything, should be done at this very sacred and sensitive site.

Management Issues

- Visitors are sent to this sensitive site by other agencies.
- The program presented by the Bureau of Reclamation at the visitor center in Coulee Dam is inaccurate.

Action Items

- Working closely with the Joseph Band through the Colville Confederated Tribes, the Park Service will review wording on the Washington Department of Transportation sign in Nespelem.
- The Park Service will also work more closely with NPS at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area and with the Bureau of Reclamation to facilitate revision of interpretation at Coulee Dam.
- All decisions about management of the cemetery will be made by the Joseph Band through the Colville Confederated Tribes. The Park Service will assist on management issues only if requested.
- Visitation to the cemetery will not be encouraged.
- Interpretation will be offered at a location other than this cemetery.
- The Joseph Band will work with Coulee Dam and Nespelem city officials to implement tribal desires for the area, especially regarding tourism.

Nez Perce Campsites (Nespelem)

The two Nez Perce campsites, also known as Nespelem Camps, have been identified as the last homesites of Chief Joseph the Younger on the Colville Reservation. The "last summer campsite" occupies 10 acres of a gently sloping field bordered on the east by Nespelem Creek, approximately 15 miles north of the town of Coulee Dam, Washington, just west of Washington Highway 155. The "last winter campsite" consists of a small flat (about 5 acres) approximately 5 miles northwest of Nespelem, along the east bank of the Columbia River along a dirt road near the mouth of Nespelem Creek. It is thought that the Joseph Band may have instead moved around within the reservation frequently, depending on the forage needs of their livestock. There is no interpretive media at either of the campsite locations, and neither location is identified.

The cultural landscape in the Nespelem area is full of historic and more current structures that portray the continuing culture of the Joseph Band's stay on the Colville Reservation. Nearly all developments in the area are significant cultural landmarks of some type or another. The old Joseph Band Longhouse near Nespelem Creek and slightly down stream from the cemetery may be more illustrative than the two campsites are. Modern developments such as the bank, the community center, the current long house, the pow-wow grounds, and current Joseph Band homes, which sit on the grounds of the old encampment, illustrate the cultural continuum through the present.

Land in these sites is privately owned or owned by the tribe and by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Management Issues

- The landscape of the winter camp site has lost much of its integrity because the Columbia River has been impounded by the Chief Joseph Dam, so that the campsite is now along or under a lake rather than beside a free-flowing river.
- There is nothing that visually ties Chief Joseph's band to these areas.
- The location of the sites is ambiguous, and probably much that was used by the Joseph Band is under water.

Action Items

- Ownership will be identified.
- Artifact removal and other research that was done before the area was flooded will be reevaluated.
- The Park Service will offer interpretation at an alternative site.
- The Joseph Band will work with Coulee Dam and Nespelem city officials to implement tribal desires for the area, especially regarding tourism.
- The Park Service will participate in developing an interpretive facility in the Nespelem area and will work with tribal partners on operations and maintenance.

McBeth House

The McBeth House is located one mile south of the Heart of the Monster on U.S. Highway 12. It is a small frame building diagonally across the highway from the First Indian Presbyterian Church. These two buildings are associated with the increased missionary activity among the Nez Perce during the 1870s. The McBeth House represents a significant link to the allotment period. It is owned by the Presbyterian Church.

Management Issues

- The building is in poor condition.
- There is no interpretation of the site.

Action Items

The McBeth House was designated as a site toward the end of the general management planning process. An action plan for its preservation and interpretation will be developed in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church and with public involvement.

LEGISLATION

Nez Perce National Historical Park 1965 Enabling Legislation and 1992 Amendments

Public Law 89-19, 1965 legislation shown in normal type
Public Law 102-576, 1992 amendments shown in italic type
~~Deletions from 1965 legislation shown stricken.~~

AN ACT

To amend the Act of May 15, 1965, authorizing the Secretary of Interior to designate the Nez Perce National Historical Park in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the "Nez Perce National Historical Park Additions Act of 1991"

AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the Nez Perce National Historical Park in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the purpose of this Act to facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country of Idaho *and in the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming* that have exceptional value in commemorating the history of the Nation

Sec. 2. To implement this purpose the Secretary of Interior may designate as the Nez Perce National Historical Park various component sites in Federal and non Federal ownership relating to the early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the area, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining and logging, the Nez Perce war of 1877, and such other sites as he finds will depict the role of the Nez Perce country in the westward expansion of the Nation.

Sites to be so designated shall include--

- (1) Tolo Lake, Idaho;*
- (2) Looking Glass' 1877 Campsite, Idaho;*
- (3) Buffalo Eddy, Washington and Idaho;*
- (4) Traditional Crossing Near Doug Bar, Oregon and Idaho;*
- (5) Camas Meadows Battle Sites, Idaho;*
- (6) Joseph Canyon Viewpoint, Oregon;*
- (7) Traditional Campsite at the Fork of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers, Oregon;*
- (8) Burial Site of Chief Joseph the Younger, Washington;*
- (9) Nez Perce Campsites, Washington;*

- (10) Big Hole National Battlefield, Montana;
- (11) Bear's Paw Battleground, Montana;
- (12) Canyon Creek, Montana; and
- (13) Hasotino Village, Idaho;

each as described in the National Park Service document entitled 'Nez Perce National Historical Park Additions Study', dated 1990 and Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite and Cemetery, Oregon, as depicted on the map entitled 'Nez Perce Additions', numbered 429-20-018, and dated September, 1991. Lands added to the Big Hole National Battlefield, Montana, pursuant to paragraph (10) shall become part of and placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the Big Hole National Battlefield, but may be interpreted in accordance with the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Interior may acquire by donation or with donated funds such lands, or interests therein, and other property which in his judgment will further the purpose of this Act and he may purchase with appropriated funds land, or interest therein, required for the administration of the Nez Perce National Historical Park: ~~Provided, That he may purchase no more than one thousand five hundred acres in scenic easements~~ *Lands or interests therein owned by a State or political subdivision of a State may be acquired under this section only by donation or exchange. In the case of sites designated as components of the Nez Perce National Historical Park after November 1, 1991, the Secretary may not acquire privately owned land or interests in land without the consent of the owner unless the Secretary finds that---*

- (1) the nature of land use has changed significantly or that the landowner has demonstrated intent to change the land use significantly from the condition which existed on the date of the enactment of the Nez Perce National Historical Park Addition Act of 1991;*
- (2) the acquisition by the Secretary of such land or interest in land is essential to assure its use for purposes set forth in this Act; and*
- (3) such lands or interests are located--*
 - (A) within an area depicted on Sheet 3, 4, or 5 of the map entitled 'Nez Perce Additions', numbered 429-20018, and dated September, 1991, or*
 - (B) within the 8-acre parcel of Old Chief Joseph's Gravesite and Cemetery, Oregon, depicted as 'Parcel A' on Sheet 2 of such map.*

Sec. 4. (a) Indian trust land may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Nez Perce National Historical Park with the concurrence of the beneficial owner. Sites in Federal ownership under the administrative jurisdiction of other Government agencies may likewise be designated by the Secretary of Interior for inclusion in the Nez Perce National Historical Park with the concurrence of the agency having administrative responsibility therefor, but such designation shall effect no transfer of administrative control unless the administering agency consents thereto. ~~Not more than one thousand acres overall shall be designated pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this subsection.~~ The Secretary of Interior may cooperate with the Nez Perce Tribe or the administering agency, as the case may be, in research into and interpretation of the significance of any site so designated and in providing desirable interpretive services and facilities and other facilities required for public access to and use and enjoyment of the site and in conservation of the scenic and other resources thereof.

(b) The Secretary of Interior may enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of property which, under the provisions of this act, may be designated for inclusion in Nez Perce National Historical Park as sites in non- federal ownership, and he may assist in the preservation, renewal, and interpretation of the properties, provided the cooperative agreements shall contain, but not be limited to, provisions that: (1) the Secretary has right of access at all reasonable times to all public portions of the property for the purpose of conducting visitors through the property and interpreting it to the public, and (2) no changes or alterations shall be made in the properties, including buildings and grounds, without the written consent of the Secretary.

Sec. 5. When the Secretary of the Interior determines that he has acquired title to, or interest in, sufficient properties or determines that he has entered into appropriate cooperative agreements with owners of non-Federal properties, or any combination thereof including the designation of sites already in Federal ownership, he shall by publication in the Federal Register establish the Nez Perce National Historical Park and thereafter administer the Federal property under his administrative jurisdiction in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et. seq.), as amended and supplemented.

Sec. 6. (a) In order to carry out the purpose of this Act the Secret of the Interior may contract and make cooperative agreements with the ~~State of Idaho, its~~ *States of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, their* political subdivisions or agencies, corporations, associations, the Nez Perce Tribe, or individuals, to protect, preserve, maintain, or operate any site, object, or property included within the Nez Perce National Historical Park, regardless of whether title thereto is in the United States: Provided, That no contract or cooperative agreement shall be made or entered into which will obligate the general fund of the Treasury unless or until Congress has appropriated money for such purpose.

(b) To facilitate the interpretation of the Nez Perce country the Secretary is authorized to erect and maintain tablets or markers in accordance with the provisions contained in the Act approved August 21, 1935, entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes" (49 Stat. 666).

(c) The Secretary shall consult with officials of the Nez Perce Tribe on the interpretation of the park and its history.

Sec. 7. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated the sums of not more than ~~\$630,000~~ ~~\$2,130,000~~ for the acquisition of lands and interests in land and not more than ~~\$4,100,000~~ ~~\$9,300,000~~ for construction, restoration work, and other improvements at the Nez Perce National Historical Park under this Act.

Approved May 15, 1965

Approved October 30, 1992

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