

## LONG RANGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

### NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### DEPARTMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PLANNING – HARPERS FERRY CENTER

## INTRODUCTION

In 1995 the National Park Service issued a completely revised and updated interpretive planning chapter of the Service's Interpretation and Visitor Services Guideline (NPS-6). This revised guideline outlined the components of the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan - a park's strategic planning document for interpretation and visitor services. Every park has been encouraged to update their interpretive planning documents using this guideline. A key component of the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan process is the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan examines a park's purposes and significant resources in order to establish the park's primary interpretive themes and visitor experience goals. The plan analyzes the park's current interpretive facilities and outlines any changes necessary to facilitate appropriate visitor experiences. The Long-Range Interpretive Plan is a concept plan that lays the groundwork for subsequent media planning and design. The actions recommended in the plan are those that the park can reasonably be expected to accomplish in 7-10 years, the projected life span of the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.

Nez Perce National Historical Park completed its General Management Plan in 1997. The Long-Range Interpretive Plan will provide the additional strategic and tactical planning necessary to begin implementing the interpretive and visitor experience actions prescribed in the General Management Plan.

The park's interpretation and education program will be driven by the park's significance, its resources and primary interpretive themes. The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan defines ways the park can give each visitor the opportunity to experience the park's resources and the values they represent, and foster a personal stewardship ethic. Interpretation and education will encourage dialogue and accept the visitor's right to have their own individual point of view. Factual information presented will be current, accurate, based on the best available scholarship and science. Interpretation and education will also reach out to park neighbors and community leaders, to stimulate discussions about the park and its values in local, regional, and national forums. In addition, interpretive and educational services will help park employees better understand the park's history, resources, processes, and visitors.

## PARK PURPOSE

Park purpose is the reason or reasons for which a park area was established. Purpose statements are important to planning because they are basic to all other assumptions about the park and the ways in which it should be used and managed.

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 states that 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." A total of 24 sites were designated part of the historical park as a result of the 1965 legislation. On October 30, 1992, Public Law 102-576 allowed sites to be designated in Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Wyoming, and specified 14 additional sites in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana to be included in the park. On the basis of provisions in the enabling legislation, the 1997 General Management Plan for Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield identified these park purposes:

- 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.

## PARK SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of a park is summarized in statements that capture the essence of the park's importance to our natural and cultural heritage. Significance statements are not the same as an inventory of significant resources. While the resource inventory is a basis on which significance is determined, the significance statements describe the importance or distinctiveness of the aggregate of resources in a park. Knowing the park's significance helps set resource protection priorities, identify primary park interpretive themes, and develop desirable visitor experiences. The 1997 General Management Plan for Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield identified these significance statements for Nez Perce National Historical Park:

- 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.

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Primary interpretive themes are based on a park's purposes, significance, and primary resources. These themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting the park. The themes provide the foundation for all interpretive programs and media developed for the park. They do not include everything the park may interpret, but they do cover those ideas that are critical to visitors' understanding of the park's significant resources.

Sub-themes identify the critical component story elements necessary for visitors to understand and appreciate the more conceptual idea presented in the primary interpretive theme statement.

### **Primary Interpretive Theme #1**

*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.*

Sub-Themes:

- Although the archeological record supports human occupancy of the Nez Perce homeland for at least 10,000 years, the Nez Perce (not their own name for themselves) believe that they and their ancestors have always inhabited this region.
- A strong family structure, which extends to a bilateral kinship of 5-7 generations and includes some who are not blood relatives, was and is the basis for traditional Nez Perce society.
- The Nez Perce homeland-its land forms, its resources-shaped every aspect of Nez Perce culture; it affected where people lived, their diet, their economy, their recreational pursuits, and their spiritual well-being.
- The Nez Perce oral history tradition and the Nez Perce language provide the human history record for that part of the country that is their homeland.
- The Nez Perce economy was based on homeland resources, included trade with their plateau neighbors and other more distant cultures, and was impacted in fundamental ways by the introduction of the horse.
- The creative spirit of the Nez Perce people is embodied in their art, literature, music, and dance and demonstrates their unique cultural point of view.
- The spiritual beliefs of the Nez Perce people reflected their connection to their environment (both the living things and the physical objects) and were totally integrated into every facet of their lives.
- The Nez Perce's own unique values, standards, and processes guided the institutions of health, education, religion, and government in Nez Perce communities.

## Primary Interpretive Theme # 2

*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.*

Sub-themes:

- One of the most significant impacts of Euro-Americans on Nez Perce people has been in the area of health; epidemics of smallpox and measles, tuberculosis, changes in diet, and the introduction of alcohol and tobacco are some of the more prominent health issues associated with Euro-American contact.
- It was impossible for the Nez Perce to maintain their traditional hunting/gathering economy after the loss of their land base through treaties, the imposition of individual land ownership through the Dawes Act, and their coerced dependence on the cash economy of the Euro-American culture. These economic changes profoundly affected the Nez Perce's value system, the roles of men and women, and other basic elements of their culture.
- Beginning with their trade with the fur trappers, the Nez Perce acquired manufactured goods that impacted their way of life, such as, the rifle which made it easier to hunt and profoundly changed warfare, or glass beads which they incorporated into their decorative arts.
- Since its introduction by 19th century missionaries, Christianity has been a powerful force in the lives and culture of the Nez Perce people.
- Today, as the Nez Perce struggle to maintain many of their traditional lifeways, there is a renewed interest in those lifeways from both inside and outside the Indian community. This causes the Nez Perce concern about exploitation and expropriation of their heritage by people who do not share or understand the cultural or spiritual context of those lifeways.
- As a result of actions and policies of the United States government, the Nez Perce live in three distinct groups on three different reservations governed by three autonomous tribal governments.
- The Nez Perce recognize the essential role natural resources play in preserving their stories, values, and traditional culture, and their tribal governments are working to restore, maintain, and preserve those resources.
- Some of the prejudice and racism that the Nez Perce and other Native American cultures suffer is the result of the stereotypes of Indian people presented in American popular culture.
- Through their literature, art, cultural events, traditional place names, traditional lifeways, etc., the Nez Perce continue to influence the culture and identity of their homeland region.

### **Primary Interpretive Theme #3**

*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.*

#### Nez Perce National Historic Trail Primary Interpretive Theme

*The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail symbolizes the dramatic collision of cultures which shaped the region's past and continues to change the region and its people today. This Trail parallels the lives of all people who strive for peace, homeland, wealth, security, spiritual freedom and a chosen way of life.*

#### Sub-themes:

- During the 1877 War, the four Nez Perce bands, their ally-the Husishusis Kute band of Palouse, and their leaders faced not only the constant threat of battle with the U.S. Army, but also the enormous challenge of providing for the health and welfare of their families while moving them and their belongings across 1,200 miles of rugged landscape.
- For reasons that included their religious affiliation and the impacts of the 1863 Treaty on their particular band, the majority of the Nez Perce people remained on the reservation and were not part of the 1877 War.
- The three key battles of the 1877 War were White Bird-the war's first battle, Big Hole - the Nez Perce decide to flee to Canada, and Bear Paw-the war's last battle.
- The discovery of gold in the Nez Perce homeland was a major factor in the United State's desire for the 1863 Treaty; the mining culture was more hostile to the rights of the Nez Perce than previous settler groups had been.
- All of the 1877 War battlefields are very sacred places to the Nez Perce people; they are cemeteries where the pain of the tragic loss of Nez Perce lives is very intimately felt.
- The 1877 War continues to impact the day-today lives of the Nez Perce-especially those Nez Perce on the Colville Reservation who are still exiled from their traditional homeland.
- The 1863 Treaty, which divided the Nez Perce into "treaty" and "non-treaty" groups, reduced the size of the Nez Perce reservation by 90% and fostered much of the hostility that led to the 1877 War.
- The 1855 Treaty established a relationship between the Nez Perce people and the United States which was based on Euro - American legal conventions, erroneously established the concept that a single "head chief" could speak for the Nez Perce, and established definite boundaries for the Nez Perce nation. The treaty's use of the term "Nez Perce" resulted in its use as the legal name for this plateau nation.

- The 1877 War crossed several tribal political boundaries; the response and involvement of those other tribal nations in the war provide other voices and perspectives on the war and its history.
- The United States' Indian policy and its response to the Nez Perce in 1877 were the products of the country's political and economic climate at the time and the effects of such recent events as the Civil War and the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn.
- During the 1877 War, both the Nez Perce and the pursuing military largely followed centuries old trails (i.e., Bannock, Lolo, Imnaha, Bighole) that were created by Native Americans for seasonal hunting and gathering trips and trade between tribes and regions; Euro-Americans, also, knew these trails and had used them for travel and commerce for decades.
- Although both the Army and the Nez Perce understood the rigors of travel associated with the trail and its topography, life on the trail was distinctly different for each group because of their different cultural backgrounds, and their different roles in and perceptions of the conflict.
- The 1877 War was a tragic event and an epic story of the endurance and survival of two groups of people who traversed vast distances - as much as 1,700 miles in five months-while under the stress of war.
- The 1877 War is just one example of the conflicts which occurred between Native American cultures and the nascent Euro - American culture of the United States, and like those other conflicts, each side in the 1877 War was composed of many factions and voices with opinions on what actions should be taken to best serve their people.

## THE VISITORS

Nez Perce National Historical Park presents quite a challenge for visitors and park interpretation. There is no single collective “park”; no managed entry and exit experience; no centrally located visitor center providing basic park-wide thematic and way-finding orientation; and, no park managed system of roads and trails to deliver visitors to significant interpretive locations. Instead, there are 38 sites dispersed over 4 states with more than a 1,000 highway miles between the two most distant sites. Few visitors will ever visit all 38 sites and most of the park’s visitation occurs at only a handful of sites. The majority of visitors discover Nez Perce sites as they travel to and from other destinations.

Over 300,000 people do visit Nez Perce National Historical Park annually. The most recent visitor profile information for Nez Perce National Historical Park was compiled from a Visitor Services Project survey conducted the week of July 17-23, 1994. Visitors were surveyed at the following locations: Spalding Visitor Center and picnic area, White Bird Battlefield, Old Chief Joseph’s Gravesite, Big Hole Battlefield, Bear Paw Battlefield, U.S.F.S. Lolo Pass Visitor Center, Heart of the Monster, and Canoe Camp.

The survey found that 32% of visitors were between 41 and 55 years old and 21% were 20 years old or younger. Fifty percent of visitors came in groups of 2, 32% in groups of 3 to 5, 10% in groups of 6 or more, and only 8% came to the park alone. Visitors were most often in family groups (69%). The majority of visitors (79%) were coming to the park for the first time and over half (54%) of visitors surveyed came to the park from one of the four states (Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington) with park sites. Only 4% of visitors were international in origin, with over half of those coming from either Canada or Germany.

Most (69%) visitors reported their length of stay at the park site where they were surveyed as 1 hour or less. Thirty-six percent reported having received no information about the park before their visit. Almost two-thirds (64%) of the visitors cited learning Nez Perce history as a reason for visiting the park. The most used services were the visitor center exhibits (75%), park brochure/map (63%), and information from park employees (51%). The most used facilities were the highway historical signs (71%), highway directional signs to park sites (65%), and restrooms (63%). The educational subjects visitors reported they would most like to learn about were: the history of the Nez Perce, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Nez Perce War of 1877, and pioneers/settlers. Half of those surveyed (50%) said they would like more contact with the Nez Perce tribe/people in the future.

## ISSUES, GIVENS, CONSTRAINTS

This section identifies areas impacting the park's interpretive program that interpretation has little or no capacity to change, but must acknowledge and work with to accomplish the park's interpretive and visitor experience goals. Those issues include:

- all but a small number of the 38 sites are owned by private citizens or a public agency other than the National Park Service, making it difficult or impossible for the park to adequately protect significant resources or to offer visitors the opportunity to experience the significant resources that support park themes.
- most park sites are managed through cooperative agreements that may limit the amount of influence the park can have on the interpretive efforts of cooperative partners. All of these agreements are not in place and this may impact the plan as it is implemented.
- interpretive actions are often constrained by the time and effort the three Nez Perce groups can devote to consultation.
- people/groups mistrust that agents of the federal government can adequately and accurately tell "their" story.
- various stories, sites, and practices have sensitive spiritual/religious values that are not considered "commons" property to be shared with the public.
- the traditional history of the Nez Perce culture is kept through the oral tradition; information has been lost forever when elders have passed away without the opportunity to pass on their knowledge.
- several park sites are cemeteries (including battlefields) and there are cultural sensitivity issues about inviting the public to them.
- interest in the Nez Perce story is expanding and people are putting an ever-increasing demand on the park to provide more and more in-depth information.
- personal names or images used in interpretive media may be controversial.
- because the park's 38 sites are so dispersed, it is difficult or impossible to provide even a modest amount of personal services interpretation at the majority of sites, and park interpreters have a difficult time coming together to share and develop their professional skills or work on park-wide projects.
- two different cooperating associations operate within the park.

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS/ACTION PLAN

Visitor experience goals are statements that describe those fundamental visitor experience opportunities that a park, through its visitor services and interpretive program, most want to facilitate. Visitors cannot be required to have certain experiences, but the park identifies important experiences that should be available to visitors. In planning facilities, exhibits, trails, wayside exhibits, activities, personal services, outreach, and publications, the park will work to create and enhance opportunities for these experiences. Because Nez Perce National Historical Park encompasses 38 sites spread over 4 states, visitor experience goals have been identified for each of those sites as well as for the park as a whole. Paired with each set of visitor experience goals is a set of proposed actions that when combined with the site's current interpretive program will help facilitate successful attainment of those visitor experience goals and visitor understanding of the park's interpretive themes.

### **PARKWIDE VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS AND ACTIONS**

#### **Visitor Experience Goals.**

Visitors will:

- understand and appreciate the significance of the park and its resources.
- be satisfied with their experience at the park.
- have a safe park experience.
- have the opportunity for an emotional experience at the battlefields.
- have the opportunity for a personal, reflective, contemplative experience.
- leave feeling glad about Nez Perce National Historical Park being a national park area.
- understand that the Nez Perce culture is alive and well.
- appreciate and value the Nez Perce culture as representative of other Native American cultures' experience.
- have the opportunity to hear the voices of people involved in the story. Note: through use of primary documentation, quotes, images, oral history, etc.
- understand how any given site fits into the bigger story.
- be able to easily find park sites.
- visit multiple sites.

- know the park is managed by the National Park Service.
- have opportunities to receive interpretive information about park stories beyond what is available at the park.
- understand their role in resource preservation.
- tribal visitors have a greater sense of ownership in the park.
- have the opportunity to learn about cultural
- have the opportunity to appreciate and value other cultures through their experience with Nez Perce culture.

### **Actions:**

When sites are as dispersed as they are at Nez Perce National Historical Park, it is difficult to provide park visitors and the general public a consistent understanding and appreciation of the significance of park resources and the national heritage they embody. The proposed actions address this problem as well as the visitor experience goals listed above.

- The park will produce two, 15-20 minute audio-visual presentations to be presented at all of the park's visitor centers and contact stations. These presentations will be available for the use of park partners in their facilities and available for loan to schools, civic groups, and other public and private institutions. Both presentations will be packaged as stand alone sales items for the cooperating association to help generate income and recover some of the costs of producing them.

One presentation will provide an introduction to the continuum of the culture and history of the Nez Perce people. It will give the viewer a basic understanding of the Nez Perce culture, their homeland, their neighbors, and their status in the region prior to the arrival of the Euro-Americans. Starting with Lewis and Clark, then the missionaries, and finally the government of the United States, the presentation will outline the major influences and impacts the Euro-American culture has had on the Nez Perce culture, as well as other Native American cultures. Finally, it will show the Nez Perce culture as it is today - working to maintain its cultural identity while embracing modern technology and lifestyles.

The second presentation will tell the story of the 1877 Nez Perce War. Because the war and its aftermath covers great distances and time up to and including the present, it is difficult for visitors, even those who visit several sites associated with the war, to gain an understanding of the entire story of the war and its continuing impacts on the Nez Perce people. This presentation will provide a complete synopsis of the 1877 war-from its beginnings in early treaties, to the progression of battles from White Bird to Bear Paw, and finally the continuing aftermath. It won't provide an in depth blow-by-blow of each battle and skirmish, but will provide context and insight into what happened and why.

- The park will work with the Publications Department of Harpers Ferry Center to reissue an updated version of the Nez Perce National Historical Park Handbook. Out of print for several years,

this handbook provided park visitors with an affordable publication that presented a good, short but well written summary of Nez Perce culture and history.

- The park will work with the Publications Department of Harpers Ferry Center to redesign the park's current unigrid park folder. Because the park is spread over four states and 38 sites it is difficult for the park folder to function as the primary wayfinding device for park visitors. Maps drawn to a scale to encompass the entire park can't show the level of detail necessary to identify local highways and landmarks. The unigrid folder would be a valuable tool to orient park visitors to the park in general-identify the 38 sites and their significance to the park's themes, give the visitor an idea of what to expect in the way of park experiences, and provide visitors with an interpretive piece to take home or read at their leisure.
- The park will work with the cooperating association or other partner to produce a guidebook to the park's 38 designated sites and other related sites. The guidebook will provide easy to follow directions to each site, suggest various tour sequences that would enhance the appreciation of a particular theme or idea, and provide a level of contextual detail that would be impossible or inappropriate to on-site wayside exhibits. The guidebook could be used as an activity planning device as well as a reference for sites "discovered" while en route to other destinations. Some suggested theme related tours might include: War of 1877 sites (both park and non-park sites), legend sites (both park and non-park sites), and Lewis and Clark sites (both park and non-park sites).
- As detailed in the park's 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal, the park will maintain a consistent design look to its wayside exhibits "to achieve consistency, to communicate NPS identity, and to link the widely separate Nez Perce sites." This design will be fully compliant with any system-wide standards established through the NPS Messaging Project. In addition the park will produce a series of park-wide orientation panels that will be repeated at key sites throughout the park. These orientation panels will be identical except for the placement of "You Are Here" locators which will be placed to indicate the current site.
- The park will construct an expanded web site to include more information on individual park sites and park themes. Visitors to the web site will be able to get trip and activity planning information, learn about park resources and the park's management and preservation efforts, and link to other compatible and appropriate web sites to receive the level of detailed information on park stories they desire.
- The park will develop curriculum-based education programs that link park themes to national standards and state curricula. Professional educators and teachers will be involved in planning and development of these programs.

## IDAHO UNIT

### SPALDING

The Spalding site is the most visited site in the park. Located here are the park's major visitor center, park headquarters, the park library, the park's primary museum collection, and these cultural resources: three cemeteries, Indian Agent's Residence, Spalding Home site, Indian Agency Cabin, Watson's Store, memorial arboretum, and the Spalding Presbyterian Church.

The Spalding visitor center is divided into three areas-the main reception space, the museum, and the auditorium. Visitors enter the visitor center into a large room with an information desk, exhibits, and book sales area. Exhibits in this initial space discuss the traditional Nez Perce year Nez Perce portraits and sites. A space at the rear of the auditorium is used for temporary and revolving exhibits.

The museum displays an incredible collection of Nez Perce cultural artifacts. Each of the eleven exhibits displays a collection of artifacts unified by theme. Some of the themes are: the role of women in traditional Nez Perce culture, the role of men in traditional Nez Perce culture, Nez Perce celebrations, horses and the Nez Perce, and contact with Lewis and Clark.

The visitor center's interpretive staff conducts interpretive tours of the museum, provides a variety of interpretive programs, and manages an extensive education program for school groups.

#### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand why Nez Perce tribal groups are located on three different reservations.
- receive orientation to the entire park- orientation to all major interpretive themes, park sites, and other Nez Perce related sites.
- receive basic orientation to the Nez Perce homeland and the continuum of Nez Perce culture.
- understand that the Nez Perce people shared in the same larger experience as all Native American groups-boarding schools, loss of language, loss of culture, loss of land, etc.
- understand that the Nez Perce and their culture continue to this day.
- walk through the historic area to better understand the site and its history.
- understand Henry and Eliza Spalding's different roles at the mission and their individual relationships with the Nez Perce people.
- understand the cultural landscape of the Spalding site over time to the present.

- have the opportunity to be aware of contemporary resource programs/issues that the tribes are involved with and interested in, and the importance of these resources to the tribes' future.
- understand the mission movement and its impacts on the Nez Perce and other Native American cultures.
- will understand the Indian agency period and its impacts.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

## **Actions**

### Spalding Visitor Center

- Produce an outdoor orientation exhibit near the visitor center entrance, either along the walkway from the parking lot or near the front doors. This exhibit will include at least two panels. One will be the standard orientation panel to Nez Perce National Historical Park. The second will orient visitors to the resources and activities available at the Spalding Site. This orientation exhibit will be available to visitors anytime the park is open, even if the visitor center is closed.
- Inside the visitor center orientation will continue with exhibits that reinforce the information given on the outside panels, but with more of a focus on activity planning. These exhibits will suggest to visitors how they can maximize their enjoyment of the park and will take into consideration such variables as interest level, time available, and group type and size. The suggestions will not be limited to just park resources, but will also include park partners and neighbors where experiences are available that further park goals and values.
- Relocate the current information desk from the center of the display area to a position near the entrance and along the wall. This will improve the visitor's reception experience by giving the staff person working the desk a more immediate and more intimate opportunity to personally greet the visitor and the visitor will be able to better see who is greeting them (the current location of the desk presents the visitor with an impersonal silhouette against a wall of bright glass.)
- In the auditorium/multi-purpose room, both the new park-wide audio-visual presentations will be shown. The new Nez Perce cultural continuum presentation will take the place of the now outdated "Nez Perce: Portrait of a People" presentation. The second presentation on the Nez Perce War of 1877 will give visitors an opportunity to learn about this important park story without taking up limited and premium exhibit space in the visitor center.
- The exhibit and museum space will be enlarged (per 1997 Nez Perce National Historical Park General Management Plan and the May 1996 Spalding Unit Design Charette). The old, outdated exhibitry will be replaced with exhibits designed to provide visitors a focused, coherent overview experience of the Nez Perce cultural continuum. The new exhibits will give visitors the opportunity to appreciate the Nez Perce culture as a living, evolving culture with more than 10,000 years of history and heritage intricately bound to the landscape and environment of the homeland. The exhibits will also show how the Nez Perce culture has been and continues to be impacted and influenced by the Euro-American culture and how the Nez Perce experience is both representative

of and different from the experience of other Native American cultures. Wherever possible and appropriate the exhibits will use artifacts from the park's extensive collection and will link the cultural tradition or historical event being interpreted to the relevant park site(s). Part of the exhibit space will be reserved for exhibits that can be changed by park staff. These exhibits will allow park staff to interpret current research findings, preservation efforts, showcase newly acquired artifacts, or highlight something that is taking place in contemporary Nez Perce culture.

- With the support provided by the new exhibitry and audio-visual presentations, the personal services programs will be able to focus on more in-depth and intimate details of the Nez Perce culture.

### Spalding Historic Area

The Spalding Historic area offers visitors the opportunity to immediately connect the interpretive experience in the visitor center with real tangible park resources.

- Better orientation both inside and outside the visitor center will increase the number of visitors who use the historic area for its culture and history values rather than the purely recreational experience provided by the picnic area and shaded green space.

- Implement the wayside exhibit actions outlined in the 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal. These actions include rehabilitating and updating all of the current wayside exhibits in the historic area and relocating/re-orienting several to enhance the view across the panel to the resource. Define and harden a trail through the historic resources to bring visitors to each individual resource and its wayside exhibit panel.

- Develop exhibits for the Indian Agency Cabin. This cabin, with its restored exterior façade, represents the Indian Agency period at Spalding that spans the years between 1860 - 1902. Exhibits will be produced for the building's interior to interpret this critical initial period of the Nez Perce's formal relationship with the United States government. These interpretive exhibits will be designed to withstand years of ambient temperature and humidity conditions and unattended public use.

- Develop and print a site bulletin on the cemetery.

### WHITE BIRD BATTLEFIELD

White Bird Battlefield is the largest park-owned site. The first battle of the 1877 Nez Perce War was fought here and prior to the war, a Nez Perce village was located along White Bird Creek.

Most of the formal interpretation at this site occurs at the large pullout area on U.S. Route 95 above the battlefield. In the parking area there are two interpretive signs: one is titled "Nez Perce War" and very briefly describes the battle from the military's point of view, and the other is titled "White Bird Grade" and gives a brief description of the old highway, now replaced by US 95. An interpretive shelter overlooks the battlefield. Inside the shelter a series of wayside exhibit panels discuss the events leading to the battle, provide a summary of the battle's action, present a Nez Perce and an Army perspective on the battle, and discuss the aftermath of the battle.

Visitors can also hike a short interpretive trail on the battlefield. The trailhead is on old Highway 95 and there is a trail guide keyed to numbered stops.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand this was a village site and the Nez Perce people were fighting for their homes.
- have an opportunity for a contemplative experience.
- understand how different groups viewed this battle and reported on it-the different documented stories, by whom, and the different viewpoints.
- understand the events leading up to the battle in the context of the Nez Perce perspective loss of sovereignty, the injustice to the Nez Perce under the Euro-American legal system.
- understand the differences between how the Nez Perce were organized for war versus how the military organized for war. (Example: the Nez Perce were self-supporting/the military was supported from the outside by supply lines.)
- understand the events leading to the battle, the battle, the role the landscape and vegetation played in the battle, the opportunity for peaceful resolution before the battle, and the impact the battle had on the 1877 War.
- be aware of the misunderstandings and stereotypes about this battle.
- understand the events in the context of the entire war. Especially, those battles/skirmishes that happened nearby and on the prairie.
- understand the skill level of the Nez Perce warriors.
- be aware that this and other events of the war took place near settled areas, not in a far off wilderness.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

### **Actions:**

- Construct the visitor contact facility as called for in the 1997 Nez Perce National Historical Park General Management Plan. The facility should be large enough to contain an information desk, exhibit space, a small audiovisual space or theater, and a small cooperating association sales area. Exhibits would provide both site orientation and orientation to the park as a whole, introduce visitors to the Nez Perce people's long term occupancy and use of the area, explain the major factors leading up to the battle, and discuss the outcomes of the battle for both the Nez Perce and the Army. The audio-visual space would be used to show the two park-wide videos-the Nez Perce cultural continuum and the 1877 Nez Perce War.

Several of the goals for this site can most efficiently be reached through the level of in depth interpretation provided by personal services interpretation. Currently the site has no place where groups of visitors can collect to make it possible and profitable to offer walks and talks on a regular basis. The visitor contact station will provide those opportunities.

- Implement the wayside exhibit actions outlined in the 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal. These actions include: rehabilitating the panels at the U.S. Highway 95 overlook shelter, installing one of the park-wide orientation panels at the shelter, and producing a series of wayside exhibits for the battlefield's interpretive trail including a trail orientation panel at the trailhead.

## HEART OF THE MONSTER/McBETH HOUSE

Heart of the Monster (also referred to as East Kamiah) is a 53-acre park-owned area that protects and interprets two Nez Perce legend landscape features. The McBeth House and First Indian Presbyterian Church are less than half a mile south of this site.

The site has an interpretive shelter with two exhibits and an audio program. One panel uses graphics and text to give the visitor background information on the role of legends in Nez Perce culture. The second panel tells a part of the "Coyote and the Monster" legend both in a phonetic representation of the Nez Perce language and English. By pressing a button to the left of the panel visitors can hear the legend told in Nez Perce. The shelter looks out onto the "Heart of the Monster" landscape feature.

A short trail leads to the "Heart of the Monster" feature and a small semi-circle of seating. An audio program tells the "Coyote and the Monster" legend in English.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- understand the role of stories and legends in the Nez Perce culture.
- have the opportunity to hear the "Heart of the Monster" story and understand its significance to the Nez Perce people.
- receive an introduction to Nez Perce culture.
- understand the site's use as a traditional, and geographically significant, Nez Perce gathering place and crossroads.
- understand the role of the McBeth Mission in the missionary era of Nez Perce history.
- understand the Dawes Act and its impact on the Nez Perce.
- understand the role Alice Fletcher played in the allotment process.

- receive orientation to other park sites.

### **Actions:**

- Construct the visitor contact facility as called for in the 1997 Nez Perce National Historical Park General Management Plan. This facility would be small with space for an information desk, exhibit area, and small cooperating association sales area. The exhibits will explain the role of legends in Nez Perce culture, discuss the use of the area by the Nez Perce as a traditional gathering place, introduce the Dawes Act and the allotment process, and explain who Alice Fletcher was and the role she played in the allotment process. In-depth interpretation of the stories represented by the site's resources will be through personal services programs. The visitor contact station will provide the focal point necessary to attract and hold enough visitors to make regularly scheduled programs feasible and profitable.
- Install two orientation panels just outside the contact station (or in a visually prominent location near the current parking area until the contact station is constructed.) One of these panels will be the parkwide orientation panel and the other panel will orient visitors to the Heart of the Monster site including the nearby McBeth House.
- Install a wayside exhibit panel at the McBeth House to interpret its connection to both missionary efforts among the Nez Perce and the allotment period.

## **ANT AND YELLOWJACKET**

A basaltic rock arch, along U.S. Highway 12, that is associated with an important Nez Perce legend. There is a large wooden interpretive sign at this highway pullout on Route 12 that tells the Nez Perce legend associated with distinctive formation resembling two insects locked in combat.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- be able to easily find the feature associated with the legend.
- be aware of other nearby legend sites.
- understand that Nez Perce legends may be family specific and not necessarily culture-wide.
- understand the importance of the Nez Perce oral tradition and how legends were used to pass on important cultural information.
- understand how Nez Perce legends illustrate the close relationship the Nez Perce have with the land.

### **Actions**

- As called for in the 1997 Nez Perce National Historical Park GMP, work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive sign that is currently on the site.
- Install a wayside exhibit that is properly oriented to the feature that explains the Ant and Yellowjacket legend.
- Exhibits at the Spalding Visitor Center and Heart of the Monster will explain the role legends play in the Nez Perce culture.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will briefly explain the role of legends in the Nez Perce culture and link this site with others in the region.
- A separate site bulletin on the legend sites will be produced.

## **BUFFALO EDDY**

Clusters of petroglyphs and a few pictographs on rock outcroppings on either side of the Snake River 20 miles south of Lewiston, Idaho. The Asotin County side is accessible by car; the rock art on the Idaho side is only accessible by boat. Currently the only interpretation at the site is that provided by the Snake River tour boat operators.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- receive a strong resource protection message that emphasizes their role in protecting these valuable resources.
- appreciate the fact that the rock art was produced over a period of time rather than all at once.
- understand the relationship of the petroglyphs and pictographs to the Nez Perce people.
- appreciate how the rock art certifies the ancient use of this area.
- understand that all of the art is special, but some are sacred and some are not.
- get a consistent message about the rock art in the area from all the agencies which manage rock art sites.

### **Actions**

- When cooperative agreements and road construction are complete on the Asotin County side, produce and install a wayside exhibit that interprets the significance of the petroglyphs and the importance of their preservation.

- When and if cooperative agreements are in place with the owners of the Idaho side of the river, produce and install one or two wayside exhibits. Because the two audiences on either side of the river are likely to be distinct, one panel will be a duplicate of the one on the Asotin County side and the other panel may discuss the differences between petroglyphs and pictographs.
- Work with the Snake River outfitters and the U.S. Forest Service to provide interpretive training for the jetboat guides. The training will address other significant cultural sites along the river in addition to Buffalo Eddy and will have a strong resource preservation focus.

## **CAMAS PRAIRIE**

The Camas Prairie site is a large expanse of prairie viewed from a highway pullout on U.S. Highway 95. Another park site, Tolo Lake, is also visible from the same pullout. There is one large interpretive sign at the roadside pullout that identifies camas as a traditional food of interior Northwestern Indians, points out Tolo Lake in the distance, and mentions the outbreak of the War of 1877.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- appreciate the size of the prairie.
- understand the importance of camas - both as food and the importance of all foods as sacred.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.
- understand the impact of both the physical loss of camas resources and the loss of access to traditional camas areas.
- receive orientation to nearby park sites-1877 sites, Tolo Lake.
- be aware of the events on the prairie that led up to the 1877 War and those events that occurred here during the war.
- be aware of the continuum of use for prairie resources-from camas gathering to today's agricultural uses.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive sign that is currently on the site. The sign doesn't meet National Park Service standards or values for site development, view shed preservation, or interpretation.

- Design and produce one or two wayside exhibits which interpret the extent of the prairie, its role as a traditional camas harvesting site for the Nez Perce, the importance of camas to the Nez Perce--historically and today, and the current agricultural use of the prairie.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide more detail on the prairie, link it to other root gathering sites, and briefly outline the events of the Nez Perce War of 1877 that took place on the prairie.

## CANOE CAMP

Adjacent to the Clearwater River, this is the site where in 1805 the Nez Perce helped Lewis and Clark build five canoes for their journey down the Columbia River watershed. There are six wayside exhibits at the Canoe Camp site spaced along a short interpretive trail. They interpret the story of the initial meeting between Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce, the Nez Perce role in the building of five canoes on this site by Lewis and Clark's group--this wayside is positioned in front of a reproduction of one of those canoes, the mission of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the Nez Perce historic use of the area.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- receive basic orientation to the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- understand that the site, and other nearby sites, was occupied by the Nez Perce for generations before the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- appreciate how skilled the Nez Perce men were in canoe building and fishing.
- receive orientation to other points of interest in the area.
- appreciate the contribution of the Nez Perce canoe builders to the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- understand, from the Nez Perce perspective, the impact of the Lewis and Clark expedition on the Nez Perce and other Indian people.

### Actions

- Implement the 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal. This includes adding a site orientation panel, an area orientation kiosk, relocating and replacing some of the existing wayside exhibits, and adding panels to interpret the pit house and nearby historic village site and the significance of what happened here to the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

## CLEARWATER BATTLEFIELD

The Clearwater Battlefield on Battle Ridge is on private property and inaccessible to the public. A small interpretive pullout on Idaho Highway 13 near the town of Stites identifies the significance of the battle to the 1877 Nez Perce War. The one large interpretive sign at the pullout gives a very brief description of the Clearwater Battle.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- receive basic orientation to events of the battle.
- understand that the battle takes place within reservation boundaries.
- understand the role the battle played in the 1877 War.
- have a limited number of opportunities to experience the battlefield site.
- be aware of the nearby village site.

### **Actions**

- The current interpretive pullout is in a location that is unsafe due to poor sight lines and the nature of the highway in that location, and there is no direct visual connection to any of the resources which represent the battle story. Remove the signs and relocate an interpretive panel discussing the battle to a site with a visual connection to the battlefield or at least a safer location near the battlefield.
- Work with the landowners to provide guided interpretive tours of the battlefield.
- The audio-visual presentation on the 1877 Nez Perce War called for in the park-wide actions section will discuss this battle and its significance.

## COTTONWOOD SKIRMISHES

The Cottonwood Skirmishes site commemorates a series of military engagements that occurred just after the White Bird Battle in which several soldiers, volunteers, and one Nez Perce were killed. The designated site, a one-acre undeveloped rest stop on U.S. Highway 95, contains no tangible resources associated with the skirmishes and none are recognizable within the view shed. There are four large signs at this location. One provides a large picture map of the area indexed by number to side panel explanations of area attractions; another gives a very brief account of the Cottonwood Skirmishes, detailing army casualties and giving the impression that the Nez Perce went directly to Montana after these skirmishes; one discusses the Lewis and Clark Expedition; and a sign that explains what the Weiss Rockshelter is and gives very minimal directions on how to get there.

A stone memorial erected by the Idaho County Pioneer Association lists the names of all seventeen soldiers involved in the skirmishes.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the skirmishes in the context of the entire war.
- understand that the skirmishes took place in several nearby locations.
- receive orientation to the Weiss Rockshelter.
- receive orientation to other nearby significant sites-White Bird, Tolo Lake, and Clearwater Battlefield.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the park's cultural resources.
- know that the first Nez Perce fatality of the 1877 War occurred during the Cottonwood Skirmishes.

### **Actions**

- Both the park-wide audio-visual presentation on the 1877 Nez Perce War and the park-wide guidebook will place the skirmishes in the context of the entire war and link them to White Bird and Clearwater Battlefields.
- If the site is developed as U.S. 95 rest area, the park will install an orientation kiosk that provides wayfinding and thematic orientation.

## **COYOTE'S FISHNET**

Coyote's Fishnet is a Nez Perce legend site consisting of two surface geological features on opposite sides of the Clearwater River about 7 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho.

There are three large interpretive signs at this pullout. One provides a map of the Clearwater Canyon region with points of interest identified; one discusses a nearby Nez Perce village archaeological site; and the third briefly tells the Nez Perce legend of Coyote's Fishnet.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- be able to easily find the sites.
- be aware of other nearby legend sites.

- understand that Nez Perce legends may be family specific and not necessarily culture-wide.
- understand the importance of the Nez Perce oral tradition and how legends were used to pass on important cultural information.
- understand how Nez Perce legends illustrate the close relationship the Nez Perce have with the land.

### **Actions**

- As called for in the 1997 Nez Perce National Historical Park General Management Plan, work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive sign that is currently on the site.
- Install a wayside exhibit that is properly oriented to make the features easy to locate and identify, and that explains the Coyote's Fishnet legend.
- Exhibits at the Spalding Visitor Center and Heart of the Monster will explain the role legends play in the Nez Perce culture.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will briefly explain the role of legends in the Nez Perce culture and link this site with others in the region.

## **CRAIG DONATION LAND CLAIM**

A pullout on the west side of U.S. Highway 95, about 8 miles south of Lapwai, Idaho commemorates William Craig's friendship with the Nez Perce, and his being the first settler in Idaho to obtain title to a farm through the Oregon Donation Land Act. There are two interpretive signs here which relay those two facts.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- know who William Craig was and what kind of relationship he had with the Nez Perce people.
- understand Craig's special status in the 1855 Treaty.
- be able to contrast Craig's relationship with the Nez Perce with the relationship the Nez Perce had with later settlers.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive sign that is currently on the site. The sign doesn't meet National Park Service standards or values for site development, view shed preservation, or interpretation.
- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department to make the pullout safer by enlarging it and providing better signage; then produce and install a wayside exhibit to interpret William Craig and his status in the 1855 Treaty.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide more detail about William Craig, his friendship with the Nez Perce, and his special status in the 1855 Treaty.

## CONFLUENCE OVERLOOK

This is a large pullout near the top on Lewiston Grade on U.S. Highway 95 that overlooks the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers. The panoramic view takes in many square miles of the original Nez Perce homeland. This site was formerly the Donald MacKenzie's Pacific Fur Trading Post site.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- receive an introduction to the Park and the area.
  - receive their initial orientation to the Nez Perce homeland.
- At a location closer to the Donald Mackenzie Trading Post, visitors will:
- be introduced to the fur trade.
  - learn why fur traders were not very successful in engaging the Nez Perce in the fur trade.
  - understand the influences-marriages, trade items, art/material goods-the fur trade had on the Nez Perce.

### Actions

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive sign on Donald Mackenzie that is currently on the site.
- Install the park-wide orientation panel.
- Produce and install a wayside exhibit introducing visitors to the Nez Perce homeland.
- Interpretation of the fur trade and its influences upon Nez Perce culture will be handled both through the park-wide audio-visual presentation and exhibits at Spalding Visitor Center on Euro-American cultural influences and impacts on Nez Perce culture.

## FORT LAPWAI OFFICERS' QUARTERS & NORTHERN IDAHO INDIAN AGENCY

Two of the few remnants of Fort Lapwai in Lapwai, Idaho. The Officers' Quarters dates from 1883 and Northern Idaho Indian Agency Building from 1904. There is one wayside exhibit in front of the Officers Quarters which identifies the building and Fort Lapwai.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- learn about the meeting in 1877 with Toohoolhoolzute and other Nez Perce leaders.
- appreciate what life was like for soldiers stationed at the fort.
- understand why the fort was established-to protect the Nez Perce.
- understand the role Ft. Lapwai played in the 1877 Conflict, its place in a regional series of forts, and the Redheart Band story.
- get a basic understanding of federal Indian policy.
- understand the relationship between the military and the Indian bureau.
- understand the basics of the Nez Perce tribal government organization and its relationship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- understand the reservation era and its impacts.
- be aware of how today's Nez Perce feel about the fort.
- understand contemporary Nez Perce feelings toward war veterans and their roles.

### Actions

- Remove the orientation wayside located at the turn off from U.S. Highway 95.
- Replace the current officers' quarters wayside with a new updated panel.
- The Nez Perce War of 1877 audio-visual presentation will address the role Fort Lapwai played in the war.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will discuss the Northern Idaho Indian Agency and provide the link with the original Indian agency at Spalding.
- Produce a site bulletin on the Fort that summarizes its history, its role in the Nez Perce War of 1877, and its relationship with Northern Idaho Indian Agency.

- The park will work with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Lapwai to find other appropriate venues to interpret historic and contemporary relationships between the Nez Perce and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

## HASOTINO VILLAGE SITE

Hasotino Village is an archeological site of one of the largest Nez Perce villages along the Snake River. The village was occupied until the late 19th century. Hasotino Village and the Nez Perce are interpreted in a small display in the visitor center of the adjacent Hell's Gate State Park.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- learn the original Nez Perce name for the site and what it meant.
- understand the physical size of the village site/gathering place.
- understand the social structure of the site prior to Euro-American contact.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.
- learn about the traditional eel fishery at the site.
- understand the relationship to Old Chief Looking Glass to the site.

### **Actions.**

- Work out a cooperative agreement with the adjacent Hell's Gate State Park to provide them with technical and production assistance to more fully incorporate the Hasotino Village interpretive goals into their exhibits as those exhibits are replaced as part of their normal exhibit rehabilitation cycle.
- Wayside exhibits, which will attract attention to the site and specific site resources, will not be installed on this site because they would undermine the park's preservation goals for the site.

## LAPWAI MISSION

This site commemorates Henry and Eliza Spalding's first mission attempt. The actual site of the mission is unknown. There is one large interpretive sign here that briefly describes the history of Henry Spalding's first mission.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand why the site was selected as the first mission site and the site's relationship to the Spalding Site.

- be aware of the nearby pre-contact village sites.

- learn the significance of the site's being the first incidence of agriculture within the Nez Perce homeland.

### **Actions**

- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide more detail on the mission, the nearby pre-contact village sites, and the story of the first European agriculture in the Nez Perce homeland.

## **LENORE**

A known archeological site, Lenore was inhabited by the Nez Perce and their ancestors for as long as 10,000 years. The site is now a highway rest area on U.S. Highway 12 and has two interpretive panels--one discusses the village that once stood here and gives a brief description of what the houses in the village looked like, and the other welcomes visitors to Idaho and includes a map that describes some of the regional points of interest.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- be able to visualize what the village looked like.

- understand the reason the Nez Perce located a village here and how long the village was occupied.

- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

- be able to connect this site to other documented village sites in the area.

- learn the Nez Perce name for the site and the name's meaning.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Idaho Department of Transportation and the Scenic Byway group to remove the current panel on the village and enlarge the kiosk to include more interpretation of the village, its choice location on the river, and the fishing that went on there.

- Install one of the park-wide orientation panels.

- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will connect this village site to other known village sites along the river (Heart of the Monster, Hasotino Village, Lapwai Creek confluence, etc.).

## LEWIS AND CLARK LONG CAMP/ASA SMITH MISSION

This site commemorates the brief period of missionary work by Rev. and Mrs. Asa Smith in the Kamiah area and the nearly one month stay at a camp site along the Clearwater River by Lewis and Clark during their return trip in 1806. There are no resources at the current roadside pullout on U.S. Highway 12 connected to either of these interpretive stories.

This highway pullout has seven very large interpretive/informational signs and little view of anything else. Four of the signs provide orientation to sites and activities in the Clearwater region. The other three signs discuss the Lolo Trail and use by Lewis and Clark and later the Nez Perce in 1877, Lewis and Clark's long encampment at a nearby site, and Asa Smith's missionary effort.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- understand the Asa Smith story and its relationship to Utsinmallikan (chief at Kamiah).
- appreciate Asa Smith as part of the larger Missionary effort (in context).
- appreciate, from a Nez Perce perspective, the impacts of the prolonged contact between Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce people at this site.
- appreciate the site in the context of the whole expedition and receive information on other Lewis and Clark sites.

### Actions

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive signs that are currently on the site. These signs don't meet National Park Service standards or values for site development or interpretation. The lack of site-specific resources and general ambiance of the highway pullout provide no opportunity for a quality interpretive experience.
- The interpretive exhibits at Spalding on the impacts of the missionary period on the Nez Perce people will include the Asa Smith missionary effort.
- Work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to include the Lewis and Clark long camp story in the exhibits at their ranger station in Kooskia.
- If and when the park can acquire a pullout at the actual sites for either of these stories, wayside exhibits will be produced and installed.

## LOLO TRAIL AND LOLO PASS

The Lolo Trail is an ancient trail across the Bitterroot Mountains. The Nez Perce and other native peoples used the trail for thousands of years. In historic times the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the fleeing Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War of 1877 used the trail. Lolo Trail is a national historic landmark, part of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The Lolo Pass Visitor Information Center has an exhibit area with nine flat panel exhibits, an information desk, and book sales area. Two of these exhibits interpret the history of the Lolo Trail; three exhibits discuss the Nez Perce -- briefly who they are, the 1877 flight, and who were their leaders during the 1877 flight; one exhibit discusses the Lewis and Clark expedition; two panels introduce the U.S. Forest Service; one panel provides a regional map with sites and activities marked.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- be able to locate the trail.
- receive comprehensive interpretive messages on the Lolo Trail at Lolo Pass rather than draw people to the trail.
- receive interpretive messages that are consistent in quality and format no matter which agency or group produces the interpretive product.
- be able to contrast and compare traditional native trade routes and economics and current trade routes and economics.
- receive orientation to Nez Perce National Historical Park and the Trail.
- have the opportunity to experience a small section of the ancient trail.
- understand the use of the trail before the 1877 War, use of the trail during the war, and use of the mountain environment prior to the horse.
- receive strong resource protection messages.
- understand the complex logistical challenges the Nez Perce and the military had to face crossing the trail and the pass.
- have an opportunity to have a contemplative experience when they are on the trail.
- be able to contrast the historic use of the trail and its resources with the trail's role in the 1877 conflict.
- recognize Highway 12 as modern expression of the trail and its importance to the region.

- appreciate the impact the Bitterroot Mountains had on the native cultures of the region as a geographic barrier and obstacle to transportation and trade.
- understand the sadness of the four Nez Perce and one Palouse bands as they traveled the trail in 1877 not knowing if they would ever return to their homeland.
- have the opportunity to personally experience the "sense of place" of the Lolo Trail and Lolo Pass.
- receive orientation to the entire spectrum of what there is to see and do on the trail and within the trail corridor.
- understand the traditional relationship of the Nez Perce people to the Bitterroot Valley.

### **Actions**

- Continue to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to provide consistent, high quality interpretive products on the trail. Work with the Clearwater National Forest to insure that as many of the visitor experience goals as possible can be met through new and expanded interpretive exhibits at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center when it is rehabilitated.
- Provide the Lolo Pass a copy of both park-wide audio-visual presentations when they are completed.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section, links significant sites along the trail thematically to either Nez Perce traditional culture, Lewis and Clark, or the Nez Perce War of 1877.
- Install one of the park-wide orientation panels at an appropriate location at Lolo Pass.

### **LOOKING GLASS CAMP**

The site of Looking Glass's Camp is part of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife's Kooskia National Fish Hatchery. Here the Looking Glass Band of Nez Perce was attacked while within the Nez Perce Reservation; this attack caused Chief Looking Glass to join the Nez Perce War of 1877. There is one large interpretive sign at the roadside pullout on U.S. 12 across the Clearwater River from the fish hatchery. The sign very briefly describes the incident that brought Looking Glass and his band into to the 1877 War.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- learn about the attack on Looking Glass at this location and that attack's impacts on the 1877 War.
- understand who Old Looking Glass and Young Looking Glass were.
- learn about the McWhorter monument and its history.

- understand that the site is ancient and extensive archeology has been done here.
- appreciate the relationship between Chief Joseph and Young Looking Glass during the Nez Perce War of 1877.
- understand Looking Glass's influences on the decisions of the 1877 War.
- appreciate Looking Glass Band's daily life at the site-gardens/agriculture.
- understand this was a village site and the Nez Perce people were fighting for their homes.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to remove the large interpretive sign that is currently on the U. S. Highway 12 pullout site. The sign doesn't meet National Park Service standards or values for site development or interpretation. The lack of site specific resources on that side of the river, the general ambiance and safety of this highway pullout provides no opportunity for a quality interpretive experience.
- Produce and install a wayside exhibit at an appropriate site along the trail at the fish hatchery to interpret the attack on the Looking Glass's camp and the unintended consequences of this action.
- Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a site bulletin for the site to provide additional information about Looking Glass's camp, the band's gardens, the attack and its effect, and the archeology showing long term, continued use of the site by the Nez Perce.
- The audio-visual presentation on the Nez Perce War of 1877 called for in the park-wide actions section will address this attack and its impacts on the war.
- Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a wayside exhibit that interprets the McWhorter Monument.

### **MUSSELSHELL MEADOW**

Musselshell Meadow has been used by the Nez Perce people as a place to gather and harvest camas roots for thousands of years. There is one wayside exhibit at Musselshell Meadow that describes camas roots as an important food source of the Nez Perce and includes a graphic of a pit oven and a description of how it was used to bake camas.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- identify the site as a traditional camas gathering area that all Nez Perce bands used.
- understand the significance of how the camas gathering camps were organized.
- understand the meadow's relationship to the 1877 War.

- understand there is continued traditional use of the meadow today.

### **Actions**

- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide more detail on the site's traditional use as root gathering site and link the site to other park sites where the camas harvesting is interpreted.
- The guidebook could also introduce the site's connection to the Nez Perce War of 1877.

## **PIERCE COURTHOUSE**

Pierce Courthouse is the oldest building in Idaho and represents the gold mining period and its impact on the Nez Perce people—ultimately leading to the treaty of 1863. There is one wayside exhibit on the outside of the courthouse that briefly summarizes the impact of gold mining on the Nez Perce leading to the reduction of their reservation by the Treaty of 1863. Inside the courthouse a display of eight graphic panels details the history of the area and one panel, "The Children of the Coyote" expands on the information given on the outdoor panel about the impact of gold mining on the Nez Perce. At the north end of Pierce, there is a large interpretive sign titled "Pierce Courthouse" which gives a brief history of the courthouse building.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the purpose and significance of the building as it related to the Nez Perce (why it's part of the Park).
- understand the impact of the discovery of gold on the Nez Perce and the discovery's role in the 1863 Treaty.
- be able to easily find the building.

### **Actions**

- Work with the town of Pierce and the Idaho Transportation Department to provide adequate signs that make it easy for visitors to find the building.
- Replace the current wayside exhibit with a new updated one.
- Continue to work with the Idaho State Historical Society and the Pierce Historical Society Logging Museum to update the exhibits inside the courthouse, as funds are available.

## **SAINT JOSEPH'S MISSION**

Saint Joseph's Mission is a semi-active Roman Catholic Church that was built in 1874 in the former community of Slickpoo, Idaho. The site exemplifies the renewed missionary activity among the Nez Perce that began in the 1870s.

There are two wayside exhibits at the site. One on St. Joseph's Mission, gives a brief history of the mission. The other panel is on the village of Slickpoo and its relationship to the mission. The park has produced a brochure on the history of the mission. The Mission is open to the public Thursdays-Mondays, Memorial Day to Labor Day and guided tours are given. An annual Mass, is held on the first Sunday of June.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the entire complex of sites at this location.
- understand that the cultural landscape at the site is incomplete-elements are missing.
- understand what life was like in the village of Slickpoo.
- understand the influence of a second missionary era and connect the mission to other missions in the region.
- recognize Jackson Sundown as a world champion rodeo performer in roping and horsemanship.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Saint Joseph's Mission Historical Society to revise and update the two wayside exhibits.
- Revise the current site bulletin on this site to include additional information on both the mission and the community of Slickpoo.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide additional information and link the site to the other mission sites in the park.

## **TOLO LAKE**

Tolo Lake, the largest natural body of water on Camas Prairie, is an ancient rendezvous site the Nez Perce used for gathering roots and for meeting neighboring bands. In early June of 1877 while several bands were camped here prior to moving on the reservation, several Nez Perce young men participated in two raids on white settlers; these raids are seen as events which precipitated the beginning of the Nez Perce War of 1877. There is currently no interpretation at Tolo Lake.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the site's role as a traditional rendezvous point for the Nez Perce on the Camas Prairie.
- learn that the Nez Perce oral history supports the discovery of the Mammoth's bones.
- understand the events that happened at Tolo Lake that precipitated the battle at White Bird and the beginning of the 1877 War.
- learn the story of the person, Tolo.
- understand why the bands were gathered at Tolo Lake in the days prior to the outbreak of the 1877 War.

### **Actions**

- Work with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to develop an information kiosk that will provide orientation to the site for the recreational visitors and provide an introduction to the site's cultural significance.
- Develop a site bulletin on the Nez Perce use of the site including the events leading to the Nez Perce War of 1877. This site bulletin will be distributed at the Spalding Visitor Center, the White Bird Battlefield visitor contact station (when completed), and by other local park partners.
- The audio-visual presentation on the Nez Perce War of 1877 called for in the park-wide actions section will address the events at Tolo Lake that led up to the war.

## **WEIPPE PRAIRIE**

Weippe Prairie is a traditional Nez Perce root gathering site and is the location where the Nez Perce first met Lewis and Clark. There are two locations associated with this site. The first is encountered on Idaho Route 11 and consists of a roadside pull off and two large signs. One sign is a large, color graphic depicting the meeting of the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark and the text is simply "Welcome to Weippe-Where the Nez Perce Indians met Lewis & Clark in 1805." The other sign "Lewis and Clark" briefly describes that first meeting. A directional sign identifies the other site as being 3 miles away. There is also a small granite "National Historic Landmark Monument" commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The second location is a pull off on a gravel road with one informational sign. This sign tells the story of the first meeting in a little more detail and includes a long passage from William Clark's journal.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- learn about the first contact between the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark.
- understand the traditional use of the prairie as a camas gathering area.

- understand the role of the site as the beginning of the trail to buffalo country.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.
- appreciate the long and continued use of the area by the Nez Perce.

### **Actions**

- Produce and install a wayside exhibit to interpret the first contact between the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark.
- Install the park-wide orientation panel.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide more detail on the prairie, the Lewis and Clark contact, and link the site to both other root gathering sites and Lewis and Clark sites in the park.

## **WEISS ROCKSHELTER**

Weiss Rockshelter is an archeological site that was inhabited by Nez Perce peoples from more than 8,000 years ago until about 600 years ago. The site was excavated in 1962.

There is one wayside exhibit at the site and it discusses in very little detail: the excavation of the shelter by archaeologists during the early 1960s; the ancient Nez Perce and historic Nez Perce housing; and pictures some of the kinds of points found at this site.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand how the site fits into the bigger picture of Nez Perce cultural continuum and other prehistoric sites of that same time period.
- be able to find the site more easily.
- understand that Weiss Rockshelter was lived in and used by ancestors of the Nez Perce people.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department to provide better highway directional signs to the site.

- Replace the current wayside exhibit with an updated one that emphasizes the human occupation of the site over thousands of years.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will provide more detail on the cultural and archeological significance of the site and manage visitors' expectations of the site and the experience of locating it.

## **MONTANA UNIT**

### **BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD**

Big Hole Battlefield commemorates one of the most important battles of the Nez Perce War of 1877. The Nez Perce had been camped here several days when on the morning of August 9th their camp was overrun by Colonel John Gibbon's troops. The Nez Perce were able to regroup and kept the soldiers pinned down on the hillside above the camp while their families escaped. The siege lasted nearly 24 hours. Numerous casualties were suffered by both sides, and included Nez Perce women and children.

The National Park Service owns 655 acres of the battlefield. The park's second largest and second most visited visitor center is located here. The visitor center is divided into three interpretive spaces: main reception room, an exhibit space, and an auditorium. The main reception area includes an information desk, book sales area, a map exhibit which shows the sequence of events of the 1877 War, and mountain howitzer exhibit. The formal exhibit room contains 23 black and white portrait photographs of individuals who took part in the battle and nine large Plexiglas cases displaying Nez Perce and U.S. Army artifacts. The auditorium seats about 35 visitors and is set up to show both a 20-minute video on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and a 12-minute show on the Big Hole Battle. The auditorium has a wall of windows, which look out on the battlefield, and there are two wayside exhibits mounted on the outside of the windows showing the positions of the Nez Perce and the Army and the flow of the battle. There is a spotting scope set up in front of the windows for visitors to use and interpreters use the view to do interpretive talks. A deck on the west side of the visitor center has two wayside exhibits identical to those on the auditorium windows.

There are two self-guiding trails. One, the "Nez Perce Camp Trail", goes from the lower parking area out to the area where the Nez Perce were camped when they were attacked. The other trail, "Siege Area Trail", goes from the lower parking lot up onto the hill overlooking the Nez Perce camp where the Nez Perce besieged the soldiers for nearly 24 hours while their families escaped. Park staff gives formal guided walks on both trails. A short spur trail leads to an overlook of the camp and has a wayside exhibit. The location of the howitzer capture is also accessible by trail and has a replica howitzer and wayside in place.

#### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the battle and its relationship to the 1877 Nez Perce War.

- understand how the relationship between Nez Perce and the Crow changed during and after the 1877 War.
- understand the role of other tribes in the 1877 War.
- understand the differences between how the Euro-American and Nez Perce cultures commemorate the battle and the battlefield.
- understand how the Nez Perce feel today about the site.
- recognize that six soldiers received Congressional Medals of Honor for their acts of bravery in rescuing their fallen comrades at the Battle of Big Hole.
- understand that the seventh infantry and volunteers killed women and children as well as Nez Perce warriors.
- understand that the Nez Perce won the battle despite their losses.
- have the opportunity to see how the press, in 1877, reported the events of the war and battle.
- recognize the impact of the Battle of the Little Bighorn on the 1877 War.
- understand the role civilians in the area played in the battle and its aftermath.
- recognize that the battle was a "turning point" for the Nez Perce, changing both their perception of the war and their tactics.
- understand the role Nez Perce women and children played in this battle and in the conflict as a whole.
- understand that the battlefield is a cemetery for the men, women, and children killed here and should be accorded the respect of a sacred burial ground.
- understand everyone's responsibility in preserving the site's cultural resources.
- understand the relationship of the U.S. Army to the Indian Bureau in controlling the disposition of Indian tribes and placement onto reservations.
- understand the U.S. Army served as an instrument of American Indian Policy in the 19th century.
- understand the role the U.S. Military Officers and 7th Infantry played as individuals in this battle and in the conflict as a whole.
- understand the role of Nez Perce chiefs and warriors played as individuals in this battle and in the conflict as a whole.
- recognize the role of the natural landscape and how it contributed to the events that occurred on August 7-10, 1877.

- recognize the Battle of the Big Hole is a well documented event in the history of the American West, including the role of L. V. McWhorter in documenting the Nez Perce views of the battle.
- recognize the Big Hole Battlefield is a place for commemoration in honor of all who died from this battle.
- understand how this battle was one of the most devastating battles in the Indian War era.
- understand the integrity of the landscape today aids in understanding the events that occurred in 1877.
- understand the Indian Policies of 19th century still have a profound effect on the way the Nez Perce live their lives today.

### **Actions**

- Implement the 1996 Big Hole National Battlefield Design Charette. The expansion of the visitor center outlined in this plan will provide the additional exhibit space necessary to interpret the complexity of the Big Hole Battle reflected in the visitor experience goals. The new audio-visual theater/meeting room will provide a much better environment for viewing the park's audio-visual presentations than the current multiple use space with its ambient noise and light and small seating area. The current auditorium space with its view of the battlefield will be used for interpretive talks (especially valuable when the weather is bad or staffing is limited.)
- Complete the new 20-minute audio-visual presentation on the Big Hole Battle.
- Both of the audio-visual presentations called for in the park-wide actions section will be available here.
- Implement the actions called for in the 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal for Big Hole Battlefield. These actions include a three panel trailhead kiosk for the trailhead parking lot and redesign and updating of several existing wayside exhibits.
- Revise the existing trail guide to be more engaging and site-specific.

### **BEAR PAW BATTLEFIELD**

Bear Paw Battlefield, a national historic landmark, is about 16 miles south of Chinook, Montana. 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 Blaine County Museum in Chinook, MT has devoted one of their exhibit rooms to the Bear Paw Battle. Exhibits include artifacts from the site, a 1936 map, portraits of Chief Joseph, Cow Island photographs, other memorabilia. The Museum also has a sophisticated audio-visual

presentation on the War of 1877 in their auditorium. The scope of this 20-minute presentation is the entire war, but emphasis is given to the Bear Paw Battle and surrender.

At the battlefield site, a series of nine low mounted wayside exhibits dispersed around the site's one mile long interpretive trail outline the battle's story. These waysides, which were produced by the state of Montana when the site was a state park, are outdated and inaccurate. Locations where Nez Perce died in battle are marked by a series of metal stakes with brass caps and identifying inscriptions. A self-guiding trail guide with text keyed to numbered stops along the trail is also available. During the summer months ranger guided walks are provided.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the battle and its relationship to the 1877 War.
- understand the significant role communications -- the telegraph and military couriers -- played in the battle.
- understand the reason the Nez Perce selected the campsite and why they stayed rather than continue to Canada.
- understand the relationship between the landscape and the battle.
- understand that the battle was the end of the campaign, but not the end of the story.
- understand how the story after the battle continues today.
- appreciate the roles played by various individuals and groups in preserving the story.
- be aware that the soldiers who died here are buried in Custer National Cemetery.
- understand what happened to the Nez Perce leadership before, during, and after the battle.
- be aware of the different tribes involved, their relationships' and their roles.
- learn what happened to the Nez Perce and their possessions after the battle was over.
- understand the "surrender" as a strategy for survival-to save the people, bring them back together.
- understand the role of Chief Joseph as leader before, during, and after the battle.
- understand that the surrender decision was based, in part, on promises from the U.S. government that they later failed to keep.
- understand that American popular culture maintains many misconceptions and stereotypes about the Bear Paw Battle.
- understand that many Nez Perce made it to Canada.

- be aware of what happened at Cow Island and Cow Creek and the implications of those events.
- understand the self-sacrifice of those that "surrendered" so that others could go on.
- be able to contrast the military's treatment of Chief Joseph with the Nez Perce treatment of Lieutenant Jerome.
- understand the relationships and conflicts within the military.
- understand that the battlefield is a cemetery for the men, women, and children killed here and should be accorded the respect of a sacred burial ground.
- understand that the area around the battlefield has a history of use by native people for generations prior to the battle of 1877.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

### **Actions**

- Continue to work with the Blaine County Museum to provide interpretive exhibits and audio-visual presentations that meet the interpretive goals and values of the park. The park will continue to facilitate visitors using the museum to get interpretive services the park cannot provide at the present time. When the two audio-visual presentations called for in the park-wide actions section are completed, they will be made available to the museum to show in their theater.
- If a visitor facility at or near the battlefield site is found to be feasible and the planning for that facility enters the design stage, adequate exhibit space will be planned to allow for interpretation of the events leading up to the Bear Paw Battle (including the course of the 1877 War, the impact of the Little Bighorn Battle, U.S. Indian Policy, Treaty/Non-treaty Nez Perce, etc.), and the aftermath of the battle (Oklahoma, exile, Nez Perce tribal divisions, Canada, etc.). Other exhibits will provide orientation to the battle and battlefield resources to enhance the visitor's experience and understanding as they interact with those onsite resources and interpretive media. A small theater space might be included to show both of the park-wide audio-visual presentations - one on the continuum of Nez Perce culture and the other on the Nez Perce War of 1877-when they are produced.
- Implement the actions called for in 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal. These actions include removing all of the current wayside and exhibits and replacing them with wayside exhibits that provide more accurate information, are sited to take advantage of onsite resources and trails, and meet National Park Service standards.

### **CAMAS MEADOWS BATTLE SITES**

Camas Meadows Battle Sites in southeastern Idaho consist of General Oliver O. Howard's Camp Calloway and about 3 miles away, Captain Randolph B. Norwood's encounter site. These two skirmish sites represent General Howard's unsuccessful attempt to capture the fleeing Nez Perce

less than 2 weeks after the Big Hole Battle. The sites are in a sparsely populated, rural area, accessed by a seasonal unpaved road east of Interstate Highway 15, and are difficult to find.

At the rest stop on Interstate 15 there is an interpretive sign entitled "Nez Perce War" which very briefly summarizes the events of the 1877 War which happened in this area. There is no interpretive media at the Howard's Camp site, but a simple white headstone marks the grave of bugler Bernard A. Brooks. At the Norwood encounter site a large interpretive sign at the entry gate to the site just off County Road A-2 gives a brief summary of the siege of Captain Norwood's group by the Nez Perce. At the site itself there is a concrete monument with an interpretive plaque entitled "Flight of the Nez Perce Indians-Camas Meadows Battle". This plaque gives a summary of the 1877 War and a detailed account of the Camas Meadows battle.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand everyone's responsibility in preserving the site's cultural resources.
- understand the story from multiple points of view and the impact of these events specifically on the military.
- be able to put in perspective the rumors in the communities near the flight path and the fear those rumors caused.
- recognize that the Nez Perce crossed other tribes' territories during their flight and each of those tribes reacted in different ways.
- understand the events that occurred at "Camas Meadows" and how the skirmish relates to the overall 1877 Nez Perce War.

### **Actions**

- Work with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society to redo the interpretive panel at the I-15 rest area near Dubois, Idaho and to install one of the park-wide orientation panels.
- The audio-visual presentation on the Nez Perce War of 1877 called for in the park-wide actions section will include the story of these two skirmishes.
- The guidebook called for in the park-wide actions section will link this site chronologically with other Nez Perce National Historic Trail sites.

## **CANYON CREEK**

The September 13, 1877 battle at Canyon Creek delayed the fleeing Nez Perce for a day and contributed to the opportunity Col. Miles would have at Bear Paw to stop the Nez Perce from getting to Canada. Harassment of the Nez Perce by the Crow after the initial skirmish indicates the

complexities of inter-tribal relations. A roadside pullout with a stone monument and bronze plaque erected by the Yellowstone Historical Society marks the skirmish site. The plaque lists the number of cavalry casualties, commanding officer, and gives a brief summary of other Nez Perce encounters in the area. In Laurel, Montana at the Chamber of Commerce visitor center, there is a statue of Chief Joseph with a plaque that mentions the "Battle of Canyon Creek" having taken place seven miles north of town.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand the events of the skirmish and how it relates to the overall 1877 Nez Perce War.
- recognize the skirmish as a victory for the Nez Perce.
- appreciate the impact the Battle of the Little Bighorn had on this skirmish.
- recognize that at this point in the war, the press was very involved in reporting the latest developments.
- appreciate the Nez Perce were traveling with a sense of urgency since departing Yellowstone.
- receive basic orientation to the whole 1877 Nez Perce War story.
- recognize that Nez Perce were now in Crow/Cheyenne Territory and very far from their own home.
- understand the changing relationship of the Nez Perce with the Crow after they were denied help.
- understand everyone's responsibility in preserving the site's cultural resources.

### **Actions**

- Design, produce, and install the two wayside exhibits and the park-wide orientation panel called for in the 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal. One wayside will interpret the opening phases of the battle in terms of the visible terrain; the other will interpret the conclusion of the battle, the Nez Perce escape route, and the consequence of the delay the battle caused in the Nez Perce's flight to Canada.
- The park will continue to work with the Friends of Canyon Creek to develop an interpretive site at the battle site that provides interpretation consistent with park interpretive standards and goals.
- The audio-visual presentation on the Nez Perce War of 1877 called for in the park-wide actions section will include the Canyon Creek battle. The presentation will be made available to the Laurel Chamber of Commerce for use in their visitor center.

## **OREGON/WASHINGTON UNIT**

### **DUG BAR**

Located in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, this is the site where the Chief Joseph Band crossed the Snake River in route to the Nez Perce Reservation to comply with General Howard's order. The crossing was difficult, with men, women, children, elderly, and the band's large herd of livestock struggling to cross the spring runoff-swollen Snake River. The Nez Perce War of 1877, which began a few weeks later, prevented the band from ever returning here to their homeland.

On the western side of the Dug Bar eddy, the U.S. Forest Service has erected a large interpretive sign titled "Nez Perce Crossing". The text briefly describes why the Nez Perce were crossing the Snake River, the crossing experience, the beginning of the War of 1877 and where the war ended. The sign is meant to be read from the river by passing boaters.

#### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand how much the Nez Perce left behind, and why they left it, as they traveled to the reservation in 1877.
- appreciate the difficulty of moving the entire band and their possessions across the river in high water.
- understand the reason the band was crossing the river at that time of year.
- appreciate that the Nez Perce were never going to return to Wallowa - this is the last time they saw their homeland.
- understand how the Nez Perce were able to cross the river.

#### **Actions**

- Work with the U.S. Forest Service to construct an interpretive kiosk near the boat landing. The kiosk will include panels that orient visitors to the site-its facilities and trails, and introduce visitors to the site's cultural and historic features and the stories they support.
- Work with the U.S. Forest Service to remove the large interpretive sign at the Dug Bar eddy and replace it with a more aesthetically pleasing marker which can be easily identified from the river and a wayside exhibit to interpret the crossing story.
- The audio-visual presentation on the Nez Perce War of 1877, called for in the park-wide actions section, will discuss the Dug Bar crossing as part of the events leading up to the war.

## JOSEPH CANYON VIEWPOINT

The site is a highway pullout and overlook on Oregon State Route 3, 30 miles north of Enterprise, Oregon. The view of Joseph Canyon provides an example of the canyon-bottom environment where the Nez Perce people traditionally lived in winter. There is currently no interpretation at the site.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- receive orientation to the park, the Nez Perce Trail, and other sites in the Wallowa Valley.
- understand Nez Perce traditional use of the area.
- learn about the actions Howard took to prevent the Nez Perce from returning to the area after they had left for the reservation.
- learn how the area is used today.
- understand the seasonal economies of the Nez Perce.
- have the opportunity to experience the landscape and appreciate why the Nez Perce made their homes here.

### Actions

- Continue to partner with the U.S. Forest Service as they implement their site development plans. This includes providing one of the park-wide orientation panels for a cluster of such panels—one on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and another on the Wallowa- Whitman National Forest, and wayside exhibit panels on the Nez Perce traditional use of the canyon to be installed on a new viewing deck constructed below the brow of the hill.
- The site will be included in the guidebook called for in the park actions section.

## LOSTINE CAMPSITE

The site, at the historic junction of the Lostine and Wallowa Rivers, represents the traditional summer campsite of the Wallowa Band of Nez Perce. Near here Old Chief Joseph established a boundary line to identify the band's ownership of the valley to the white settlers.

Currently the confluence area is an Oregon State Wildlife Refuge, but there is no development or interpretation associated with the refuge. A nearby site to the north of the town of Wallowa and along the Wallowa River is being developed to provide the Nez Perce with a place to practice some of their traditional cultural activities and interpret their history in the valley. Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. will build a small visitor contact station at the site.

### Visitor Experience Goals

Visitors will:

- learn about the previous Oregon treaties and how they were nullified by the Stevens Treaty.
- learn how the Nez Perce people made their living in the Wallowa Valley.
- understand the Nez Perce frequently traveled from the Wallowa Valley to buffalo country.
- understand the Nez Perce's relationship to the settlers-both positive and negative.
- be able to identify the original territory that belonged to the Chief Joseph Band as was marked by Old Chief Joseph.
- understand where Nez Perce people live today and why.
- be aware of the traditional religion of the Chief Joseph Band and the rest of the nontreaty bands.
- understand the relationship of the Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce on the Coville Reservation to other Nez Perce bands and other Indian nations in the region.
- understand how returning to the Wallowa Valley would signify the closing of the circle for the Chief Joseph Band.
- understand who Old Chief Joseph was.
- understand the historic continuum of the Nez Perce and other tribes in that area.
- understand how, even after over a century of exile, their traditional homeland continues to be a sacred and spiritual place to the Chief Joseph band.
- understand why the Chief Joseph Band continues to identify itself with Chief Joseph.

### **Actions**

- The park will continue to work with the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. (WBNPTIC) and provide interpretive media planning, design, and production expertise upon request and to the degree funding allows. The visitor contact station with interpretive exhibits and an audio-visual space will provide an excellent opportunity for both the community and the park to work together to reach their shared interpretive and visitor goals.
- When completed, both audio-visual presentations called for in the park-wide actions section will be made available to the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. to show in their visitor contact facility.
- Design, produce, and install a wayside exhibit panel near the confluence site once an appropriate location is found.
- Install one of the park-wide orientation panels at the gravel pullout on Highway 82 near the top of Minam Grade or other appropriate location.

- Design, produce, and install wayside exhibits at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. site to interpret the individual cultural landscape features of the site and the view of the Wallowa Valley from the trail overlook near the summit of Tick Hill.

## **OLD CHIEF JOSEPH GRAVESITE**

The Old Chief Joseph Gravesite is a 5.1-acre cemetery with an 8-acre buffer to the northwest. After Old Chief Joseph's original grave was vandalized, his remains were reinterred at this site in 1926. The cemetery is a national historic landmark. A single wayside exhibit on the site interprets Old Chief Joseph's gravesite and affirms the sacred and sensitive nature of the site to the Colville Nez Perce, Nez Perce Tribe, and Umatilla Tribe.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- recognize the cemetery and the area as a sacred, spiritual place to the Nez Perce.
- identify the Nez Perce people as an integral part of this landscape.
- learn Old Chief Joseph's Nez Perce names.
- learn the correct date (1872) of Old Chief Joseph's death.
- learn how Old Chief Joseph's remains and the monument came to be here.
- understand that this location was not the primary place where Nez Perce lived in the valley.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

### **Actions**

- Because of the sensitive and sacred nature of the site no other interpretive media will be placed at the site. Interpretation on Old Chief Joseph will be done at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. location.
- Design and produce a site bulletin for this site.

## **NEZ PERCE (NESPELEM) CAMPSITES**

The two Nez Perce campsites have been identified as the last home sites on the Colville Reservation of the exiled Chief Joseph the Younger. The exact boundaries and locations of these sites have not been determined. They were selected because they illustrate the perpetuation of the traditional seasonal movement from high to low ground, in spite of the fact that the climate and geology of the

Colville area did not require such movement for survival success. The cultural landscape in Nespelem area is full of historic and more current structures that portray the continuing culture of the Chief Joseph Band's exile on the Colville Reservation. There is currently no formal interpretation of the Chief Joseph Band's exile in Nespelem.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

Visitors will:

- understand who the Chief Joseph Band people are and how and why they are here.
- understand the sacredness and sensitivity of the cemetery at Nespelem.
- understand the relationships within the Colville Confederated Tribes.
- understand that Nez Perce culture continues in Nespelem.
- understand that Chief Joseph Band is still in exile from their homeland.
- receive a strong preservation message that focuses on their responsibilities in preserving the site's cultural resources.

### **Actions**

- The Joseph Band is currently working with the Colville Confederated Tribes to establish a cultural center for the band. Nez Perce National Historical Park will provide, as requested by the band and as funding will allow, technical expertise in planning interpretive media for the cultural center.
- When completed, both of the audio-visual presentations called for in the park-wide actions section will be made available to the Nespelem cultural center, The Tribal Museum in Coulee Dam, and the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Arrival Center in Grand Coulee.
- Design, produce, and install the wayside exhibit interpreting the historic Nez Perce Longhouse in Nespelem as called for in the 1999 Wayside Exhibit Proposal.

## **NEZ PERCE CEMETERY**

The Nez Perce Cemetery is an active, traditional Nez Perce cemetery in Nespelem that contains the remains of several participants in the Nez Perce War of 1877, including Chief Joseph the Younger and Yellow Wolf. This is a very sacred and sensitive site.

Nearby on State Route 155, the Washington State Highway Commission has erected a large historic marker that eulogizes Joseph as a military genius and a peacemaker in the Nez Perce War of 1877 and mentions the band's exile on the Colville Reservation.

### **Visitor Experience Goals**

- Visitation to the cemetery by the public will not be encouraged by the park.

## PLANNING TEAM

### **Nez Perce National Historical Park**

Bob Chenoweth, Curator  
Arthur Currence, Park Ranger  
Doug Eury, Superintendent  
Tim Fisher, Park Ranger  
Dan Foster, Resource Management Specialist  
Otis Halfmoon, Idaho Unit Manager  
Jon James, Superintendent, Big Hole Battlefield  
Diane Mallickan, Park Ranger  
Marie Marek, Chief of Interpretation  
Tim Nitz, Washington/Oregon Unit Manager  
Kevin Peters, Park Ranger  
Frank Walker, former Superintendent

### **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

Frank Andrews  
Rodney Cawston  
Sheilah Cleveland  
Wes (Stretch) Cleveland  
Anne C. George  
Charlie Moses  
Keith (Soy) Redthunder  
John Sirios  
LeRoy (Chas) Williams

### **Nez Perce Tribe**

Allen P. Slickpoo, Sr.

### **Nez Perce (Nee Me Poo) National Historic Trail**

Keith Thurlkill, Region I

### **U.S.D.A. Forest Service**

Dave Clark, Wallowa Whitman National Forest  
Sandi McFarland, Clearwater National Forest  
Allan V. Pinkham, former Tribal Liaison

### **Harpers Ferry Center**

Don Kodak, Interpretive Planner