



Partners and Friends

Big Hole Welcomes New Superintendent

Tami DeGrosky joins the staff at the Battlefield

Big Hole National Battlefield has a new Superintendent. In September 2004, Tami DeGrosky came to Big Hole National Battlefield to assume the position of Superintendent, replacing Jon James who left in February, 2004 for the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Washington, D.C. Tami joins the staff from Apostle Islands National Lakeshore on Lake Superior.

Tami is a second generation National Park Service employee. She was born in Yellowstone National Park, raised in Grand Teton National Park and attended the University of Montana School of Forestry. Tami's career

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began at Glacier National Park. She eventually came back to Grand Teton National Park as the facility management specialist before moving to Apostle Islands in 2001 as the facility manager.

Returning to Montana is like coming home. "Our roots are in the west and we are very excited to return to Montana" said Tami, "I look forward to living in the Big Hole and working at the Big Hole National Battlefield, making new friends and connecting with many of our old college buddies." Tami and her husband Mike enjoy the outdoors and will take advantage of "the beautiful place we have been fortunate enough to live in."



Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park, Doug Eury; National Park Service's Pacific West Regional Director, Jon Jarvis; and the new Superintendent of Big Hole National Battlefield, Tami DeGrosky at the Bear Paw battle commemoration in October, 2004.

The Superintendent is learning about the battlefield and the other Montana units of Nez Perce National Historical Park and getting up to speed on the various projects and initiatives that are coming in 2005. Some of these projects include maintaining the irrigation ditches at Big Hole, participating in the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, and working with the State of Montana to transfer Bear Paw Battlefield to the National Park Service.

In October Tami attended the commemoration at Bear Paw Battlefield. The solemn ceremony "was to me validation of the reasons Nez Perce National Historical Park was created." Tami noted, "While we were invited to share the day with the Nez Perce to commemorate and honor their ances-

tors we were also sharing and expressing hope for a better and more peaceful future." Tami adds, "As I learn more of the stories of the summer of 1877 and the people who remember the lessons of the past, I realize that the descendants of both the white and Indian people can teach us valuable lessons that relate to what is happening in the world today."

As an employee of the National Park Service, Tami notes that "those of us entrusted with the care of these resources will never forget in the day-to-day rush of work that we protect these special places so they can touch and teach the people of today and tomorrow".

Agricultural Management at Weippe Prairie

This past year established an agricultural management regimen for the park's 275-acre site at Weippe Prairie.

Working with a local farmer, Roy Lacey, and Orofino-based Natural Resource Conservation Service conservationist Bruce Hanson, the park implemented a site management plan incorporating weed control, haying, and light rotational grazing.

Lacey worked with park staff under the terms of a special use permit to work the land according to the management plan in exchange for haying and grazing privileges. He obtained pesticide applicator training and certification and helped staff weed control.

Lacey also invested in nose pumps and portable electric fencing for grazing cattle on a 21-day rotation schedule. Up to 30 head were rotated on a 200-acre field that had been divided into quadrants paralleling Jim Ford Creek, from which the cattle were excluded.

Lacey's permit expired in late October, and pending satisfactory review, will be renewed in 2005.

The goal of this management approach is threefold: to improve the landscape through wise agricultural practices, to control noxious weeds, and to reduce park costs through local partnerships.

The site is accessible on Larson Road about two miles from Weippe. A vehicle pullout, interpretive sign, and brochure box presently mark the location commemorating the meeting of the Lewis and Clark expedition and the Nez Perce people encamped in this vicinity in 1805.



Newly cleared of excess structures, this site will eventually contain restroom and parking facilities for visitors to Canoe Camp.

Canoe Camp Buildings Removed

Nez Perce National Historical Park is one step closer to developing visitor improvements at its Canoe Camp addition in Orofino.

Following the approval of an environmental assessment in September, five vacant buildings were demolished and removed from the 1.5-acre site along U.S. Highway 12.

The buildings were part of the former Riverview Estates manufactured home park, a senior residential community that the NPS acquired in 2002 from Bert and Shirley Harrington.

As only a part of this tract was needed for park development, the property was subdivided, and the residential portion sold last year to the owners of a neighboring mobile home community.

The purchasers agreed to remove the excess structures as a partial in-kind payment to the NPS, while retaining

and managing their new addition as a senior residential community.

The empty buildings included a two-unit apartment, a former alternative school, an indoor swimming pool, and two pool outbuildings. Concrete foundations and asphalt driveways were also removed, and the grounds are in process of restoration.

Long-term plans for the site include a 35-vehicle parking area, permanent restrooms, an interpretive pedestrian trail, and a maintenance storage building. These facilities will address public safety and enjoyment at Canoe Camp, a traditional Nez Perce campsite and the place where the Lewis and Clark expedition built canoes for their journey to the Pacific in 1805. The final development phase awaits project funding.

To learn more, call the park's Idaho unit manager, Scott Eckberg, at (208) 843-2261, ext. 151.

Corps of Discovery II, the National Park Service's traveling exhibit on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, is coming to Kamiah, Idaho September 16-26, 2005 and Clarkston, Washington October 1-10, 2005. If you would like to volunteer for the Kamiah event, please contact Ruth May at (208) 926-0855. For Clarkston please call Michelle Peters at (509) 758-7489.

News From the Field

Proposed Conservation Easement Near Spalding

The National Park Service is considering acceptance of a scenic easement donation of approximately 181 acres of land to benefit the Spalding site of Nez Perce National Historical Park. The Joseph Feathers family proposes to convey these interests in land, by donation.

These lands are located immediately north of the Clearwater River across from park headquarters and the historic Spalding mission and townsite. The land donation and attendant park boundary adjustment will preclude adverse development and protect the land's scenic, cultural, and natural resources, while retaining a portion of the property for public use.

Further information on this proposal is available from Wayne Hill, Columbia Cascades Land Resources Program Center, National Park Service, 909



Twisted Hair flanked by Lewis and Clark. Commemorating the first nation to nation agreement between the Nez Perce and the United States.

First Avenue, Fifth Floor, Seattle WA 98104-1060.

Nation to Nation: The Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark


In 2005-06, the focus of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition will center on their experiences in north central Idaho. In 1805 the Nez Perce provided food and assistance as

the expedition recovered from its arduous trek through the Bitterroot Mountains. In the spring of 1806, the expedition spent time among the Nez Perce at Long Camp, near present day Kamiah, Idaho. When Lewis and Clark left to continue their journey east, they had entered into an agreement of peace and friendship, an obligation that the Nez Perce took seriously.

The hopes of peace and friendship resulting from the dialogue between the Nez Perce Nation and the United States has been commemorated in a pin that is now for sale at the Spalding Visitor Center. A joint effort between Northwest Interpretive Association and the staff of Nez Perce National Historical Park, the pin was designed by Yvette Whitman and manufactured with money generated by the association sales center at the Spalding Visitor Center.

The pin is for sale for \$3.95 at the Spalding Visitor Center.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Now and Forever: The life and times of Mylie Lawyer.



Mylie Lawyer (seated) and her nephew Doug Nash (standing to the right) greet visitors at the opening of the new exhibit on Mylie's family.

On October 23, 2005 the park celebrated the grand opening of a new temporary exhibit at the Spalding visitor center. The exhibit is centered around the artifacts related to the life and times of Mylie Lawyer and her family.

Mylie, a resident of Lapwai, Idaho came to celebrate the first public exhibition of items related to her and the Lawyer family. She is a descendant of Twisted Hair, the Nez Perce headman who greeted Lewis and Clark as they descended out of the Bitterroot Mountains in September, 1805. Her namesake is Chief Lawyer, who also played a prominent role in Nez Perce history in the first part of the nineteenth century.

Of the over 300 items Mylie has, the exhibit displays thirty items including an American flag from 1863, Chief Lawyer's wife's dress from the 1830s and a pistol and ledger from Mylie's father, Corbett and items from Mylie's childhood. The exhibit will close in the fall of 2005.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Commemoration at Bear Paw Battlefield



A riderless horse at the annual Bear Paw Battlefield commemoration honors the fallen warriors.

The annual Bear Paw Battlefield commemoration was held on Saturday, October 5, 2004. Nez Perce Tribal members from Washington and Oregon greeted the sunrise and sang songs of remembrance and mourning.

This was followed by traditional pipe and horse ceremonies hosted by the Lapwai Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10933. Members from the Fort Belknap community participated by providing a drum circle and Pipe Men.

With nearly 120 people in attendance this special day benefited from beautiful fall Montana weather. The day's events lasted until nearly 2 p.m. with several National Park Service employees providing support services. Present was Pacific West Regional Director Jon Jarvis, Nez Perce National Historical Park's Superintendent Doug Eury, newly-appointed Big Hole and Bear Paw Superintendent Tami DeGrosky, Big Hole Maintenance Lead Wayne Challoner, and Bear Paw Battlefield Rangers Robert West and Jim Magera.