



Partners and Friends

Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial

Commemoration Arrives in Western Montana and Idaho

After much anticipation, the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial was commemorated in Montana and Idaho over the summer. Its centerpiece was the National Park Service traveling exhibition, Corps of Discovery II, consisting of interpretive exhibits and a large presentation venue known as the Tent of Many Voices. The 150 seat tent offered free public performances highlighting the multiple perspectives on the history and legacy of the 1803-1806 Corps of Discovery.

Big Hole National Battlefield staff assisted commemorative activities in western Montana, while those at Spalding helped with events in Kamiah, Weippe Prairie, and Clarkston. As events coincided with the beginning of the school year, the bicentennial activities offered opportunities for local schools to learn about the expedition.

The passage of the commemoration through the Nez Perce homeland provided opportunities to focus on the interaction between the Nez Perce and the Corps of Discovery. With the exception of their winter encampments, the expedition spent more time with the Nez Perce than with any other native group. The park hosted a reenactment of the meeting between the explorers and the Nez Perce at its Weippe Prairie site on September 20, exactly 200 years to the day Captain William Clark encountered the Nez Perce. Over 500 people, mostly school children from Weippe and Orofino, attended the event.



Alyse Cadez (in uniform, standing), education specialist at Nez Perce National Historical Park, leads a group in an activity on trade at the bicentennial event in Kamiah, Idaho (NPS Photo).

After many years of planning by community members, Kamiah, Idaho hosted the first stop of Corps II in north central Idaho from September 16 - 26. Park staff joined personnel from Clearwater National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to present a host of programs to over 5,000 school children from Kamiah and surrounding communities. From Kamiah, Corps II's next stop was Clarkston, Washington from October 1 - 9. Despite inclement weather, park staff contacted over 1,800 visitors and school children.

The final events of the bicentennial commemoration will occur as Corps II returns to Lewiston for the signature event sponsored by the Nez Perce

Tribe from June 14 - 17, 2006. Superintendent Douglas Eury said, "It is fitting that one of the concluding events in the northwest will be hosted by the Nez Perce. We look forward to working cooperatively with them to make this a lasting legacy of the bicentennial commemoration."



Reenactors fire a farewell salute at the closing ceremony of the bicentennial event in Kamiah, Idaho. A group of reenactors has accompanied Corps II since it began its journey west in 2003.

Help the National Park Service Plan for the Future

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of revising the bureau's management policies. The NPS management policy provides managers guidance in making day-to-day decisions in the 388 units that comprise the park service. In order to manage all of these units in a manner consistent with statutory obligations as well as to meet the demands of the 21st century, these policies require a comprehensive review from time to time.

National Parks are enjoyed by over 280 million visitors every year. Jon Jarvis, Director of the NPS Pacific West Region, notes that "NPS Management Policies are an essential document to our stewardship of all units of the National Park System, as well as the many program responsibilities we perform. Their consistent application has made the NPS one of the most respected land management agencies in the world."

Given the public's support of the NPS, the revision of the bureau's management policies is a process that not only includes park service employees but partners and stakeholders as well. The public, therefore, is invited to examine and comment on this important document.

The draft management policies are available to the public on the National Park Service's planning, environment and public comment web site at: parkplanning.nps.gov/waso.

Comments will be accepted until February 18, 2006 and may be entered through the website or by surface mail to Bernard Fagan, National Park Service, Office of Policy, Room 7252, Main Interior Building, 1849 'C' Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



The Canoe Camp expansion will include a restroom. Here, the contractors are installing one of the prefabricated, reinforced concrete modules at Canoe Camp in November, 2005.

Canoe Camp Renovation Progressing



The new parking lot at Canoe Camp. The number of parking places will increase from ten to thirty-five.

On October 4, Canoe Camp closed to the public in order to begin construction of site improvements. To date the contractor, S & S Construction of Lewiston, has installed new curbs for an expanded parking area; extended the existing trail to the new property; constructed a maintenance storage building; and installed a new, permanent restroom.

The site will remain closed until final paving and landscaping is complete. The site is scheduled to reopen in the spring.

The \$433,000 project is funded by the NPS recreation fee demonstration program, which is derived from entrance and recreation fees generated from across the national park system. In 2003, NPS acquired an adjoining 1.47-acre tract from Bert and Shirley Harrington for the purpose of addressing the site's pressing public safety and accessibility needs.

Located in Orofino, Canoe Camp commemorates both Nez Perce history and the 1805 arrival of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The park site on U.S. Highway 12 is also a component of the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway, and the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trails.

Visit Nez Perce National Historical Park's new online bookstore! The Northwest Interpretive Association has created a cyber bookstore. From the comfort of your home or business you can now browse through many titles on Nez Perce history and culture. Go to www.nps.gov/nepe and click on the bookstore link.

News From the Field

Museum on the Web

The museum collection of Nez Perce National Historical Park has over 140,000 objects, but due to space limitations, only a small number of them are on public display. In order that more of these special objects may be accessible, the park began a virtual museum project. In cooperation with the Museum Management Program of the NPS, last June a professional photographer took digital photographs of over 200 objects, many never before seen in public.

In conjunction with the photo shoot, the park hosted a workshop of local educators who were charged with creating curriculum-based lesson plans to accompany the web site. The lesson plans will allow teachers to appreciate and understand that museum objects can tell stories. The lesson plans will use the museum objects to highlight the culture and stories of the Nez Perce. The web site is scheduled to debut in spring, 2006.



Park staff gingerly sets up the old buffalo hide tipi in June, 2005.

Buffalo Robe Tipi Raised For First Time in Fifty Years

On June 16, 2005 a 150-year-old buffalo hide tipi in the park's collection was photographed for the virtual museum project. The tipi was probably made in the 1850s and consists of sixteen to twenty buffalo hides, stitched together with sinew.


Mylie Lawyer, whose family is associated with the tipi, says it was owned by

Chief Lawyer's wife, Ow-yeen, and Mylie's father Corbett grew up in it, listening to stories about Nez Perce culture and history. The last time it was publicly displayed was 1950. Over forty people, including Mylie and other Nez Perce elders, watched in anticipation as the park staff gently raised the rare hide dwelling, one of the few extant buffalo hide tipis left in the United States.

Volunteers Conclude a Busy Summer at Lake Wallowa

Dan and Sandy Strawn, retired teachers from Vancouver, Washington, had a very successful summer serving as volunteers for Nez Perce NHP and as campground hosts at Wallowa Lake State Park. The Strawns gave campfire programs on Nez Perce history and culture and tended to the day to day needs of campers. Their programs were well received and they enjoyed taking part in the cultural activities in the area and hope to return next year.

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.

2005 - A Year in Review



Park education specialist Alyse Cadez leading a program on Nez Perce memory strings for school children.

The dominant feature of 2005 was the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial. Besides the bicentennial programming, the park received funding for the expansion of the Canoe Camp site and \$40,000 to renovate exhibits at the Spalding Visitor Center dealing with the expedition.

Despite the high price of gasoline, visitation to the Big Hole and Nez Perce visitor centers remained constant. Approximately 40,000 visitors paid a visit to Big Hole and Bear Paw battlefields in 2005. At the Spalding visitor center, there was a slight increase from last year, rising from 23,000 to 24,000 visitors.

An important part of the park's outreach strategy is providing curriculum-based education programs. In 2005, Big Hole contacted 2,500 students and at Spalding, 4,500. Over the summer months, Big Hole assisted the U.S. Forest Service and provided staffing at Lost Trail Pass Visitor Center and camp fire programs at a Forest Service campground, contacting over 5,000 people. The staff at the Spalding Visitor Center provided interpretive programs for nearly 5,000 people.



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Preservation of Fort Lapwai Officers Quarters



Maintenance Worker Jerry Anderson sets a stone in the renovated foundation of the officers quarters.

A building is as sound as its foundation, and such was the case of the stone piers supporting the Fort Lapwai Officers Quarters. Built in 1883, the piers needed the attention of maintenance workers Jesse Kipp and Jerry Anderson.

Removing the wooden skirting that masks the crawl space, Jesse and Jerry

exposed the foundation corners on the north and south faces of the building. Timbers and building jacks were placed and tightened. They prepared the ground, mixed the concrete base, and blended original and replacement stones they brought from the nearby river valley.

"It was like putting a puzzle together, fitting everything just so," Jerry said. "I knew it was going to have to last a long, long time, and I wanted it to look historic as well."

Park managers are responsible for maintaining many historic and contemporary buildings, landscapes, and systems. Their versatility as individuals and as a team ensures the park's continued enjoyment by visitors, today and in years to come.