



# Partners and Friends

## Bear Paw Battlefield

### Battlefield site transferred to the National Park Service

In April 2005, the National Park Service acquired title to Bear Paw Battlefield from the State of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Department. Formerly known as the Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw State Park, the park service has managed the site through a lease agreement with the state since 1992.

Bear Paw Battlefield is a unit of the Nez Perce National Historical Park and is administered through Big Hole National Battlefield. It is located sixteen miles south of Chinook, Montana, and commemorates the final conflict of the Nez Perce War of 1877. Following the first clash at White Bird in Idaho, nearly 800 Nez Perce spent a long and arduous summer fleeing U.S. Army troops first toward Crow allies and then toward refuge in Canada. Forty miles short of the Canadian border and following a five-day battle and siege, the Nez Perce ceased fighting at Bear Paw on October 5th, 1877, in which Chief Joseph gave his immortal speech: "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

In recognition of the land transfer, the park service hosted a reception at the Montana State Capitol Building in Helena on May 24, 2005. Plaques of recognition were given to Montana Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger, Mark Elsbree of The Conservation Fund, and to the Davies family of Chinook who were unable to attend. Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger recognized the significance of the day, "This is an extraordinary day. I want



Douglas Eury, Superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park, presents a plaque to Montana's Lieutenant Governor, John Bohlinger. Behind the Superintendent is Walt Timmerman (Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks) and Debbie Dills (Montana Fish, Wildlife, Parks).

to thank the National Park Service for taking this under your wing, for giving it the stature it so deserves..... This will make a significant contribution to the preservation of Nez Perce history."

An additional event was held in Chinook on May 25, 2005 to recognize the Davies family for a donation of land to the battlefield. Reginald Davies and his father William donated forty acres to the state in 1968. Davies family members in attendance were Rick Davies, Vonnie Davies, Jack and Ann Davies, and Mark and Yvonne Davies. Representing the National Park Service were Realty Specialist Wayne Hill, Big Hole National Battlefield Superintendent Tami DeGrosky, and Park Ranger Robert West.

Ownership of the battlefield will allow the National Park Service to increase efforts toward resource protection, visitor services, and education at this solemn site.



Honoring the land donation of the Davies Family, Big Hole Superintendent Tami DeGrosky (far left) presenting a plaque to the Davies family. From left to right, Supt. DeGrosky, Mark, Jack, and Rick Davies. Seated is Vonnie Davies.

## Feathers Family Donates Scenic Easement to Nez Perce NHP

The family of Joseph and Elizabeth Feathers has donated a scenic easement along the Clearwater River to the National Park Service.

Located along the bluffs opposite the park's Spalding site, the 180-acre easement will preserve a critical viewshed adjacent to the historic Spalding mission, Nez Perce Indian agency, and present-day national park museum and visitor center.

Superintendent Douglas Eury graciously accepted the donation, "We appreciate the farsightedness of the Feathers family in preserving this aspect of the cultural landscape at Spalding for future generations of park visitors."

Feathers' son, Jesse, said the easement is a way to honor his parents and protect the Clearwater River corridor.

"My family has lived here since 1971," Feathers said. "We have a passion for the land and the river. We also understand and respect the cultural and historical significance of the site," he said. "Because of the beautiful moonrises over the Clearwater, we call our place Moon Rising Ranch."

Joseph Feathers was a Lewis-Clark State College professor from 1967 to 1978, specializing in Native American studies. His son characterized his parents as lovers of Nez Perce culture, Lewis-Clark history, and the national park system.



The Clearwater River corridor along US Hwy 12 between Orofino and Kamiah, Idaho. This is part of the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway.

## NPS Partners With Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

Nez Perce National Historical Park is active on the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway advisory team. Last month, the Idaho unit manager and team co-leader, Scott Eckberg, submitted a final draft corridor management plan and nomination for byway designation as All-American Road to the Federal Highway Administration.

"Stretching from Lewiston to Lolo on US Highway 12, and Idaho Highway 13 from Kooskia to Grangeville, the byway traverses several park sites as well as portions of the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail," Eckberg said.

"Our involvement is a natural fit, because the byway emphasizes the cultural and historical qualities intrinsic to north-central Idaho," he said. "It is also literally another avenue by which we may reach and serve visitors to the

places comprising this unique national park."

The plan updates the original 1997 document, and extends federal recognition to present state-designated portions originally authorized in 1986.

State byway coordinator Garry Young characterized this byway as among the furthest advanced in Idaho, and worthy of All-American Road status - - the highest recognition. Such consideration would enhance regional tourism and facilitate access to highway funds for byway projects.

Other key members of the advisory team include the USDA Forest Service, the North Central Idaho Travel Association, the Clearwater Economic Development Association, and municipal and county officials. For more information, go to [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org).

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 1-9, 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

## Summer Schedule in Full Swing

Memorial Day marked the traditional kick-off of the summer season for Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield.

The parks offer a host of programs through Labor Day, 2005. Among the highlights for this summer, Big Hole National Battlefield will offer a series of weekend programs beginning July 2 through the weekend of September 3. Each weekend a different cultural demonstrator will come to the battlefield to talk about the various cultures whose lives intersected in the Big Hole Valley.

At the Spalding Visitor Center, programs will be offered daily through Labor Day. In July and August the park will host a series of workshops on native flutes and atlatls, ancient spear throwers used by the Nez Perce.

For more information on summer pro-



Ranger giving program at Nez Perce National Historical Park Visitor Center. At 9:00 am daily throughout the summer, visitors can help the rangers set up a tipi.

grams and hours, please visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/nepe](http://www.nps.gov/nepe).

## Volunteers to serve in Wallowa Valley, Oregon.

Dan and Sandy Strawn, retired teachers from Vancouver, Washington, are volunteering for the park in the Wallowa Valley for the summer. The Strawns will be very busy this


summer, splitting their time between being campground hosts at Wallowa Lake State Park and providing information about Nez Perce National Historical Park in Joseph, Oregon, and providing visitor information at the Wallowa Whitman National Forest visitor center in Enterprise, Oregon.

For more information on volunteer opportunities at Nez Perce National Historical Park, please call (208) 843-2261, ext. 199; for Big Hole National Battlefield, (406) 689-3155.

## Joseph Canyon Overlook Completed

A joint project between the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and the National Park Service is complete. Funded by the Oregon Trails Coordinating Council and Federal Forest Highway Program, the pullout now includes vault toilets and interpretive signs.

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.

## UI Student Project At White Bird Battlefield



University of Idaho Professor Toru Otawa (far left) and his students.

On April 1, six University of Idaho department of landscape architecture students met with their professor, Dr. Toru Otawa and park managers to present their concepts for visitor improvements at the White Bird Battlefield. The improvements would be sited upon the previously disturbed ground of a former farmstead adja-

cent to the battlefield.

The project began a month earlier with a site visit, when the class saw the lack of facilities firsthand. They examined areas appropriate for new parking, restrooms, pedestrian trails, and other amenities. Parameters were defined, including cost and environmental compliance. The park sought concepts by which improvements could be phased in as resources were available.

Each student presented three alternative concepts, earning academic credit and acquiring practice in a real-world situation they may encounter in their respective careers. For the park, the student project is the beginning of a quest for leveraging partnerships by which battlefield visitors can ultimately be better served.



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**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

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**How Are We Doing?**

The newsletter is now going into third year of publication. In an effort to make the distribution of this publication more efficient, we would like to gauge the interest of our readers in an electronic version of the newsletter.

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