

# Virtual Visit to the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Now Complete



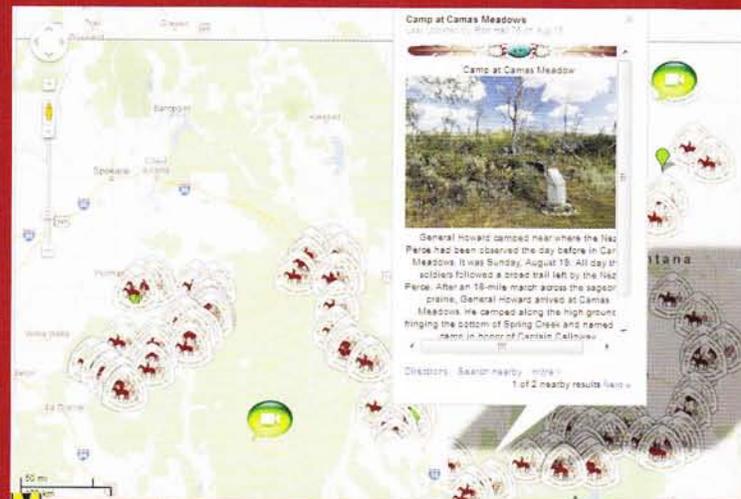
The staffs of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) are pleased to announce the completion of the Trail's Google mapping project. For visitors unable to physically visit the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the option is now available for them to travel the entire length of the NPNHT using Google Maps and Google Earth. Completion of the virtual tour marks the first significant use of the full range of Google web tools to showcase, promote, educate, and enhance the public's awareness and use of one of our nation's historic trails. The tour can be accessed from the NPTF website or the NPNHT website.

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation first applied for a NPNHT Challenge Cost Share grant for this project in 2010. During the past two years members of the Foundation and staff from the NPNHT have worked with Ron Hall, an Eastern Washington University geographic information system (GIS) instructor and a Google certified kml developer for interactive web map content, to complete this project.

The NPTF was also able to take advantage of the Google Outreach program for nonprofit organizations. "The Foundation is proud to be a vital part of this effort and helping to share the story of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail with audiences around the world," said Jim Evans, Executive Director, NPTF.

"The uses for this tool are endless and we are extremely excited to be able to share these applications with visitor and educators," said Sandi McFarland, Administrator of the NPNHT. "We are already exploring the possibility of educational curriculum using this software and further engaging youth."

The tour uses existing NPNHT information in new technologies and gives them an interactive nature. Using these features, visitors will now be able to access the full set of information provided in the NPNHT auto tour brochures using Google earth from their computer, smart phone or tablet. For those seeking a more in-depth experience they can access the same information via Google Earth.



This trail success supports

Decade Goal #1  
OUTREACH

"Those visitors wishing to get a 3D experience can 'fly' along the Trail and get a firsthand feeling for the rugged terrain that the Nez Perce and military traversed in 1877," said Ron Hall.

*Adapted from the September 20, 2012 press release from the USFS - Nez Perce Historic Trail.*

Access the new virtual tour at:  
[www.nezpercetrail.net](http://www.nezpercetrail.net)