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.

This trail success supports
Decade Goal #1
OUTREACH

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.

“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.

Access the new virtual tour at:
www.nezpercetrail.net

The Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Partnership was selected to receive the 2012 Department of Interior ‘Partners in Conservation Award’ from the Secretary of Interior. The award is a DOI Honor Award for outstanding conservation achievements that include collaborative work among diverse entities such as Federal, State, Local, and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit institutions, other nongovernmental entities, and individuals. The award recognizes outstanding conservation results that have been produced primarily because of the engagement and contributions of many partners. The award is being presented to the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, BLM Anchorage Field Office, Chugach National Forest, and Alaska DNR Iditarod Easement Project.

The Alliance enabled its agency partners to make significant progress toward the goals of the National Trails System Act that could not otherwise be achieved by each entity working alone. The Alliance organized a 5-year Centennial for the Iditarod National Historic Trail, and with the named partners completed a variety of Centennial Legacy projects that will significantly benefit the Trail for the next 100 years. This includes the establishment of public easements on 1,600 miles of the Trail, development of 6 new public safety cabins and stabilization of 2 historic safety cabins, Trail-based continuing education training for 40 Alaskan K-12 teachers, and a two week, 1,000-mile, sleddog-based outreach trip to 14 communities on the Trail by one of the founders of the Alliance.

The Iditarod Centennial Partnership is one of three Partnership Awards being presented to partners of BLM. Dozens of Federal partnerships vied for the award nationwide, and overall 19 awards will be made among the DOI’s eight agencies. The award was presented in Washington D.C. in October 2012.