

**Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests
Forest Plan Assessment**

**13.0 Assessing Cultural and Historical
Resources and Uses**

June 2014

Table of Contents

13.0 Assessing Cultural and Historical Resources and Uses.....	13-1
13.1 Cultural Context on the Plan Area	13-1
13.2 Cultural Resources and Heritage Assets of the Plan Area	13-3
13.3 Condition of Cultural Resources in the Plan Area	13-7
13.4 Relevant Management Information Concerning Cultural Resources	13-8
13.5 Literature Cited	13-11

List of Tables

Table 13-1. Historic themes and general cultural resource site types of the plan area.....	13-4
Table 13-2 Priority heritage assets of the Plan area.....	13-6
Table 13-3 Drivers and their associated trend regarding the condition of cultural resources across the plan area	13-7

13.0 Assessing Cultural and Historical Resources and Uses

13.1 Cultural Context on the Plan Area

In the centuries preceding Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery's arrival in 1805 the Inland Northwest was a kaleidoscope of cultures. A span of time perhaps exceeding 10,000 years gave rise to a complex array of aboriginal cultures finely honed to the resources and seasonal rhythm of their respective areas. Historically, the plan area was primarily the homeland to hunting, fishing and gathering bands collectively referred to as the Nez Perce Indians, however, other peripheral groups also utilized the area. Most prominent among these proximally situated groups were those historically known as the Bitterroot Salish (Pend d' Oreille and Flathead), Coeur d' Alene and Northern Shoshone Indians. Today these groups retain an ongoing vibrant culture with an unbroken tie to the greater plan area.

Historically situated at the edge of the Columbia Plateau and Great Basin aboriginal cultural areas, the plan area existed at a crossroad of cultures. While the resources of the plan area necessitated a similar economy among these groups—each nonetheless brought with them a differing language and orientation. Cultural interaction such as trade and marriage served to weave this diverse cultural landscape together, but the culture of each group retained a core identity.

The plan area's landscape is largely characterized by deep canyons possessing elevation-dependent ecosystems within. The vertical compression of these ecotones within the canyons resulted in a multitude of resources being available within a limited area throughout the seasons. This allowed small, extended family groups to largely orient themselves to a given watershed area and obtain the necessary resources to live throughout the year. The seasonal timing of resource availability within a watershed largely predicated the movement of groups as well as the type of resource exploitation activity. Winter was a more sedentary time generally spent at villages along the lower stream courses subsisting largely on stored foods. This successful approach to resource exploitation allowed a given band to live for generations within a greater watershed area and develop sophisticated knowledge of the landscape. The acquisition of the horse in the early 18th century notably transformed this subsistence cycle. The increased mobility expanded use areas, altered relationships amongst Tribes and transformed their economies and way of life.

American Indian use of the plan area over the centuries is thus manifest in hundreds of archaeological sites in addition to sacred sites and other areas of traditional importance. Discrete and ever-disappearing, archaeological sites and the myriad of activities they reflect, represent only a very small sample of the complex, rich, and dynamic past lifeways associated with each group.

The arrival of the Corps of Discovery to the plan area in 1805 marks the beginning of the historic period for central Idaho. With it came a succession of events that dramatically changed American Indian culture. Although Euro-American trade items, the acquisition of the horse and early waves of communicable diseases had reached the Inland Northwest prior to the Corps' arrival, it was the succeeding 75 years which were to have a profound affect. The Nez Perce War of 1877, the Sheepeater War of 1879 along with the reservation system

largely brought an end to the transhumant lifeways which had characterized American Indian culture for centuries throughout the greater plan area.

Following the Corps of Discovery's eastward departure from the plan area in 1806 a slow trickle and then tide of fur trappers/explorers entered the Inland Northwest. In 1811 Donald McKenzie of the Pacific Fur Company led a small contingent of "Overland Astorians" to Fort Astoria on the Oregon coast following a route along the western flank of the Nez Perce National Forest through Hells Canyon. The following year the Pacific Fur Company established a small post near present day Lewiston, Idaho along the Clearwater River. Later, in 1831, John Work of the Hudson's Bay Company led a fur brigade east across the Lolo Trail corridor into Montana.

Indeed transient travels through the plan area typify the documented Euro-American use of the plan area for the next several decades. Presbyterian minister Samuel Parker traversed the Southern Nez Perce Trail in 1835 as he travelled west on a reconnaissance mission for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (Parker 1967). Likewise, Bitterroot Valley resident and prolific traveler John Owen travelled east and west across the Southern trail in 1854. John Owen had two years earlier traversed the Lolo Trail corridor and continued to do so several times as late as 1863. John Mullen also travelled westward on the Lolo Trail corridor in 1854 as part of a railroad survey for the War Department (Baird and Baird 2003).

The discovery of gold near current day Pierce in 1860 and a year later at Elk City and Florence ushered in a wave of settlement and land use that transformed the plan area's natural and political landscape. Thousands of miners and accompanying tag-along businesses sprang up overnight in makeshift towns along with a nascent transportation network connecting each. Millions of dollars of gold were initially extracted from the plan area with the Florence Basin itself producing almost ten-million dollars in the 1860s. This locally produced capital provided an important source of hard currency for the Union during the Civil War. Thus the economic impetus for, and political organization of, the Idaho Territory at the time of its formation in 1863, and later State of Idaho in 1890, had its initial origins squarely within the plan area. Today, thousands of historic mining features can be found throughout central Idaho and embody an historic theme replete with ecological, economic, political and social implications.

Continued mining and small-scale lumbering, ranching and homesteading typified the use of the plan area during the 1870s and 1880s. This time period also saw the beginning of conservation related concerns expressed over the condition of forested watersheds on public lands in the eastern United States. These initial concerns eventually culminated in the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. The Act allowed the President to "set apart and reserve" forested public lands as an initial step in their protection from unregulated use. In 1897 the amount of forested acreage reserved under the Act was doubled by President Grover Cleveland. As a part of this augmentation, 4.1 million acres were set aside in central Idaho and western Montana as the Bitterroot Forest Reserve. In 1905 the Forest Reserves were reformulated into national forests and managed by the newly created United States Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture. Shortly thereafter, on July 1, 1908, both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests were created from portions of the Bitterroot, Coeur d' Alene and Weiser National Forests. In 1934 additional acreage was added to both Forests when the Selway National Forest was dissolved. Nearly 8 decades later, the two Forests were

administratively combined on February 6, 2013, and are today known as the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests.

Since 1908 the history of the plan area is largely then the history of both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The first several decades of Forest administration saw each Forest following similar trends as other national forests in the interior Northwest. Mapping of the Forests occurred along with the establishment of initial communication lines, fire lookout locations and administrative sites. Fire control was perhaps the top priority for early Forest rangers. The initial lack of a functional communication network, difficult access to remote areas, limited infrastructure and a shortage of labor led to devastating fires in the early 20th century. The large fires of 1910, 1919, 1929 and 1934 left a landscape legacy still extent today. Too, the extraction of millions of board feet of white pine on the Clearwater National Forest notably altered the vegetative landscape. For example, between approximately 1906 and 1930 many miles of temporary logging railroads were constructed across the Forest to extract this resource. The extent of this volume was so great that the largest white pine lumber mill in the world at that time was constructed in Potlach, Idaho, to process the resource, along with one of the most technologically advanced mills of the day built at Elk River (Petersen 1987). The advent and arrival of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s also had a profound effect on the cultural landscape of the Forest. Bridges, roads and trails were constructed facilitating increased access to many portions of the Forests. Following World War II resource extraction increased to support a booming post-war economy. The legacy of this intensive activity is apparent today in not only the condition and management classification of the Forests' landscapes, but also the multitude of policies that regulate forest management activity.

13.2 Cultural Resources and Heritage Assets of the Plan Area

The human story of the plan area is thus a rich history reflecting a converging cross-section of cultures, technologies and values. Table 13-1 lists the broad historic themes that have transpired across the plan area and the associated cultural resource site types resulting from each.

Table 13-1. Historic themes and general cultural resource site types of the plan area

Historic Theme	Site Type(s)
American Indian Use	Artifact scatters, lithic procurement sites, rock-art, camps, villages, fishing sites, rock cairns, areas of traditional importance, peeled tree groves, trails etc
Back Country Aviation	Airstrips and crash sites
Chinese Sojourners	Habitation features, artifact scatters and mining features
Civilian Conservation Corps	Ranger stations, camps, public campgrounds, bridges, roads, trails and fire lookouts
Conflict—Western Frontier	Camp sites along the Lolo Trail
Exploration/Fur Trade	Camp sites along the Lolo Trail
Fire Detection	Fire lookout stations
Forest Service Administrative History	Administrative sites, smokejumping and telecommunication lines
Homesteading/Ranching	Buildings, structures, orchards and artifact scatters
Hydroelectric Development	Dams
Incarceration	Internee camps and prison camps
Lands	Boundary/survey markers
Logging/Lumbering	Railroad grades, flumes, splash dams, camps, middens and artifact scatters
Mining	Townsites, placer mines, load mines, ditches, mills, building, structures, dams, cemeteries etc.
Missionary Period	Camp sites along the Southern Nez Perce Trail
Outdoor Recreation	Developed/dispersed camps, motorways and artifact scatters
Range Management	Cabins, stock driveways, corrals and watering stations
Settlement - Local	Schools and middens
Transportation	Roads, trails, bridges and waystations
Trapping	Martin sets, cabins and line shacks

Approximately 2,500 cultural resource sites reflecting the above historic themes are located on the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. Approximately 1,800 of these sites are classified as significant and require management consideration by the Forests. Of these, 60 sites have been identified as Priority Heritage Assets (FS Manual 2360.5). Priority Heritage Assets are resources of distinct value that are, or should be, actively maintained and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The significance and management priority of the property is recognized through an official designation; such as listing on the National Register of Historic Places, State register, etc
- The significance and management priority of the property is recognized through prior investment in preservation, interpretation, and use

- The significance and management priority of the property is recognized in an agency-approved management plan
- The property exhibits critical deferred maintenance needs, and those needs have been documented. Critical deferred maintenance is defined as a potential health or safety risk, or imminent threat of loss of significant resource value

Table 13-2 lists the Priority Heritage Assets of the plan area. The amount, nature and location of these selected assets intentionally reflect the envisioned monitoring capacity of the Forests to interact with a cross-section of significant resources reflecting multiple historic themes across all Zones of the Forests.

Table 13-2 Priority heritage assets of the Plan area

Site Number	Zone	Historic Theme	Site Type
10CW0063	North	Administrative History	Administrative site
10CW0229	North	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH0990	North	Administrative History	Administrative site
10CW0028	North	Administrative History and American Indian Use	Administrative history and artifact scatter
10CW0026	North	American Indian Use	Camp and artifact scatter
10CW0030	North	American Indian Use	Camp
10CW0052	North	American Indian Use	Fishing site
10CW0034	North	American Indian Use and Administrative History	Camp and administrative site
10CW0090	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10CW0129	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10CW0147	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10CW0216	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10CW0230	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10CW0238	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH0991	North	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH1006	North	Fire Detection and American Indian Use	Fire lookout station and artifact scatter
10CW0182	North	Logging/Lumbering	Splash dam and flume
10CW0186	North	Logging/Lumbering and Settlement - Local	Midden
10CW0083	North	Mining	Townsite
10CW0172	North	Settlement - Local	School and midden
10IH0939	Central	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH0949	Central	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH1869	Central	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH1960	Central	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH2023	Central	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH0965	Central	Administrative History and Backcountry Aviation	Administrative site and airstrip
10IH1956	Central	Administrative History and Backcountry Aviation	Administrative site and airstrip
10CW0240	Central	American Indian Use	Area of traditional importance
10IH0484	Central	American Indian Use	Trail
10IH1771	Central	American Indian Use	Lithic procurement site
10IH2737	Central	American Indian Use	Camp
10IH3337	Central	American Indian Use	Village
10IH2702	Central	American Indian Use and Exploration/Fur Trade	Artifact scatter and camp site
10IH0940	Central	American Indian Use, Exploration/Fur Trade and Mining	Trails
10IH0565	Central	Conflict – Western Frontier	Camp site
10IH0552	Central	Exploration Fur Trade	Camp site
10IH0562	Central	Exploration Fur Trade	Camp site
10IH0575	Central	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station

Site Number	Zone	Historic Theme	Site Type
10IH0870	Central	Incarceration	Internee camp and prison camp
10IH3188	Central	Outdoor Recreation	Motorway
10IH1844	South	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH2018	South	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH2024	South	Administrative History	Administrative site
10IH0025	South	American Indian Use	Camp
10IH0192	South	American Indian Use	Village
10IH0377	South	American Indian Use	Rock art and rock cairns
10IH0883	South	American Indian Use	Trail
10IH1727	South	American Indian Use	Camp
10IH1745	South	American Indian Use	Rock cairns and area of traditional importance
10IH1881	South	American Indian Use	Peeled tree grove
10IH1884	South	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH1949	South	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH2017	South	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH2021	South	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH3397	South	Fire Detection	Fire lookout station
10IH0007	South	Homesteading/Ranching	Buildings and structures
10IH0299	South	Homesteading/Ranching	Buildings and structures
10IH0518	South	Mining	Townsite
10IH3511	South	Mining	Cemetery
10IH0674	South	Transportation	Road

13.3 Condition of Cultural Resources in the Plan Area

The condition of hundreds of cultural resources across the plan area varies by resource class, location and age. Site monitoring and condition assessments of these properties show a range in condition from “excellent” to “destroyed.” Taken as a whole - historic properties across the plan area exist in fair condition. Table 13-3 portrays the condition trends of cultural resources in the plan area. The drivers portrayed in Table 13-3 are explained below.

Table 13-3 Drivers and their associated trend regarding the condition of cultural resources across the plan area

Driver	Trend
Vandalism/relic collecting	Ongoing
Natural deterioration/time	Ongoing
Fiscal constraints	Increasing
Legacy impacts	Stabilized
Visitor impacts	Ongoing
Wildand fire	Variable
Incomplete site locations	Ongoing
Conflicting mission goals	Increasing

Vandalism/Relic Collecting—The destruction of cultural resources, and/or the removal of artifacts from their site locations by the public, destroys valuable scientific information and negatively impacts tribal cultural values.

Natural Deterioration/Time—The passage of time degrades the structural integrity of our built-environmental resources (i.e. building and structures), degrades the composition of organic-based archeo-environmental data sets, and alters landforms which possess sensitive archaeological sites.

Fiscal Constraints—Budget limitations constrain the ability to reduce deferred maintenance issues associated with cultural resource management, and/or employ enhancement activities meant to bolster the integrity and understanding of the resource.

Legacy Activity Impacts—Historic management activities adversely affected cultural resources prior to the establishment of laws and regulations meant to protect those resources.

Visitor Impacts—Legitimate recreational activities occurring at the location of cultural resources unintentionally impact sensitive cultural properties.

Wildland Fire Impacts—Wildland fire can destroy built-environmental resources, alter sensitive organic-based archeo-environmental data sets, cause erosion of soil which protects archaeological properties, and alter historic landscapes.

Incomplete Understanding of Site Locations—Lack of complete cultural resource inventories across the plan area leave hundreds of cultural resources unknown and thus outside the rubric of affective management. Too, resources such as traditional cultural properties (TCP) may remain unknown or unnoticed given their unapparent nature, and understandable reluctance of the communities which ascribes value to the properties to advertise their location or otherwise define their existence.

Conflicting Mission Goals—Some federal laws possess regulatory provisions, goals and objectives which exclude mutual consideration of other resources such as historic properties and their associated protection. The National Historic Preservation Act, which allows for other resource values to be considered during federal undertakings, is often “trumped” in practice and in the courts. Thus, the goals and values of other resource programs are inadvertently restricting the Forest’s ability to protect all cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and Occupational Safety and Health Act are examples of this type of driver.

13.4 Relevant Management Information Concerning Cultural Resources

Existing information regarding the management of cultural resources of the plan area can be separated into both prescriptive and guidance-related frameworks. The following elements prescribe cultural resource management activities in the plan area:

- Preserve America Executive Order 2003 (EO 13287)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 1990 (25 USC 3001)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act 1979 (16 USC 470aa)
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act 1974 (16 USC 469)

- Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment Executive Order 1971 (EO11593)
- National Environmental Policy Act 1969 (42 USC. 4321)
- National Historic Preservation Act 1966 (16 USC 470)
- Historic Sites Act 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467)
- Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431)
- Forest Service Manual (Chapter 2360)
- North Idaho Programmatic Agreement
- Frank Church Wilderness Programmatic Agreement
- Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Preservation Plan (Jenkins 2006)
- Elk City Wagon Road Management Plan (Ward 1992)
- Travel Planning Protocol (USDA Forest Service 2009a)
- Florence Mining Protocol (USDA Forest Service 2012)
- A View to the Future: A Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan for Idaho (Idaho State Historical Society 2008)

The following elements provide general guidance concerning cultural resource management in the plan area:

- Forest Service Handbook (2309.12)
- National Register Bulletin 38 (USDI NPS n.d.)
- Sites Identification Strategy for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests (Hill 2001)
- INFRA database
- Geographic Information Systems data
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Assessment and Needs Analysis (Jarvis and National Trust for Historic Preservation 2008)
- Northern Region Historic Structure Assessment Plan (USDA Forest Service 2009b)
- Facility Master Plan (USDA Forest Service 2004)
- National Heritage Strategy (USDA Forest Service 1999)
- Nez Perce National Forest Heritage Program Strategy (Lucas 2006)
- National Program Managed to Standard Strategy (USDA Forest Service 2011)
- Cultural Resource Overview of the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness (Canaday 2012)
- Mining Idaho's History: Metal Mining in Idaho, 1860–1960. A mining context for Idaho (McKay and Cunningham 2011)
- Hidden Treasure: Historical Overview of the Dixie Mining District, Idaho County, Idaho (McKay 1996)
- Historical Overview of the Florence Mining District (McKay 1998)

- Cultural Resource Landscape Overview of the Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office (Carley and Sappington 2005)

While relevant information exists for the management of cultural resources in the plan area, certain critical gaps in data or management frameworks still remain including, but not limited to:

- Updating cultural resource information in Geographic Information Systems
- Preservation plan for the railroad logging on the Palouse Ranger District
- Preservation plan for the Florence mining district
- Preservation plan for the greater Elk City/Orogrande/Newsome/Dixie mining districts
- Preservation plan for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness
- Preservation plan for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
- Preservation plan for the Highway 12 corridor
- Cultural resource surveys of wilderness areas, especially the Wild and Scenic River corridors and high elevation environs within
- Discern properties of cultural and religious significance to American Indians

13.5 Literature Cited

- Baird, L., and D. Baird. 2003. In Nez Perce Country. Accounts of the Bitterroots and the Clearwater after Lewis and Clark. Northwest Historical Manuscript Series, University of Idaho.
- Canaday, T. W. 2012. A cultural resource overview of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Kamiah, ID: USDA Forest Service Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests. Report Number SL-11-1618.
- Carley, C. D., and R. L. Sappington. 2005. Cultural resource landscape overview of the Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office. Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit and Bureau of Land Management Agreement. No. ESA-9900040.
- Hill, M. 2001. Site identification strategy for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. Draft. Kamiah, ID: USDA Forest Service, Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests.
- Idaho State Historical Society. 2008. A view to the future. A comprehensive historic preservation plan for Idaho. Boise, ID: State Historic Preservation Office, Idaho State Historical Society. Available at:
<http://www.history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/HistoricPreservationPlan.2008.pdf>
- Jenkins, C. 2006. Clearwater National Forest Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Heritage Preservation Plan. Kamiah, ID: USDA Forest Service, Clearwater National Forest.
- Lucas, S. 2006. Heritage Program Strategy 2006. Grangeville, ID: USDA Forest Service, Nez Perce National Forest.
- McKay, K. L. 1996. Hidden treasure: Historical overview of the Dixie Mining District, Idaho County, Idaho. Columbia Falls, MT: Tracks of the Past.
- McKay, K. L. 1998. Gold for the taking: Historical overview of the Florence Mining District. Grangeville, ID: USDA Forest Service.
- McKay, K. L., and E. J. Cunningham. 2011. Mining Idaho's history. Metal mining in Idaho 1860–1960. A mining context for Idaho. Boise, ID: Idaho State Historical Society.
- Jarvis, T. D., and National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2008. The National Forest system: Cultural resources at risk. An assessment and needs analysis. National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Parker, S. 1967. Parker's exploring tour. Beyond the Rocky Mountains. Minneapolis, MN: Ross and Haines.
- Petersen, K. C. 1987. Company town. Potlatch, Idaho, and the Potlatch Lumber Company. Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press.
- USDA Forest Service. 1999. Heritage – It's about time! A National Strategy. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service.

- USDA Forest Service. 2004. Facilities Master Plan. Grangeville, ID: USDA Forest Service, Nez Perce National Forest.
- USDA Forest Service. 2009a. NHPA Section 106 protocols for compliance with the Travel Management Rule. Missoula, MT: USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Clearwater, Idaho Panhandle, and Nez Perce National Forests.
- USDA Forest Service. 2009b. Historic Structure Assessment and Historic Preservation Plan. Missoula, MT: USDA Forest Service, Northern Region.
- USDA Forest Service. 2011. Heritage Program Managed to Standard. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service.
- USDA Forest Service. 2012. Florence Mining Protocol. Kamiah, ID: Letter report on file at the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests.
- USDI National Park Service. n.d. National Register Bulletin. Guidelines for evaluating and documenting traditional cultural properties. Available at: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb38/nrb38%20introduction.htm>
- Ward, R. 1992. Elk City Wagon Road Management Plan. Grangeville, ID: USDA Forest Service, Nez Perce National Forest.