



NEZ PERCE TRIBE GENERAL COUNCIL

SEMIANNUAL REPORT • FALL 2020



Nez Perce Tribe General Council

Fall 2020





Nez Perce

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 305 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540 • (208) 843-2253

September 28, 2020

Nez Perce Tribal Members and Guests:

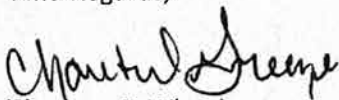
The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC) extends a warm welcome to everyone attending the Fall 2020 General Council. The General Council is an important opportunity for us to come together to share ideas, express concerns and develop solutions together with a common purpose. As Chairman of the NPTEC, I would like to let you know how much your attendance is appreciated.

As you know, over the last several months we have had to devote many resources to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. However, we are confident that these efforts have made us better prepared to effectively function in the new "reality" that is life under COVID-19. In addition, we have all experienced the economic turmoil and civil unrest that has manifest itself during this pandemic. During similarly difficult times in the past, the enduring spirit of the Nimiipuu has persevered and shined through. I see that happening now as I look around and see progress being made in different areas despite the setbacks caused by COVID-19.

We encourage everyone to participate in the presentations from the NPTEC, boards and commissions, departments and from our Tribal Federal partners. It is important that all of our people are updated on all that is happening in Nimiipuu Country.

Thank you again for your attendance. We pray for safe travels to and from your homes during this time. May the creator bless you and all that you love.

Kind Regards,


for Shannon F. Wheeler



Office of Executive Director

The Executive Director's Office manages the intergovernmental affairs of the Nez Perce Tribe. This includes a major role in the protection and management of treaty resources, providing and improving services in education, and delivering quality services to those in need. The role of the Executive Director also includes providing a safe environment for employees to work and the ability for employees to accomplish the goals set by the NPTEC.

Among many other routine tasks and special projects, this work also includes programs such as:

- ▲ Limited Liability Company (LLC) Certification. Title 12-1 of the Nez Perce Tribal Code, authorizes the organization of LLC companies through the Nez Perce Tribe.
- ▲ Non-Profit Corporation Certification. Title 12-2 of the Nez Perce Tribal Code, authorizes the organization of non-profit corporations through the Nez Perce Tribe.
- ▲ Avista Internship Program. Enrolled Nez Perce Tribal Members, 18 years and over, enrolled full-time at an accredited college, university or vocational school who have maintained a 2.5 cumulative GPA are eligible to apply for summer internships.
- ▲ Slammin' Salmon Skins Employee Incentive Program. The goal is to promote and encourage tribal employees to think and act outside of their class description. Items in the tribal store are also available for purchase.
- ▲ SRBA Individual Water and Sewer Assistance. Individual requests for water and sewer systems are accepted year round with awards dependent upon meeting the criteria and funding availability.
- ▲ COVID-19 Pandemic. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Director's Office has been able to supply employees with personal protective supplies and sanitization supplies and services.
- ▲ Gel hand sanitizer refills are available every Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. through the end of the year at the Sweetwater Recycling Center in Lapwai and the Wa-A'Yas Community Center in Kamiah.

Transportation Program

- ▲ Received notice on September 15th, that Tribe will receive a \$19.1 Million BUILD award to construct Aht'Wy Interchange.
- ▲ Received FHWA Safety Grant Award to remove and install five guardrails in the Sundown Heights area.
- ▲ Appaloosa Express received \$464,154 from Federal Transit Administration CARES Act per Transit formula.
- ▲ Cherrylane Bridge will open bids in October and construction is expected to begin Spring 2021. NPT Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds supported this project in the amount of \$300,000 plus staff time during project development.
- ▲ Aht'Wy Circulation Road is on the environmental phase that should be finished by late fall; when finished, engineering work can proceed in final design.

Economic Development

- ▲ New Way-Finding Signage in Community Centers. New directional signs are being posted in the Kamiah and Lapwai buildings. The spelling of the names for the centers has been changed to reflect the standardized spelling used by the Nimiipuu Language Program.
- ▲ Food/Gift Vouchers Dispersed. The Wisteqneemit Fund received a grant from the NDN Collective Foundation to aid stressed fragile citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Wisteqneemit partnered with the Social Services Department to disperse \$50

gift certificates to 160 elders starting with the eldest in the Tribe to order food at four local eateries in the community owned by Indigenous families and worked with eight churches to hand out 100 \$150 food vouchers in the community to people in need. The remaining funds will be donated to the local Food Bank.

Community Centers

- ▲ The Community Centers began taking reservations from tribal departments in September. Reopening of the centers to the general public will depend upon the current active cases and follow all tribal and CDC guidelines for safety and sanitization protocols.

Mobile Food Pantry



Education Department

Education Admin

- ▲ Submitted grant to ANA for mentoring for college and career readiness targeted at Native American male and female students in 7th-12th grade at CV, Kamiah, Lapwai, and Orofino. Awards pending.
- ▲ Partnered with Adult Ed and Language programs on “Wallowa Lake Day Trips” for students entering 4th-12th grades on August 4, 11, and 12. Overall, 93 students and 78 adults or younger children attended. Cultural Camp was cancelled so this was an alternative activity.

Vocational Rehabilitation

- ▲ Fiscal year 2020, the Nez Perce Tribe Vocational Rehabilitation Services program (NPTVRS) will serve 40 applicants with 20 participants becoming successfully employed.
- ▲ Since July 2020, the NPTVRS program submitted their six-month report and the program will not be cut in funding due to meeting the successful employment and grant goals.
- ▲ We have provided Flagging Certification to nine participants with three currently utilizing their flagging certification. Two participants are signed up for an on-line computer course per their employers request for post-employment training. One participant has received Certification in Food handlers Certification through the Idaho Health Department.
- ▲ We are currently working with one senior high Transition Student from Lapwai High School.
- ▲ The NPTVRS program has closed four participants successfully since July 2020. We have closed four participants for non-compliance or they were not interested in becoming employed. We have two pending

applications, and fifteen open cases.

- ▲ The NPTVRS staff had Database training August 24 – 27, 2020, in the NPTVRS training center.
- ▲ The NPTVRS program is still seeing participants and providing services to those who are working. The NPTVRS program staff is looking forward to working with current and new applicants.
- ▲ The NPTVRS program is currently advertising for an Office Specialist II and NPTVRS Specialist.
- ▲ Sonia VanWoerkom, NPTVRS Specialist has resigned her position effective September 1, 2020. Sonia will be missed, she had work for the NPTVRS program since 1998, when the tribe accepted its first Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Grant, serving those with disabilities.

Students for Success

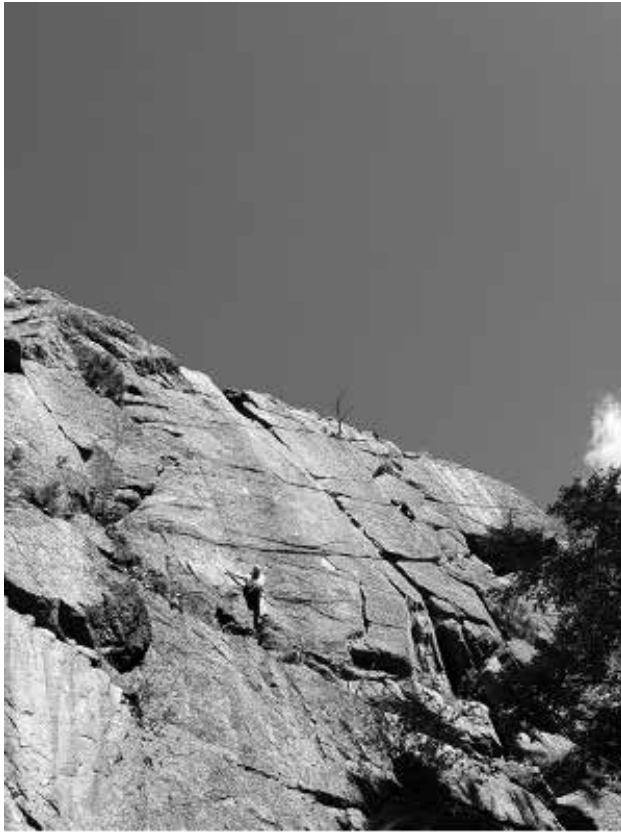
Summer Project Venture activities:

- ▲ Hiking to see Elk Creek Falls, hiking at Heyburn State Park and Falls Creek in Wowa
- ▲ Rock Climbing
- ▲ Mountain biking
- ▲ Huckleberry picking
- ▲ Fishing
- ▲ Golfing lessons



Over 40 youth enjoyed the activities and received incentives for high attendance.

Increased social media posts regarding mental health and Coronavirus.



State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP)

- ▲ Seven Lapwai and six Kamiah teachers and admin. completed 2-credit “Introduction to Indigenous Pedagogy” class in summer. Focusing on effective instructional strategies for tribal children.
- ▲ Supported by Chan Zuckerberg initiative to advance whole child development (social emotional, identity, academic, cognitive) for tribal students at partner schools. Overall strategies focus on culturally-responsive academic counseling, curriculum, instruction, family engagement, leadership, and school environment.

Mamá’asnim Hitéemenwees

- ▲ After COVID-19 closures, EHS returned on July 13 and HS September 8. Planning in-center services for 100 HS and 56 EHS

children. We expanded CCDF services due to COVID-19. Worked with NMPH on Re-opening Plan.

- ▲ Provided staff training on health/safety Standard Operating Procedures and Return-to-work protocols.
- ▲ Marcia Villegas retired in August after 22 years as a Teacher in the program.

Higher Education

- ▲ Through 9/9/2020, we processed 85 scholarships for SU and FA 2020. We have averaged 122 SU/FA scholarship recipients the last 3 years.

Career Station (formerly Adult Ed)

- ▲ Postcard notices mailed to 27 GED students for invite to return an in person or online classroom;
- ▲ Ten individuals prepared to start a career technical education or pre-apprenticeship program in the Fall term/
- ▲ Youth/adults using computers for career readiness activity.



Finance Department

The Finance office is located in the Veteran's Building. At the present time our doors remain open, but masks are required. We have attempted to focus on electronic processing where possible, including taking credit card payments by phone only. Also, for your convenience both during work and off hours, a mail drop box is available on the wall outside our office and we are in the process of having a walk-up glass window installed.

The Finance Department full-time staff currently consists: 13 enrolled Nez Perce (76%), 1 enrolled other tribe (6%), and 3 non-tribal (18%).

Permanent staffing levels have been stable since our last report, but in August we replaced one Payroll position following a resignation.

Tribal Budget and Reporting

The FY 2021 tribally-funded budgets were completed and adopted by NPTEC on September 22. Rather than appearing in this booklet, the most recent Treasurer's Report as of August 31 is available as a handout.

A Summer of COVID

Our department returned to full onsite staffing levels on June 1, in compliance with NPTEC's Return to Work Order. This has been a tough 6-7 months, but our entire staff has worked hard to keep services at or near previous levels even, when not fully staffed. Thank you for your patience and ongoing adjustment to certain procedures.

CARES Act Funding

As of June 18, 2020, the Tribe had received three installments under the CARES Act that total \$16.6 million. This is in addition to additional funding for the BIA, IHS and other grants NMPH or the Tribe received under CARES.

This money has many restrictions as to how it can be used, and the chart above summarizes 6 major categories of expenditure as determined by NPTEC, along with an amount held back in reserve.

In terms of dollars and percentages, they are as follows at September 30:

Economic Assistance to members	\$4,230,900	25.5%
Elder Assistance	405,000	2.4%
Laptops for Minors	478,500	2.9%
PPE, Emergency Leave/Hazard Pay	2,678,883	16.2%
Enterprises/NMPH/NCDF	1,777,717	10.7%
Department Projects/Facilities	4,375,874	26.4%
Reserve	2,623,174	15.9%
Total	\$16,570,048	

Managing these federal funds has taken up considerable amounts of time for our staff over the last 6 months. The Accounts Payable group for example, working in conjunction with the Enrollment Office, issued \$300 and \$1,200 Economic Support checks to all adult tribal members to help with obtaining necessary supplies in response to the emerging coronavirus pandemic. These were two large-scale, unexpected projects that were completed in record time by the staff. As a reminder, it is very helpful if tribal members keep Enrollment updated with any changes to address or bank account information for those receiving direct deposits.

Nez Perce Fisheries staff getting help from Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama middle schoolers to spawn salmon at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery.





Department of Fisheries Resources Management

Administration

- ▲ Much time was spent on staff direction and staff scheduling related to COVID-19.
- ▲ An agreement was reached for water releases from Wallowa Lake Dam to benefit fish.
- ▲ Efforts were made to raise awareness of and address the backlog of maintenance needs for Snake Basin fish hatcheries.

Conservation Enforcement

- ▲ A total of 73 cases were generated over this six-month time frame: 25 fishing cases, 14 citizen assists cases, 13 outside agency assists, 8 trespass cases, 2 woodcutting cases, 2 wastage cases, 1 weapons violation, 1 hunting case, 1 vandalism case, 1 alcohol violation, 1 ARPA/NAGPRA case, 1 animal assist, 1 animal complaint, 1 littering case, and 1 possible cougar sighting.
- ▲ During the spring chinook salmon fishing season, officers covered and were detailed to all area openings and closures in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Harvest

- ▲ The 2020 spring chinook salmon return was abysmal and provided very few fish for harvest. Preliminary harvest estimates are as follows: 287 clipped, 19 unclipped and 14 jacks in Clearwater subbasin; 1,134 clipped, 25 clipped, and 54 jacks in Rapid River/Little Salmon; 6 unclipped fish harvested in South Fork Salmon River; and 148 clipped, 11 unclipped, and 3 jacks harvested Imnaha/Grande Ronde system.

Production

- ▲ No summer interns were hired this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All hatchery

facilities remain closed to the public but all hatchery staff remain working to grow fish.

- ▲ Fish Distributions: Division staff picked up and transported 468 Chinook salmon jacks and 392 adults from Oxbow, Kooskia, Rapid River, Lookingglass, SF Salmon and Dworshak hatcheries for distribution to tribal members in Kamiah, Orofino and Lapwai communities.
- ▲ The low returns of spring chinook presented a huge challenge with respect to collecting enough fish to make broodstock needs for most hatchery programs. A total of 12,102 adult broodstock are needed to meet production goals for hatcheries in the Snake Basin. This year, only 30,129 spring/summer Chinook (hatchery and natural) were counted over Lower Granite Dam. Hatcheries that expect to meet production goals are Clearwater Basin, Northeast Oregon and Rapid River.

Research

- ▲ Spring chinook salmon returns were far below abundance goals. Many factors are impacting fish survival, with poor ocean conditions and hydrosystem related mortality having the largest effects. Predation by birds, seals and sea lions, climate change, and degraded habitat are contributing factors. Hatcheries are increasing total abundance (providing harvest opportunities and supplementing natural production), with limited impact to natural origin productivity.
- ▲ Steelhead returns look to be slightly higher than last year, but a lack of 1-ocean returns is concerning and suggest poor returns in 2021. Fall Chinook returned early and are tracking above preseason forecasts, but still too early to determine final run size. Coho



returns look more promising than recent years.

- ▲ Consistent with the Spill Operations Agreement, signed by the Tribe in 2018, the most aggressive spill operation to date occurred this spring, increasing the number of juvenile fish passing the dams via a spillway. Spillway passage has less mortality than turbine passage and causes less stress on fish, increasing their survival rate when they reach the ocean.

Watershed Division

- ▲ Multiple aquatic ecosystem restoration construction projects are currently on-going in the Lolo Creek, Lochsa River, SF Clearwater River, and SF Salmon River watersheds including: historic mine reclamation, river/stream reconstruction, road decommissioning, culvert replacements for fish passage, installation of Beaver Dam Analogs and Post-assisted Log Structures, native riparian planting, and fish and fish habitat monitoring and evaluation.
- ▲ Working on comments to U.S. Forest Service projects including the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision and the Midas Gold Stibnite project in the South Fork Salmon River.

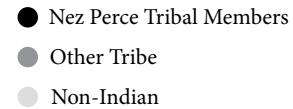
Wallowa Lake



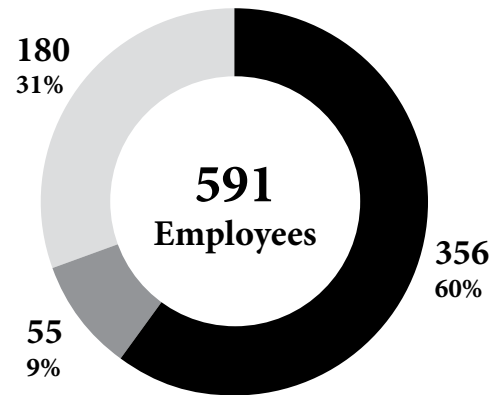
Human Resources

ANTHONY D. JOHNSON, INTERIM HR MANAGER

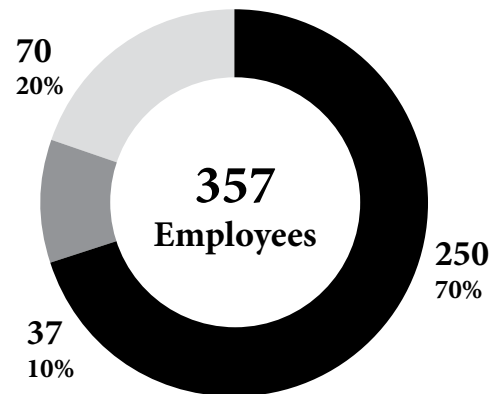
- ▲ The Nez Perce Tribe currently employs 598 total personnel. This number fluctuates according to the field seasons of our Natural Resources based programs.
- ▲ Currently 547 Nez Perce Tribe Employees are enrolled in the Health Benefits Program that is offered by the Tribe.
- ▲ The Human Resources Department is currently overseeing and assisting employees with the renewal/enrollment in health benefits for the coming 2020 to 2021 Fiscal Year.
- ▲ There are currently a total of 508 active employees participating/contributing to the Nez Perce Tribe 401K Retirement Plan.
- ▲ The Nez Perce Tribe Human Resources Department has processed a total of 20 applications for NPT FMLP Benefits/Protection
- ▲ 12 of these applications for FML were for intermittent utilization, generally for longer term utilization for caring for themselves, or a family member requiring continual/consistent treatment from a health care provider
- ▲ The Nez Perce Tribe Human Resources has processed a total of 45 employee recruitments since our last report to the General Council.
- ▲ Of this total, 14 employee recruitments were filled by enrolled members of the Nez Perce Tribe, and two have been filled by members of other Federally Recognized Tribal members.
- ▲ 29 employee recruitments are presently pending.
- ▲ In accordance with NPTEC's desire to enhance Tribal Preference; positions being recruited for are advertised at a minimum, for two weeks in-house. All tribal members are eligible to apply and be considered for in-house recruitment.
- ▲ Risk Management/Safety is currently working on renewal of the Nez Perce Tribe automobile, general, and workman's compensation insurance for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.



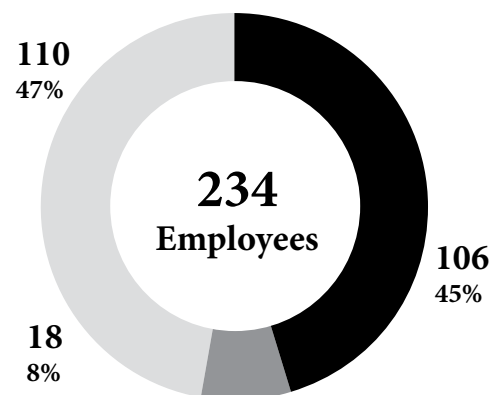
Total Tribal Gov Workforce



Workforce Grades 1-15



Workforce Grades 16+





Information booth at Mileage Club





Law and Justice Department

Law & Order Executive Office

- ▲ The Office has established a Law and Order Facility in Kamiah that will provide local department services for Kamiah Tribal members starting in October 2020.
- ▲ Tribal Court; the Probation Department; Child Support Enforcement Program (CSEP); Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO); the Tribal Police Department; the Prosecutor's Office; the Public Defender's Office; Gaming Commission Office; and the Fish and Wildlife Commission will all establish office hours in Kamiah. A schedule will be forthcoming.

Nez Perce Tribal Court

- ▲ During the COVID 19 pandemic the Tribal Court had to recreate procedures and process in order to keep the public, court staff safe and to keep the court operational. This includes holding remote hearings, filing remotely, installing a locked drop box outside the front entrance, and installing a door bell.
- ▲ Tribal Court recently been approved for funding over a five-year period through the BIA Office of Justice Services, Tribal Justice Support Directorate. The funding will be used to further the development, operation, and enhancement of the Tribal Court.

Probation Department

- ▲ The Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court (JHTWC) up and going with a participant and have been able to still meet during our stay home/limited contact orders.
- ▲ Healing to Wellness Court (HTWC) successfully graduated a participant and has more participants than any other time. We had at least six successful probation completions during lockdown and nearly zero recidivism. Over 280 hours of community service have been completed thus far.

- ▲ Juvenile Probation Officer, Breanne Speas attended her first week of virtual Tribal Probation Academy through the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC). This is a 14-week online instructor-led course.

Prosecutor's Office

- ▲ With COVID protocols in place, the Prosecutor's Office focused on paperwork and organization.
- ▲ The office reviewed all pending arrest warrants to ensure that it is in the interests of justice to keep them in place.
- ▲ The office set up a shared database with the probation department to facilitate better communication and service.
- ▲ Deputy Prosecutor Krista Cole celebrated a year of working for the Tribe.

Public Defender's Office

- ▲ The full-time Public Defender position is currently vacant and is being advertised. The Public Defender case load is being handled by conflict counsel Michael Cherisia from Moscow, Idaho and Idaho Legal Aid Services. They are providing Public Defender services to tribal members and others under the jurisdiction of the Nez Perce Tribe until a Public Defender can be appointed.

Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO)

- ▲ TERO Projects for this reporting period are Kamiah-USFS Building, Old Winchester Grade, Culdesac Cannon, Fiber Optics, Orofino Creek Bridge, US 95 Paving from Aspen Lane to Webb Road and then to Culdesac ID.
- ▲ TERO dispatches this reporting period: 2 in June; 10 in July; 4 in August; and 1 in September. Fifteen \$25 gas cards were distribut-

ed to TERO participants, and training funding was provided to two TERO participants in September.

Nez Perce Tribe Gaming Commission Office

- ▲ The two items for consideration to add to the Law & Justice General Council Report for the Gaming Commission should include the extraordinary COVID-19 Response. The Gaming Commission Licenses Tribal/Indian Gaming for three subjects; facility licensing, gaming licensing for individual employees, and Vendor Licensing for goods and services to the Gaming Operations.
- ▲ The Gaming Commission regulates, therefore, besides gaming, pursuant to the Nez Perce Tribal Code, Chapter 6-2, Gaming Ordinance, which had to be reviewed and approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), ordinance requirements containing provisions ensuring that the construction and maintenance of the gaming operation, and the operation of that gaming is conducted in a manner that adequately protects the environment and the public health and safety. 25 U.S.C. 2710 (b) (2)(E).

Child Support Enforcement Program (CSEP)

- ▲ August was Child Support Awareness Month and CSEP completed some outreach events: bags were handed out containing child support information and goodies at Mud Springs Days, the monthly Mobile Food Pantry distributions, and Mileage Club. More events were planned but was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- ▲ The Child Support Program will begin regular office hours at the Kamiah CSEP Office on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10 am – 2 pm.
- ▲ Child Support Outreach has been working diligently in finding ways to provide outreach during COVID-19, so be on the lookout for CSEP's Digital Outreach in the near future.

Nez Perce Tribal Police Department

- ▲ Tribal Police are still facilitating COVID-19 EOC at our department. On-going Food & PPE distribution to the community. Establishment of COVID cells and emergency operations center at Tribal PD beginning October 1, 2020.
- ▲ Sex Offender Registry has been implemented requiring all sex offenders (both tribal and non-tribal) to register and report to Tribal PD. Sex offenders are being incarcerated for non-compliance.
- ▲ July 18, 2020 our officer responded to an agency assist with Lewis County Sheriff's Office with vehicle pursuit which ended with officer shooting. The investigative detectives from Idaho State Police determined that the use of force employed by the officers involved was legally justified. Our Tribal Officer was commended for his "professional and cool-headed performance during the entirety of this event."
- ▲ August 1, 2020 Tribal Police assisted Lewis County Sheriff's Office with the Ammon Bundy protest. Tribal Police were stationed as the quick reaction force and medical high risk recovery.
- ▲ September 2020. Response to the Sunnyside Complex fire and attended fire briefing at the Idaho Department of Lands in Orofino.
- ▲ Criminal Investigation Division (CID) are deputized by the FBI which grants authority to investigate drug offenses both on and off reservation. They are members of the Hells Canyon Federal Narcotic Task Force which consist of law enforcement officers from the FBI, Lewiston Police Dept., ISP, Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office, Grangeville PD and others who work together to reduce the amount of illegal drugs that are trafficked into this area. Large amounts of illegal drugs (crystal methamphetamine and heroin) have been seized before reaching the reservation.



Office of Legal Counsel

The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) consists of five attorneys and three support staff. The following are a selection of OLC's most significant accomplishments, carried out at the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee's (NPTEC) direction, since the 2020 Spring General Council:

- ▲ Provided litigation analyses and legal strategy on all litigation matters involving the Tribe and provided NPTEC and Tribal programs and departments with prompt responses on legal issues on a daily basis.
- ▲ Actively advanced the Tribe's interests in the *U.S. v. Oregon* and *U.S. v. Washington* treaty fishing rights litigation including assisting with implementation of the *U.S. v. Oregon* 2019-2027 Management Agreement.
- ▲ Actively advanced the Tribe's interests in the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act litigation involving the impacts of the dams on the lower Snake River and mainstem Columbia River on salmon, steelhead, and lamprey. (*Nat'l Wildlife Fed'n v. Nat'l Marine Fisheries Serv.*) This includes participation in the court-ordered remand processes including the Columbia River System Operation Environmental Impact Statement, emphasizing the urgent and overdue need to restore the lower Snake River by breaching the four lower Snake River dams and investing in local communities.
- ▲ Worked toward a positive, permanent resolution of the Lewiston Orchards Project's impact on Webb, Sweetwater, and Lapwai creeks through the Lower Clearwater Exchange Project and as set forth in Term Sheet Agreements that were developed as a result of successful Endangered Species Act litigation in federal court.
- ▲ Assisted in obtaining the Port of Hood River's acknowledgement of the treaty right to travel through a waiver of the Hood River Bridge toll bridge fees for tribal members and employees.
- ▲ Assisted in obtaining permanent protection, through a conservation easement, for the 9.7-acre Wallowa Lake Lodge property.
- ▲ Co-authored for the Tribe a joint friend-of-the court brief filed in the District of Montana concerning the protection of tribal treaty bison hunts in Beattie Gulch, Montana.
- ▲ Discussions continued with the Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality on claims raised in the Tribe's Petition for Judicial Review challenging the Clean Water Act §401 certification for Idaho Power Company's Hells Canyon Complex Hydroelectric Project.
- ▲ Continued work in the lawsuit against Midas Gold for illegally discharging toxic pollutants from multiple point sources at the Stibnite Gold Project without a permit in violation of the Clean Water Act. Worked extensively on preparing, submitting, and reviewing discovery responses in coordination with Tribal departments.
- ▲ Assisted NPTEC with monitoring, promoting, analyzing, and introducing legislative action at both the state and federal levels to protect the interests of Tribal members including testimony and letters on legislation related to appropriations, natural resources, and COVID-19. Also assisted with Tribal emergency response and implementation of COVID-19 legislative programs.
- ▲ Continued to assist the Tribe in advancing its water rights claims in the Palouse River Basin Adjudication.
- ▲ Assisted the Tribe with mediation concerning a disagreement over the City of Lapwai's Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ▲ Participated in meetings of the Code Revision Core Team.
- ▲ Assisted with creation of a draft hemp ordinance to legalize and regulate the production of hemp. Continued to participate in a hemp working group led by NPTEC.



Butterflies along the Lochsa River





Department of Natural Resources

The DNR divisions include: Environmental Restoration & Waste Management, Land Services, Water Resources, Cultural Resources, Wildlife, Land Services, and Forestry & Fire Management. The DNR Planner is a position within the department focused on economic development opportunities for the tribe. Their reports are as follows.

Natural Resource Administration

AARON MILES, SR., DNR MANAGER

The Manager for the Department of Natural Resources include the administrative duties of the department under the Human Resource and Finance Manuals, Natural Resource Subcommittee and Land Enterprise Commission subcommittee agenda approvals, attending Manager's meetings, conducting Director's meetings, and participation of the Tribe's Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) for Covid-19.

Natural Resource Planner

CASSANDRA KIPP, DNR PLANNER

The Natural Resource Planner continues to coordinate with the project staff in the US Secretary of Interior Office, Department of Energy, Minerals and Mines. The focus of the department has been alternative energy projects on tribal lands and also the need to begin discussions of long-range projects that are natural resource related. Much of the scope of the department has been based on need. This preparation is key and putting together a project that is based upon market conditions, and the overall feasibility is crucial to the overall success of any business endeavor. The Planner has worked with federal agencies to obtain funding to develop projects.

Cultural Resources Division

NAKIA WILLIAMSON, DIRECTOR

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Cultural Resources was able to implement a shortened Internship Program for Summer 2020. The CRP Internship program recruited eight tribal interns, paid for with Bureau of Land Management and Department of Energy funding.


Completed several notable ethnography projects, U.S. Highway 12/ITD, Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge replacement, Portland Harbor ethnographic background study. Archaeology/Tribal Historic Preservation completed archaeological surveys for Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Asotin Co. Conservation Dist./Cottonwood Creek, Big Bear Falls/Idaho Fish and Game.

Nez Perce Language developed the Nez Perce Phrasebuilder card game/mobile App with Native Teaching Aids.

Forestry & Fire Management Division

JOHN DEGROOT, DIRECTOR

Completed planting projects over areas burned by the 2015 Clearwater Complex fires. Continued commercial thinning treatment in the Lookout Tribal Reserve, an area where a stand replacing fire burned in the early 70s, was planted in the 70s and 80s, and had pre-commercial thinning and pruning treatments over portions of the three-mile² area. Entered a 5-year Conservation Stewardship Project and Environmental Quality Incentives Program contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



to implement forest conservation treatments. Firewood deliveries are almost done as of the last week of October.

Wildlife Division

NEIL THAGARD, DIRECTOR

Coordinated with Bonneville Power and NPT Cultural Resources on cultural clearance work for road maintenance, fuels reduction, and reclamation of abandoned hay fields. Coordinated with DFRM on native plant restoration at the Buford Culvert site. Review of the Eastside Screens forest plan amendment project continues including technical review of the draft Environmental Assessment.

Water Resource Division

KEN CLARK, DIRECTOR

The Brownfields Program is overseeing asbestos and hazardous material sampling at both the Blue North Mill site, in Kamiah, ID, and the BIA Parade Ground buildings in Lapwai, ID.

The Climate Change Program is developing a climate vulnerability assessment, working on a climate-smart agricultural project, and finalizing a climate-smart restoration toolkit.

Our Solid Waste and Recycling Program carries out bi-weekly office recycling collections, and has helped with a number of community cleanups, in partnership with the Tribal Housing Authority.

Environmental Restoration & Waste Management Division

JACK BELL, ERWM DIRECTOR

Hanford

- ▲ Completed FY2021 application for funding from Department of Energy, which required government-to-government consultation to resolve program issues due to grant management changes from DOE.
- ▲ Monitor cleanup activities at the Hanford Site; plutonium finishing plant, 100 KW sludge removal, groundwater remediation, and construction of waste treatment plant.

Air Quality Management

Air Quality staff monitor air quality, issue burn permits and air quality advisories, and conduct air-related research and outreach on the reservation. Contact the Air Quality Program directly at 1.800.720.4089 or airquality@nezperce.org or follow us on Facebook.

Emergency Management

- ▲ Represented the ERWM on the Emergency Operation Committee as the liaison to outside agencies involved with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▲ Managed emergency management and planning funding from the State of Idaho Homeland Security Program, Idaho Department of Public Health, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- ▲ Chair the Tribal Emergency Response Planning Team, which meet once a month.

Land Services Division

KIM CANNON, LAND SERVICES DIRECTOR

Agriculture Program obtained results for recruitment for new lease compliance position. Identified unauthorized road building on allotment 1686 near Stites. Prepared four conservation plans for BIA leases.

The Geospatial Information Systems program transferred Lidar data to external drive provided by Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District. Assisted in the legal description and mapping of area returned by the Lapwai school district to the Tribe. Trained with BLM on the JAVAD GPS unit. Adding new background images to JAVAD. Assisted Bio-Control staff with anti-virus on laptops. Provided State, public health district numbers for COVID-19 cases to EOC. Received data from Nimiipuu health and will be begin analysis on data in the next few weeks. Sent patient data intake form to NMPH for review and use. May help input current forms. Creating story map for Horse program from drone footage. Cleared up error from Trimble software credited to Nez Perce County and not Nez Perce Tribe. Continue to update COVID-19 numbers and information for webmap and NMPH website Hub.



Social Services

Concluded the I-Vision program, a five-year, \$2.96 million project that ran from 2015-2020. The program applied for three new projects under the same federal office, Office of Family Assistance, and was not awarded. This project was successful and compliant per grant agency. It is with great sadness this program was not re-funded or awarded a new project from this federal office. The department will continue to look for grants to continue these services, however, it is very difficult to find funding for \$592,165 per year, as this project awarded.

Through the COVID period, the Social Services Department has maintained services and open to its customers. To date financial assistance has served approximately 500 Financial Assistance applications, and manages 10 General Assistance cases. Energy Assistance has been approved but not awarded to the Tribe to date.

Tribal TANF and Child Welfare programs have worked with the families they serve to prepare and have household items for COVID. The TANF program met their federal mandated Work Participation Requirement and awarded a federal contract to continue services. The Child Welfare Program held a virtual grand opening ceremony for a sober living facility for women and children, the home is called My Relatives. InHiimyume. It is with tremendous sadness that our coworker Barbara Quempts has passed away, she has been with the Child Welfare team since 2016. Our continued prayers to her loved ones and friends.

The Senior Citizens Program is finalizing CARES monies from the Title VI Older Indians office for services for impoverished seniors 55+ on the Nez Perce Reservation. Georganne Morrison is finalizing wood and gravel assistance processes. The Senior Citizens Program asks that home bound meal participants leave a table at the end of their sidewalk or driveway for

their meal delivery, and we thank those seniors who have done this, as we navigate covid and its effects and safety for the community.

The Uuyitkimti and Child Welfare Programs were awarded grants from the Department of Justice for victim services, those finalized budgets and scopes of work are pending approval from the respective offices and the NPT. The Uuyitkimti program held Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in October.

The Food and Nutrition Program has been the hub for Farms to Families Program where they have served over 3000 boxes of prepackaged fresh foods. They continue to serve their regular program participants and have assisted the entire time of covid and food distribution.



Department of Technology

- ▲ The Department of Technology is made up of four Programs: Information Systems, Telecom, Wireless & KIYE Radio Station.
- ▲ DTS received two grants; Idaho State Broadband grant for \$2 million to deploy fiber to the home in Lapwai area and a First Nations grant for \$17,000 to aid in equipment purchase for 2.5GHz deployment.
- ▲ KIYE receives a grant from Corporation for Public Broadcast for just under \$154,000.
- ▲ The Department employs twelve Nez Perce, three members of other tribes, one Nez Perce descendent, and four non-Indians.
- ▲ Completed construction on a 280-foot tower that AT&T has leased space on to deploy service.
- ▲ We completed 21 miles of fiber from Spaulding to Port of Whitman in Clarkston.



Nez Perce Tribe

Honoring our past
Ensuring our future

Photo: Hills above Culdesac, Idaho.

