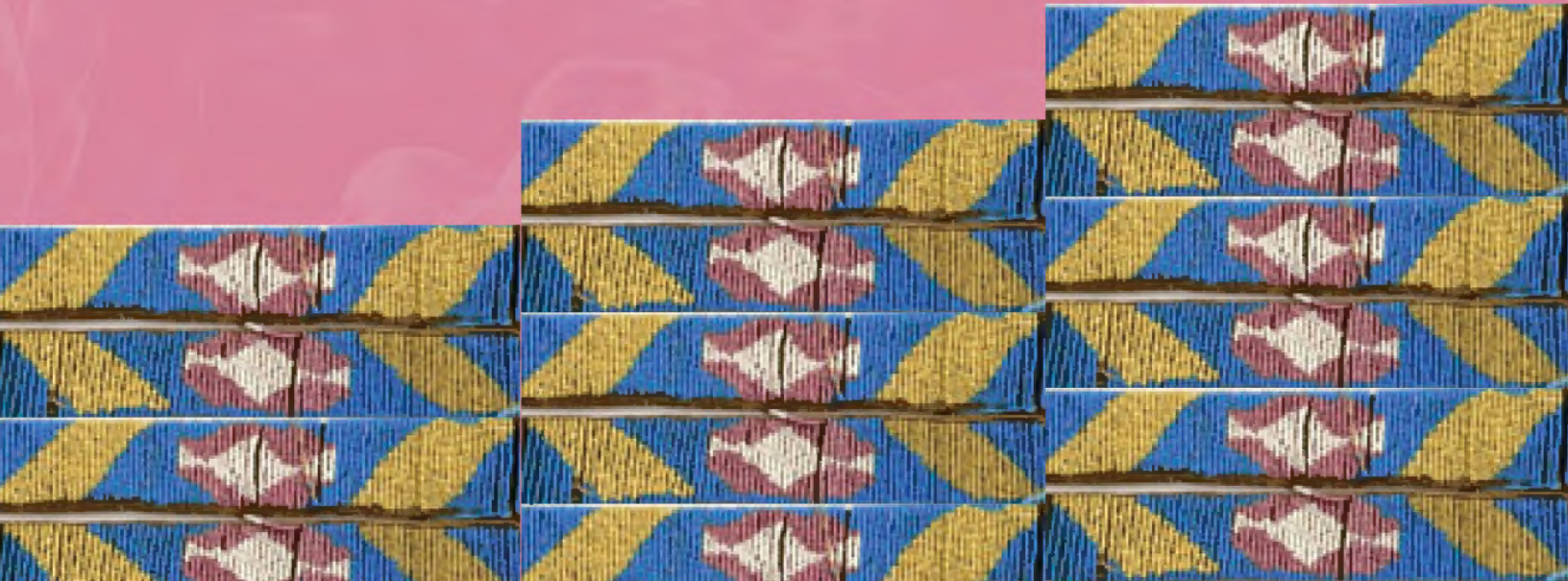




Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee

# 2025 Spring Report

May 1-3, 2025  
Kamiah, ID







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# Letter from the Chairman



**Shannon F. Wheeler**  
**Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee**

The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee ("NPTEC") extends a warm welcome to everyone attending the Nez Perce Tribe Spring 2025 General Council. The General Council is an important opportunity for all of us to come together with a common purpose to share ideas, express concerns, and develop solutions. As Chairman of the NPTEC, I want you to know how much your attendance is appreciated. The enduring and communal spirit of the Nimiipuu is a wonderful constant that unites us. Many are not blessed with this sense of community and belonging.

Such unity is important as we work to counter many of the actions and positions being touted by the new administration that run counter to longstanding tribal interests. NPTEC will continue to work to protect our people and our Tribal resources during these changing times through aggressive advocacy at all levels of government. I look forward to sharing information about some of this work over the next few days.

We have made major strides in the growth of our community through infrastructure development, renewable energy deployment, and job and economic development. I believe this growth will continue and we will see many more exciting changes over the next year. Although we are in a period of transition with some of our executive positions, I am pleased with the continued growth of the Tribe as a whole.

I encourage everyone to participate in the presentations from the NPTEC, boards and commissions, departments, and from our Tribal federal partners. Keeping our people updated on all that is happening in Nimiipuu Country is important.

I pray for your safety as you travel to and from your homes to attend the meetings. May the Creator bless you and all that you love.

# House Rules

1. The General Council meeting will be conducted according to the Robert's Rules of Order (revised) and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Nez Perce Tribe. These rules will be used as a guide for facilitating the business of the assembly.
2. The Agenda and House Rules shall be subject to change from the floor by proper motion and vote by the assembly.
3. The Chairman shall preside over the General Council meeting. Conversations excluding the Chair are not permitted.
4. Motions and Resolutions will be in order during the three-day session. Tribal members shall provide a copy of their motion and/or resolution to the General Council Secretary. Motions and resolutions shall be presented at a time related to the topic on the agenda.
5. Questions and responses shall be made through the Chair and should be confined to the topic and/or pending motion under discussion. The Chairman has the right to intervene to maintain integrity of questions, responses and remarks. More time may be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman.
6. The Maker of a Resolution or Motion will have two (2) minutes to introduce the motion and two (2) minutes for rebuttal or to close. Each person in favor of or against the motion will have two (2) minutes to speak. Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time. Exceptions are at the discretion of the Chairman. After one side exhausts its speakers, the remaining side is allowed only two additional speakers.
7. Personnel matters, i.e. hiring, firing, salary, etc., are not allowed.
8. All persons will act in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner during the meeting.
9. Members have the right to "Appeal the decision of the Chairman" if they feel the Chairman decision is not what the majority wants. A simple majority sustains the decision of the Chairman.
10. Members have the right to speak. If a member is not asking a question, making a motion or a resolution, the Chairman will assume the member is making a speech. Time is valuable so each member will be limited to one such speech per General Council session with a time limit of three (3) minutes. More time may be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman.
11. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be requested to leave the premises.
12. The Election Judges will register Nez Perce Tribal members age 18 and older.
13. Kindly turn your cell phone off or to silent. If you need to use your cell phone to answer or make a call, please be respectful of the members of the assembly by going out to the hallway or outside to do so.
14. "Live streaming" on social media or video recording of any kind is not allowed unless authorized, i.e., counting ballots.



# Agenda

Thursday, May 1, 2025

**7:30 am Registration Opens**

**8:15 am Call meeting to order**

- Opening ceremony
- Welcome, Flag Song and Posting of Colors
- Prayer by Mary Jane Miles, NPTEC Chaplain
- Memorial Reading – Wilfred Scott

**9:00 am General Council Business**

- House Rules, Agenda, Minutes
- Resolutions Committee Report – Alice Spaulding, Chairperson

**10:00 am NPTEC CHAIRMAN and TREASURER REPORTS** (20 Minutes each)

- NPTEC Chairman – Shannon F. Wheeler
- NPTEC Treasurer – Ashton Picard
- SRBA Investment Funds – Merrill Lynch
- Auditor's Report - Bluebird CPAs
- FY 2023 Nez Perce Tribe Audit
- FY 2024 Nez Perce Tribal Enterprise Audit

**11:45 am Lunch break**

**1:00 pm Questions/Comments for the panel (continued)**

**2:15 pm SUBCOMMITTEE / BOARD / COMMISSION REPORTS** (20 Minutes each)

- Natural Resources Subcommittee - Ferris Paisano III, Chairman
- Fish & Wildlife Commission – Erik Holt, Chairman
- Utility Board Chair

**3:15 pm Questions/Comments for the Panel**

**4:30 pm Recess for the day**

- Closing prayer – Mary Jane Miles, NPTEC Chaplain

# Agenda

**Friday, May 2, 2025**

**7:30 am Registration open**

**8:15 am Call meeting to Order**

- Opening prayer – Mary Jane Miles, NPTEC Chaplain
- Announcements

**8:30 am Subcommittee/Board/Commission Reports** (20 Minutes each)

- Budget & Finance Subcommittee – Ashton Picard, Chairman
- Government Executive Director – Jesse Leighton
- Government Finance Manager – Elizabeth Bohnee
- Enterprise Executive Officer – Nikoli Greene
- Enterprise Finance Manager – Thomas Rickman, III
- Enterprise Board – Chair
- Nimiipuu Community Development Fund – Executive Director, Jonelle Yearout

**10:45 am Questions/Comments for the Panel**

**12:00 pm Lunch Break**

**1:15 pm FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNER REPORTS** (15 Minutes each)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. National Park Service

**2:00 pm Questions/Comments for the panel**

**2:45 pm Subcommittee/Board/Commission Reports** (20 Minutes each)

- Climate Change/Energy Subcommittee – Ryan Oatman, Chairman
- Land Enterprise Commission – Shirley J. Allman, Chairman

**3:30 pm Questions/Comments for the Panel**

**4:30 pm Recess for the Day**

- Closing prayer by Mary Jane Miles, NPTEC Chaplain



# Agenda

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

**8:00 am Registration open**

**8:30 am Call meeting to Order**

- Opening prayer – Mary Jane Miles, NPTEC Chaplain
- Announcements
  - GENERAL ELECTION POLLING STATIONS
  - OPEN AT 7:00 A.M.
  - CLOSE AT 3:00 P.M.

**8:45 am Subcommittee/Board/Commission Reports** (20 Minutes each)

- Human Resources Subcommittee – Rachel P. Edwards, Chairman
- NMPH Executive Director – Roberta Jose'-Bisbee
- NPTHA Board – Richard Arthur, Chairman
- NPTHA Executive Director – Douglas Marconi
- Senior Citizens Advisory Board Chair
- Youth Advisory Board

**10:45 am Questions/Comments for the Panel**

**12:00 pm Lunch Break**

**1:00 pm Subcommittee/Board/Commission Reports** (20 Minutes each)

- Law & Order/Intergovernmental Affairs, Ashton Picard, Chairman
- Law & Justice Executive Officer - Interim Eva J. White
- Opioid Response Manager - Brooklyn Baptiste
- Chief of Police - Mark Bensen
- TERO Commission - Mary TallBull, Chairman
- Gaming Commission - Gabriel Bohnee, President

**3:00 pm Questions/Comments for the panel**

**5:00 p.m. ELECTION JUDGES – GENERAL ELECTION VOTE TALLY**

- The NPT Election Ordinance, Section 6-10-15(a) provides that "the tallying of ballots shall commence upon arrival at the General Council meeting."

**7:30 p.m. Adjourn May 2025 Spring General Council meeting**

- Benediction - NPTEC Chaplain
- Retire the Colors - Drum



# Overview



Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (L-R): Ryan Oatman, Ferris Paisano, III, Samuel N. Penney, Mary Jane Miles, Rachel P. Edwards, Shirley J. Allman, Elizabeth Arthur-Attao, Shannon F. Wheeler, Ashton Picard

## Vision

"We envision our tribe embracing our cultural values, sovereignty, and resilience to promote a healthy environment, honor and preserve our food, water, and land, sustainably grow and diversify the tribal economy, promote healing, wellness, and enhance the Nez Perce way of life for all tribal members and allies across the greater Nez Perce homeland and beyond."

## Mission

"Since time immemorial, the Nez Perce people have been here, living in balance with the land, the water, the foods, and all creation, always aware of our ancestors, their teachings and sacrifices made for future generations. Our mission as the Nez Perce Tribe is to honor our people (past, present, and future) and fulfill our responsibilities to protect our sacred place upon Mother Earth. We will work to prepare, plan, protect, revitalize, and preserve our many resources, rights, practices, and sovereignty as a tribe, and with our people promote wellness, safety, cultural resilience, and prosperity."

# Tribal Member Portal

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## Join us



We invite you to register for the most up-to-date tribal information.

<https://nezperce.org/tribal-member-registration/>

**Gain access to important communications and resources available only to Nez Perce Tribal members through the tribal member portal.**



# Human Resources

1st & 3rd Mondays at 8:30 a.m.

## Subcommittee:

Rachel P. Edwards - Chairman  
 Samuel N. Penney - Vice Chairman  
 Shirley J. Allman  
 Elizabeth Arthur-Attao  
 Mary Jane Miles  
 Ryan Oatman  
 Ferris Paisano, III  
 Ashton Picard

## Subcommittee Contact:

Rachel P. Edwards, Chairman  
[rachele@nezperce.org](mailto:rachele@nezperce.org)

## Subcommittee Assistant:

Vestal Smith  
[vestals@nezperce.org](mailto:vestals@nezperce.org)

## Liaisons:

Family Services: SA, RO  
 Housing: RE, EAA  
 Senior Citizens: MJM, EAA, SA  
 Veterans: MJM, RO, SA, FP  
 Education: MJM, RO, SP, SA  
 Youth: AP, RO, FP  
 Boys & Girls Club: SP, AP  
 NPAIHB: RE, SP  
 Healing Lodge: SP, EAA  
 Nimiipuu Health: RE, SP, RO  
 Idaho Business for Education: SA  
 Opioid Response: RO, SA, MJM

## Reporting Programs

### Education:

- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Students for Success
- Career Center

### Nimiipuu Health

### Social Services

- Uyt Kimti
- Veterans Program
- Senior Citizens
- My Relatives
- CPS

### Enrollment

**The Human Resources Subcommittee supports Nimiipuu well-being by addressing department needs and guiding programs that serve our people from early education through elder care.**



The HRSC oversees programs that directly impact the health, education, and well-being of the Nimiipuu people—including Head Start, Students for Success, Career Center, Social Services, Nimiipuu Health, Veterans, Senior Citizens, and Enrollment. In addition to ongoing support of these programs, the Subcommittee celebrates the national appointment of Rachel P. Edwards, NPTEC Secretary and HRSC Chair, as a National At-Large Alternate Delegate to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC). Her role ensures the Nez Perce Tribe is represented in key federal health policy discussions and underscores the Tribe's commitment to advocating for equitable health outcomes for all Tribal Nations. The Tribe's flag will be proudly displayed in the HHS Hall of Tribal Nations throughout her term.

# Human Resources

## Grants and Program Updates - October 2024 – April 2025

Program	Award Amount	Source	Term
Students for Success	\$320,000	Bureau of Indian Education	2 years
New Schools Grant	\$250,000	NewSchools	1 year
CACFP Agreement	--	Idaho Dept. of Education	Ongoing
Head Start Continuation	\$1,653,003	DHHS - OHS	Annual
Early Head Start Cont.	\$1,320,715	DHHS - OHS	Annual

Program	Award Amount	Source	Term
ICWA	\$450,000	DOJ-CTAS	3 years
My Relatives	\$315,724	DOJ-OVW	1 year
Uyit Kimti	\$675,000	DOJ-OVW	1 year



Wallowa Mountains

## ENROLLMENT

Activity	Count
New Enrollments	14
Postings	12
Name Changes	9
Rejections	1
Blood Degree Corrections	1

## Education & Youth Programs

The Tribe received \$320,000 from the Bureau of Indian Education for Students for Success and \$250,000 from NewSchools to support Native youth. CACFP meal support continues through the Idaho Department of Education. Head Start was awarded \$1.65 million, and Early Head Start \$1.32 million, along with approved updates to eligibility, cost-sharing, and program scope.

## Social Services

Social Services secured \$450,000 for ICWA (3 years), \$315,724 for My Relatives, and \$675,000 for Uyit Kimti—strengthening family safety, crisis response, and community wellness programs.

## OHS Updates:

- Enrollment Reduction Change of Scope
- CCDF Eligibility, Co-Payment & Rate Amendments
- Non-Federal Share Waiver Request
- Self-Assessment Approved
- HS-EHS Selection Criteria Approved

## Nimiipuu Health

Nimiipuu Health completed several professional reappointments to maintain continuity of care across clinics and specialized services. Reappointments include:

- Licensed Master Social Workers – 2
- Registered Dietician – 1
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers – 4
- Dentists/Hygienists – 4
- Medical Doctors – 2
- Certified Family Nurse Practitioners – 2

In support of workforce development and interagency partnerships, Nimiipuu Health formalized agreements with Lewis-Clark State College (Clinical Education), the State of Idaho (Your Health ID), and Northwest Indian College (CARE in Human Services).

The department also adopted and revised key policies to strengthen operations and patient safety protocols. Updated policies include:

- Chronic Pain Management
- Behavioral Health Policies & Procedures
- Laboratory Timers (new policy)
- Infection Prevention & Control
- Incident and Patient Comment Process



# Law & Order/ Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

1st & 3rd Mondays at 2:00 p.m.

## Subcommittee Members:

Ashton Picard, Chairman  
Shirley J. Allman, Vice-Chairman  
Elizabeth Arthur-Attao  
Rachel P. Edwards  
Ryan Oatman  
Ferris Paisano, III

## Liaisons:

Idaho Council on Indian Affairs - SW-Delegate, RO - Alternate  
TERO - RO, SA  
Law Enforcement - RO, EA  
Prosecutor/Judicial Services - SA, RO  
Gaming Commission - EA, AP, RE  
Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission - RE, RYO  
HERT-FP

## Reporting Programs

TERO  
Law Enforcement  
Law & Order Executive Office  
Judicial Services  
Prosecutor  
Gaming Commission

## Subcommittee Contact:

Ashton Picard, Chairman  
[ashtonp@nezperce.org](mailto:ashtonp@nezperce.org)

## Subcommittee Assistant:

Leslie Spencer  
[leslies@nezperce.org](mailto:leslies@nezperce.org)

**The Law & Order/Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee provides oversight of Tribal justice programs, intergovernmental relations, and legal policy, while advancing initiatives in law enforcement, child support, judicial services, and community safety.**

## Nez Perce Tribal Law & Order Code Amendments

Code	Title	Status
NP 25-035	Title 2 Emergency Amendment	Passed
NP 25-108	Title 2 Amendment	Passed
TERO Fee Amendment	Title 9	Did not Pass (Public Comment Only)

# Law & Order

1st & 3rd Mondays at 2:00 p.m.

The Law & Order/Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee continues to oversee and support justice, enforcement, and intergovernmental functions of the Tribe, with a focus on community protection, legal advocacy, and program development. Since the last General Council, the Subcommittee has supported six (6) new grants across the Law & Justice Department, including awards to the Executive Office, Tribal Police, Child Support, Judicial Services, and TERO. Two amendments to the Tribal Code (Title 2) were enacted, while a proposed TERO fee adjustment did not advance past public comment. Law & Order Staffing updates include six (6) full-time hires, enhancing departmental capacity. Community engagement remains a priority, highlighted by a series of Family Tree Outreach events and cultural programming in partnership with Head Start. Subcommittee members and liaisons continue to represent the Tribe on key intergovernmental platforms such as the Idaho Council of Indian Affairs, Juvenile Justice Commission, and Gaming Commission.



Nez Perce Tribe Jail Facility



Chief Mark Bensen, NPTPD



The Law & Order/Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee extends its gratitude to the Child Support Program for organizing a series of meaningful community events. From mini powwows with Head Start to the Family Tree Outreach campaign and Holiday events, CSP's efforts have strengthened family connections, promoted cultural engagement, and supported youth across our communities.



# Natural Resources

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

## Subcommittee:

Ferris Paisano, III - Chairman  
Ashton Picard - Vice Chairman  
Shirley J. Allman  
Rachel P. Edwards  
Mary Jane Miles  
Ryan Oatman  
Samuel N. Penney

## Subcommittee Contact:

Ferris Paisano III, Chairman  
[ferrisp@nezperce.org](mailto:ferrisp@nezperce.org)

## Subcommittee Assistant:

Leslie Spencer  
[leslies@nezperce.org](mailto:leslies@nezperce.org)

## CRITFC Liaisons:

CRITFC Officer: FP  
In-Lieu/Treaty Fishing Access: AP, RO  
Fish Co. LLC: FP  
Enforcement Committee: AP, RE  
Pacific Salmon Commission: AP, FP  
Lamprey Task Force - AP  
Fish Management & Science: FP, AP  
Housing: SP, RO  
Columbia River Treaty  
Advisory Board: SP, SA  
U.S. v. Oregon Management: SA, RO

## Liaisons:

Cultural Resources: MJM, SA  
Utility Board: RE  
Inter-Agency Bison  
Management: AP, FP  
Inter Tribal Timber Council: RO, SA  
Emergency Response Team: SP  
Water Rights Administration: RE, RO, FP

**The Natural Resource Subcommittee protects Nimiipuu homelands and upholds treaty-reserved rights through leadership in land, water, and wildlife stewardship.**

The Nez Perce Tribe is globally recognized as a natural resource tribe, with a deep and ongoing responsibility to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife that define Nimiipuu life. The Treaty of 1855 affirms our inherent rights to hunt, fish, and gather at all usual and accustomed places—rights that are foundational to our sovereignty, not granted by it. The Natural Resource Subcommittee upholds this legacy through its work in forest management, water rights enforcement, environmental restoration, and climate resilience, ensuring that these resources endure for the benefit of future generations.



Celilo Falls



Grey Wolf - NPT 1995

# Natural Resources

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

## Subcommittee Highlights

The Fires and Fuels Program completed prescribed burning and fuel treatments on 833 acres, primarily focused on timber harvest landing piles. Wildlife fire recertification training (RT-130) is scheduled for current and new staff, including the required arduous pack test. Broadcast burns are prepared and ready for ignition.

The Bureau of Land Management donated a Type 6 wildfire engine in recognition of the Tribe's fire protection efforts and as part of a new cooperative agreement.

Additional treatments completed by force account crews and contractors include:

- 135 acres of brush massification at Cavendish Reserve
- 181 acres of mechanical pre-commercial thinning at Cold Springs, Wood Side Road, and Deer Creek Road
- 89 acres of thinning and mastication at Hoover Point Road (EQIP project)
- Hazardous tree removal and perimeter fencing at three tribal cemeteries impacted by the Gwen Fire

## Water Resources

The Water Resources Division continues to lead in environmental protection and treaty-based enforcement. A five-year Toxins and Emerging Contaminants Study, launched in partnership with USGS, monitors harmful chemicals across the Clearwater and Middle Snake River basins. The Tribe installed its first permanent streamflow gage at Bedrock Creek and expanded its monitoring network to protect minimum flow water rights. Other initiatives include the Wetlands Credit Program, a \$2 million Columbia River Basin grant to reduce pesticide impacts, and the rollout of an EPA SWIFER grant to improve recycling operations and solid waste infrastructure.

## ERWM

ERWM continues critical treaty-based oversight of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and DOE weapons storage sites to protect Nez Perce lands and interests. The program participates in the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council alongside regional and federal partners to assess and address damage to natural resources. The Air Quality Program ensures compliance with the Clean Air Act by issuing burn permits, advisories, and conducting air monitoring and outreach. Emergency Management is actively improving preparedness plans and response coordination to protect Tribal assets from natural and human-caused incidents.



# Natural Resources

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

## Fisheries Resource Management (DFRM)

DFRM remains at the forefront of political and environmental advocacy for Snake River salmon restoration. A two-year stay in hydropower litigation has opened the door for negotiations with the federal government to address dam-related mortality, which remains the greatest threat to wild salmon and steelhead survival. The department is focused on protecting these runs while pursuing long-term dam removal.

Recent actions include enforcing tribal fishing regulations, releasing 13 million hatchery juveniles for ocean migration, and assessing Sockeye reintroduction in Wallowa Lake. DFRM continues extensive monitoring of juvenile and adult salmonid returns, evaluates survival through hydrosystems, and provides science-based recommendations to optimize release timing. The department is also addressing threats from invasive species and leading watershed restoration work throughout Nez Perce treaty territory.

## Cultural Resources

The Cultural Resource Program continues its critical work monitoring and protecting culturally significant sites impacted by federal dam operations through its participation in three FCRPS technical cultural workgroups: Wanapa Koot Koot (Portland District), Payuus Kuus Cuukwe, and Timiimap (Walla Walla District). These efforts address impacts to village sites, camping areas, petroglyph and pictograph sites, sacred landscapes, and fishing and gathering areas. The program also helps prioritize funding for on-site mitigation, stabilization efforts, and off-site community-based treatments.

Now in its third year of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Master Agreement with the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, the program has completed archaeological surveys and monitoring over 1,600 acres in the Race Creek/Cow Creek region. This work resulted in the monitoring of six known sites and the documentation of 19 newly identified sites. Ethnographic evaluations of the Lochsa Corridor (kuséeyne ískit / Nimíipuu Trail) have also been conducted, supporting its nomination as a designated historic property under the National Historic Preservation Act. Upcoming work will focus on archaeological and ethnographic assessments of the séewisnime (Musselshell Meadows) landscape—further advancing the Tribe's efforts to protect culturally and historically significant areas across Nimiipuu homelands.

# Natural Resources

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

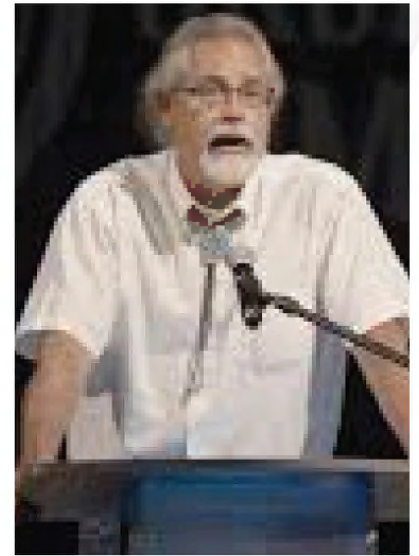
## Leadership Transition: Honoring Dave Johnson, Welcoming Joe Oatman

The Nez Perce Tribe offers its sincere gratitude to Dave Johnson, who is retiring after a distinguished career with the Department of Fisheries Resource Management. An enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, Dave began working for the Tribe in 1983, when the department was still in its early stages. Over the decades, he played a foundational role in its development, helping build one of the most respected tribal fisheries programs in the country.

His legacy includes the creation of hatcheries, the expansion of watershed and research programs, and the construction of multiple field offices. Dave led with humility, wisdom, and a deep respect for the Tribe's values. In his farewell to staff, he said, *"It has been the highest honor to work alongside such dedicated individuals in building a nationally recognized program. What we've created together is something to be proud of."*

As we honor Dave's contributions, the Tribe proudly welcomes Joe Oatman as the new Fisheries Manager. Joe brings a wealth of experience in tribal, state, and federal environmental policy and is widely respected for his strategic insight and cultural grounding. His leadership is informed by a lifelong dedication to protecting tribal sovereignty, natural resources, and the sacred responsibility to future generations.

Joe enters this role at a critical moment for salmon recovery and climate resilience. With a strong foundation beneath him, he is well positioned to lead the department forward. The Tribe is confident in his vision and excited for the continued strength of the program under his leadership.



Dave Johnson



Joe Oatman



# Land Enterprise Commission

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

## Subcommittee:

Shirley J. Allman - Chairman  
Elizabeth Arthur-Attao - Vice  
Chairman  
Ryan Oatman  
Rachel P. Edwards  
Mary Jane Miles

## Liaisons:

Horse Program: SJA  
Intertribal Agriculture Council: SJA, EAA  
Indian Land Working Group: EA, RO, SJA

## Subcommittee Contact:

Shirley J. Allman, Chairman  
[sallman@nezperce.org](mailto:sallman@nezperce.org)

## Subcommittee Assistant:

Vestal Smith  
[vestals@nezperce.org](mailto:vestals@nezperce.org)

**The Land Enterprise Subcommittee manages Tribal land use, acquisitions, and development to support community needs and future growth.**



**Lapwai United Methodist Church**

The Land Enterprise Subcommittee continues to expand Tribal land ownership and support critical development projects. Recent acquisitions include two former church properties and over \$1.1 million in trust and fee land purchases. Work is also ongoing to address housing needs, develop water infrastructure, and finalize a Homesite Lease policy.

# Land Enterprise Commission

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.



## MAJOR PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

- Nez Perce Presbyterian Church (\$200,000.00)
- Lawrence Property near Clearwater Casino (\$695,100.00)

## TRUST ALLOTMENT PURCHASES

- 11 purchases totaling \$485,5283.02

## ONGOING PROJECTS

- Homesite Lease Policy (draft in progress)
- Water access coordination with IHS/BIA
- Methodist Church use planning

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Horse Program office installation (by end of year)
- Northwest Indian College facility Expansion

**14 meetings have been held since the Fall 2024 General Council.**

### *Highlights to share:*

The Methodist Church has been fully accepted by the Methodist Assembly. We are grateful to be one of only five Tribes across the Northwest to have a church formally returned. The facility and land use plan are currently under review by the Executive Direction office. Northwest Indian College is celebrating the setup of a new building in Lapwai to support growing course offerings and increased student attendance. The expansion is welcomed and is expected to be completed in time for the upcoming school year. Another building acquisition was finalized: the Nez Perce Indian Joint Session of the Presbyterian Church is now owned by the Tribe. The land and facility use plan is currently being developed by Tribal facility managers and the Executive Direction office.

### **New Purchase Information:**

Nez Perce Indian Joint Session of the Presbyterian Church

- Resolution: NP 25-069
- Purchase Date: November 12, 2024
- Amount & Source: \$200,000 from SRBA: Water & Fisheries Fund
- Location: 243 Locust Ave., Lapwai
- Description: Former church building, less than one acre

Lawrence Property

- Resolution: NP25-088
- Purchase Date: November 26, 2024
- Amount & Source: \$695,100 from SRBA: Water & Fisheries Fund
- Location: Adjacent and north of Clearwater Casino & Tribal property
- Description: Rangeland with gathering sites, cultural resources, and economic development potential; increases access to existing Tribal property



# Land Enterprise Commission

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.



## HOME SITE LEASES APPROVED

- 6 new leases
- 2 renewals

### Fractionated Interest Purchases (Trust Allotments)

- Resolution: NP25-087
- 11 individual interest purchases (each five percent or less)
- Total: \$485,528.02
- \$474,000.00 from BIA labor allocations
- \$11,582.02 from SRBA: Water & Fisheries Fund

A total of six new Home Site Leases were approved for Tribal families, along with two lease renewals. With limited land availability for homes across our communities, efforts are ongoing to develop a solution that meets the needs of all three districts.

#### Ongoing Projects:

The Nez Perce Tribe is working with BIA, Indian Health Service, and the City of Lapwai to resolve water access issues for new construction. IHS has proposed a Master Plan for the Lapwai Valley, but shipping delays for critical parts have slowed progress. The goal is to fully support these infrastructure projects by the end of summer.

The Homesite Lease policy is currently in draft form. It is a key working document that will address housing access and other long-term land use issues. Additional forms and components are being developed to complete the final packet.

Lastly, a new office building for the Horse Program is expected to be in place by the end of the year. This space will support students, seasonal staff, and summer project work, and will serve as a welcome gathering space for visitors.

# Budget & Finance

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

## Subcommittee:

Ashton Picard- Chairman  
Elizabeth Arthur-Attao - Vice  
Chairman  
Shirley J. Allman  
Rachel P. Edwards  
Mary Jane Miles  
Ryan Oatman  
Ferris Paisano, III  
Samuel N. Penney

## Reporting Departments

- Nimiipuu Health
- Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises
- Nez Perce Tribal Executive Direction
- Department of Technology Transportation

## Liaisons

- Tribal Interior Budget Committee - AP, EA
- Enterprise Board - AP, EA
- CDFI - AP
- NAFOA - SP, RO

## Subcommittee Contact:

Ashton Picard, Chairman  
[ashtonp@nezperce.org](mailto:ashtonp@nezperce.org)

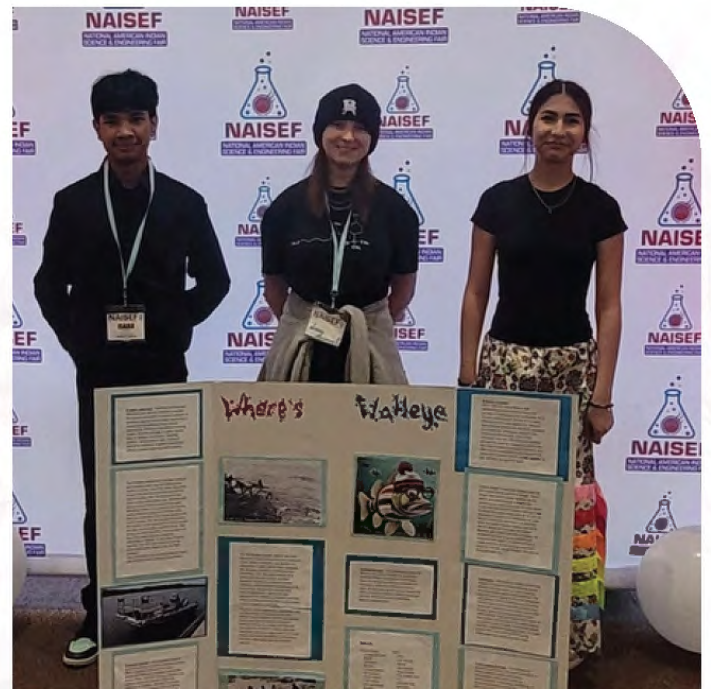
## Subcommittee Assistant:

Leslie Spencer  
[leslies@nezperce.org](mailto:leslies@nezperce.org)

The Budget & Finance Subcommittee oversees Tribal financial planning, investment strategies, and funding decisions to support essential services, education, infrastructure, and long-term economic stability.

## HIGHLIGHT

The Nez Perce Tribe remains deeply committed to the success of our Tribal students. In recognition of the rising cost of higher education, the Tribal Scholarship and Higher Education Scholarship award amounts were increased for the 2024–2025 academic year. We are honored to support our future leaders and ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of their academic and personal growth. This investment reflects our core values—education, self-determination, and the belief that our students carry the strength of our people forward.



LAPWAI MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM - attending National American Indian Sciences & Engineering Fair. Names: Isaiah Painter, Rease Maconnel, Natalia Bybee



# Budget & Finance

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.



**RETIREMENT PARTY:** Trish Wicks, Finance Dept.



**MOSCOW WRESTLING:** James Greene

The Budget & Finance Subcommittee has remained focused on supporting sound financial oversight and meaningful investment in Tribal priorities. Since the Fall 2024 General Council, the subcommittee has worked closely with multiple departments and boards, including Nimiipuu Health, Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises, Executive Direction, Finance, Technology, and Transportation.

The subcommittee reviewed and approved 24 donations and sponsorships totaling over \$35,000.00. These funds supported education, cultural events, youth leadership, athletics, and wellness initiatives across the region. Highlights include contributions to the Chief Joseph Foundation, multiple basketball teams, powwows, school leadership programs, and Safe & Sober graduation events.

The Tribe also approved increased scholarship awards for the 2024–2025 academic year:

- Tribal Scholarships: Increased from \$3,200.00 to \$4,000.00 for undergraduates and from \$6,000.00 to \$7,500.00 for graduate students.
- Higher Education Scholarships: Increased from \$3,120.00 to \$4,524.00 for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The subcommittee continues to work with national financial partners, including Merrill Lynch, RBC Wealth Management, Breakwater Investment Group, D.A. Davidson & Co., and Edward Jones, to manage Tribal investments and long-term fiscal planning. Within the Finance Department, two full-time hires were made, along with two position transfers and one retirement, ensuring continuity in the Tribe's core financial operations.

# Budget & Finance

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

## Donations and Contributions

1. **Piiloxmitato' Stickgames Donation** \$500.00 Local Education Fund and \$500.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item
2. **Lapwai Indian Education Donation** \$500.00 Local Education Fund and \$500.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item
3. **Chief Joseph Foundation Donation** \$500.00 Local Education Fund and \$500.00 from the NPTEC Public Relations line item
4. **Hustle & Heart Basketball Tournament Sponsorship** \$500.00 from the Local Education Fund line item
5. **Healing Lodge Christmas Donation** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item
6. **CRITFC Christmas Santa** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item
7. **Jackson Baldwin Foundation Sponsorship** \$9,500.00 Reserve Fund and \$500.00 Employee Fund
8. **New Year's Celebration and Powwow** \$500.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item
9. **Moscow Bears Wrestling** \$500.00 Local Ed Rollover Fund
10. **Area High Schools Safe and Sober Graduation Parties** \$500.00 Local Education carryover fund
11. **Play In Your Moccasin's Sponsorship** \$1,500.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item
12. **Nez Perce Tribe Women's basketball team** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relation line item
13. **8th Grade WipWip NG Boys Basketball team** \$1,000.00 Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
14. **9th-12th Grade Lapwai Boys Basketball team** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
15. **9th-12th Grade NW Ballers Lapwai Girls Basketball team** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
16. **2025 Lapwai Seniors for their MMIW powwow** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
17. **Nimiipuu Boyz Basketball Team** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
18. **Lapwai Middle School Leadership Team** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
19. **Lapwai High School Leadership Club** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
20. **Lewiston School District Powwow** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
21. **Northwest Indian College Foundation** \$2,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
22. **Tutxinmepu Powwow** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
23. **Wrestling Tournament Memorial** \$1,000.00 NPTEC Public Relations line item and \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund 2
24. **National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair Students** \$500.00 Local Education Carryover Fund
25. **Annual donations for Christmas Candy purchases**



# Budget & Finance

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.



8<sup>th</sup> Grade WipWip NG Boys, Las Vegas, NV



Nimiipuu Boyz, Las Vegas, NV



Nez Perce Tribe Women's Basketball Team, Battle of the Nations, Spokane, WA

# Climate Change & Energy

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

## Subcommittee:

Ryan Oatman - Chairman  
Ferris Paisano III - Vice Chairman  
Rachel P. Edwards  
Shirley J. Allman

## Liaisons:

Hemp: RO, SA, FP  
Nimiipuu Energy: RO, SA, RE

## Reporting Programs

Climate Change Department  
HEMP Program  
Water Resources  
Nimiipuu Energy

## Subcommittee Contact:

Ryan Oatman, Chairman  
[ryano@nezperce.org](mailto:ryano@nezperce.org)

## Subcommittee Assistant:

Leslie Spencer  
[leslies@nezperce.org](mailto:leslies@nezperce.org)

**The Climate Change/Energy Subcommittee leads Tribal efforts in renewable energy, climate resilience, and environmental policy to protect and sustain Nimiipuu homelands.**

## **Accomplishments**

The Climate Change/Energy Subcommittee has accepted many reports from the different departments within its authority since the Fall 2024 General Council. This is a brief overview of actions - more detailed updates are included in the department reports.



Salmon have long been an important part of Nez Perce culture.



# Climate Change & Energy

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

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## **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)**

The Nez Perce Tribe has begun implementation of both the General and Tribal Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under the CPRG General Grant, the Tribe has advertised the CPRG Coordinator position, initiated the development of the required Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and developed a Subaward Agreement with the Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority (NPTHA). Additionally, a Request for Proposals (RFP) is being developed for a roof replacement project at the Fisheries Building in Joseph, Oregon, to allow for the installation of solar panels. Building on the completion of the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), the Tribe has also started developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to expand and refine strategies for long-term climate resilience.

Under the CPRG Tribal Grant, the Tribe has begun collecting bids for trees for large-scale planting projects and conducted initial site assessments at project locations in McCall and Zims Hot Springs, in collaboration with Nimiipuu Energy. Planned improvements at these sites include the installation of solar arrays, Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations, and battery storage systems to support on-site energy resilience. Regular coordination meetings with Nimiipuu Energy are underway to support energy infrastructure planning and project development.

## **Climate Smart Commodities Program**

The Nez Perce Tribe is partnering with the University of Idaho on the Climate Smart Commodities for Idaho Commodities project, a USDA-funded initiative to promote climate-smart farming practices across tribal lands. Outreach and enrollment to leasing farmers has begun. Incentive payments will be incorporated into lease agreements to encourage the adoption of practices such as reduced tillage, cover cropping, nutrient management, and soil carbon amendments. The goal is to enroll up to 15,000 acres of Tribal farmland in the program. The Tribe will also be taking an active role in advising participants, collecting data on farm performance and GHG emissions, and monitoring practice implementation. Planning is underway for the first of three workshops that will educate farmers about the benefits of climate-smart practices and promote broader adoption across the Reservation

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# Climate Change & Energy

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

## Climate Smart Commodities Program Contd.

United States Environmental Protection Agency **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant** awarded to the Nez Perce Tribe has included a portion of funds to go towards battery packs, Electric Vehicles, and charging station installation across the Reservation.

**Nimiipuu Energy** is assisting with the above-mentioned items. The past project of Whitebird and Sundown Heights housing (57 homes) will receive batteries. This project is currently on hold until an agreed power rate is negotiated

## Washington State Department of Commerce:

In much appreciation to our ancestors, the Nez Perce Tribe is included as a Federally Recognized Tribe in the state of Washington per Treaty of 1855. Thus, giving us opportunity to apply for WA State funding.



The tribe's goal is to eventually produce 5,311 megawatts of energy to replace the electricity generated by the four Lower Snake River dams

The **Tribal Climate Resilience Grant (\$727,500)** was awarded towards the Red Wolf Golf Club Solar Covered Parking project and has employed four Nez Perce Tribal Members to begin energy projects.

The **Tribal Clean Energy Grant (\$617,109)** was also awarded to focus on specialized feasibility studies for floating solar, hatchery raceway covered solar, and potential locations for a solar farm along the Snake River.

The **Department of Energy** has awarded the Nez Perce Tribe multiple grants to aide in our goals to being energy efficient.

The **Formula Grid Resiliency Grant (\$1,061,797)** has fostered a strong working group between us and Avista, our local utility company.

The **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Voucher (\$11,260)** provides technical assistance towards energy retrofits in tribal communities

**Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) Grant (\$250,000):** Seeking to hire consultant to explore feasibility of establishing a Tribal Utility Authority (TUA) to reclaim control over energy policy, pricing, and regulation within the Tribe's jurisdiction.

**The Climate United NEXT Grant (\$300,000):** Consultation in predevelopment of renewable infrastructure on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation. Solar installation and battery backup for Senior Wellness, Wa'A'Yas Community Center, and the Commodities Building.



# Climate Change & Energy

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

United States Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy **Tribal Energy Planning and Development Grant (\$349,936)**: Fund a Strategic Energy Plan (SEP). Roadmap to expand on optimizing energy usage, renewable energy generation, and strengthen resilience against extreme weather and grid disruptions.

Washington State Department of Commerce **Tribal Climate Resilience Grant 2025-2027 (\$1,200,000)**: Currently awaiting Legislator's approval. Potential project will be located in the state of Washington.

The **Energy Innovator Fellow Grant (\$70,000)** provided us with Catherine Ryczek, who specializes in solar energy systems and has a Master's degree in Specialized Physics.

The **Washington State Department of Ecology (\$809,523)** is currently funding a percentage of positions and allows consultation to develop a plan for climate and energy projects within the Columbia River Basin.

## Hemp Program Spring 2025 General Council Update:

**CBD Processing:** The Nez Perce Tribe's HEMP Program has extracted our fall harvest into CBD concentrate. We then used that concentrate to make CBD gummy edibles. We chose fish shaped candy molds (as opposed to bears) to better represent the local culture. This initiative could also be used in conjunction with the research grants listed below or as a future tribal enterprise.

**Collaboration with Enterprise for New Hemp Possibilities:** Worked with Cory Roof (new AG Planner) on exploring other low-cost hemp industry operations. The Nez Perce Tribe's focus is for hemp textiles and craft items that can be 3D printed using hemp filament.

**Collaboration Enterprise for Cannabis Operations in Washington:** Worked alongside Enterprise Division (Shelby Leighton) to develop a suitable cannabis dispensary plan for the state of Washington. The plan involves local industry metrics, future projections, costs and timeline. The plan has been approved, and the Nez Perce Tribe's HEMP Program is ready to move forward.

# Climate Change & Energy

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

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## **Hemp Program Spring 2025 General Council Update Continued:**

**Cannabis Cultivation Plan:** The Nez Perce Tribe's HEMP Program has designed a cultivation plan that coincides with the metrics listed in the approved cannabis plan. This cultivation facility would supply the dispensary with tribally branded house products which have higher profit margins and consume up to 40% of total sales. Through this vertical integration, the NPT would be able to significantly increase its profitability in the retail sector.

**Cannabis Resolution:** The Nez Perce Tribe's HEMP Program has drafted a transparent and compliant Cannabis Resolution aimed at empowering the community and enhancing tribal sovereignty. This resolution is in light of the public outcry for cannabis reform online and in other community forums.

**USDA Annual and Monthly Reports:** Completed and submitted our USDA annual hemp report in December 2024, as well as the standard monthly reports. These reports include producers, annual crop totals, disposal reports, total licenses, etc.

**Budget:** The Hemp Program is on track to meet its 2025 fiscal year budget.

**Licenses:** The Nez Perce Tribe HEMP Program has licensed three grow sites thus far and we also have a large-scale commercial farmer interested in starting production soon depending on what their research returns (irrigation costs, soil samples, etc.).

**Setbacks:** The major setback for those interested in hemp farming at this point is irrigation. Hemp is a water intensive plant and the majority of ag lands are currently dry farmed.

**Website:** The Hemp Program's primary method for delivering information to the public continues to be through our website. We have updated and revamped the entire site. We now offer more resources than ever including links to hemp crop insurance and funding sources. Available resources on the site include:

- Downloadable application
- New producer checklist
- License timeline/process
- Links to USDA, FSA, and other reporting agencies
- The NPT Hemp Code
- Educational articles
- Contact Us page
- Subscriber sign-up (newsletter coming soon)
- Funding source links for farmers
- Inspirational videos



# Office of Legal Counsel

The Nez Perce Tribe ("Tribe") Office of Legal Counsel ("OLC") consists of six 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 2024 Fall General Council:

- 1) Provided NPTEC with litigation analyses and legal strategy on all litigation matters involving, or of interest to, the Tribe, and provided NPTEC and Tribal programs and departments with prompt responses to all legal questions and issues.
- 2) Actively advanced the Tribe's interests in the United States v. Oregon treaty fishing rights litigation, including assisting with implementation of the 2018-2027 Management Agreement. OLC assisted the NPTEC with approving a Joint Motion and Stipulated Order Submitting Negotiation of a Successor United States v. Oregon Management Agreement to Mediation.
- 3) Participated in Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act litigation in National Wildlife Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service involving the mainstem hydro system to protect the Tribe's interests. OLC continues to actively represent the Tribe and assist the NPTEC in the ongoing mediation. OLC assisted with a motion to extend the stay of litigation based on the Six Sovereigns Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and the United States Government's Commitments in Support of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and in Partnership with the Six Sovereigns.
- 4) Assisted with the Tribe's focused efforts in all forums to emphasize the urgency of the salmon and climate crises (and the ongoing tribal injustice) and the need to restore the lower Snake River by breaching the four lower Snake River dams.



**L-R: front row: Darren Williams, Julie Kane, Lisa Anderson back row: Lori Picard, David Cummings, Anjee Toothaker, Jeanette Moody, Mike Lopez**

# Office of Legal Counsel

5) Assisted the Tribe with elevating concerns regarding revisions to the Oregon Fish Passage Rule that occurred with no public notice or opportunity for public comment and that radically changed core principles and procedures of the rule. Also assisted the Tribe in preparing a legal challenge to the adoption of this rule.

6) Filed on behalf of the Tribe a Joinder in the Petition seeking repeal, or alternatively, amendment of OAR 635-800-0300, which codifies a Memorandum of Agreement between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon authorizing members of the tribe to take species on off-reservation and non-trust lands over which the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has management authority.

7) Continued to represent the Tribe in the execution of the Settlement Agreement resolving the Tribe's lawsuit against Perpetua Resources for Clean Water Act violations at its proposed Stibnite Mine Site. The Settlement Agreement provides for total payments of \$5 million by Perpetua Resources to a South Fork Salmon Water Quality Enhancement Fund to be used by the Tribe to support water quality improvement projects in the South Fork Salmon River watershed. The water quality improvement projects completed under the Agreement will be coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service and will require additional data collection to choose and define the projects.

8) Continued to represent the Tribe in its administrative protest of Perpetua Resources' applications for transfer and appropriation of water rights at the Stibnite Mine Site, which Perpetua Resources filed with the Idaho Department of Water Resources. OLC represented the Tribe in an administrative hearing that was held in December 2023. In April 2024, Hearing Officer Cefalo issued a preliminary decision granting Perpetua groundwater and surface water rights but while imposing meaningful conditions intended to protect fish throughout the life of Perpetua Resources' proposed Stibnite Project, should it be permitted. Perpetua filed a petition on exceptions to this preliminary order and motion to supplement the record and to amend requested relief, which the Tribe opposed. In January 2025, Director Weaver denied both Perpetua's petition for exceptions (except for a slight modification to one condition) and motion to supplement the record and to amend requested relief.

9) Continued to represent the Tribe in coordination with outside counsel in its administrative protest of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's issuance of an Air Quality Permit to Construct to Perpetua Resources for its proposed Stibnite Mine Site. In October 2023, the administrative Hearing Officer issued an order denying the Tribe's and other protestants' claims. OLC assisted the Tribe with filing, in conjunction with the other protestants, a motion for reconsideration with the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality. Following a hearing in March 2024, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Board issued a written order in May 2024, holding, in part, in favor of the Tribe and remanding the issue back to the Hearing Officer for further factual development. On remand, in January 2025, the Hearing Officer denied the Tribe's claims. On January 21, 2025, the Tribe filed a petition for review of the Hearing Officer's decision with the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality.



# Office of Legal Counsel

10) Continued to assist Tribal staff in their engagement with the U.S. Forest Service regarding their analysis of Perpetua Resources' proposed Stibnite Gold Project. Assisted NPTEC and Tribal staff in their engagement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and continued to directly engage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the agency's ongoing evaluation of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project and their forthcoming decision regarding Perpetua Resources' Clean Water Act Section 404 dredge and fill permit application, including Tribal treaty access.

11) Continued to assist Tribal staff and the NPTEC engage with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Forest Service regarding the Tribe's support for cleaning up the Cinnabar Mine Site in Valley County, Idaho.

12) Continued to represent the Tribe in *United States v. Howell*. The United States and the Tribe initiated litigation against Mr. Howell for his ongoing trespass on trust land (held by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe and Tribal members). The U.S. District Court approved a Settlement Agreement executed by the parties that resolved the case. OLC has continued to monitor compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement with the United States' and Howell's attorneys.

13) Continued to assist the Tribe in its ongoing participation in the Interagency Bison Management Plan by attending meetings and providing legal and policy support to NPTEC.

14) Assisted the NPTEC with the implementation of the Nez Perce Tribe Policy Regarding Self-Administration of the 1855 Treaty-Reserved Right to Pasture Horses and Cattle on "Open And Unclaimed Land" Managed by the United States Forest Service.

15) Continued to engage with Tribal staff, Idaho Power Company, and with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the Tribe's interests within the Hells Canyon Complex. Idaho Power Company filed a settlement agreement between Idaho Power Company and U.S. Forest Service to resolve terms and conditions for the new license for the Hells Canyon Complex, pursuant to section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act. Idaho Power Company requested the settlement agreement's terms be included in the new license. OLC filed, on behalf of the Tribe, an objection to the settlement agreement. A decision regarding incorporation of the settlement agreement's terms into a new license has not been issued.

16) Continued to assist the NPTEC and Tribal staff with evaluating the Port of Hood River's proposal to build a new Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge across the Columbia River to connect Hood River, Oregon, and White Salmon, Washington, and with safeguarding the Tribe's treaty-reserved rights and resources during construction. OLC assisted the NPTEC with the submission to the Federal Highway Administration and the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Authority a mitigation proposal for inclusion in the parties' Memorandum of Agreement. OLC continues to assist with negotiations regarding the Tribe's mitigation proposal.

17) Continued to assist the NPTEC in protecting the exercise of the Tribe's treaty-reserved fishing right at the Port of Cascade Locks on the Columbia River.

# Office of Legal Counsel

18) Continued to assist Tribal staff and the NPTEC with evaluating and protesting water right applications on, and adjacent to, the Tribe's Reservation.

19) Continued to assist Tribal departments, Enterprises, and Nimiipuu Health with day-to-day legal and employment issues. OLC holds a quarterly meeting with Human Resources Managers to discuss each entity's employment issues. OLC holds a monthly meeting with Enterprises to discuss their legal issues and questions, including questions related to the operation and expansion of the Tribe's gaming operations. In November 2024, OLC worked with Enterprises to submit an application for Secretarial Determination regarding gaming at the Red Wolf Golf Club in Clarkston, Washington. Also in November 2024, OLC assisted the Tribal Employment Rights Office with issues on the Revolving Fund.

20) Assisted the NPTEC with monitoring, promoting, analyzing, and introducing legislative action at both the state and federal levels to protect the interests of Tribal members. These actions include regular meetings with lobbyists in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Washington, D.C., coordinating meetings with federal and state officials, and assisting with written testimony and advocacy letters. Assisted NPTEC with planning and preparing for trips to Washington, D.C., Olympia, Washington, Salem, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho, to discuss various legal and policy issues. The volume of advocacy letters to Congress and the United States has substantially increased over the last several months to write in defense of funding and staffing for federal agencies and programs that work with and provide services to the Tribe.

21) Continued advancing the Tribe's water right claims in the Palouse River Basin Adjudication, which were filed by the Tribe and by the United States, as the Tribe's trustee. Continued to monitor the objections and responses filed in the Palouse River Basin Adjudication, attended multiple status conferences with the Court and parties, and attended meetings to explore potential settlement. Worked with the Native American Rights Fund to respond to discovery requests propounded by the state of Idaho.

22) Provided regular assistance to the Tribe's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management and Cultural Resource programs. Participated in the Natural Resource Damages Assessment process at the Hanford site by participating in the legal working group, regularly attending meetings with other trustees on the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council, and advising Tribal staff on a range of associated issues. Participated as Amicus Curiae in *Pakootas v. Teck Cominco, Ltd.* which encourages the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to recognize that a Tribes' loss of culturally significant services derived from injured natural resources is recoverable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

23) Continued work on the class action opioid litigation, in which the Tribe is a plaintiff. Settlement agreements have been developed with some of the parties.



# Office of Legal Counsel

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24) Continued work on revising the Nez Perce Tribal Code. Participated in small staff meetings monthly or semi-monthly, as well as monthly meetings of the Tribe's Code Revision Core Team. Worked with the Nimiipuu Development Fund on a Uniform Commercial Code and a corresponding Memorandum of Understanding with the state of Idaho for implementation of this code. Coordinated with the Law and Order Executive Officer for Violence Against Women Act 2022 revisions and implementation. The Tribe implemented jurisdiction over non-Indians, related to the Violence Against Women Act, beginning October 1, 2024. Worked with the Law and Order Executive Officer for a proposed code amendment of Tribal Employment Rights Office fees to be increased from 3.5% to 5.0%. However, when this code change was posted for public comment, several comments opposing it were received; this code change was denied but the Tribal Employment Rights Office is to hold a work session and provide more information to the NPTEC. An emergency code amendment was finalized on criminal defendant arraignment time as it currently states business hours whereas the prior code stated business days. Current priority for code amendment is for the Minor in Need of Care code and Sex Offender Registry code. A team is in place to draft these amendments to post for public comment after NPTEC approval.

25) Continued to advise the NPTEC and Tribal staff regarding proposed projects on federal public lands within the Tribe's aboriginal territory and to review staff comments on such projects. Recently, in addition to assisting with comments on project-level decisions, OLC has been coordinating the Tribe's involvement in the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision process.

26) Continued monthly coordination meetings with other Columbia River tribes and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding village development plans on the Columbia River. Facilitated a contract between the Corps and the Nez Perce Tribe's Cultural Resources Office to provide information on tribal loss from the Dalles dam.

27) Assisted the NPTEC with retaining legal representation by the Native American Rights Fund and Earthjustice to intervene in the State of Idaho et. al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in which several states, including Idaho, are challenging the Environmental Protection Agency's final rule implementing water quality standard regulations to protect tribal reserved rights under the Clean Water Act. The Tribe along with the other intervening tribes filed a Response to Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction. Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, and various mining industry interest groups filed an amicus brief in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment. The court has yet to rule on Plaintiffs' preliminary injunction or summary judgment motion.

# 2025 Nez Perce War Memorials

## **Saturday, April 19, 2025 – Redheart Memorial**

- Location: Vancouver, WA | Time: 10:00 AM

## **Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – Whitebird Memorial**

- Location: Whitebird Battlefield | Time: 10:00 AM
- Please note: No monetary disbursement will be provided for this memorial

## **Friday, August 8, 2025 – Yellowstone and Camas Meadow Memorials\*\*\***

- Locations: TBD | Time: 9:00 AM
- Sign-up deadline: August 6 at 12:00 PM
- (Additional details forthcoming)

## **Saturday, August 9, 2025 – Big Hole Memorial**

- Location: Big Hole National Battlefield | Time: 10:00 AM
- Sign-up deadline: August 6 at 12:00 PM

## **Saturday, October 4, 2025 – Bear Paw Memorial**

- Location: Bear Paw National Battlefield | Time: 10:00 AM
- Sign-up deadline: October 1 at 12:00 PM

## **Invitation from the Tonkawa Tribe**

The Nez Perce Tribe has received an invitation from Miranda Meyere of the Tonkawa Tribe to attend their 50th Annual Powwow, taking place June 26–29, 2025. The Tonkawa leadership has extended a warm welcome and hopes to see a Nez Perce delegation present to take part in their celebration.

## **Registration Instructions:**

To sign up for the war memorials, please note that disbursement is based on one payment per vehicle. To register, email [nptecsupport@nezperce.org](mailto:nptecsupport@nezperce.org) and include:

- Your full name
- Which memorial(s) you plan to attend
- Your Nez Perce enrollment number
- A good phone number in case of any emergency related to the event



# 2025 Nez Perce War Memorials

## Notice of Correction – 2025 Nez Perce War Memorial Schedule

Please note a correction to the previously distributed memorial schedule. All memorial gatherings are scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM, with the exception of the Yellowstone and Camas Meadow Memorials, which will begin at 9:00 AM.



**HONOR YOUR  
ANCESTORS**

**REDHEART APR 19**

**WHITEBIRD JUNE 17**

**YELLOWSTONE  
CAMAS MEADOWS AUG 8**

**BIG HOLE AUG 9**

**BEARS PAW OCT 4**

# Nimiipuu Get Out the Vote Committee



## Statement from the Nimiipuu Get Out the Vote Committee

As we approach the May 3, 2025 General Council Election, the Nimiipuu Get Out the Vote Committee extends our heartfelt appreciation to Mary Jane Miles for her years of service to the Nez Perce people. Her leadership, voice, and presence have been a guiding force across many seasons of tribal governance.

We also recognize the incumbents, Shannon F. Wheeler and Elizabeth Arthur-Attao, for continuing to stand in service to our Nation. Their commitment to leadership is noted and respected.

To all individuals who put their name forward in this year's election, thank you. It is no small thing to offer yourself to the people in this way. It takes strength, vision, and heart to run for tribal office. Your willingness to lead reflects the care you hold for our homelands, our rights, and our future generations.

We encourage every eligible voter to participate in the upcoming election. Your vote carries the weight of your voice, your values, and your hopes for what comes next. The path ahead is shaped by those who show up and we honor that.

*Oeci Yew Yew*



# Contact Us

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# Notes

Seat 1

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Seat 2

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Seat 3

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# Notes

## **Seat 1 Results**

Jesse Leighton: \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Arthur Attao: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Seat 2 Results**

Shannon F. Wheeler: \_\_\_\_\_

Alexis Walker: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Seat 3 Results**

Quintin Ellenwood: \_\_\_\_\_

Aaron Gould: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Officer Roles:**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Sec. Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_

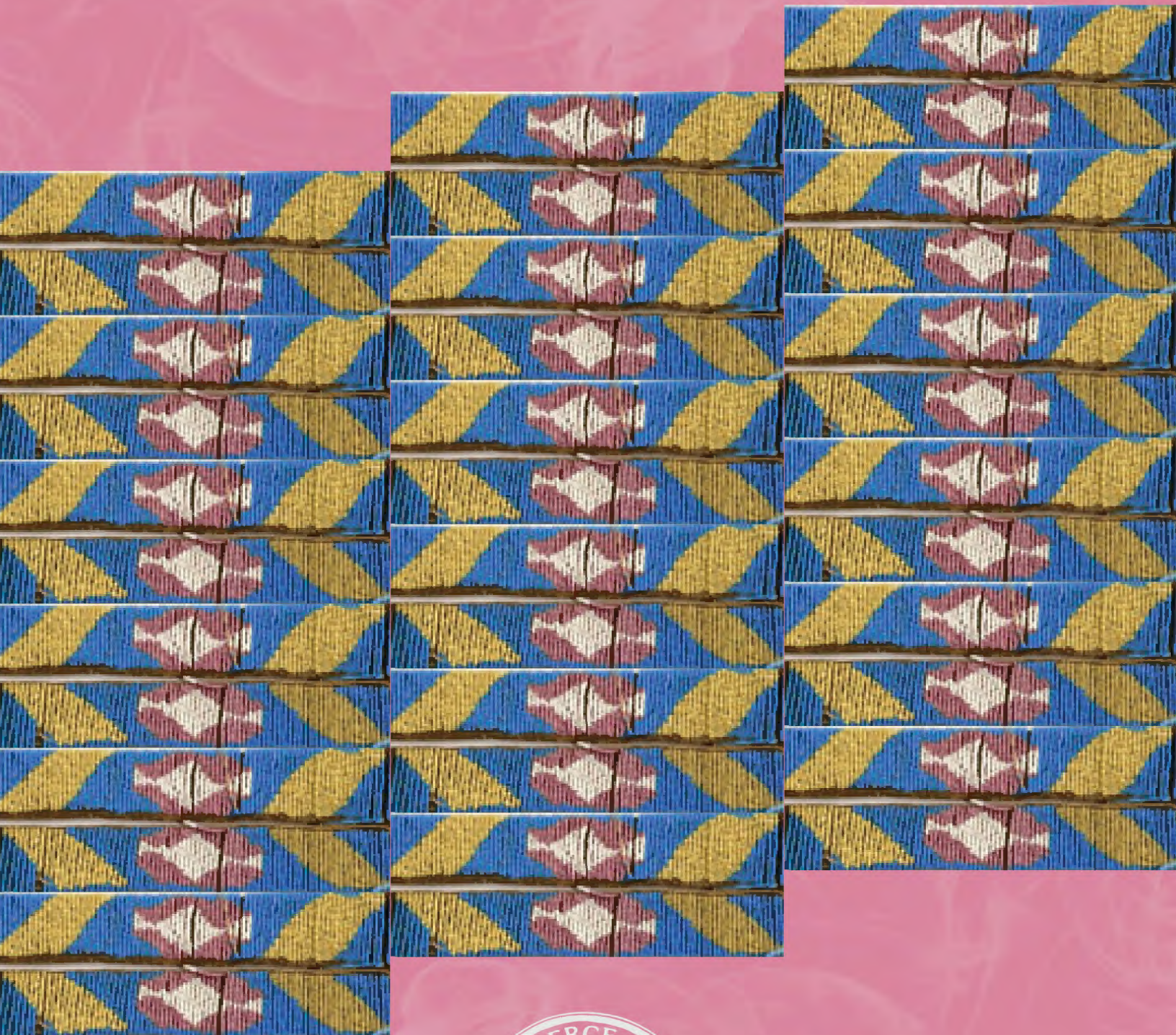
**Chaplain:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member:** \_\_\_\_\_





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