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Our Homeland Project at the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center near the town of Wallowa, Oregon has made it over another hurdle in developing a permanent home for Nez Perce Indian cultural events in Wallowa County. Thanks to all who have put their energy into this Master Plan, and especially to two of our own Nez Perce tribal contractors, Brian McCormack of McCormack Landscape Design, and Jesse Leighton of Shaman Architects, who coordinated the effort.

The plan was prepared under an award from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The Northeast Oregon Economic Development District provided assistance with procuring the funding and administering the project. A large group of users, friends, and board members of the Homeland Project donated many hours to the Master Plan revision. The document integrates the first Master Plan and Conditional Use Permit, which were attached to the original 160 acres, and will provide the information needed by the Wallowa County Planning Commission for approval of a CUP for what is now a 320 acre site. It will allow us to raise funds, and further our capital investment of the project site, so that we can complete the organization's vision for this property.

In relation to our partnership with the U.S. National Park Service, a cooperative agreement has been drawn up in preparation for signing, contingent on both parties' willingness to accept the revised Master Plan for the property.

We who have worked on this for many months can feel fruition. I would like to offer special thanks to Sara Miller, who has been one of the organization's friends for a long time, and the NEOEDD administrator covering the bases for us all on the board. Special thanks also to WBNPTIC board member Jim Chapman, who, with Brian McCormack, worked so very hard in putting the final comments and corrections together to make this an accurate and complete document. Finally, to all the volunteers who love this project, together we have taken a great step towards its accomplishment.

Joseph O. McCormack, President

Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc.