

# Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site



Nature  
History  
Discovery

## Master Plan

May 2009

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# IWETEMLAYKIN STATE HERITAGE SITE MASTER PLAN

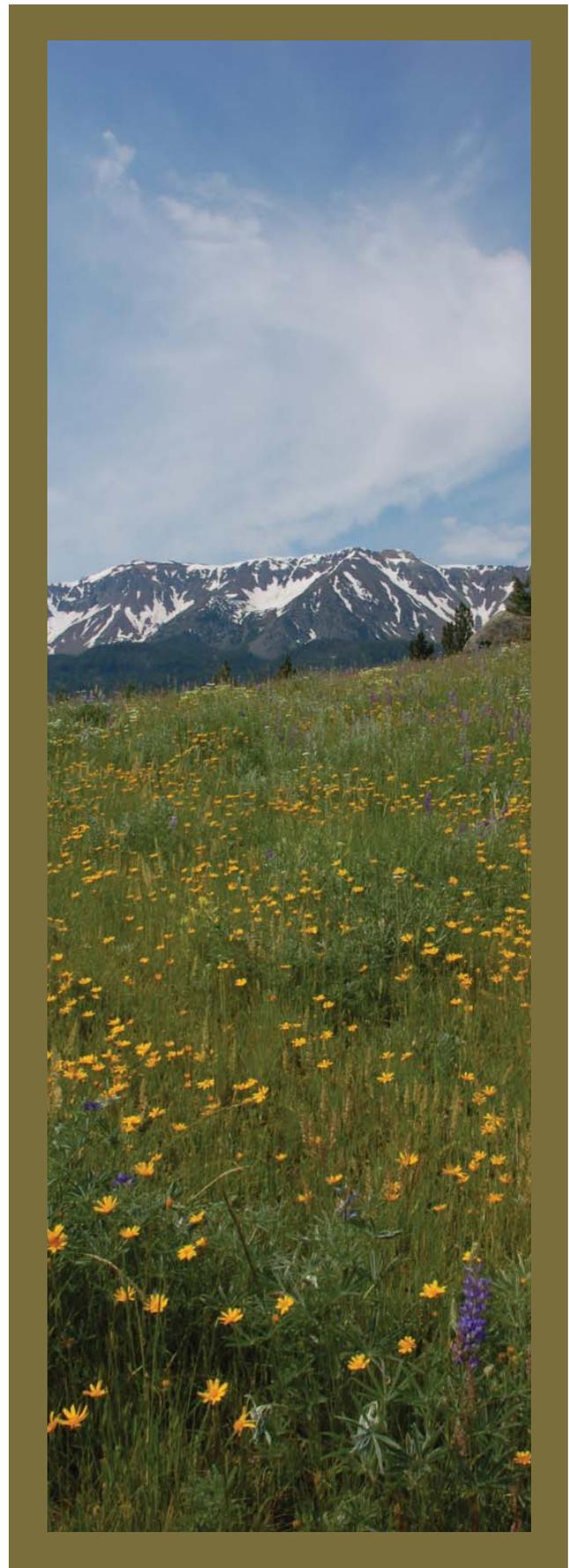
## Introduction

### **A Place to Honor**

Indian people revere their traditional summer camping grounds, former grazing lands and sacred areas on the glacial moraines of Wallowa Lake and along the Wallowa River. At the foot of Wallowa Lake is the starting point of the Nez Perce (Nee-Mee-Poo) National Historic Trail that was created to commemorate the flight of the Nez Perce and Cayuse from the Wallowas to join other displaced Nez Perce and Palouse bands fleeing to buffalo country and on to Canada.

Within this revered and historic place, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) partnered with the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (the Tribes) and the Oregon State Parks Trust to acquire 61 acres -- the site commonly known as the Marr Ranch. The property borders Nez Perce National Historic Park including tribal trust land within the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and the Cemetery.

For many Indian and non-tribal people alike, the Marr Ranch and adjacent properties form a cohesive, single, body of land -- sharing history, and cultural and natural resources. All of those who honor this place want its history and natural resources to be protected and explained so that others understand -- this place is the land, the glacial moraines, the mountains, the waters, the plants, fish, animals and the people who have lived here through the passage of time.





## Tribal Significance

The Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation consider this site to be sacred and, as such, have worked vigorously for decades to protect it. Both local tradition and tribal memory confirm that the Marr Ranch was the site of an important sockeye fishery. Native and non-native recorders in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have documented the importance of this specific fishery to the tribes.

Working with concerned citizens in the early twentieth century, former tribal residents identified the lands at the foot of Wallowa Lake as an important burial ground. They established corners for a cemetery, today's Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery, to protect many of the graves, but noted that those corners did not contain all of them. The tribes have often said that the Marr Ranch property contains unmarked graves.

Today, the site remains central to the identity of the tribes. Tribal members, when queried, do not distinguish between the federally protected National Park Service (NPS) site and the Marr Ranch site. They are inextricably linked.

Just as young Chief Joseph's Nez Perce name is tied directly to Wallowa Lake, names that have been handed down from generation to generation are directly connected to this land. For the current bearers of those names, a part of their very identity is vested in the site. Future holders of these names will be similarly linked to the place.

There is a song, central to religious ceremonies among the tribes that is said to come directly from this site. Nearly every Sunday it can be heard being sung in the longhouses of one of the three reservations. Even today it echoes annually across the lands of the Marr Ranch as descendants return to worship.

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One young Nez Perce recently noted an additional importance of the area when she described returning year after year, to stand in the cemetery, the one piece of tribal trust land in the county, and turn around looking at part of the lands her people once owned and called home. The Marr Ranch property is a central part of that viewshed, and the protection of this site now provides for a fuller appreciation of what once was. With the protection of this important site, teaching can be expanded.

In most recent history, in honoring the significance of this place to themselves and their ancestors, the Tribes have worked with the NPS, the City of Joseph, Wallowa County and landowners to protect the cultural and natural resources, and preserve the site's unique qualities against commercial, residential and recreational development that are inconsistent with the sacred nature of the place.

Working in partnership, OPRD, the Tribes, the NPS, the State Parks Trust and other partners will continue to research, protect and preserve this site; uncovering aspects of its past that will reinforce and strengthen tribal cultural practices and history that originate at this site. The Tribes will continue to actively participate in the management of the property.

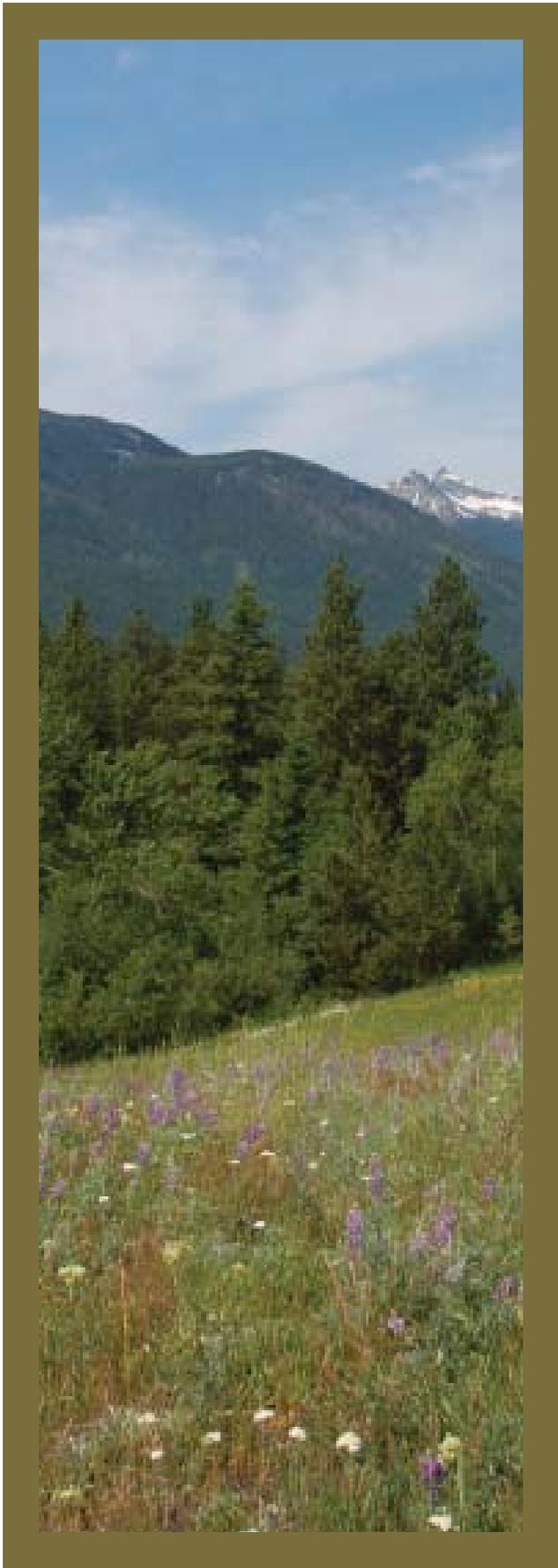
### **National Significance**

In 1923, the 5.1 acre cemetery that forms the heart of the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery was deeded to the U.S. government to be held in trust "for the Indians of the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon and the Indians of the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho for the purpose of the preservation of the graves of deceased Indians of said tribes now there and the [reinterment]...of prominent deceased Chiefs and other Indians and for the future burial place of any noted Indians of said tribes forever" (Wallowa County deed, 1923). The cemetery continues as Indian Trust Land and is an active cemetery, which is to say that burials may continue to take place there today.

In 1986, Congress acknowledged the tribal trust land with the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery as a symbol of our nation when they created the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail and designated the cemetery as the legislated beginning point of the trail. The site's significance to the nation was again recognized when the site became listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and with the National Historic Landmarks Program in 1989. The cemetery site was again specifically noted for its national significance when it (and its future protection against adverse development) played a central role in the Nez Perce National Historical Park Expansion Bill in 1992.

In 1995, Oregon Statute 358.057 recognized the value and significance of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail to the State of Oregon. The Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery's significance, together with the natural and scenic quality of the Wallowa Lake basin, resulted in the addition of that segment of Oregon State Highway 351 to the Hells Canyon All American Road in 2000.

The NPS is committed to the preservation of the adjacent Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery (including the 5.1 acre tribal trust land and 8.08 acres of NPS fee title land). In order to assure that the future development and use of the state lands are compatible with the mission of the adjacent Nez Perce National Historical Park, the NPS is considering acquisition of a scenic easement over the state property. The NPS will actively participate in the on-going management of the Marr Ranch site and will continue to find areas of mutual concern where the NPS, OPRD and the Tribes can partner in the future management and interpretation of the site and adjacent land. In the future, should the State, Tribes and NPS agree, this site could be made a part of the Nez Perce National Historical Park while remaining under OPRD ownership and management.



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## Local Significance

Many local residents retain fond memories of their experiences on the Marr Ranch site when it operated as a ranch. For a select few, their ties go deeper, as they lived there and worked the land. The continued protection of the site and return of access allows these individuals to reconnect pieces of their own life stories to the land. For many others, the site serves as an important gateway to the Wallowa Lake basin. Long stretches of the site are a major portion of the setting for those driving to Wallowa Lake from adjacent Joseph, providing an important transition from the urban development of the City of Joseph to the open vista of Wallowa Lake. Many pedestrians and cyclists, also in route to the lake, spend a significant portion of their journey enveloped by views of the site. Residents and tourists, alike, experience a setting that retains a semblance of its original form; in many parts remarkably so.

The native bunchgrass stands that once covered the region are fairly represented at the site and remind visitors of the importance of this land to both tribal and early non-Indian ranchers. Deer, fox, raptors, and many native plant species provide a window into the native flora and fauna of the area.

Currently, recreational opportunities for residents and other visitors to the lake basin are limited to Wallowa Lake State Park and the Wallowa County marina. The addition of a natural area, adjacent to the City of Joseph, that provides for outdoor recreational activities such as walking or enjoying nature will fill an important niche and reduce congestion at existing recreation spots.

Protection of this site and public access to it are important to local citizens, the City of Joseph, and Wallowa County. They share the desire to recognize the significance of the site, preserve its beauty, and expound on its interpretive themes.

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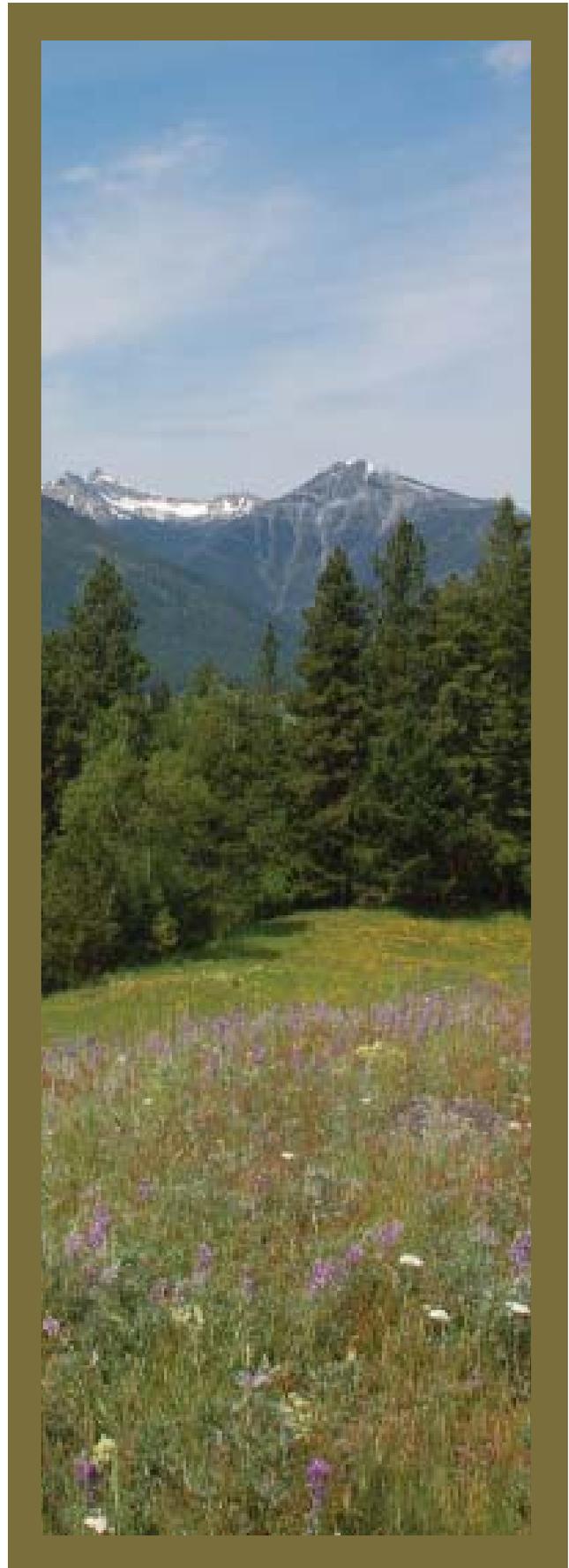
## The Partnership

The Marr Ranch property remained in private ownership until the summer of 2007. After intensive negotiations with the land owner, OPRD, in partnership with the Tribes and Oregon State Parks Trust, was able to acquire the Marr Ranch in 2007. The Tribes made significant financial contributions toward the acquisition. It is worth noting that the Tribes were willing to take a major departure from Tribal policy and invest in land that will be owned by the State of Oregon. The Tribes expect that OPRD will be a reliable caretaker of this land and will partner with the Tribes in managing the site.

OPRD, as the principal owner and lead manager of the Marr Ranch property, is responsible for planning, developing and managing the property and making it available to the public for appropriate education, enjoyment, recreation and preservation. OPRD recognizes the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the NPS and Oregon State Parks Trust as partners in the development and management of the site and will continue to promote and develop that partnership into the future.

A permanent Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among these partners (MOA partners) became effective on June 19, 2008, and formalizes the following considerations for planning, developing and managing the site:

1. Preservation of sacred, cultural, religious and historical values of the land to the Tribes;
2. Preservation of natural (including biological and geological) and scenic values of the land.
3. Avoidance of potential impacts to the adjacent Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery site of the Nez Perce National Historical Park, that are adverse to the mission of the NPS or continued traditional use by the Tribes.



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Throughout the planning, implementation and operation of the State Heritage Site, consultation with the MOA Partner tribes, including their Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and cultural resource programs and the NPS will be necessary to determine potential effects to the tribal trust land cemetery, a National Historic Landmark, and the rest of the NPS site.

Other interested parties have provided input into the planning and permitting process, including the City of Joseph, Wallowa County, Silver Lake Ditch Company, Farmers Ditch Company, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), local and regional advocacy groups, and the local community.

In addition to the MOA consultation, OPRD will manage the property as a State Heritage Site in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

### **The Master Planning Process**

Initial meetings with the Master Plan Advisory Committee and the general public were held in April 2008, in the City of Joseph and Salem, to collect issues and concerns, ideas and proposals for the plan.

Several partners, and other parties with direct interests in the property and its resources or with ties to interpretation and public education, were invited to join the Advisory Committee for the duration of the planning process. The committee included representatives from:

- The Nez Perce Tribe
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- The Oregon State Parks Trust
- The National Park Service
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- The City of Joseph

- Wallowa County Planning and Board of Commissioners
- The Associated Ditch Company
- Farmers Ditch Company
- Silver Lake Ditch Company
- The Wallowa Land Trust
- Wallowa Resources

Many members of an adjacent City of Joseph neighborhood and the larger community attended an April 23, 2008, evening public meeting in Joseph. A member of the Board of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council attended the Salem meeting, later in April. A comment period followed the April meetings and resulted in letters, emails and calls contributing to the discussion.

The draft plan was released to the public for review and comment in May 2008 and was introduced to the Advisory Committee and general public through meetings in May 2008. Comments were received on the draft plan through June 22, 2008. The department reviewed comments, shared them with the MOA Partners and other interested parties. The draft plan was presented to the OPRD Commission on July 17, 2008, in Baker City for their review and comment.

Revisions were made to the draft plan in response to comments and emerging site information and in collaboration with the MOA Partners. The revised draft plan was issued for public comments in August. Following this comment period, the draft plan was presented to the OPRD Commission at its September 18, 2008, meeting in Ashland, Oregon. With the Commission's approval, OPRD then began the process of obtaining County land use approval followed by the process of adopting the Master Plan through the state rule-making process.

The County's land use approval became effective on February 24, 2009, following their public hearing in Enterprise on January 27. OPRD held its rule-making hearing in Enterprise on

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March 25. The Master Plan was then formally adopted by OPRD and became effective as a state rule on May 1, 2009.

### **Naming a Significant New State Heritage Site**

In January of 2009 the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission formally designated the new state park “Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site” (pronounced ee weh TEMM lye kinn), which translates essentially to “at the edge of the lake.” Chosen at the request of members of the affiliated Tribes, this name is what this area of the Wallowa Lake basin was called traditionally by Indian people. The name refers to the site’s relationship to the major landmark, the lake, and infers the many seasonal activities that traditionally happened along the lake. The Tribes hope that recognizing this site in the language of its original stewards will promote understanding among current and future stewards that they are part of a continuum of responsibility stretching back tens of thousands of years.

The property’s classification as a new State Heritage Site reflects the site’s primary purpose for protection of the historic and cultural setting within its scenic and natural base. A secondary purpose is to provide for the enjoyment and education of the visiting public and local visitors through stewardship, trail use and low-key interpretation.

### **More Work Will Follow the Master Plan**

The Master Plan provides broad objectives for natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resource protection and restoration management activities. The plan also directs the locations of facilities to support public access, the type and size of facilities and how to provide for the interpretation of the place and its history and natural resources.

OPRD will only be able to develop the property to the level specified in the Master Plan. As such, the plan is relatively broad. Additional work will need to follow the plan including more

detailed study and analysis of the site’s resources, design of any facilities to be built, developing and refining interpretive themes, interpretive panel design, text, and other interpretive media and approaches. All follow-up site planning and design, and interpretive planning and design, and development will be done in collaboration with the MOA Partners as specified by agreement. In addition, OPRD will work as needed with any related permitting and regulatory groups, future implementation partners and others who can help support the State Heritage Site.

## **The Issues**

The plan has been tailored to respond to the following issues:

- **Go Lightly on the Land, Respect This Place**

The entire site has cultural, historical and sacred values, as well as natural and scenic values for all who care about the place. The property was purchased to protect the natural and cultural resources located there, and to preserve and retain the setting and overall appearance of the site. The goal is to keep development to a minimum and to keep it from visually intruding into the experience of the place.

The site offers mostly open grassy areas on rolling lower slopes of the glacial moraine around the foot of Wallowa Lake. Trees line the two irrigation ditches that run through the site and along the pond. High points offer views to the surrounding natural landscape, with residential areas largely screened from view by slopes and trees. Even the highway is mostly concealed by the topography.

- **Providing for Appropriate Public Access**

OPRD must provide for an appropriate level, type and locations for public access in the plan.



Trails through the site should be unpaved, although a paved bike path may run along the site within the highway right-of-way with ODOT approval. Trails should connect from one site access to another, but should leave large areas of the site undeveloped. A trail from the northeast corner of the site and up the hill can be constructed with a moderate slope but must be kept to 18 inches in width to avoid excessive grading of the side slope. A trail from the south highway gate to the pond and on to Main Street can be built up to 3 feet wide to allow for wheel chair use.

The proposed main parking area should be confined to the northeastern edge of the property, close to access from the highway and out of sight from the trails, and should be small enough to fit well within this confined location. ADA parking can be provided here for access to interpretive panels and restrooms.

To provide for local use and wheel chair accessible parking at the other end of the trail, a small area of parking may also be needed at the end of Main Street.

Service and emergency response access should be allowed at the location of the south gate on the highway, although the gate itself may be replaced with removable bollards or other vehicular access controls.

Directional and interpretive signs along trails should not intrude on the visitor's experience of the place. Uses such as camping, group use buildings and other group activity areas, interpretive centers or long houses are not appropriate for this place and can be provided more appropriately at other sites in the county.

- **Connect Adjacent Sites Without Intruding on the State Heritage Site**

There is local interest in providing trail

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connections from the City of Joseph to the county lake access. At the same time there is concern that trails not bring visitors too close to the dangers of irrigation facilities or through sacred areas such as the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery.

There may be an opportunity to provide a trail from the State Heritage Site and along the edge of the NPS land and ditch company property. An option or supplement to an internal trail could be a potential paved path along the highway. OPRD will work with the city, county, ODOT, NPS, the ditch companies and the Tribes to identify the appropriate routes.

- **Buffer the Neighborhood from Traffic**

The property is bounded on the north by a residential neighborhood of the City of Joseph. Upper Main Street extends through this neighborhood and onto the property via a one lane bridge over one of the irrigation ditches. Local residents have accessed the property on foot and sometimes on horseback to visit the pond, walk the service roads and take a short-cut to the lake. They have requested to continue to do this, and would like the Main Street access to continue as a local access by not signing this access on the highway.

Some neighbors are concerned that local visitors may fill up parking on the street in front of their homes and would like to see a small parking lot within the site. Others feel that parking is not needed inside the property and could be provided elsewhere in town, or that visitors can just walk from their homes.

Any parking inside the property across the bridge from Main Street should be unpaved and screened from view by the neighbors and trail users. To accommodate public vehicular access, the bridge would need to be evaluated for soundness and improved if needed.

Providing a park “host” site near Main Street might be pursued if informal supervision is needed for this part of the site.

Parking and a host site might be phased in later, only if use over time shows that they are needed.

- **Consider the Management Needs for the Ditches and Other Easements**

The ditch companies provide water for ranchers and farmers downstream. The Silver Lake and Farmers Ditches have passed through the state property for many decades. The steep slopes and slippery wooden structures can be tempting dangers for visitors and the ditch companies are concerned about the potential related liability.

Site trails should be located to direct visitors away from dangerous areas and to keep the areas along the ditches open for maintenance access. Fences and/or screening vegetation might be placed in key spots to deter visitors from straying from the trails. Any bridge over the ditches should be placed, with approval by the ditch companies, to work with the ditch slopes and maintenance needs. A pedestrian bridge would need to be the responsibility of OPRD to maintain. Trails near the dam should be routed to discourage visitors from straying down toward the dam.

The City of Joseph has easements for sewer and water lines through the property that need to be kept clear from future site development and allow space for maintenance access.

- **Help Visitors to Understand the Meaning of the Place**

Most individuals who provided comment support interpretation at the property as long as interpretive signage and other materials or structures do not detract from the natural beauty, and cultural and natural resources



of the site. Unobtrusive interpretive site markers, low signs or engravings, or other compatible elements could be placed at key spots along the trails. Brochures for self-guided hikes and seasonal guided hikes could also be provided.

Both tribal and non-tribal participants support interpretive themes about the various people who have known and loved this place. OPRD needs to work with the various themes and viewpoints. Interpretive themes need to include Native American culture and history, as well as underlying natural history themes. Themes should also address the significance of the lake and its irrigation water, and the local irrigation system's connection to historical and continuing agriculture in the area. The old ranch site and pond may have interpretive themes as well. Any themes need to be worked out with the MOA Partners and other interested parties.

OPRD should work with the Tribes, local school district and other educational groups, such as Wallowa Resources, to bring educational messages to visitors and school children in person. OPRD should also work with the MOA Partners and other interested parties to connect themes interpreted at this site with interpretation offered at other sites in the county and along the Hells Canyon All American Road scenic byway.

- **Heal the Land**

Changes to the site need to avoid ground disturbance as much as possible; and should involve oversight by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Tribes' Cultural Resource Programs, if any minor disturbance is needed for earthen trails, fence and sign posts, etc. Scars on the land need to be healed, including the existing service roads that are no longer needed or are excessively wide for trail use.

The grasslands especially suffer from weed infestations and other non-native grasses and forbs. Spalding's Catchfly, a listed Threatened and Endangered Species is found here and should be protected. Also, rare plants, and native and cultural plants need to be protected and enhanced. OPRD should prepare an action plan to address these issues in collaboration with the MOA Partners.

- **Partner with ODOT to Provide Parking for Larger Groups and Gatherings**

Currently, parking occurs along the highway adjacent to the Cemetery and across the highway from the State Heritage Site. OPRD, NPS and the Tribes should work with ODOT to provide parking in a way that is safe, provides for disabled access to the Cemetery and offers periodic parking for ceremonies and other events outside of the State Heritage Site.

- **Naming the State Heritage Site**

The site was commonly known as the Marr Ranch for many years, but was called by other names in its past, including traditional names used by the Tribes. OPRD committed to working with the Tribes and others to identify proposed names for the new State Heritage Site to be considered for adoption by OPRD. The name "Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site" was requested by the Tribes and adopted by the OPRD Commission to acknowledge the traditional Native American name for this area of the Wallowa Lake basin. Also under consideration was the Nez Perce name for the adjacent Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery, as a means of tying the sites together more completely.

- **Areas of Concern for the Future**

There are several areas adjacent to the State Heritage Site that are important to the protection of the scenic and historic setting of the site, or that could contribute to site



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management, staffing and supervision. These sites are all currently privately owned, but may become available for purchase in the future.

The visually sensitive parcels include the undeveloped parcel at the north end of the site and the undeveloped area on the east side of the highway. The adjacent privately owned parcel has topography that allow the construction of a trail for persons in wheelchairs from the NE trailhead to the viewpoint on the moraine.

Potential parcels to support site supervision and staffing include a possible home site purchase in the adjacent neighborhood, for staff housing, or some other home site close to the State Heritage Site.

## Resource Assessments and Site Suitability

The site has been surveyed in the last few years by several entities. These surveys include surface surveys for archeological resources, rare plants, plant communities and weed infestation occurrences. There are some known cultural resources, rare plants, wetland areas and areas of noxious weeds on the site, as well as riparian areas along the irrigation ditches. Follow up surveys have been completed this summer for rare native plants and weeds. Future inventories of cultural plants will be planned.

Archeological protocol will be agreed upon with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Tribes' Cultural Resource Programs, prior to changes to the site.

The presence of sensitive plant and animal species onsite is limited to discreet areas. Topography, wetlands, highway access and protecting the cultural, natural and scenic values of the site are the primary consideration for locating the trail system.

Constructing trails, bridges and trailheads may require wetland permits and potential mitigation, although routes and trail construction will be designed to avoid major impacts. Parking, trails and roads will largely be built on top of the existing grade to avoid potential impacts on archeological resources and will be unpaved where permitting allows. Toilet buildings, fence and sign posts and utility trenches will need to follow agreed upon archeological protocols prior to construction.

For these reasons, and to keep development away from the adjacent cemetery, the main trailhead and the local access will be proposed on the northern edge of the property.

Trails may follow portions of existing service roads to avoid additional disturbance, although needed service roads will be allowed to grow up as grassy lanes. In the initial phase, the trail will route from the northern trailhead and access back to the highway just north of the NPS boundary. The MOA Partners will explore the potential for a future trail connection across the NPS land and ditch company property to provide an unpaved, designated walking path to the north shore of the lake that can avoid the highway and direct visitors away from the dam and gravesites.

## Recreation Needs and Opportunities

Because this site is intended for the protection of the natural, cultural and historic setting and is only 61 acres in size, many recreational activities will not be appropriate here. Appropriate activities, those which complement the site's purpose, are limited to designated walking trails and interpretive activities such as reflecting on the history of the site, enjoying the viewpoints, wildlife viewing and general appreciation of the site. Off highway vehicle use, camping, lake and river access, and group activities that require buildings or other site alterations are not considered to be appropriate at this site and are

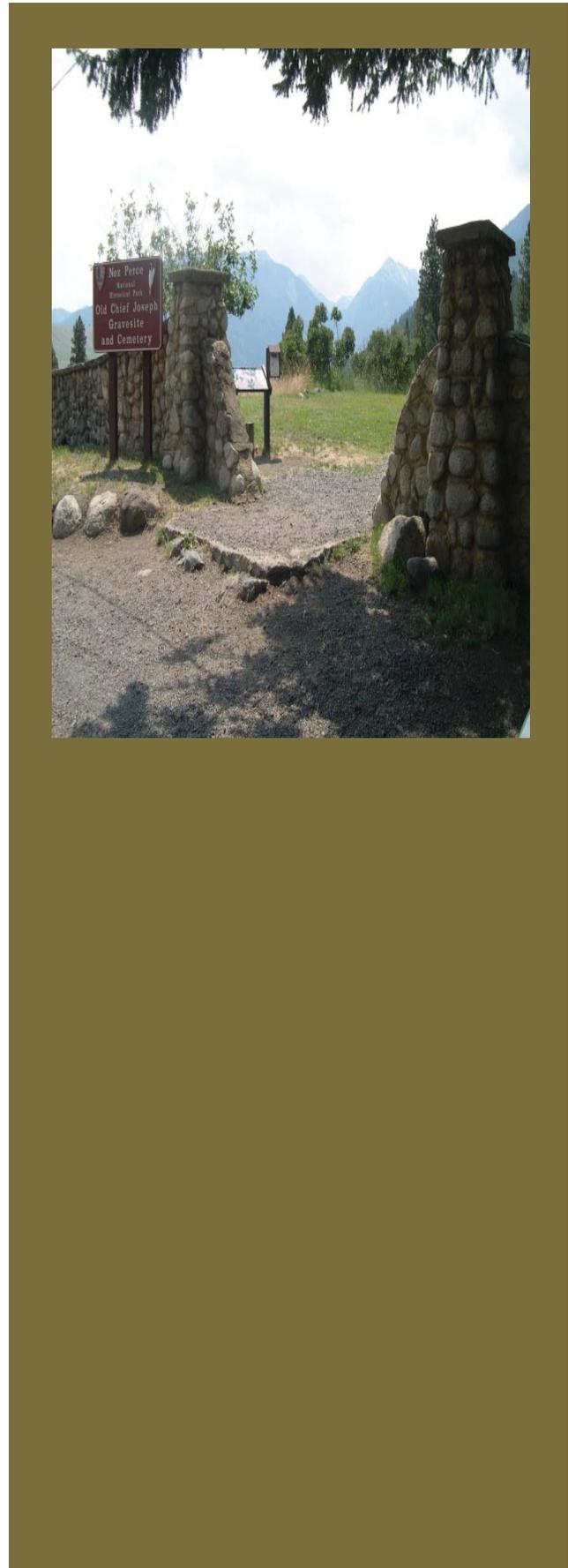
offered at other nearby sites such as the county lake access, Wallowa Lake State Park and other sites within the county. Horseback and bicycle riding have been found to not be appropriate for the State Heritage Site due to the short trail length (less than one mile) the small acreage, the heritage purpose of the site and erosive soils. Bicycles can travel around the site along the highway and use bike racks to park their bikes. The bike racks will be located at the NE trailhead and Main Street access, allowing cyclists to enjoy the site on foot.

## Interpretive Themes and Guidelines

Staff and consultants have begun to collect information to support the themes and subthemes that would build on the site's attributes. More theme development and media design work will be needed following this master plan. The purpose of the master plan is to identify important site attributes that characterize the unique qualities of this place. The plan also suggests what the interpretive themes might be as a basis for follow up work. More detailed interpretive planning, writing and design will be completed following master plan approval and leading up to the initial construction of outdoor interpretive exhibits. OPRD staff and consultants will collaborate with the MOA Partners and other interested parties to refine the following suggested topics and themes.

All of the themes will be selected and refined in collaboration with the MOA partners, to reflect a collective Tribal perspective, forces that shaped the land, the recent history of settlement at the site and the outstanding natural beauty of the area. Care will be taken to ensure that the themes interpreted at the State Heritage Site complement those at any other local, state or federal sites.

Initial funding is available for installation of orientation and interpretive panels at a northeast trailhead in the summer of 2009. No additional staffing is currently proposed for



Suggested main and supporting topics and story lines:

<b>The Tribal Experience</b>	<b>Shape of the Land</b>	<b>Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	<b>New Residents</b>
<u>Traditional Lifestyles</u>	<u>Formation of the Wallowas</u>	<u>Wallowa Flora</u>	<u>Explorers and Settlers</u>
Who lived here?	Geohistory of formation	Native grassland	Euro-American
Seasonal round		Wallowa forest	Settlement in the Valley
Customs	<u>Glacial History</u>	Plants on the site	Sockeye fishery
Traditional use of the site	Life & death of a glacier	Invasive/endangered	
Tribal sockeye fishery	Lake formation	Cultural plants	<u>Marr Ranch</u>
	Classic glacial remains		Owners/uses
<u>Old Chief Joseph</u>	Scenic value & land use	<u>Wallowa Fauna</u>	Relationship to town
		Historical Grazers	Local tales
<u>Young Joseph &amp; Ollieot</u>	<u>The Watershed</u>	Local deer	
	Tracing the river	Mountain dwellers	<u>Protecting the Site</u>
Three Tribes	Lake uses	Birds	A Unique Partnership
	Irrigation in the valley	Riparian/pond habitat	State Heritage Site
	The modern water story	Endangered species	Restoration Work
	Knight Pond	Fish	

this site. Stakeholders would likely see some appropriately-placed interpretive panels and markers, brochure-guided hikes, and potentially summer season staff or volunteer led hikes and iPod downloads.

**Initial Interpretive Evaluation**

OPRD has completed an initial Interpretive Assessment for the site. The following summary is taken from that document.

The natural qualities of this property, its history, and the exceptional setting make this a special place for interpreting a variety of themes.

Attributes include:

- Outstanding scenery, with great views of the grassland moraines, mountains and parts of this portion of the Wallowa Valley
- The classic Wallowa Lake/glacial moraine and geology
- Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa River
- Diverse and unique plants, animals, fish
- Rich cultural and historic background
- A landscape with spiritual meaning.

The potential for themes at this site is limited only by the restrictions placed on access, facilities, development and funding. The State Heritage Site has great potential for low-impact, yet high quality and meaningful interpretive and educational experiences.

There are many interpretive topics about this area that currently have not been illustrated much anywhere in the county. Some of the topics could be told at other OPRD sites, such as Wallowa Lake and Minam. The detailed Interpretive Plan and discussion process will sort out where best to interpret the themes.

**Topics and Themes**

An expression to capture the essence of the place as a primary theme may be:

*“The Wallowa country provides a bounty and beauty that inspires great passion in all who inhabit it.”*

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Topics and Statements to Consider for Future Theme Development

1. **Main Topic: The Tribal Experience**

**Theme:** To be developed with tribal input.

2. **Main Topic: Shape of the Land**

**Theme:** Massive physical forces fashioned the raw beauty of today's majestic mountain masterpiece.

**Supporting Topic: Formation of the Wallowas**

**Subtheme:** The building of the Wallowas unfolds as the birth of Oregon's landmass.

**Supporting Topic: Glacial History**

**Subtheme:** Wallowa Lake's tranquil beauty harbors a dramatic tale of the life and death of an alpine glacier.

**Supporting Topic: The Watershed**

**Subtheme:** Tracing a watershed is akin to pursuing the circle of life.

**Subtheme:** Protecting fish may help to protect the water so vital for Wallowa Valley life.

3. **Main Topic: Flora and Fauna**

**Theme:** The Rockies and Blues collide in a matchless array of life.

**Theme:** The abundance of the Wallowas supports prolific and diverse life.

4. **Main Topic: New Residents**

**Theme:** Newcomers reaped the wealth and reveled in the wonder of the Wallowas.

**Supporting Topic: Explorers and Settlers**

**Subtheme:** The Euro-American settlement of a bountiful land began a time of changing cultures and altered landscapes.

**Supporting Topic: Marr Ranch**

**Subtheme:** Stories from the ranch reveal the building of a community.

**Supporting Topic: A Unique Partnership**

**Subtheme:** State, federal and tribal governments combine their efforts to protect this place.

**Audiences**

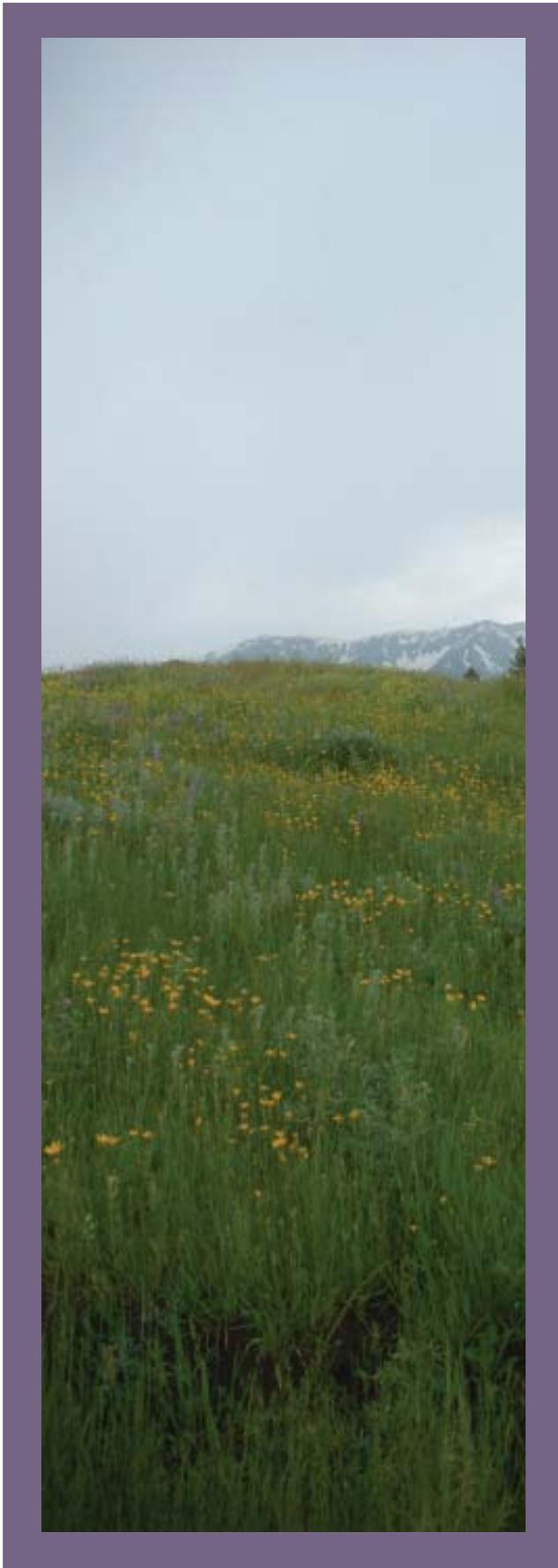
Additional work will be needed to identify the likely and targeted audiences for interpretation of the State Heritage Site. Traffic headed for the south end of the lake will pass by this site in the peak summer months. It will be important to understand how to introduce visitors to the State Heritage Site and its themes. This work will be done in cooperation with the MOA Partners and the county, as part of a larger interpretive analysis and will determine whether self-guided tours, guided tours and events are appropriate for this site.

**Routing and Gateways**

Stakeholder input and site constraints are directing the site experience toward the trailhead, and the trail access and connection sites, as well as key points along the trails where signs or markers can be appropriately placed to not intrude into the experience of the site. Interpretation will logically begin at the main trailhead with other themes told, with a lesser level of development at the Main Street access and trail stops. Low stature markers or small scale panels may be considered for viewpoints and at the locations of site features such as a ditch crossing. The exact locations, types and sizes of interpretive media will be worked out in the detailed Interpretive Plan.

**Suggested Initial Media**

Each of the proposed two trailheads offer an opportunity for orienting signage and some appropriately designed and placed interpretive signs. The location of each trailhead will lend itself to the telling of related interpretive themes. For example, the story of Euro-American settlement and use of the site as a ranch might



be most appropriate near where the former ranch barn and house were located.

For master planning purposes, the northeast trailhead will allow, at most, the following treatments in addition to general park directional signage:

- A covered interpretive sign structure or arbor with up to four interpretive panels or equivalent.
- Up to two panels for orientation and cultural context.
- Information to support any trail markers such as a brochure or I-pod connection.

At the south trail connection, in addition to general park directional signage:

- One panel for orientation and cultural context.

At the Main Street access:

- One panel for orientation and cultural context.
- Up to two interpretive panels or equivalent.

Note: Any additional panels could be provided with agreement by the MOA partners.

### **Potential Additional Interpretive Opportunities**

- Park website with interpretive information.
- Potential partnership panels on ditch company land, county park, city park.
- Additional panels at Wallowa Lake State Park and Minam, potentially addressing the geology, lake and natural history.

### **Pursue Volunteer Support**

To supplement the existing park staff the plan recommends that park management work with the MOA Partners and others to recruit and train volunteers to assist with onsite interpretation during high use days. Tribal members and staff participation should be sought.

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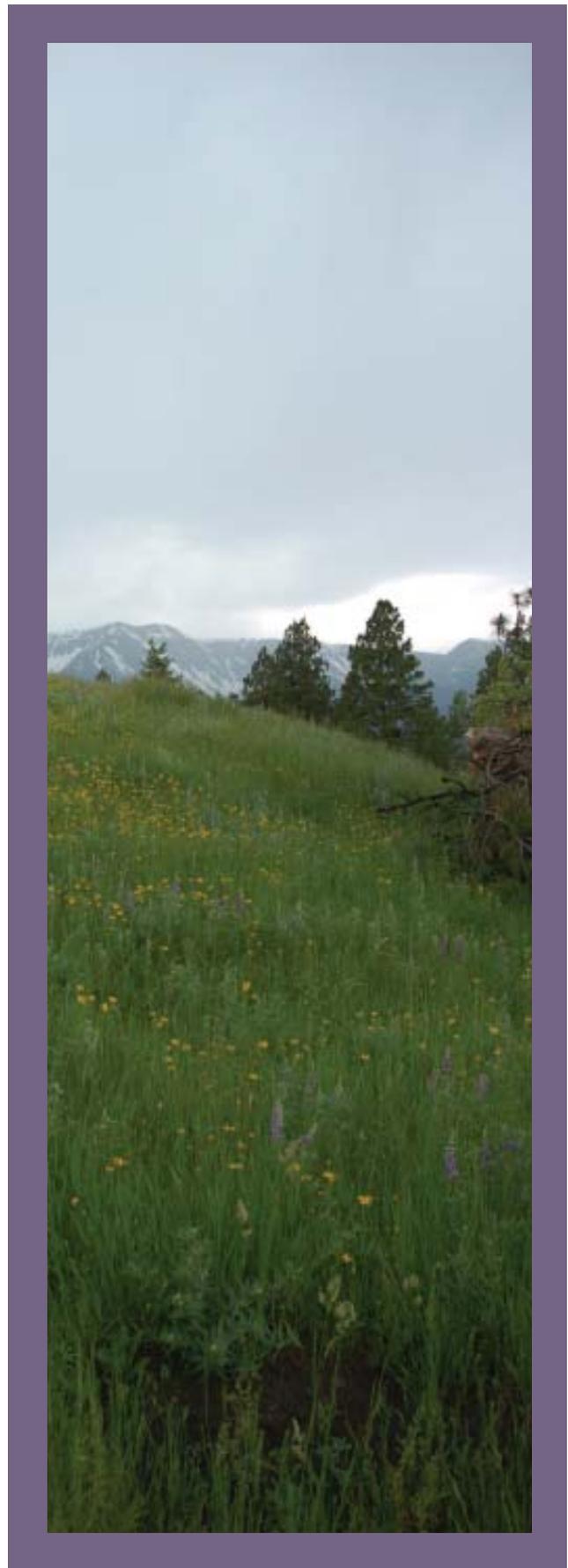
The department will continue to actively participate in and encourage more interpretive partnerships with the NPS, the Tribes, outdoor and environmental education organizations, nature groups, local historians, the school district and other interested parties for activities at the State Heritage Site that are consistent with the protection of and minimal impact on the land.

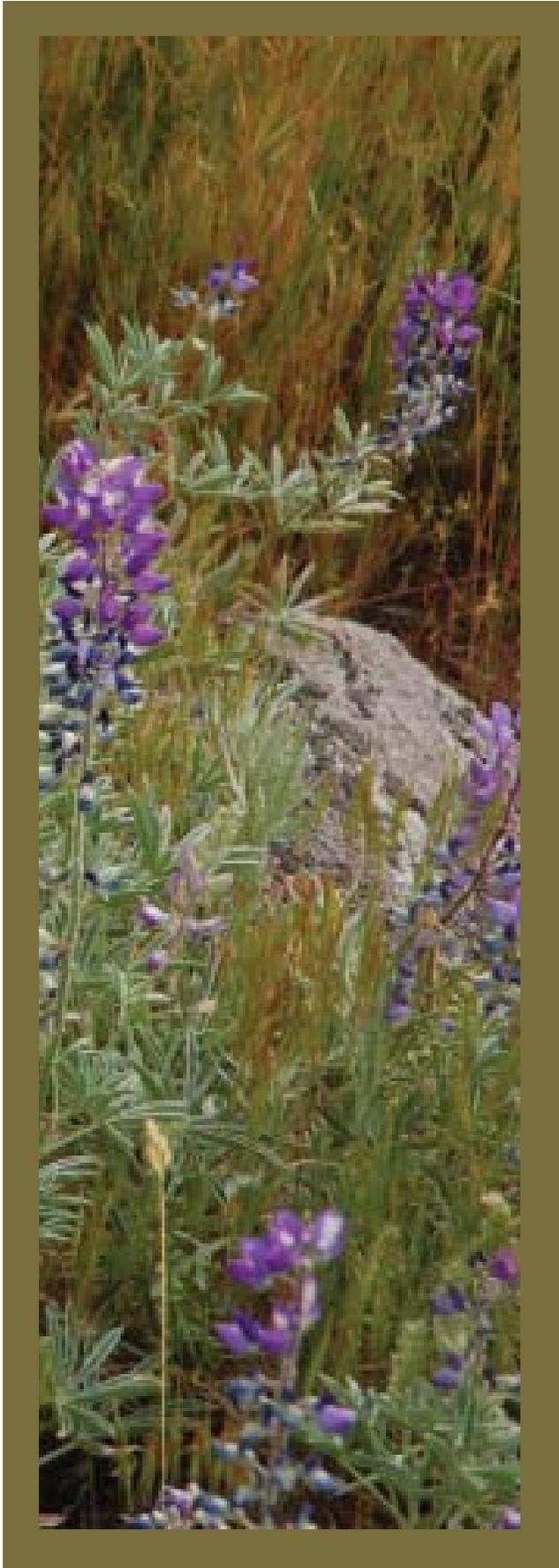
## Master Plan Site Development Summary

The planning area covered in this master plan includes the State Heritage Site property, the National Historical Park site (which includes both NPS and tribal trust lands of the cemetery), the ditch company lands and easements, Silver Lake and Farmers ditches, city easements, the state highway right of way, the upper Main Street neighborhood, the county lake access at the north end of Wallowa Lake, and the privately-owned, undeveloped parcel at the northeast corner of the site. The planning area and any proposed ideas for lands outside of the state-owned property are only concepts offered for discussion and do not imply that OPRD, or its MOA Partners, can make decisions about what will happen on lands owned by others.

The master plan Development Plan shows the proposed locations, types and maximum size of facilities to be considered for eventual construction within the State Heritage Site. All master plan proposals for the site require conditional use approval by Wallowa County prior to construction. OPRD will work with the MOA Partners to reach consensus on which proposals to develop further, and final design and implementation for those sites.

This plan proposes the future development of a primary highway access parking area and trailhead with related restrooms, drinking water, interpretive/ orientation signs, highway access and trail connections. It also calls for a local access with potential parking area and host site





at the end of upper Main Street; and a southern trail connection with signage and no parking. Finally, the plan calls for an appropriately placed and designed trail system that can offer an experience of different portions of the site and connect between the three trail accesses. At least one of the trails will be designed to be accessible by persons in wheelchairs. (See the following Development Plan and project matrix.) Improvements will likely be phased in over time. Any major changes to the concepts in this plan will require collaboration with the MOA Partners and an amendment of the plan and a repeat of the public involvement process, including Wallowa County approval of the amended plan.

### **Short-Term Development Proposal**

OPRD has funding to complete initial public access, trails and interpretive materials by July 2009. The plan proposes that the northeast trailhead parking, restrooms, signs and trail connections be built first. OPRD would attempt to also construct the disabled accessible trail in the initial phase. The Main Street access may be constructed at a later date, if funding is available and the facilities are deemed to be needed by OPRD in collaboration with the MOA Partners, the City of Joseph and Wallowa County.

### **County Lake Access Site, Ditch Company Parcel and ODOT**

There is potential for OPRD to work with the county and the ditch company, in the future, on providing some interpretive and parking opportunities at the north end of the lake. Augmenting, and possibly expanding somewhat, the existing parking there could provide off-highway, nearby parking for access to the Cemetery, future bike lanes and the State Heritage Site. This solution would allow space along the highway right-of-way for bike lanes. Grant funding could be pursued for the bike lanes and related ditch crossing bridge improvements.

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## Development Concepts

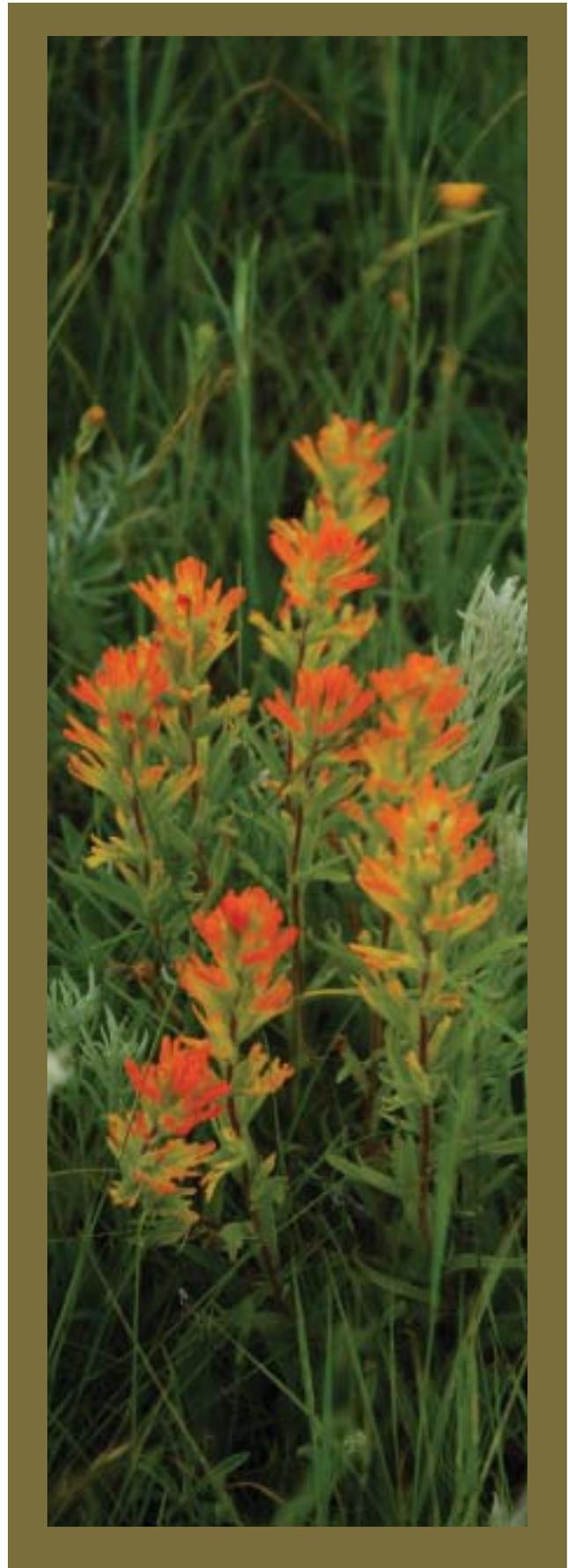
Development concepts are prepared for OPRD master plans to show the location, layout, maximum size and type of proposed facilities. This chapter describes and illustrates those facility development concepts. A matrix shows each proposed development project with related design standards and needed approvals for implementation.

OPRD is dedicated to providing facilities that are needed to support the intended purpose of the State Heritage Site and that will aid OPRD and its MOA partners in good management of the site. Designs are selected to complement important natural, cultural, historical and scenic resources and to be compatible with the neighborhood.

Each of the development concepts is intended to fit within the constraints of the site and the land use goals and ordinances, but should be flexible within those limits. Final project design may change somewhat as new information becomes available such as final highway access permitting, utility connections and the changing location of protected resources. OPRD will review preliminary and final designs with the MOA Partners and all applicable jurisdictions to ensure compliance with local, state, tribal and national codes and any agreements OPRD has entered into.

### General Design Parameters

- Any ground disturbance should be kept to a minimum.
- Local natural materials should be prevalent in the designs and structures. Pavement should be limited to areas required by permit, such as highway approach aprons.
- Park access areas will be placed as close to the park boundary as possible. Toilet buildings, parking and larger signs should be restricted to park access areas. Buildings and paving will involve the smallest foot prints that are possible for the intended use.

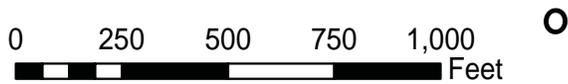


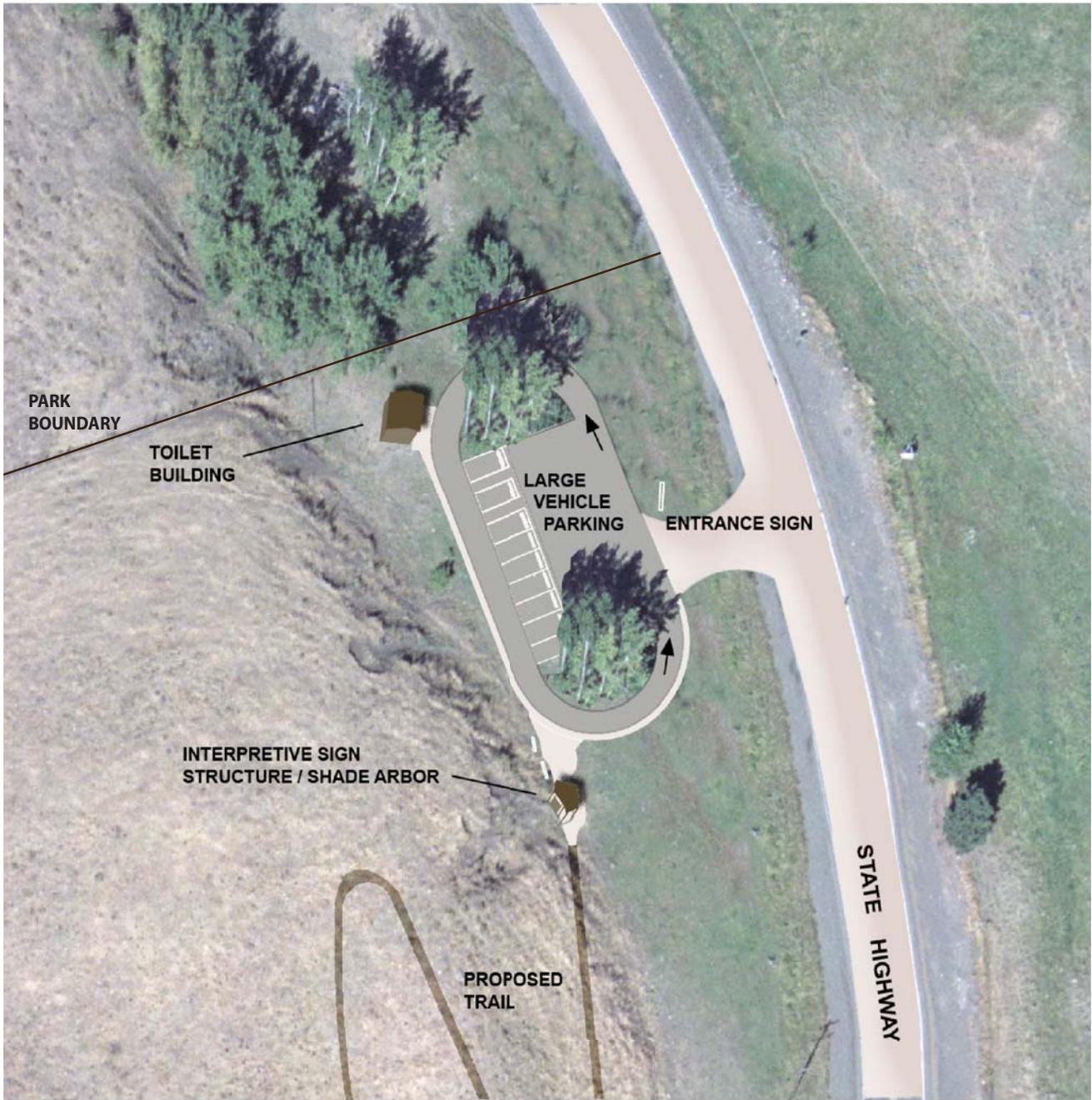
# Development Proposal Matrix

Development Project	Standards and Approvals	Phasing
<p><b>Northeast Trailhead:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New hwy access apron, paved.</li> <li>• Up to ten car parking spaces (including ADA spaces) &amp; two RV/bus spaces, unpaved.</li> <li>• Small toilet building</li> <li>• Drinking water fountain and bike rack</li> <li>• Up to four interpretive panels in a shade structure or arbor</li> <li>• Site sign &amp; approach signs</li> <li>• Up to two panels for orientation and cultural context.</li> <li>• Connection with trail system</li> <li>• Tree and grass plantings</li> <li>• Gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain development &amp; construction permits from Wallowa County.</li> <li>• Obtain highway access, right of way alternation &amp; sign permits from ODOT.</li> <li>• Review for any needed wetlands, rare plant or archeological surveys and permits.</li> <li>• Review with MOA partners.</li> </ul>	<p>Initial Phase: Construct basic access and parking from hwy, signs, restroom and kiosk with orientation sign.</p>
<p><b>Trail System:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpaved path between three accesses as shown in plan.</li> <li>• Trail between S. Hwy connection and Main St access will be ADA accessible, but unpaved and 3 feet wide.</li> <li>• Trail between NE Trailhead &amp; intersection with accessible trail: max 1.5 feet wide, with wide spots.</li> <li>• One pedestrian bridge over ditch.</li> <li>• Retain crossing for vehicular access.</li> <li>• Fence &amp;/or screen danger areas.</li> <li>• Markers or appropriate signs at identified interpretive stops.</li> <li>• Allow un-needed service roads to revegetate. Use native plants during restoration.</li> <li>• Potential wheelchair accessible trail from the NE trailhead through the adjacent parcel onto the moraine to the proposed viewpoint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain any needed development &amp; construction permits from Wallowa County.</li> <li>• Review for any needed wetlands, rare plant or archeological surveys and permits.</li> <li>• Coordinate pedestrian bridge placement &amp; design with the Silver Lake Ditch Company.</li> <li>• Review with MOA partners.</li> <li>• ADA trails will need to have a passing and resting area approximately every 600 feet. Exact locations will be determined in more detailed phases of site design.</li> </ul>	<p>Initial Phase: Full project, if it can be funded in the initial phase. If not, construct trail from NE trailhead to highway gate.</p>
<p><b>Main Street Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking for up to six cars, unpaved, as needed, including ADA spaces.</li> <li>• Small toilet building, as needed.</li> <li>• Drinking water fountain, as needed.</li> <li>• One orientation &amp; cultural context panel.</li> <li>• Up to two interpretive panels.</li> <li>• Retain or replace storage in kind.</li> <li>• Host site with sewer, water and electrical hookups and parking pad, as needed.</li> <li>• Repair Main Street bridge, as needed.</li> <li>• Gate.</li> <li>• Plant screening vegetation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain any needed development &amp; construction permits from Wallowa County.</li> <li>• Need access approval from city.</li> <li>• Review for any needed wetlands, rare plant or archeological surveys and permits.</li> <li>• Coordinate bridge improvements with Farmers Ditch Company.</li> <li>• Review with MOA partners.</li> </ul>	<p>Later Phase: Any of these project elements, as needed and funding is available.</p>
<p><b>South Trail Connection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One panel for orientation and cultural context.</li> <li>• Fence and/or other vehicle controls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain development &amp; construction permit from Wallowa County.</li> <li>• Obtain highway access permit for service and emergency access only.</li> <li>• Review for any needed wetlands, rare plant or archeological surveys and permits.</li> <li>• Review with MOA partners.</li> </ul>	<p>Initial Phase: Construct any of these elements, as funding is available.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove unneeded power poles, fencing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review with MOA partners and protocol.</li> </ul>	<p>Initial or Later Phase.</p>



**IWETEMLAYKIN STATE HERITAGE SITE  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**





CURRENT CONDITIONS SHOWING VIEW FROM HIGHWAY (LEFT) AND VIEW FROM TOP OF MORaine (RIGHT) OF PROPOSED TRAILHEAD



**NORTHEAST TRAILHEAD SITE PLAN  
IWETEMLAYKIN STATE HERITAGE SITE**





- Parking and trails will be unpaved, but may include “alternative” soil binders or other materials that provide a natural appearance that is harmonious with the native setting.
- Provide reasonable public parking and non-vehicular access and circulation for tourists and local residents.
- Facilities and trails will be designed in a manner that is understandable by the visiting public who will be finding their way through the State Heritage Site.
- Avoid adverse impacts on natural, cultural, historical and sacred, and scenic resources in or adjacent to the park.
- Present a facility appearance that is consistent with the larger setting, the purpose of the State Heritage Site, the natural and cultural resource values and the desired visitor experience.
- Provide alternatives for site visitors in where to go and what to do at the site.
- Take advantage of and protect views.
- Follow principles of sustainability in locating, orienting and designing park facilities. (Solar power, natural/local materials.)
- Follow principles of “universal access” in making site facilities and programs reasonably accessible to persons with disabilities.

## Follow Up Action Plans

There are a variety of action plans that OPRD will pursue, in collaboration with the MOA Partners, following approval of this master plan. These include:

1. **Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan:**  
The site has changed from its pre-Euro-American settlement appearance, including the addition of the irrigation ditches and their riparian corridors of trees and shrubs in what was once mostly open native grassland. The pond is a “newly” constructed feature. The

service roads, adjacent highway and adjacent town have changed the surroundings greatly. Early photos show that timbered areas have migrated down slope in “post-settlement” times. The site was largely bare of trees in the 1920s and 1930s, according to historical photographs. However, the topography and surrounding trees hide the neighboring developed areas and highway well from most views from within the site.

About half of the site still has a fair representation of the native, open grassland habitat that existed in earlier times, but now includes introduced plants of various types. The western portion of the site has more introduced species than the higher eastern portion. The riparian growth along the irrigation ditches is needed to hold the banks and cannot be expanded much without impairing the access for ditch maintenance, although some slope stabilization is needed within the ditch easements.

There are a number of objectives that call for a vegetation management plan, including:

- Fire prevention (intensive grazing, mechanical clipping or careful burns)
  - Protecting and enhancing rare and cultural plant species, unique to the moraine environment
  - Controlling invasive weeds
  - Healing grading scars with native plantings
  - Slope stabilization.
2. **Resolve Irrigation Ditch Related Easement and Access Concerns:**  
OPRD will coordinate with the MOA Partners and the ditch companies on related archeological constraints, safety issues, maintenance access and other concerns.
  3. **Agreements for emergency response, fire control and response and law enforcement:**  
Coordinate with Tribes on how to plan these actions in a way that can have no adverse

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impact on cultural resources on the site or on adjacent tribal trust lands. Work with the response partners to inform them about approaches for avoiding adverse impacts.

4. Schematic, preliminary and final site design.
5. Final interpretive planning.
6. Development Oversight and Archeological Supervision:  
OPRD will coordinate with the Tribes' Cultural Resource Programs when any ground disturbing activities are planned on the site, and may consider contracting with tribal cultural or archeological professional services for supervising ground disturbance and/or any additional archeological work that may be done.
7. Coordinate with MOA Partners on Potential Park Use Rule Changes (OAR & Administrative).

