



Héte'wits Wétes



Precious Lands Wildlife Area

The Nez Perce Tribe and the Bonneville Power Administration have entered into a cooperative agreement to protect and enhance wildlife habitat on approximately 16,286 acres in NE Wallow County, Oregon and SE Asotin County, Washington. The *Héte'wits Wétes* (Precious Lands) project was intended to partially mitigate for wildlife habitat losses resulting from construction of the four lower Snake River dams.

The Precious Lands project is specifically designed as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) but the public is allowed to use it as long as public use does not unduly impact wildlife habitats or populations. When entering the Precious Lands WMA all users are expected to understand and abide by the following rules approved by the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, Administrative Action #4, dated September 11, 2018.

1. This is a very remote area with rugged terrain. Please exercise caution while recreating in the area. Be aware of inherent dangers such as: large predators, rattlesnakes, ticks, inclement weather, and unstable footing. Always carry a first aid kit, extra food, and plenty of water.
2. ***Use of this property is at your own risk.*** The Nez Perce Tribe is not responsible for personal injury or damage to property or livestock.
3. The WMA is open year round for non-motorized recreational activities. Emergency closures may occur in response to resource needs or conditions such as extreme fire danger.
4. ***Unauthorized motor vehicles are not allowed on the property at any time.*** Landing of aircraft is prohibited except for emergency purposes. Access by foot, bicycle or stock is encouraged.
5. Horses, mules, and llamas are allowed under a “leave no trace” philosophy of management. ***Weed-free forage is required.***
6. Pack goats are expressly prohibited to protect native bighorn sheep herds from livestock diseases.
7. Camping is allowed not to exceed 7 consecutive days or 14 days total per month.
8. ***Campfires are not allowed during fire season*** (typically July 1 through October 31). Self-contained stoves are allowed for cooking.
9. Please remove any litter or waste you bring to the property. Human waste should be packed out or buried to a minimum 6 inches deep at least 200 feet from open water.
10. Hunting and fishing are allowed as follows:
 - a. Nez Perce tribal members may exercise treaty hunting, fishing, and gathering rights
 - b. Non-tribal hunters and anglers must follow all applicable state regulations and seasons.
 - c. ***All hunters and anglers are required to use non-lead ammunition and tackle*** to conserve native species and limit unintended lead exposure to fish and wildlife.
 - d. Commercial outfitting or guiding is not allowed.
11. Gathering of plant resources for commercial purposes is prohibited. Nez Perce Tribal members may traditionally harvest plants. All other users may collect small quantities of fruits or vegetation for immediate use but are asked not to dig or destroy any native plants while using the property.
12. ***Cutting of live trees is prohibited.*** Gathering of down and dead wood for immediate use is allowed but removal of firewood for home or commercial use is prohibited.
13. Removal or damage of cultural or historical resources is expressly prohibited by Federal law.
14. Please respect private property rights by staying within the boundaries of the Wildlife Area.

If you would like to learn more about the project, obtain maps, or report unique wildlife sightings please contact Angela Sondana, Precious Lands Project Leader at the Nez Perce Tribe, PO Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540 or 208-843-7372 or via e-mail at angelas@nezperce.org.

We hope you enjoy your visit to this unique piece of our natural and cultural heritage.

