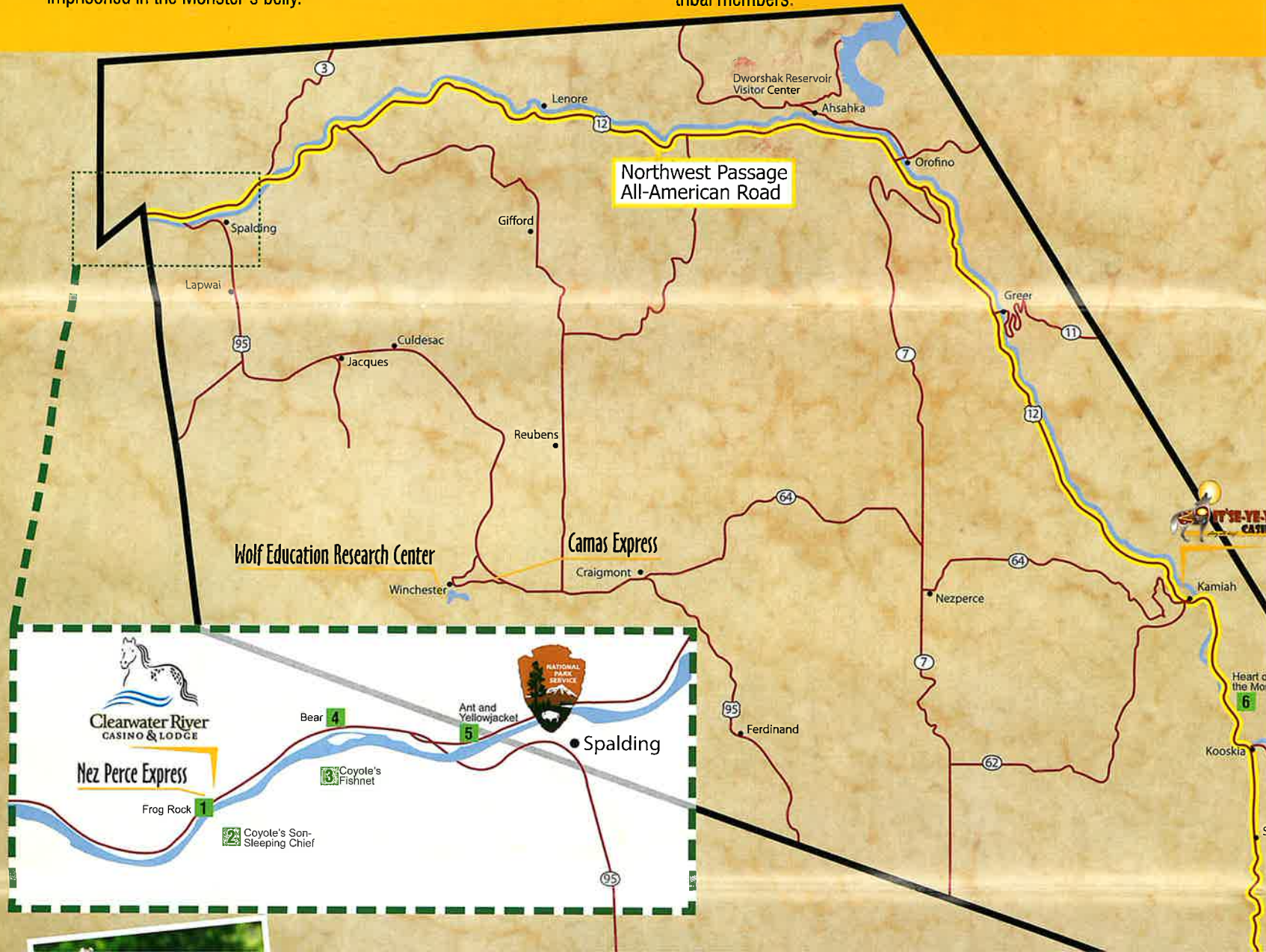


**Nez Perce Tribal Creation Story** tells how Coyote made the different people, including the Nez Perce, and how certain animals came to look as they do today. The story is told that without Coyote's cleverness in outwitting the monster, the people and animals today would still be imprisoned in the Monster's belly.

The physical and spiritual aspects of life are not separated in the Nez Perce religion. Dreams and legends of nature are part of an ongoing Nez Perce faith. Stories tell of creations, good, evil and how to act in the world. If you take the time to listen, you can hear many of these stories being told by tribal members.





1



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**Frog Rock (MS.Frog)** and Crawdad came out of the river and climbed up on the hillside to go bathe in the sun. Coyote told them to get back into the water. Ms. Frog did not listen. Coyote told Ms. Frog again to get back into the water, Frog didn't listen. After the third time of Coyote's warning, Ms. Frog was dried up by the sun and turned into stone. Ms. Frog can still be seen as you face north from the Nez Perce Express fuel station.

2



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**Coyote's Son-Sleeping Chief** Coyote and grew then opened up and out came a baby boy. Coyote loved this baby. One day Coyote goes out to get wood and leaves the baby with his siblings, when he returns he finds that his baby had died. Very sadly, Coyote says, "my son was going to be a chief, I must lay him down to rest in some good place." Coyote then took his baby boy to the top of the hill and laid him to rest.

4



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**Bear** was being a glutton and eating all of the salmon in the river and no food was making its way upstream to feed the people. Coyote warned bear to share the food. Bear was too greedy and didn't listen so he was turned into stone.

5



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**Ant & Yellowjacket** is a basaltic rock outcrop formation that sits just above U.S. Highway 12 approximately 9 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho.

According to Nez Perce Indian legend, the stone arch up the hill was once two fighting insects. Ant and Yellowjacket had an argument about who had the right to eat dried salmon along the Clearwater river.

Fighting fiercely, they failed to notice Coyote, the all-powerful animal spirit. Even when he ordered them to stop, they kept on struggling. For not heeding his warning, Coyote turned them to stone while their backs were arched and their jaws locked together in combat.

6



© P

7



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**White Bird Battlefield** is about 15 miles south of Grangeville, Idaho, between U.S. Highway 95 and the old White Bird Grade approximately a half mile from the town of White Bird, Idaho.

The first battle of the Nez Perce War was fought at White Bird Battlefield on June 17, 1877. Captain David Perry planned to stop the Indians from crossing the Salmon River to safety. No Indians were killed.

8



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**Big Hole National Battlefield** on August 9, 1877 gun shots shattered a chilly dawn on a sleeping camp of Nez Perce. Colonel John Gibbon and 163 men of the 7th Infantry and 34 Bitterroot Volunteers had orders to stop the non-treaty Nez Perce and return them to Idaho. The nearly 800 Nez Perce men, women, and children had fled their native lands when being forced onto a smaller reservation.

9







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**Coyote's Son-Sleeping Chief** Coyote and grew then opened up and out came a baby boy. Coyote loved this baby. One day Coyote goes out to get wood and leaves the baby with his siblings, when he returns he finds that his baby had died. Very sadly, Coyote says, "my son was going to be a chief, I must lay him down to rest in some good place." Coyote then took his baby boy to the top of the hill and laid him to rest.



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**Coyote's Fishnet** is a legend site along the Clearwater River about 7 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho.

Coyote, the all-powerful animal spirit, was having a good time fishing until Black Bear, the busybody, began to tease him. Finally Coyote could not take it anymore and tossed his huge fishnet onto the hills across the Clearwater River. Then Coyote threw Bear on the opposite hill and turned him to stone.



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**Heart of the Monster** is located east of Kamiah, Idaho. An audio interpretive shelter tells of the importance of "Coyote and the Monster" legend and the creation of the Nez Perce tribe.

Since time immemorial, the Nez Perce, or Nimiipuu, the people, have lived in the Kamiah Valley. Before the time of the people, in an epic struggle, coyote killed a monster. The monster's remains were scattered across the known world to become various Indians tribes. In the Kamiah Valley, his drops of blood became the Nimiipuu.



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**Bear Paw Battlefield** Located 16 miles south of Chinook, Montana on Highway 240, the battlefield commemorates the final conflict of the Nez Perce War of 1877. Following the breakout of war in Idaho, nearly 800 Nez Perce spent a long and arduous summer fleeing U.S. Army troops first toward Crow allies and then toward refuge in Canada. Forty miles short of the Canadian border and following a five-day battle and siege, the Nez Perce ceased fighting on October 5th, 1877, in which Chief Joseph gave his immortal speech: "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."