



Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Visioning and Partnering for the Future

# Long-Range Planning Efforts Announced

Dear Visitors and Partners,

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail announces the start of a long range, comprehensive planning effort and invites your participation. The National Park Service (NPS) has begun developing a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the Trail that will guide future administration and management of the Trail for the next 15-20 years. This process provides a chance to look at long range goals and issues, and develop a vision for future opportunities and desired conditions along the Trail. This plan will help to guide us in how we preserve, interpret, and use the Trail's resources while working within the framework of law and policy. As part of the CMP process, the NPS is inviting all interested parties to provide insight on the how the NPS will operate as the administrator of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

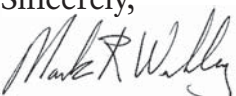
Building on past successes, it is important to note that a critical aspect of this process will be the involvement of the public who have ideas and insights on how the NPS can best work with all interested groups, agencies, tribes and individuals. The partnership component of this Trail is essential to the operation and day-to-day management of Trail resources. It is my hope that through active public engagement we will not only create a plan that helps the NPS achieve its full potential, but also one that engages new partners to help guide us as the plan is implemented in the coming years. With your help, the planning process for the CMP will explore what range of resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time.

There will be several opportunities to provide your ideas and comments. Please review this newsletter and provide input on the enclosed comment form. We will hold public meetings this summer, as we visit at least one location in each state along the Trail and ask for your thoughts and ideas. Even if you cannot attend one of these meetings, you will be able to provide input and keep up-to-date on the process through our website dedicated to this project. We encourage you to provide comments directly on the planning website located at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lecl>.

Other formal opportunities to provide comments will occur during the alternatives review phase of the process and following the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please keep in mind that we welcome your input at any time during the planning process.

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you this summer out on the Trail or at one of our public meetings.

Sincerely,

  
Superintendent



Oregon • Washington • Idaho • Montana • North Dakota • South Dakota • Iowa • Nebraska • Kansas • Missouri • Illinois

# Planning for the Future

## for Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

The process of identifying issues and opportunities for the Trail began in the fall of 2009 by assembling a planning team, mapping out a process and reviewing existing information. The next step is gathering public input on issues and opportunities that affect the future of the Trail.

Planning for the future of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is a decision-making process, and comprehensive management planning is the broadest level of decision-making for national trails. Developing a comprehensive plan for the future of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will involve engaging all of the many stakeholders who are invested in the future of the Trail. Management plans are required for all national trails and are intended to set the Trail's management direction for the next 15 to 20 years.

The Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is being coordinated by a core team of Trail staff and NPS planning professionals. Participation by the Trail staff, partners, neighbors, and the general public in this decision-making process will be crucial to creating a successful plan. Planning in the national park system is organized around three primary questions:

### WHY was this trail established?

Answers to WHY this Trail was established form the foundation for the plan. All concepts and actions in the plan must be consistent with this foundation because it is based on legislation and National Park Service policy. For Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the planning foundation includes Purpose and Significance Statements, Fundamental Resources and Values, and Primary Interpretive Themes that are presented in draft in this newsletter. Your comments will help us refine these statements. The planning team will refer to the final planning foundation to direct and test each step of the plan as it progresses. Park managers will use the foundation statements to help make operational decisions long after the plan itself is completed.

### WHAT is the vision for the future of this trail?

Developing a vision for the Trail's future is the primary role of the comprehensive management plan. It is on this step that the planning team spends the most time and where your ideas and comments are the most important. The Comprehensive Management Plan looks years into the future and considers the Trail in its full ecological and cultural context and as part of the surrounding regions through which it travels. Several possible visions for the Trail's future (called alternatives) are developed and analyzed before a preferred direction is selected. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables us to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of one course of action over another, and provide the sound approach to decision-making required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

### HOW do we accomplish our vision for the future?

Although it may be necessary in some cases to include specific actions in the Comprehensive Management Plan, most HOW questions will be answered in future implementation plans. For example, the desired conditions to be achieved for the Trail's natural and cultural resources will be described in the Comprehensive Management Plan, but specific actions to manage resources will be identified in resource management plans and through subsequent agreements with land owners and land managers. Overall goals and conditions to be met by the Trail's interpretive and educational programs will be established in the CMP, but specific themes and required media or other facilities will be detailed in a separate interpretive plan. Any current implementation plans for the Trail will be evaluated and revised as necessary to be consistent with the new Comprehensive Management Plan.

# Draft Foundation Statement

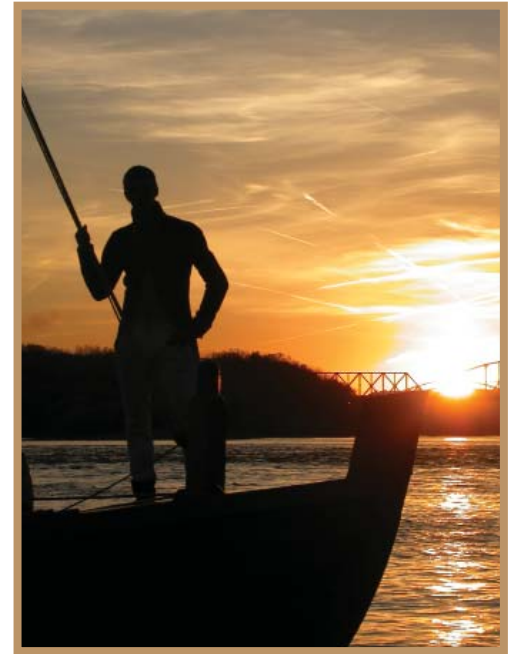
As we begin developing a CMP for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, it is important to affirm our understanding of Congress' intent in establishing this Trail, and to confirm the importance of this historic event and associated locations to the nation's natural and cultural heritage. We do this in a set of purpose and significance statements that are derived from the Trail's enabling legislation, legislative history and other special designations. These statements supplement the many laws, regulations and policies that govern the national park system.

Purpose statements represent the reasons the Trail was established and come directly from the Trail's

enabling legislation and other laws. Purpose statements help reinforce the foundation for future Trail management, administration and use, and provide a rationale against which all proposed actions can be measured. Purpose statements help visitors, cooperating agencies, partners, Trail community members, and other users to understand the framework in which National Park Service employees make decisions.

Significance statements describe the Trail's distinctive nature and help to place it in its regional, national, and international context. Defining significance helps managers and administrators make decisions and focus their efforts and funding on preserving the

resources and values necessary to accomplish the Trail's purpose.



## Preliminary Purpose Statement:

The purpose of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is to commemorate the 1804-1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition for the purposes of interpretation, identification, preservation, public use and enjoyment, and protection of historic, cultural and natural resources associated with the significance of this event and its place in American and Tribal history.

## Preliminary Significance Statements:

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail commemorates the 1804-1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition that explored the lands of the Louisiana Purchase and beyond. This was an epic journey that resulted in profound scientific, political, social, economic, and environmental impacts on individuals within the North American continent, including tribal populations.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail identifies the historic route where this event took place and provides opportunities for preservation, understanding, and further study of the expedition and its subsequent outcomes.

Certain segments of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail retain characteristics and a sense of place as seen and experienced by the original expedition and continue to provide opportunities for similar experiences today.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail links contemporary communities and tribes whose historic connections span countless generations to the places associated with the 1804-1806 expedition. The Trail provides the opportunity to demonstrate the continuum of human history in these same locations and the subsequent relationships that developed between multiple cultures as a direct result of this event.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail provides recreation opportunities for visitors to experience connections to the historic event.



# Preliminary Fundamental Resources and Values:

Fundamental resources and values are closely related to the Trail's designated purpose and warrant primary consideration in planning and management, because they are critical to maintaining the Trail's purpose and significance. If these resources or values are allowed to deteriorate or be lost, the purpose and/or significance of the Trail could be jeopardized. Following are draft fundamental resources and values.

**Commemoration of the expedition through the information contained within the collective journals** of the Corps of Discovery describe the careful planning and execution of this expedition and document in detail, as required by President Thomas Jefferson; the rivers, plants, animals, geology, geography, scenery, sounds, smells, climate, weather, and indigenous people of the Louisiana Purchase and other points west to the mouth of the Columbia River.

The journals record poignant human stories of survival and perseverance and chronicle how the human diversity of the Corps of Discovery and its diplomatic relationships with Indian nations contributed to the successful completion of the mission.

The journals serve as a resource for present day researchers and provide a look into America's military, economic, political, and social agenda as a young nation asserting its authority and exploring its limits.

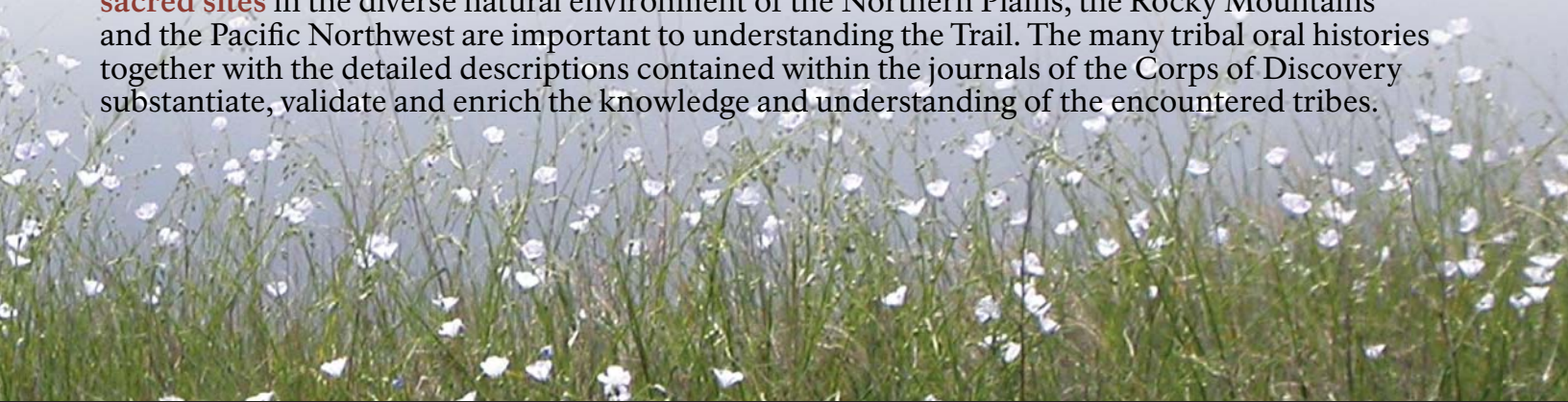
**Lewis and Clark described the landscapes, geology, and other unique features along the route** including hundreds of plant and animal species, not previously identified for science.

Today the Missouri, Clearwater, and Columbia Rivers, their watersheds, and the overland routes across the Rocky Mountains have changed, however, the natural resources and ecosystems that remain intact are fundamental to the experience of this Trail. These complex resources are critical to providing the context within which modern visitors experience the Trail and the story of Lewis and Clark.

**The historic route of the Corps of Discovery, both by water and by land**, symbolizes an active Manifest Destiny policy of the Continental United States. The expedition initiated unprecedented settlement and development of the Northern Plains, the Rocky Mountains, and the Pacific Northwest. Much of the Trail route passes through numerous Indian homelands and is where many initial contacts were made between tribal populations and the Corps of Discovery Expedition.

The present day route provides opportunities to experience and visualize the immensity of this mission and the arduous aspects of the journey; the changing landscapes, the diversity of the plant and animal species and the sophistication, variety, and extent of tribal nations.

**Today the tribal cultures, languages, communities, cultural landscapes, place names, and sacred sites** in the diverse natural environment of the Northern Plains, the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest are important to understanding the Trail. The many tribal oral histories together with the detailed descriptions contained within the journals of the Corps of Discovery substantiate, validate and enrich the knowledge and understanding of the encountered tribes.



# Preliminary Primary Interpretive Themes:

Primary interpretive themes are the most important stories, concepts, and ideas communicated to the public about the Trail. They are the core of all educational programs and media provided to visitors. From these themes visitors can form intellectual and emotional connections with Trail resources and experiences.

## Growth of a Young Nation

Leaving Wood River, the Corps of Discovery set out on a military expedition into unfamiliar land to find the most direct water route to the Pacific Ocean for the purpose of commerce for the young country. The members of the expedition, diverse in their cultures, experiences and skills, explored the vast land and lived off its resources for 28-months, while adapting to the new conditions. During the epic journey they discovered the rich potential for fur trading in the Upper Missouri area, identified and suggested locations for military posts and gathered geographic and scientific data.

## Documenting Observations of Natural Science

The Corps of Discovery made detailed and meticulous note of natural environs, documenting the diversity and uniqueness of the plants and animals, the weather, natural cycles and the vitality of the natural world. Through their diligent documentation we can compare their scientific studies to the current conditions while capturing remnant visions of the past.

## Encountering Indigenous Peoples

The Lewis and Clark Expedition initiated diplomatic relationships with Indian nations. They traded with, learned from, and depended on friendly relations with over 50 tribes throughout the course of the journey. The American Indians they encountered had been living on the land for thousands of years and had complex societal, political, economic, and spiritual structures in place. The American Indians shared their food, knowledge, and skills with the Corps of Discovery, thus ensuring the successful completion of their mission.

## Unity through History

The Lewis and Clark Expedition marks a significant time in our nation's history. Some call it an epic event leading to the prosperous growth of a young nation while others characterize it as having huge disruptive impacts on the viable and rich indigenous cultures. Listening to each other with respect, our nation can unite through the understanding of the multiple perspectives of our collective history.

## Traces of the Past Observed Today

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail provides opportunities to glimpse our past, learn from our history, visit Tribal Nations, and explore remnants of the landscape that was observed by both our tribal ancestors and the Corps of Discovery.





# Public Meetings

We invite you to attend public meetings during the months of August and September of 2010. Please see last page of this newsletter for meeting location addresses and times.

We will provide other opportunities for you to share your ideas, ask questions and voice your concerns. We encourage you to visit the Planning, Environment and Public Comment

(PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lecl>, where you may also send us your comments electronically.



Share your comments at:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lecl>



# The Planning Process



Step and Timeframe	Planning Activity	Participation Opportunities
<b>1. Fall 2009 - Winter 2010</b>	<b>Project Startup</b> Assemble planning team, outline preliminary issues and concerns, map out process, and gather data.	Ask to be added to the project mailing list.
<b>2. Spring - Summer 2010</b>	<b>Identify Project Context</b> Reaffirm why the Trail was established, purpose and significance, provide opportunities for public input regarding long range visions for the Trail and continue to gather data.	Read Newsletter #1. Provide the planning team your ideas and comments. Attend public meetings.
<b>3. Fall 2010-Spring 2011</b>	<b>Analyze Data and Develop Preliminary Alternatives</b> Based on data gathered, staff and public input, develop a range of possible alternative futures for the Trail.	Read Newsletter #2. Visit the project website. Read what the public has to say about the future of the Trail.
<b>4. Summer 2011</b>	<b>Present Alternatives for Public Feedback</b> Solicit input from the public and partners on possible options for desired future conditions along the Trail.	Read Newsletter #3. Visit the project website. Review preliminary alternatives and provide comments.
<b>5. Fall 2011 - Spring 2013</b>	<b>Prepare and Publish the Draft Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</b> Adjust alternatives based on public input and then analyze potential impacts of proposed actions on the human environment including, cultural and natural resources, visitor experience and opportunities and socioeconomic conditions. A Draft Plan will be published and distributed for public review and comment.	Read the draft plan and send us your ideas and comments. Attend public meetings.
<b>6. Summer 2013 - Summer 2014</b>	<b>Publish Final Comprehensive Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</b> Revise and adjust draft plan based on public and internal review, comments and environmental analysis.	Read the Final Plan. Join or establish a Trail Partnership.
<b>7. Fall 2014</b>	<b>Publish Record of Decision and Implement Plan</b> Following the publication of a "Record of Decision," Trail staff and partners will begin implementing plan elements.	Join or establish a Trail Partnership and get out on the Trail to enjoy it. Implement a project and make a difference!

# Comment Form

This comment form provides an opportunity to provide your input regarding specific issues and opportunities along the Trail as well as to provide additional information that will be helpful for the National Park Service to consider as we prepare this long range plan.

For your comment to be considered, we require that you include your name and address. Please note that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made public. You may request that we withhold your personal information from public review. Though we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so, we will make every effort to honor your request.

**Answer these questions online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lecl>**

**or mail to: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, CMP, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102**

1. What do you value most about Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and is the Trail important to you?
2. How do you experience the Trail and what experiences would you like to have along the Trail?
3. Imagine you are visiting Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail 20 years from now. What do you think the Trail should look like in the future? How can we relate today to this historic event, cultures, the past landscape setting and related stories from over two hundred years ago?
4. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is over 3,700 miles long and there may be some segments, or locations that are special to you or that you have concerns about. Please describe those places and your concerns. If you have photographs of these same places please include in your comments, the name, location, and GPS coordinates, if known, of each photo along with a brief description of why this location is special.



# Comment Form

5. What do you think are the most important issues affecting the Trail and the long term preservation, use and enjoyment of this resource and associated resources?

6. How would you define “where” the Trail is located and “what” makes the Trail a National Historic Trail?

7. How should the National Park Service administer the Trail?

8. Are there any other issues or concerns the National Park Service should address in this plan?

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Name:

Address:

E-mail:

☐ Please add me to your mailing or e-mail list so that I may receive future news.

Comments due on or before October 30, 2010

# Studying the Eastern Legacy

A separate planning process from the CMP is currently underway for studying the Eastern Legacy sites. In 2008, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to assess the suitability and feasibility of adding the Eastern Legacy sites, associated with the preparation or return phases of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, to the existing National Historic Trail. Funding was provided for the Eastern Legacy study this year and the process is expected to take three years to complete.

Once the study is completed, Congress will determine what, if any, action it will take regarding the possible extension of this National Historic Trail. Throughout this separate planning process the public will have opportunities to provide suggestions and give comments. As information and links are made available regarding the Eastern Legacy study, they will be provided on the Trail homepage: [www.nps.gov/lecl](http://www.nps.gov/lecl). If you are interested, please stay tuned for further information regarding this study.







National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha NE 68102

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

# Public Meetings

## Monday, August 9 Chamberlain, SD

AmericInn Lodge  
Moose Lodge Room  
7:00-8:30 PM  
1981 East King Street  
Chamberlain, SD 57325

## Wednesday, September 8 Pasco, WA

Sacajawea State Park  
7:00-8:30 PM  
2503 Sacajawea Park Road  
Pasco, Washington 99301

## Wednesday, September 15 Hartford, IL

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site  
7:00-8:30 PM  
One Lewis and Clark Trail  
Hartford, IL 62048

## Tuesday, August 10 Bismarck, ND

North Dakota Heritage Center  
7:00-8:30 PM  
612 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

## Thursday, September 9 Portland, OR

The Oregon Historical Society  
7:00-8:30 PM  
1200 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205

## Tuesday, September 28 Sioux City, IA

Sioux City Lewis and Clark  
Interpretive Center  
7:00-8:30 PM  
900 Larsen Park Road  
Sioux City, IA 51103

## Sunday, August 1 Lewiston, ID

Clearwater River Resort  
1:00-4:00 PM  
17500 Nez Perce Road  
Lewiston, ID 83501

## Tuesday, August 24 Billings, MT

Western Heritage Center  
7:00-8:30 PM  
2822 Montana Avenue  
Billings, MT 59101

## Monday, September 13 Kansas City, KS

Kansas City Main Library  
7:00-8:30 PM  
625 Minnesota Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66101

## Wednesday, September 29 Omaha, NE

Lewis and Clark National  
Historic Trail Headquarters  
7:00-8:30 PM  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

## Monday, August 2 Spalding, ID

Nez Perce National Historical Park  
7:00-8:30 PM  
39063 U.S. Highway 95  
Spalding, ID 83540-

## Wednesday, August 25 Helena, MT

Montana Historical Society  
7:00-8:30 PM  
225 North Roberts Street  
Helena, MT 59620

## Tuesday, September 14 Jefferson City, MO

John G. Christy Municipal Building  
7:00-8:30 PM  
320 E. McCarty Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

