

RIDGELINES

The newsletter of the Northern Rockies Chapter of the Sierra Club • 2002 • Issue 1

Protecting the Lands Explored by Lewis and Clark 1805 - 1905 - 2005



- **Saving the Salmon**
- **Guarding the Grizzly**
- **Protecting Wild Forests**

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Protecting the Lands Explored by Lewis and Clark 1805 - 1905 - 2005

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The Sierra Club's grassroots advocacy has made it America's most influential environmental organization. Founded in 1892, we are now more than 700,000 members strong. The Northern Rockies Chapter covers Idaho and eastern Washington, and is comprised of five groups: Upper Columbia River, Palouse, Middle Snake, Sawtooth, and Eastern Idaho.

Our Mission is to:

- Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;
- Practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
- Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and
- Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

To find out more about us and our work, visit our web page www.sierraclub.org. For more information about the Northern Rockies Chapter, see www.idaho.sierraclub.org.

A special thanks to John and Ann Klekas for their fine work in uncovering the Lewis & Clark stories from 1805 and 1806.

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Protecting Wild America

By John Osborn, MD Conservation Chair, Northern Rockies Chapter, Sierra Club

The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial will be a major event for America, perhaps second only to the July 4, 1976 celebration marking the Declaration of Independence and birth of the United States. We intend that America commemorate the Lewis & Clark expedition by protecting and restoring lands and waters, and saving species from extinction.

The Lewis & Clark trail stretches across a continent: starting on the front steps of Monticello, north to Philadelphia and then down the Ohio River, through the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, up the Missouri and down the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean.

The Corps of Discovery rendezvoused near St. Louis on the Mississippi and launched boats up the Missouri in May, 1804. After nearly 15 months, on August 12, the Corps of Discovery stood on a continental divide between two great rivers: the Missouri flowing east, and a new (to them) river flowing west. They drank of this cold clean water, tributary to the great river of the American West: the Columbia.

Lewis & Clark, Sacagawea, and the entire Corps of Discovery in taking those steps, walked from the waters of the Missouri to the Columbia, and entered a river of life. Sixteen million wild salmon yearly pulsed these wild forests and deserts, returning home to natal streams, spawning, and in their death renewing a cycle of life. Here too were great forests and clean waters that were home to caribou, grizzly bears, lynx, trout, and sturgeon. The Corps of Discovery recorded 178 plants and 122 animals new to science and described and befriended the Indian cultures that depended on the yearly return of the salmon.

After Lewis & Clark came successive waves of Euro-Americans: fur traders, Christian missionaries, the U.S. Army, homesteaders, miners, and builders of railroads and dams. To be sure, great cities and towns emerged in the wilderness. The West's mineral and natural resources have been exploited producing great wealth (often for a few). But what about the cost? Taxpayers continue to pay dearly for Congress's antiquated laws frozen in time, notably the 1872 Mining Law and 1864 Northern Pacific railroad land grant. And viewed from the perspective of the natural world, the environmental cost in the wake of Lewis & Clark has been cataclysmic.

Lewis and Clark encountered neither a single clearcut nor logging road. Now there are thousands of clearcuts and hundreds of thousands of miles of logging roads. 200 years ago the landscape

was entirely wild. Now the wildness is a life-sustaining archipelago in a sea of forest destruction.

200 years ago the waters of the Columbia flowed pure and teemed with fish. No longer. Today the major tributaries of the Upper Columbia River are polluted with millions of tons of toxic mine wastes. The Spokane River Basin in Idaho and eastern Washington, and Clark Fork in Montana are the nation's two largest Superfund cleanups.

Lewis & Clark found the Columbia River alive with salmon. Where once rushing spring freshets carried young salmon out to sea, now the "river" is a series of slow-moving slackwater reservoirs. Where Lewis & Clark canoed free flowing waters on the Snake River, today the river has been stilled by four dams. These four lower Snake River dams form a channel of death for the young salmon: four blockages requiring urgent bypass "surgery" to prevent extinction.

How we commemorate Lewis & Clark is shaped by the realities of our times and our moral values. 100 years after the explorers, Portland commemorated Lewis & Clark with a world's fair trumpeting industrial themes. 200 years after Lewis & Clark the Columbia River is sick and dying. The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial will occur at the same time a wave of extinction threatens to wash over the Columbia River watershed. This convergence provides America with a stark choice.

The Sierra Club has a multi-year campaign to protect the wild America of Lewis & Clark. "This is the premier land preservation and restoration opportunity that Americans are going to have in the first decade of the 21st century," noted Carl Pope, the Sierra Club's executive director, at the campaign's public unveiling.

Although many organizations will participate in the Bicentennial, the Sierra Club is the one organization that has the stature, volunteers, and professional staff resources to carry out a national campaign to protect the lands explored by Lewis & Clark. So it was in 1996 that I approached the Sierra Club's Northern Rockies Chapter to advocate a national campaign.

We have a moral duty and legal obligation to take action. For America to commemorate the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial by allowing salmon to go extinct and wildlands to be destroyed would be a shame of historic proportions. America must not allow this to happen. The United States must honor treaties and commitments promising the salmon will endure. There is no better way to commemorate the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial than to protect and restore wild America for our families, for our future.

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**"This is the premier land preservation and restoration opportunity that Americans are going to have in the first decade of the 21st century."
-- Carl Pope, Sierra Club**

The Bicentennial



LEWIS AND CLARK

Epic adventure displays spirit of young nation

By Dayton Duncan

Nearly 200 years ago, in late November of 1805, the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition huddled near the mouth of the Columbia River, having become the first American citizens to cross the continent by land.

Far from home and pinned down for weeks by a relentless Pacific storm that William Clark (in his own imaginative spelling) called "tempestous and horiable," the small band of explorers nevertheless found a tangible way to commemorate their remarkable achievement: They began carving their names into tree trunks - so many times, it appears from Clark's journal entries, that few trees near their sodden campsites escaped their knife blades.

With each cut, they seemed to be boasting, "I was here," yet also pleading, "Remember me."

Those tree markings (and in most cases the trees themselves) have long since disappeared. But the story the Corps of Discovery left behind remains embedded in our national consciousness, and each generation etches it anew with a fresh flourish. The overwhelming public response to our recent PBS documentary - in some cities it even outdrew the primetime commercial networks - is merely the latest evidence of the persistent appeal of Lewis and Clark. Why is that?

For starters, it is a great adventure story, filled with tense scenes of suspense, ordeals to overcome, moments of seeming triumph snatched away by yet another unexpected obstacle, even sudden twists in the plot more remarkable than fiction. Underlying it all is the timeless desire to discover what lies around the next bend of the river, what waits just beyond the farthest horizon.

Sent by a young nation that itself would soon embark toward the Pacific, Lewis and Clark took our first transcontinental - "road trip." Since that time, road trips have held a special grip on the American imagination. Think of *Huckleberry Finn*, *On the Road*,



Capt. Meriwether Lewis, courtesy of Dictionary of American Portraits



Capt. William Clark, courtesy of Dictionary of American Portraits

Across the divide of nearly two centuries, it reminds us of what we as a people are capable of - for good or ill.

The boundless Great Plains blanketed by herds of bison, elk and antelope, with grizzly bears nearly as common as the prairie dogs living in 10-acre villages, and wolves so prevalent that the men briefly made pets from a litter of wolf pups. The Missouri River running wild and free all the way from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi. The Columbia River also unimpeded, literally choked with salmon. Skies blackened at midday by huge flocks of geese; California condors wheeling overhead. "It seemed," Lewis wrote at one point, "as if those seems of visionary enchantment would never have an end."

Travels With Charley, Lonesome Dove or Wagon Train, Star Trek, Thelma and Louise and so many others. Tales of journeys are what we most readily respond to, perhaps because journeying is so intertwined with our past. "We proceeded on," the most recurrent phrase in the expedition's journals, also summarizes much of our history.

There's also a fascinating cast of characters, beginning with the two captains. The brilliant but troubled Meriwether Lewis - capable of switching from exaltation to deep melancholy at a moment's notice - was perfectly complemented by the gregarious, trustworthy

William Clark. Sharing the command in contradiction to military protocol, learning on the trail to trust each other without question, theirs became one of the great friendships in American history; two very different men, now linked forever.

But this is more than a "buddy story."

The crew included rough frontiersmen from Kentucky and Pennsylvania, soldiers from Virginia and New Hampshire, French-Canadian boatmen, sons of white fathers and American Indian mothers, a black slave and a young American Indian woman who brought along her infant son.

By the time they reached the Pacific, this motley, collection of individuals had molded themselves into a cohesive Corps of Discovery, a community-on-the-move whose sense of shared purpose enabled them to surmount all the odds and achieve great things. Even now (perhaps now most particularly), their story reminds us of an essential American promise: from diversity, strength, from different origins, a common destination, *e pluribus unum*.

They remind us of more. Within Lewis and Clark's journals is a vivid description of the West at the dawn of the 19th century.

They met an astonishing variety of American Indian peoples - nomads who followed the bison on horseback, farmers

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Sierra Club leads drive to guard legacy of Lewis and Clark

By Joel Connelly

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, National Correspondent

Almost 200 years after Meriwether Lewis and William Clark opened the American West, a major environmental group is starting a campaign to preserve still-intact wildlands along their routes, from a Nebraska prairie to the Columbia River estuary.

The Sierra Club has identified 34 sites, most in public ownership, that it wants to keep from development as a true celebration of the upcoming anniversary of the 1804-1805 expedition.

"Lewis and Clark's mission was to explore the lands of the Louisiana Purchase and beyond to the Pacific. . . . Our mission is to protect their legacy, the wildlands and wildlife we have left," Sierra Club President Chuck McGrady said yesterday.

With the current Congress reluctant to create new parks and wilderness areas, the Sierra Club will take its case to the public with television and radio announcements, a hikers guide, a series of outdoor trips and even a toll-free number.

Some of its proposals -- such as breaching four dams on the Snake River -- are certain to be highly controversial with irrigators, loggers, power utilities and livestock owners associations.

Sixteen of the places proposed for protection in the club's "Wild America" campaign are in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. They are, in some cases, many miles distant from the actual route taken by the explorers.

For instance, the famed antelope range of Steens Mountain is near the Oregon-Nevada state line, more than 100 miles south of any place where Lewis and Clark set foot.

Another example is the small population of grizzly bears that survives in the Cabinet Mountains of northwest Montana, far to the west and on the other side of the Continental Divide from the return route taken by Lewis in 1806.

"Whether these places were exactly on the route is not the point. What is important is for Americans now and for centuries to come to experience the wildlands at which (Lewis and Clark) marveled, and preserve a remnant of the wildlife they saw," said Jim Young, the Sierra Club's deputy Northwest representative.

Lewis and Clark encountered an Edenlike land as their Corps of Discovery moved up the Missouri River in 1804. They were ambassadors of American business and expansion, and marveled at the wildness of it all.

"So magnificent a scenery in a country thus situated far removed from the Sivilised (sic) world to be enjoyed by nothing but the buffalo, elk, deer and bear in which it abounds . . .," Clark wrote in July of that year.

The great American prairie has largely disappeared. Only about 550,000 undeveloped acres of grasslands remain across the West, most of it in federally owned patches over 12 states.

"Our mission is to protect their legacy, the wildlands and wildlife we have left."

"So magnificent a scenery in a country thus situated far removed from the Sivilised (sic) world to be enjoyed by nothing but the buffalo, elk, deer and bear in which it abounds."
-- Captain Clark

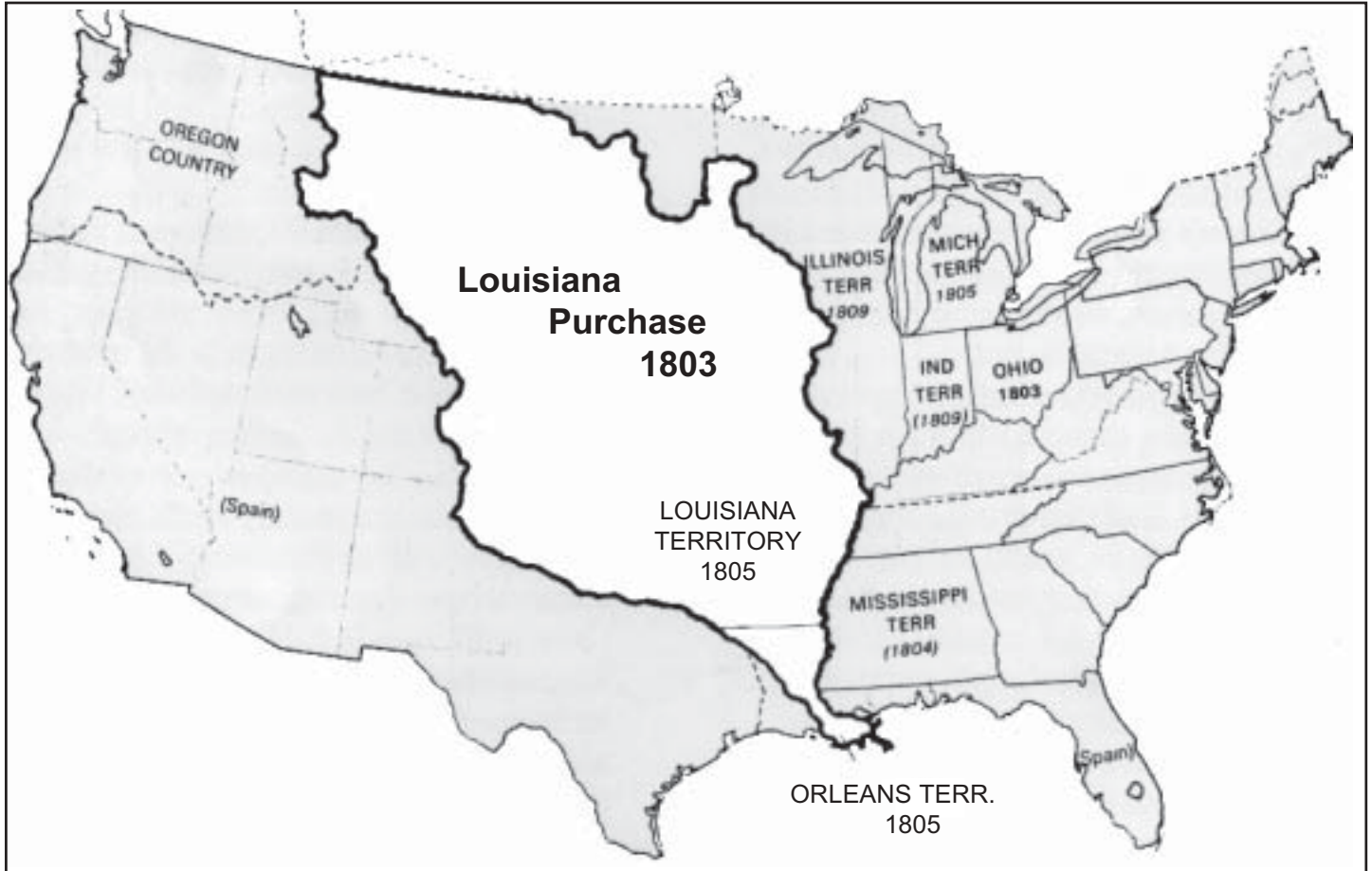
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1814 map of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers



Map of the Lewis & Clark Track, copied from the original drawing of Capt. Clark, in "History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis & Clark" edited by Nicholas Biddle; Bradford and Inskip, Philadelphia, 1814. (courtesy of the American Philosophical Society www.amphilsoc.org)

The Corps of Discovery



The purchase of the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon by the United States changed the course of world history and doubled the size of the United States. As the American flag was raised in St. Louis, Captains Lewis & Clark were preparing for the expedition. The Corps of Discovery explored the newly acquired Louisiana territory. A pressing object of the expedition was to bolster U.S. claims to the Columbia River. (Reprinted with permission of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, from Arlene J. Large, "Louisiana's irrelevant flag: Lewis and Clark were going anyway," in *We Proceeded On*, May 1993, p. 16.)

"You must know in the first place that very sanguine expectations are at this time formed by our Government that the whole of that immense country watered by the Mississippi and its tributary streams, Missouri inclusive, will be the property of the U. States in less than 12 Months from this date." -- Lewis to Clark, June 19, 1803

[Donald Jackson, Ed., *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1978, reprinted in part from Arlene Large, "Louisiana's Irrelevant Flag" in *We Proceeded On*, publication of the Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation, Vol. 19, No. 2, May 1993, p. 15]

"... It is hourly expected that the American's will take possession of the other side of the Mississippi. All the Inhabitents appear anxious except the people of St. Louis, who are engaged in the Indian Trade which they are doubtful will be divided, amongst those whome will trade on the best terms. ..." -- Capt. Clark, January 15, 1804

[reprinted from "We Proceeded On", Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation, Vol. 19, No. 2, May 1993, p. 32]

"It must be constantly remembered that in 1801 . . . Louisiana was Spanish territory and destined to become French, and that the United States had a recognized prior claim to the Columbia country, to which Spain had some claim and which both Great Britain ... and Russia might also make claim. ... [The Columbia] region, in January 1803, was a legitimate field for American expansion as Louisiana was not. The American prior claim to it was, according to usages of nations, so good that in the same year as Gray's discovery of the Columbia, Vancouver had to take the stand for Great Britain that Gray had never really entered the river, whereas his lieutenant, Broughton, had. This remained the official British stand till the Oregon question was settled.

"In January 1803, the attractive force, therefore, was the Columbia region, a detached portion of the American economy, to sovereignty over which the United States had a prior but unadjudicated and untested claim. The tacitly assumed force was the extension of American settlement into Louisiana." -- Bernard DeVoto, 1953

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, Houghton Mifflin Co, Boston, 1981 p. xxxiv, footnote 11]



Monticello, Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson. The Lewis & Clark Trail starts here on the front steps of Monticello. President Thomas Jefferson selected his Virginia neighbor, Meriwether Lewis, as his personal secretary and to lead the expedition. Lewis prepared for the journey under Jefferson's tutelage in North American geography, botany, mineralogy, astronomy, and ethnology. Prior to departing for St. Louis in 1803, Capt. Clark studied under America's leading scientists in Philadelphia. (courtesy of Monticello/Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., www.monticello.org)

"As soon as Jefferson learned that Louisiana was to be ceded to France [by Spain], he moved to settle the Mississippi question permanently. He directed the American minister to France, Robert R. Livingston, to open negotiations for the purchase of New Orleans, or failing that for the right of deposit or some other means of temporarily saving the situation. Napoleon's foreign minister, Talleyrand, completely frustrated Livingston, refusing to come to grips with his proposals....
-- Bernard DeVoto

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, p. xxiii]

"[Napoleon,] abandoning his plan of attacking the British Empire by way of the Western Hemisphere, ... prepared to attack it in the center, by way of Germany and the English Channel. It was certain that on the outbreak of the war he now proposed to make Great Britain, the mistress of the seas, would seize Louisiana. It was primarily to deny her such an enormous increase of wealth and power that Napoleon determined to sell Louisiana to the United States."
-- Bernard DeVoto

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, p. xxiii]

President Jefferson's instructions to Capt. Lewis

"The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, & such principal streams of it, as, by it's course & communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce."

"... make yourself acquainted, as far as a diligent pursuit of your journey shall admit, with the names of the nations & their numbers; their relations with other tribes or nations; their language, traditions, monuments; their ordinary occupations in agriculture, fishing, hunting, war, arts, & the implements for these; their food, clothing and domestic accommodations; the diseases prevalent among them & the remedies they use. . . ."

"[Observe] the animals of the country generally, & especially those not known in the U.S. the remains and accounts of any which may [be] deemed rare or extinct"

Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites (New York, 1904-5), as quoted in *Lewis & Clark: Pioneering Naturalists*, Paul Russell Cutright, Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1969, pp. 1-9.



Gateway Arch, St. Louis. The Corps of Discovery headed up the Missouri River on May 22, 1804, and returned on September 23, 1806 to St. Louis. Their two-and one-half-year journey covered 8,000 miles. (courtesy of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, www.nps.gov/jeff)

Honored Parents: I now embrace this opportunity of writing to you once more to let you know where I am and where I am going. I am well thank God and in high Spirits. I am now on an expedition to the westward, with Capt Lewis and Capt Clark, who are appointed by the President of the united States to go on an Expedition through the interior parts of North America. We are to ascend the Missouri River with a boat as far as it is navigable and then go by land, to the western ocean, if nothing prevents. This part consists of 25 picked men of the army and country likewise and I am so happy as to be one of them picked men from the army and I and all the party are if we live to return to receive our discharge when ever we return again to the united Stated if we choose it ... we expect to be gone 18 months or two years, we are to receive a great reward for this expedition 15 dollars a month and a least 400 ackers of first rate land and if we make great discoveries as we expect the united States has promised to make us great rewards, more than we are promised ...

I have received no letter since Betsey's yet but will write next winter if I have a chance.

Yours &c - John Ordway Sgt., April the 8th 1804, Camp River Dubois

[reprinted from *We Proceeded On*, Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation, Vol. 19, No. 2, May 1993, p. 32]

"The Louisiana Purchase was one of the most important events in world history. It was an event of such magnitude that, as Henry Adams said, its results are beyond measurement. Not only did it double the area of the United States, not only did it add to our wealth resources of

incalculable value, not only did it provide a potential that was certain to make us a great power, not only did it make equally certain that we would expand beyond the Rockies to the Pacific, and not only did it secure us against foreign victory on any scale conceivable in the nineteenth century - it also provided the centripetal, unifying force that would hold the nation firm against disruptive forces from within. Whether or not the rebellion that became the Civil War was inevitable, the Purchase had made certain that it could not succeed. And there is no aspect of our national life, no part of our social and political structure, and no subsequent event in the main course of our history that it has not affected." -- Bernard DeVoto

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, p. xxiv]

"It may be that to secure the Columbia country - Oregon - was the earliest as it was certainly the most urgent of Jefferson's proposes. The expedition served it vitally; in fact, one is justified in saying, decisively. The land traverse bolstered the claim established by Robert Gray's discovery and was of equal or greater legal importance; in international polity the two combined to give the United States not only a prior but a paramount claim. More, it was the journey of Lewis and Clark that gave the American people a conviction that Oregon was theirs and this conviction was more important than the claim. And pragmatically, the establishment of Fort Astoria by Astor's party won the British-American race to the Pacific. Astor's American Fur Company and Pacific Fur company were established not only as a result of the expedition's reports but in exact accordance with Lewis's analysis of the practices required."

-- Bernard DeVoto

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, p. 1]

Boston Centinel, Lexington, June 19, 1805

THE party of discovery, under the command of Capt. *Lewis* and *Clark*, left the mouth of the *Missouri* on the 19th day of May, 1804. An express with dispatches from their winter quarters, which left them the 14th April, has returned to *St. Louis*. By the express, letters were received from Captain *Clark* to his correspondents in *Kentucky*. A gentleman from *Jefferson* county, has obligingly favored the Editor of the *Kentucky Gazette* with the following account, which he obtained from one of the men who returned with the express, and from letters from some of the party. They fortified themselves in November last, on the bank of the *Missouri*, 1609 miles from the mouth, by actual measurement, in latitude 47, 21, N; called then *Fort Mandane*, after a nation of Indians, who reside in the neighborhood, and who have been very friendly to them. - On their passage up, they were delighted with the beautiful appearance of the country for about 200 leagues, or to the mouth of the river *La Plata*, which comes in from the South; after which, to their winter quarters, it is described not to be so fertile. The person who brought the dispatches, speaks of the opening made by the river, being about one mile wide with high cliffs on each side. - The bed of the river occupies about a fourth part of it, the remainder of the bottom entirely composed of coarse sand, covered with cotton wood. This bottom continually giving way either on one side or the other, and gaining on the opposite side. - The cliffs in some places are covered with red cedar, which, with the cotton and a few small black ash trees, is the only timber described to be in that country. From the height, there is not a tree or twig to be seen, as far as the sight can extend, or as they have explored. Out from the river the land goes off perfectly level, with but few exceptions - and their plains covered with grass. They passed the mouths of a number of streams, the most of which had names given by the French. One they have named *Floyd's* river, to perpetuate the name of a young man of the party, named *Charles Floyd*, who died much regretted on the 20th August. They represent the Indians to have been friendly, with but a few exceptions. The *Soux* are the most numerous, are organized in bands bearing different names, move about from place to place, from the banks of the river out to the plains, in pursuit of game and plunder having no fixed place of residence and continual state of warfare. These were the most troublesome Indians to the party of discovery, as they expressed a jealousy, least they would supply their enemies higher up with arms &c. - The higher up they went, the more friendly they found the savages, and the better armed. - They have a more regular trade with the North West Company, and the Hudson Bay company; which supplies come to them by the way of Lake *Winnepeck*. The Mandanes cultivate corn, which is of a small kind, from whom the party was supplied during the winter, and their hunters kept them in abundance of meat.

From such information as they have received of the country above there, it is about 600 miles to the great falls, which are made by a ledge of mountains, called Rocky Mountain, in which it is presumed the *Missouri* terminates.

Buffaloes are said to be in great numbers, and of a large size

They have sent on to the President of the United States an accurate journal, with a map of the country through which they passed.

Buffaloes are said to be in great numbers, and of a large size - two description of deer are described; those resembling the common kind of this country being larger, and the tails 18 inches long, and the hair much longer on their bodies; the other kind having a black tail. Elks and goats are numerous. The grouse, or prairie are in plenty; and before the closing of the river in the fall, water fowls in abundance. Fish scarce, and those principally of the cat kind. Some of the white bear-skins, had been brought to the fort by visiting Indians from higher up; but the party had seen none of those animals. The Indians keep horses, which are used entirely for the chase, and in

war.

From such information as they have received of the country above there, it is about 600 miles to the great falls, which are made by a ledge of mountains, called Rocky Mountain, in which it is presumed the - *Missouri* terminates. At their winter quarters the river is nearly a mile wide; is equally as muddy as at its mouth, and has continued its rapidity with very little alteration, as high as they have gone, though it has become considerably more shallow, so that they will not be able to take their large barge any higher. From what information they have obtained of the course of the upper part of the river, the most are at the northwardly part. - From where they wintered to the falls, is nearly a south course. The description given by *McKenzie* of the head waters of the river, is accurate.

They have sent on to the President of the United States an accurate journal, with a map of the country through which they passed. Six of party were sent back - the party now consists of 28 men, exclusive of the two officers. They have enjoyed perfect health - not one having been sick, except the unfortunate young man before mentioned, and he was taken off in a few hours by the cramp in his stomach. The greatest friendship has existed with the party; and the men who have returned, speak in the highest terms of the humanity, and uncommon pains and attention of both Captains, -*Lewis* and -*Clark*, toward the whole of them; and that they left them in good spirits, fully convinced that they would winter on the Pacific Ocean.

They were told of six nations of Indians they would have to pass, before they would arrive at the falls from only one of which they apprehended any difficulty - they are called the Snake tribe; and reside high up.

Curiosities of different kinds, live beasts, birds, several boxes of minerals, a pair of uncommon ram's horns, from the rocky mountains, scions of a new discovered berry, &c. have been brought on by the returned party, and deposited with the commanding officer at *St. Louis*, to be sent by him to the President.

We expect in a few days further particulars relative to this interesting voyage.

White Salmon. (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*, coho salmon), March 16, 1806. Shown here is a page from the expedition's journals describing and illustrating a salmon. The Corps of Discovery first tasted salmon near Lemhi Pass. (courtesy of the American Philosophical Society www.amphilsoc.org)

The trail [took us to the most distant fountain of the waters of the Mighty Missouri in search of which we have spent so many toilsome days and wristless nights. thus far I had accomplished one of those great objects on which my mind has been unalterably fixed for many years, judge then of the pleasure I felt in all[ay]ing my thirst with this pure and ice-cold water we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the West. ... here I first tasted the water of the great Columbia river. -- Captain Lewis, August 12, 1805

[Bernard DeVoto, *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, pages 188-189]



Lemhi Pass. After nearly 15 months, on August 12, 1805, the Corps of Discovery stood on a continental divide between two great rivers: the Missouri flowing east, and a new (to them) river flowing west: the Columbia. Lewis & Clark, Sacagawea, and the entire Corps of Discovery entered a river of life: the Columbia River, richest salmon fishery on earth.

© jonathan stoke

The explorers traveled to Traveler's Rest near the town of Missoula, and proceeded west into the Bitterroot Mountains. The Corps of Discovery was cold, wet, and starving, and the whole expedition was on the verge of collapse. Part of this harrowing story is now told by historical signs where the expedition camped, quoting from the journals.

bison meat, some fish, dried berries, and camas roots cooked various ways.”

[excerpt from: *Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark*, by Barbara Fifer and Vicky Soderberg, Montana Magazine, 1998, p. 129]



Nez Perce Indians meeting Lewis & Clark—and the meeting of two cultures, 1805. The Corps of Discovery was on the brink of disaster: cold, starving, and exhausted. Captain Clark and six hunters went forward in search of food. On September 20 Clark first met the Nimipoo (Nee-me-poo), the Nez Perce. At this most vulnerable moment the Nez Perce welcomed them, fed them salmon and camas root, and turned disaster to triumph. The Nez Perce Tribe saved the Corps of Discovery.

(Courtesy of National Park Service, Nez Perce National Historical Park. Photo number NEPE-HI-1773)

“the pleasure I now felt in having triumphed over the rocky Mountains and descending once more to a level and fertile country where there was every rational hope of finding a comfortable subsistence for myself and party can be more readily conceived than expressed, nor was the flattering prospect of the final success for the expedition less pleasing.” -- Captain Lewis, Sept. 22, 1805

[excerpt from: *Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark*, by Barbara Fifer and Vicky Soderberg, Montana Magazine, 1998, p. 129]

“[William Clark became] a kind of culture hero All the Plains and Northwest tribes knew of the Red Headed Chief and came to depend on him for friendship and, if not justice, at least advocacy. He was the white man whose tongue was straight, our elder brother. Miracles were expected of him, indeed he was able to perform miracles on their behalf, but if he had been able to obtain for them any substantial measure of justice it would have been a transcendent miracle. He did what he could; he was able to procure occasional decencies and often able to prevent or moderate indecencies and he accomplished more for the Indians than anyone else in Western history. If a delegation of Indians went to St. Louis, it sought out Clark first of all; if a fur company sent a brigade up the Missouri or into the mountains, it provided itself with a passport in the form of messages and greetings from Clark. If the U.S. government had to send an embassy to the Indian country it began by trying to get Clark to accompany it, and if Clark consented he was invariably able to get fairer treatment for the Indians and more amenable behavior from them. This subsequent function is a bright strand in a dark history.”

-- Bernard DeVoto,

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, pp. xlviii - xlix]

Historical signs, Clearwater National Forest, Idaho

SNOWBANK CAMP

Lewis and Clark ascended the steep mountains from the Lochsa River below to a place a short way above here and camped for the night on September 15, 1805. This site is commonly called “Snowbank Camp”.

Captain Clark recorded: “... when we arrived at the top as we Conceved, we could find no water and Concluded to camp and make use of the Snow we found to cook the remn of our Colt & make Supe. evening verry cold and cloudy... From this mountain I could observe high ruged mountains in every direction as far as I could see.”

LONESOME COVE CAMP

Traveling westward, the Lewis and Clark expedition camped approximately one mile below this point to the northwest on September 16, 1805. A trail has been marked to the area believed to be the campsite. The walk begins to your right. The return walk is a strenuous uphill climb. This has since been named “Lonesome Cove Camp.”

Captain Clark described the day thus: “... Continue today, and a thickly timbered Countrey of 8 different kinds of pine, which are so covered with Snow, that in passing thro them we are continually covered with Snow. I have been wet and as cold in every part as I ever was in my life. Indeed I was at one time fearfull my feet would freeze in the thin Mockirsons which I wore. after a Short Delay in the middle of the Day, I took one man and proceeded on as fast as I could about 6 miles to a Small branch passing to the right, halted and built fires for the part agains their arrival which was at Dusk, verry cold and much fatigued. We Encamped at this Branch in a thickly timbered bottom... men all wet cold and hungary. Killed a Second Colt which we all Suped hartily on and thought it fine meat...”

“September 20 saw [Captain Clark and six others in advance] down from the mountains to ‘leavel pine country ... a butifull Countrey,’ today’s Weippe Prairie, where they found a camp of Nez Perce Indians collecting camas roots. ... The Nez Perce welcomed them with a feast of fish, a little

Editorial

The day everyone voted with Lewis and with Clark

The executive director of the Washington State Historical Society thinks we should pay special attention to the site where Lewis and Clark went so far as to let a woman and a black man vote on a group decision almost two centuries ago. He's right about that.

In the context of today it was nothing at all. In the context of that time it was a remarkable event. The explorers were deciding which would be the safer and more comfortable side of the mouth of the Columbia River to spend the winter.

They put it to a vote - a vote that included everyone, not just the white males but also Sacajawea, an Indian woman, and York, Clark's black slave. The decision affected everyone so everyone got to vote.

By comparison with freeing York, it wasn't exactly a democratic masterstroke. But given the attitudes of the time, it was decades ahead of the rest of the nation.

Perhaps it was no coincidence that the exceptional vote took place in the situation it did. When you have people pulling together in the wild for common survival, it tends to bring the worth of individuals to the fore and to suppress myths about alleged incompetence because of some supposedly inferior category of humanity to which a person belongs. Sacajawea and York pulled their weight and then some. End of discussion.

That element probably has something to do as well with the fact some frontier states, including Wyoming and Idaho, were so far ahead of the rest of the nation in granting women the vote. At the time, in the last century, women all over these rural States were working shoulder to shoulder with the men carving lives out of

The vote that day at the mouth of the Columbia did, indeed, symbolize the rational reasoning behind tolerance that would eventually sweep over this country.



Fort Clatsop camp site. Near the mouth of the Columbia and after weeks of rain and high winds, the Corps of Discovery voted on November 24 where to build their winter camp. On December 7, the Corps moved to what became Fort Clatsop. On March 22, 1806 they began their journey home.

Photo courtesy: Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce

difficult terrain. No man with the eyes to see doubted the worth of women mentally and physically in the common cause of everyday life, let alone participating in a relative trifle like government.

The stark reality of individual variation within human categories and the irrelevance of sex and race in individual worth would have been abundantly apparent to the Lewis and Clark party. So that vote that day at the mouth of the Columbia did, indeed, symbolize the rational reasoning behind tolerance that would eventually sweep over this country.

Dave Nicandri, the executive director of the historical society, thinks that makes the site of the vote one of the focal points for all the commemoration of the explorers on the 200th anniversary a few years hence of their grand adventure. He's right. If they could do that well back then - given so many myths regarding equality - then think how much better we can do, given their example, in this supposedly more enlightened time. - Bill Hall

Lewiston Tribune. December 24, 1997,
Reprinted with permission.



Column at Astoria, mouth of the Columbia River depicting, in part, the Lewis & Clark expedition. In 1811, five years after Lewis & Clark left Fort Clatsop, John Jacob Astor founded the fur trading post of Astoria. Competing territorial claims to the Columbia River region started in 1792 when Capt. Gray sailed the American ship *Columbia* to the mouth of the river, and eventually were resolved in 1846 when the U.S. and Great Britain drew the international boundary along the 49th parallel.

Photo courtesy: Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce

Baltimore *Federal Gazette* 1806

Concerning the safe arrival of Messrs. Lewis and Clark, who went 2 years and 4 months ago to explore the Missouri, to be anxiously wished for by everyone, I have the pleasure to mention that they arrived here about one hour ago, in good health, with only the loss of one man who died. They visited the Pacific Ocean, which they left on the 27th of March last. They would have been here about the 1st of August, but for the detention they met with from snow and frost in crossing mountains on which are eternal snows. Their journal will no doubt be not only importantly interesting to us all, but a fortune for the worthy and laudable adventurers. When they arrived 3 cheers were fired. They really have the appearance of Robinson Crusoes - dressed entirely in buckskins. We shall know all very soon - I have had no particulars yet.

[Extract from letter to editors, under date of St. Louis, September 23, 1806. Reprinted in *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, 1804-1806, Vol 7, Appendix LXVII, p. 347]

National *Intelligencer* 1806

It is a pleasure to announce the arrival of Captain Lewis with his exploring party at St. Louis. They wintered near the mouth of the Columbia river; leaving thence Mar. 27, were detained by snows in the mountains until June 24. He found it 2575 miles from the mouth of the Missouri to the great falls; thence by land over the Rocky mountains 240 miles, of which 200 would admit a good road, the rest over tremendous mountains. Then 73 miles down the Koonskooske into a south eastwardly branch of the Columbia, 154 miles down that to the Columbia, and then 413 miles to the Pacific; 3555 miles in all. Speaks of the whole country furnishing valuable furs. Says it was fortunate he sent no men back, since they owed their lives more than once to their numbers. Captain Lewis will remain a few days in St. Louis, and then proceed to Washington accompanied by the Mandan chief. He speaks of his colleague Captain Clark in the most affectionate terms, and ascribes to him an equal share in the success of this enterprise.

[Based on Lewis's letter to the president, October 27, 1806. Reprinted in *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, 1804-1806, Vol 7, Appendix LXVII, p. 347]

Continued from page 4

living in permanent villages of earth lodges, refugees from tribal wars scavenging for roots in the mountains, people who survived on fish and traveled by boat. Lewis and Clark were crossing their homelands and quite simply would never have succeeded without the American Indians' generosity.

In return, on behalf of the nation poised to move westward, a grateful Lewis and Clark offered "the hand of unalterable friendship" and promised that "the Great Spirit will smile upon your nation and in future ages will make you outnumber the trees of the forest."

And they saw a natural wonderland none of us will ever see. The boundless Great Plains blanketed by herds of bison, elk and antelope, with grizzly bears nearly as common as the prairie dogs living in 10-acre villages, and wolves so prevalent that the men briefly made pets from a litter of wolf pups. The Missouri River running wild and free all the way from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi. The Columbia River also unimpeded, literally choked with salmon. Skies blackened at midday by huge flocks of geese; California condors wheeling overhead. "It seemed," Lewis wrote at one point, "as if those seems of visionary enchantment would never have an end."

Most of those "seems of visionary enchantment" came to an end some time ago. Likewise, most of the promises the captains made

"[The Lewis and Clark expedition] gave not only Oregon but the entire west to the American people as something with which the mind could deal. The westering people had crossed the Mississippi with the Louisiana Purchase and

[T]he entire wilderness expanse, more than twice the size of the United States at the beginning of Jefferson's administration, was a blank, not only on the map but in human thought.

by that act had acquired the manifest destiny of going on to the Pacific. But the entire wilderness expanse, more than twice the size of the United States at the beginning of Jefferson's administration, was a blank, not only on the map but in human thought. It was an area of rumor, guess, and fantasy. Now it had been crossed by a large party who came back and told in assimilable and trustworthy detail

It was the first report on the West, on the United States over the hill and beyond the sunset, on the province of the American future. There has never been another so excellent or so influential.

what a large part of it was. Henceforth the mind could focus on reality. Here were not only the Indians but the land itself and its conditions: river systems, valleys, mountain ranges, climates, flora, fauna, and a rich and varied membrane of detail relating them to one another and to familiar experience. It was the first report on the West, on the United States over the hill and beyond the sunset, on the province of the American future. There has never been another so excellent or so influential."

-- Bernard DeVoto

[*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, p. lii]

in good faith to American Indian peoples remain unkept. But the story of Lewis and Clark endures.

Across the divide of nearly two centuries, it reminds us of what we as a people are capable of - for good or ill. We can still follow their trail and open their journals to re-experience the Corps of Discovery. We can find inspiration in their perseverance and courage. We can applaud and maybe even try to emulate their bond of friendship and community. We can mourn what's been lost in the time since their epic adventure, perhaps dedicate ourselves to honoring their promises or to restoring something of the wonderland they beheld with awe.

And we can learn what the explorers themselves learned at the mouth of the Columbia. All of us leave some sort of mark on the trail as "we proceed on." But long after that mark has vanished, what's remembered is the spirit with which we made our journey.

Dayton Duncan is the author, with Ken Burns, of *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*.

Missoulian, December 14, 1997.

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100 Years Later



Lewis and Clark Fair Will Cost Five Million Dollars and Will Be a Wonder

W.E. Brindley

PORTLAND, Ore. Feb. 3. - There are still four months remaining before the Lewis and Clark exposition will open its doors to the visiting thousands on June 1 next and yet at this early date the grounds have been put in shape, lawns sodded or seeded, and eight exposition palaces, gleaming ivory white in their ornamental staff, are completed. Some of them are already being used for the storing of exhibits, which have been arriving daily in carload lots since the beginning of the exposition year. The question as to the fair being completed in every detail long before the opening day is settled beyond the possibility of doubt.

So great has been the demand for exhibit space that it has been found necessary to erect another building, and work on the structure has already been begun. The new exhibits palace, which bears the name Palace of Manufactures, Liberal Arts and Varied Industries, is to contain 90,000 feet of floor space, thus equaling in size the Agricultural building, which is the largest structure on the grounds.

The readjustment made necessary by the construction of the new building includes turning over the former Liberal Arts building to exhibitors from Europe, and giving over the entire space in the former Foreign Exhibits building to oriental exhibitors.

World Wide in Its Scope.

The exposition, at first conceived by its promoters as little more than a local industrial fair, has now assumed proportions that make it world wide in scope. The addition of numerous new features from time to time makes it certain that the fair will be one that will prove of general interest. As in the case of St. Louis, a specialty will be made of "live" exhibits, making the fair an exponent of modern manufacturing methods rather than a museum of evidences of progress.

Foreign participation will be on a scale not dreamed of when the exposition project was conceived, almost every nation on the globe being represented while the majority of the states in the Union will make official state participation, many erecting state pavilions.

The exposition will commemorate the journey of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who, with a party of hardy adventurers, crossed the mountains in 1805 and explored the Oregon country, thus giving the United States the power to make her only acquisition of territory by right of discovery.

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The exposition, at first conceived by its promoters as little more than a local industrial fair, has now assumed proportions that make it world wide in scope.

The exposition will represent an expenditure approximating \$5,000,000. The site, by all odds the most beautiful ever utilized for such a purpose, occupies 402 acres and adjoins the principal residential district of Portland. The site comprises a natural park, and the principal exhibition palaces, nestling among the trees, overlook a beautiful little lake, called Guild's lake, and the Willamette river. In the center of the lake is a peninsula, which looks from the mainland like a verdure covered island, while in the distance rise four mighty snow capped mountains - Mount Hood, Mountain Rainier, Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens.

The principal admission gates will be between the pillars of the ornate colonnade entrance, which is within a stone's throw of Columbia court, the central plaza of the exposition. The court consists of two wide

avenues, with beautiful sunken gardens between them, and which are flanked by the agricultural palace and the European exhibits building. On either side of these buildings, with their short sides facing the lake, are situated the other main exhibition palaces, which bear the names, Oriental Exhibits, Forestry, Manufacturers, Liberal Arts and Varied Industries, Mines and Metallurgy, Fine Arts, and Machinery, Electricity and Transportation. The buildings, with the exception of the

forestry building, are all covered with ivory white staff, and are built on one general architectural scheme, embodying a free form of the Spanish renaissance. A broad flight of steps, known as the "Grand Stairway," lead from Columbia court to the bandstand on the lake shore. The slope on either side of the stairway is terraced, affording a delightful resting place from which to listen to the band concerts and watch the pyrotechnic displays on the lake.

In the western part of the site a considerable portion of the grounds have been left almost in its natural state, forming Centennial park, and beyond this park, in a little valley, are situated the experimental gardens, where all manner of western farm and garden products will be displayed as they actually grow.

On the Trail.

Guild's lake is spanned by the beautiful Bridge of Nations. The end of the bridge adjoining the mainland will be called the Trail. The Trail, which is to be the amusement street of the fair, is 150 feet wide and 800 feet long. The shows will be located on either side of a wide avenue. Many new attractions are planned for this popular feature.

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1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition, the forestry building. The structure was 102 feet wide by 205 feet long, and its great height was 70 feet. Construction of the building used two miles of five and six foot logs, five miles of poles and tons of shakes and cedar bark shingles. (courtesy of Oregon Historical Society, #cn 62922, www.ohs.org)

Story of the Chinook Salmon and His Foes on the Columbia River Lewis and Clark Found King of Fresh Water Fishes a Refreshing Change From Dog - How Salmon Are Caught - The Fishermen Who Catch Them - How the Fish are Packed - The Exhibit at the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

By W.E. Brindley

A century ago two hardy adventurers, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who, in their efforts to cross the country to the Pacific with a band of 40 followers, had suffered untold hardships, including the eating of dog, found a most refreshing change of diet when they reached the Columbia river. There for the first time they saw the famous Chinook salmon, king of fresh water fish, and tasted its luscious, rose pink flesh. To the weary, half starved travelers the salmon seemed a most welcome addition to a menu which had for weeks consisted of crow, berries, an occasional wolf or deer and the wolfish dogs which they bought of the Indians. The captains recorded the incident of the change of diet in their journals, and Captain Clark made a rude sketch of the fish.

Salmon Exhibit at the Fair.

At the Lewis and Clark exposition, which is to be held at Portland, Ore., during this coming summer, from June 1 to

October 15, in commemoration of the journey of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, a most interesting exhibit will consist of a complete exposition of the salmon industry, together with specimens of live salmon in tanks, and dead salmon in glass jars, of salmon eggs and salmon fry and methods of salmon hatching.

The exhibit will show how the salmon are canned, and how they are preserved by cold storage. It will be one of the many interesting things about the western world's fair, which, while a world's fair in every sense, will aim particularly to show the resources and progress of the Pacific Northwest, a country which was added to the domain of the United States as a direct result of the Lewis and Clark expedition. ...

Spokesman-Review, February 26, 1905, excerpted. Copyright 1905.
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On the Government Peninsula, which is reached by the way of the Bridge of Nations, the main government building occupies three acres. The structure is flanked by two towers, each 260-feet high, and ornate peristyles lead to smaller structures which will house the territorial, irrigation and fisheries exhibits, a fourth smaller building being used as a life saving station. The government's exhibit will represent an aggregate expenditure of \$800,000.

While our own government will be the largest national participant, nearly every nation that arises to the dignity of a place on the map will be represented at the exposition. England will maintain her dignity against German, and Germany against France, while Japan and Russia will struggle for supremacy in a battle of peace. China will have a great display, and Siam and Ceylon, Spain, Mexico, Italy, Turkey, Austria and Egypt will be represented. Even Morocco and Persia will exhibit. Sweden and Denmark have likewise fallen into line, as have Holland and Belgium and numerous powers of less importance.

Great interest will center about the exhibits from Japan and Russia, both nations having been attracted by the oriental aspect of the fair. The Japanese will occupy one third of the oriental building and are planning for a big national pavilion, in which will be shown their products, manufactures, educational conditions, and displays of fine and liberal arts. Russian participation will be on much the same lines, particular attention being given to silk weaving and other manufacturing industries.

As in the case of St. Louis, a specialty will be made of "live" exhibits, making the fair an exponent of modern manufacturing methods rather than a museum of evidences of progress.

While our own government will be the largest national participant, nearly every nation that arises to the dignity of a place on the map will be represented at the exposition.

State participation from every part of the Union is now assured ...

The main exhibition palaces ... bear the names Oriental Exhibits, Forestry, Manufacturers, Liberal Arts and Varied Industries, Mines and Metallurgy, Fine Arts, and Machinery, Electricity and Transportation.

The States Are Coming.

State participation from every part of the Union is now assured and a number of the wealthier commonwealths will erect pavilions which will serve as club houses for their citizens visiting the fair. The Oregon appropriation, \$450,000, is the largest ever made by a state of so small a population. The Atlantic seaboard states have shown an interest in the exposition that is a source of great gratification to the management. It now seems certain that New York's appropriation of \$85,000 will be increased by \$25,000. Massachusetts has appropriated \$15,000, and will move her St. Louis building to Portland, while Vermont and New Hampshire will erect pavilions. In the middle west, North Dakota, Minnesota and Missouri will transfer the cream of their St. Louis displays to Portland, supplementing them with additional displays gathered for the occasion, while Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana are likely to make official participation of some sort.

Of the states of the Pacific Northwest, which are directly interested in making the exposition a success, Washington has appropriated \$75,000 for the erection of a building and the collection

and installation of a suitable display. California originally appropriated \$20,000, and this has recently increased by appropriation to \$90,000. California will erect a building in the form of a cross, each wing being a reproduction of an old Catholic mission. Idaho has recently chosen a site for a state building, which will cost about \$10,000, and will increase her appropriation to cover the expense. Montana and Utah, which originally appropriated \$10,000 each, are expected to make additional appropriations and erect pavilions.

It Will Be Unique.

The Lewis and Clark fair will be unique among international expositions in that it is built with a view to compactness without crowding. The exposition can be seen and studied within the time and means which the average person has at his disposal. The exposition will contain the cream of earlier fairs, supplemented by valuable exhibits collected especially for the fair.

In keeping with the intention of making the fair truly representative of western life and western resources, the forestry display will be one of the most interesting exhibits at the fair. The forestry building, constructed after the manner of a mammoth log palace, is a structure unique in exposition history. The building is 102 feet wide by 205 feet long, and its great height is 70 feet. In the construction of the building two miles of five and six foot logs, five miles of poles and tons of shakes and cedar bark shingles were used.

Interest Is Widespread.

The exposition management has been showered with requests for literature bearing on the fair, and reports from the east indicate that a general interest is being taken in the enterprise. The low rates offered by the railroads, by which a person living in the Mississippi valley can go and come for \$45, while people farther east may make the trip at a one fare rate, assure a large attendance from states east of the Rocky mountains. The exposition authorities, while not wishing to seem too sanguine, have no fears of small attendance, nor of the fair not being completed in every detail long before the opening day.

The Spokesman Review, February 5, 1905, Copyright 1905. Reprinted with permission of The Spokesman-Review.

For information on the Centennial exposition: www.ohs.org (to "Collections", then "Manuscripts" for references associated with Portland's 1905 Lewis & Clark exhibition, or contact the Oregon Historical Society at 503.306-5247)

200 Years Later



Explorers: Nation's river system is 'sick' During 4,000-mile journey from St. Louis to Portland, duo find rivers worse than expected.

By Jeff Barnard, of The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. -- Two men, who traced the western route of Lewis and Clark said Thursday they found the nation's river system in far worse shape than they expected when they set out on the 4,000-mile journey.

"We came into this with our eyes open, but we did not know the scope," Tom Warren said at a news conference.

"The rivers remind me of an epitaph on a tombstone," said John Hilton. "It said, 'I told you I was sick.'"

The men said they found rivers drowned by dams, dried up by irrigation and fouled by agricultural and industrial pollution.

After the news conference, the men boarded a jetboat for a six-hour trip to Astoria. There they got in canoes and poled up the Lewis and Clark River to Fort Clatsop National Memorial, a re-creation of the place where the explorers spent the winter of 1805 before returning east.

"It's one thing when you read the journals and another when you feel it," Warren said. "We've gotten to feel it."

Fort Clatsop National Memorial superintendent Cynthia Orlando presented Warren and Hilton with bronze medals commemorating their trip and praised them for bringing so much public attention to the state of the environment.

A fiddle player played "The Rose Tree," an 18th century reel as Warren and Hilton beached their fiberglass canoes on the muddy landing at Fort Clatsop. In the bows of the canoes were two park employees dressed in buckskins, coonskin caps and red life jackets.

Warren, 39, is a chiropractor from Tulsa, Okla., and Hilton, 47, is a college administrator from Flat River, Mo.

They set out from St. Louis on June 1 to follow the journey Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Lt. William Clark took 187 years ago. The expedition helped open the West to commerce and settlement.

Lewis and Clark left St. Louis on May 14, 1804, with 45 men, a 55-foot keelboat and two large canoes to trace the Missouri River to its headwaters for the first time.

According to the theories of the day, they expected to make an easy half-day's hike across gentle ground to the headwaters of the Columbia River, and follow that to the Pacific.

President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the expedition to find a Northwest Passage that would wrest the fur trade from the

British and an alternative to the perilous sailing around Cape Horn to China.

It took Lewis and Clark a year and a half to reach the mouth of the Columbia. Warren and Hilton took three months. Where Lewis and Clark poled, rowed, sailed and towed their boats up the Missouri, Warren and Hilton left behind their jetboat and poled canoes 100 miles up the Beaverhead River.

"It's like climbing a mountain, on water," Warren said.

They rode horses and bicycles to trace the explorers' 350-mile route across the Bitterroot Mountains, then got back into canoes to go down the Clearwater River.

Arriving at Lewiston, they returned to the jetboat to descend the Snake River to the Columbia.

They crossed 40 dams ascending the Missouri River system and eight going down the Snake and Columbia rivers. The first 800 miles of the Missouri River was a "muddy ditch" filled with barges, Warren said. The Beaverhead in Montana suffered from water withdrawals for irrigation.

Where Lewis and Clark saw timber on the banks of the Columbia, Warren and Hilton stood in a meeting room of a big hotel

after stopping in Portland.

Ted Strong, director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, welcomed Warren and Hilton on behalf of native Americans, and said he hoped their trip would help restore the health of rivers hurt by development.

"When Lewis and Clark guided their canoes and rafts on the Columbia River they did not realize that while on the surface they encountered Indian nations, there were other nations that lived underneath the water," he said. "Those nations are the nations of aquatic life, primarily the salmon."

Kevin Coyle, president of American Rivers, a conservation group that helped sponsor the trip, presented Warren and Hilton with medals.

He said the decline of Pacific salmon on the Columbia system from 30 million in Lewis and Clark's time to 300,000 now illustrates the crisis state of rivers.

"The rivers are sending us a message," he said. "They are leading the decline."

"The rivers remind me of an epitaph on a tombstone. It said, 'I told you I was sick.'"

They crossed 40 dams ascending the Missouri River system and eight going down the Snake and Columbia rivers. The first 800 miles of the Missouri River was a "muddy ditch" filled with barges.

The decline of Pacific salmon on the Columbia system from 30 million in Lewis and Clark's time to 300,000 now illustrates the crisis state of rivers.

River of Kings

In years past, the Spokane River was home to millions of salmon, which brought bounty to the region's tribes

Jim Kershner, Staff writer, *Spokesman Review*

Everybody knows that salmon once surged through the Spokane River.

But not everyone knows that it was, literally, one of the king rivers of the Northwest:

The Spokane River spawned the biggest of the big salmon, summer chinooks (kings) that were commonly 50 to 80 pounds.

The Spokane River was one of the most productive salmon streams in the entire Columbia system.

The summer fishing camps at Spokane Falls were famous among many tribes, even tribes from far away. The total number of salmon running up the Spokane probably approached a million annually, of which about 300,000 were harvested by the Spokane tribe and other tribes.

Spokane's early hotels did a thriving business among Eastern fishermen. The salmon were Spokane's first major tourist attraction.

And then they were gone.

After hundreds of thousands of years of salmon runs, it took less than a century to kill off the runs entirely. Actually, it took less than two days - the day that Long Lake Dam blocked the upper three-quarters of the Spokane in 1915, and the day that the Grand Coulee Dam blocked the Columbia and the rest of the Spokane, in 1939. Both dams went up without fish ladders.

Today, it's hard to even visualize how alive the river used to be with fish.

In 1839, The Rev. Elkanah Walker, a missionary, wrote the following about a Spokane Indians fishing camp at Little Falls on the Spokane: "It is not uncommon for them to take 1,000 in a day. It is an interesting sight to see the salmon pass a rapid. The number was so great that there were hundreds constantly out of the water."

The famous British botanist David Douglas wrote this in 1826:

"The natives constructed a barrier across the Little Spokane (where it enters the Spokane). ... After the traps filled with salmon, the Indians would spear them. 1,700 salmon were taken this day, now two o'clock; how many more may still be in the snare, I do not know."

And these two fishing camps, at Little Falls and at the mouth of the Little Spokane, weren't even the biggest of the three main fishing sites on the Spokane River. The premier camp was the big one just below the Spokane Falls, smack in the middle of what is now the city of Spokane.

Few, if any, salmon could get above the falls; most of these enormous "hogs" spawned right there.

"Large schools of salmon swam around in circles, between the falls and Bowl and Pitcher," said Dr. Allan Scholz, a fisheries biology professor at Eastern Washington University. "At the confluence of Latah Creek, there were shoals of salmon that just

The Spokane River spawned the biggest of the big salmon, summer chinooks (kings) that were commonly 50 to 80 pounds.

"Large schools of salmon swam around in circles, between [Spokane] falls and Bowl and Pitcher. At the confluence of Latah Creek, there were shoals of salmon that just sat there."

-- fisheries biologist Dr. Allan Scholz

sat there."

It was as important as any fishing site on the Columbia itself, including the famous fishing spots at Celilo Falls near The Dalles and Kettle Falls, according to Scholz.

Lower Granite Dam



Little Goose Dam



The four lower Snake River dams. When Lewis & Clark first stepped foot into the Columbia River watershed, this was the richest salmon fishery on earth. Sixteen million wild salmon yearly pulsed these wild forests and deserts, returning home to natal streams, spawning, and in their death renewing a cycle of life. Where Lewis & Clark canoed free-flowing waters on the Snake River, today

Debbie Finley, a historian, member of the Colville Confederated Tribes and granddaughter of a Spokane Indian elder, said that anywhere between 200 and 5,000 Indians gathered on the Spokane every year, some of them coming from hundreds of miles away.

“My original people are from the Arrow Lakes in Canada, and we came down in birch-bark canoes, for thousands and thousands of years,” said Finley.

In fact, when Lewis and Clark came down the Clearwater in 1805, they wondered where all the Nez Perce were. They were told: They’re up on the Spokane River, fishing.

A salmon chief from the resident Spokane tribe would oversee the fishing and then oversee the distribution of the catch equally among all the diverse bands.

“Every single person received equally, no matter their age,” said Finley.

According to Scholz, the Spokane Indians depended more heavily on salmon for sustenance than almost any other tribe in the entire Columbia system. An Indian agent in 1866 estimated that salmon made up five-eighths of their total diet.

Thousands of enormous chinooks would be spread out to be sun-dried, wind-dried or smoked. The preserved fish lasted through the winter and were traded to other tribes for buffalo hides, shells and obsidian.

And when the fishing was done, the games would begin. On the plain where West Riverside Avenue stretches today, the Indians established a horse-racing course.

The salmon camps persisted even after the city of Spokane Falls was established in 1881. The salmon camps lasted until the salmon no longer came in 1915.

The white settlers, too, took advantage of the river’s richness. Around the turn of the century, *The Spokesman-Review* was full of stories of 50-pounders being taken by fishermen.

“At one time, Spokane was internationally known for its fishing,” said Scholz, upon whose research most of this article is based. “Some of the big hotels were built in part to bring people here for these kind of fishing experiences.”

Not only was the river famous for its chinook salmon run, but it also had two steelhead runs, a small coho run, and, above the falls, a huge population of cutthroat trout.

When Lt. N. Abercrombie of the U.S. Army went fishing on Havermale Island (Riverfront Park) in 1877, he wrote: “Caught 400 (cutthroat) trout, weighing two to five pounds apiece. As fast as we dropped in a hook baited with a grasshopper, we would catch a big trout. In fact, the greatest part of the work was catching the grasshopper.”

There’s a sound biological explanation for all of this abundance. The Spokane River just plain had more fish-food than most streams, mainly insects.

“The invertebrate numbers are astoundingly high, even now,” said Scholz.

The Spokane aquifer deserves the credit for this. Cool underground water gushes into the Spokane River at a number of spots, keeping the stream cool in the summer and unfrozen in the winter. These are ideal conditions for developing a “really large invertebrate population,” said Scholz.

Even with those advantages, the Spokane salmon could not survive what happened between about 1870 and

The Spokane aquifer deserves the credit for this. Cool underground water gushes into the Spokane River at a number of spots, keeping the stream cool in the summer and unfrozen in the winter.

When Lewis and Clark came down the Clearwater in 1805, they wondered where all the Nez Perce were. They were told: They’re up on the Spokane River, fishing.

After hundreds of thousands of years of salmon runs, it took less than a century to kill off the runs entirely. Actually, it took less than two days.

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Lower Monumental Dam



Ice Harbor Dam



the river has been stilled by four federal dams. These four lower Snake River dams form a channel of death for the young salmon. The wild salmon that saved Lewis & Clark now face extinction. Decisions made by the United States during the Bicentennial will determine the fate of Columbia River salmon. [Army Corps of Engineers photos]

1939. The first blow came with the development of commercial salmon canneries on the lower Columbia. Those canneries went after the biggest chinooks, which happened to be the Spokane River strain. By the late 1880s, the Spokane runs had noticeably shrunk, said Scholz.

Then came two much more serious blows. Little Falls Dam, right near one of the main salmon camps, was completed in 1911. It had only a rudimentary fish ladder; there was some dispute over whether fish could negotiate it at all.

By 1915, it was a moot point. Long Lake Dam was built that year, four miles above Little Falls Dam, without any fish ladder at all.

"It was a sad day for the pioneers who had grown to depend on the salmon as one of their staple foods," wrote D.L. McDonald, a settler on the Spokane River, quoted in "The Spokane River: Its Miles and Its History" by John Fahey and Bob Dellwo. "But for the Indians, it was a catastrophe."

Salmon were restricted to the lower 28 miles of the river below Little Falls. Then in 1939, the Grand Coulee Dam blocked off the Columbia, which sealed the salmon off from the entire Spokane River.

"Of those really large strains that came into this area, it's unlikely that there are any (genetic) remnants left," said Scholz.

Today the Spokane River is mostly a slow-water river. Instead of salmon, it contains carp, bass, bluegills, northern pike, yellow perch and "lots of suckers," said Scholz.

The free-flowing sections - from Riverfront State Park upstream to Post Falls - still contain good populations of trout, feeding on those prolific insects.

But those 50-plus pound chinooks are visible only to those who use their imagination.

"I'm a little wistful that I wasn't here to see it," said Scholz. "And from the standpoint of the environment, I'm just aghast. We've gone from a river system that was very productive to one that is totally regulated. But the biggest thing is the loss of the Indian culture."

It's an ache that remains acute. In 1972, Chief Alex Sherwood of the Spokane tribe stood on a restaurant deck, looking out over the falls, and looked back in time. In "The Spokane River: Its Miles and Its History," co-author Bob Dellwo quoted the chief's words that day:

"Sometimes even now I find a lonely spot where the river still runs wild. I find myself talking to it. I might ask, 'River, do you remember how it used to be - the game, the fish, the pure water, the roar of the falls, boats, canoes, fishing platforms? You fed

and took care of our people then. For thousands of years we walked your banks and used your waters. You would always answer when our chiefs called to you with their prayer to the river spirit.' Sometimes I stand and shout,

'RIVER, DO YOU REMEMBER US?'

The Spokesman-Review, August 21, 1995, Copyright 1995.
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**"From the standpoint of the environment, I'm just aghast."
-- Dr. Allan Scholz**

**"River, do you remember how it used to be - the game, the fish, the pure water, the roar of the falls, boats, canoes, fishing platforms? You fed and took care of our people then. For thousands of years we walked your banks and used your waters. You would always answer when our chiefs called to you with their prayer to the river spirit. Sometimes I stand and shout, 'RIVER, DO YOU REMEMBER US?'"
-- Chief Alex Sherwood,
Spokane Indian Nation**

"Capt. Clark" at the National Press Club, March 2000

". . . The Nez Perce Tribe welcomed us. They fed us salmon and camas root.

The Indians and salmon saved the Lewis & Clark expedition. Our survival meant the United States, not the British, would claim most of the mighty Columbia River.

I have come here today to remind you of all this. For you as a nation are deciding the fate of the salmon that saved the Corps of Discovery.

In these waters we saw salmon so thick you could not dip an oar without striking a silvery back. No longer. These free flowing waters we canoed on the Snake River have been stilled by four dams. These four lower Snake River dams are killing the salmon and form a channel of death.

As you prepare for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, the monument you must build is simple: to restore the lower

Snake River as a free-flowing river. Remove the dams. Save the salmon.

We have a moral duty and legal obligation to do this.

Do not shame Capt. Lewis and me with this great injustice of allowing the salmon to go extinct. Honor your treaties promising the salmon will endure.

Celebrate the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial by saving the salmon. We were the Corps of Discovery. Capt. Lewis and I challenge you as a nation to be a Corps of Recovery."

"Capt. William Clark" speaking at the National Press Club, March 9, 2000, on the occasion of the recognition of the Snake River as the nation's most endangered river by American Rivers.

America's Rain Forest: At Risk

Explorers Opened Timber Chapter

Shots Signaling 1804 Trip Echo In Panel's Action

By William Allen, *Post-Dispatch* Science Writer

THE BATTLE OVER America's rain forest is the climax of a chapter in American history that started in the St. Louis area 188 years ago Thursday.

On May 14, 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked from a camp near St. Louis with orders from President Thomas Jefferson to explore the territory west of the Mississippi River. They marked the occasion by firing a shot.

The events they set in motion prompted new shots in Washington Thursday - exactly 188 years later - in an ongoing environmental battle. The latest skirmish in the battle involved a decision by President George Bush's administration to remove protections for the threatened northern spotted owl.

In reports to Washington, Lewis and Clark described the towering old-growth forests they found in the Pacific Northwest.

Encouraged by land grants awarded to railroads in the 1860s, timber companies started clear-cutting the Northwest in the late 1800s.

Over the next few decades, Congress and various presidents preserved some forest land by designating national parks and wilderness areas. Timber companies could still cut on vast stretches of public land, including national forests and property managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

The Timber Basket

About 20 million acres of old-growth forest once stood in Oregon and Washington, forestry experts estimate. Just 2.3 million acres are left, most of it on public land. About 900,000 acres are protected in national parks or wilderness areas.

The 1.4 million acres of old growth that are left are

subject to logging, primarily on federal lands like national forests and holdings managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

"This was the nation's timber basket and we cut like there was no tomorrow," said Bill Arthur, of the Sierra Club in Seattle. "Now we're at the end of the timber frontier."

The U.S. Forest Service has been criticized strongly for allowing timber companies to profit from cutting vast tracts of national forest while taxpayers pay for expensive logging roads. Much of that criticism has come from within the agency's own ranks.

The Battle Ensues

When the pace of cutting accelerated in the 1980s, environmentalists moved to block what they saw as the final destruction of the Northwestern forests. ...

Lewis and Clark described the towering old-growth forests they found in the Pacific Northwest.

"This was the nation's timber basket and we cut like there was no tomorrow. Now we're at the end of the timber frontier."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 15, 1992, excerpted. Reprinted with permission of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, copyright 1992.



Mt. Rainier, clearcuts. Failure of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean would eventually lead to the transcontinental railroads. Encouraged by land grants awarded to railroads in the 1860s, timber companies started clear-cutting the Northwest in the late 1800s. Photo © Trygve Steen

Clearcut controversy

Forest Service questions timing of Plum Creek's pine forest harvest along Lewis and Clark Trail

By Sherry Devlin of the Missoulian

LOLO PASS - Knowing that the U.S. Forest Service wanted to buy the land and protect its historic value, Plum Creek Timber Co. clearcut a lodgepole pine forest sheltering the Lewis and Clark Trail near Lolo Pass.

Then, with the bicentennial of the historic expedition approaching and amid predictions that millions of tourists would follow the explorers' route, Plum Creek said "no" to the Forest Service's purchase offer and instead sold the government an easement allowing public access to the trail.

Now some say the logging stripped the land of its historic setting at the very moment the national spotlight was set to shine on the trail that gave Meriwether Lewis and William Clark passage through the Bitterroot Mountains in 1805 and 1806 - as it had the Nez Perce and Salish Indians for centuries before.

"It is almost inconceivable that Plum Creek could have undertaken this project knowing the bicentennial was ahead," said Gene Thompson, a forestry technician who oversees trail maintenance for the Lolo National Forest. "That's what saddens me. This is the first time the trail has had so much attention focused on it.

"By all indications, a lot of people will come over this trail in the next few years. I just wish they could have seen this section as it appeared 18 months ago. This was a place where you could really understand the trials of the Native Americans and the trials of Lewis and Clark when they encountered these mountains."

"The historic tread remains, but the integrity of the setting has been lost," said Lolo National Forest archaeologist Milo McLeod. "It is unfortunate that Plum Creek could not have been more sensitive to the value of the historic setting."

An adjoining, uncut section of national forest land provides the picture of what Plum Creek's land looked like 18 months ago, when a crew of Nez Perce and Salish teen-agers cleared the Lolo Trail from Lee Creek campground to Packer Meadows, then rode the trail on horseback.

There was no break in tree cover from the national forest to the industrial forest in July 1999. For 2.5 miles, the trail ran through an intact forest, uncut by public or private foresters, left to grow for the 90 years since the Bitterroot Mountains burned in the fires of 1910.

It was, Thompson said, the largest piece of intact forest on the Lolo Trail in Montana.

Now the edge of the national forest is marked by a line of 90-year-old lodgepole pines, their sides painted red to show the change in ownership. Cross into the national forest and the scene is dark, cool and green. Turn around and traverse the adjoining Plum Creek

section and the mountainside is open; a handful of spindly lodgepoles remains; the growth is at ground level, where foresters have planted a new forest.

Few Forest Service or Plum Creek employees have seen the Lee Creek clearcut. In fact, the Plum Creek land-use manager who lauded the easement during a ceremony in Packer Meadows last month conceded Friday that he has not seen the site.

"My company and our predecessors have managed this area for many decades as part of our working forest," Jerry Sorensen said at the July 25 celebration. "And for as long a time, we have recognized the special importance of this area and have protected

the integrity and the character of the Lolo Trail."

On Friday, Sorensen said the federal government "bought an easement, not the land" in Lee Creek. Plum Creek never hid the fact that the timber would be actively managed, he said.

"Our foresters felt this was the best way to manage that ground for the long term, not just for the two years of the Lewis and Clark celebration," said Plum Creek spokeswoman Kris Russell. "We are looking at the forest over decades, not over a couple of years."

The open hillside below Wagon Mountain has not lost its forest, Russell insisted. "This is a forest. It is just a very, very young forest. A lot of people would refer to the forest next door as a biological desert, or darn close to it. But now you're getting into a huge philosophical discussion. Is a forest something that has trees on it or is a forest a place where trees are growing?"

"I don't think a doghair lodgepole stand is a whole lot better looking than a clearcut," she said.

Lolo National Forest supervisor Debbie Austin said she was not surprised when her

staff reported that the land had been logged during the two years she was negotiating the easement with Plum Creek. "There were some expectations that some people had, and those people were quite surprised when this happened," she said. "I was not."

"Plum Creek agreed to sell portions of land containing the Lolo Trail, but they were not willing to sell Section 1," Austin said. "They were willing to give us public access by way of an easement, and that was what we purchased. I always knew the management would be different in Section 1. All we acquired was a 15-foot trail easement."

During negotiations, Austin said she asked Plum Creek foresters if they could take a "lighter touch" in managing the forest alongside the historic trail. "But they told me they would be managing this land, that they wanted to manage the trees. At that point in the

Alternately called the Lolo Trail, the Nez Perce Trail and the Lewis and Clark Trail, the 120-mile route from Lolo, Mont., to Weippe, Idaho, is a priceless historic artifact.

In September of 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition nearly met its end on the Lolo Trail, so scarce was the game and so early the snowfall. And in the summer of 1877, 750 Nez Perce Indians tried to escape pursuing soldiers by crossing the trail into Montana.

"It is almost inconceivable that Plum Creek could have undertaken this project knowing the bicentennial was ahead."

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Plum Creek promises no damage to historic trail

LOLO PASS, Idaho (AP) Advocates for preserving the Lewis and Clark Expedition's historic trail across the Bitterroot Mountains walked away reassured after a meeting with Plum Creek Timber Co. representatives.

They also left with a commitment from Plum Creek's top regional official that logging crews would bypass the area for at least several months while a campaign is pursued to buy an 80-acre parcel that includes part of the trail.

Members of the Idaho Governor's Committee on the Lewis and Clark Trail traveled to the pass along the Idaho-Montana border Monday to see a Plum Creek logging project along Glade Creek. The Lewis and Clark Expedition camped along the stream Sept. 13, 1805, as it undertook its arduous crossing of the Bitterroot Mountains.

Committee members learned of the logging shortly after it began in early September. The project raised concerns that the trail's setting might change dramatically.

"Everyone wanted to see what was going on up here," said state Treasurer Lydia Justice Edwards, co-chairman of the committee.

"I had been assured that the trail was being taken into consideration and that's exactly what we found."



Plum Creek clearcutting near Lolo Pass, 1989.

I had been assured that the trail was being taken into consideration and that's exactly what we found."

-- Lydia Justice Edwards, co-chair of the Idaho Governor's Committee

The committee members and company officials spent nearly two hours along the tiny stream meandering through a meadow. Afterward, Edwards said she was relieved.

"They already have some protections in place," she said. "They were doing everything they could to preserve it while logging."

Missoulian, September 24, 1997, Reprinted with permission of The Associated Press

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negotiations, my choice was to protect the trail tread and public access, or to walk away.

"I felt the trail was more important than walking away."

"This is the way I chose to look at it,"

Austin said. "It was really important to protect the trail and to provide access for the public in perpetuity. That was the most important thing. It was private land, and we couldn't go in and take somebody's private land away from them."

The Forest Service paid \$4,600 for trail easements on two sections of Plum Creek land, one of which was the recently clearcut Section 1.

Russell said her company does not sell timberland "that we think we can manage well for long-term forestry." Section 1 was good, productive timberland, she said.

"The Forest Service knows that giving them an easement doesn't mean we will stop managing the forest the way we think we should manage a forest," Russell said. "We are not

the kind of company that hides its work. We think we do a good job of managing the forest and don't try to hide that by not doing it."

"This was a place where you could really understand the trials of the Native Americans and the trials of Lewis and Clark when they encountered these mountains."

-- Gene Thompson, Lolo National Forest

A clearcut was the right forestry prescription for the lodgepole stand in Lee Creek, Russell said. "We did what was right for the ground. I do not feel it diminishes the trail or its importance or the easement or its importance. The easement is in perpetuity, as is the forest."

"The reason it was clearcut was because it was lodgepole pine," she said. "There is not a whole heck of a lot else that you can do with that sort of stand. If you do a selective

harvest, all the trees you left are going to fall down. If you are ever going to do anything with it, you have to clearcut it."

Lodgepole forests like those atop Lolo Pass "grew up out of a fire ecology where they burned to the ground," Russell said. A clearcut is how a forester mimics nature's stand-replacing fires.

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"In lodgepole, you don't have a forestry option," she said. "It wouldn't do any good to leave a buffer along the trail. All the trees would blow over. The same would be true if we left a few more trees per acre. From our foresters' perspective, they are trying to grow a forest."

Plum Creek abided by all good-forestry precepts and best-management practices in logging the historic trail, Russell said. The riparian area at the base of the hillside was not logged. There, the Lolo Trail runs through a lush forest and hops a little creek.

Forest Service officials did not disagree with Russell's assessment. "This is private land," Thompson said. "What was done here was within the legal rights and responsibilities of the landowner. This landscape abides by best management practices for forestry in the state of Montana."

The public-access easement puts no restrictions on Plum Creek's management of the land. If logging disrupts access, the company must provide an alternate route. If the trail is damaged by the company's management, it must be restored.

But for Thompson, who - with archaeologist McLeod - visited the site last week at the Missoulian's request, the question is not one of laws broken or responsibilities shirked, but one of timing. For McLeod, it is one of preserving the integrity of a trail that has national significance.

"Knowing that this was the Lolo Trail, they could have been more sensitive," McLeod said. "They could have left a corridor."

Thompson and McLeod had hoped the Forest Service would be able to buy Section 1, as it did another 1,248 acres owned by Plum Creek on steeper, less profitable ground nearby. In the same transaction that provided the easement across the Lee Creek clearcut, the federal government paid \$1.6 million for other sections of Plum Creek land through which the historic trail passes.

That now-public acreage will be managed so visitors see no signs of modern management, Austin said. But Plum Creek will determine how the private timberland is managed.

The Lolo Creek drainage has been logged since the 1920s, first by industrial foresters, then by the Forest Service, McLeod said. Much of the timberland is in a checkboard ownership pattern - one section of Plum Creek, one section of national forest, one more section of Plum Creek.

"The intermix of management has always been a challenge," McLeod said, "particularly since the Lolo Trail was named a National Historic Landmark, and then was placed on the National Historic Register. This is a place significant to our nation's history, but it is also an industrial forest."

McLeod wrote his master's thesis on the Lolo Trail and pinpointed its location over the past two decades. Alternately called the Lolo Trail, the Nez Perce Trail and the Lewis and Clark Trail, the 120-mile route from Lolo, Mont., to Weippe, Idaho, is a priceless historic artifact, he said.

And while Russell said Plum Creek foresters were not certain of the trail's location, McLeod said there is no doubt - and has not been any doubt for several years. He flagged the trail three years ago, before the forest was logged. Thompson came along with another set of markers two years ago; he, too, was there before Plum Creek logged the land.

"We know this trail and its history and its use and its significance," McLeod said.

For hundreds of years, maybe longer, Salish Indians traveled west over the trail to dig camas roots at Lolo Pass and to fish for salmon and steelhead on the Clearwater and Snake rivers. From the plateaus of central Idaho came the Nez Perce people, headed east onto the plains to hunt buffalo.

In September of 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition nearly met its end on the Lolo Trail, so scarce was the game and so early the snowfall. And in the summer of 1877, 750 Nez Perce Indians tried to escape pursuing soldiers by crossing the trail into Montana. They were sick, hungry and frightened; most died in the flight, or at the Big Hole or Bears Paw battlefields.

McLeod said the Nez Perce's final crossing left the path so deeply worn that he could find the tread more than 100 years later. The trail and the land it crosses are not pristine, he said. They have been used by humans for centuries.

But the Forest Service has protected the path and its immediate surroundings in recent decades, deferring to the land's historic value, McLeod said.

Russell, however, pointed to other places where her company did no logging and eventually sold the land to the public, including the Glade Creek campsite on the Idaho side of Lolo Pass. "There are special places like Glade Creek," she said, "where we approached our management completely differently."

And Plum Creek is negotiating the possible sale of (or easements on) other tracts through which the Lolo Trail passes in Idaho, some of the wildest remaining country through which the Lewis and Clark expedition passed.

Sometimes, commercial timberland is logged before it is sold to reduce the asking price, said Sorensen, the company's land-use manager. Sometimes, it is logged before an easement is granted because the work will be more difficult afterwards.

Could the Forest Service insist that the land not be touched during the course of negotiations? "Yes," said Austin, the Lolo forest supervisor. But that kind of demand could be a deal-breaker.

"It depends on the values and the reasons why we want to acquire a piece of property," Austin said. "If those values are related to having a bunch of trees on the land, then we need to say we want the trees - and we have to pay for them."

In the case of the land in Lee Creek, Austin said, "I didn't feel the value was the trees. I felt the value to the public was the access. Besides, access was the only choice we were given."

The Forest Service talked about Lolo Trail easements for more than 10 years with both Plum Creek and Champion International Corp. - before Champion sold its Montana timberland to Plum Creek, Austin said. Only in the past two years, after she became forest supervisor and money was available to buy some land, did the negotiations get serious.

"It was a long, long negotiation to get to the point where Plum Creek agreed to sell us anything," she said. "On the last two sections - Sections 1 and 25 - they said, 'We cannot go any further, but we will sell you an easement.'"

"It's a fact," said Thompson, the forestry technician. "It's their land and their timetable. Ultimately, it has to come down to expectations, and mine were maybe less realistic than others."

Reporter Sherry Devlin can be reached at 523-5268 or at sdevlin@missoulian.com.

Missoulian, August 19, 2001.
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Clearwater National Forest: A National Treasure in Peril

When Lewis & Clark explored the west, they did not find a single clearcut or logging road. In the last 200 years the forests of the Northern Rockies, Cascades, and coastal ranges have been heavily clearcut, and bulldozed with hundreds of thousands of miles of logging roads.

Today, between Monticello and Astoria, the last remaining wilderness section of the trail is in Idaho: the Clearwater National Forest. Here it is possible to walk in the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery, and see the sweep of a wilderness landscape unmarred by logging roads and clearcuts.

With 16 inventoried roadless areas totaling close to one million acres, northern Idaho's Clearwater National Forest retains much of the same wild character as when Lewis & Clark first traversed the area 200 years ago. The Clearwater's many low-elevation roadless areas and old growth forests are a rarity even in America's National Forest System.

The Clearwater is home to many pristine rivers and streams. As its name implies, this national forest is world-renowned for blue ribbon fisheries, kayaking, and rafting. Sections of the Lochsa and North Fork rivers remain wild drainages, contributing to exceptional water quality. Because of the forest's thin fragile soils, logging and roadbuilding have threatened several rivers, including the Palouse and Potlatch.



© Chase Davis

Smoking Cairn, Clearwater National Forest. Between Monticello and Fort Clatsop there are few places that are as wild today as they were at the time of Lewis & Clark. Here at Smoking Cairn, the view in nearly all directions is of wild country: neither clearcuts nor logging roads.

The Clearwater's rivers and streams provide important spawning habitat for westslope cutthroat, bull trout, steelhead, and chinook salmon. All four have either been listed as threatened, endangered or are being petitioned for listing. Past logging and road construction have caused landslides which decimated fish populations in some drainages.

The Clearwater's wildlands provide important habitat for gray wolf, bald eagle, lynx, and possibly grizzly bear. Recovery plans for grizzlies in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness have been proposed

Logging and roadbuilding have impaired water quality and fisheries on more than a third of this national forest.

On the eve of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, the U.S. Forest Service plans to log thousands of acres of the Clearwater National Forest, further despoiling this national treasure. Tourists exploring the lands of Lewis & Clark will be joined by logging trucks driving the winding, river canyon Highway 12.



© Bill Haskins

Clearcuts, logging roads, and landslides, Clearwater National Forest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Protecting Wild America



Sierra Club launches project to save, restore Lewis and Clark trail

By Patrick McMahon, USA Today

SEATTLE - The Sierra Club is launching an ambitious five-year campaign today to protect and restore millions of acres of wilderness along the route explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled through the West almost 200 years ago.

The nation's oldest and largest grass-roots environmental organization has identified 34 sites in eight states for attention as it kicks off a multimillion-dollar plan called "Wild America: Protecting the Legacy of Lewis and Clark."

"There's a whole lot gone and a whole lot left," Sierra Executive Director Carl Pope said. "This is the premier land preservation and restoration opportunity that Americans are going to have in the first decade of the 21st century."

The project comes as the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's 1804-06 expedition approaches. Their journey is being celebrated in the media and in events from St. Louis to Oregon, where they became this nation's first cross-country travelers to glimpse the Pacific Ocean.

Thursday night, the History Channel premieres an hour-long documentary on the Missouri River with Stephen Ambrose, author of the Lewis and Clark biography "Undaunted Courage."

"Considering the trip was as exciting as a trip to the moon 200 years ago, every small town along the route has come down with bicentennial fever," Idaho lawyer Tom Keefe said. His hometown, Kamiah, was where the expedition camped for nearly a month after the Nez Perce Indians saved the explorers from starvation.

"There's likely to be millions of people traveling the route in the next decade," said John McCarthy, conservation director of the Idaho Conservation League, "and to the extent we have some legacy left, the time is right" for the Sierra Club effort.

Idaho, which gets substantial attention in the Sierra Club plan, "has some of the greatest unprotected wild lands in the lower 48 states that look just the way they did when Lewis and Clark came through here," McCarthy said. However, "every year, we're losing hundreds of acres to development."

Jim Young, a Sierra Club official in Seattle and a co-author of the plan, said it seeks to permanently shield undeveloped lands such as the Beartooth Plateau in Wyoming, the Bitterroot Range along the Idaho-Montana border and the Dark Divide roadless area in Washington state. The Sierra Club also wants to ban road building and logging in roadless areas, to protect grizzly bear, salmon and bison habitats, to

keep off-road vehicles out of sensitive areas and to bar oil and gas leasing in pristine areas. The club also proposes to remove earthen sections of four dams on the lower Snake River and to protect prairie dogs in South Dakota's Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

It wants a federal wilderness designation for the Little Missouri Badlands in North Dakota to protect the area from oil and gas development. It wants the same designation for the Lemhi Mountains in Idaho, home of Lewis and Clark's Shoshone guide Sacagawea.

It also wants Tillamook State Forest in Oregon, now earmarked for logging, to be saved as a state park. In Nebraska, it seeks greater water quality protection statewide and better management of the Niobrara River by the National Park Service.

New laws and regulations are needed to accomplish much of what the Sierra Club has outlined. Another key part of the plan is to generate public support for a proposal President Clinton recently announced to

protect roadless areas in national forests, Young said.

The plan drew a caustic response from some.

"The wilderness advocates come up with one hare-brained scheme after another to lock up our public lands," says Clark Collins, executive director of the Blue Ribbon Commission in Pocatello, Idaho. "Wilderness advocates would lock out present-day explorers who want to use mountain bikes and off-road vehicles to explore our back country."

It is not known what the project would cost corporations or individual states.

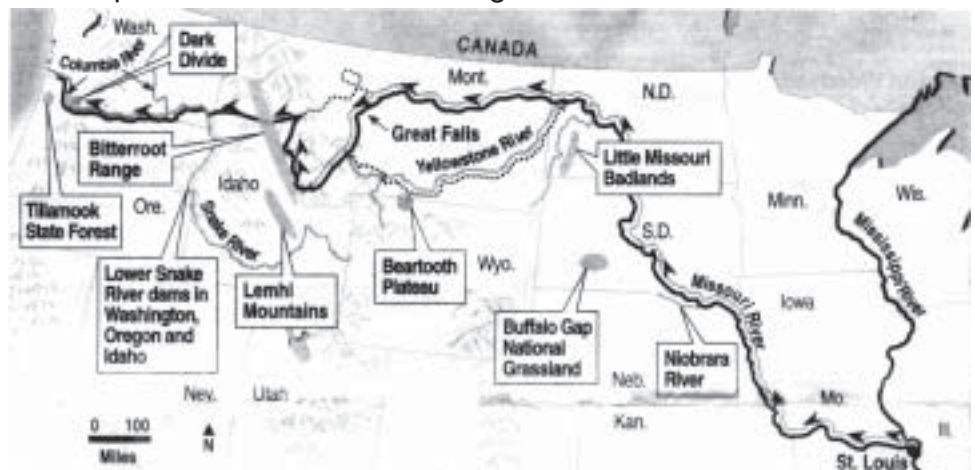
The plan calls for elimination of some revenue-making activity such as lumbering and oil and gas exploration and would stymie some recreational development.

USA Today, November 17, 1999, Copyright 1999, USA TODAY.

"This is the premier land preservation and restoration opportunity that Americans are going to have in the first decade of the 21st century."

-- Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club

Development threatens sites along Lewis and Clark route



Source: The Sierra Club, USA TODAY research. Dave Merrill, USA TODAY

Sierra Club says many plants, animals in trouble since days of Lewis and Clark

By Nicholas K. Geranios, Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) _ Many of the plants and animals first reported by the Lewis and Clark expedition nearly 200 years ago are on the decline in the West, the Sierra Club said Thursday.

Of the 122 animals discovered by Lewis and Clark, at least 40 percent are under a designation warranting concern and protection, the club said.

“There is no better way to commemorate the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial than to protect and restore wild America,” said Mary Kiesau of the environmental group.

The report offered sweeping recommendations for preserving plants and animals, including greater use of federal designations to remove public lands from development, removal of Snake River dams, no oil or gas drilling in sensitive areas, bans on construction of logging roads and sharp restrictions on motorized vehicles.

The recommendations drew criticism from the Independence Institute of Golden, Colo., which promotes more use of public lands.

“All they do is say no,” said Dave Kopel of the institute. “The Sierra Club can’t ever come up with any examples of any drilling, exploration or resource extraction anywhere that it supports.”

President Thomas Jefferson in 1803 sent Capts. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery on an 8,000-mile round-trip journey across the West. They explored the region from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean.

Using the Lewis and Clark journals as a guide, the report tried to produce a snapshot of changes along the route covered by the corps from 1803-05. It is divided into three sections: Great North American Prairie, Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest.

Lewis and Clark described 178 plants and 122 animals new to science during their journey, and recorded valuable information about previously known species.

The journals provide the clearest record of the West’s wildlands and wildlife before mass settlement, the report said, describing a time when massive bison herds shook the grasslands, salmon choked the Columbia River and wolves roamed from North Dakota

to California.

Things are different now, the report said:

- Grizzly bears have been reduced to around 1,000 from a population that once topped 100,000.
- The 70 million bison have been reduced to about 20,000 in the wild.
- Cutthroat trout and prairie dogs are down to a tiny fraction of former levels. Black-footed ferrets, woodland caribou and whooping cranes are at the brink of extinction.
- The passenger pigeon, Audubon’s bighorn sheep, the plains gray wolf and the Carolina parakeet are already extinct.

There have been some success stories. Elk, beaver and pronghorn antelope are far better off today than they were 100 years ago, the report said.

“There is no better way to commemorate the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial than to protect and restore wild America.”
**--Mary Kiesau
national coordinator of the
Lewis & Clark Bicentennial
Campaign for the Sierra Club**

April 4, 2002, Reprinted with permission of *The Associated Press*



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Sierra Club wants Lolo Trail protected

Organization says logging would be tragic

By Mike Mclean, Staff writer

THE LOLO TRAIL -- A 60-mile stretch of the route of Lewis and Clark in Idaho is the centerpiece of a major drive by the Sierra Club to protect wildlands in the West.

The five-year campaign, Protecting the Legacy of Lewis and Clark, is already drawing skepticism over the major environmental actions it endorses.

But club members expect it to gain momentum as it coincides with the bicentennial of the historic expedition, which began when the Corps of Discovery set out from St. Louis on May 14, 1804.

"This is our nation's story," said John Osborn, during a Sierra Club sponsored tour of the Lochsa country and the Lolo Trail in the Clearwater National Forest.

The explorers traversed the ridge-line trail on their way west in September 1805 and on their return trip in June 1806.

"In this great national museum, the last wilderness section of the entire trail is the Lochsa River country," said Osborn, a regional environmental leader, author and Spokane physician. "It's remote, it's wild, it's incredible and it's a real national treasure."

Two centuries after Lewis and Clark, the world is a different place, he said, referring to the emerging series of difficult environmental problems.

"Americans generally have very little sense of their own history, but they are very good at commemorating events. The Lewis and Clark bicentennial is a huge event for this country," Osborn said. "We can eulogize what has been lost and perhaps point fingers in the process, or we can work very hard to protect what's left and to try to save the salmon, the cutthroat, the grizzly bear and the wolf from slipping into extinction."

The Sierra Club endorses proposals to breach four Lower Snake River dams. Osborn said a large body of scientific evidence indicates dam breaching would be the last chance for wild salmon and steelhead populations to recover in the Lochsa among other rivers.

"When Lewis and Clark crossed the Continental Divide and stepped into the Columbia River ecosystem, they were walking into a river of life in which an estimated 16 million salmon and steelhead swam upriver," he said.

"One of the reasons they came down here to the Lochsa was in search of that fish to keep them alive. It was ultimately the fish and the camas root that saved their lives when they fell into the hands of the Nez Perce Tribe."

In the last century, the richest salmon fishery on earth has been transformed into the largest hydropower system, in some cases directly overriding tribal fishing treaties.

"In many ways it's a very sad part of the history of the region," Osborn said. "I think the opportunity presents itself to commemorate the bicentennial in part by bypassing those dams, honoring the treaties and saving the salmon."

Len Broberg, University of Montana environmental studies instructor and Sierra Club volunteer, said the Lochsa country is one of the last places where visitors can see the landscape much as Lewis and Clark saw

it.

"This is the center of a wildlands complex," Broberg added. "This is a biodiversity hot spot. There are a lot of rare animals and endemic plants."

The Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor, which is sandwiched between the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness to the south and the Great Burn area to the north, is the last best place for grizzly bears, Broberg said.

"Americans generally have very little sense of their own history, but they are very good at commemorating events. The Lewis and Clark bicentennial is a huge event for this country."

"[C]ommemorate the bicentennial in part by bypassing those dams, honoring the treaties and saving the salmon."

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“It makes sense that grizzlies should be here,” he said.

While the largest land mammal in the lower 48 states may eventually find its way to the Lochsa, the Sierra Club supports transplanting grizzlies from healthy populations in Canada rather than from Yellowstone, where they are still on the Endangered Species List.

In addition, the club supports Northern Rockies Ecosystem proposals, which aim to connect separate grizzly bear populations in Yellowstone National Park, central Idaho, Cabinet-Yaak and Glacier National Park as well as lower British Columbia and Alberta in Canada to allow more genetic diversity.

“We think it’s possible if we take the right steps soon,” Broberg said.

Because grizzly bears are considered an indicator species, protection of land for grizzlies will also benefit other sensitive species such as lynx and wolverines.

The club, which opposes all logging on public land, is one of the biggest boosters of the Clinton administration’s proposed

roadless policy that would protect 40-60 million acres nationally from road building and timber harvesting.

The club specifically wants the Forest Service to withdraw plans for timber harvest on the Lochsa Face.

Clearwater National Forest officials are rewriting sales that originally included a timber harvest of 75 million board feet over a period of five to 10 years in the Lochsa country.

“This is spread over a large area and a large period of time,” said Dennis Elliott, CNF deputy ranger. “I would guess we’re a year and a half to two years away from

anything going on the ground.”

Some of the projects would be visible from the Lolo Trail.

“Any timber harvest you see would be set up to emulate natural conditions,” Elliott said.

“What I would expect to see would be large acreages with what we could call structure left afterward. Just like you would see after a fire.”

Two-thirds of the project involve ecosystem burning.

“Some of that would probably come right up to the Lolo Motorway,” Elliott said.

Not everyone is delighted by the Sierra Club’s campaign.

Alex Irby, a Konkoville Lumber resource manager who grew up in the Clearwater area, said the Sierra Club should let the Forest Service manage the resources.

About 70 percent of the land in the Clearwater Region is federally managed.

“Coming out against all logging is foolhardy,” said Irby, an Idaho Fish and Game commissioner who enjoys the trail. “When they came out with that stance, it alienated some of their best supporters.”

He said there is no longer excessive logging in the region.

“The Forest Service just hasn’t been selling any timber here for five to 10 years. This past year, they sold a little under 2 million feet on a forest that’s capable of growing close to 400 million a year,” Irby said. “Most of that was firewood and fence posts.”

Coeur d’Alene Press, October 3, 2000. Reprinted with permission of the *Coeur d’Alene Press*

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U.S. Forest Service photo

36,647 Miles of Roads and Trails

By Chris Ehlers

While the US Forest Service is busy gathering public comment concerning the proposal to exclude the building of new roads on 40 million acres of public land in the U.S., with 8 million of those acres in Idaho, one environmentalist group says more than enough roads already exist for motorized use. Too many, in fact, according to the Sierra Club.

“This discrepancy is grossly unfair,” said Roger Singer with the Middle Snake Group of the Sierra Club in Boise. “Idaho’s growing recreation need is greatest for more non-motorized use, like hiking and horseback trails, not more dirtbikes.

“There are already 36,647 miles of National Forest roads and motorized trails in Idaho,” Singer added.

“Non-motorized use is being crowded out for a privileged few.”

The fuel for the Sierra Club’s fire was an internal report with data gathered by Sierra Club staff and released last week that concluded that motorized vehicles have been given access to National Forest trails out of proportion to their numbers. The report found 135,000 miles of roads and 26,000 miles of

trails are open to dirt bikes and ATVs across eight Western states.

The result of the motorization of forest backcountry is that hikers, backpackers and horse riders who seek to escape machines during their trips, according to Sierra Club officials, are crowded onto a limited number of trails -- 112 per mile each year in Idaho. On the other hand, the smaller number of dirt bike and ATV users is spread out across a larger area -- 36 riders per mile annually.

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“Only a fifth of the landscape first experienced by Lewis and Clark two hundred years ago on foot and on horseback is still wild,”

-- jonathan stoke

“Only a fifth of the landscape first experienced by Lewis and Clark two hundred years ago on foot and on horseback is still wild,” said jonathan stoke of the Sierra Club. “Much of what remains is without lasting protection, threatened by dirtbikes and ATVs.”

Ditto, said Mark Lawler with the Sierra Club’s Cascade Chapter in Washington.

“Trail use by dirt bikes and ATVs spooks wildlife, creates erosion, introduces invasive weeds, and hounds out other hikers and horse riders who can’t stand the noise, stench and damage the machines cause to the trails.”

-- Mark Lawler

“While ever increasing numbers of hikers have been crowded into the backcountry, the US Forest Service has happily spent huge amounts of money to “improve” trails for dirt bikes and ATVs,” Lawler said. “Trail use by dirt bikes and ATVs spooks wildlife, creates erosion, introduces invasive weeds, and hounds out other hikers and horse riders who can’t stand the noise, stench and damage the machines cause to the trails.”

Wood River Journal (Sun Valley, Ketchum and Hailey, Idaho), June 21, 2000, Reprinted with permission of the Wood River Journal.

Shattered Solitude And Eroded Habitat The motorization of the Lands of Lewis and Clark

Mark Lawler, Sierra Club, June 2000.

“The American West has been utterly transformed in the two centuries since first documented by Lewis and Clark. ... We continue to lose wildlands at a rapid pace: it is estimated that Washington state has lost an average of a quarter-million acres a year over the past century and Idaho lost a million acres of wildlands on National Forests in the ten years before 1995.”

“This report [shows] that on the whole, many more opportunities for recreation on motorized trails and roads are available to ORV riders than are available to

the far greater numbers of hikers and horse riders. There are enough open roads on the region’s National Forests and Grasslands to go around the Earth five times. Similar discrepancies occur in winter recreation between snowmobiles and cross country skiers and snowshoers.”

The mileages given are only for National Forests and Grassland. State and private lands, plus National Wildlife Refuges, and even Parks, have additional miles of roads and ORV routes.

The full report is available for electronic viewing or printing at www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/ORV, or by contacting mark.lawler@sierraclub.org.

Settlement of the West, and exploitation of its vast resources, would radically reduce the “immense (sic) herds of buffalo, elk, deer and antelopes feeding in one common and boundless pasture” of which Lewis wrote in his journal on an April day in 1805.

Seventy million wild buffalo once roamed the Great Plains. By 1883, only 50 remained alive. At present, about 200,000 buffalo live on the plains. Perhaps one-tenth that number are wild, much of the population in Yellowstone National Park and a few patches of refuge and parkland in the Dakotas.

The grizzly bear ranged from coastal Oregon and California to the plains of Nebraska. The bears numbered as many as 100,000; today, fewer than a thousand survive in the Lower 48.

Lewis and Clark ate their first salmon soon after crossing the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass, on what is now the boundary between Idaho and Montana. They would marvel at the great Indian fishing encampment at Celilo Falls, alongside what Lewis described as a Columbia River “crowded with salmon.” They would survive on salmon through a rainy winter encampment at Fort Clatsop.

The upper Salmon River country of Idaho remains nearly as wild now as it was then. But the great fish runs have disappeared from the river, largely as a result of four dams built far downstream on the Snake River.

Celilo Falls, once the largest native meeting ground in the West, was drowned long ago by The Dalles Dam. Sixteen million salmon returned annually to the Columbia River when Lewis and Clark passed through. Today, at most 2 million enter the river, less than a half-million of them wild stocks.

The public’s interest in the epic, 8,000-mile Lewis and Clark journey has soared, particularly since publication of Stephen Ambrose’s book “Undaunted Courage” in 1996.

The famed historian was inspired to write by a series of life-transforming experiences that began with a canoe trip up the Missouri River in 1976, at Lemhi Pass where Ambrose’s family and a group of his students from the University of New Orleans celebrated America’s bicentennial.

The National Park Service estimates that as many as 25 million Americans will retrace part of the Lewis and Clark Trail during the five years leading up to the expedition’s 200th anniversary.

The half-million-member Sierra Club has targeted places that convey the images recorded nearly two centuries ago by Lewis and Clark.

In South Dakota and Nebraska, the club wants the last free-flowing stretches of the Missouri River to be designated as “wild and scenic.” The river has been turned into four reservoirs upstream in South Dakota, and downstream has been dredged into shipping channels.

A similar designation is being sought for the 51-mile-long Hanford Reach in Washington state, the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River between the Bonneville Dam and the Canadian border. It is home to the river’s only big, healthy wild salmon run.

Not far away, the Sierra Club is supporting partial removal of four Army Corps of Engineers dams on the lower Snake River as a way of returning salmon to their wild habitat upstream in the Snake-

Salmon river system.

In eastern Oregon, the Sierra Club would have Steens Mountain designated as a national monument and protected from overgrazing and unregulated use of off-road vehicles.

The club would block a proposed mine in the Cabinet Mountains, and curtail timber cutting in the heavily logged Yaak River valley of northern Montana.

The “Wild America” campaign faces an uphill battle. Except for along the Washington and Oregon coasts, the areas proposed for protection fall within the congressional districts of legislators who support continued logging, mining and oil and gas leasing. In Montana and Idaho, a decade-old impasse between conservationists and pro-development interests has blocked passage of statewide wilderness bills -- proposals that include several areas singled out in the Sierra Club campaign.

But the Lewis and Clark anniversary could very well create a public climate for preservation. “The Sierra Club is seizing this opportunity,” McGrady said.

The Sierra Club’s toll-free number for the Lewis and Clark effort is 1-800-OUR-LAND.

P-I reporter Joel Connelly can be reached at 206-448-8160 or joelconnelly@seattle-pi.com

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 17, 1999, Copyright 1999, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, reprinted with permission.

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Email the campaign at
lewisandclark@sierraclub.org

Call the campaign in
Washington at 206-378-0114,
ext 311 or in Montana at
406-582-8365, ext 3004

More sites:
The National Council of the
Lewis & Clark Bicentennial
www.lewisandclark200.org
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For more on the Columbia
River's environmental history
and it's future, visit
www.waterplanet.ws



Chase Davis

"Capt. Clark" at the DeVoto Grove of Ancient Cedars, Clearwater National Forest, Sept. 2000.