

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
IL, MO, KS, NE, IA, SD, ND, MT, ID, WA, OR



High Potential Historic Sites

An Addendum to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use





HIGH POTENTIAL HISTORIC SITES

An Addendum to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use

Mark Weebly

APPROVED

Superintendent, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

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Introduction

Legal Framework and Background

The historic route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was designated the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT, or Trail) by Congress as part of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-625), which included an amendment to the 1968 National Trails System Act.

The National Trails System was first established by the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90–543, 82 Statute 919) on October 2, 1968. The Act created a system of national trails “to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation.” Authorized trail categories were identified as national scenic trails, national recreation trails, and connecting or side trails. Only two trails were designated in the 1968 Act: the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Fourteen other trail routes were identified to be studied for potential designation, including the “Lewis and Clark Trail, from Wood River, Illinois, to the Pacific Ocean in Oregon, following both the outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.”

Subsequent studies, including the 1977 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail study report, led to the recognition that many trails were primarily significant for their historic associations. A fourth trail category – National Historic Trails – was authorized under Title V of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625), which amended the 1968 National Trails System Act:

National historic trails, established as provided in section 5 of this Act, which will be extended trails which follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance. Designation of such trails or routes shall be continuous, but the established or developed trail, and the acquisition thereof, need not be continuous onsite. National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment. Only those selected land and water based components of a historic trail which are on federally owned lands and which meet the national historic trail criteria established in this Act are included as Federal protection components of a national historic trail. The appropriate Secretary may certify other lands as protected segments of an historic trail upon application from State or local governmental agencies or private interests involved if such segments meet the national historic trail criteria established in this Act and such criteria supplementary thereto as the appropriate Secretary may prescribe, and are administered by such agencies or interests without expense to the United States.

Three qualifying criteria were identified for designated national historic trails:

(A) It must be a trail or route established by historic use and must be historically significant as a result of that use. The route need not currently exist as a discernible trail to qualify, but its location must be sufficiently known to permit evaluation of public recreation and historical interest potential. A designated trail should generally accurately follow the historic route, but may deviate somewhat on occasion of necessity to avoid difficult routing through subsequent development, or to provide some route variations offering a more pleasurable recreational experience. Such deviations shall be so noted on site. Trail segments no longer possible to travel by trail due to subsequent development as motorized transportation routes may be designated and marked onsite as segments which link to the historic trail.

(B) It must be of national significance with respect to any of several broad facets of American history, such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns. To qualify as nationally significant, historic use of the trail must have had a far reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture. Trails significant in the history of native Americans may be included.

(C) It must have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The potential for such use is generally greater along roadless segments developed as historic trails and at historic sites associated with the trail. The presence of recreation potential not related to historic appreciation is not sufficient justification for designation under this category.

Among the 28 new national trails established by the amended Act was the Lewis and Clark NHT, described as “a trail of approximately three thousand seven hundred miles, extending from Wood River, Illinois, to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon, following the outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition depicted on maps identified as, ‘Vicinity Map, Lewis and Clark Trail’ study report dated April 1977.”

The amended Act mandated that within “two complete fiscal years of the date of enactment of legislation designating a national historic trail [...] as part of the system, the responsible Secretary” must complete a Comprehensive Plan for the Management and Use (Comprehensive Management Plan, or CMP). The 1978 amendment also included the first mention of High Potential Historic Sites (HPHS) and High Potential Route Segments (HPRS):

For national historic trails, direct Federal acquisition for trail purposes shall be limited to those areas indicated by the study report or by the comprehensive plan as high potential route segments or high potential historic sites.

The 1978 legislation did not define HPHS or HPRS, nor did it specifically require subsequent trail studies or management plans to address them. The Lewis and Clark NHT CMP, completed in 1982, instead detailed “Recommended Trail Sites, Segments, and Motor Routes” based on the existing “historic, natural, and recreational resources”. Thirty-four individual listings included both recommended sites and recommended segments; additional sites were sub-listed under

the segments. These sites and segments, as conceived, closely paralleled the (yet to be defined) concepts of HPHS and HPRS. Comprising an inventory of Trail sites and segments considered significant for either historic or recreational qualities, they were intended to address Section 7, “Administration and Development” and Section 10, “Authorization of Appropriations” of the Act.

The National Trails System Act was amended again in 1983 under Title II of Public Law 98-11. Section 5(f)(3) was revised to ensure that a “comprehensive plan for the management, and use of the trail” include “a protection plan for any high potential historic sites or high potential route segments.” Section 7(g) specified that either a trail study report or CMP would list High Potential Historic Sites (HPHS) or High Potential Route Segments (HPRS), which were subsequently defined in Section 12:

(1) The term “high potential historic sites” means those historic sites related to the route, or sites in close proximity thereto, which provide opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail during the period of its major use. Criteria for consideration as high potential sites include historic significance, presence of visible historic remnants, scenic quality, and relative freedom from intrusion.

(2) The term “high potential route segments” means those segments of a trail which would afford high quality recreation experience in a portion of the route having greater than average scenic values or affording an opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original users of a historic route.

Significant funding and staffing constraints (the Trail did not have even one dedicated full-time employee until 1991) – coupled with competing priorities – prevented Trail management from beginning to address the HPHS and HPRS deficiency until 2011. That year, a work group first met to discuss possible methodologies for identifying HPHS and HPRS. Initially, it was considered that a comprehensive undertaking could include both sites and segments. By 2012, however, HPHS and HPRS had evolved into two distinct projects that would be completed on separate timelines. An HPHS committee was formalized; contributing members fluctuated with staff changes that occurred during the course of the project.

The HPHS committee established a process for determining which places along the Lewis and Clark NHT met the HPHS criteria, as defined in the Act. A series of steps was developed to standardize the analysis of historic significance, interpretive potential, and current conditions of individual sites. Qualifying criteria was identified and defined.

Site Selection Methodology

Step 1: Determine if a site is historically related to the Trail route and in close proximity thereto. This limits the types of potentially eligible sites to those on or near the Lewis and Clark NHT and

that have historic significance related to the expedition route. If this connection can be made, continue to Step 2.

Step 2: Determine if a site that qualified under Step 1 provides opportunities to interpret the historic significance of the Trail during the period of its major use (1803-1806). If there is an existing or potential opportunity for the visiting public to learn about its significance through an interpretive experience, continue to Step 3.

Step 3: Determine if a site that qualifies under Step 1 and Step 2 has any of the four following attributes: scenic quality, freedom from intrusion, sense of place, or historic remnants. (While “sense of place” is not listed in the National Trails System Act HPHS definition, this more recent term describes a quality of a place that greatly aids visitor understanding and conveys significance.) If the qualifying site has at least one of the four attributes, then it meets all of the criteria for consideration as a Lewis and Clark NHT HPHS. The attributes are defined as follows:

Scenic Quality:

Scenic quality is defined as the degree, or grade of excellence, or pleasing nature of the landscape. Sites with high scenic quality are both pleasing to view and effectively convey elements of the historic setting experienced by the expedition.

Freedom from Intrusion:

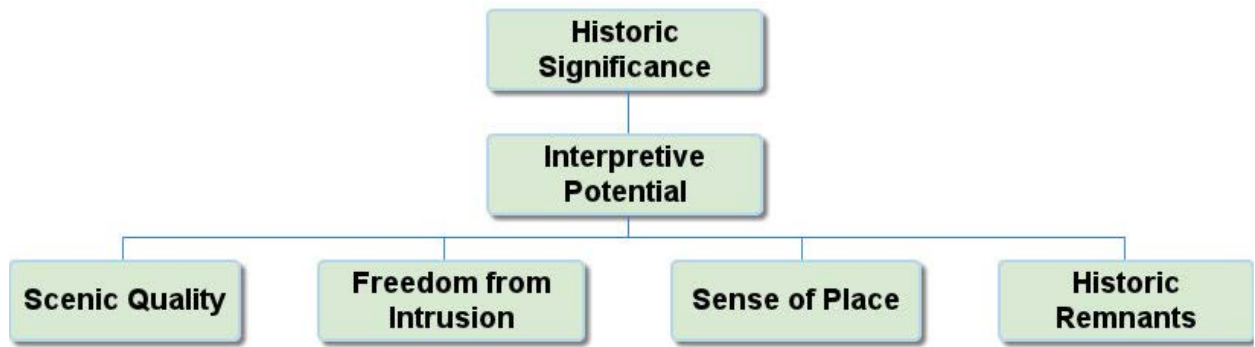
Intrusions are defined as any inappropriate or obtrusive additions to a site that postdate the 1803-1806 time period. Qualifying sites do not necessarily have high scenic quality, but they are more notable for exhibiting minimal development or alterations.

Sense of Place:

Defined as the presence of physical features and aesthetic characteristics that, taken together, convey a site’s location and historic character. The Corps of Discovery documented natural landscape features such as prairies, mountains, plains, and waterways. Remnants of these landscapes described in the journals still exist along the present day historic route. Knowledge either gained beforehand or while at a site enables visitors to make the emotional and intellectual connections to place themselves in the footprints of the expedition. Modern development can occur at a qualifying site as long as visitors are not overtly distracted or prevented from conjuring this sense of place.

Presence of Historic Remnants:

Historic remnants may include both cultural and natural resources. Cultural historic remnants are ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts on the landscape and are evidenced by either surface or subsurface features. Natural historic remnants are features such as landforms, waterways, and vegetation that were described in the expedition journals and uniquely define specific locations.



Site Nomination and Review Process

With the selection criteria established, early assistance in identifying sites was provided by a range of local experts from across the 11 Trail states, State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Lewis and Clark Trust, and multiple federal agencies. As a result, 181 sites initially were nominated for consideration. Using the criteria, the HPHS committee then narrowed the nominations to a draft list of 92 sites.

Early in the process, there was concern that publicizing the HPHS list could indirectly cause adverse effects to potentially sensitive sites through damages from increased visitation or the disturbances of unknown archeological resources. Thus, it was determined that the publication constituted a federal action under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Formal consultation with the 62 Trail-affiliated tribes began in August 2014 and concluded in November 2015. No sites were identified by any of the tribes as too sensitive for inclusion. The NPS then determined that no adverse effect would be caused by the undertaking and received concurrence on the finding from the respective SHPOs. The project received a categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the compliance process was completed on April 27, 2016. In a final review, the 92 selected sites were extensively reevaluated, resulting in a refined count of 78.

The HPHS selection process is not intended to be a singular exercise, but one that informs a living document and is periodically revisited as deemed necessary. New discoveries from future research or improved conditions resulting from environmental restoration could adequately elevate the significance of additional sites for consideration. Conversely, currently listed sites could be removed should non-compatible development or degradation impair the defining characteristics to the extent that they no longer effectively convey the historical significance of the Lewis and Clark NHT.

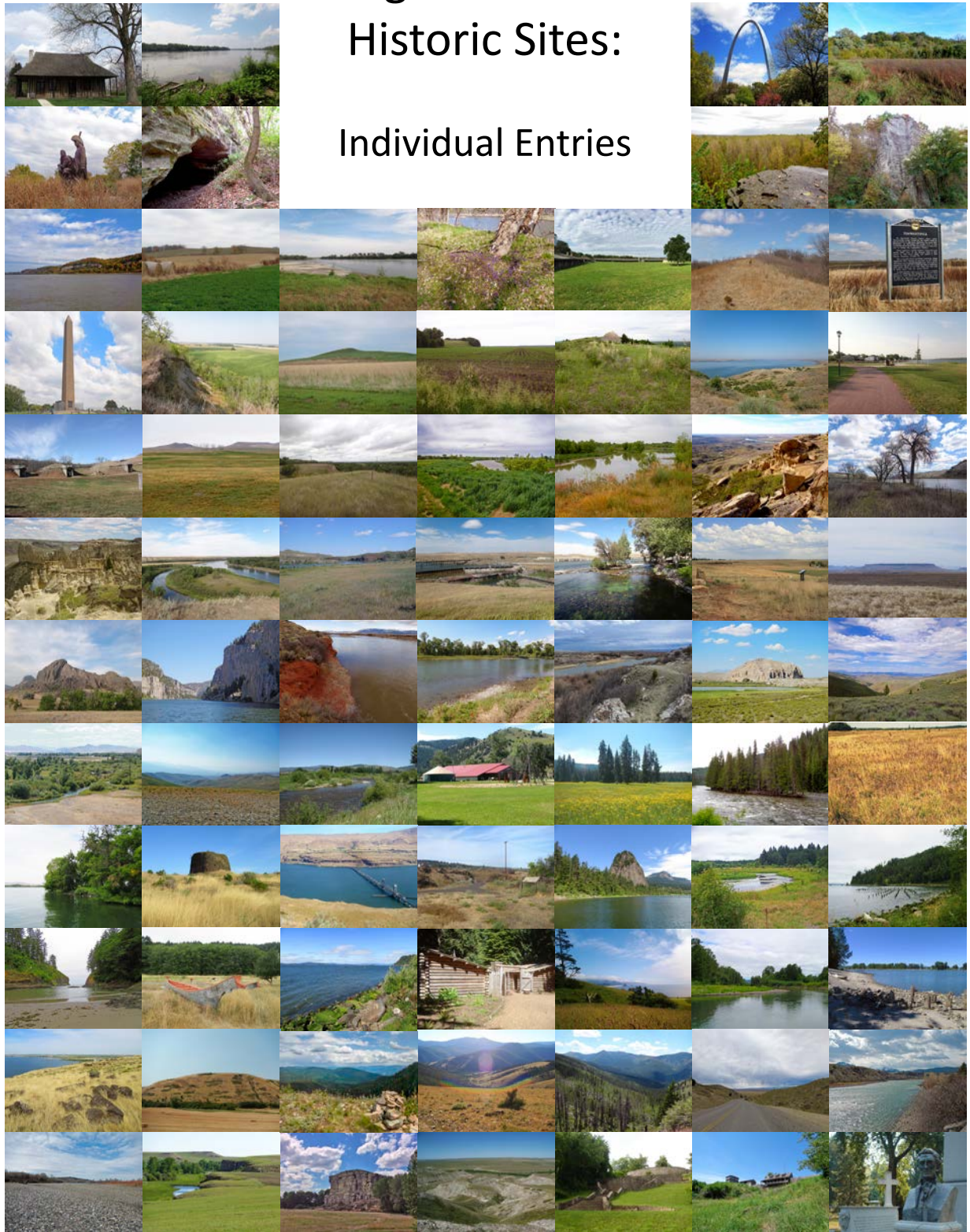
A Note on Individual Site Entries

The HPHS individual entries are chronologically ordered to follow the narrative of the expedition as closely as possible. Sites that were visited on both the outbound and return journeys are variably placed, based on dates when the most notable expedition-related events occurred. The entries may be cross-referenced to the corresponding segment maps, which are geographically ordered from east to west.

All expedition journal quotations sourced from:

University of Nebraska Press / University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries-Electronic Text Center.
The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. <http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu>.

High Potential Historic Sites: Individual Entries



Cahokia Courthouse

Identification

Other Name:	Old Cahokia Courthouse
State:	Illinois
County:	St. Clair
Ownership:	Public - IL State
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96

Summary

Members of the Corps of Discovery first arrived at the village of Cahokia on December 7, 1803. Clark wrote that he “came to at 3 o’clock at the Kohokia Landing, which is at the mouth of Kohokia Creek $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Town, and in view of St Louis which is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.” While encamped at nearby Wood River into May 1804, Lewis and Clark used the Cahokia Courthouse as a headquarters for collecting information, meeting with territorial leaders, gathering supplies, and corresponding with President Thomas Jefferson through Postmaster John Hay. The courthouse greatly facilitated their ability to comprehensively plan the expedition.

The courthouse, initially built as a dwelling in the 1730s, is a unique remnant of the French presence in Illinois. Converted to a courthouse in 1793, for the next 20 years it served as a center of political activity in the Northwest Territory. It was dismantled in 1901, re-erected twice, and reconstructed on its original site in 1939. The structure is an excellent example of early French log construction known as poteaux-sur-solle. Upright hewn logs are seated on a horizontal log sill; the spaces between logs are filled with stone and mortar chinking. The building rests on its original stone foundation and contains four rooms that originally functioned as a courtroom, a schoolroom, and legal offices. It is open to the public as part of the Colonial Cahokia State Historic Sites complex.

Winter Camp at Wood River

Identification

Other Names:	Camp Dubois, Camp Wood
State:	Missouri
County:	St. Charles
Ownership:	Public - MO State Parks
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



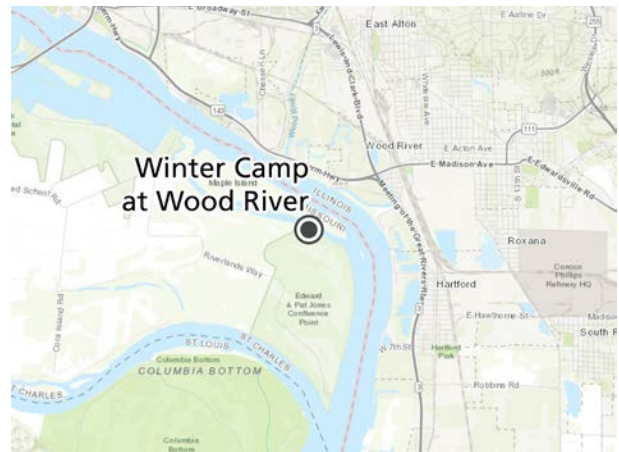
NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

Clark established the winter quarters for the expedition on the south side of the Wood River on a site previously identified by Lewis. On December 12, 1803, Clark wrote, "I came to in the mouth of a little River called Wood River" and the following day he "fixed on a place to build huts Set the men to Clearing land & Cutting Logs." While there it was Clark's responsibility to train the men of the newly-formed Corps of Discovery. Meanwhile, Lewis spent the winter in St. Louis gathering supplies and equipment. On March 9, 1804, Lewis attended a ceremony in St. Louis for the transfer of the Upper Louisiana Territory to the United States. After two months, the expedition left for St. Charles, Missouri, where Lewis joined them a week later. During the return trip, the expedition revisited the camp site on September 23, 1806. Clark noted that "here we found a widdow woman who we left here & has a plantation under tollarable good way Since we have been on the Expedition."

The winter camp was originally sited on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. Since that time, the Mississippi's channel has shifted eastward, the mouth of the Missouri River has shifted southward, and a new channel for the Wood River was dredged. Consequently, the historic site of the Winter Camp at Wood River is now located on the west side of the Mississippi River, in Missouri. Nearby interpretation of the camp is found at the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site reconstruction in Hartford, Illinois.

Gateway Arch National Park

Identification

Other Name:	The Arch
State:	Missouri
County:	St. Louis
Ownership:	Public - NPS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



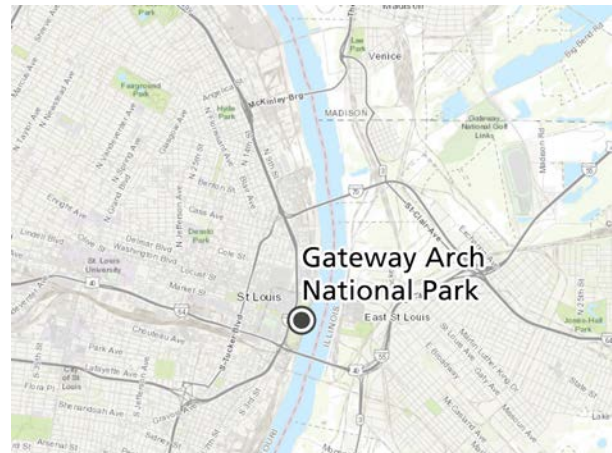
NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

During the expedition's 1803-1804 winter encampment at Wood River, Lewis spent the majority of his time in the St. Louis area obtaining supplies, information, and new recruits. On March 9-10, 1804, Lewis attended ceremonies in St. Louis that marked the transfer of Upper Louisiana from France to the United States.

St. Louis was founded by French settlers in 1764 and developed as a center of French culture and Spanish power. With the United States' Louisiana Purchase in 1803, it soon became a major point of departure for western-bound emigrants. Gateway Arch National Park is on the site of the original downtown. The park (formerly known as the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial) comprises the Gateway Arch (a National Historic Landmark), the Museum of Westward Expansion, and St. Louis' Old Courthouse. Architect Eero Saarinen's design for a 630-foot stainless steel catenary arch was selected in 1947, and construction began in the 1960s. The Gateway Arch is the tallest monument in the United States. Below the Arch lies the Museum of Westward Expansion, which houses an extensive collection of artifacts and an overview of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The nearby Old Courthouse, built in 1839, is one of the oldest extant buildings in St. Louis.

Charbonier Bluff

Identification

Other Name:	St. Stanislaus Farm
State:	Missouri
County:	St. Louis
Ownership:	Public - St. Louis Co. Parks & Recreation, MDC
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

On May 16, 1804, the expedition passed Charbonier Bluff, the highest point on the lower Missouri River. Historically distinguished by an exposed coal seam at the base, French explorers in the early 18th century named it “La Charbonniere” (the charcoal). Clark noted, “passed the Coal hill (Call by the natives Carbonear) this hill appears to Contain great quantytes of Coal, and also ore of a rich appearance having greatly the resemblance of Silver.” He also wrote that “from this hill the village of St. Charles may be Seen at 7 miles distance.”

Dating to prehistoric times, Native Americans established permanent camps at Charbonier Bluff. A high cliff of sandstone and loess soil, it remained a landmark for river traffic along the lower Missouri into the 19th century. The exposed coal seam provided a source of fuel for river traffic and settlers up until sometime during the 1850s, when changes in the Missouri River course covered it over. From 1886 to 1972, the bluff property was a component of the St. Stanislaus Seminary. The ruins of a Jesuit chapel built over an American Indian burial mound along the ridgetop remain extant. In 1973, the St. Louis County Department of Parks acquired a 795-acre tract that included Charbonier Bluff. The site is managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

St. Charles Historic District

Identification

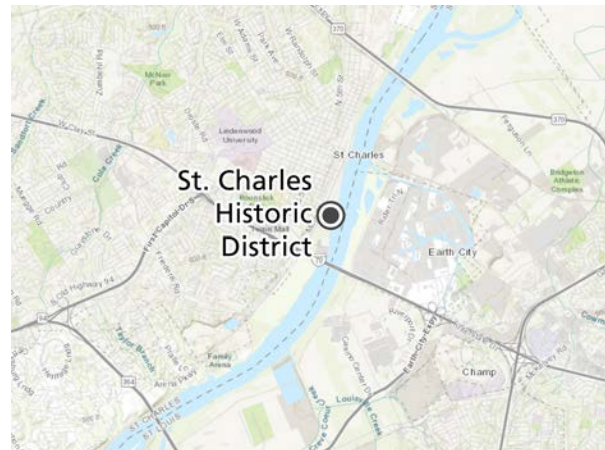
Other Name:	Les Petites Côtes
State:	Missouri
County:	St. Charles
Ownership:	Private, Public - Mixed
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96

Summary

On May 16, 1804, Clark wrote, “we arrived at St. Charles at 12 o’clock a number Spectators french & Indians flocked to the bank to See the party. This Village is about one mile in length, Situated on the North Side of the Missouri at the foot of a hill from which it takes its name Petietie Coete or the Little hill [Les Petites Côtes (the Little Hills)] This village Contns. about 100 houses, the most of them Small and inderferent and about 450 inhabitants Chiefly French, those people appear pore, polite & harmonious.” Lewis arrived two days later and after final preparations, the full expedition embarked upriver on May 21. On the return journey, “the party rejoiced at the Sight of this hospital village” and they stayed overnight on September 20-21, 1806.

The earliest European settlement on the Missouri River, St. Charles began as an outpost for traders circa 1769. By the time of the 1804 Louisiana Purchase, the French inhabitants of the town were surrounded by American settlers in the countryside. As both river and land transportation increased, St. Charles grew in prominence. It became Missouri’s first state capital, from 1821 to 1826. The St. Charles Historic District encompasses an area eight-and-a-half blocks long and one-and-a-half blocks wide and includes buildings constructed between 1807 and the 1890s. Frontage along the west bank of the Missouri River includes a commemoration of Lewis and Clark in the approximate area of their campsite. The Lewis and Clark Boat-house and Museum is located nearby.

Tavern Cave

Identification

Other Name:	Tavern Rock
State:	Missouri
County:	Franklin
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



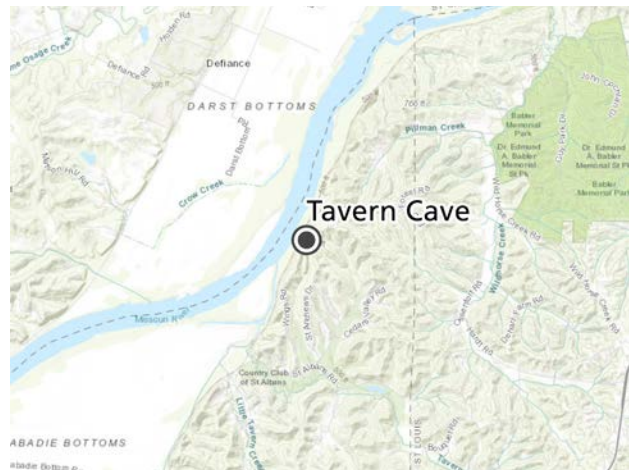
NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

On May 23, 1804, two days after leaving St. Charles, the expedition visited Tavern Cave, located on the south bank of the Missouri River at the base of a huge sandstone bluff called Tavern Rock. This landmark, well known to indigenous tribes and European trappers and traders, was first described by Clark as "...an endented part of a Rock which juted over the water, Called by the french the tavern which is a Cave 40 yds. long with the river 4 feet Deep & about 20 feet high, this is a place the India[ns] & french Pay omage to, many names are wrote up on the rock Mine among others..." Clark also wrote that "Capt Lewis' assended the hill which has peninsulis projecting in raged points to the river, and was near falling from a Peninsula [...] Saved himself by the assistance of his Knife..." On September 21, 1806, the expedition once again passed Tavern Cave on their journey home.

Tavern Cave is one of the best known surviving landmarks of early Missouri River exploration, and has likely provided shelter to humans for thousands of years. During the 18th and 19th centuries, it served as a stop-over for both Native American bands and European-American travelers. Tavern Cave is noted on the Evans-Mackay map of circa 1795-1797, which Thomas Jefferson provided to Lewis and Clark. Today, the Missouri River channel has shifted to about 250 feet west of the cave mouth. Much of Tavern Rock, the bluff above the cave, was blasted away during the construction of a railroad. As a result, a large mound of debris now largely obscures the mouth of Tavern Cave.

Clark's Hill State Historic Site

Identification

Other Name:	Norton State Historic Site
State:	Missouri
County:	Cole
Ownership:	Public - MO State Parks
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96

Summary

The expedition camped at the confluence of the Osage and Missouri rivers between June 1 and June 3, 1804. As they waited for the arrival of George Drouillard and John Shields, who were traveling separately on horseback, Lewis and Clark took measurements and recorded observations. Clark climbed the hill behind their camp on June 2, noting in his journals that he “assended the hill in the point 80 ps. from the pt. found it about 100 foot high, on the top is 2 graves, or mounds, a Delightfull prospect from this hill which Comds. both rivers.”

Although the confluence of the two rivers was visible from Clark's Hill in 1804, it subsequently shifted to a location approximately six miles further downstream. However, the woodland character of the river valley remains intact and visitors are afforded views that are relatively undisrupted by modern intrusions. The site is operated as a state park unit, and features a hiking trail that accesses a viewing platform over the rocky outcrop that Clark stood upon. The two burial mounds documented by Clark remain intact, and have been dated to the Late Woodland period (BCE 600-900). Three additional mounds and a village site have also been located in the area.

Sugar Loaf Rock

Identification

Other Name:	Lead Mine Hill
State:	Missouri
County:	Cole
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96

Summary

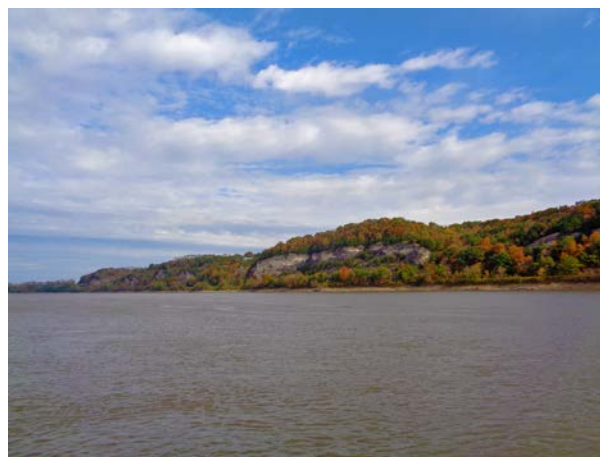
Clark wrote on June 4, 1804, that he “assended a hill of about 170 foot to a place where the french report that Lead ore has been found, I saw no mineral of that description, Capt Lewis Camped imediately under this hill, to wate which gave me Some time to examine the hill, on the top is a moun of about 6 foot high and about 100 Acres of land which the large timber is Dead in Decending about 50 foot a projecting lime Stone rock under which is a Cave at one place in this projecting rocks I went on one which Spured up and hung over the Water from the top of this rock I had a prospect of the river for 20 or 30 ms. up, from the Cave which incumposed [encompassed] the hill I decended by a Steep decent to the foot...” In 1833, Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied visited the same location and noted, “On a wooded eminence, on the left hand, at some distance from the bank, is a high, isolated rock, which stands like a tower in the forest... some Joway Indians, was told by them, that there was a tradition among their ancestors, that this rock was formed of the dung of a race of bisons, which lived in heaven, but they themselves no longer believed this fable.”

Although Sugar Loaf Rock historically abutted the Missouri River, the channel has since shifted nearly a mile to the north. It is difficult to view the landmark, as it is privately-owned and not visible from the river. The expanse of bottomland below Sugar Loaf Rock is the property of the Central Missouri Correctional Center, which restricts public access. The hilltop mound described by Clark remains extant, and the summit of Sugar Loaf Rock overlooks a sweeping vista of the river valley.

Moniteau Creek at Manitou Bluffs

Identification

Other Name:	Big Manitou Creek
State:	Missouri
Counties:	Howard, Boone
Ownership:	Public - St. Louis Co. Parks & Recreation
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

After setting out early on the morning of June 7, 1804, Clark noted that the expedition stopped for “brackfast at the Mouth of a large Creek on the S. S. of 30 yds wide Called big Monetou.” He documented that a “Short distance above the mouth of this Creek, is Several Courious Paintings and Carveing in the projecting rock of Limestone inlade with white red & blue flint, of a verry good quallity, the Indians have taken of this flint great quantities. We landed at this Inscription and found it a Den of rattle Snakes, we had not landed 3 minutes before three verry large Snakes wer observed on the Crevises of the rocks & Killed— at the mouth of the last mentioned Creek Capt. Lewis took four or five men & went to Some Licks or Springs of Salt water from two to four miles up the Creek on Rt. Side.”

Manitou and Moniteau are variations on the Algonquian name for the Great Spirit. The eponymous creek and limestone bluffs were likely first so-named by early European explorers due to pictographic representations of the Manitou and other related symbols. The construction of a tunnel for the Missouri–Kansas–Texas Railroad in the 1890s obliterated a large segment of the bluff along the west side of Moniteau Creek. Although the pictographs described by Clark at this location are no longer extant, there are preserved examples about four miles downriver at Torbett Spring. The Manitou Bluffs area is publicly accessible via the Katy Trail State Park at Rocheport.

Leary Site

Identification

Other Name:	Leary-Kelly Site
State:	Nebraska
County:	Richardson
Ownership:	Public - Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Presence of Historic Remnants
- Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 3, Page 98



NPS Map

Summary

Clark visited this site on July 12, 1804, and observed raised mounds that were American Indian grave sites. He noted that “after going to Several Small Mounds in a level plain, I ascended a hill on the Lower Side, on this hill, Several Artificial Mounds were raised; from the top of the highest of those Mounds I had an extensive view of the surrounding Plains, which afforded one of the most pleasing prospects I ever beheld, under me a Butifill River of Clear water of about 80 yards wide Meandering thro a level and extensive Meadow, as far as I could See, the [view of the] prospect Much enlivened by the fine Trees & Shrubs which [was] bordering the bank of the river, and the Creeks & runs falling into it, [...] I observed artificial mounds (or as I may more justly term Graves) which to me is a strong indications of this Country being once Thickly Settled.” A court martial was convened at the Corps’ nearby camp that same day. Alexander Willard was charged and punished for sleeping while on guard duty.

Located along the Big Nemaha River south of present-day Rulo, Nebraska, the Leary Site National Historic Landmark is within the boundaries of the Iowa Reservation. The hill summited by Clark remains intact and is crested by three burial mounds. The mounds and surrounding area comprise the archeological site of an extensive village formerly inhabited by the Oneota Tribe.

Platte River Confluence

Identification

Other Name:	Mouth of the Platte
State:	Nebraska
County:	Cass
Ownership:	Public - NE Game & Parks
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 4, Page 99

Summary

The expedition stopped at the mouth of the Platte River on July 21, 1804. Lewis wrote of the Platte, “by a boiling motion or ebolition of it’s waters occasioned no doubt by the roling and irregular motion of the sand of which its bed is entirely composed...particles of this sand...hurried by this impetuou torrent in large masses from place to place in with irristable forse, collecting and forming sand bars in the course of a few hours which as suddingly disapated to form others...” They conducted experiments to measure the water’s velocity, comparing it to the slower currents of the Missouri and the Mississippi. Lewis and Clark ventured on foot a short distance up the Platte River and crossed it, noting that the depths did not exceed “over 6 or 7 feet.”

The Platte River Confluence can be publicly accessed via the Schilling Wildlife Management Area, enabling visitors to view the confluence within a natural setting comparable to what members of the expedition would have experienced. The character of the Platte River has evolved since 1804, as the channel width and current have both diminished, primarily due to the diversion of water along multiple points upstream for agricultural irrigation. Although greatly reduced, the confluence of the Platte remains in essentially the same historic location.

White Catfish Camp

Identification

Other Name:	Camp White Catfish
States:	Nebraska, Iowa
Counties:	Sarpy, Pottawattamie
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Scenic Quality

Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 4, Page 99



NPS Map

Summary

On July 22, 1804, the expedition made camp at a site approximately ten miles upstream of the Platte confluence, on the east side of the Missouri River. One of the men caught what was likely a channel catfish, which inspired the encampment's name – White Catfish Camp. They stayed until July 26, replenishing food, refitting equipment, and attempting to contact the Otoe and Pawnee tribes. Clark wrote, "This being a good Situation and much nearer the Otteaus town than the Mouth of the Platt, we concluded to delay at this place a few days and Send for Some of the Chiefs of that nation to let them Know of the Change of Govern-ment, The wishes of our Government to Cultivate friendship with them, the Objects of our journey and to present them with a flag and Some Small presents." A party sent overland located an Otoe village near the confluence of the Elkhorn and Platte rivers, but found it empty. The expedition again stayed at this camp during the return journey on September 8, 1806.

The exact location of White Catfish Camp is unknown. Although Lewis and Clark camped on what is now the Iowa side of the Missouri, the site is now most likely submerged by the river channel. The Iowa side of the river is privately owned, but on the Nebraska side Fontenelle Forest (a National Natural Landmark) provides public access via an excellent system of hiking trails that include Lewis and Clark interpretive wayside exhibits.

Fort Atkinson

Identification

Other Name:	Council Bluff
State:	Nebraska
County:	Washington
Ownership:	Public - NE Game & Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 4, Page 99

Summary

On July 30, 1804, Lewis and Clark encamped at a site on the west side of the Missouri River they named Council Bluff, in order to meet with members of the Oto and Missouri tribes. Tribal representatives finally arrived on the evening of August 2, and council was held throughout the following day. Recognizing the strategic value of the location, Clark wrote, "The Situation of this place which we Call Council Bluff which is handsom elevated a Spot well Calculated for a Tradeing establishment, the Bank high & level on top well Calculated for a fort to Command the Countrey and river the low bottom above high water & well Situated under the Command of the Hill for Houses to trade with the Natives a butifull Plain both abov and below at no other bend on either Side does the High land touch the river for Some distance up, as I am told."

In 1819, Fort Atkinson was established at the site of Council Bluff. As the first U.S. military post west of the Missouri River, it was a gateway to the fur trade in the Upper Missouri and Rocky Mountains. The fort's strategic importance eventually dwindled and it was abandoned in 1827. By the 1850s, it had almost entirely deteriorated. In the 1950s, the Nebraska State Historical Society completed archeological surveys to determine building sites. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission acquired the property in 1971, and reconstructed the fort during the 1980s and 1990s. Currently, Fort Atkinson is open to the public as a Nebraska state historical park.

Blackbird Hill

Identification

Other Name:	Big Elk Hill
State:	Nebraska
County:	Thurston
Ownership:	Private, Public - Omaha Tribe
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100

Summary

Blackbird Hill is a 300-foot-high promontory on the west side of the Missouri River in present-day Nebraska. On August 11, 1804, Lewis, Clark and ten other men climbed the hill to visit the grave of Omaha Chief Blackbird, whose ruthlessness had gained him notoriety among other tribes and traders from St. Louis. Clark wrote, "We landed at the foot of the hill on which Black Bird The late King of the mahar who Died 4 years ago & 400 of his nation with the Small pox was buried and went up and fixed a white flag bound with Blue white & read on the Grave which was about 12 foot Base & circueller, on the top of a Penical about 300 foot above the water of the river, from the top of this hill may be Seen the bends or meanderings of the river for 60 or 70 miles round."

Blackbird Hill remained a distinctive landmark for river travelers throughout the 19th century. It was painted by George Catlin in 1832 and Karl Bodmer in 1833. According to traditional Omaha tribal accounts, Chief Big Elk was also buried at this site. In a downslope gorge, natural sandstone bedrock exposures display a collection of petroglyphs which depict human, animal, and supernatural figures. While tribal or chronological affiliation of the petroglyphs is unknown, one resembling a human on horseback is likely post-1700 CE. Located within the Omaha Reservation, Blackbird Hill is privately owned but publicly viewable from adjacent roadways.

Omaha Big Village

Identification

Other Names:	Ton won tonga, Tonwantonga
State:	Nebraska
County:	Dakota
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100



NPS Map

Summary

The Omaha Big Village, also called Ton won tonga, was visited by members of the expedition on August 13, 1804. Sergeant Ordway wrote, "we passed the mouth of the Mahar Creek below an Island S. Side of the Missouri R. we proceeded on to the lower point of another Island N. S. opposite to which we Camped on S. Side Near the Mahar Village, I and 3 more of the party went out to the Village or to the place where it formerly Stood. [...] we came to where their had been a village of about 300 Cabbins called the Mahar village. it was burned about 4 years ago immediately after near half the Nation died with the Small pox, which was as I was informed about 400, we found none of the natives about the place they were out hunting the Buffelov, we ascended the hill above the village on which was all the Graves of the former."

Located near present-day Homer, Nebraska, the Omaha Big Village was founded circa-1775. The Omaha Tribe thrived under Chief Blackbird, controlling the fur trade on the Upper Missouri River. By 1795, their village had grown to approximately 1,100 people. That same year, James Mackay established a nearby fur trading post for the Spanish, known as Fort Charles. (Although the post operated for only a few years, Clark mapped its location in 1804, indicating that remnants remained intact.) By 1800, a smallpox epidemic killed approximately one-third of the tribe's population, including Chief Blackbird. The diminished village was occupied until 1845. The Omaha Big Village archeological site is located on private property, with restricted public access, but may be publicly viewed from a pull-off along US-75.

Sergeant Floyd Monument

Identification

Other Name:	Floyd's Bluff
State:	Iowa
County:	Woodbury
Ownership:	Public - Sioux City
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100

Summary

Charles Floyd died on August 20, 1804, after becoming violently ill the previous day (likely peritonitis caused by a ruptured appendix). Clark wrote, "we Came to make a warm bath for Sergt. Floyd hoping it would brace him a little, before we could get him in to this bath he expired, with a great deal of composure, having Said to me before his death that he was going away and wished me to write a letter— we took Buried him to the top of a high round hill over looking the river & Countrey for a great distance Situated just below a Small river without a name to which we name & call Floyds river, the Bluffs Sergts. Floyds Bluff— we buried him with all the honors of War, and fixed a Ceeder post at his head with his name title & Day of the month and year Capt Lewis read the funeral Service over him after paying every respect to the Body of this deceased man (who had at All times given us proofs of his impatality Sincurity to ourselves and good will to Serve his Countrey) we returned to the Boat & proceeded to the Mouth of the little river 30 yd. wide & Camped a butifull evening." Floyd would be the only member of the Corps of Discovery to die during the expedition.

In 1857, erosion induced by the Missouri River partially exposed Floyd's grave. Local settlers recovered and reinterred most of the skeletal remains in a different location on the bluff. The grave was moved again in 1895. The Sergeant Floyd Monument, a 100-foot high sandstone obelisk, was built in 1901. Floyd's remains were moved a third time and reburied at the base of the monument. Located along US-75 in Sioux City, Iowa, the monument is within a 23-acre park overlooking the Missouri River valley.

Ionia Volcano

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Nebraska
County:	Dixon
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100



NPS Map

Summary

On August 24, 1804, Clark explored a distinctive “180 or 190 feet high” bluff along the west side of the Missouri River. He wrote, “Those Bluffs appear to have been laterly on fire, and at this time is too hot for a man to bear his hand in the earth at any debth, gret appearance of Coal. An emence quantity of Cabalt or a Cristolised Substance which answers its discription is on the face of the Bluff.” Ordway further elaborated that the bluff “had a Sulpheras Smell”.

Following Lewis and Clark, later fur traders and travelers frequently noticed dense smoke and fire in this region. In 1839, French explorer J. N. Nicollet attempted to prove that these phenomena were not of volcanic origin. He theorized that the decomposition of beds of iron pyrites in contact with water resulted in a heat capable of igniting other combustible materials. Still, by the late 1800s the bluff was known as the Ionia Volcano. It was named after the nearby town of Ionia, established in 1856. In 1878, a flooded Missouri River undermined the bluffs and a large section of the “volcano” fell into the river. The same flood heavily damaged the town of Ionia, which was later completely abandoned. By 1900, there was scientific consensus that the eruptions were due to the heat caused by the oxidation of damp pyritiferous and carbonaceous shale exposed by erosion. The Ponca Tribe consider the bluff to be a sacred site. Located north of Newcastle, Nebraska, the Ionia Cemetery is across the road from a small overlook and the top of the Ionia Volcano remnants.

Spirit Mound

Identification

Other Name:	Paha Wakan
State:	South Dakota
County:	Clay
Ownership:	Public - SD Dept. of Game, Fish, & Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100

Summary

On August 25, 1804, Lewis, Clark, and ten other men hiked about nine miles north of the Missouri River to visit Spirit Mound. According to Clark, the Omaha, Sioux, and Oto tribes traditionally believed that the hill was inhabited by devils “in human form with remarkable large heads and about 18 Inches high”. They were said to be “Very watchfull” and “arm’d with Sharp arrows with which they Can Kill at a great distance”. The men encountered no such inhabitants, but found a hill “Situatd on an elivated plain in a leavel and extensive prarie [...] with a Steep assent to the hight of 65 or 70 feet, leaving a leavel Plain on the top of 12 feet in width & 90 in length”. Clark observed that soil consistencies with the surrounding terrain indicated the “mound” was a natural landform. He wrote of the view, “from the top of this Mound we beheld a most butifull landscape; Numerous herds of buffalow were Seen feeding in various directions, the Plain to North N. W & N E extends without interruption as far as Can be Seen.”

In 1868, European-Americans began to settle in the area. Over time, Spirit Mound was extensively degraded by the impacts of livestock and crop production. By the early 1980s, the landscape was cluttered with over 20 buildings, a feedlot, agricultural fields, roads, fences, and about 1,500 non-native trees. The locally-formed Spirit Mound Trust worked with the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase the 320-acre site from private owners, and then donated it to the state of South Dakota for restoration and preservation. The Spirit Mound Historic Prairie was established as a state park in 2001, with a focus on prairie restoration. In 2004, the Spirit Mound Summit Trail was designated as a national recreation trail.

Bow Creek

Identification

Other Names:	Petite Arch, Petit Arc
State:	Nebraska
County:	Cedar
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100



NPS Map

Summary

On August 26, 1804, the expedition camped on a sand bar (in present-day South Dakota) across the Missouri from the mouth of Bow Creek (in present-day Nebraska). Here Patrick Gass was formally promoted to the rank of sergeant, filling the position formerly held by the late Sergeant Floyd. Clark identified Bow Creek as the general location of an abandoned Omaha village, writing, “above the mouth of this Creek a Chief of the Maha nataton displeased with the Conduct of Black bird the main Chief came to this place and built a Town which was called by his name Petite Arch (or Little Bow) this Town was at the foot of a Hill in a handsom Plain fronting the river and Contained about 100 huts & 200 men, the remains of this tribe Since the Death of Petite arch has joined the remaining part of the nation”.

Circa 1720, the Omaha Tribe established a village near the mouth of Bow Creek known as “Bad Village”, apparently due to a schism that split the tribe. Bad Village was likely occupied until circa 1750, when the factions reunited at a village site near present-day Dakota City, Nebraska. Following the rise of Blackbird, Little Bow and his followers left the Omaha Big Village and resettled in the Bow Creek area circa 1780-1790. Accounts vary, but the Omaha factions reunited following the death of either Blackbird or Little Bow, sometime prior to 1804. The exact location of the Little Bow Village is currently unknown, but there are numerous archeological sites throughout the area, which is primarily used for agricultural cultivation.

The Tower

Identification

Other Names:	Old Baldy, The Cupola, Dome Hill
State:	Nebraska
County:	Boyd
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 5, Page 100

Summary

On September 7, 1804, the expedition landed near “the foot of a round mounting [...] resembling a dome”, which Clark had sighted the previous day. Clark wrote, “Capt Lewis & my Self walked up, to the top which forms a Cone and is about 70 feet higher than the high lands around it, the Bass is about 300 foot in decending this Cupola, discovered a Village of Small animals that burrow in the grown (those animals are Called by the french Pitite Chien).” They managed to kill one prairie dog and capture a second, which joined the expedition and survived the winter at Fort Mandan. In the spring, it (along with other collected specimens) was sent downriver and transported to Washington, D.C., to be received by President Jefferson on October 4, 1805. Lewis and Clark are credited with the first scientific description of the prairie dog, or *Cynomys ludovicianus*.

The appearance of the Tower has changed very little since it was first documented by Lewis and Clark. Located about a half-mile south of the Missouri River in Boyd County, Nebraska, the landform rises an additional 70 feet above a line of bluffs along the southern edge of the Missouri valley. The surrounding landscape is characterized by open prairie and burr oak woodlands. In 2005, a 524-acre conservation easement was enacted to protect the Tower and the environs. Although the site is privately owned, it can be viewed from multiple vantage points along nearby roadways.

Big Bend of the Missouri

Identification

Other Name:	Grand Detour
State:	South Dakota
County:	Lyman
Ownership:	Private, Public - Lower Brule Reservation
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 6, Page 101



NPS Map

Summary

On September 19, 1804, the expedition camped downriver of the Big Bend, an expansive meander of the Missouri River that was already a well-known landmark. On September 20, they began the estimated 30-mile trip around the bend. Clark wrote, “detached [Drouillard and Shields] to the 1st. Creek above the big bend with the horse to hunt and wait our arrival proceeded on passed the lower Island opposit which the Sand bars are verry thick & the water Shoal. I walked on Shore with a view of examining this bend Crossed at the narost part which is a high irregular hills of about 180 or 190 feet, this place the gorge of the Bend is 1 mile & a quarter (from river to river or) across, from this high land which is only in the Gouge, the bend is a Butifull Plain thro which I walked”. Later, Lewis and another man also disembarked the boat to hunt. While camping overnight on a sandbar, quick action was required when Clark “observed that the Sand was giving away both above & beloy and would Swallow our Perogues in a few minits, ordered all hands on board and pushed off we had not got to the opposit Shore before pt. of our Camp fel into the river.” Circumnavigation of the Big Bend was completed before breakfast on September 21.

Today, the Big Bend of the Missouri is part of Lake Sharpe, which was created by the 1959-1966 construction of the Big Bend Dam 15 miles downriver. The neck of the Big Bend is 1.6 miles wide and the circumference is 22 miles. The land within the bend is part of the Lower Brule Indian Reservation and used for agriculture. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks maintains several Lake Sharpe recreation areas for public access.

Bad River Encounter Site

Identification

Other Name:	Fischers Lilly Park
State:	South Dakota
County:	Stanley
Ownership:	Public - City of Ft. Pierre
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 6, Page 101

Summary

On September 24, 1804, Lewis and Clark reached the confluence of the Bad River. They arranged a council the following day with chiefs of the Lakota, who were camped about two miles up the Bad River. On the morning of September 25, they “raised a Flagg Staff and formed an orning & Shade on a Sand bar in the Mouth of Teton R to Council under”. Fifty to 60 members of the Lakota arrived, and the council commenced at noon. Lewis and Clark presented medals to the chiefs Black Buffalo, Partisan, and Buffalo Medicine. Following a speech by Lewis and a military parade, the chiefs were invited onto the keelboat, where they were presented with additional gifts. However, events took a turn for the worse when Clark ferried the chiefs back to shore. Clark was prevented from returning to the keelboat, and an armed standoff between the expedition and the tribe quickly escalated. Clark and the chiefs managed to defuse the situation and abstain from violence. The expedition was able to peacefully continue upriver, and agreed to transport two of the chiefs aboard the keelboat.

The Bad River Encounter Site is located within Fischers Lilly Park, in the city of Fort Pierre. The site is interpreted to the public through a boulder-mounted commemorative plaque, a Lewis and Clark wayside exhibit, and an array of flagpoles.

On-A-Slant Village

Identification

Other Name:	Slant Village
State:	North Dakota
County:	Stanley
Ownership:	Public - ND Parks & Recreation
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 7, Page 102

Summary

On October 20, 1804, Clark wrote, "I saw an old remains of a villige on the Side of a hill which the Chief with us Too né tels me that nation lived in a number villiges on each Side of the river and the Troubleson Seauex caused them to move about 40 miles higher up where they remained a few years & moved to the place they now live". The site, located near the confluence of the Heart River with the Missouri River, was a former Mandan settlement that has come to be known as On-A-Slant Village. Estimated to have included about 75 earthlodges and perhaps 1,000 residents, the village had likely existed for over 200 years before a 1781 smallpox epidemic decimated the population.

A military post named Fort Abraham Lincoln was established at the site in 1872. It became a base of operations in the U.S. Army's campaign against the Lakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne nations during 1876 and 1877. The fort was abandoned in 1891, after the completion of the railroad into Montana reduced its strategic importance. The site was designated Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park in 1907. Five earthlodges have since been reconstructed on the site of On-A-Slant Village, and interpretive tours offer an introduction to historic Mandan culture. The site retains archeological evidence of the original village.

Double Ditch

Identification

Other Name:	Double Ditch Indian Village
State:	North Dakota
County:	Burleigh
Ownership:	Public - ND State Historical Society
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 7, Page 102

Summary

On October 22, 1804, Clark observed that the expedition passed “an old Village on the S. S. and the upper of the 6 Villages the Mandans occupied about 25 years ago this village was entirely cut off by the Sioux & one of the others nearly, the Small Pox destroyed great Numbers.” The abandoned site documented by Clark – now known as Double Ditch – was another ancient Mandan earthlodge village that had been occupied for nearly 300 years until the ravages of the 1781-1782 smallpox epidemic. Although called Double Ditch, the site actually features evidence of four concentric ditches. The ditches were part of defensive perimeters. The earliest settlement, established circa 1350 CE, is estimated to have contained about 160 lodges and 2,000 families. It occupied an approximately 22-acre area. As the population subsequently diminished, the village contracted and smaller defensive perimeters were built. The fourth and final settlement at Double Ditch – established sometime in the 1700s – was reduced to only about four acres in size.

The Double Ditch Historic Site is located along the east bank of the Missouri River about seven-and-a-half miles north of Bismarck. It is publicly accessible, featuring walkways and interpretive signage. The archaeological remains of earthlodges, refuse mounds, and fortification ditches are clearly discernable.

Fort Mandan

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	North Dakota
County:	McLean
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 7, Page 102

Summary

On November 2, 1804, the expedition came to the place where they built their winter quarters. Lewis wrote, "This place we have named Fort Mandan in honour of our Neighbours." Clark "fixed on a place for to build a fort and Set to work." As described by Gass, "the huts were in two rows, containing four rooms each, and joined at one end forming an angle. When rased about 7 feet high a floor of puncheons or split plank were laid, and covered with grass and clay; which made a warm loft. The upper part projected a foot over and the roofs were made shed-fashion, rising from the inner side, and making the outer wall about 18 feet high. The part not inclosed by the huts we intended to picket. In the angle formed by the two rows of huts we built two rooms, for holding our provisions and stores." The Corps stayed at this location until April 7, 1805. While there, they engaged in diplomacy with area tribes, made preparations for the next leg of the journey, and consolidated records and specimens that would go back downriver with the keelboat in the spring. Fort Mandan is also the site where Sacagawea and Charbonneau first joined the expedition.

The historic site of Fort Mandan is located on privately-owned land along the northeast banks of the Missouri, about 12 miles west of the city of Washburn. The exact location is unknown and may be partially submerged by the river. A modern reconstruction of Fort Mandan and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, managed by the North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation, is located about ten miles downriver.

Knife River Indian Villages

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	North Dakota
County:	Mercer
Ownership:	Public - NPS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 7, Page 102

Summary

During Lewis and Clark's stay at Fort Mandan from November 2, 1804, through April 7, 1805, they engaged in extensive trade and diplomacy with the Hidatsas and Mandans, who were settled in several nearby villages. Significantly, French-Canadian fur trader Toussaint Charbonneau and his wife, Shoshone-born Sacagawea, were living in the Awatixa Village at the time. Lewis and Clark hired Charbonneau as an interpreter. He was accompanied by Sacagawea, who proved to be an invaluable member of the expedition.

The Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site preserves the remnants of several settlement sites near the confluence of the Knife River with the Missouri River, most notably Big Hidatsa Village, the Lower Hidatsa Village, and the Awatixa Village. There are visible remains of earthlodge dwellings, cache pits and travois trails. Established earthlodge settlements along the Knife River date to circa-1525 CE. They thrived until 1837, when smallpox greatly reduced the population. The Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is publicly accessible as a unit of the National Park System. It is located just north of the town of Stanton, on County Road 37. Big Hidatsa Village is listed as a National Historic Landmark, and the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Archeological District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Yellowstone River Confluence

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	North Dakota
County:	McKenzie
Ownership:	Private, Public - ND State Historical Society, ND Game & Fish
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 8, Page 103

Summary

On April 25, 1805, Lewis, “accompanied by four men”, proceeded overland in advance of Clark and the main group in order to explore the area surrounding the confluence of the Yellowstone River, which he knew to be close. After a hike of several miles, Lewis “ascended the hills from whence I had a most pleasing view of the country, particularly of the wide and fertile vallies formed by the missouri and the yellowstone rivers, which occasionally unmasked by the wood on their borders disclose their meanderings for many miles in their passage through these delightfull tracts of country.” The five men camped on the Yellowstone riverbank overnight. The following day Lewis “dispatched Joseph Fields up the yellowstone river with orders to examine it as far as he could conveniently and return the same evening; two others were directed to bring in the meat we had killed last evening, while I proceeded down the river with one man in order to take a view of the confluence of this great river with the Missouri”. By noon the main group arrived by river, and Lewis and Clark took measurements at the confluence.

Public visitation is facilitated by the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, a museum that is operated by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The museum, which first opened in 2003, offers expansive views of the confluence and features exhibits about the Corps of Discovery.

Milk River Confluence

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Valley
Ownership:	Private, Public - Ft. Peck Indian Reservation, USACE
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 9, Page 104

Summary

On May 8, 1805, the expedition arrived at the confluence of waters they named the Milk River. Lewis wrote, “the water of this river possesses a peculiar whiteness, being about the colour of a cup of tea with the admixture of a tablespoonfull of milk. from the colour of it’s water we called it Milk river.” They correctly surmised that this was the “River which scolds at all others” or “Ah-mâh-tâh, ru-shush-sheer” which the Hidatsa had first told them about during their stay at Fort Mandan. Whitehouse noted that, “We halted at a point above the Mouth of this River to dine, where Some of our party went a short distance up this River [...they reported] that the River continued its breadth and depth as high up as where they had been—the Water Clear, and deep; the banks tolerably high, and the land very rich, and the country fertile, being partly Priaries and some Skirts of woodland.”

The Milk River rises in the Rocky Mountains of northern Montana and flows for 721 miles, running north into the Canadian province of Alberta, and then southeast to the confluence with the Missouri River near Fort Peck, Montana. The distinctive color of the Milk River is the result of fine clay and silt sediments that erode along the river basin in Alberta and remain suspended in the waters. Ownership of properties surrounding the confluence is mixed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, and privately-owned land.

Lewis and Clark Camp at Slaughter River

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Chouteau
Ownership:	Public - BLM
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On May 29, 1805, Lewis wrote that “today we passed on the Stard. side the remains of a vast many mangled carcasses of Buffalow which had been driven over a precipice of 120 feet by the Indians and perished; the water appeared to have washed away a part of this immense pile of slaughter and still their remained the fragments of at least a hundred carcasses they created a most horrid stench.” The expedition members believed this site, consisting of over 100 bison carcasses, was a “buffalo jump” – a traditional method among different tribes to kill large numbers of bison by herding them near a precipice and causing them to stam-pede off the edge. That evening, the expedition camped among a grove of cottonwoods across the river (along the north bank) and nearly a mile upstream from a tributary they named “Slaughter River.” Lewis and his detachment camped there again on July 29, 1806, during the return journey and two days after the fight at Two Medicine.

Today Lewis and Clark’s Slaughter River is known as Arrow Creek and is located within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. In 1967, the Montana Department of Fish and Game designated the site as a primitive boat access recreation area. Currently, the camp area includes a shelter and two privies. The Lewis and Clark Camp at Slaughter River is primarily publicly accessible via boat, but it can also be reached overland by a rugged two-track drive that leads from 8 Mile Bench Road. The overland route is restricted and requires access permission from the BLM.

White Cliffs

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Chouteau
Ownership:	Public - BLM
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On May 31, 1805, the expedition passed through the White Cliffs region of the Missouri Breaks. Lewis characterized the landscape as exhibiting “a most romantic appearance,” and further described the distinctive geography, writing “The bluffs of the river rise to the height of from 2 to 300 feet and in most places nearly perpendicular; they are formed of remarkable white sandstone which is sufficiently soft to give way readily to the impression of water; two or three thin horizontal stratas of white free-stone, on which the rains or water make no impression, lie imbedded in these cliffs of soft stone near the upper part of them; the earth on the top of these Cliffs is a dark rich loam, which forming a gradually ascending plain extends back from ½ a mile to a mile where the hills commence and rise abruptly to a height of about 300 feet more. The water in the course of time in descending from those hills and plains on either side of the river has trickled down the soft sand cliffs and worn it into a thousand grotesque figures”. Taken by the seeming architectural quality of the natural rock formations, he wrote that “nature presents to the view of the traveler vast ranges of walls of tolerable workmanship, so perfect indeed are those walls that I should have thought that nature had attempted here to rival the human art of masonry had I not recollected that she had first began her work.”

The White Cliffs are located in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, which was established in 2001. The picturesque landscape is primarily characterized by formations of Virgelle Sandstone that have eroded over millions of years. The area is publicly accessible by water and land.

Decision Point

Identification

Other Name:	Marias Confluence
State:	Montana
County:	Chouteau
Ownership:	Public - BLM
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105



NPS Map

Summary

On June 2, 1805, the expedition arrived at the confluence of the Marias and Missouri rivers. The following day Lewis wrote, "This morning early we passed over and formed a camp on the point formed by the junction of the two large rivers. here in the course of the day I continued my observations [...]. An interesting question was now to be determined; which of these rivers was the Missouri". Most of the party believed the north branch to be the Missouri, because its water was the same muddy consistency as the rest of the Missouri. By contrast, the waters of the south branch ran clear. Lewis and Clark suspected this branch was the Missouri, as the clear water indicated it sprang from the mountains. Choosing the wrong course would, at the least, cost valuable time and damage morale. At the worst, it could have derailed the entire expedition. To gain greater certitude, Lewis and Clark spent the next five days exploring both rivers. By June 8, they correctly determined the south branch to be the Missouri River. The expedition spent the following few days refitting equipment and caching supplies to be retrieved during the return trip. On July 28, 1806, Lewis reunited with part of the Corps several miles upstream on the Missouri River, following a skirmish with the Blackfeet two days prior. They then retrieved a cache left at the mouth of the Marias River.

Decision Point, owned and managed by the BLM, is located near the town of Loma. There is a public parking area and interpretive signage. Visitors can hike to a scenic overlook of the Marias and Missouri confluence.

Great Falls Lower Portage

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Chouteau, Cascade
Ownership:	Private, Public - MT Dept. of Natural Resources, BLM
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On June 13, 1805, Lewis, who had advanced ahead of the main party, heard the “agreeable sound of a fall of water” and soon “saw the spray arise above the plain like a column of smoke.” This signaled the expedition’s arrival at Great Falls, the first in a succession of five waterfalls that would necessitate an 18-mile overland portage. On June 16, the expedition consolidated at a lower portage camp, about one mile below Belt Creek (named Portage Creek by Lewis and Clark). They encountered Sulphur Spring, located across the river from Belt Creek, and Lewis used its waters to aid the treatment of an extremely ill Sacagawea. While encamped they surveyed a suitable portage route, constructed wagons to haul canoes and supplies, and undertook the arduous task of moving their equipment 18 miles overland to the Upper Portage Camp. By June 28, the last load was transported away from the lower camp and remaining supplies cached in place. The white pirogue was left there and retrieved on the return trip in July 1806.

The Great Falls Lower Portage is one of two discontinuous segments of the Great Falls Portage NHL, separated by the intrusion of Malmstrom Air Force Base. It includes the lower portage camp site, Sulphur Spring, and the northern portion of the portage route. The majority of the Great Falls Lower Portage is under private ownership. However, there are numerous state and federal public areas along the Missouri River frontage.

Rainbow Falls

Identification

Other Name:	Handsome Falls
State:	Montana
County:	Cascade
Ownership:	Private, Public - MT State
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On June 14, 1805, as Lewis explored the Great Falls of the Missouri River, he encountered “one of the most beautiful objects in nature, a cascade of about fifty feet perpendicular stretching at right angles across the river from side to side to the distance of at least a quarter of a mile. here the river pitches over a shelving rock, with an edge as regular and as straight as if formed by art, without a niche or brake in it; the water descends in one even and uninterrupted sheet to the bottom where dashing against the rocky bottom rises into foaming billows of great height and rapidly glides away, hissing flashing and sparkling as it departs the spray rises from one extremity to the other to 50 f. I now thought that if a skillful painter had been asked to make a beautiful cascade that he would most probably have presented the precise image of this one.” Accordingly, Lewis and Clark named this landmark waterfall “Handsome Falls.”

Now called Rainbow Falls, the feature is located directly upstream from Crooked Falls and about a mile downstream from Giant Springs. The height of the falls is crested by Rainbow Dam, which was constructed in 1910. Water flow is diverted to a hydroelectric power plant, which has all but eliminated the tremendous cascade witnessed by Lewis. An overlook of the falls is accessible by roadway or footpath, and a USFS Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is located about 1.5 miles to the west.

Giant Springs

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Cascade
Ownership:	Public - MT State Parks
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On June 18, 1805, Clark described Giant Springs as “the largest fountain or Spring I ever Saw, and doubt if it is not the largest in America Known, this water boils up from under th rocks near the edge of the river and falls imediately into the river 8 feet and keeps its Colour for ½ a mile which is emencely Clear and of a bluish Cast.” On June 29, Lewis and Drouillard hiked six miles from their upper portage camp to visit the spring after hearing Clark’s description. He found it “much as Capt. C; had discribed & think it may well be retained on the list of prodegies of this neighbourhood towards which, nature seems to have dealt with a liberal hand.”

Giant Springs is a first magnitude freshwater spring considered to be among the largest in the United States. It is the headwaters for the Roe River, which flows for only 200 feet before emptying into the Missouri. The nearby City of Great Falls was founded in 1883, and Giant Springs soon developed into a popular place for recreation. Giant Springs State Park, established during the 1970s, includes a trout hatchery. An extensive network of recreational trails along the Missouri River can be accessed from the park. The adjacent Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, managed by the USFS, provides interpretive opportunities to visitors.

Great Falls Upper Portage

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Cascade
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

Clark had surveyed and staked out an 18-mile portage route during June 17-20, 1805. On June 22, Lewis, Clark, and a contingent of the expedition began transporting the first load of equipment, to include the components of Lewis' iron frame boat. The next day they arrived at the site selected for their upper portage camp, along a stretch of the Missouri River marked by three islands they named White Bear Islands. Lewis began the assemblage of his experimental boat, while Clark directed the portage endeavor. All supplies had been moved to the upper camp by July 2, but efforts to make the iron boat river-worthy continued until July 9 when Lewis finally "relinquished all further hope of my favorite boat and ordered her to be sunk in the water, that the skins might become soft in order the better to take her in peices tomorrow and deposite the iron fraim at this place as it could probably be of no further service to us." Putting the failed experiment behind them, Clark and ten men traveled 14 miles upstream and fashioned two cottonwood dugout canoes. By July 13, the entire expedition relocated to the "Canoe Camp," and finally, on July 15, resumed their journey up the Missouri.

The Great Falls Upper Portage is one of two discontiguous segments of the Great Falls Portage NHL, separated by the intrusion of Malmstrom Air Force Base. It includes the upper portage camp site and the southern portion of the portage route. Great Falls Upper Portage is under mixed private ownership, but there is a public parking area with interpretive wayside exhibits and expansive viewshed of the portage route landscape located off of 40th Avenue.

Square Butte

Identification

Other Name:	Fort Mountain
State:	Montana
County:	Cascade
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

Square Butte was first noted by Lewis, who named it “Fort Mountain,” on July 14, 1805. The following day he wrote, “this mountain has a singular appearance it is situated in a level plain, it’s sides stand nearly at right angles with each other and are each about a mile in extent. these are formed of a yellow clay only without the mixture of rock or stone of any size and rise perpendicularly to the height of 300 feet. the top appears to be a level plain and from the eminence on which I was yesterday I could see that it was covered with a similar coat of grass with the plain on which it stands. the surface appears also to possess a tolerable fertile mole of 2 feet thick, and is to all appearance inaccessible. from it’s figure we gave it the name of fort mountain. those mounds before mentioned near the falls have much the same appearance but are none of them as large as this one.” Although the expedition, by Lewis’ measurements, never approached closer than within eight miles as they passed upriver, the distinctive landmark dominated the landscape. Lewis recognized it again during the return when he crossed the Continental Divide on July 7, 1806, and wrote, “the fort mountain bears North East, and appears to be distant about 20 Miles.”

Square Butte is a laccolith, formed millions of years ago by an intrusion of magma up through weaker layers of rock. It is grouped with two other nearby laccolith formations – Shaw Butte and Crown Butte. Although privately owned and publicly inaccessible, Square Butte remains an unmistakable and highly visible landmark with an appearance that has been only minorly altered over time.

Tower Rock

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Cascade
Ownership:	Public - MT State Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Scenic Quality

Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On July 16, 1805, Lewis and three other men advanced ahead of the main group “to the point where the river enters the Rocky Mountains” in order to make observations. After passing through rolling plains, they arrived at a point where “there is a large rock of 400 feet high which stands immediately in the gap which the Missouri makes on its passage from the mountains; it is insulated from the neighbouring mountains by a handsome little plain which surrounds its base on 3 sides and the Missouri washes its base on the other, leaving it on the Lard. as it descends. this rock I called the tower. it may be ascended with some difficulty nearly to its summit, and from it there is a most pleasing view of the country we are now about to leave.” For the expedition, Tower Rock marked a definitive transition from the familiar Great Plains into the unknown terrain of the Rocky Mountains.

The significance of Tower Rock long predated Lewis and Clark; the Blackfoot Tribe considered it to be a sacred place, and multiple tribes used it as a landmark for passage into and out of present-day Montana’s bison grounds. The site is publicly accessible as part of Tower Rock State Park. The 140-acre day-use park includes hiking trails and interpretive wayside exhibits.

Gates of the Mountains

Identification

Other Name:	Gates of the Rocky Mountains
State:	Montana
County:	Lewis and Clark
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

On July 19, 1805, Lewis wrote, “this evening we entered much the most remarkable cliffs that we have yet seen. these cliffs rise from the waters edge on either side perpendicularly to the height of 1200 feet. every object here wears a dark and gloomy aspect. the tow[er]ing and projecting rocks in many places seem ready to tumble on us. the river appears to have forced it’s way through this immense body of solid rock for the distance of 5¼ miles and where it makes it’s exit below has thrown on either side vast collumns of rocks mountains high. the river appears to have woarn a passage just the width of it’s channel or 150 yds. it is deep from side to side nor is ther in the 1st 3 miles of this distance a spot except one of a few yards in extent on which a man could rest the soal of his foot. several fine springs burst out at the waters edge from the interstices of the rocks. it happens fortunately that altho’ the current is strong it is not so much so but what it may be overcome with the oars for there is hear no possibility of using either the cord or Setting pole. it was late in the evening before I entered this place and was obliged to continue my rout untill sometime after dark before I found a place sufficiently large to encamp my small party; at length such an one occurred on the lard. [...] from the singular appearance of this place I called it the gates of the rocky mountains.”

The 1918 construction of Holter Dam impacted the canyon by significantly raising the water level and reducing the current. Otherwise, the wilderness character is largely intact. It is located within the Gates of the Mountain Wilderness and managed by Helena National Forest.

Crimson Bluffs

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Broadwater
Ownership:	Public - BLM
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 12, Page 107



NPS Map

Summary

On July 24, 1805, five days and over 50 river miles after the Corps of Discovery passed through the Gates of the Rocky Mountains, Lewis described “a remarkable bluff of a crimson coloured earth on Stard. intermixed with Stratas of black and brick red slate.” Gass added that, according to Sacagawea, the “red earth” was used by “natives” for paint. Clark, who was traveling on foot, passed above the bluffs and did not view them.

Located nearly a mile east of the city of Townsend, the distinctive bluffs are an exposure of Pre-Cambrian Greyson Shale. By the late-1990s the scenic quality of the natural features was increasingly threatened by encroaching real estate development. A preservation effort led by the Crimson Bluffs Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation culminated in the 2002 acquisition of a 50-acre parcel of land encompassing the bluffs by the Bureau of Land Management. Crimson Bluffs is open to the public and may be accessed via foot traffic or viewed by boat from the river. There is a small parking area off River Road, with a footpath that is about one-third of a mile leading to an overlook of the bluffs.

Yorks Islands

Identification

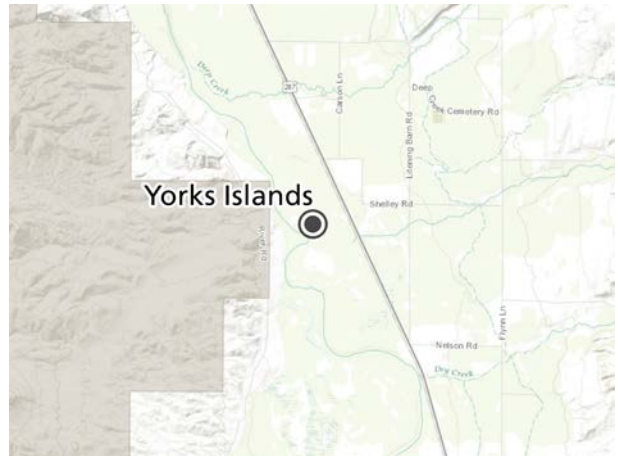
Other Name:	Yorks 8 Islands
State:	Montana
County:	Broadwater
Ownership:	Private, Public - MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 12, Page 107

Summary

On July 24, 1805, shortly after passing Crimson Bluffs, the Corps of Discovery came to a portion of the Missouri characterized by numerous islands and extensive beaver activity. Lewis wrote, “we saw many beaver and some otter today; the former dam up the small channels of the river between the islands and compell the river in these parts to make other channels; which as soon as it has effected that which was stoped by the beaver becomes dry and is filled up with mud sand gravel and drift wood. the beaver is then compelled to seek another spot for his habitation wher he again erects his dam. thus the river in many places among the clusters of islands is constantly changing the direction of such sluices as the beaver are capable of stoping or of 20 yds. in width. this anamal in that way I beleive to be very instrumental in adding to the number of islands with which we find the river crouded.” This area went unnamed in Lewis’ journal narrative, but Clark’s corresponding map named it “Yorks 8 Islands” after his slave York, who was a fully participating member of the expedition.

“Yorks 8 Islands” was one of only two features named after York. The other was a tributary of the Yellowstone which Clark called “Yorks Dry Creek.” However, it was later renamed “Custer Creek.” The cluster of islands were officially designated as “Yorks Islands” by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in 2000, following a push for recognition by the Crimson Bluffs Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. While the islands are predominately privately owned, there is public access available at the York’s Islands Fishing Access Site, located along the Missouri about three miles south of Townsend.

Three Forks of the Missouri

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
Counties:	Gallatin, Broadwater
Ownership:	Public - MT State Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 12, Page 107

Summary

On July 25, 1805, the expedition finally reached the headwaters of the Missouri River. It was here that Sacagawea had previously been kidnapped by the Hidatsa during a raid on a Shoshone camp. Clark, who led a scouting party ahead of the main body, wrote, "we proceeded on a few miles to the three forks of the Missouri those three forks are nearly of a size, the North fork [Jefferson River] appears to have the most water and must be considered as the one best calculated for us to ascend middle fork [Madison River] is quit as large about 90 yds. wide. The South fork [Gallatin River] is about 70 yds wide & falls in about 400 yards below the middle fork. those forks appear to be very rapid & contain some timber in their bottoms which is very extensive." Lewis arrived two days later and wrote, "believing this to be an essential point in the geography of this western part of the Continent I determined to remain at all events until I obtained the necessary data for fixing it's latitude Longitude &c." They spent several days exploring the area and making observations while the company hunted, rested, and refitted. Initially uncertain, Lewis and Clark determined the Jefferson River their best route forward in anticipation of meeting the Shoshone and gaining their assistance. Clark camped at the forks again on July 13-14, 1806, while enroute to the Yellowstone River valley during the return journey.

The confluences of the Three Forks of the Missouri join along the boundary between Broadwater and Gallatin counties, about three miles northeast of the town of Three Forks and within the Missouri Headwaters State Park.

Beaverhead Rock

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
Counties:	Madison, Beaverhead
Ownership:	Public - BLM, MT State Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 14, Page 109

Summary

On August 8, 1805, Lewis wrote that Sacagawea “recognized the point of a high plain to our right which she informed us was not very distant from the summer retreat of her nation on a river beyond the mountains which runs to the west. this hill she says her nation calls the beaver’s head from a conceived remembrance of it’s figure to the head of that animal. she assures us that we shall either find her people on this river or on the river immediately west of it’s source; which from it’s present size cannot be very distant. as it is now all important with us to meet with those people as soon as possible, I determined to proceed tomorrow with a small party to the source of the principal stream of this river and pass the mountains to the Columbia; and down that river untill I found the Indians; in short it is my resolution to find them or some others, who have horses if it should cause me a trip of one month. for without horses we shall be obliged to leave a great part of our stores, of which, it appears to me that we have a stock already sufficiently small for the length of the voyage before us.”

Beaverhead Rock is within Beaverhead Rock State Park, located 14 miles south of Twin Bridges on Montana Highway 41. Although the rock is not publicly accessible, it is viewable from a parking area that includes interpretive wayside exhibits.

Lemhi Pass

Identification

Other Name:	North Pass
States:	Montana, Idaho
Counties:	Beaverhead, Lemhi
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 14, Page 109

Summary

On August 9, 1805, Lewis departed the main group with a scouting party that included Drouillard, Shields, and McNeal. Their objectives were to “find a portage if possible” and make contact with the Shoshone Tribe in order to acquire horses. A few days later, on August 12, Lewis crossed the continental divide through Lemhi Pass. This marked the point of departure from both United States-controlled territory and the Missouri River watershed. Lewis wrote, “two miles below McNeal had exultingly stood with a foot on each side of this little rivulet and thanked his god that he had lived to bestride the mighty & heretofore deemed endless Missouri. after refreshing ourselves we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the West of us with their tops partially covered with snow. I now descended the mountain about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile which I found much steeper than on the opposite side, to a handsome bold running Creek of cold Clear water. here I first tasted the water of the great Columbia river.” Following successful contact with the Shoshone and acquisition of horses, the full expedition crossed the pass on August 26.

The pass was named in 1855 by Mormon missionaries for King Limhi, a character from the Book of Mormon. Located in the Beaverhead Mountains of the Bitterroot Range, it spans about two miles across the boundary between Montana and Idaho. Lemhi Pass is encompassed by two national forests – Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Montana, and Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho.

Clark's Lookout

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Beaverhead
Ownership:	Public - MT State Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 14, Page 109

Summary

While Lewis' scouting party proceeded overland, Clark led the main body of the expedition up the Beaverhead River. It was arduous work, with the group "much fatigued and weakened by being continually in the water drawing the Canoes over the Sholes." In response to the men's complaints of the "emence labour they are obliged to undergo," Clark drily noted, "I passify them." On August 13, 1805, Clark ascended "a high Point of Limestone rocks on the Stard Side" in order to survey the route ahead. From here he took compass readings to "Point of the Beaver head hill" (Beaverhead Rock), the "Course of the Wisdom river" (Big Hole River), and the "gap at the place the [Beaverhead] river passes thro' a mountain."

Clark's Lookout is located off Highway 91, just north of the town of Dillon. Established in 1985, Clark's Lookout State Park is a largely undeveloped 8.2-acre site that encompasses the rocky promontory rising about 75 feet above the Beaverhead River. There is a parking area, interpretive signage, and a nearly quarter-mile trail loop. Visitors can hike to the top of the hill, which features a monument commemorating the compass readings taken by Clark and affords a sweeping view of the Beaverhead Valley.

First Flag Unfurling Site

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Idaho
County:	Lemhi
Ownership:	Public - BLM
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 14, Page 109

Summary

On August 13, 1805, Lewis finally made contact with the Shoshones, encountering a group of “two women, a man and some dogs.” Signaling his peaceful intentions, Lewis set aside his pack and rifle, and took a flag which he “unfurled and advanced singly towards them.” Although the small group initially fled, Lewis’ efforts eventually paid off, and he received a warm reception from the Shoshone chief Cameahwait at his camp. Convincing the wary Shoshone to return across the continental divide with him and then assist the expedition in portaging over Lemhi Pass proved to be a tremendous test of Lewis’ skillful diplomacy. However, it was Sacagawea’s joyful reunion with her brother Cameahwait that cemented the trust and goodwill between the two groups. Subsequently, Lewis and Clark were able to barter for 29 or 30 horses to transport all of their supplies through the mountains. They also secured the services of a guide, whom they nick-named “Old Toby.” The Corps of Discovery departed Cameahwait’s Shoshone camp on August 30.

The First Flag Unfurling Site is a five-acre National Register-listed property located on BLM land adjacent to the Salmon-Challis National Forest. A historical marker and interpretive wayside exhibit are located next to a pull-off on NF-185, also known as Warm Springs Road. Despite the name and designation, there is no supporting evidence that this was the actual site Lewis unfurled the flag. However, it provides a good overview of the terrain and general area occupied by the Shoshone and traversed by the expedition.

Ross' Hole

Identification

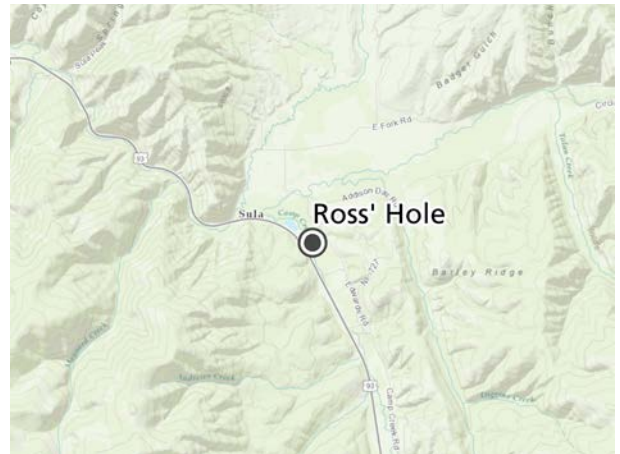
Other Name:	Cutl-kkh-pooh
State:	Montana
County:	Ravalli
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 15, Page 110

Summary

On September 4, 1805 the expedition had crossed near modern-day Lost Trail Pass and descended into an open valley, now called Ross' Hole, where Clark estimated there to be 400 Salish Indians with 500 horses encamped. The Salish, called "Flathead" by members of the expedition, gave them a warm welcome. Ordway wrote, "when our officers went to their lodges they gave them each a white robe of dressed skins, and spread them over their Shoulders and put their arms around our necks instead of Shakeing hands as that is their way they appeared glad to See us. they Smoaked with us, then gave us a plenty Such as they had to eat..." Lewis and Clark spent the next day communicating with chiefs (complicated by the task of translating across several languages), exchanging gifts, bartering goods, and purchasing horses. Rested and refitted, on the afternoon of September 6 the Corps of Discovery continued north along the Bitterroot valley.

Ross' Hole was later named for Alexander Ross, a fur trader with the Hudson Bay Company who camped there on March 12, 1824. The site is currently experienced as a wayside stop along US Highway 93, next to the Sula Country Store. A roadside pull-off is lined by an array of interpretive signage that detail the story of Lewis and Clark's visit, later exploration and development, and the settlement of Sula. Despite prominent modern intrusions in the foreground, this vantage point allows expansive views of Ross' Hole and conveys the timeless quality of the natural landscape.

Travellers Rest

Identification

Other Name:	Traveler's Rest
State:	Montana
County:	Missoula
Ownership:	Private, Public - MT State Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 15, Page 110

Summary:

On September 9, 1805, before the expedition began the arduous passage across the Bitterroot Mountains, they encamped along a creek Lewis and Clark named Travellers Rest. The next day Clark wrote, "Concluded to Delay to day and make Some observations, as at this place the rout which we are to prosue will pass up the Travelers rest Creek, The day proved fair and we took equal altitudes & Some luner observations. The Latd. 46° 48' 28" as the guide report that no game is to be found on our rout for a long ways, ads an addition to the cause of our delay to precure Some meat, despatched all our hunters in different directions, to hunt the Deer which is the only large game to be found." There was a friendly encounter with three Flat-head warriors, in pursuit of two men from another tribe who had stolen horses from them. On the morning of September 11, the expedition broke camp and continued westward into the mountains on the Lolo Trail. They returned to the area on June 30, 1806, and camped for three nights. Upon the July 3 departure, Clark took a contingent to explore the Yellowstone River, while Lewis headed for the Missouri and Marias rivers.

While Lewis and Clark named the creek, not the camp, Travellers Rest, in popular use it now refers to the geographic location of the camp site, reinforced the establishment of the Travellers Rest National Historic Landmark and Travelers' Rest State Park. Conversely, the creek itself has since been renamed Lolo Creek. An accumulation of archeological evidence has led to a broad consensus regarding the camp site location.

Packer Meadow

Identification

Other Name:	Glade Creek Camp
States:	Idaho
County:	Idaho
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 15, Page 110



NPS Map

Summary

On September 13, 1805, the expedition followed the Lolo Trail across the divide between modern-day Montana and Idaho and followed Pack Creek (their Glade Creek) to Packer Meadow, where they camped overnight. Clark wrote, “we proceeded over a mountain to the head of the Creek which we left to our left and at 6 miles from the place I nooned it, we fell on a Small Creek from the left which Passed through open glades Some of which ½ a mile wide, we proceeded down this Creek about 2 miles to where the mountains Closed on either Side crossing the Creek Several tmes & Encamped.” They passed through the area returning east on June 29, 1806. Lewis wrote, “at noon we arrived at the quawmas flatts on the Creek of the same name and halted to graze our horses and dine having traveled 12 miles. we passed our encampment of the of September at 10 ms. where we halted there is a pretty little plain of about 50 acres plentifully stocked with quawmash and from apperances this fromes one of the principal stages or encampments of the indians who pass the mountains on this road.”

Packer Meadow is located within the Clearwater National Forest, east of the Lolo Pass Visitor Center. It may be named for the mule packers who traditionally supplied remote backcountry locations in national forests. The property was privately owned until 1998, when Plum Creek Timber transferred 160 acres encompassing the meadows to public ownership. There is vehicular access through the area, and hiking trails with interpretive signage. The site is a component of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Colt Killed Creek Campsite

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Idaho
County:	Idaho
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 15, Page 110

Summary

By Clark's account, September 14, 1805, was a miserable slog. Persevering through rain, hail, and snow, the fatigued expedition struggled over steep mountainsides made nearly impassable by a plethora of fallen timber. They ended the day "Encamped opposit a Small Island at the mouth of a branch on the right side of the river which is at this place 80 yads wide, Swift and Stoney, here we wer compelled to kill a Colt for our men & Selves to eat for the want of meat & we named the South fork Colt killed Creek, and this river we Call Flathead River." The horsemeat was a welcome addition to the paltry food rations. Gass wrote, "none of the hunters killed any thing except 2 or 3 pheasants; on which, without a miracle it was impossible to feed 30 hungry men and upwards, besides some Indians. So Capt. Lewis gave out some portable soup, which he had along, to be used in cases of necessity. Some of the men did not relish this soup, and agreed to kill a colt; which they immediately did, and set about roasting it; and which appeared to me to be good eating."

The Colt Killed Creek Campsite is located on the grounds of the Powell Ranger Station, within Clearwater National Forest. The probable site of the encampment has been developed to include a helipad, parking area, and numerous outbuildings. The creek branch described by Clark was filled in by the USFS sometime after the 1950s, but the "Small Island" in the Lochsa River remains intact. There is no interpretive signage on-site. The site is a component of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Weippe Prairie

Identification

Other Name:	Camas Flats
State:	Idaho
County:	Clearwater
Ownership:	Public - NPS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 16, Page 111



NPS Map

Summary

On September 20, 1805, Clark and six others advanced from the Bitterroot Mountains into an expansive upland prairie occupied by two Nez Perce villages. Two days later, Lewis arrived with the main expedition. All were famished and exhausted. Lewis found himself “growing weak for the want of food and most of the men complain of a similar deficiency and have fallen off very much.” The Nez Perce generously welcomed and fed them meals of camas, dried salmon, and berries. Whether due to bacteria or a sudden change in diet, nearly the entire expedition became extremely sick. They departed Weippe Prairie on September 24 to prepare for their descent of the Clearwater River. Lewis and Clark reunited with the Nez Perce on May 3, 1806, during the return journey. Delayed by lingering winter in the mountains, they camped along the Clearwater River until June 10, then relocated to Weippe Prairie. On June 15, the expedition made its first attempt to cross the mountains, but found conditions to be impassable. They returned to Weippe Prairie on June 19 and remained another five days. Their final departure was on June 24. Six days later, they arrived at Travellers Rest. During the times spent with the Nez Perce, bonds of mutual friendship and respect were forged.

The Weippe Prairie National Historic Landmark covers approximately 3,120 acres, the majority of which is privately owned. However, there is a 274-acre tract owned by Nez Perce National Historical Park that is publicly accessible and offers sweeping views of the landscape.

Snake River Confluence

Identification

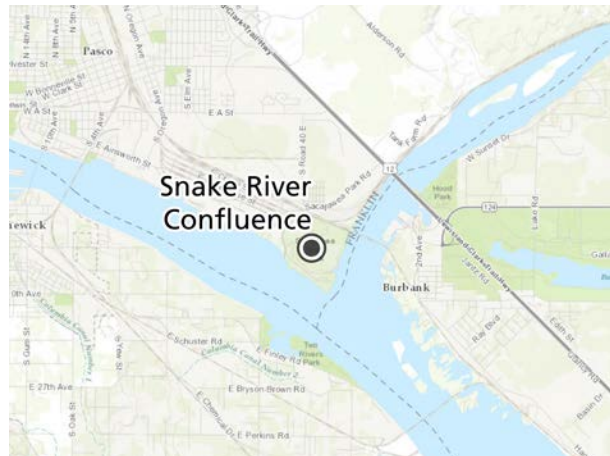
Other Name:	Sacajawea State Park
State:	Washington
County:	Franklin
Ownership:	Public - WA State Parks
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 17, Page 112

Summary

On October 16, 1805, Lewis and Clark reached the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. Here they received a friendly reception from the Yakamas and Wanapams. According to Clark, “we formed a camp at the point [and] after we had our camp fixed and fires made, a Chief came from their Camp which was about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile up the Columbia river at the head of about 200 men Singing and beeting on their drums Stick and keeping time to the musik, they formed a half circle around us and Sung for Some time, we gave them all Smoke, and Spoke to their Chiefs as well as we could by Signs informing them of our friendly disposition to all nations”. During their stay, the expedition purchased dozens of dogs to eat and received gifts of fish, horse meat, and fire kindling. The next day Clark and two other men explored the Columbia River ten miles upstream. He documented numerous settlements and vast quantities of salmon. On October 18, Lewis and Clark made celestial observations and took measurements of the Snake and Columbia rivers. They held a final council, and began their voyage down the Columbia.

The campsite at the point of the confluence is now within the boundaries of the 284-acre Sacajawea State Park. The day-use park affords a wide range of land and water-based recreational opportunities. It includes the Sacajawea Interpretive Center, which interprets the Lewis and Clark expedition and highlights the role played by Sacagawea. The park was established in 1927 and is now listed in the National Register as a significant example of the PWA Moderne architectural style.

Hat Rock

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Oregon
County:	Umatilla
Ownership:	Public - OR Parks & Recreation
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 17, Page 112

Summary

On October 19, 1805, as the expedition canoed down the Columbia River, Clark noted “a rock on the Lard. Shore resembling a hat at a rapid at the lower point of an Island in the middle of the river on which there is 7 Lodges of natives drying fish, and opposit the head of an Isld. near the Std. side on which is 5 Lodges of natives drying fish.” During the 1805-1806 winter at Fort Clatsop, Clark prepared a list of “Estimated Distances in Miles” from Fort Mandan to the Pacific Coast, using “remarkable places” such as distinctive landmarks, confluences, and villages as reference points. Included in that list is “the hat rock.”

Located about nine miles east of Umatilla off of Highway 730, Hat Rock is a formation of exposed basalt that rises approximately 70 feet to a plateau. It is located within the 719-acre Hat Rock State Park, which was established during the construction of the McNary Dam circa 1951-1953. On-site wayside exhibits and signage interpret the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Day-use recreation opportunities include activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding, and hiking. The park also provides an access point for the Lewis and Clark Commemorative Trail- a footpath along the Columbia River that extends west to the McNary Beach Recreation Area.

Celilo Falls Portage

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
States:	Washington, Oregon
Counties:	Klickitat, Wasco
Ownership:	Private, Public - USACE
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 17, Page 112

Summary

On October 22, 1805, the expedition reached Celilo Falls, where the river “divided into Several narrow chanel[s] which pass through a hard black rock forming Islands of rocks at this Stage of the water, on those Islands of rocks [were] great numbers of Stacks of pounded Salmon.” A social and commercial locus for tribes along the Columbia River, Celilo Falls also presented a defacto boundary between Shahaptian languages (extending eastward to the Rocky Mountains) and Chinookan languages (extending westward to the Pacific Ocean). There were 17 lodges above the falls and five more below. Lewis and Clark determined a portage route “on the Stard. Side, and the distance 1200 yards one third of the way on a rock, about 200 yards over a loose Sand collected in a hollar blown by the winds from the bottoms below which was disagreeable to pass, as it was Steep and loose.” They received a great deal of assistance from the villagers, including the use of their horses. The Corps camped two nights on the north bank below the falls, “close under a high range of clifts of rocks, where the body of the River beat against it and formed a verry large eddy.” The return portage was made on April 21, 1806.

Over the years, Celilo Falls has been impacted by infrastructure developments such as a canal, railroad bridge, transmission lines, and inundation from the Dalles Dam. Even so, the portage route on the Washington side of the river remains intact and above water. On-site access is restricted, but nearby Celilo Park provides public viewing and interpretation of the area from the Oregon side of the river.

Rock Fort Campsite

Identification

Other Name:	Fort Camp
State:	Oregon
County:	Wasco
Ownership:	Public - Wasco County
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 17, Page 112

Summary

On October 25, 1805, following the precarious descent of a series of rapids (The Dalles), Clark wrote, “we Came too, under a high point of rocks on the Lard. Side below a creek of 20 yards wide and much water, as it was necessary to make Some Selestial observations we formed our Camp on the top of a high point of rocks, which forms a kind of fortification in the Point between the river & Creek, with a boat guard, this Situation we Concieve well Calculated for defence, and Convenient to hunt under the foots of the mountain to the West & S. W.” They delayed there three nights, making observations, repairing canoes, hunting, and interacting with various tribes. The expedition returned to the campsite during the return journey on April 15, 1806. Clark wrote, “we arived at the enterance of Quinnett Creek which we assended a Short distance and Encamped at the place we had Called rock fort Camp.” This time their primary focus was negotiating with tribes for the acquisition of horses and other goods. They broke camp on April 18 to portage the rapids upriver.

Located in The Dalles, the 5.5 acre property commemorating the Rock Fort Campsite was conveyed to Wasco County ownership from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1976. A short footpath accesses the site from an adjacent parking area. A series of wayside panels interpret the site.

Beacon Rock

Identification

Other Name:	Castle Rock
State:	Washington
County:	Skamania
Ownership:	Public - WA State Parks
NR Status:	Not listed
NHL Status:	Not listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113



NPS Map

Summary

On October 31, 1805, Clark described, “a remarkable high detached rock Stands in a bottom on the Stard Side near the lower point of this Island on the Stard. Side about 800 feet high and 400 paces around, we call the Beaten rock.” Significantly, Clark also noted the first evidence of tidewater: “I could not See any rapids below in the extent of my view which was for a long distance down the river, which from the last rapids widened and had every appearance of being effected by the tide.” The expedition revisited Beacon Rock returning upriver on April 6, 1806. Lewis wrote, “from the appearance of a rock [...] I could judge better of the rise of the water than I could at any point below. I think the flood of this spring has been about 12 feet higher than it was [the previous fall]; the river is here about 1½ miles wide; it’s general width from the beacon rock which may be esteemed the head of tide water, to the marshey islands is from one to 2 miles tho’ in many places it is still wider. it is only in the fall of the year when the river is low that the tides are perceptible as high as the beacon rock. this remarkable rock which stands on the North shore of the river is unconnected with the hills and rises to the hight of seven hundred feet; [...] it rises to a very sharp point and is visible for 20 miles below on the river.”

Beacon Rock is an eroded basalt volcanic plug that stands at approximately 848 feet. In the 1800s, it became known as Castle Rock. Purchased by Henry Biddle (a descendant of Nicholas Biddle) in 1915, he restored the Beacon Rock name, constructed a trail to the top, and donated it to the state of Washington. The landmark was designated a state park in 1935.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Washington
County:	Clark
Ownership:	Public - FWS
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113

Summary

On the evening of November 4, 1805, the Corps of Discovery camped in the vicinity of today's Post Office Lake. Clark recounted, "I could not Sleep for the noise kept by the Swans, Geese, white & black brant, Ducks &c. on a opposit base, & Sand hill Crane, they were emensely numerous and their noise horrid." The following day they passed through a broad, channeled floodplain "covered with cotton wood, maple, and the like kinds of wood" and bounded by ridges "closely covered with spruce timber." An abundance of wildlife included a variety of birds "flying in every direction," sea otters, snakes, and deer. There were "a great many Indian camps, their lodges made chiefly of poles and cedar bark." Particularly notable was the Chinookan village of Cathlapotle, which Clark described as "a large village, the front of which occupies nearly ¼ of a mile fronting the Chanel, and closely Connected, [with] 14 houses in front." During the return journey, the Corps stopped to visit the village on March 29, 1806. They delayed for about three hours, bartering and purchasing goods. Clark "gave a Medal of the Small Size to the principal Chief" before they departed.

The Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, which includes Post Office Lake, was established in 1965 to provide a habitat for wildlife – particularly wintering waterfowl. The 5,300-acre refuge also preserves numerous archeological sites that span over 2,000 years of occupation, including Cathlapotle. A full-scale Chinookan plankhouse, based on evidence found at the Cathlapotle archeological site, was constructed in 2005 to interpret the refuge's natural and cultural history.

Dismal Nitch

Identification

Other Name:	Megler Cove
State:	Washington
County:	Pacific
Ownership:	Public - WADOT
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113



NPS Map

Summary

As the expedition neared the Pacific Ocean, conditions on the Columbia River worsened. Clark wrote that on November 10, 1805, “the wind rose from the N. W. and the waves became So high that we were compelled to return about 2 miles to a place we Could unload our Canoes, which we did in a Small nitch at the mouth of a Small run on a pile of drift logs.” The weather pinned them in place for five days. Clark described “wind verry high [...] with most tremendous waves brakeing with great violence against the Shores, rain falling in torrents, we are all wet as usial and our Situation is truly a disagreeable one; the great quantites of rain which has loosened the Stones on the hill Sides, and the Small Stones fall down upon us, our canoes at one place at the mercy of the waves, our baggage in another and our Selves and party Scattered on floating logs and Such dry Spots as can be found on the hill Sides, and Crivices of the rocks.” On November 14, Lewis decided to proceed onward by land with an advance party, and the next day the weather cleared enough for the rest to load the canoes “in great haste and Set Out, from this dismal nitch where we have been confined...”

The probable location for Dismal Nitch is directly northwest of the Megler Rest Area on US Highway 101. Interpretive wayside exhibits are installed at the rest area, and a short trail leads to an area that commemorates the site. It is managed as part of the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks.

Cape Disappointment

Identification

Other Name:	Cape San Roque
State:	Washington
County:	Pacific
Ownership:	Public - USACE
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113

Summary

On November 14, 1805, while the expedition sheltered at Dismal Nitch, Lewis “concluded to proceed on by land & find if possible the white people the Indians say is below and examine if a Bay is Situated near the mouth of this river as laid down by Vancouver in which we expect, if there is white traders to find them.” On November 17, Lewis “returned having traversed Haleys Bay to Cape Disappointment and the Sea Coast to the North for Some distance.” Gass remarked, “They had been round the bay, and seen where white people had been in the course of the summer: but they had all sailed away.” The next day Clark and 11 others “who wished to See more of the main Ocian” made the trip to Cape Disappointment and the northern coastline, rejoining the main party at Station Camp on November 20.

The cape was a notable maritime landmark of the Pacific Northwest, with the first known documentation in 1775 by Spanish explorer Bruno Heceta, who named it “Bahia de La Asuncion.” British trader John Meares named it “Cape Disappointment” in 1788, due to his mistaken belief that the mouth of the Columbia River was only a bay. The United States deemed Cape Disappointment strategically significant enough to base military fortifications there during the Civil War and World War II. Construction of a lighthouse was completed in 1856. The decommissioned military fortification and lighthouse are now encompassed by the Camp Disappointment State Park, which includes a Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Middle Village- Station Camp

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Washington
County:	Pacific
Ownership:	Public - NPS
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113



NPS Map

Summary

After leaving Dismal Nitch on November 15, 1805, Clark “found a butifull Sand beech thro which runs a Small [stream] below the mouth of this Stream is a village of 36 houses uninhabited by anything except flees [...] this I could plainly See would be the extent of our journey by water, as the waves were too high at any Stage for our Canoes to proceed any further down.” The village described by Clark, while vacated for the season, was an important fishing and trade hub for the Chinook people, who had already occupied the area for thousands of years. The expedition encamped at this location for the next ten days. During that time they explored the north shore of the mouth of the Columbia by land. Clark surveyed the surrounding area, later producing a detailed map. On November 24, a vote was held to determine the location of their winter quarters. Opting to explore the coastal region south of the Columbia River, they departed the following day.

A Catholic Mission was briefly established at the site in 1848, then later a cannery and small settlement. St. Mary’s Catholic Church was built in 1904, and has been preserved as the most prominent feature of the site. Following about ten years of planning and development, Middle Village – Station Camp was dedicated in 2012 as a 280-acre component of the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks. Primarily dedicated to commemorating Chinookan history and culture, the park includes a system of footpaths with extensive interpretive features and expansive views of the Columbia River.

Tongue Point

Identification

Other Name:	Point William
State:	Oregon
County:	Clatsop
Ownership:	Public - FWS
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



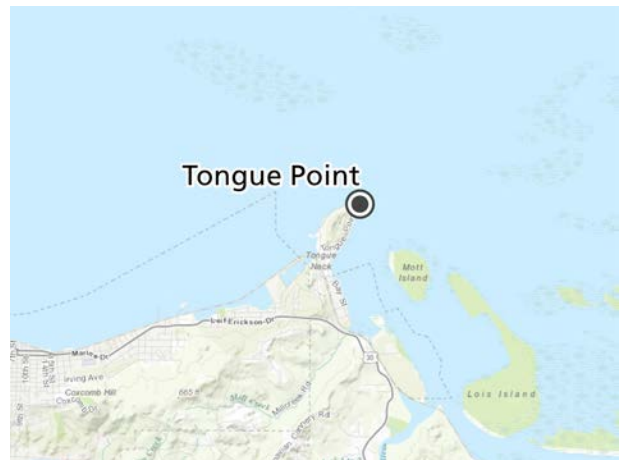
NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113



NPS Map

Summary

The expedition departed Station Camp on November 25, 1805, crossed the Columbia the next day, and paddled downriver along the southern bank. On November 27, they proceeded “around a very remarkable point which projects about 1½ Miles directly towards the Shallow bay the isthmus which joins it to the main land is not exceeding 50 yards and about 4 Miles around.” Clark named it “Point William” and wrote, “below this point the waves became So high we were Compelled to land unload and traw up the Canoes, here we formed a Camp on the neck of Land which joins Point William to the main at an old indian hut.” The main party remained while Lewis took a detachment on November 29 to scout for suitable winter quarters. The interim days were miserable with nearly continuous winds and rain, and “nothing to keep our Selves or Stores dry, our Lodge nearly worn out, and the pieces of Sales & tents So full of holes & rotten that they will not keep any thing dry.” The men explored the point and surrounding area while hunting for game. Lewis returned on December 5 to report he “found a good Situation and Elk Suffient to winter on.” The expedition departed two days later. They again camped in the area on March 23, 1806.

Located off US Highway 30 and now called Tongue Point, the peninsula comprises a US Jobs Corps Campus, US Coast Guard facility, commercial shipping yards, and a component of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. Public access is restricted, but the landform is viewable and interpreted from wildlife refuge public areas to the east, and the Astoria Riverwalk to the west. The “Tongue Point” name predated Lewis and Clark, given by British explorer George Vancouver in 1792.

Fort Clatsop

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Washington
County:	Clatsop
Ownership:	Public - NPS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113



NPS Map

Summary

On December 7, 1805, the expedition encamped at the site they selected for their winter quarters. It was desirable for the availability of game, proximity to the ocean for salt-making, and moderate temperatures. Clark sketched a preliminary site plan of two parallel rows of cabins joined by gated palisades on either end. But with construction well under way on December 13, the design had clearly been altered. Ordway wrote, "we raised another line of our huts and began the last line of our huts forming three [sides of a] Square and 7 rooms 16 by 18 feet large. the other Square we intend to picket and have gates at the 2 corners, So as to have it a defensive fort." Fort Clatsop was completed by January 1, 1806. When the expedition finally departed on March 23, 1806, Whitehouse wrote a parting description: "Fort Clatsop is situated on the South side of Columbia River, and about 1½ Miles up a small River [...] and lay a small distance back, from the West bank of said River. The fort was built in the form of an oblong Square, & the front of it facing the River, was picketed in, & had a Gate on the North & one on the South side of it."

After 1806, Fort Clatsop gradually diminished through natural deterioration and active removal. By the 1850s, all surface traces had disappeared. Later efforts to verify the fort's site culminated in archeological excavations in 1948. A reconstruction of the fort, based on Clark's unrealized sketch, was completed in 1955. The site was designated the Fort Clatsop National Memorial in 1956, and then the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in 2004. The 1955 reconstruction burned down in 2005; a replacement was completed in 2006.

Ecola Creek / Cannon Beach

Identification

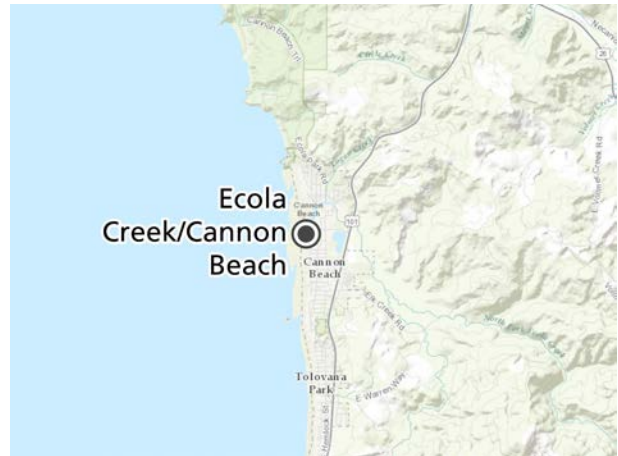
Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Oregon
County:	Clatsop
Ownership:	Public - City of Cannon Beach
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113

Summary

On January 5, 1806, privates Willard and Weiser returned to Fort Clatsop from the salt works camp with news of a beached whale carcass (nearly eighteen miles south), and a sample of the blubber they received from a lodge of Tillamooks. It proved quite tasty, resembling “the beaver or the dog in flavor.” Clark decided “to Set out early tomorrow with two canoes & 12 men in quest of the whale or at all events to purchase from the indians a parcel of the blubber.” The party reached its destination on January 8. Clark marveled at the “innumerable rocks of emence Sise out at a great distance from the Shore and against which the Seas brak with great force [and] gives this Coast a most romantic appearance.” He also noted a “village of 5 Cab-ins on the Creek which I shall call E co-la or whale Creek.” Unfortunately, the whale was “pillaged of every valuable part” and “noting more than the Sceleton.” At the village, Clark “purchased some oile and about 120 w of Blubber after rendered, finding they would not trade I Deturmined to return home with what we have.” On the journey back to Fort Clatsop, an attempt to rob and kill Hugh McNeal was thwarted. This episode inspired to Clark nickname the Necanicum River “McNeal’s Folly.”

Located within the city of Cannon Beach, the Ecola Creek/Cannon Beach site comprises three sections. North of Ecola Creek is Les Shirley Park, with restored wetlands and interpretive wayside exhibits commemorating the Corps of Discovery. South of Ecola Creek is Ne Cus’ Park, encompassing the Ecola Creek Village archeological site. To the west and south is the distinctive Cannon Beach coastline with the sea stack rock formations noted by Clark.

Sandy River Delta

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
States:	Washington, Oregon
Counties:	Clark, Multnomah
Ownership:	Public - USFS, OR Parks & Rec., Clark Co. Public Works
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113

Summary

On the morning of March 31, 1806, Lewis and Clark arrived on the north side of the Columbia River opposite the mouth of the Sandy River. They had briefly visited the area on November 3, 1805, and named the tributary “Quick Sand River.” Lewis now noted there was one “large wooden house” of the Watlala Nation nearby, remarking, “when we descended the river in November last there were 24 other lodges formed of Straw and covered with bark near this house; these lodges are now destroyed and the inhabitants as the indians inform us have returned to the great rapids of this river...” They learned a great deal about Sandy River from area villagers and sent Sergeant Pryor to explore as far upriver as possible within a day. With game relatively plentiful, the captains resolved “to remain at our present encampment or some where in this neighbourhood until we had obtained as much dried meat as would be necessary for our voyage as far as the [Nez Perce].” During this time they also made detailed celestial and natural observations. By April 6, the food supply was adequately restocked, and they continued upriver.

Much of the Sandy River Delta lies within the eponymous 1,400-acre USFS park, which includes an extensive trail system through forests, fields, and wetlands. Immediately upstream the Sandy River is the Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area, a 54-acre park that offers a wide range of recreation opportunities and limited interpretive signage. North of the Columbia River is the Captain William Clark Regional Park, managed by Clark County Public Works. This 93-acre park was established during the Bicentennial to commemorate the 1806 camp, which is interpreted through signage and outdoor exhibits.

Willamette River Confluence

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Oregon
County:	Multnomah
Ownership:	Public - City of Portland
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 18, Page 113

Summary

Lewis and Clark had twice unknowingly passed the mouth of the Willamette River (called Multnomah by them); first while outbound on November 4, 1805, and again on March 30, 1806. However, while encamped opposite the Sandy River Delta on April 2, 1806, Clark learned from two natives of “a large river which discharges itself into the Columbia on it’s South Side Some Miles below us. [...] they drew [a sketch] on a Mat with a coal, it appeared that this river which they Call Mult-no’-mah discharged itself behind the Island we call the image Canoe island, and as we had left this Island to the South both in decending & assending the river we had never Seen it. they informed us that it was a large river and runs a Considerable distance to the South between the Mountains. I deturmined to take a Small party and return to this river and examine its Size and Collect as much information of the nativs on it or near its enterance into the Columbia of its extent, the Country which it waters and the nativs who inhabit its banks.” Clark, with six men and a guide, explored about seven miles up the Willamette River. Clark favorably noted, “The Current [...] is as jentle as that of the Columbia glides Smoothly with an eavin surface, and appears to be Sufficiently deep for the larg-est Ship.” He returned to camp on April 3.

The landscape character has altered significantly since 1806 due to riverfront industrialization and channel dredging. However, public access to a more natural setting at the confluence is found at Kelly Point Park, with beachfronts along both rivers, walking paths, and picnic areas.

Walla Walla River Confluence

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Washington
County:	Walla Walla
Ownership:	Public - FWS
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 17, Page 112

Summary

On April 27, 1806, Lewis and Clark reunited with Wallulapum Chief Yelleppit, whom they first met on October 19, 1805, during their voyage down the Columbia. Yelleppit invited them to spend several days at his village near the confluence of the Walla Walla River. Receiving a warm welcome, the expedition spent the next few days engaging in trade, council, and socializing with the Wallulapum. Receiving confirmation of the overland route east and assistance in ferrying horses and supplies across the Columbia in canoes, Lewis and Clark “took leave of these friendly honest people” on April 30, 1806.

The immediate natural setting of the Walla Walla River confluence is impacted by railroad and highway crossings, as well as a grain elevator complex. However, much of the adjacent area is publicly accessible through the 15,000-acre McNary National Wildlife Refuge and 46-acre Madame Dorian Memorial Park. Hiking trails that climb into the highlands south of the confluence offer panoramic views of the Wallula Gap, a dramatic landscape formed by eroded basalt anticlines that was first documented by Lewis and Clark as they canoed downriver on October 18, 1805. Clark described it as a “range of high Country at which place the rocks project into the river from the high cliffs.” Away from the infrastructure congested about the mouth of the confluence, much of the natural landscape retains the historic appearance witnessed by the expedition.

Lewis and Clark Travois Road

Identification

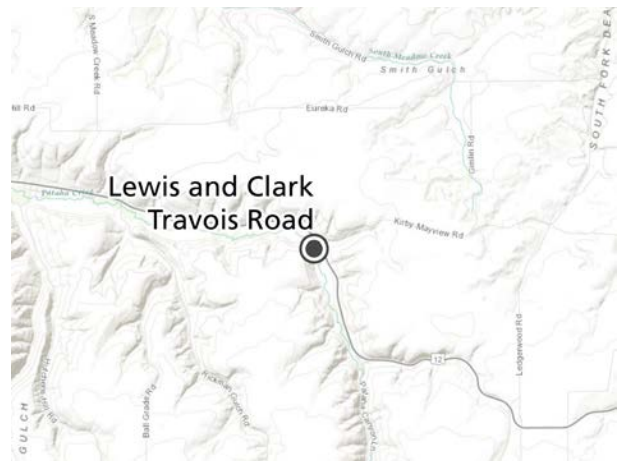
Other Name:	Nez Perce Trail
State:	Washington
County:	Garfield
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 16, Page 111

Summary

While staying with the Wallulapum Tribe near the confluence of the Walla Walla River, on April 27, 1806, Lewis wrote, “the indians informed us that there was a good road which passed from the Columbia opposite to this village to the entrance of the Kooskooske on the S. side of Lewis’s river; [...] we knew that a road in that direction if the country would permit would shorten our rout at least 80 miles. the indians also informed us that the country was level and the road good, under these circumstances we did not hesitate in pursuing the rout recommended by our guide whos information was corroborated by Yellept & others.” On May 3, as the expedition proceeded east on this route, Clark wrote that they “Continued Still up the Creek bottoms N. 75° E. 2 m. to the place at which the roade leaves the Creek and assends the hill to the high plains: here we Encamped in a Small grove of Cotton trees which in some measure broke the violence of the wind.”

Lewis and Clark were following an ancient road that extended from the confluence of the Walla Walla and Columbia rivers to confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers. Roads such as this one were marked by the parallel ruts left by travois. A travois consisted of two attached, load-bearing poles hitched to a horse or dog with a collar. As the animal pulled the travois, the two poles dragged along the ground. While much of the historic road has since been eradicated through agriculture, the five-acre Lewis and Clark Travois Road site encompasses intact remnants of the road system. Although privately owned, the area may be publicly viewed from a pull-off along US Route 12.

Smoking Place

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Idaho
County:	Idaho
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



Photo by Tommy LaVergne

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 15, Page 110



NPS Map

Summary

On June 27, 1806, the expedition proceeded east on the rugged Lolo Trail. Clark wrote, “we halted by the request of the Guides a few minits on an elevated point and Smoked a pipe on this eminence the natives have raised a conic mound of Stons of 6 or 8 feet high and erected a pine pole of 15 feet long. from hence they informed us that when passing over with their families some of the men were usually Sent on foot by the fishery at the enterance of Colt Creek in order to take fish and again meet the party at the quawmash glade on the head of Kooskoske river. from this place we had an extensive view of these Stupendeous Mountains principally Covered with Snow like that on which we Stood; we were entirely Serounded by those mountains from which to one unacquainted with them it would have Seemed impossible ever to have escaped [...] after haveing Smoked the pipe and Contemplating this Scene Sufficient to have dampened the Spirits of any except Such hardy travellers as we have become, we continued our march.”

Smoking Place is located within Clearwater National Forest, along Forest Road 500, also known as the Lolo Motorway. Constructed in the 1930s, the single lane dirt road roughly follows the historic route traversed by Lewis and Clark west of the Bitterroot Divide. The rock cairn originally described by Clark is no longer extant; a smaller cairn now marks the landscape. The site is a component of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Alice Creek Historic District

Identification

Other Name:	Lewis and Clark Pass
State:	Montana
County:	Lewis and Clark
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 10, Page 105

Summary

After departing Travellers Rest on the return journey, Lewis and his detachment followed the Cokahlarishkit Trail, or “Road to the Buffalo,” to cross the Continental Divide. The trail, which had been identified to Lewis and Clark by the Nez Perce, had long been an established transportation corridor for American Indians. On July 7, 1806, they passed through the Alice Creek drainage. Lewis described “much appearance of beaver many dams” and noted that the “bottoms not wide and covered with low willow and grass.” They continued “up the same creek on the east side through a handsome narrow plain” and across “the dividing ridge between the waters of the Columbia and Missouri rivers.” Looking east, Lewis recognized the familiar landmark of “Fort Mountain” (Square Butte), and estimated it to be “distant about 20 Miles.”

Located within the Helena National Forest, the Alice Creek Historic District still evokes the 1806 landscape experienced by Lewis despite minimal impacts from cattle grazing. Remnants of the Cokahlarishkit Trail remain intact, with features such as rock cairns, marked trees, and travois ruts. The historic district encompasses both public and private lands. While public access is restricted from the privately owned portions, visitors are afforded a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities within the national forest property. It includes a hiking trail to Lewis and Clark Pass and the Continental Divide Trail.

Gibbons Pass

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
Counties:	Beaverhead, Ravalli
Ownership:	Public - USFS
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 15, Page 110



NPS Map

Summary

Clark parted company with Lewis at Travellers Rest on July 3, 1806, with the objective to explore the Yellowstone River. His group proceeded south through the Bitterroot River valley, reaching Ross' Hole on July 6. They then followed an Indian road across the Continental Divide, through what later became known as Gibbons Pass, and descended into the Big Hole valley. Sacagawea proved instrumental in navigating a course across the divide. Clark wrote, "the Indian woman wife to Shabono informed me that she had been in this plain frequently and knew it well that the Creek which we descended was a branch of Wisdom river and when we ascended the higher part of the plain we would discover a gap in the mountains in our direction to the Canoes, and when we arrived at that gap we would see a high point of a mountain covered with snow in our direction the canoes."

Gibbons Pass is named for Colonel John Gibbon, who during the 1877 Nez Perce War led US forces against Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce in what became known as the Battle of the Big Hole. Forcibly removed from their ancestral lands in the Pacific Northwest and pursued by the US Army, the Nez Perce crossed the same pass over the Continental Divide as the Corps of Discovery, and camped in the Big Hole valley. Gibbon followed the Nez Perce across the pass and attacked their encampment on August 9. The two-day battle inflicted heavy casualties on both sides, but the Nez Perce were ultimately able to effect an orderly withdrawal. Gibbons Pass is located within the Bitterroot National Forest and is publicly accessible from the Sula Ranger Station via Forest Road 106. Interpretive signage is featured along the roadway.

Bozeman Pass

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
Counties:	Park, Gallatin
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 12, Page 107

Summary

On July 15, 1806, as Clark's party traveled from the Gallatin River toward the Yellowstone River valley, they were guided by Sacagawea, who knew the area from her childhood. She led them between the Bridger and Gallatin mountain ranges through Bozeman Pass. When still encamped at the Three Forks of the Missouri on July 13, Clark had considered a route through a pass further to the north, but wrote, "The indian woman who has been of great Service to me as a pilot through this Country recommends a gap in the mountain more South which I shall cross." The party ascended following a "well beaten buffalow road" to "the top of the dividing ridge between the waters of the Missouri from those of the river Rochehone [Yellowstone]."

Although first documented by Clark and later named for John Bozeman, who in the early 1860s helped blaze the Bozeman Trail, the pass had been used as a corridor for thousands of years prior to the Corps of Discovery, particularly by tribes reliant upon following bison migrations. As modes of transportation advanced into the modern era, the Bozeman Pass remained the established thoroughfare into southwestern Montana. Substantial development began with the Northern Pacific Railway, completed in 1883. An automobile highway, the Yellowstone Trail, was first constructed across the pass in 1912. This was replaced in 1926 by US 10, and then in 1956 by Interstate 90. There is a historical marker documenting the expedition's passage.

Sacajawea Park

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Park
Ownership:	Public - City of Livingston
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 12, Page 107

Summary

During the return journey, Clark separated at the Three Forks of the Missouri with a contingent of twelve to explore the Yellowstone River. Traveling overland, they reached the Yellowstone River valley on July 15, 1806, near the present-day city of Livingston. As Clark described, “1½ miles below the plain the river Passes out of the rocky mountains high on each Side bottom in those mountains narrow. river about 120 yds wide bold and deep the water of a whiteish blue Colour a mountain which is rugged N. W has Snow on parts of it. Those above & on the East Side of the river is rugged and covered with Snow those on the West is also high but have no Snow. much Dead timber on its N. Side.” They camped along the Yellowstone that evening, and then began the 19-day journey downriver to the Missouri.

The Corps of Discovery’s entry into the Yellowstone River valley is commemorated at Sacajawea Park in the city of Livingston. The municipal park is about a half-mile downriver from the probable location where the expedition reached the river. A statue of Sacagawea mounted upon a horse and holding her son, Jean Baptiste, is supplemented by interpretive wayside exhibits. Visitors are afforded similar expansive views of the mountain-bounded valley as recorded by Clark in 1806.

Clark's Canoe Camp on the Yellowstone

Identification

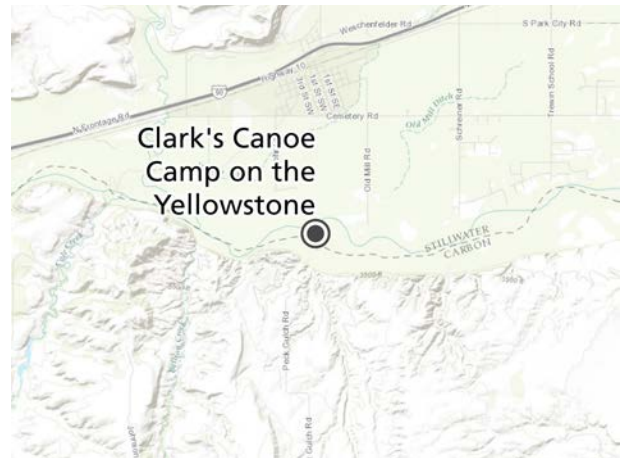
Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Stillwater
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 13, Page 108

Summary

On the return journey, Clark's party traveled about 100 miles down the Yellowstone River before they finally found cottonwood trees large enough for building canoes and made camp on July 19, 1806. George Gibson had suffered a serious thigh injury after being thrown from his horse, making land travel for him all but impossible. Clark wrote that they "found some large timber near which the grass was tolerably good I Encamped under a thick grove of those trees which was not Sufficiently large for my purpose." However, there were no better trees in the vicinity to be found. The next day Clark "determined to have two Canoes made out of the largest of those trees and lash them together which will Cause them to be Study and fully Sufficient to take my Small party & Self with what little baggage we have down this river." The party remained at the camp until July 24 building the canoes, hunting, and stitching new clothing from deer and elk skins. One night half of their horses disappeared. While Clark suspected it to be the work of an element from the Crow Tribe, no Crows were ever encountered and the missing horses were never recovered.

Based on geographical analysis and an archeological study conducted between 2011 and 2014, Clark's Canoe Camp site is likely located near present day Park City, Montana. The published report identified – among other things – a fire feature, localized mercury deposits, and a lead ball consistent with the type available to the expedition.

Camp Disappointment

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Glacier
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place
- Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 11, Page 106



NPS Map

Summary

During the return journey, Lewis decided to explore up to the headwaters of the Marias River in order to determine if it extended north of the 49th Parallel (thereby expanding the northern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase), and discover if there was an easy portage between the Marias and Saskatchewan rivers (which could route western Canadian fur trade to the Missouri). Lewis, Drouillard and the two Field brothers reached the expedition's northernmost campsite on July 22, 1806, and spent three full days exploring the area. With observation efforts frustrated by continual bad weather and increasingly wary of encountering hostile Blackfeet, they departed on the morning of July 26. After failing to establish a latitude with his instruments, coupled with an understanding that the Marias River did not reach as north as hoped, Lewis wrote, "we set out bidding a lasting adieu to this place which I now call camp disappointment."

Camp Disappointment lies within an open landscape of meadows interspersed with cottonwood stands along Cut Bank Creek. To the immediate east of the campsite and abutting the creek is a distinctive 300-foot cliff that was traditionally used as a buffalo jump. Located on privately owned land within the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, permission is needed to access this site. In 1925, the Great Northern Railroad erected a monument to commemorate Camp Disappointment near milepost 233 on US Highway 2. It is about four miles south of the actual historic site.

Two Medicine Fight Site

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Montana
County:	Pondera
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Freedom from Intrusion
- Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 11, Page 106

Summary

On July 26, 1806, Lewis, Drouillard and the Field brothers departed Camp Disappointment and traveled down the Marias River. That evening, they encountered eight Piegan Blackfeet and the two parties agreed to camp together at Two Medicine Creek. Eager to facilitate an exchange of information, Lewis wrote, "I found them extremely fond of smoking and plied them with the pipe until late at night." Early the next morning, Lewis and his men awoke as the Blackfeet were attempting to steal their firearms. The Blackfeet were unsuccessful, and one was killed by Rueben Fields. Retreating, the Blackfeet next "endeavored to drive off all the horses." Lewis shot and (most likely) killed a second Blackfoot, while the remainder escaped with a few of the expedition's horses. Fearing pursuit and reprisal from a larger band of Blackfeet in the area, Lewis and his men pushed their horses "as hard as they would bear" toward the mouth of the Marias. They arrived the following day, July 28, and reunited with the rest of Lewis' expeditionary contingent.

The Two Medicine Fight Site represents the first encounter between the Blackfeet Nation and the United States, the first military conflict between the United States and a Plains Tribe, and the only violent encounter between the expedition and American Indians of the entire journey. The site is located on private property within the eastern boundary of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Permission is required for access.

Fort Belle Fontaine

Identification

Other Name:	Cantonment Belle Fontaine
State:	Missouri
County:	St. Louis
Ownership:	Public (St. Louis Co. Parks & Recreation)
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

- Scenic Quality
- Sense of Place

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

The expedition first camped on an island opposite Coldwater Creek on May 14, 1804. During 1805, Cantonment Belle Fontaine was built on the south bank of the Missouri River at the mouth of Coldwater Creek by companies of the 1st U.S. Infantry under Lt. Colonel Jacob Kingsbury. The expedition visited the new fort on their return journey. On September 22, 1806, Ordway wrote that “towards evening we arrived at Belle Fontaine a Fort or cantonment on South Side which was built since we ascended the Missouri & a handsome place. we moved a short distance below and Camped, the Company of Artillery who lay at this fort fired 17 Rounds with the field pieces the most of our party was Quartered in the Canonment.” The next day they returned to St. Louis.

The original cantonment housed a government-operated trading post (or factory), until that function was transferred to Fort Osage and Fort Madison in 1808. By 1809, the post had deteriorated and relocation to a new site above a bluff began. The new Fort Belle Fontaine, completed in 1811, included 30 buildings, several blockhouses, a rectangular palisade, and an arsenal. In 1826, the second fort was abandoned and replaced by Jefferson Barracks, a new post located in St. Louis. The City of St. Louis acquired the Fort Belle Fontaine property in 1913 and built a detention home and training school for boys. In the 1930s the Work Progress Administration (WPA) built a “grand staircase” of stone steps from the riverbank to the top of the bluff, as well as trails and facilities. Now a St. Louis County park, Fort Belle Fontaine is listed on the National Register as an archeological site.

Fort Osage

Identification

Other Names:	Fort Clark, Fort Sibley
State:	Missouri
County:	Jackson
Ownership:	Public - Jackson Co. Parks & Recreation
NR Status:	Listed
NHL Status:	Listed



NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Sense of Place



NPS Map

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 2, Page 97

Summary

Fort Osage, one of the first military outposts of the Louisiana Territory, was established by Clark in 1808. The Corps of Discovery first passed through the area on June 23, 1804, although no mention regarding the site's suitability for a fort was noted in the journals. At the time, Clark only documented an island that was then across the river from the later site of Fort Osage. However, when he returned in 1808 as a brigadier general in the Louisiana Territory militia and U.S. agent for Indian Affairs, Clark referenced his initial undocumented impression of the location, writing that he "examined the Situation and the points of a Small Island which is opposit, found the River could be completely defended and Situation elegant, this Situation I had examined in the year 1804 and was delighted with it and am equally so now, [...] and fixed on the spot for the fort and other buildings." In 1810, as Nicholas Biddle prepared the expedition journals for publication, he interviewed and corresponded with Clark in order to elaborate on details within the text. Based on information provided by Clark at this time, the first edition of the journals, published in 1814, revised the original June 23, 1804 journal entry to insert the text: "Directly opposite on the south, is a high commanding position, more than seventy feet above high-water mark, and overlooking the river, which is here but of little width; this spot has many advantages for a fort, and trading house with the Indians." Following abandonment in 1827, archeologists rediscovered the fort's foundations in the 1940s. It was then reconstructed to portray the circa-1812 appearance.

Bellefontaine Cemetery

Identification

Other Name:	Unknown
State:	Missouri
County:	St. Louis
Ownership:	Private
NR Status:	Not Listed
NHL Status:	Not Listed



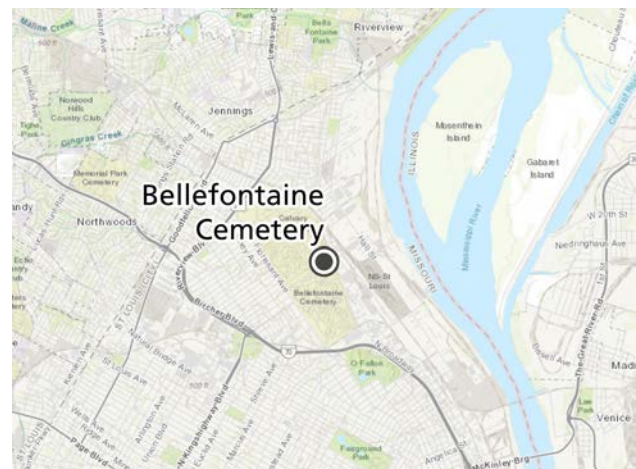
NPS Photo

Selection Criteria

Presence of Historic Remnants

Corresponding Trail Segment Map

Map 1, Page 96



NPS Map

Summary

Bellefontaine Cemetery contains the grave site of William Clark, who died in St. Louis on September 1, 1838. Located in the northern part of the cemetery above Meadow Lane and near the Broadway Avenue entrance is a 35-foot tall granite obelisk on a pedestal. At the base is a bust of Clark with the inscription: “William Clark – Born in Virginia August 1, 1770 – Entered Into Life Eternal September 1, 1838 – Soldier, Explorer, Statesman, and Patriot – His Life Is Written in the History of His Country.”

Clark, aged 69, died at the home of his eldest son, Meriwether Lewis Clark. He was buried in the family tomb at the farm of his nephew John O’Fallon, a wealthy St. Louis businessman. In the 1850s, after Bellefontaine Cemetery opened, Clark’s sons bought a large family plot on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The graves of William Clark, his wife Harriet, and several of their children were moved to the new cemetery. The memorial was unveiled in 1904 during the centennial of the expedition with funds donated by Clark’s youngest son, Jefferson Clark. Despite a family endowment, by the late 20th century the grave site had fallen into disrepair. Clark’s descendants raised \$100,000 to rehabilitate the obelisk and celebrated the rededication with a ceremony on May 21, 2004, the bicentennial of the start of the expedition.

Trail Segment Maps



Map Data Sources and Software Citation:

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). "World Street Map" Map Server. 1:15,000,000. 2017. ArcGIS Online. http://services.arcgisonline.com/ArcGIS/rest/services/World_Street_Map/MapServer. October, 2017.

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National Park Service. "High Potential Historic Sites" Map Server. 1:15,000,000. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Atlas. 2017. <https://imgis.nps.gov/HTML/index.html?viewer=LECL>. October, 2017.

National Park Service. "Lewis and Clark Trail Historic Route" Map Server. 1:15,000,000. ArcGIS Online. 2017. https://services1.arcgis.com/fBc8EJBxQRMchlei/arcgis/rest/services/Lewis_and_Clark_Trail_Historic_Route/FeatureServer. October, 2017.

United States Census Bureau. "States and State Equivalent Entities" Shapefile. 1:15,000,000. Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER). 2015. <https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/data/tiger/tgrshp2015>. October, 2017.

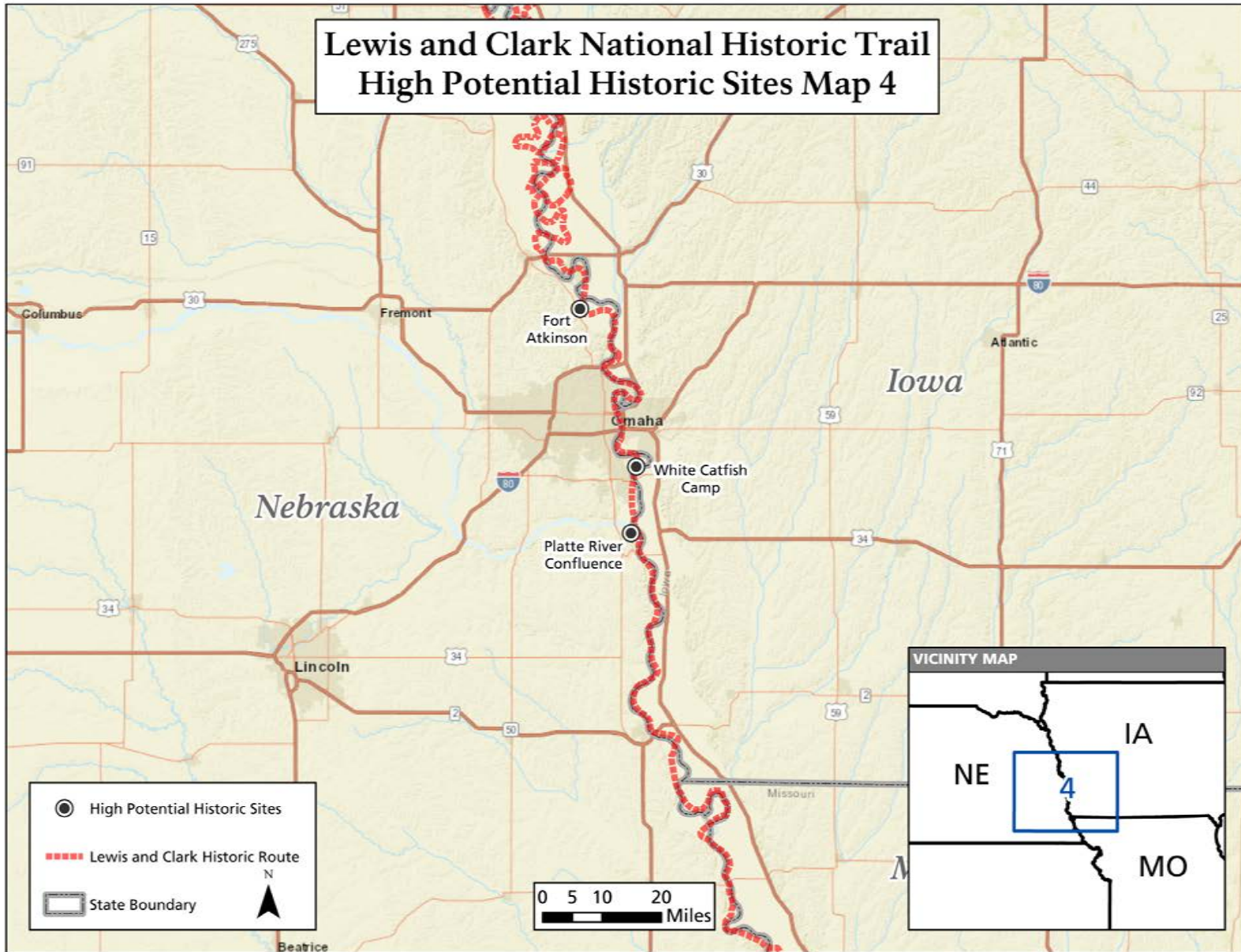
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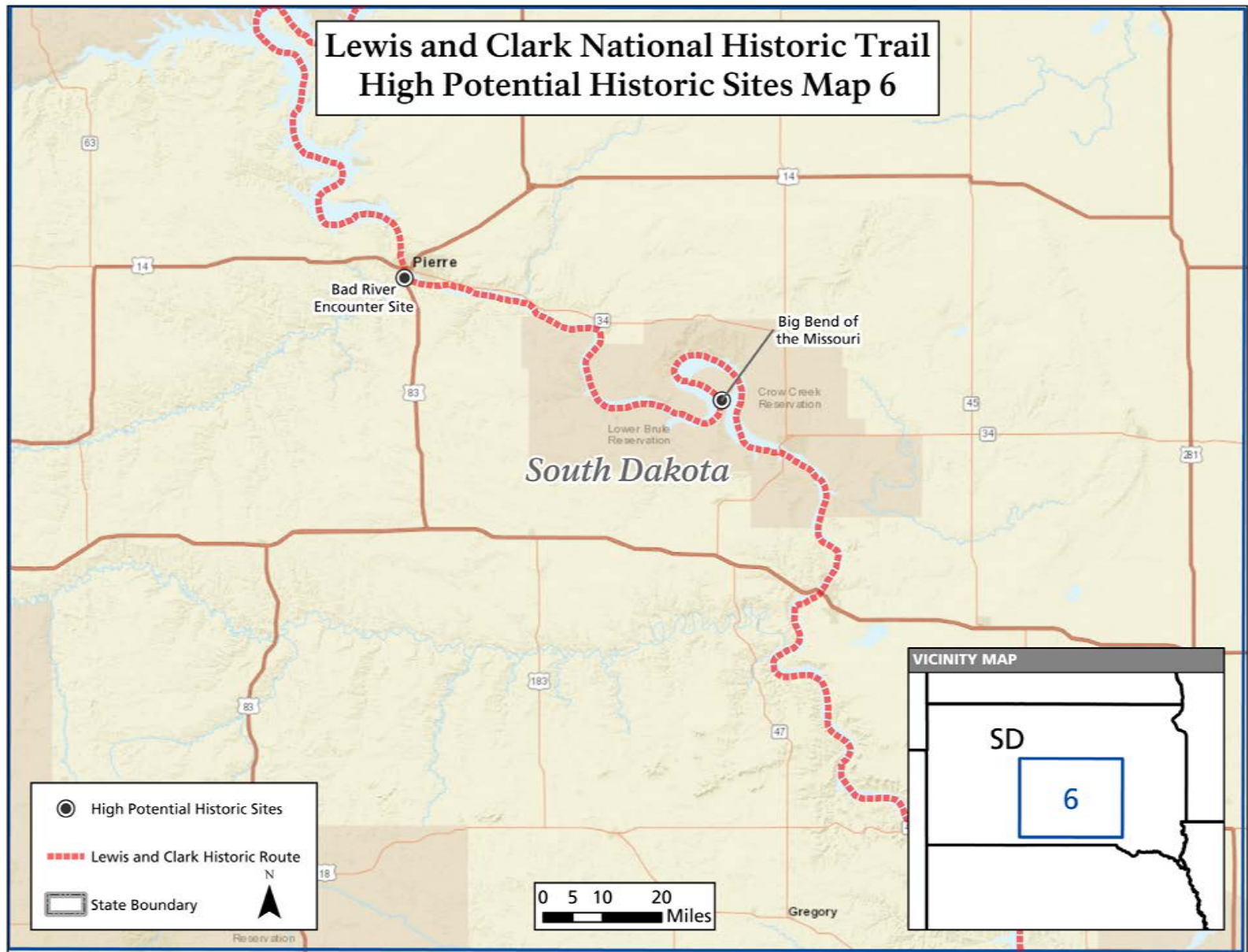


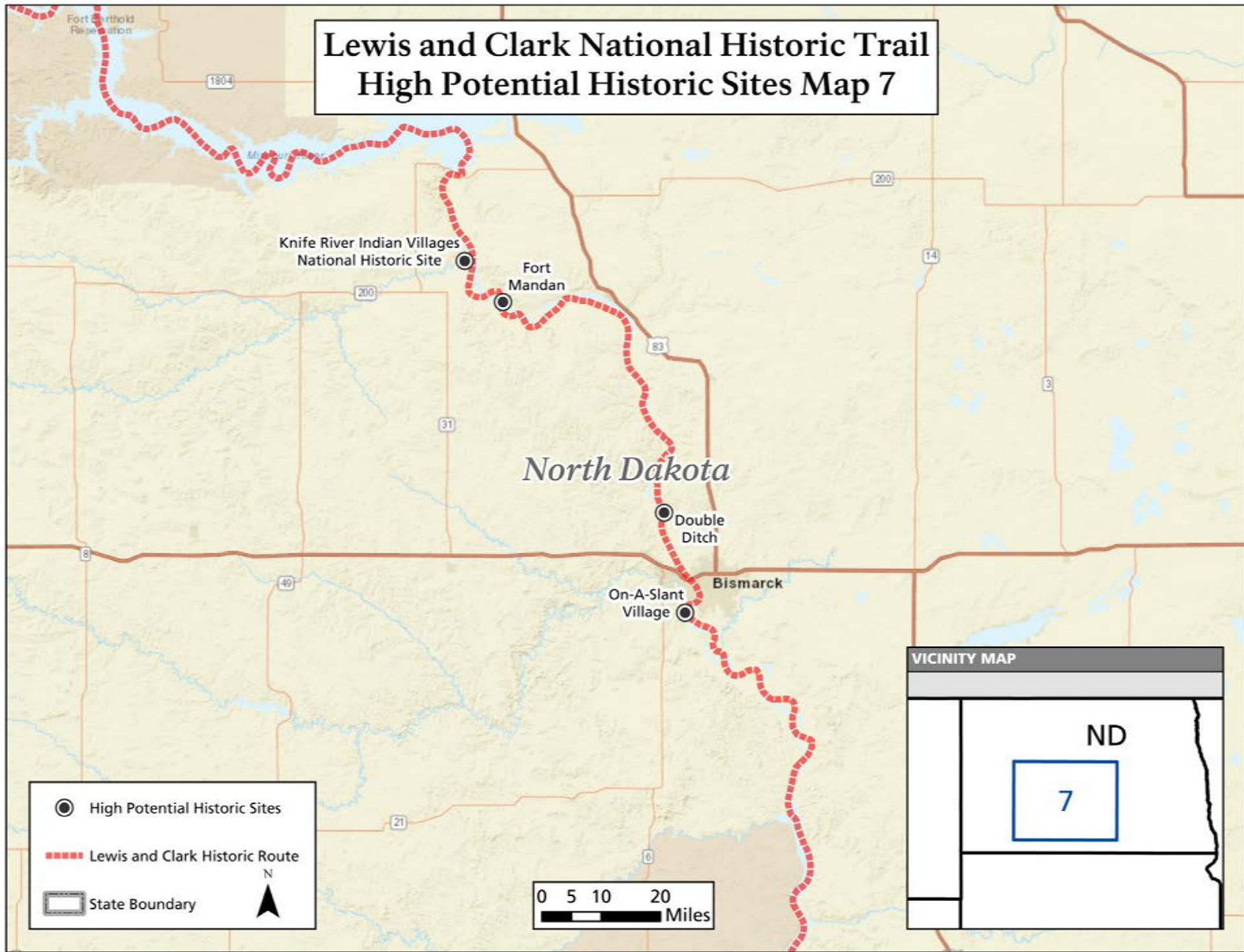


Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail High Potential Historic Sites Map 4







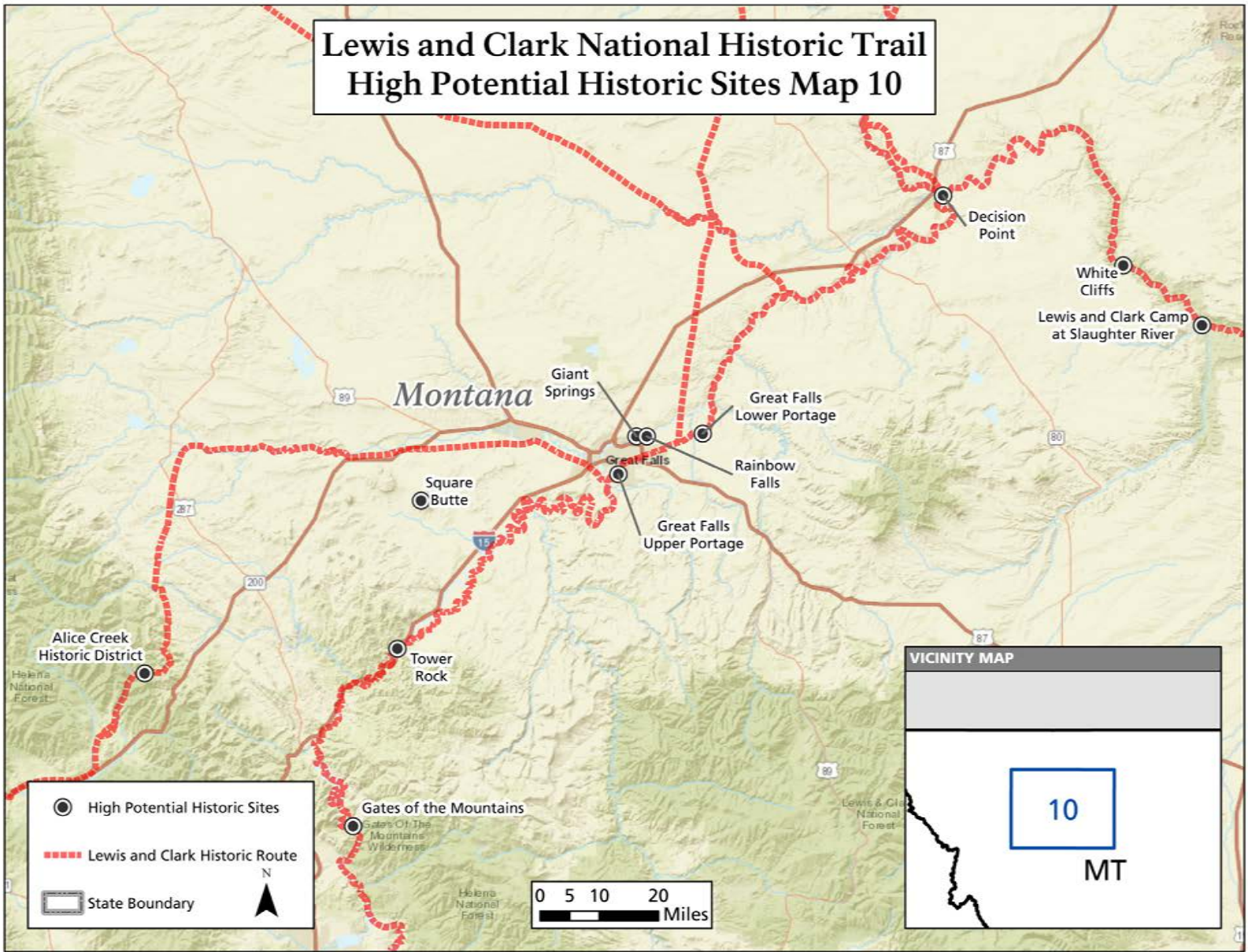


Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail High Potential Historic Sites Map 8

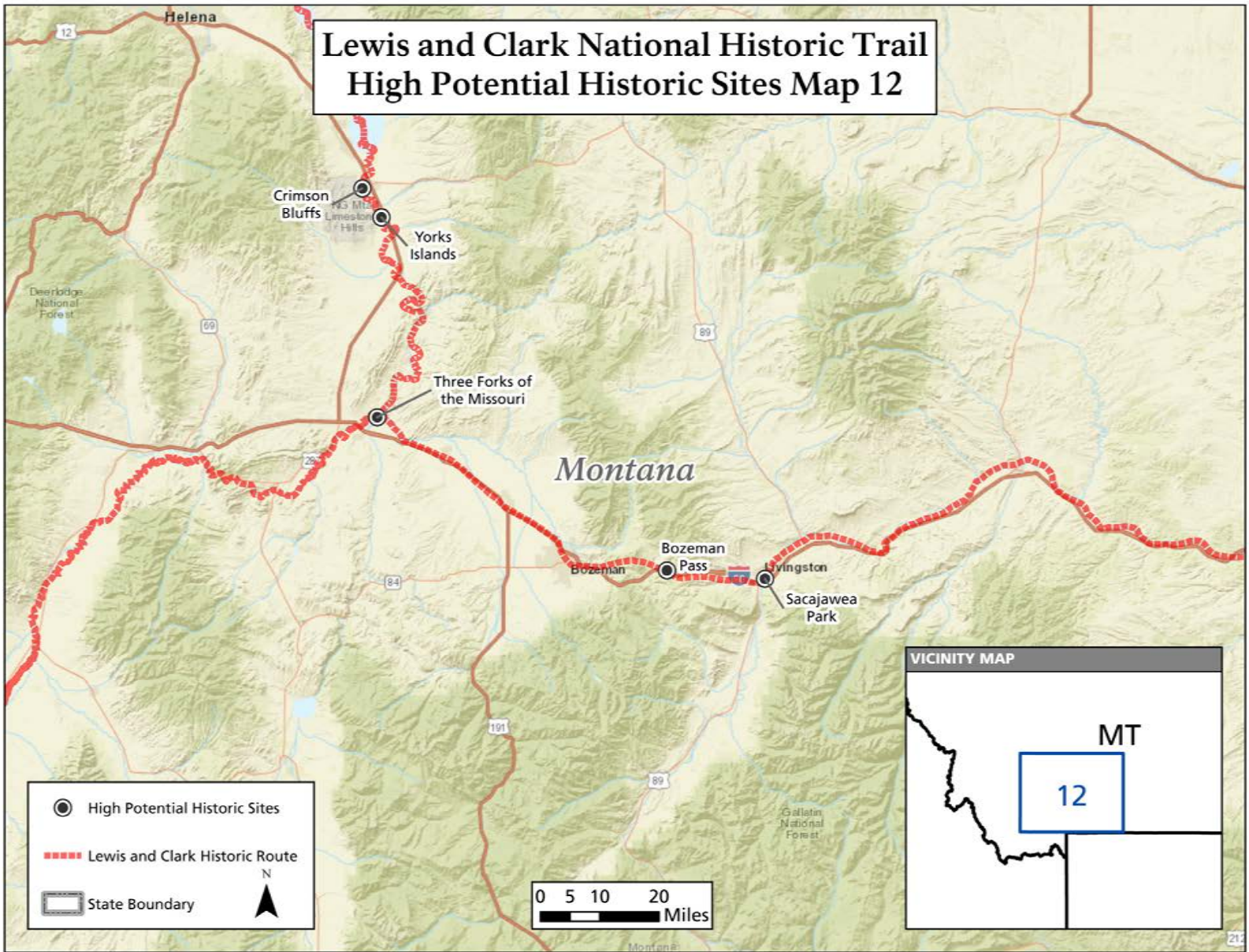


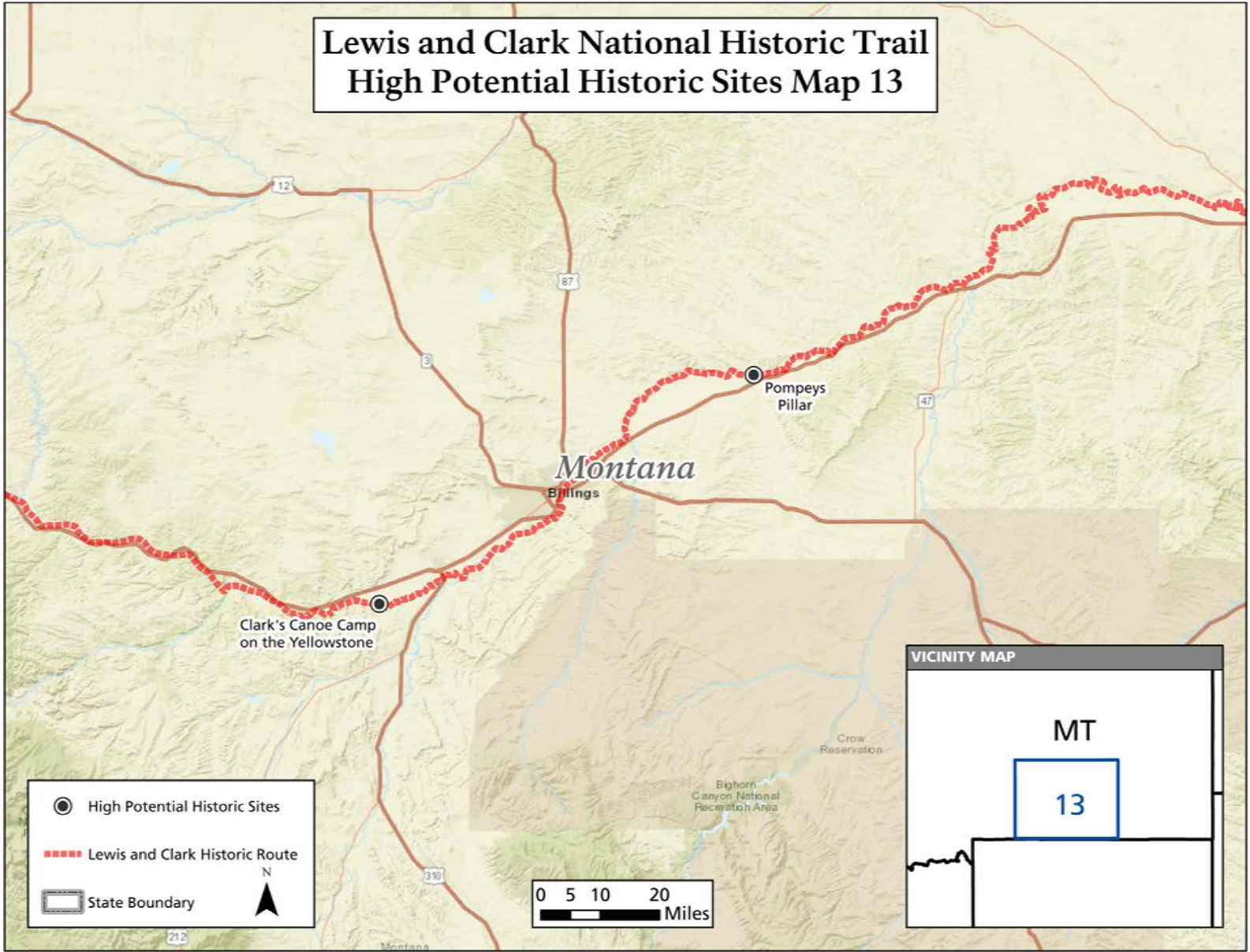


Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail High Potential Historic Sites Map 10





















List of Abbreviations

BLM – Bureau of Land Management
CMP – Comprehensive Management Plan
DOD – Department of Defense
FWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service
HPHS – High Potential Historic Sites
HPRS – High Potential Route Segments
IA – Iowa
ID – Idaho
IL – Illinois
KS – Kansas
MDC – Missouri Department of Conservation
MO – Missouri
MT – Montana
ND – North Dakota
NE – Nebraska
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NHL – National Historic Landmark
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act
NHT – National Historic Trail
NR – National Register of Historic Places
NPS – National Park Service
OR – Oregon
SD – South Dakota
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office
THPO – Tribal Historic Preservation Office
USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFS – United States Forest Service
WA – Washington
WADOT – Washington Department of Transportation

Acknowledgements

HPHS Committee Members (& years involved):

Ryan Cooper (2011-2018)
Geographer/GIS Specialist

Carol McBryant (2011-2012)
Chief of Interpretation

Rachel Daniels (2013-2016)
Natural Resources Program Manager

Nichole McHenry (2012-2014)
Volunteer-In-Park Coordinator

Gail Gladstone – Project Lead (2011-2015)
Cultural Resources Specialist

Denise Nelson (2012-2015)
Environmental Protection Specialist

Dan Jackson – Project Lead (2015-2018)
Cultural Resources Program Manager

Dan Wiley (2011-2018)
Chief of Integrated Resource Stewardship

Additional Contributors:

Dick Basch
American Indian Liason

Karla Sigala
Interpretive Specialist

Neal Bedlan
Outdoor Recreation Planner

Lee Smith
Administrative Officer

Suzanne Gucciardo
Natural Resources Specialist

Mark Weekley
Superintendent

Jill Hamilton-Anderson
Education Specialist

