



THE TRAIL COMPANION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



From the Superintendent



Mark Weekley, Superintendent

Omaha Area Youth Learn History First-Hand from NPS Partners

American history in the time of the Corps of Discovery Expedition came to life for Omaha urban youth in early August. Through living history demonstrations engaging children in hands-on learning experiences, volunteers interpreted the arduous tasks of daily living as would have been carried out by members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. At the edge of the mighty Missouri River, on three muggy days with temperatures near 100, more than 450 youth experienced life as it would have been for explorers more than 200 years ago.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Midwest Region Rivers Trails and Conservation

Assistance Program, in partnership with the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, worked together to present this educational opportunity to Omaha area youth.

Participants from ten summer youth day programs in Omaha, Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa were shuttled to the encampment to observe and try their hand at such skills as rope making, mapping and land navigation, medicinal practices and corn grinding...and tasting!

The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri is a nonprofit organization dedicated to rediscovering the legacy of the Lewis

and Clark Expedition. Skilled volunteers in period clothing use replica tools and camping equipment to promote American history and heritage through living history presentations like the recent encampment near the Midwest Regional Office. Despite the soaring temperatures, volunteers remained in character with authentic garb, and lived around the clock for four days on the grassy river bank at Heartland of America Park.

Armed with reusable water bottles the kids kept the heat at bay, both

drinking and showering using their event souvenirs. Ranger Denise Nelson “thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the kids – even in the intense heat. They were so responsive and enthusiastic. One boy exclaimed, ‘This is the best day of my life!’ How great is that?”

The encampment was open to the public and was also enjoyed by members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation who were gathered in Omaha for their annual meeting.



Above and Cover Photo: Members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles interact with Omaha area youth during the 2011 Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting.

**Lewis and Clark
National Historic Trail**
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Phone
visitor center
(402) 661-1804

administration
(402) 661-1814

E-mail
lecl_information@nps.gov

Internet
www.nps.gov/lecl

**Visitor Center
Trail Headquarters**

Summer Hours
Memorial Day through
Labor Day

Monday - Friday
8 am to 5 pm

Saturday - Sunday
9 am to 5 pm

Winter Hours
Labor Day through
Memorial Day

Monday - Friday
8 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday - Sunday
Closed

Varied Voices in Education

by Jill Hamilton-Anderson, Education Specialist

History is a story most often related through the subjective experience of the teller. With the inclusion of more and varied voices, histories are being rediscovered and revised. History told from an Indian perspective frequently conflicts with the stories mainstream historians tell.

~Essential Understanding 6,

Montana Office of Public Instruction, Indian Education for All

The National Park Service strives to tell the “untold” stories of history in order to uncover perspectives that are often overlooked. This is not always easy, particularly when a story has been told a certain way for years and years.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (the Trail) welcomes the inclusion of “varied voices” as it looks to diversify the telling of the Lewis and Clark story. One way we have begun to do this is through an agreement with the University of Oregon to coordinate the development of a curriculum framework from an American Indian perspective.

This framework will serve as a guiding document for teachers

along the Trail when developing units about Lewis and Clark.

This project has the potential to influence the way Lewis and Clark is taught in classrooms around the country. The goal is to ensure a balanced view of the Corps of Discovery. Integrating stories from various tribal groups throughout the curriculum is critical to this view. The story of Lewis and Clark from a tribe’s perspective has not changed over time, it too has been told the same way for years and years. Accounts of the Expedition, who met with whom, what was exchanged, what this encounter meant to a tribe, how it impacted a tribe over time, is recorded in the oral traditions of tribes and has been retold and passed down for generations.



Tribal oral histories are a valid and vital record of events, past and present. They have been told on a parallel track with the Euro-American version of Lewis and Clark, through the journals of the expedition members and the subsequent analysis of the journals and the scholarship that has evolved from this.

It is time to integrate these tracks to show a more robust picture of Lewis and Clark history and to provide students, teachers and others, native or non-native, the opportunity to examine more than one side of the story.

This goes beyond the integration of American Indian culture and includes the cultures within the expedition itself. A slave born, freed by an expedition, only to be enslaved upon his return home; Appalachian settlers and French fur traders, career military men and half-Indian interpreters and scouts all living and working toward a common goal under extraordinary circumstances; the expedition is a lesson in multi-culturalism.

The Trail advocates the development of culturally sensitive and responsive curriculum and hopes to see the implementation of it in communities across the Trail.

¹Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians, revised 2010; Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Montana; http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/IEFAResources.html#gpm1_2

²Ngai, Phyllis and Allen, Karen; A Process Guide for Realizing Indian Education for All: Lessons Learned from Lewis & Clark Elementary School, 2007; Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Montana.

Share With Us!

How have you incorporated diverse perspectives into your programming and/or curriculum development?

jill_hamilton-anderson@nps.gov



The Trailhead

by Neal Bedlan, *Outdoor Recreation Planner*



It was the summer of 2009, I was fairly new to the Lewis and Clark NHT Staff, and I was encouraged to attend the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting in Great Falls, Montana. One of the field trip activities on the Foundation's program was a float trip on the upper Missouri River. As the outdoor recreation planner for the Trail, I jumped on the opportunity.

As a firm believer in using outdoor recreation to vicariously experience the Lewis and Clark Trail, I knew the float trip was going to be an unforgettable experience. While I have to admit that I tend to splash around and get a little wet nearly every time I am on a raft of any type, I wanted to make sure everyone in our raft was okay with this. I

knew most the people on our boat, and looked forward to getting to know the new faces. One person introduced herself as a retired school teacher from Missouri. Her name was Jane Randol Jackson. I didn't know if she would agree with my adventurous personality so I was a little hesitant at first to splash around.

As the day went on, we all were getting hot and I decided to splash around a little. Before I knew it, we were in splash fights with the other rafts around us. I thought our raft was done playing around and we would stop splashing.

Jane could tell I was going to stop and out of nowhere she reached over grabbed my paddle and made me look into her eyes and with the

most stern teacher voice she said, “NO !!!, We’re going to get them, come on let’s go, we can do it!!!”

With her motivation it was like I had no choice, we were all in this together and we continued to splash the other rafts. Out of nowhere she was totally involved and 100% behind us all. Before we knew it she was raising her paddle and making up team chants for our raft.

It was at that time I really got to see the drive and the determination of Jane Randol Jackson. We continued on the float ending the splashing game in a self-declared victory over other rafts.

During our float we talked about the significance of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and how important it is to experience the Trail through recreational activities.

Years had passed and while she was in Omaha last August she told me that she “would never forget” our rafting experience and it was her first time to vicariously experience the Trail from a raft.

Sadly, Jane passed away a couple days after the Foundation meeting this August. It is safe to say that I and many others on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail staff and community “would never forget” the great experience of knowing Jane and her enthusiasm.

It was a pleasure for me to have this unforgettable recreational experience with Jane.

While recreation can provide numerous benefits from vicariously experiencing history to teambuilding, the one thing it often creates is treasured memories, and this was one memory I will always treasure.



Jane Randol Jackson



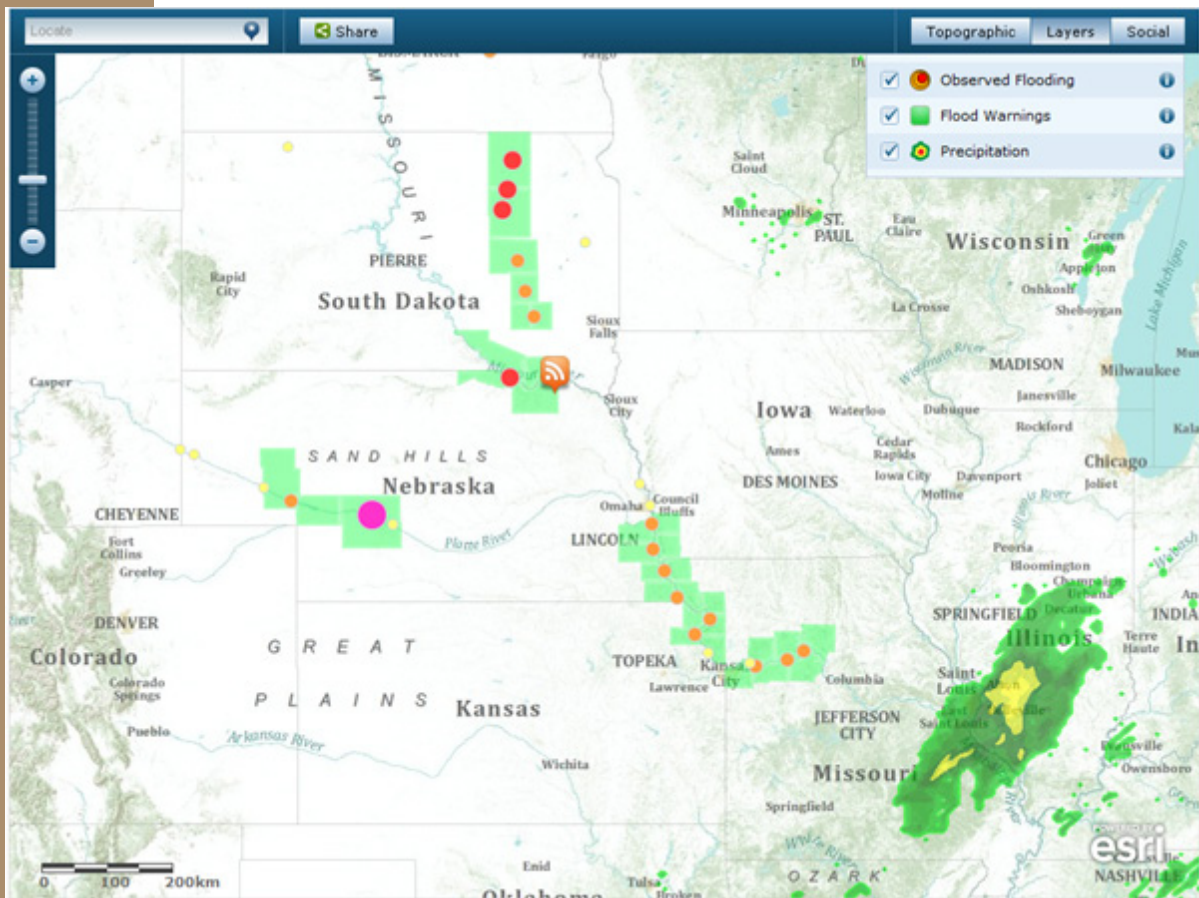
Trailscapes

by Rachel Daniels, GIS Technician

Technology Aids in Disaster Response

The spring and summer of 2011 has been a record breaking period in the history of The Missouri River Basin as it was struck with the most catastrophic flooding event the region has seen since 1952. With the uncertainty of ever-changing water levels, local residents had to remain flexible and prepared for evacuation as new information was released. When a natural disaster such as this strikes, it is vital that up-to-date information be readily available to the public.

Advancements in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in conjunction with ESRI, a GIS software development and services company, have made this more possible than ever. ESRI has done an excellent job of providing real-time flooding information from the National Weather Service such as observed flooding locations, flood warning areas, and current precipitation. Social media such as YouTube, Twitter and Flickr have also been linked to the application for additional updates.



With the continued development and implementation of such technology, the potential for lessening the devastating effects of natural disasters has greatly increased. ESRI also hosts many other real-time disaster response and assistance applications that can be found at: <http://www.esri.com/services.html>.

Disastrous or Just Inconvenient?

by Suzanne Gucciardo, PhD; Natural Resources Specialist



Aerial views of Missouri River flooding between Kansas City, Mo., and Rulo, Neb., June 20, 2011. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo. Photo by Susan Abbott.

The sustained flood conditions experienced this year are clearly disastrous to the hundreds of families whose lives and livelihoods have been displaced from the floodplains along the Missouri River. But is this human disaster also a natural disaster? Or is it just an extreme case of natural events which have been taken in stride by wildlife also displaced by the rising waters? Interviews with fish and wildlife professionals suggest the present and long term impact of the high water may be a net positive for fish species, wildlife and floodplain plant communities.

Jim Riis, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks fisheries biologist in Fort Pierre, reported that sport anglers are having a fantastic year both in reservoirs and along riverine stretches of the Missouri. Even with boat access prohibited in tailwater areas, bank fishing is proving rewarding. Rising water levels in the reservoirs greatly enhanced reproduction in prey and game species. Loss of fish, especially young of the year, from reservoirs through entrainment (fish flushed through turbines or spillways by flowing water) may affect future harvest potential, although any loss may be balanced by fish entering from upstream reservoirs.

Van Sterner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist in Onawa, agrees that this year's flood led to the strongest fish reproduction in six years for the Missouri River. The rising water levels matched the historic pattern with two peaks; one early from the prairie snowmelt, one later from the mountain snowmelt. What is unusual this year are the

extremely high water levels and length of inundation. As a result, species that prefer off-channel areas for spawning and early growth, such as paddlefish, carpsucker and buffalo, have access to vast amounts of habitat. Even species that prefer channel areas, like blue sucker, have more than normal areas to fill. There should be a strong showing of this year class in fish harvests for several years. One drawback has been the closure of the river to boat traffic downstream of Gavins Point Dam by the Coast Guard. With much of the floodplain either inundated or privately owned, there has been limited access for sport fishers this summer along the lower Missouri.

On the negative side, receding waters will trap adult and young fish in floodplain ponds and backwaters. The odor of decaying fish may be a prevalent problem as the temporary waters dry out. In order to reduce this problem, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has removed catch limits within the Missouri River floodplain. This only applies to the Iowa side of the river, the State of Nebraska does not plan a similar response. The fish species most likely to occur in such situations are the introduced carp, along with white bass and other species that prefer off-channel areas. Any desirable species lost as a consequence of entrapment

will be amply off-set by the high rate of reproduction achieved this year.

In contrast to the increased habitat for fish, terrestrial wildlife in riparian (riverside) areas lost both food and shelter to the flood. According to Doug Chafa, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resource, any animal capable of moving to high ground did so, including deer, burrowing animals, ground nesting birds, and even snakes. Rising waters may have flooded out turkeys already incubating when it was too late to re-nest on higher ground, but the present high populations of these hearty birds will be little affected by the missed chance for reproduction. Residents near the river, both rural and urban, may have noticed more wild animals this summer. Other than a possible increase in browsing on gardens and ornamental plants, there are no added worries in relation to human health or safety from wildlife. The greatest concern from displaced wildlife stemmed from the burrowing habits of groundhogs. Their attempts to set up house on conveniently located embankments threatened to seriously weaken levees.

There is a positive side to the displacement of riparian animals under this summer's unusual conditions. The abundant supply

Volunteer Changes at Lewis and Clark Trail Headquarters

by Nichole McHenry, Volunteer Program Manger



The 2011 summer in Omaha was interesting, from the rising of the Missouri River to the closing of our Headquarters parking lot. The bigger changes occurred inside the building. Two of our highly dedicated volunteers retired this summer, Carl Camp and Don Shippy. Both have been long-standing volunteers for the Trail for over ten years and have each made contributions to the Lewis and Clark story on a local and national level, through their work with The Mouth of the Platte Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. This past June, Carl Camp decided it was time for him to spend more time with his family and ‘listen to the sounds of the trees’. Carl reported for duty every Tuesday and Wednesday. He staffed the front desk, conducted Lewis and Clark research, gave numerous presentations year-round and provided the staff and Trail visitors with little known facts about the Expedition. Carl’s “Little Known Facts” are published in the Trail’s newsletter, The Trail Companion. In August, Don Shippy retired from his role as volunteer here at the Trail headquarters. Don was an active

front desk volunteer, and he worked behind the scenes. He served as the Trail Librarian, assisted with the monthly fee program deposit and kept the volunteer statistics for the Headquarters Visitor Center. The simple truth is both Carl and Don have made a huge impact on the lives they touched, from the countless visitors they encountered, to the National Park Service staff. We would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “Thank You!” We will miss them and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



Don Shippy



Carl Camp

Little Known Facts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

by Dr. H. Carl Camp, Volunteer

By the time President Thomas Jefferson returned to Washington, D.C. in 1802 from his customary summer respite at Monticello he had decided to include a proposal in his annual message to Congress to send a small exploratory expedition across the continent in search of an “all-water” route to the Pacific coast (in short, in search of the fabled Northwest Passage). When he circulated the draft message among members of his Cabinet, Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin recommended the proposal for western exploration be the subject of a separate confidential message “as it contemplates an expedition out of our own territory.”

Jefferson took Gallatin’s advice. On January 18, 1803, in a secret message to Congress he requested an “appropriation of two thousand five hundred dollars ‘for the purpose of extending the external commerce

of the U.S.’ while understood by the Executive as giving the legislative sanction, would cover the undertaking from notice, and prevent the obstructions which interested individuals might otherwise previously prepare in it’s way.” (Italics added.) Congress complied with the president’s request and approved the appropriation.

Thus, in a manner of speaking, the venture that was to become known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition was conceived and authorized in secrecy. In reality, from the outset it was known not only by the president and his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, but also by all members of his Cabinet and all members of both houses of Congress. As a matter of fact, this “state secret” became known to an ever-widening circle of confidants even as Jefferson and his chosen commander insisted

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Trail Volunteer Managers: Are you looking for a place to advertise volunteer opportunities in your community?

Volunteer.gov/gov is a web-based electronic tool for government administered volunteer programs. It’s

a place where volunteer opportunities can be posted, edited, deleted and archived quickly and easily. Potential volunteers can search, select and apply for opportunities online.

The applications are then stored in a secure, online database and made

available to authorized volunteer administrators. This is a great way for partner sites to advertise current volunteer opportunities and reach wider audiences. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about this database please contact:

Nichole McHenry, Volunteer Program Manager
nichole_mchenry@nps.gov or (402) 661-1810

Disastrous or Just Inconvenient?

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of standing and stagnant water has led to an abundant supply of mosquitoes. Reduced numbers of wildlife vectors on the floodplain will help keep the spread of mosquito-borne *(continued on page 14)* diseases somewhat in check. The animals are not likely to return until sustainable levels of browse vegetation has regrown, and with the slow retreat of the river, that may not be until next year.

High water is also taking a toll on floodplain plant communities. Inundated trees are toppling as the persistent current eats away the soil from anchoring roots. Trees and shrubs near flooded ditches and backwaters are dying due to the saturated soil conditions. The long-term impact of the prolonged high water on low-lying woodlands cannot be predicted because there is no previous example of this year's conditions. The species will differ from recent decades, more due to the dams than the flood.

A major consequence of dam construction in the northern Great Plains has been the decline of cottonwood regeneration. Cottonwood seeds need wet soils to germinate and grow through the

first few years until roots reach into permanently wet soils. Historically, annual floods overflowed banks and saturated soils to provide these conditions. Since completion of the six major dams along the Missouri, lack of water on floodplain terraces has nearly eliminated the natural growth of cottonwoods. In their place, eastern red cedar, which thrives in the sandy and now dry soils of the terraces, dominates many floodplain woods. This change in the density, stature and foliage of the dominant species has altered the bird communities that make the floodplain home. The unusual conditions of this year may reset conditions enough to stimulate a burst of cottonwood germination and a return to forests reminiscent of the past.

The flood of 2011 has been disastrous in human terms. In terms of the fish, wildlife and natural plant communities of the floodplains, it might not be. Certainly the conditions were extreme, at least within the span of our human records. Do the plants and animals of this region respond to records carried in their genes, where this year's flood may be nothing more than inconvenient?

Little-Known Facts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

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on maintaining the fiction of strict confidentiality.

In December of 1802, President Jefferson had confided his plan (even before his secret message to Congress) to the Spanish ambassador to the U.S., Sr. Carlos Martinez de Yrujo, when he sought an official passport authorizing the explorers to cross Spain's trans-Mississippi territories to the Pacific coast. Ever cautious, Ambassador Martinez de Yrujo declined Jefferson's request and promptly reported the overture to his superiors in Madrid. Rebuffed, but undaunted, Jefferson subsequently made similar requests of the British and French ambassadors, both of whom were more obliging.

After the president appointed Meriwether Lewis to head the expedition, he enlisted the assistance of four of the nation's leading natural scientists, all personal friends of his who were with the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, to tutor Lewis in such subjects as botany, biology, medicine and celestial navigation. He implored each of them to hold the pending expedition in "strictest confidence." Hence, the circle of those sharing the "state secret" widened accordingly.

Still later, Lewis and Jefferson decided it would be prudent to recruit a second commanding officer in case some mishap befell Lewis while en route. In an extraordinary letter detailing the particulars of the mission, Lewis invited his former commanding officer, William Clark of Kentucky (and the Indiana Territory), to join him on equal terms to lead the endeavor. True to form, Lewis asked Clark to hold the information conveyed to him in complete confidence. Upon his acceptance of Lewis's invitation, Clark was commissioned to recruit some vigorous, young, unmarried men possessing hunting skills and considerable capacity for hard work to join in the enterprise. As he did so, Clark at Lewis's suggestion initially used a cover story alleging the purpose of the expedition was to ascend the Mississippi River and locate its headwaters. That subterfuge was maintained until just before the expedition pushed off up the Missouri River from its winter quarters at Camp River Dubois on May 14, 1804.

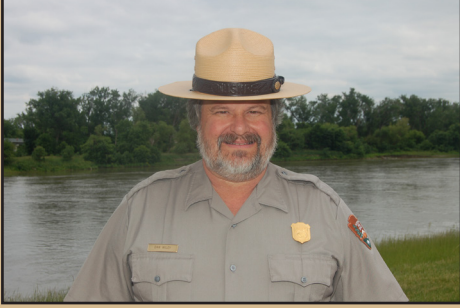
Clearly, Meriwether Lewis's "hush-hush" mission was an open secret long before members of the expedition set foot in Spain's former Louisiana Territory.

Sources:

Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the West* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), pp. 77-100.

Donald Jackson, ed., *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with Related Documents, 1783-1854* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1978), vol. 1, various letters and documents, pp. 2-41.

Staff Directory



Dan Wiley
Chief, Integrated Resources Stewardship

402-661-1830
dan_wiley@nps.gov

Coordination of resource-based programs and projects



Carol McBryant, Chief
Interpretation, Education, and Volunteer Services

402-661-1818
carol_mcbryant@nps.gov

Management, partnerships, planning, and visitor services coordination



Suzanne Gucciardo, PhD
Natural Resources Specialist

402-661-1874
suzanne_gucciardo@nps.gov

Plant and animal communities; rare, threatened and endangered species; natural viewsheds



Karla Sigala
Interpretive Specialist

402-661-1826
karla_sigala@nps.gov

Interpretive media, design, writing, training



Neal Bedlan
Outdoor Recreation Planner

402-661-1816
neal_bedlan@nps.gov

Recreation opportunities and access, development of water trails, safety



Jill Hamilton-Anderson
Education Specialist

402-661-1824
jill_hamilton-anderson@nps.gov

Education programming; curricula review, alignment and assessment, teacher training/workshop coordination



Dick Basch
American Indian Liaison

503-861-4404
richard_basch@nps.gov

Tribal Relations, Tribal Resources & Contacts,
Cultural Diversity



Lee Smith
Administrative Officer

402-661-1808
lee_smith@nps.gov

Challenge Cost Share, Finance,
Contracting & Agreements



Ryan Cooper
Geographer/GIS Specialist

402-661-1868
ryan_m_cooper@nps.gov

Human land use, mapping, landscape modeling,
project and compliance GIS support



Denise Nelson
Environmental Protection Specialist

402-661-1812
denise_nelson@nps.gov

Resource protection, NEPA & NHPA compliance;
Planning, Environment & Public Site (PEPC)



Nichole McHenry
Volunteer Program Manager

402-661-1810
nichole_mchenry@nps.gov

Volunteer recruitment,
management, and training



Gail Gladstone
Cultural Resources Specialist

402-661-1858
gail_gladstone@nps.gov

Cultural landscapes, cultural resource
protection and preservation, NHL

Staff Directory Continued



Ronni Whitmer
Trail Secretary
402-661-1814
ronni_whitmer@nps.gov
Staff and partner support

Welcome