



# The Trail Companion

A Quarterly Newsletter

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



February 2016

Tracing the courses of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail stretches through 11 states. The Trail winds over mountains, along rivers, through plains and high deserts, and extends to the wave-lapped Pacific coast. In this diversity of landscapes, visitors to the Trail create their own journeys of discovery.

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#### THE TRAIL COMPANION

**Superintendent,** Mark Weekley

Would you like to contribute an article or feature to *The Trail Companion*? Share the good work you are doing.

We will be happy to accept your article for consideration in future issues. *The Trail Companion* is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

Please contact the Editor, Karla Sigala at: [lecl\\_communications@nps.gov](mailto:lecl_communications@nps.gov)

Cover photo: Kids take in the scenery at Alice Creek Historic District near Lincoln, Montana. Photo by Sue Lattin.

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## Happy New Year From the Superintendent



Mark Weekley

The National Park Service Centennial is finally here! Its goal is to

*Connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, and advocates.*

Its purpose is to re-invigorate the NPS, to share what it is and has done over the past 100 years and make certain we are even more vibrant and relevant 100 years from now.

If organizations don't step back and look at what their purpose is, what they have accomplished, and where they are going, then they will fade into history. Without

continual renewal and revitalization, organizations decline and disappear. Every organization I work with struggles to bring in the next generation. No organization can rest on its laurels, as they used to say, but needs to keep moving forward. But, it's also important to stop once in a while to appreciate what you have accomplished, to celebrate, re-charge and re-tool.

The NPS has a lot to celebrate, but also has new audiences to reach, new partners to engage, and fresh goals to pursue.

Lewis and Clark Trail partners are part of this celebration, part of the accomplishments and they should join us in celebrating this year as we look forward to the new century. The Centennial is not an ego trip or chance for us to tell everyone how great we are. The Centennial is a chance for all of us to take pride and appreciate what we

have accomplished as a nation in setting aside and protecting amazing parks, historic sites, and outdoor places.

The NPS Centennial is about who we are and what we really value. This is not

just about the NPS, but also about all parks and open spaces, the heritage areas and partners that we as a nation have built and protected. Equally important for the Centennial is an opportunity to look to the future to

make sure what we have built grows and thrives and is used by us and generations to come. Not only is this going to be a great year, it is going to be a great century.

Happy New Year! ■

2016  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL

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**MARK WEEKLEY**  
Superintendent

# Trails

## Alice Creek Historic District



Photo by Zack Porter.

Located in the rolling, high terrain of the Helena National Forest near Lincoln Montana, the **Alice Creek Historic District** is part of a unique and multi-layered story that spans thousands of years. Native Americans have traversed the area on the Cokahlarishkit Trail, also known as the “Road to the Buffalo.” Ruts made by generations of Native American hunters, their families, and their **travois** pulled by dogs and horses can still be seen. Today, the landscape looks much the same as it did in July of 1806, when a small band of newcomers arrived led by Captain Meriwether Lewis.

The Alice Creek environment is characterized by marshy riparian vegetation along the Alice Creek drainage and open sage flats in the Alice Creek Basin, and well-forested foothill and mountain slopes interspersed with open alpine meadows of mixed prairie grass. Thick stands of white-bark pine are found at the top of Lewis and Clark Pass (so named, despite the fact that William Clark never ventured there). The landscape is also notable for its unique roadless condition.

Beaver dams play a key role in keeping the watershed healthy – creating deep pools for trout and helping to conserve water and control flooding. During his visit, Lewis noted “much appearance of beaver and many dams. Bottoms not wide and covered with low willow and grass...deer are remarkably plenty and in good order.” Westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout idle in river eddies, while bald eagles and osprey nest in riverside trees.

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### *What is a travois?*

A travois is a traditional tool that was used by Native Americans to carry loads overland. It is made up of two wooden poles joined together with netting and attached to the back of a dog or a horse. In heavily-traveled areas where travois were used, such as Alice Creek, the earth is marked by deep, parallel tracks. Remnants of these travois tracks can still be seen etched in the shallow soil, particularly when the sun is low and shadows are cast over the landscape.

Photo of Blackfeet travois by Edward Curtis, courtesy of Library of Congress.



## Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

After hearing stories about grizzly bears from Native American tribes during their journey, the Lewis and Clark Expedition first noted encounters with the species in October of 1804, in what is today the state of North Dakota. Adult grizzly bears have concave faces, high-humped shoulders, and curved claws. Males typically range from 300-600 lbs, while females range from 200-400 lbs. Their thick fur may vary in color from light brown to nearly black, making it sometimes difficult to distinguish a grizzly from a black bear. In the early 1800s, an estimated 50,000 grizzly bears roamed across the North American west. Today, Alice Creek is the one of the only areas along the Lewis and Clark Trail where grizzlies may be found.

Photo: Grizzly bears in meadow courtesy of Chris Servheen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Continued from Page 7*

The area is also home to wolves, moose, elk, and deer. Perhaps most significantly, Alice Creek is one of the only places along the entire Lewis and Clark Trail where [grizzly bears](#) still roam.

For thousands of years, Native Americans traveled through this landscape on the Cokahlarishkit Trail, or "Road to the Buffalo." The Kootenai, Salish, Nez Perce, and Shoshone peoples all followed the well-worn trails of their ancestors to buffalo hunting grounds east of the Continental Divide. People from the Blackfeet and Crow tribes also traversed the area on this ancient path. In 1806, Nez Perce Indian guides told Meriwether Lewis of a "well beaten track" that would be easy to follow. Lewis passed through the area collecting plant specimens and noting birds, animals, wild horses, signs of buffalo, and Indian encampments.

On July 7, 1806, Lewis and his party of men followed a track along today's Alice Creek that took them northeast to the foot of the Continental Divide. He wrote "from this gap which is low and an easy ascent on the W. side the fort mountain [Square Butte] bears north east, and appears to be distant about 20 miles." This was the first recognizable landmark for Lewis since he had left Travelers' Rest near Lolo, Montana. From what is today known as Lewis and Clark Pass, the party descended the mountain to the east and camped near its base before traveling on to the Upper Portage Camp above the Great Falls of the Missouri River.



Photo by Roger Dey.

Forty years after Lewis' visit through Alice Creek, missionaries Father Nicolas Point and Father Pierre DeSmet arrived in the region to establish missions among the Indian tribes. On one buffalo-hunting venture with the Flathead, Point writes they had reached "the summit of a mountain from which one could see a horizon more than a hundred leagues in circumference, after reciting the first Vespers of St. Michael, I made and planted a cross." A stone structure in the shape of a Celtic cross lies at the top of Lewis and Clark Pass. Use of the trail began to decline by the 1860s when free-roaming herds of buffalo no longer existed and tribes were removed to reservations.

The Alice Creek Historic District can be reached by traveling east on Highway 200 from Lincoln, Montana. The turnoff to Alice Creek is 10 miles east of Lincoln. From

Highway 200, travel 11 miles north on the Alice Creek Road #293 to reach the parking area for the Alice Creek Trailhead. The Alice Creek Trail leads to the Lewis and Clark Pass and the Scapegoat Wilderness. The family-friendly trail has a gradual incline and the hike to the pass is 1.7 miles. Many outdoor activities such as hiking, backpacking, camping, picnicking, nature study, fishing, horse riding, and more are available. ■

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**RYAN M. COOPER**  
Geographer



Photo by Roger Dey.

# Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

## Awards \$56,512 in Trail Stewardship Grants

Eleven grant requests were funded for Fiscal Year 2016. There recipients are: the

- **LCTHF Badger State Chapter** (WI) for interpretive signs marking the sites of Lewis and Clark Expedition member Alexander Willard's homes from 1827 to 1852;
- **Discovery Expedition of St. Charles** (DESC) for literature and supplies in support of the DESC's Eastern Legacy Tour with the Bureau of Land Management's Traveling Exhibit;
- **LCTHF Riverbend Chapter** (MO/KS) for completion of the Lewis and Clark Country promotional materials for Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois;
- **National Smokejumpers Association** (MT) for equipment for clearing and marking the Expedition's route down from Lost Trail Pass on the Montana side of the Continental Divide;
- **LCTHF Ohio River Chapter** for installation of Eastern Legacy signs;
- **Our Montana** for the Yellowstone River Interpretive Map Project which will identify and interpret Clark's journey on the Yellowstone River between Livingston and the mouth of the Big Horn;
- **LCTHF Rochejhone Chapter** for an interpretive sign and media presentation on the discovery of Clark's Canoe Camp at Pompeys Pillar Visitor Center;



- **LCTHF Rochejhone Chapter** for an onsite interpretive sign at Clark's Canoe Camp;
- **Salmon Valley Stewardship** (ID) for Discovery Hill restoration; and
- **Washington County Historical Association** (NE) for a museum display on Lewis and Clark's first meeting with the Otoe and Missouriia.

Charitable distributions for the trail stewardship grants are provided by the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Legacy Project. Each year a portion of the endowment is released to support projects that will have a demonstrable, positive impact along the pathways followed by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Please visit [lewisandclark.org](http://lewisandclark.org) for a grant application. Grants for FY 2017 are due on October 1, 2016. Members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee are Chair Margaret Gorski, Karen Goering, Rob Heacock, Jane Henley, Steve Lee, Dee Roche, Dan Wiley, Ex Officio NPS, and Lindy Hatcher, Executive Director. ■

# Portage Route Chapter Call for Scholar-In-Residence

The Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation invites applications from student scholars to its Scholar-In-Residence fellowship program designed to encourage use of the William P. Sherman Library and Archives in Great Falls, Montana.

A \$3,000 stipend will be granted to a student researcher who articulates a research topic suitable for extensive use of this special collection. The stipend is meant to defray expenses incurred in traveling to, and residing in, Great Falls, MT for three to four weeks. The Portage Route Chapter will assist the Scholar in finding cost-effective lodging. Desk space and internet connection will be provided by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Research is expected to focus upon at least one of the following (or similar) areas: Jefferson's Corps of Discovery; the native peoples the Expedition met along their journey; efforts to establish and protect the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; work of Lewis and Clark entities connecting the general public to the National Historic Trail through interpretation; commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, 2003 – 2006; and the organizational history of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation – about to celebrate its 50th anniversary. An applicant's proposal should specifically address its relevance to the unique resources found in the Sherman Library's collections.

The program is open to all U.S. citizens and to Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs). Due to federal regulations, persons holding J-1 or F-1 exchange visitor or student visas are not eligible. Preference will be given to those applicants residing outside of the Great Falls area who

would need to travel in order to conduct their research. Applicants must be considered a full-time student (enrolled both before and after the program), and must be at least an upper-level undergraduate.

Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2016. Award notifications will be made by March 31, 2016. The 2016 Scholar-In-Residence term of 3 to 4 weeks should begin approximately May 30, 2016 in order to participate in the 2015 Lewis and Clark Festival in Great Falls, June 18-20.

The Scholar-In-Residence will be expected to conduct research for at least 32 hours a week, and will give at least one public presentation on their research toward the end of residence in Great Falls. The Scholar will submit a short report describing the resources used during the residency. The Scholar will also submit a scholarly article, representing at least a portion of the research conducted at the Sherman Library, to *We Proceeded On*, the scholarly journal of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation within three months of the residency in order to receive the last half of the stipend.

For more information about the program, the Sherman Library, suggested topics, and application materials, please visit the Portage Route Chapter's web page: [www.corpsofdiscovery.org](http://www.corpsofdiscovery.org) and click on the "Scholar" tab. ■

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# Who Eats at Taco Bell?

by Gaelyn and Gustavo Aguilar, Tug Collective

## Two People, Two Months, Eleven States

American attitudes, institutions, and politics are changing dramatically as the United States finds itself on the cusp of becoming a nation with no majority demographic group. Changes like this, however, often expose underlying fears and uncertainties that can lead to tension and conflict, even as they reveal implicit assumptions and biases that have existed in the popular imagination for some time around what it means to be an American. Under the

surface of recent debates around immigration policy and racial justice lies a simple question: As these demographic changes are inevitable, what is it going to take for us to truly live multi-culturally?

Over the summer of 2016, **Gaelyn and Gustavo of Tug Collective** will embark on a two-month expedition over the National Historic Lewis and Clark Trail, making various stops at community

venues along this 11-state journey. All the while, Gaelyn and Gustavo will make tacos with people, prompt dialogue, and invite innovative forms of engagement around the question: What is it going to take for us to truly live multi-culturally?

The idea for the expedition was sparked in Gustavo's hometown of Brownsville, Texas, a small town—population 175,000—with roughly 150-200 taquerias. And, yet, one Taco Bell continues to thrive. Que pasa? Tug Collective began to understand how the American diet—as much as it has been formed by the intermingling of different cultures—sheds light on the multiple ways that Americans have chosen to define what it means to be an American. Tug Collective began to explore how making tacos with people along the Lewis and Clark Trail (a trail forged by an expedition that played an important role in European-American territorial, cultural, and economic expansion across the continent) would be a powerful way to explore the paradox of how someone could harbor a disdain for 'foreigners,' but a love for

their food, bearing in mind that this paradox is often connected to a kind of forgetfulness of how in the U.S. we are, in fact, almost all aliens.

## Why This? Why Now?...Why Tacos?

The taco operates as an 'indicator species,' one small part of an ecosystem that can indicate the health of a society faced with multiplying diversities. Sharing a meal together is also a way that people from varied backgrounds and histories have always been able to transcend difference and boundaries, and come together. By "breaking bread" with another person we invite an exchange, we share, and in so doing we help soften the ground for new relationships to form. Altogether, this expedition is designed to spark ideas and solutions, and strengthen relationships through participatory engagement with a range of critical themes today: Socio-economic mobility, cultural belonging, movement and borders, assimilation and appropriation, and new forms of cultural identity. How we—as a nation—respond to this contemporary cultural moment will be a marker of our capacity to learn from history and grow. We hope to see you on the trail! ■

## Who We Are

**Gaelyn and Gustavo Aguilar** are the Co-Facilitators of Tug, an interdisciplinary collective that serves as a platform for addressing issues of social and cultural transformation. You can reach them via e-mail at: [tugcollective@gmail.com](mailto:tugcollective@gmail.com). For more information about Tug, please visit: [www.tugcollective.org](http://www.tugcollective.org). For a preliminary schedule of the Summer 2016 expedition, visit Tug Collective on Facebook.

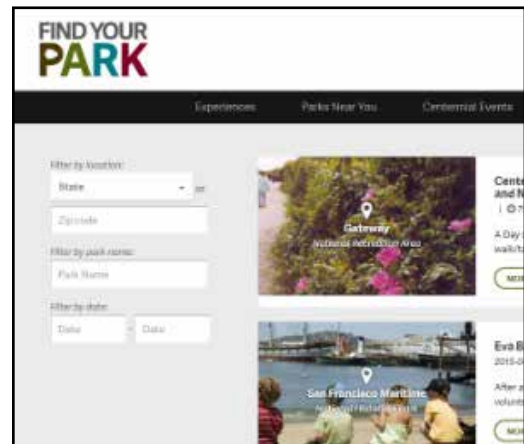


#1 Happy Taco, Brownsville, Texas 2014  
Photo by Gaelyn Aguilar

# Centennial Resources

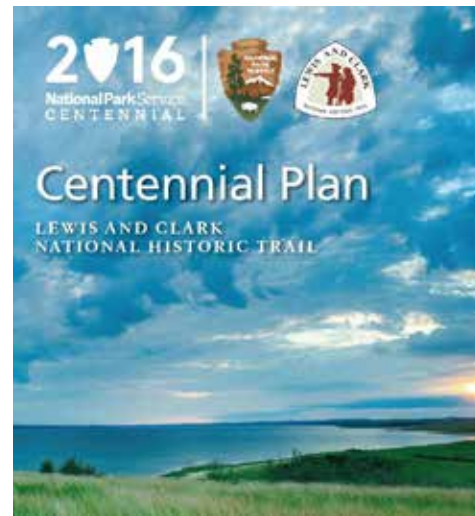


Click to view a recording of the January 21, 2016 #2 Centennial Trail-wide Webinar with Jim Dion, where we explore the possibility of partnering with National Geographic on a trail-wide geotourism effort.



The National Park Foundation created a space for meaningful dialogue and the exchange of innovative ideas about the next century for parks.

Submit your content for the Find Your Park website. Friends and partners are invited to submit Experiences and Events to appear on the website.



Click to read Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Centennial Plan.



The Find Your Park campaign is a media outreach effort, funded through the National Park Foundation, designed to help reintroduce the National Park Service to all Americans.

# Volunteers:

## Do you have 201.6 hours to spare this year?

We are happy to announce that the National Park Service will be rolling out a special Centennial Award just for **VOLUNTEERS!**

As part of the Centennial Challenge, any volunteer who dedicates **201.6** hours of service to a national park site during the Centennial 2016 calendar year is eligible for a Centennial Challenge Volunteer Coin.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail) volunteers are spread out over 3,700 miles – each contributing their time and expertise to local, state, and private organizations. In Fiscal Year 2015, over 157,000 hours of service were logged by 4,573 volunteers.

We are confident that 2016 will be no different, and we anticipate being able to recognize the hard work of individuals that volunteer 201.6 hours of their time. We invite and encourage volunteer managers to submit their nominations for this special recognition by contacting me directly. In the coming weeks I will be sending out an email with more information to everyone on my list. Please email me your questions and nominations at [charlotte\\_murtishaw@nps.gov](mailto:charlotte_murtishaw@nps.gov).

**CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW**  
Student Conservation Association  
Centennial Volunteer Ambassador



Conceptual mock-up of the Centennial Challenge Volunteer Coin.

# Calling All 4th graders

As part of President Obama's commitment to protect our nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, the Obama Administration launched the new Every Kid in a Park program.

Fourth graders nationwide can visit the [Every Kid in a Park website](#) to obtain a pass that provides free access to students and their families to all federally managed lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries.

It's easy! Students log onto the Every Kid in a Park website and complete the interactive activity that the National Park Service has developed in conjunction with Scholastic. Once the student completes the online activity they are able to print out a paper

voucher. This paper pass can be used in lieu of the admission fee for federal lands and waters. The paper pass is good for the entire vehicle that the fourth grader arrives in, meaning the pass will cover the entire family, so long as (the fourth grader is present).



This pass is valid from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016. In addition, if the fourth grader would like to exchange their paper pass for a more durable 'keepsake' Fourth Grade Annual Pass, there are numerous locations that will have the durable pass. Visit <https://store.usgs.gov/pass> to find a location near you.

We encourage you to visit the website - there are resources for parents and educators too. Get out there and enjoy! ■

[www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov)



# Lewis and Clark Resources



**Honoring Tribal Legacies**  
[www.HonoringTribalLegacies.com](http://www.HonoringTribalLegacies.com)

A guide for designing curricula for future generations. Rigorous high quality demonstration curricula and two essential volumes that answer the questions: "Why design curriculum Honoring Tribal Legacies?" and "How does one design curriculum Honoring Tribal Legacies?"



**Tribal Legacy Project**  
[lc-triballegacy.org](http://lc-triballegacy.org)

A digital archive of tribal perspectives. Recorded inside the Tent of Many Voices at the Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future traveling exhibit during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial 2003-2006.



**Website/Email**  
[www.nps.gov/lecl](http://www.nps.gov/lecl)  
[lecl\\_communications@nps.gov](mailto:lecl_communications@nps.gov)



**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/lewisandclarknht](http://www.facebook.com/lewisandclarknht)

Connect with unique people, places, and stories on all things Lewis and Clark by joining the Lewis and Clark community on Facebook. View and share pictures, videos, news, and content along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



**Twitter**  
[www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail](http://www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail)

Want to know what's happening out on the Trail? Follow us on Twitter to find out about events, programs, and the latest news happening at our National Park Service Visitor Center in Omaha, Nebraska and across the trail.



**YouTube**  
[www.youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps](http://www.youtube.com/lewisandclarknhtnps)

Watch videos of the Trail staff and partners in action on our YouTube page.



**Interactive Trail Atlas**  
[www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com](http://www.lewisandclarktrailmap.com)

**Mobile Trail Atlas**  
[lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi](http://lewisandclarktrailmap.mobi)

Personalize your exploration using this portal into the geography of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Zoom into your area of interest, choose from a variety of different map layers, display backgrounds of your choice, and create your own custom maps.

**Story Maps**  
[nps.maps.arcgis.com/home](http://nps.maps.arcgis.com/home)

Learn about the stories of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through a combination of interactive maps and rich multimedia content for a unique user experience.





# Where on the Trail?

Do you know where this is?

Tweet your response @LewisClarkTrail

Or email your answer to: [LECL\\_Communications@nps.gov](mailto:LECL_Communications@nps.gov)