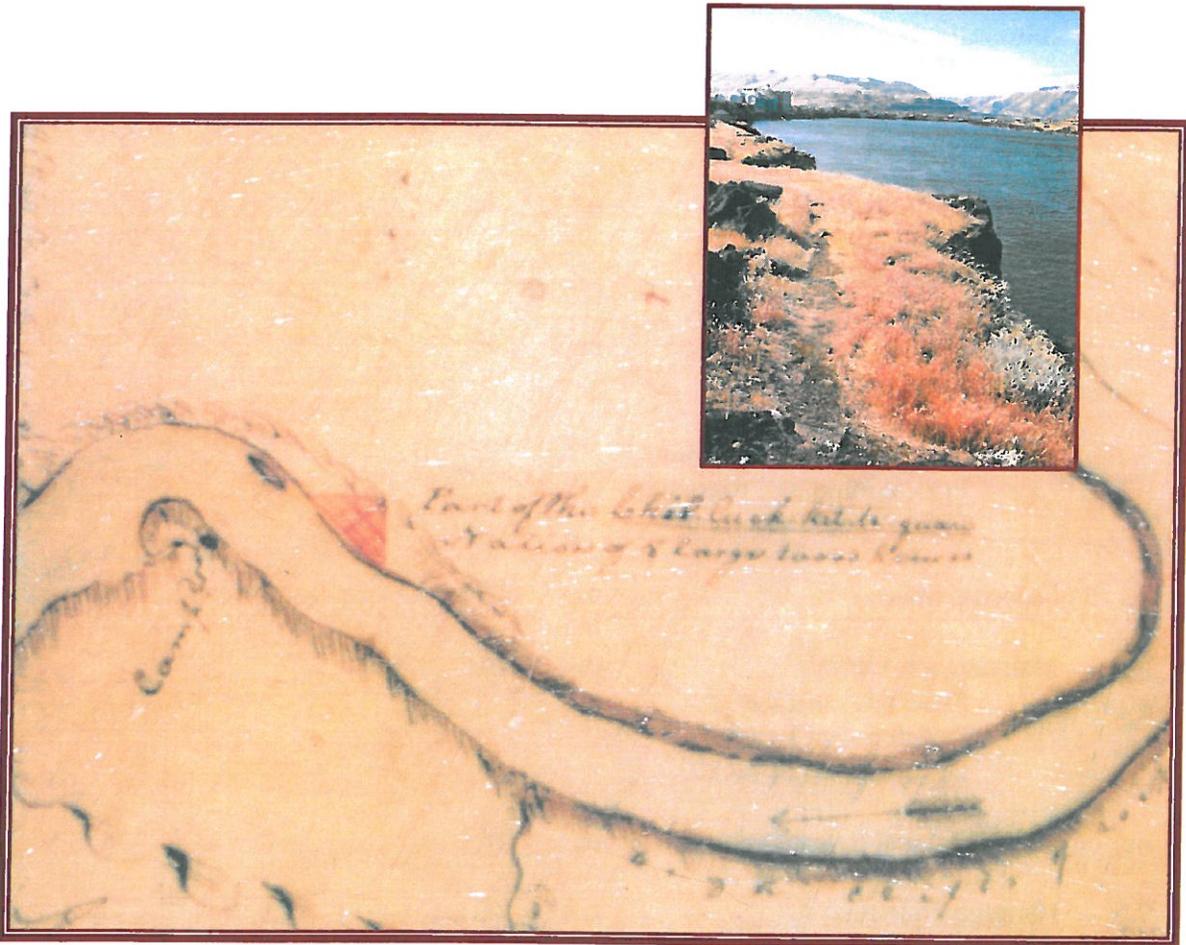




ROCK FORT CAMPSITE MANAGEMENT PLAN



PREPARED FOR
THE CITY OF THE DALLES

BY
EAST SLOPE CULTURAL SERVICES, INC.

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AUGUST 15, 2011

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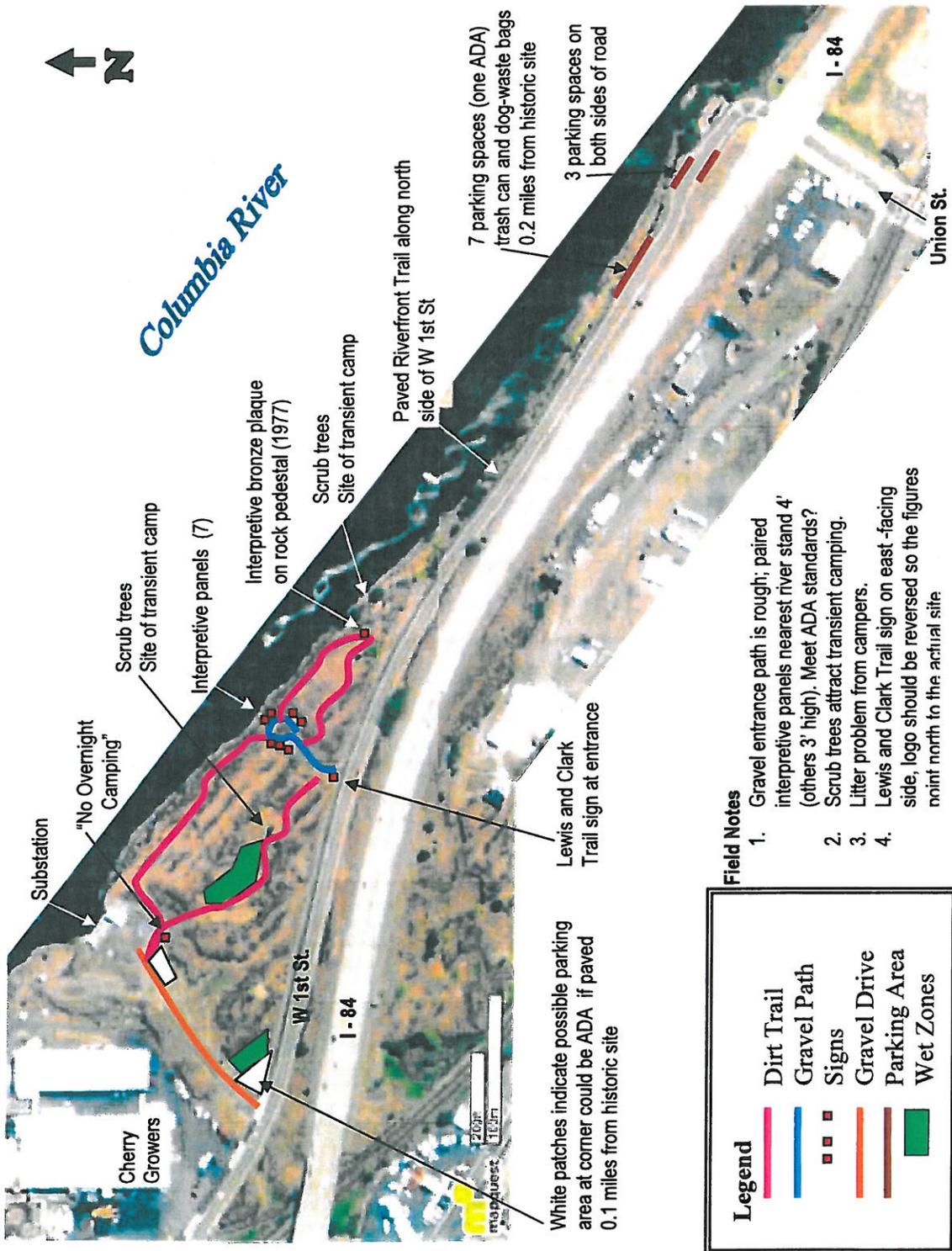
1. Introduction

The City of The Dalles Planning Department contracted with East Slope Cultural Services, Inc., to provide some help with planning decisions concerning the Lewis and Clark Rock Fort Campsite, an historic site located on the Columbia River on the northern boundary of The Dalles.

It may be possible for the City to acquire the portion of the site that is currently owned by Wasco County. With more aggressive management and promotion, the site could become a significant and unique asset to the City. On the other hand, ownership of the land would bring additional duties to the City staff and additional expenses for maintenance and security. The question is whether City ownership of the site would bring enough benefits to outweigh the potential liabilities.



Figure 1 View of the Rock Fort Campsite from center of the site looking north. Seven panels at this location provide information for visitors.



Aerial image of West 1st Ave. The Dalles, showing Fort Rock Historic Site overlooking the Columbia River, annotated with field notes from site visit, August 5, 2011.

Nature of the Resource

The Rock Fort Campsite of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is one of only two of the expedition's campsites in Oregon listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the other being Fort Clatsop. It was nominated to the National Register as a Criterion A resource on September 4, 1980, listing number 80003389. The Rock Fort Campsite has an overall area of 10.28 acres, including all of the open space around the three shallow basins that may have served as the actual campsites. It is currently owned by two public entities, Wasco County owns the eastern section of the site (4.78 acres) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owns the western portion of the site (5.5 acres).

Authenticity

The Rock Fort site has long been identified as a location where the Corps of Discovery camped on the nights of October 25-27, 1805, on their journey down the Columbia River, and on the nights of April 15-17, 1806, on their journey back up river.

"... we proceeded on down the water fine, rocks in every derection for a few miles when the river widens and becoms a butifull jentle Stream of about half a mile wide, Great numbers of the Sea Orter about those narrows and both below and above. 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 <artif> 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. where timber of different kinds grows ..." (William Clark's Journal, October 25, 1805)

Although the expedition's route and progress through the West was recorded in several journals, specific locations are far from clear. Many locations traditionally associated with Lewis and Clark have been investigated, and the legitimacy of some of these locations is now in doubt. Rock Fort is one of the few locations that has a good level of authenticity, based on descriptions from the journals, locational data from surveys, and scholarly investigations conducted in 2005 and 2006. It also seems congruous with the journals and meets the expectations of most visitors. It has the look and feel of the place described in the journals and remains a compelling place to stand and observe the river and surrounding hills.

Integrity

The Lewis and Clark Rock Fort Campsite has remained relatively intact over the period of the 200-odd years following the expedition. This is likely the result of the same factor that made it a prime location for the expedition campsite: it is relatively high above the river, on a rocky landform; as such, it was difficult to develop.

Prior to public ownership of the site by Wasco County there were three major visual and physical impacts to the site. In the 1920s Union Pacific Railroad re-engineered the mouth of Mill Creek, channeling its flow through a tunnel excavated from the bedrock

below the site. While this had little effect on the physical site integrity, it did remove its historic connection from the mouth of the creek. The old creek channel was subsequently filled in, further altering the setting of the site and its historic landscape.

In the 1930s the completion of the Bonneville dam raised the river level, thus creating a lake where the river had once flowed freely. This further degraded the historic landscape of the site. The final major impact to the site was the construction of Interstate 84 and associated infrastructure improvements. These impacts further removed the site from its historic setting by introducing the continuous drone of traffic noise from the nearby highway. The rims of the basins were also altered by port access road construction. The central basin has suffered the most; the south rim has been blasted away to provide vehicle and pedestrian access, and a thick layer of fill has been brought in to level the basin floor. Above ground utility lines and utility poles have been installed in the site area.



Figure 3 South rim, central portion of the site, looking north. The basaltic rim has been blasted away to provide vehicle access, which is no longer used.

The site area now seems relatively stable and free from the threat of any major disturbance. The site is currently in public ownership and is recognized as a significant asset to the community. The existing threats to the site, and its associated archaeological resources are now on a smaller, more incremental scale. Transients camp at the site, concentrating in the more protected parts. The threat of relic collection also remains an ever-present danger to the site integrity. Significant and active rodent disturbance to the archaeological deposits were noted during the archaeological testing. Noxious weeds are present in the disturbed areas of the site, primarily growing on the fill deposited in the central area.

2. Preservation Planning

National Register of Historic Places

The Rock Fort Campsite is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is included as a site on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. It is also listed on the Wasco County cultural sites inventory. These programs provide good protection for that portion of the site in County ownership. Other parts of the site in federal and private ownership are not necessarily protected from damage or development.

The National Register nomination describes the eastern portion of the site only, and nominates it as a criterion A site—that is, one significant for its associations with historic events. The recent archaeological investigations conducted by Dr. Ken Karzminski demonstrate that the site has some sub-surface resources. These are artifacts from Native Americans who used the site before, during, and after the contact period. There is good evidence that additional archaeological work would yield more information about the site and its previous occupancy, perhaps by the Corps of Discovery.

A beginning point for additional preservation and conservation planning would be to prepare a new National Register nomination with the complete site boundaries specified, and the full complexity of the site noted. In all probability, Rock Fort is eligible for nomination under criteria A and D. Criterion D relates to the potential the site offers, specifically that the site may “...have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.” This improvement in the National Register nomination would establish the site’s archaeological potential and strengthen the nomination.

Other Preservation Programs

Other preservation partnerships and programs are potentially available for the Rock Fort Campsite. Participation in these would require sustained work with the agencies involved—largely the National Park Service—and might require some political influence at the national level. The advantages of these programs are significantly increased visibility for the site and enhanced visitor awareness.

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park

This national park consists of six National Park Service sites associated with the Lewis and Clark expedition near the mouth of the Columbia River, and five state parks in Oregon and Washington. All of these are in reasonable proximity for administration and for coordinating visitors and interpretive programs. Partnerships with this extended national park would offer significant advantages to the Rock Fort Campsite.

National Historic Landmark Program

This program is operated by the National Park Service to document resources with national (as opposed to local) significance. The nomination process is long and exacting, but the program offers important national recognition and various funding opportunities. The Rock Fort site is probably eligible for the program on the basis of its clear association with the Corps of Discovery. A new National Register nomination with criteria A and D, expanded site boundaries, and the results of the 2005 archaeological investigations would be very useful in furthering this effort. The integrity of the site might be called into question, and detailed analysis of the physical aspects of the site would be essential.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

The Rock Fort site is included in this program and is one of the two documented sites in Oregon. The promotional materials available on-line include interpretation of the site, maps, travel information, and other materials on the Rock Fort Campsite website (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark/roc.htm>). Participation in this program also includes signage and grant opportunities.

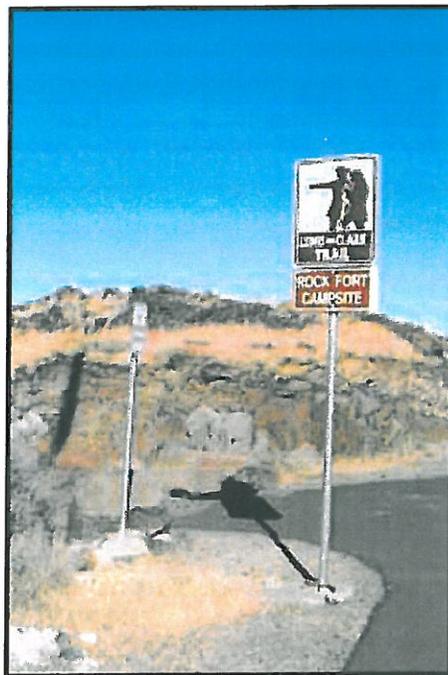


Figure 4 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail sign at the entrance to the interpretive area.

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

This is a private foundation organized to foster preservation and stewardship projects along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Its website offers the following mission statement:

We promote the responsible use of resources and the preservation of historic view sheds along the [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail](#), which is largely under private ownership, and we respect the people who own historic Lewis and Clark sites. Watch for news about the Foundation's Trail Stewardship Fund and grants.

This organization is accustomed to working with private owners of Lewis and Clark resources, and might be very useful for coordinating efforts among the public and private owners of the extended Rock Fork site.

3. Funding Sources

The funding sources listed below are some of the most visible ones on the federal, state, and local levels.

National Programs

National Trust for Historic Preservation – Western Region

The National Trust for Historic Preservation offers planning grants for historic preservation projects across the country. Cultural heritage tourism projects can be eligible for this funding. These are small matching grants for planning, education and consulting services to assist historic preservation projects. Grant amounts may range from \$500 to \$10,000 and require a one-to-one cash match. Nonprofit organizations with current 501(c) 3 status, as well as local governments, may apply. Eligible projects include hiring consultants to prepare a cultural heritage tourism assessment, designing interpretive signage, and holding educational programs or workshops. Application deadlines are October 1, February 1, and June 1.

National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)
Western Regional Office 8 California Street, San Francisco, CA
415-956-0610,
Anthony_Veerkamp@NTHP.ORG
<http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/nonprofit-public-funding.html>

National Historic Landmarks Program

The NHL program offers grants for nominating resources of national significance. Other funding programs for documented resources in the NHL program may be available as well.

NPS Pacific West Regional Office, Seattle
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1060
206/220-4133; FAX 206/220-4159
<http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/REGIONS.htm>
Attn.: Kristy Hartel

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

This program coordinates assistance to documented trail resources and their communities.

Lewis and Clark NHT
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 661-1804
<http://www.nps.gov/lecl/contacts.htm>

National Trail System: Connect Trails to Park Funding

The Connect Trails to Parks grant program funds projects to restore or improve existing trails and trailhead connections, provide better wayside and interpretive services, encourage innovative educational services, support bridge and trailhead designs, and provide planning services for important trail gateways. The projects promote enhanced visitor appreciation of national trails and the national parks that the trails touch or cross.

Gary Werner, Executive Director
Madison, WI
608-249-7870
info@nationaltrailspartnership.org

State Programs

Certified Local Government (CLG) program

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program offers matching grants to cities and counties that have been "certified" as historic preservation partners with both the state and the federal governments. These grants can be used for a wide-range of preservation projects, including National Register nominations, historic resource surveys, preservation education, preservation code development, building restoration, and preservation planning. Between roughly \$65,000 - \$200,000 is available per year, depending on federal allocation and state priorities. Application Deadline: TBA Winter 2011

Kuri Gill, CLG Coordinator
503-986-0685
Email: kuri.gill@state.or.us

Heritage Grant Program

The Oregon Heritage Commission administers the grant program, which provides matching grants to non-profit organizations, federal recognized tribal governments, and local governments for projects that conserve, develop or interpret Oregon's heritage. Currently, \$200,000 per biennium is available. Application Deadline: Postmarked Oct. 28, 2011

Kyle Jansson
Heritage Commission Coordinator
503-986-0673
Email: kyle.jansson@state.or.us

Oregon Travel Information Council Historical Marker Program.

Markers may be erected to commemorate one or more of the following: persons, events, places, and geologic features. The locations should be of statewide or national significance.

Annie VonDomitz, Chief Community Assets Officer, Oregon Travel Information Council
503-373-0864
annie@oregontic.com
<http://www.oregontic.com/heritage/markers.php> □

Oregon Cultural Trust

The Trust's annual competitive grant cycle for heritage, humanities and arts nonprofits is one of three grant programs to "protect and stabilize Oregon's cultural resources; expand public awareness of, quality of, access to and participation in culture in Oregon; and ensure that Oregon cultural resources are strong and dynamic contributors to Oregon's communities and quality of life." Cultural Development Grants recognize and support significant cultural programs and projects in four broad areas: Access, Preservation, Creativity, and Capacity. Application deadline: see on-line information. Cultural Trust grants are available at the state level and at the county level.

Oregon Cultural Trust
503-986-0088
general email: cultural.trust@state.or.us
<http://www.culturaltrust.org/index.php>

Preserving Oregon Grant Program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) offers matching grants for rehabilitation work that supports the preservation of historic resources listed in the National Register of

Historic Places or for significant work contributing toward identifying, preserving and/or interpreting archaeological sites. Currently, \$250,000 per biennium is available, and grant funds may be awarded for amounts up to \$20,000. Application Deadline: Email/postmark Sept. 30, 2011

Joy Sears, Restoration Specialist, Oregon SHPO
503-986-0688
Email: joy.sears@state.or.us

Dennis Griffin, State Archaeologist, Oregon SHPO
503-986-0674
Email: dennis.griffin@state.or.us

Travel Oregon

Oregon Tourism Commission has a comprehensive website, with links to local and regional tourism offices in Oregon. Travel Oregon offers matching grants up to \$10,000 with application deadlines in early fall. Cities, counties, port districts, federally-recognized Tribes and nonprofit entities located in Oregon and involved with tourism promotion and development are eligible to apply. Applicants must equally match the amount of the awarded grant; up to 50% of the match may be in-kind. Application deadline is August 8, 2011; Deadline to submit to Travel Oregon is August 10, 2011

Michelle Woodard
503-378-6090
MichelleW@TravelOregon.com
<http://matchinggrants.traveloregon.com/>

County Programs

Wasco County Cultural Coalition

The mission of the Wasco County Cultural Coalition is to encourage projects and activities in the arts, heritage and humanities that relate to the priorities of the Wasco County Cultural Coalition plan. Application deadline: January 2011

Corliss Marsh
541-296-8618
cmarsh@icdcontrols.com
<http://www.wascoculturaltrust.org>

Private Foundation Programs

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

“We promote the responsible use of resources and the preservation of historic view sheds along the [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail](#), which is largely under private ownership, and we respect the people who own historic Lewis and Clark sites. There are many things you can do to enjoy and help preserve the Trail. Fund and grants will be announced in the future.”

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Great Falls, Montana
406-454-1234
york@lewisandclark.org
www.lewisandclark.org

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Assistance Program

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is to collaborate with various and diverse partners to identify and protect the historical, natural, cultural, sacred, and recreational resources of the route of the Corps of Discovery and associated American Indian Nations; interpret those resources; educate the public on their significance and value; and provide appropriate opportunities for their public use and enjoyment. All non-profit organizations, education institutions and local, state and tribal governments are eligible to request assistance through the Partner Support Program. 2011 amount granted - \$90,000 (deadline past for 2011)

Lewis and Clark NHT Partner
Support Program, Omaha, NE 68102-4226
402-661-1820
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=73353>

The Oregon Community Foundation

“The Oregon Community Foundation’s grant programs reflect our desire to be innovative, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the state. Our grants include those that are open to nonprofit application and those that originate at a donor’s request. Community Grants – Awarded statewide; broadly accessible with funding to support children & families, education, arts & culture, and increasing Oregon’s livability.” Discretionary Grants – \$10 million in 2010.

<http://www.oregoncf.org/about/contact>

Field School Programs and Partnerships

Oregon State University, Archaeology Field School Program

Although this is not a direct funding source, conducting field work at the Rock Fort site would be like an in-kind donation. Archaeological Field School is offered by Dr. David Brauner and Dr. Loren Davis. In some instances, both will offer separate field schools. Participants will learn state of the art archaeological field techniques ranging from site survey strategies through full-scale excavation techniques. Training in archaeological laboratory techniques will also be available.

Anthropology
Oregon State University
541-737-4515

<http://oregonstate.edu/cla/anthropology/champoeg-arch-fieldschool-2011>

University of Oregon, Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School

Each year the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School attracts a range of participants, from practicing cultural resource professionals to undergraduate and graduate students, to novices with little background in the field but who possess a love for heritage and a desire to learn. The University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program developed this Field School to provide participants with the opportunity to experience preservation firsthand.

Pacific Northwest Field School
Historic Preservation Program
School of Architecture & Allied Arts
Co-Director □ Shannon M. S. Bell
Email: smsbell@mac.com

Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles, Oregon Anthropology Classes: Class projects

Columbia Gorge Community College
Leslie Berry, MA Anthropology
The Dalles Campus, The Dalles, Oregon
541-506-6000
lberry@cgcc.cc.or.us
<http://www.cgcc.cc.or.us/ITS/ContactUs.cfm>

4. Security

There are several security issues surrounding Rock Fort. As a convenient high-visibility area on the Columbia River that appears to be undeveloped, it attracts a mix of visitors, most of whom are entirely innocuous. However, the site is a high probability area for vandalism. It is also used by transients as a camping spot. If the site is to become a heritage tourism destination, it will need to be a location where interpretive signage is safe and visitors feel comfortable.

Vandalism

Vandalism to locations like the Rock Fort usually consists of damage to signage and graffiti, or “tagging” with aerosol paint. These activities are annoying and extremely difficult to prevent. Some typical prevention strategies recommended by law-enforcement agencies include motion-sensor lighting, patrols, and closed-circuit television surveillance cameras. Since vandals are often local high-school students, educational programs informing them about the Rock Fort and its history may be useful in fostering positive attitudes and local pride.

- Include Rock Fort on police patrols
- Enlist volunteers for neighborhood surveillance or periodic checks
- Use commercial products like Vandlguard TEN non-sacrificial anti-graffiti coating on signs and other surfaces. These are clear overcoat products that allow graffiti to be easily removed
- Install motion-sensor lighting on utility poles
- Install closed-circuit television surveillance cameras

Transients

Transients camp on the Rock Fort site. Problems associated with this include litter and sanitation issues, as well as uncomfortable contacts between visitors and people who are often unsightly and may be confrontational. In general, issues concerning transients and homeless people are community-wide concerns well beyond the scope of this discussion. However, we can address camping as an inappropriate use of the Rock Fort site.

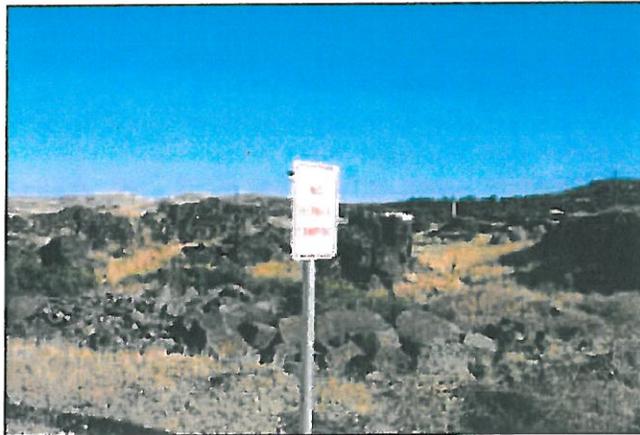


Figure 4 The present level of signage and enforcement needs to be augmented to prevent transients from camping on the site

The first concern is whether the City of The Dalles has statutes and enforcement policies in place to keep the area free from transients. Then, more signage should be placed to remind visitors that camping is not permitted on the site. If there are alternate locations for transient camping, these could be indicated on the signs. Examination of the site shows that transients camp in areas screened from the road by vegetation. If this vegetation is exogenous and not part of a native plant landscaping program, it should be removed. Finally, other security measures, especially motion-sensor lighting, patrols, and surveillance cameras, will discourage transients from camping on the Rock Fort.

- Examine City statutes covering camping in parks and public places
- Determine current enforcement policies
- Include Rock Fort on police patrols
- Enlist volunteers for neighborhood surveillance or periodic checks
- Install motion-sensor lighting on utility poles
- Install closed-circuit television cameras



Figure 5 Open fires built by transients pose the threat of wildfire on the site.

5. Maintenance

Maintenance programs for the Rock Fort site will vary with the level of development. At present, minimum maintenance is practiced. This includes some litter removal and weed control. With more interpretive materials on site, additional walkways and trails, handicapped access, and trash receptacles, the maintenance program would need to expand from its current base.

Development Level A—Rock Fort remains at current status

Periodic Maintenance (weekly or monthly)

- Litter removal
- Weed cutting in growing season

Annual Maintenance

- Trail maintenance including filling voids, removing vegetation
- Brush removal
- Maintain signage

Development Level B—More interpretive material, parking, enhanced trail network

Periodic Maintenance (weekly or monthly)

- Litter removal
- Weed cutting in growing season
- Check motion-sensor lighting
- Remove graffiti from treated surfaces

Annual Maintenance

- Trail Maintenance
- Remove exogenous plants
- Maintain indigenous plant landscape elements
- Maintain signage or other interpretive materials
- Maintain dedicated parking, including lines and drainage
- Remove graffiti from untreated surfaces



Figure 6 Litter left by transients needs to be removed periodically.

Development Level C—Materials interpreting history, ethnography, Columbia Corridor history and geology, vegetation on site, wildlife on site and visible from the site. Tours and docents available.

Periodic Maintenance (weekly)

- Litter removal
- Trash receptacles emptied
- Weed cutting in growing season
- Trail maintenance
- Remove graffiti all surfaces
- Maintain landscape as needed
- Check motion-sensor lighting
- Check closed-circuit television cameras

Annual Maintenance

- Maintain dedicated parking including lines and drains
- Maintain installed infrastructure including benches, railings, kiosks
- Maintain signage and interpretive materials

Costs

Although most costs for development and promotion of the site can be met through partnerships and grants, maintenance costs are difficult to cover from sources outside the City. The cost of maintenance for Rock Fort needs to be carefully budgeted and presented as a line item. Volunteers groups may be available to help with annual maintenance programs. Summer volunteers coordinated through the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office may be available for landscape and other maintenance programs during the summer.

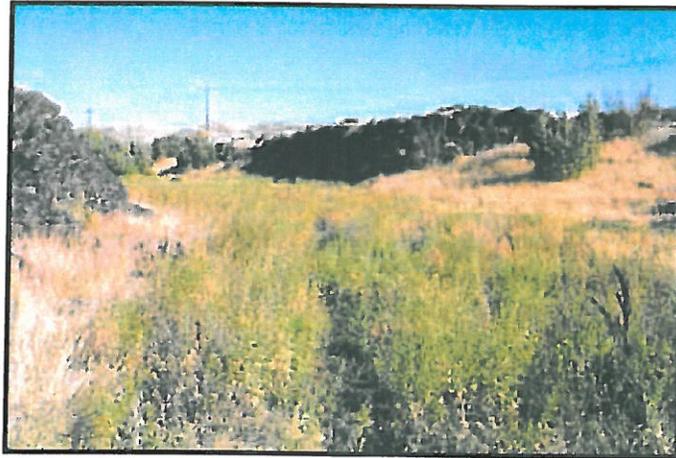


Figure 7 Control of exogenous and invasive plants needs to be part of the maintenance plan.

6. Archaeological Investigations

In preparation for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center/Wasco County Historical Museum, under its then Executive Director Kenneth W. Karsmizki, initiated an archaeological reconnaissance/testing project at the Rock Fort Campsite.

Two geophysical surveys were carried out prior to archaeological excavation. The first survey tested a small area using a magnetometer. The second survey covered a more extensive area using ground penetrating radar; it was conducted in March and September of 2005 by Lawrence Conyers of the University of Denver. Remote sensing is a relatively inexpensive and non-invasive method to collect information pertaining to the subsurface nature archaeological sites. Its usefulness varies from site to site; on this site, the data collected and its interpretation proved to be of little use during the field excavations.

As another part of the planning process, Karsmizki did extensive research on the expedition, reviewing transcripts of the expedition journals, maps, and historical literature. He also entered into a collaborative effort with the National Aeronautics Space Agency (NASA) to blend state of the art remote sensing data, modern imaging, onsite observations, and historical map data. The product of these efforts was intended to confirm the Rock Fort Campsite location, assess its condition, and pinpoint areas for potential archaeological subsurface testing. The researchers concluded that there was:

- 1) a good match of landscape formations recorded on the expedition map compared to those presently apparent;
- 2) good relative agreement of near river basaltic depressions and escarpments based on comparison of Expedition and modern era geospacial data; and

3) the camp site location showed sufficient pristineness to pursue the next level of intensive on-the ground remote sensing.

With all of these results in hand, Karsmizki embarked on a subsurface archaeological testing program. He identified three areas as potential campsite locations, which he designated Area 1, 2 and 3, with 1 at the east, 2 in the center, and 3 on the west end. All were in shallow basins within the channeled scabland topography. The testing plan was to excavate a series of 50 by 50 cm (20 by 20 inch) square shovel probes, spaced at 5 meter intervals (16.4 foot) across each of the three targeted areas. Karsmizki argued that closely spaced subsurface testing was the only way to find evidence that the site was the camp location of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The site area, situated at the confluence of a major creek and the Columbia River, would have been a prime camp location, not only for the expedition, but also for the native inhabitants and later travelers and settlers. Finding definitive, indisputable evidence of a Lewis and Clark campsite was going to be a challenge, and intensive controlled archaeological excavation was seen as the only way to find it.

Archaeological and surface collection and subsurface testing took place within the area owned by Wasco County, which includes portions of the site Karzmiski labeled Areas 1, 2 and 3. A grid, oriented to magnetic north, was established over the entire area. All the excavation units were placed on the grid, and grid coordinates were used to record the provenience of collected surface artifacts.

Excavations in Area 1 began after the completion of the surface collection. Area 1 is the shallow basin at the east end of the site traditionally identified as the Lewis and Clark campsite location; it is marked as such by a 1977 monument. A total of 44 shovel probes were excavated in this area, 15 of which were clustered together to form trenches or small blocks in areas of particular interest. These clustered units were used to test subsurface features that were identified as three possible prehistoric pit houses. This entire area was found to contain a wealth of prehistoric cultural debris associated with this small cluster of pit houses. Recovered artifacts included numerous fragments of chipped stone (the residue from tool manufacturing and use), formed stone tools including projectile points, scrapers, knives, and cores; complete and fragmented ground stone artifacts, burned and unburned bone fragments, a possible gun flint, a trade bead, and burned basketry fragments. Carbon 14 dates, and diagnostic artifacts, suggest that this area of the site was occupied and used over a long period, with the pit house use beginning some 2000 years ago. More limited use of this area of the site continues to this day.

No artifacts definitively tied to the Lewis and Clark expedition were recovered from Area 1, although it must be noted that the testing involved less than an estimated 3% of the surface area of this basin. The material recovered during the project is significant in its own right, indicating the presence of a relatively undisturbed Native American campsite with at least three pit house features with multiple occupations.

Area 2 is the central basin of the Rock Fort Campsite area. In the 1960s, during construction associated with the development of the adjacent port facilities and Interstate 84, the southern rim of the basin was breached to provide vehicular access to the Rock Fort site. The basin was filled with nearly 2 meters (6 ½ feet) of imported fill, bringing it up to the grade of the adjacent roadway. This

development, while adversely impacting the integrity of the site area, has made this area the most easily accessed portion of the site.

The archaeological excavations in Area 2 were initially planned to follow the same pattern as those initiated during the testing of Area 1, that is, a closely spaced series of shovel probes distributed across the floor of the Area 2 basin. The thick layer of fill altered the planned testing procedure: systematically placed shovel probes were replaced by targeted probes excavated at the locations of surface artifacts and at the proposed footing locations for the new interpretive signs. Larger 1 by 1 meter (3.3 by 3.3 foot) excavation units were excavated to penetrate through the fill. During the testing, excavators found a mix of historic and modern debris in the fill; the origin of this fill is unknown.

Once the archaeologists determined the depth and character of the fill using controlled excavation, they brought in a backhoe to remove the fill from a larger area. A block of eight 1 by 1 meter excavation units was placed within the cleared area, where intact stratified deposits were exposed below the fill. Karsmiski and his crew chose to excavate these units only through the modern and historic layers, stopping at the underlying prehistoric component. This was done to conserve both the prehistoric resource and the project budget. The intact stratified deposits found under the fill contained well-preserved modern, historic, and prehistoric artifacts in significant quantities, although the weight and deposition of the fill had caused some noticeable compaction of the sediments. Particularly significant artifacts recovered from the intact deposits were twisted fiber and leather fragments, and a well preserved copper "tinkler cone." Only 8 square meters (86 square feet) of the underlying intact surface was tested, less than 1% of the total area of this basin. Once again, no artifacts definitively tied to the Lewis and Clark expedition were recovered from this area of the site.

Systematic testing proceeded as planned in Area 3. The Area 3 basin is located near western end of the site area, at the edge of the property owned by Wasco County. This shallow basin is often filled with water during the wetter winter and spring months. A total of 36 shovel probes were excavated in the basin, most at the pre-established 5 meter grid intervals. In areas of interest, the individual probes were expanded into larger blocks. Few artifacts were recovered from this area of the site; most are modern in age although some historic and prehistoric aged artifacts were also found.

The excavations in this basin did expose a significant geologic deposit of volcanic ash, likely from Mt. Mazama. This ash, and the other fine grained sediments deposited in this basin, likely account for its seasonal inundation. The seasonally wet nature of the basin and its greater distance from both Mill Creek and the Columbia River, made this a less than desirable campsite during both the prehistoric and historic periods. Less than 2% of this area was excavated during this testing project; no artifacts definitively tied to the Lewis and Clark expedition were recovered from this area of the site.

The results of the 2006 archaeological test excavations at the Rock Fort site proved to be somewhat inconclusive. The presence of a rich and well-preserved Native American site was established in Area 1 and hinted at in Area 2. Testing in Area 3 indicated that it was the lowest probability location for the Lewis and Clark campsite. Although this project excavated numerous

closely spaced test units, considerable areas of the site remain untested. The members of the Lewis and Clark expedition spent comparatively little time at this location, and one would expect any features or artifacts left by them to be outnumbered by those both of the previous and subsequent users. Finding them is akin to finding the proverbial needle in the haystack, difficult and time consuming, but not impossible. Karsmizki makes a compelling and well-supported case for this location being the actual Lewis and Clark Rock Fort Campsite; all that is now lacking is the really hard part, the definitive presence of features and artifacts associated with the expedition. Karmiski, in summing up his work at Rock Fort wrote:

We have not proven that they (Lewis and Clark) did camp within the study area. More importantly, we have not been able to eliminate that possibility. I believe that continued research, including excavation in Area 2, is not only warranted but also necessary. If I had to summarize the results of the research presented in this report I would use two words: We're close.

7. Heritage Tourism

“Heritage Tourism” is a name generally applied to the idea of traveling to an event, a destination, or along a specific route identified with important historic, ethnographic, architectural, or other cultural resources. The Cultural Heritage Tourism Association (<http://www.culturalheritagetourism.org/>) serves as a clearing-house for ideas, practices, and funding sources for heritage tourism.

Much tourism to particular destinations is *de facto* heritage tourism since visitors are usually interested in seeing local landmarks, buildings, museums, battlefields, or other resources identified with the area's past. Washington DC, for example, is probably the nation's most popular heritage tourism destination. With its strong associations with Oregon's development east of the Cascades, The Dalles is a destination for Oregon history buffs. Historic districts, museums, National Register sites and structures, and other resources enhance the appeal of heritage destinations.

Event-based historic tourism focuses on events and festivals with a heritage theme to bring in visitors. The “Historic The Dalles Days” festival, held each September, is a good example of an event designed with heritage tourism in mind. Possibilities for Rock Fort might involve Lewis and Clark themes, contact-period themes, or other themes associated with the Corps of Discovery. Re-enacting and living history events are popular throughout the U.S., and offer opportunities for enthusiasts to wear period costumes, simulate historic events, and demonstrate traditional skills and crafts. Re-enactments are also very popular with spectators who come to watch the enthusiasts in their colorful costumes. Successful Oregon re-enacting events are held in the Jacksonville cemetery and at Fort Stevens, where mock Civil war battles are staged.



Figure 8 Re-enactors at “Historic The Dalles days” festival

In addition to event-based and destination-based heritage tourism, there is also heritage tourism based on trails, tours, and journeys. The Rock Fort site is listed as a heritage site on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT). As such, the site is marked with the distinctive Lewis and Clark NHT signage and listed on the agency’s website. Heritage tourism visitors are able to learn about the Rock Fort from the on-line interpretive materials, and include a stop in The Dalles to view the site on their journey along the route followed by the Corps of Discovery. Popular heritage tourism trails and routes throughout the U.S. include the Natchez Trace Parkway through the Southern Appalachians, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail through the Southwest, and others. The Hudson River Valley, the Ohio Valley, and St. Lawrence Waterway and other linear areas rich in cultural resources offer similar opportunities for tourists.

Recently, agencies have shown some interest in combining cultural history with natural history. The National Scenic Byways Program (www.byways.org) of the Federal Highways Department has been very successful at promoting informed tourism on various highways. The program defines itself as “a distinctive collection of American roads, their stories and treasured places. They are roads to the heart and soul of America.” In practice, the program offers selected “byways” with exceptional scenery and cultural resources. Information is presented on the program’s website, and the byways are marked with signs and interpretive kiosks.

Oregon has 10 designated federal Scenic Byways, including the Old Columbia George Highway west of The Dalles. Highway 197 south from The Dalles might be a candidate for the Scenic Byway program. Inclusion in this program would increase visibility of The Dalles and Rock Fort.

Most heritage tourism in the U.S. is done by automobile, which is one reason that the Scenic Byway program had been so successful. The Dalles is fortunate to be located on the Columbia River, and on a major transcontinental railroad. Both of these transportation corridors have great potential for cultural tourism.

8. Recommendations: Best Practices

The following table summarizes our recommendations for active management of the Rock Fort Campsite resource by the City of The Dalles.

Key to Personnel: **CC** The Dalles City Council; **P** parks, qualified staff; **F** friends volunteer group; **C** contractors, qualified CRM specialists;

Area of Concern	Best Management Practices	Current Management Practices	Personnel
<u>Ownership</u>	City of The Dalles owns resource, pro-active and forward looking management	Wasco County owns resource, potential not realized	CC
<u>Status of Rock Fort</u>			
National Register of Historic Places	Nominated as a criterion A and D resource	Nominated as a criterion A resource only	C
Lewis and Clark National Park	Advocate that the NPS consider including Rock Fort in Lewis and Clark National Park	No communication with NPS	C, P, F
National Historic Landmark (NHL) Program	Present case for making Rock Fort a NHL	No communication with NPS	C, P
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT) Program	Rock Fort Campsite is a Certified Site on the Lewis and Clark NHT	Certified Site, signage not clear	P, F
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Association Program	Present case for including Rock Fort in the program for visibility and management help, access to grant funds	Not included in the program	P, F
<u>Funding</u>	Mix of federal, state, and local funding	Local funding with some State support	P, C
<u>Site Development</u>			
Parking for visitors	Adequate designated parking with clear signage	Parking available but no signage	P
Handicapped access	Good access to all parts of site	Access limited to main part of site	P, C, F
Vegetation	Indigenous c.1806	Mix of indigenous and exogenous species	P, C, F
Dogs	Leash area with signage.	No dog amenities	P, F
Toilets	Facilities off site	No facilities within area	C

<u>Security</u>			
Transients	City ordinances prohibit camping on site	Transients camping on site	CC, P, F
Litter, rubbish	Area is clean, litter receptacles provided and emptied, area monitored	Litter on site from transients	P, F
Potential vandalism	Area free from graffiti or vandalism to interpretive signage	Unchecked potential for vandalism	C, F
Lighting	Area is illuminated at night	Limited lighting	C
Patrol	City police patrols check site for transients, vandals		CC
Security cameras	Security cameras monitor site	No cameras	C
<u>Interpretation</u>			
On-line	Websites through partnership program with NPS interpret site for potential visitors	Web presence limited to L&C Trail program	F
On-site	Interpretive signage explaining visits to Rock Fort by Corps of Discovery, Chinookan groups in area, plants, animals, changes in the Columbia River since Euro-American contact, environmental changes.	Additional signage in all parts of the site	C, F

