

Northwest Discovery Water Trail

Notes & News

Winter 2006

The designation of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail celebrates an age-old waterway of magnificent landscapes, historic use, and unlimited opportunities for self-discovery. The 367-mile river route runs from Canoe Camp on the Clearwater River in Idaho, down the Snake and Columbia Rivers, to Bonneville Dam.

A Steering Committee composed of community leaders, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations leads the Water Trail effort.

For more information:

www.ndwt.org

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Water Trail Designation Begins!



Northwest Discovery Water Trail kick-off event in Bonneville Lock

The Northwest Discovery Water Trail is generating headlines and attracting the interest of boaters interested in exploring the Inland Northwest. Five designation events this fall helped launch the water trail, providing a sample of the sights and scenery along its three rivers - the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia. Designation will continue in 2006 with another series of unique events along the water trail corridor.

Bonneville Ribbon Cutting - August 26th

Bonneville Dam links the Northwest Discovery and Lower Columbia River Water Trails, together offering over 500 miles of river travel. During the Taste of Lewis and Clark festival held at the Dam, visitors and dignitaries, including Washington Congressman Brian Baird, Washington State Parks Director Rex Derr and Colonel Thomas O'Donovan, boarded the Columbia

Gorge Sternwheeler for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the lock. As the crowded Sternwheeler approached the lock, two volunteers hoisted the ribbon strung from lockwall to lockwall over the moving boat's jack staff flag pole and onto the deck, where water trail partners and guests cut the ribbon to celebrate the connection of the two water trails.

Mosier Fall Festival - September 3rd

At Mosier's Labor Day weekend community picnic, the first Northwest Discovery Water Trail marker on the Columbia River was installed at the newly established Rock Creek launch site. Mosier is a small Oregon town but a big destination for windsurfers and, in the near future, it will be a prime stop on the Northwest Discovery Water Trail, where travelers can restock supplies or simply enjoy the town's shops and restaurants.

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Designation *Continued*

Clearwater Cleanup - September 24th

The free-flowing waters of the Clearwater River run clear and fast. For years, agencies and community members have worked to rid the Clearwater of junked cars and abandoned appliances that marred the beauty of the river. The Nez Perce Tribe teamed up with nine other partnering businesses and agencies to remove some of the last remnants of riverside junk from the Nez Perce Reservation near Lapwai, Idaho. This project was not your average litter pick up.



Junk cars being removed from the Clearwater River's banks

Volunteers attached huge pieces of contorted rusted cars to a boom crane, which then lifted the automobile parts from the riverbank and into a container bound for the recycling center.

Tri-Cities Heritage Paddle - October 15th

Indicative of the growing interest in paddle sports in Eastern Washington, the Heritage Paddle drew 48 people in kayaks, canoes, rowboats, and sailboats. Participants made a 12½-mile journey on the Columbia River from Columbia Point Marina to Sacajawea State Park, with stops along the way for designation ceremonies at public access points. Pushed along steadily by a strong tailwind, boaters arrived at Sacajawea State Park in time to enjoy the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Heritage Days festivities, an opportunity to learn about traditional living and water travel from the pioneer reenactment camps and authentic Wanapum village.

WANTED: Assistance with 2006 Designation Events!

Seeking creative ways to celebrate the designation of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail in communities along the route for our 2006 designation events. If you would like to help plan a new event or incorporate the water trail into an existing event, please contact:

Sarah Krueger, sarah@wwta.org or 206.545.9161

Umatilla Trace the Trail - October 16th

A crowd of 150 gathered in Hat Rock State Park for a sunrise ceremony led by members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark had given tribal members peace medals; on this day the Confederated Tribes reversed the roles, presenting their own medals to representatives from the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. Twenty-nine boaters launched from the park, paddling past steep basalt rock forms decorated with mud-crafted cliff swallow nests. When the flotilla reached its first stop at McNary Beach, six miles down the Columbia River, white caps and building wind ended the planned lock-through of McNary Dam. The paddlers reconvened at a community picnic and Bicentennial Commemoration in Irrigon, Oregon.



Peace medal ceremony at Hat Rock State Park

New Publications

There are now two publications available about the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. With assistance from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program, Washington Water Trails Association designed and printed a full-color brochure about the new water trail. The brochure features the artwork and photography of Andrew Marsters, who rowed his wherry 436 miles for 28 days on the Northwest Discovery and Lower Columbia River Water Trails.



Detail of Marsters' self-portrait

For those interested in making a similar voyage, or just wanting to plan a small excursion, the *Northwest Discovery Water Trail Traveler's Guide & Journal* is a good planning resource. The *Traveler's Guide & Journal* highlights natural and cultural resources, offers safety information, and provides room for notes. The *Journal* is a cooperative project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and nine other water trail partners.

These products will be distributed to visitor centers and chambers of commerce along the trail and surrounding areas. For a copy of the brochure or *Journal* or information regarding bulk orders, contact sarah@wwta.org.

Coming Soon:

www.ndwt.org

northwest discovery water trail
updates, trip planning resources &
interpretation
March 2006

Partner Profile



CRK on the Columbia

Columbia Riverkeeper (CRK) is a non-profit conservation group that works to protect and restore the Columbia River and all life connected to it. Columbia Riverkeeper is a member of the International Waterkeeper Alliance, created and led by Robert Kennedy, Jr. There is an evergrowing number of riverkeeper and baykeeper organizations worldwide. With offices in Hood River, Portland, and White Salmon, Washington, CRK staff and volunteers use a combination of grassroots organizing, education, and an on-river presence to improve water quality, protect aquatic habitats and restore salmon in the Columbia River Basin, from the Canadian border to the river's mouth in Astoria. CRK is closely engaged in reforming key water pollution policy issues in Oregon and Washington and its legal team also uses enforcement of state and federal environmental laws as a tool for restoring water quality and protecting key habitats.

Over the last 15 years Columbia Riverkeeper has been one of the leading advocates for cleaning up radioactive contamination at the Hanford Site. CRK has successfully challenged plans to ship more radioactive waste to Hanford, called public attention to the Dept. of Energy attempts to ignore serious groundwater contamination at Hanford, and played an important role in making Hanford a national cleanup priority. In 2005, Columbia Riverkeeper litigation stopped the discharge of 360 million gallons a year of untreated toxic wastewater from entering the Columbia River. Over the next five years CRK's 2005 legal victories will keep over 800,000 pounds of heavy metals from being released into the Columbia.

Columbia Riverkeeper works with local groups in supporting riverbank clean up and restoration projects, carries out programs in schools and plans activities in partnership with river recreationalists. Board President Larry Cotton is a guiding member of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail Steering Committee.

Learn more: www.columbiariverkeeper.org

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Save the Date! Open House Workshops



Your input is needed! Attend an open-house workshop session to share information about facilities and recreational opportunities on the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. Recreational site managers, business owners, outfitters, boaters, and interested individuals are invited to provide feedback about facilities, signage, outreach, and opportunities along the water trail. The results of each workshop will help complete the inventory of the water trail and guide the development of a management plan. Afternoon and evening sessions are scheduled, please attend one of the workshops at your convenience and drop-in anytime from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm or 6:00 - 8:00 pm. For details or to RSVP, contact Sarah Krueger at 206.545.9161 or sarah@wwta.org.

Workshop Schedule

February 23rd ★ Richland, WA

Hosted by Richland Department of Parks and Recreation
10am-3pm and 6pm-8pm at the Richland Library
955 Northgate Drive, Richland, Washington

March 15th ★ Lewiston, ID

Hosted by Lewiston Department of Parks and Recreation
10am-3pm and 6pm-8pm at the Lewiston Community Center
1424 Main Street, Lewiston, Idaho

April 19th ★ The Dalles, OR

Hosted by the Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation
10am-3pm and 6pm-8pm at The Columbia Gorge Community College, Board Room # 1.162
400 East Scenic, The Dalles, Oregon

Northwest Discovery Water Trail Current Partners

Benton County
Bureau of Land Management
Citizen Advocates
City of Umatilla
Clearwater County Sheriff's Department
Clearwater Economic Development Association
Clearwater Management Council
Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association
Columbia Kayak Adventures
Columbia Riverkeeper
Columbia River Pilots
Desert Kayak and Canoe Club
Fort Vancouver Regional Library
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Ice Age Floods Institute
Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
Mosier Alliance
National Park Service
Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
Oregon State Marine Board
Tapteal Greenway Association
Tidewater Barge Lines
Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau
Umatilla County Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Committee
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Vancouver Lewis and Clark Committee
Walla Walla Yacht Club
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington Water Trails Association

Become a Partner!

Partners are organizations and agencies that support the concept of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. There is no commitment, financial or otherwise, to become a Partner. Partners are acknowledged on outreach materials and will be highlighted on the website: www.ndwt.org

To join us as a Partner, contact Sarah Krueger at 206.545.9161 or sarah@wwta.org.