Artwork by Andrew Marsters

Float through a land sculpted by lava flows and ancient floods.

Visit parks, museums, wildlife refuges, and historic towns.

Savor a terrain of orchards, vineyards, and fields of grain.

Enjoy solitude, city life, and wildlife as you discover the wonders of the Inland Pacific Northwest by water!

NORTHWEST DISCOVERY

WATER TRAIL

Learn More! Visit:

WWW.NDWT.ORG

Northwest Discovery Water Trail 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

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Explore the Northwest Discovery Water Trail

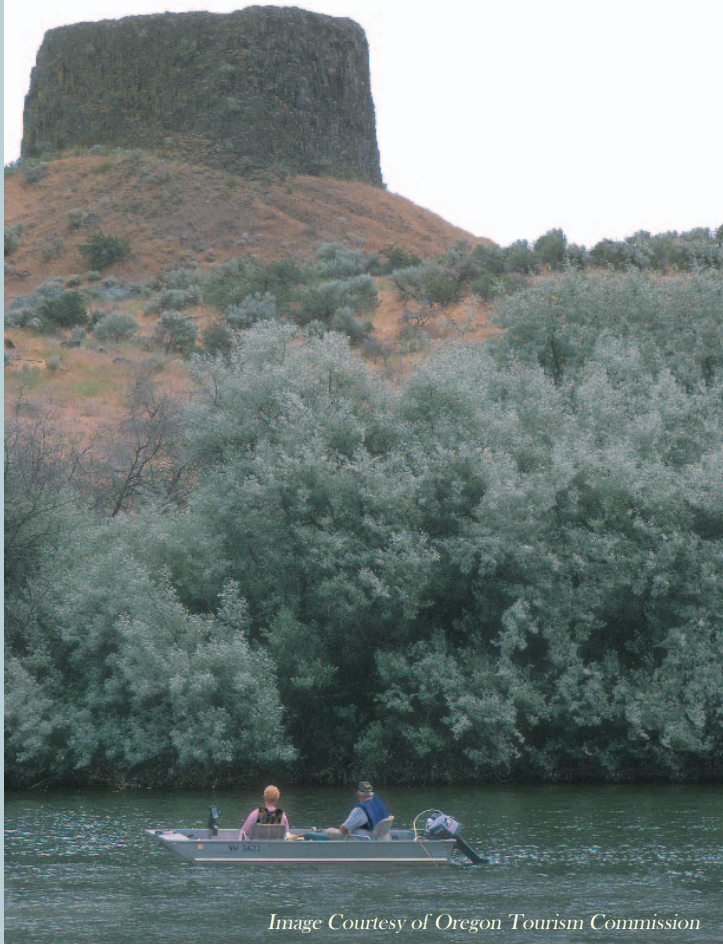

Image Courtesy of Oregon Tourism Commission

Northwest Discovery Water Trail

The Water Trail

Rivers have always been the lifeblood of the Inland Pacific Northwest, ancient highways essential to commerce, travel, and the migration of salmon. The Northwest Discovery Water Trail is a 367-mile recreational boating route on the region's defining waterways. It begins at Canoe Camp on the Clearwater River in Idaho, follows the Snake River down to the Columbia River and ends at Bonneville Dam in the Columbia River Gorge.

The Northwest Discovery Water Trail connects you to over 150 sites to launch your boat, picnic, or camp along these rivers when you travel by motor boat, canoe, sailboat, or kayak. Whether you take a day trip or an overnight excursion, the Water Trail can link you to small riverside communities, wildlife refuges and parks, riverside trails, museums and visitor centers, as well as campgrounds and lodging.

Following the paddle strokes of tribal cultures and explorers like Lewis & Clark, the Water Trail will guide you through a cross-section of the region's natural and cultural wonders.

Plan Your Trip

Boating the rivers of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail requires skill and preparation. Plan ahead by getting the proper navigational charts and safety gear. File a float plan with a friend or relative. Always wear a life jacket!

Check local weather forecasts before departing and keep a close eye on the weather for high winds or thunderstorms. Drink plenty of water and protect yourself from the sun and wind.

Always yield to large commercial vessels operating on the Snake and Columbia Rivers, and watch for their large wakes. Be aware of submerged stumps, floating debris, and the remains of old piers.

There are eight dams on the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. Use caution near all dams and make plans to lock through or portage around the dams before you leave home.

The Clearwater River is free-flowing with several Class I & II whitewater rapids and is unsuitable for many motorboats.

Visit www.ndwt.org for more information!

Three Rivers, Three States

Clearwater River

The Clearwater River in North Central Idaho flows through the homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe, past steep ridges forested with pine and fir. Launch your boat in Orofino on the cold, fast-moving waters of the Clearwater, a famous destination for steelhead fishing, and carefully navigate the shallow rapids.

Snake River

The Clearwater meets the Snake River at the stateline between Washington and Idaho. Follow the Snake, the Columbia River's largest tributary, through rolling Palouse country into the arid, remote reaches of the sage steppe desert. Navigate the country's largest vertical-drop lock at Ice Harbor Dam before reaching the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers at the Tri-Cities.

Photo by Andrew Marsters

Columbia River

Visit the museums, wineries, and restaurants of Washington's Tri-Cities before exploring the powerful Columbia River. Float past stunning landforms, ancient cultural sites, and working ports into the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, an 80-mile canyon with basalt cliffs offering passage through the Cascade Mountains. Enjoy wildflowers and waterfalls as you make your way toward Bonneville Dam, where you can continue your journey to the Pacific Ocean on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail (www.columbiawatertrail.org) or end your trip in Cascade Locks, Oregon.