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U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service News Release

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Dedication of New Lewis And Clark National Historical Park Slated for November 12 *Expanded site honors historic landmark expedition*

The official expansion and renaming of Fort Clatsop National Memorial will be announced during a ceremony planned for November 12, 2004, at the park. National Park Service Director Fran P. Mainella will be among those on hand for the ceremony dedicating the unit as the new Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. A measure calling for the changes was recently passed by Congress and is expected to be signed into law by President Bush in the near future.

The ceremony will praise the enhanced preservation of several Pacific coast winter encampment sites of explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their famous Corps of Discovery. The dedication ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Cape Disappointment State Park in Ilwaco, Washington.

The newly expanded park will be the focal point of many events planned for “Destination: The Pacific”, the nationally sanctioned Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Commemoration. Two events in addition to the renaming ceremony are planned for November 12. The National Park Service and Re-Tree International will host more than 100 school children at a tree-planting effort at Netul Landing, a mile south of Fort Clatsop. A presentation titled, “Lewis and Clark and the California Condor,” will be held later that evening at the Ilwaco Heritage Museum to kick off “Oceania in View,” a cultural and historic enrichment weekend.

Added to the lands previously contained in the Fort Clatsop National Memorial are Clark’s Dismal Nitch (Megler Rest Area), Station Camp and a memorial to Thomas Jefferson, located within Cape Disappointment State Park. The state of Washington is making substantial investments at Station Camp, including purchasing the land from willing sellers and developing a new park, which will then be donated to the National Park Service.

The Conservation Fund plans to purchase more than 900 acres from Weyerhaeuser Company to be sold to the National Park Service and included as part of the newly expanded park once funding is appropriated by Congress.

Fort Stevens and Ecola State Parks in Oregon and Cape Disappointment State Park in Washington also recount a portion of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition. The states and the National Park Service will work together to tell a comprehensive story of the Corps of Discovery involving all relevant sites along the Pacific coast.

Fort Clatsop is at the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon. It was built by the Corps of Northwest Discovery and served as their encampment during the winter of 1805-06. Members of the local community built the replica fort in 1955. The Oregon Historical Society donated the site to the federal government in 1958, and it became a part of the National Park System.

For more information on these and other events, visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/focl.

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