

LEWIS

AND

CLARK

IN

Washington State



WASHINGTON STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION COMMISSION

THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION



SNAKE RIVER

The Snake with its many turbulent rapids presented one of the most difficult rivers for the Expedition to negotiate. Canoes were damaged by rocks, supplies became saturated and some supplies were lost when a canoe capsized.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-06 has been recorded as one of the great feats of American exploration. The Expedition was commissioned by President Jefferson to map the way west through the recently purchased Louisiana Territory. It was instructed to look for any navigable passage to the Pacific Ocean and establish an overland link for the United States to the point of Captain Gray's Columbia River Discovery.

Thomas Jefferson was motivated in part by his desire to capture some of the western fur trade for the United States. He was also anxious to expand the country westward.

The journey was well documented as several members of the group kept daily records about events and the country through which they traveled. Lewis and Clark were particularly meticulous about entering every detail.

Although the Expedition often experienced great hardship and suffering, only one fatality occurred. It is presumed that this death was caused by a ruptured appendix.

The Corps of Discovery, as the Expedition was commonly known, started up the Missouri River on May 14, 1804, in three river boats. The party consisted of 45 men, 16 of whom were engaged to go only as far as the Mandans in North Dakota where the party spent the winter of 1804-05.

Sacajawea, a Shoshone Indian woman, joined the Expedition at the Mandan Villages on the Missouri River and accompanied it to the Pacific Coast and back. The presence of Sacajawea conveyed to possible unfriendly tribes the peaceful intentions of the Expedition.

After 17 arduous months the Expedition entered what is now the State of Washington on October 11, 1805. They canoed down the swift and hazardous Snake River making as much as forty miles a day. On October 16th the Expedition finally reached the Columbia River.



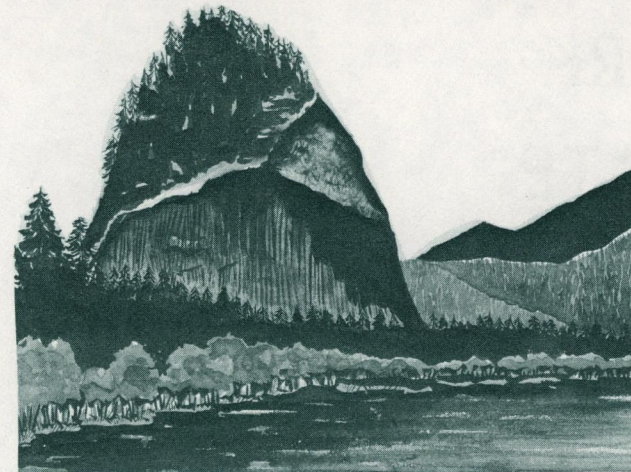
CELILO FALLS

Upon reaching the Great Falls of the Columbia (Celilo Falls) on October 22, 1805, the Expedition had to portage a distance of 1,200 yards.

This had been a favorite salmon fishing area of the Indians prior to inundation by back water of The Dalles Dam.

Clark and two men explored up the Columbia in a light canoe visiting along the way with Indians who were busy splitting and drying salmon. After reaching the mouth of the Taptal (Yakima) River, Clark and his party turned back to rejoin the others and continued the journey down the Columbia.

The spirits of the men rose with each swiftly passing mile. The two captains now realized their mission would soon be accomplished. Eagerly they watched for signs of tidewater—the Pacific was not far away. When they had to portage several rapids their enthusiasm made the canoes seem lighter.



BEACON ROCK

On November 2, 1805, the explorers passed Beacon Rock on their journey down the Columbia River. They called it a "remarkable high detached rock". Their journals indicate it was here that the effect of tidewater was first noticed.

As they approached the Pacific Ocean it rained much of the time. Frequently in the morning heavy fog drifted up the Columbia. From November 10th through 14th the Expedition was pinned to the rocky shore by extremely foul weather near the present community of Megler. The party was in a thoroughly miserable situation; it rained almost continuously; clothes and bedding were saturated. At last the storm subsided and the party was able to go around the rocky point of land where they found a long sandy beach. Here they camped about one mile east of the present Fort Columbia State Park. From this camp Clark, accom-

MT. ST. HELENS

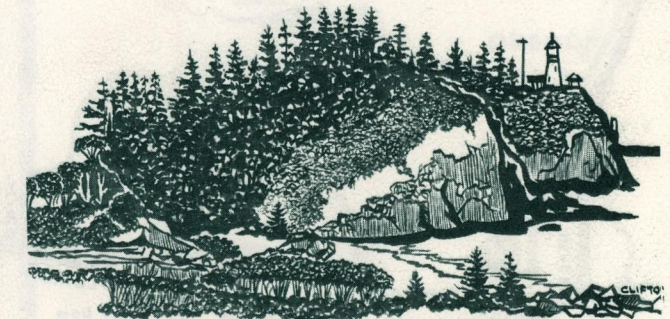
Mt. St. Helens was described by the explorers as somewhat in the form of a sugarloaf and perhaps the highest pinnacle in America. With an elevation of only 9,677 feet, it actually ranks fifth in the State of Washington alone.



panied by 11 men, proceeded along the beach to Cape Disappointment and the Pacific Ocean. Thus, on November 18, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition achieved one of its principal goals near the present community of Ilwaco, Washington.

On November 26th the Expedition returned about 15 miles upstream and crossed the Columbia to the south side. There it established winter camp, Fort Clatsop, near the present Astoria, Oregon.

As soon as they felt the mountains would be passable Lewis and Clark started the return journey to St. Louis—March 23, 1806. They retraced their route up the Columbia as far as the present community of Wallula. Near this point the Expedition left the Columbia River to travel overland through the present



CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT

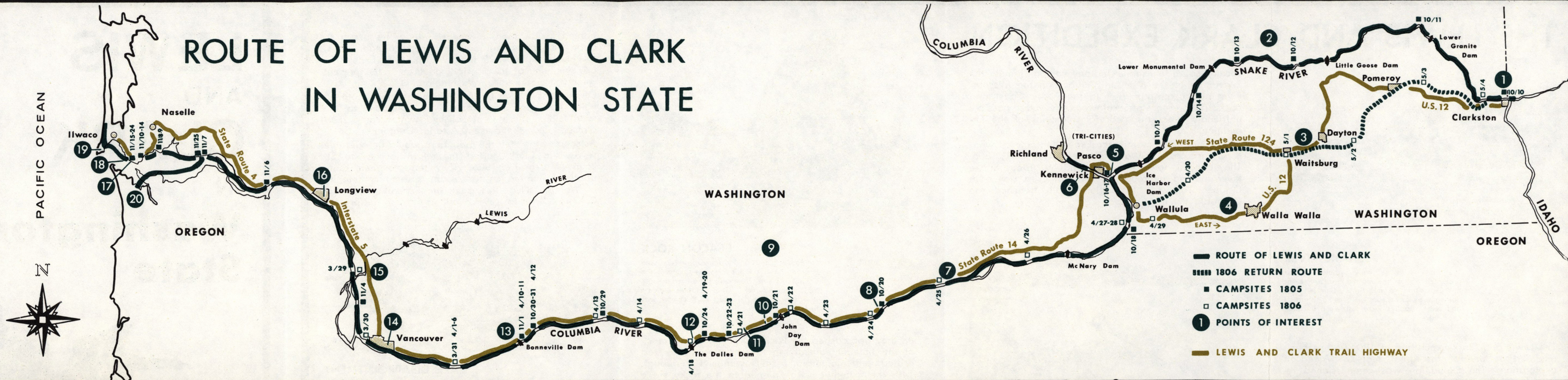
Captain John Meares visited this area in 1788. Earlier reports had indicated that this was probably the mouth of a large river. Failing to recognize it as such, Meares named the large promontory north of the river Cape Disappointment.

cities of Waitsburg, Dayton and Pomeroy. They joined the Snake River near the Washington-Idaho border. On May 5, 1806, the party departed what is now the State of Washington.

On September 23, 1806, the Expedition arrived back at St. Louis. It had accomplished an extraordinary task under difficult circumstances. These men had made many vital discoveries regarding the geography, animal life, plant life and geology of the area. They had created an atmosphere of friendliness with the Indians. They had opened a vast and unknown territory to settlement and development.

Prepared by
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Interpretive Services
P. O. Box 1128
Olympia, Washington 98501
In cooperation with
The Washington State Lewis and Clark Trail
Advisory Committee
February, 1968

ROUTE OF LEWIS AND CLARK IN WASHINGTON STATE



THE LEWIS AND CLARK HIGHWAY

By action of the Washington State Legislature the highway between Clarkston on the Idaho border and Ilwaco at the mouth of the Columbia River has been designated an official Lewis and Clark Trail Highway. Markers, as adopted by the Federal Lewis and Clark Trail Commission, have been erected intermittently along the entire route by the Washington State Department of Highways. East and West highways have been designated in the Waitsburg-Walla Walla-Tri Cities area.

Washington State is a contrast in nature. The wide climatic variances become evident to the traveler following the route of the famous explorers. The eastern part of the state is quite arid. Native vegetation consists largely of bunchgrass and sagebrush. Approaching the midpoint of the Trail, evergreen trees dot the landscape—harbingers of the transition between desert and marine climates. From Vancouver to the Pacific Ocean the climate is definitely marine. Douglas fir trees dominate the forested areas.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 CLARKSTON**
On October 11, 1805, the Expedition entered what is now the State of Washington.
- 2 PALOUSE FALLS STATE PARK**
The Palouse River plunges 197 feet down sheer basaltic walls. Picnic tables, stoves and 10 campsites. 17 miles S.E. of Washtucna.
- 3 LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL STATE PARK**
Located on the 1806 return route of Lewis and Clark. Day use facilities and 30 overnight campsites. 5 miles east of Waitsburg on U.S. 12.
- 4 WHITMAN MISSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**
Site of a mission founded among the Cayuse Indians in 1836 by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. 7 miles west of Walla Walla near U.S. 12.
- 5 SACAJAWEA STATE PARK**
Named for the Indian girl who accompanied the explorers on much of their journey. Fishing, picnicking and boating. Interpretive Center. 5 miles S.E. of Pasco near U.S. 12.

- 6 COLUMBIA PARK**
Benton County park. Boat launching, golfing, picnicking, overnight campsites, trailer hookups. Along Columbia River on U.S. 12 between Kennewick and Richland.
- 7 CROW BUTTE STATE PARK**
Under development as of 1968. 4 miles east of Alderdale on State Route 14.
- 8 PETROGLYPH PARK**
Indian petroglyphs salvaged from areas now inundated by reservoirs on the Columbia River. 1½ miles east of Roosevelt on State Route 14.
- 9 BROOKS MEMORIAL STATE PARK**
23 campsites, 11 trailer hookups and restrooms with hot showers. 12 miles north of Goldendale on Satus Pass, U.S. 97.
- 10 STONEHENGE REPLICA**
A full scale replica of the mysterious ruin located on the Salisbury Plain in England. Overlooks the Columbia River on State Route 14 east of intersection with U.S. 97.

- 11 MARYHILL MUSEUM**
Museum of fine arts founded by Samuel Hill. On State Route 14 two miles west of intersection with U.S. 97.
- 12 HORSETHIEF LAKE STATE PARK**
Day use site with boating facilities on the lake and on the Columbia River. State Route 14.
- 13 BEACON ROCK STATE PARK**
25 campsites, restrooms with hot showers, boat launching ramp, hiking trails. 6 miles west of Bonneville Dam, State Route 14.
- 14 FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**
For two decades this stockaded fur-trading post was headquarters and depot for all activities of the Hudson's Bay Company west of the Rocky Mountains. Within the City of Vancouver.
- 15 PARADISE POINT STATE PARK**
69 campsites, restrooms with hot showers, boat launching ramp. 4 miles south of Woodland on Interstate 5.

- 16 MONTICELLO CONVENTION MARKER**
Where northern residents of Oregon Territory petitioned Congress for creation of Washington Territory. Within the City of Longview; near Monticello Hotel.
- 17 LEWIS AND CLARK CAMPSITE STATE PARK**
The campsite of Nov. 15 to 24, 1805, from which Lewis and Clark first saw the breakers of the Pacific Ocean. 2 mi. S. of Chinook U.S. 101.
- 18 FORT COLUMBIA STATE PARK**
On Chinook Point, a Registered National Historic Landmark. Interpretive Center. 1 mi. S. of Chinook U.S. 101.
- 19 FORT CANBY STATE PARK**
On November 18, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived here thus completing its goal of reaching the Pacific Ocean. Tent campsites and 60 trailer hookups. 2 miles west of Ilwaco.
- 20 FORT CLATSOP NATIONAL MEMORIAL**
Replica of Lewis and Clark's winter quarters of 1805-06. Visitor center. 4½ miles southwest of Astoria, Oregon.