New Comprehensive Management Plan

Federal, tribal, state, and local partnerships formed during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial are critical to developing a collaborative approach to post-bicentennial trail administration. Under the auspices of the federal Interagency Memorandum of Understanding for trails administration, the LECL field leadership group is working to capture the “lessons learned” from the bicentennial through an assessment of what did and did not work in terms of planning and partnering. This assessment will involve hundreds of bicentennial partners, will help form descriptions of issues to be addressed in the new Comprehensive Management Plan, including how the experiences of the bicentennial can productively influence trail administration in the long term. The assessment will supplement the public scoping for the Comprehensive Management Plan, anticipated to begin during Fiscal Year 2008.

Trail History Education Initiative

One of the more exciting projects the trail is working on is to use existing curricular materials developed by tribal and other partners, plus new materials based on the Corps II presentations, to augment educational programs both along and outside the trail corridor. This is an especially effective approach for sharing the rich and diverse history of cultures, including American Indian, African American, and European American, associated with the trail. The American Indian Liaison and Chief of Interpretation & Education are leading this effort.
Challenge Cost Share Program

For Fiscal Year 2007, the trail is transitioning from a separate and specific Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program back to the National Historic and Scenic Trails CCS program. When the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LECL) share of the general trails CCS is known, our website will be updated with application information and eligibility criteria. In the interim, LECL staff continue to provide advice and technical support for existing CCS projects, particularly those involving non-personal interpretive services.

Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future

The traveling exhibit *Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future* was decommissioned in September 2006, following the final Signature Event of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in St. Louis. Trail staff members have been organizing and copying the presentations recorded in the exhibit’s “Tent of Many Voices” from January 2003 through September 2006. We are beginning the process of assessing the collection from Corps II, including the presentations, news articles, venue information materials, administrative records, and donated objects. These items will form an archival collection which can be used for historical research and development of interpretive and educational programs along the trail.