

Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks & Public Lands

Witness Statement

LEWIS AND CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE

MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

History

The Lewis and Clark State Historic Site commemorates the contribution of Illinois to the famed cross-continent expedition (1803-1806) led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark at the request of President Thomas Jefferson. The two explorers began their journey by establishing a winter base camp on December 13, 1803 near what is now Hartford, Illinois. They spent the winter recruiting, training and outfitting an expedition company of forty before setting forth up the Missouri River on May 14, 1804. It took eighteen months for the expedition to reach the Pacific coast and another ten months before the Corps of Discovery returned to St. Louis on September 23, 1806. Lewis and Clark's exploits demonstrated the feasibility of an overland route west, added to the scientific knowledge and stimulated western settlement and commerce. The story of Illinois' contribution has long been overlooked, but greatly deserves to be told.

Site History

The State of Illinois administers the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Illinois owns fourteen acres, leases two and one-half acres from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and oversees 39.11 acres owned by the National Park Service. Together these properties comprise the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site. Currently the state has erected a monument (1978) in tribute of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, overlooking the rivers. State funds constructed the monument, access roads, and parking. More than 35,000 visitors annually visit the monument.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is planning a world-class visitors/education center to be constructed on the Lewis and Clark site. The center is to relate to the Lewis and Clark National Trail and emphasize the Illinois Lewis and Clark story. The architectural firm Nagle, Hartray, Danker, Kagan, McKay from Chicago has been hired to design an 18,000 square foot facility to serve as an information/education center and administrative facility for the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site. Exhibit designers Hilferty Associates, Athens, Ohio and media production firm Donna Lawrence Production, Louisville, Kentucky, have been hired to design exhibits and media shows to convey the history of the site.

Conceptual design is nearly complete. Construction design is expected to be complete by March, 2000 with construction scheduled to begin during the summer of 2000. The Visitor Center, maintenance building, day-use area, parking and access roads are expected to be completed by fall, 2001. This allows the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site to be operating and program events and activities to be part of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery in 2003-2006.

Visitor Center Funding

The State of Illinois has appropriated \$2,940,000 for construction of the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center. United States Congress appropriated \$4,000,000 in the current fiscal year for the Lewis and Clark Visitors Center. The total \$6,940,000 will be utilized to design and construct a world-

class Lewis and Clark Center. Illinois has also set aside an additional \$350,000 of Park Road Funds to construct access roads, parking and improvements in support of the Lewis and Clark Center.

Operational Responsibility

The State of Illinois will be responsible for all management, operations, and programs provided at the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site. The state will appropriate an annual operating budget for the site. Future capital improvements will also be the responsibility of the state.

Operating Budget (Projected)

Personnel Services 129.3

Site Superintendent (36.0)

Staff Development Specialist (30.0)

Historic Site Interpreter (24.0)

Site Technician II (27.3)

Seasonal Staff (2) (12.0)

Pension Pick-UP (4%) 5.2

Retirement (9.714%) 12.6

Social Security (7.65%) 9.9

Contractual Services 22.0

Commodities 4.5

Telecommunications 1.7

Operation of Automotive Equipment 1.5

Travel .6

Equipment 12.6

Permanent Improvements 25.0

Total: 224.9

Land Transfer Request

The State of Illinois is requesting land transfer of the 39.11 acres currently owned by the National Park Service to be developed as the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site.

Illinois will assume all responsibility for administering programs and operations of the site. Future capital improvements will also be the responsibility of the state.

The state's commitment for the long-term responsibility for the development of the site can be more easily

accomplished by ownership of the 39.11 acres. Expenditure of state funds for capital improvements requires ownership of the land or extended long-term leases.

The National Park Service has been consulted regarding the transfer of property and concurs that since the State of Illinois has committed to the long-term management and development of the site, ownership should be with the state.

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site Future

The transfer of property to facilitate construction of the world-class Illinois Lewis and Clark Visitor Center will allow the site to be developed and operating in advance of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. We anticipate more than 200,000 people per year will visit the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site.

The Illinois site will serve as the first visitor experience along the thirteen-state National Lewis and Clark Trail. Illinois has committed current and future resources to making this site a quality visitor experience.

Conveyance of Land

Description: The land requested to be conveyed consists of 39.11 acres located in the north half of section 16, Township 4 north, range 9 west, third principal meridian, Madison County, Illinois. The exact acreage and legal description of the land shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of Interior. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the State of Illinois.

Use: The State of Illinois, acting through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, shall use the conveyed land as an historic site and interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

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Summary

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is requesting transfer of 39.11 acres owned by the National Park Service to be developed as part of the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site. A world-class Visitor/Education Center is being designed and will be constructed on this property to be open to the visiting public in advance of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. The State of Illinois will administer all programs, events and operations of the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site.