A Report To The President of the United States of America From The Staff of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Project The Corps of Discovery II 200 Years to the Future

St. Louis Semptember 22, 2006

Sir,

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you the safe arrival of our party at this place, with the products, equipment and compelling memories of our journey. In obedience to your orders, we have traveled the United States to the Pacific Ocean, and sufficiently visited the interior of the country to affirm with confidence that the commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition has been successful in its inclusiveness, its educational effectiveness, and its positive impact on relationships between diverse communities and individuals.

We view this passage, across the Continent, as affording immense advantages to the creation of a national network of collaborative partnerships for the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage, but fear that the advantages of this network will not be sustained without a collective effort to establish these successes as the legacy of this endeavor.

The desire to create a legacy is a powerful, universal human emotion that shapes the lives

of parents, educators, and politicians alike. We work with inspiration, guidance, and ambition to pass on our heritage to others. Two hundred years ago, President Thomas Jefferson built his legacy as he vicariously explored the nation's newest land through the members of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. They traveled with his list of goals: establish a trade network across the country, befriend the American Indians encountered, and confirm or deny the theory of an all-water Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean. In 1806, they returned to tell Jefferson of their trip's challenges, diverse peoples met, and unwavering determination that created success.

To commemorate Jefferson's legacy, Corps of Discovery II set out in 2003 with similar goals: trade knowledge across the country, befriend American communities along the way, and follow the Missouri and Columbia rivers to the Pacific. While there is still no Northwest Passage, we found passages of hope, partnership, and understanding. Today we return to St. Louis with similar stories of arduous travel, diverse and welcoming communities, and satisfaction in creating a legacy of knowledge.

Given two centuries of change between the two trips, our Corps of Discovery II is oddly similar

to the original Corps. We have tailors, repairmen, cooks, crafters, boaters, traders, scientists, writers, artists and interpreters. We are historians, ecologists, veterans, American Indian liasons, engineers, truck drivers, and technicians. We are westerners, easterners, northerners, southerners, and Alaskans. We are the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Legacy Transportation, and other federal and state agencies. We joined this journey with various personal goals, from desire to see the countryside to hope of establishing career connections. But all enlisted with one ambition in common: to create a legacy. That focus blended this mixed group of people with different skills and backgrounds into a community.

There was nothing typical about the Corps II family road trip. Though it was not a camping trip, we brought tents bigger than anything Coleman has ever patented. We spent the past four years traveling from Monticello, Virginia, through Saint Louis to the Pacific Ocean, and even included a winter tour through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. Our crew bounced from town to town, calling hotels "the home and the office". We turned gravel parking lots and baseball diamonds into Lewis and Clark Museums and community discussion forums.

We visited communities with populations in the thousands and some with populations in the dozens. One ranger wrote of Hazen, North Dakota:

"We stayed in the only hotel in town, ate at all three of the restaurants in town, and met nearly everyone who lived there on our first day."

Serendipity brought us a contractor, aptly named Legacy, to aid us in building our legacy. With their expert guidance, Park Rangers, National Guardsmen, and community volunteers became a crew that would make the most well oiled machine seem creaky. This "expert" crew labored to build the exhibit in two days! We presented our exhibit at various venues for as few as 3 days; for as long as 2 weeks. At the close of each run the pieces were dismantled and the process began again, a day or so later at a new location. After each departure, all we left behind were fond memories, photographs, miles of video tape, and the new connections of partnerships we had helped to establish and nourish.

In each community along the route, we set up three huge tents to house our exhibits and programs. Under one tent was a child-sized model of the Keelboat loaned by the Army Corps of Engineers. In another tent, a walk through story of the Expedition was illustrated in paintings and

photographs imprinted on canvas walls. The largest tent housed the signature piece of Corps II, the Tent of Many Voices. Envisioned as a place where presenters from all walks of life were invited to share their viewpoints of the legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the cultures they met along the way, it became a trading post of knowledge and perspectives. Some presenters were flown in from across the country to share historic fiddle music, to re-enact the life of a Corps member, or to share their traditional culture. Local historians and scholars informed their community of their own legacies from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Many presenters were American Indians telling of their history, culture, and traditions, filling in, as Paul Harvey would say, "the rest of the story."

Without doubt, tribal participation proved the appellation "Tent of Many Voices." Presentations in this tent formed the central offering of our entire commemorative journey. Some stories and discussions were difficult for the presenters to convey, while others were hard for the audience to hear, but all allowed both parties opportunities to grow, learn and understand. We believe our efforts have been positive and effective, and the nation will continue to see positive fruits from these efforts.

We did all of this in extremes of weather: rain, snow, wind, sun, and heat. Rain was especially prevalent in our journey. Last year, someone remarked that Corps II was a national drought relief effort come to life. We brought some measure of precipitation to all but a handful of our host communities.

The Lewis and Clark Trail is more than a physical landscape through eleven states; it is the people living on the land, who embody the spirit of the trail. The trail lives in the hearts of the people we met, and its spirit of peace and friendship continues because of those people and their passion for their homeland. As we arrived in a new community, we were welcomed with open arms; treated as extended family. Our new friends offered a taste, literally and figuratively, of an entirely different culture. We were invited to dozens of neighborhood gatherings, barbecues, tribal ceremonies, formal balls, and even a buffalo feast. People wanted to share with us what made their town special and show us where history happened. Many had worked for years to prepare for our arrival, holding meetings, forming committees and work-forces, and building partnerships. Volunteers who spent countless hours planning for our arrival often greeted us with hugs, happy to finally see their effort become reality. This is not unlike the

greetings that the original Corps experienced from the native peoples 200 years ago. Captain Meriwether Lewis wrote of the Shoshone,

"these men then advanced and embraced me very affectionately in their way, which is by putting their left arm over your right shoulder... while they apply their left cheek to yours, saying 'I am much pleased."

The spirit and passion of the citizens we encountered helped us to keep our energy and enthusiasm. We wished to learn from them -- to understand their piece of the country through their eyes. Our quest for a legacy would have been lost without the guidance, hospitality and wisdom of those we met on the Trail.

Without a doubt, the years on the road have been added to each traveler's list of lifetime challenges and accomplishments. Four years and 93 communities later, we can honestly say that we are trail-weary, and have been thoroughly challenged. Yet I am proud to say we met the challenges of our journey with perseverance, resolve, and dedication. Every week brought a new "home"... a new "office", another packing nightmare, and still another set-up. Travel days burned a repetition of Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again"

into our ears. Faraway family and friends learned not to ask "Where are you now?" - Knowing that sometimes we weren't certain of the answer. I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone say they moved so often that they couldn't remember their room number. The impermanence was emotionally taxing. A frequent volley in conversation began with the phrase, "After the project, I'm gonna..." and continued with dreams of settling down.

Our colleagues became our closest friends, as we relied on each other to reach the top of the mountain so we could see the horizon, and continue toward it, creating our legacy. When Lewis stood on Lemhi Pass in the Rockies, he expected to see a plain like the one behind him, and in the distance, the Columbia River leading to the Pacific Ocean. What he saw was an ocean of mountains still to cross. This journey has seen many passes like Lemhi. But, just as the Shoshone gave the men horses and a guide to lead them over the mountains, we have also been blessed with the encouragement of those around us. As they traveled, Lewis and Clark's ten-ton cargo of supplies kept getting lighter with little hope of re-supply. Thankfully, our ten-ton supply of inspiration, guidance and

ambition kept being replenished by those we met on the way.

Each community along the trail had its own story to tell. Part of that, but only part, was the Lewis and Clark connection among them. As each community focused attention on the story of Lewis and Clark connection among them. As each community focused attention on the story of Lewis and Clark, new connections were opened to their pasts. When they lived in a moment from two centuries ago drew forth a larger and more diverse world of history - the history of indigenous peoples, those American Indian nations, along the Trail. It was the history of people of European, Asian and African descent. It was the history of women and children. Corps of Discovery II invited all to revitalize their own history by telling their stories and sharing their cultures with us, with each other, and with the nation.

Mr. President, the lasting legacy of this journey has been the relationships with people. The members of the Corps of Discovery II have become life long friends. We have made individual friendships in the

communities that we have visited. We have met and worked closely with many other Federal Agencies and have come to respect their roles in our endeavor. Relationships have been made through this project, and the valuable partnerships it fostered will endure in communities across this nation.

Finally, we are humbled to have been able to participate in this monumental undertaking. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

With every sentiment of esteem,

The Staff of Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Presented by Laura Clifford, Park Ranger, at the final Signature Event of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Saint Louis, Missouri.

Chirography by Eleonora Dillewaard, Park Ranger

Staff, Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future

National Park Service Corps II Staff

Wanda L. Anderson, Park Ranger, July 2004 - September 2006
Angela R. Bates, Park Ranger, February 2004 - June 2006
Matthew C. Buckner, Audiovisual Technician, March 2005 - June 2006
Erin K. Buckner, Park Ranger, January 2005 - September 2006
Laura M. Clifford, Park Ranger, February 2004 - September 2006
Jonathan K. Crisler, Field Manager, April 2005 - September 2006
Karissa A. De Carlo, Park Ranger, January 2006 - September 2006
Eleonora J. S. Dillenbeard, Park Ranger, June 2003 - September 2006
Mary Ellen Engle, Park Ranger, February 2004 - September 2006
Amy J. Fenke, Park Ranger, Feb 2004 - Sept 2005 & Aug - Sept 2006
William P. George, Park Ranger, January 2005 - December 2005
Keena N. Graham, Park Ranger, December 2005 - July 2006
Ethren L. Gross, Park Ranger, Jan - July 2003 & Jan 2005 - Sept. 2006
Rebecca A. Havens, Park Ranger, December 2005 - September 2006
Nancy M. Hoppe, Supervisory Park Ranger, May 2006 - September 2006
Patricia D. Jones, Field Manager, December 2002 - March 2005
Warren C. Kasper, Supervisory Park Ranger, December 2002 - February 2006
Judith A. Lakomy, Park Ranger, September 2004 - September 2005
Charles C. Lassiter, Jr., Park Ranger, Feb - Nov 2004 & July - Sept 2006
Carol L. Mc Bryant, Chief of Logistics, December 2002 - August 2004
Brayden N. Mitchell, Park Ranger, February 2004 - September 2006
John S. Phillips, Park Ranger, March 2004 - November 2004
Trent T. Redfield, Park Ranger, January 2005 - September 2006

National Park Service Corps II Initial & Temporary Staff

Stephen Brown, Ellen Cox, Heidi Dietze, Jim Dougan, Scott Eckberg, Daniel Fagergren, Gene Finke, Curtis Gregory, Brian Hall, Craig Hanson, Betsy Haynes, Diana Mallickan, John McCarthy, Karla Sigala, June Stewart, Scott Tucker, Philip Wu.

Contributing Bureau Corps II Staff

Richard Fichtler, Bureau of Land Management
Margaret J. Gorski, United States Forest Service
Stephen Morehouse, Bureau of Reclamation
Jeannine M. Nauss, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Legacy Transportation Corps II Staff

Rick Alpi, January 2003 - December 2003
Wayne Barber, February 2006 - September 2006
Denver Cain, January 2003 - September 2006
Shanna Cain, January 2003 - September 2006
Beverly Diggert, January 2003 - September 2006
Stephen Dennis, March 2003 - December 2005
Meagan Kirst, January 2003 - September 2006
Duane Meinbender, Feb 2004 - Nov 2004 & June 2006 - Sept 2006
Nay Zanteson, January 2003 - September 2006

National Park Service Corps II Support Staff

Richard C. Basch, Lead American Indian Liason, May 2003-Sept. 2006
Darrell R. Martin, American Indian Liason, Nov 2004-February 2006
Jeffrey G. Olson, Public Information Officer, February 2003-June 2006
LaTonya N. Miller, Public Information Officer, July 2006-September 2006
Sandra J. Vequist, Administrative Assistant, January 2003-Sept. 2006

National Park Service Corps II Management Staff

Fran P. Maniella, Director
Ernest Quintana, Regional Director, Midwest Region
David N. Given, Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region
Gerard A. Baker, Superintendent, LECL, August 2000-May 2004
Stephen C. Adams, Superintendent, LECL, July 2004-present
Betty J. Boyko, Assistant Superintendent & Corps II Manager, LECL

Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future
The Places He Visited

2003

Monticello, Virginia - January 14-18
Lynchburg, Virginia - February 16-25
Washington, District of Columbia - March 4-24
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia - March 28 - April 18
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania - April 23 - May 3
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania - May 9-20
Baltimore, Maryland - May 25 - June 1
Montpelier, Virginia - June 7-15
Wheeling, West Virginia, June 21-29
Point Marion, Pennsylvania - July 4-11
Woodsfield, Ohio - July 16-20
Huntington, Virginia - July 26-31
Indianapolis, Indiana - August 6-17
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - August 23 - September 7
Ashland, Kentucky - September 13-17
Rising Sun, Indiana - September 22-28
Maysville, Kentucky, October 3-8
Louisville, Kentucky, October 14-19
Clarksville, Indiana - October 23-28
Henderson, Kentucky - November 2-6
Paducah, Kentucky - November 11-16
Cairo, Illinois - November 20-24
Cape Girardeau, Missouri - Nov. 30 - Dec 4
Chester, Illinois - December 8-13

2004

Saint Louis, Missouri - March 9-14
Cahokia, Illinois - March 18-22
Alton, Illinois - March 27 - April 1
Red Lake, Illinois - April 7-11
Springfield, Missouri - April 17-25
Saint Genevieve, Missouri - May 1-4
Hartford, Illinois - May 10-15
Saint Charles, Missouri - May 20-23
Jefferson City, Missouri - June 1-6
Boonville, Missouri - June 11-14
Fort Osage, Missouri - June 18-22
Kansas City, Kansas - June 26 - July 4
Saint Joseph, Missouri - July 9-12
Nebraska City, Nebraska - July 16-18
Omaha, Nebraska - July 24-27
Blair, Nebraska - July 31 - August 4
Macy, Nebraska - August 9-12
Sioux City, Iowa - August 17-22
Chamberlain, South Dakota - August 26-30
Eagle Butte, South Dakota - September 3-9
Fort Pierre, South Dakota, Sept. 18 - Oct. 3
Stanton, North Dakota - October 9-13
Bismarck, North Dakota - October 22-31

2005

Phoenix, Arizona - January 10-16
Tucson, Arizona - January 22-30
Albuquerque, New Mexico - February 5-13
San Antonio, Texas - March 5-13
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - March 19-23
Hazen, North Dakota, April 1-7
Watford City, North Dakota, April 12-18
Williston, North Dakota - April 23 - May 1
Fort Peck, Montana - May 6-9
Glasgow, Montana - May 14-17
Fort Benton, Montana - June 3-12
Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana - June 17-20
Great Falls, Montana - June 25 - July 4
Helena, Montana - July 9-17
Bozeman, Montana July 22-31
Dillon, Montana - August 5-8
Salmon, Idaho - August 13-21
Hamilton, Montana - August 31 - September 3
Lolo, Montana - September 8-11
Kamiah, Idaho - September 16-26
Clarkston, Washington - October 1-9
Tri-Cities, Washington - October 14-17
Umatilla, Oregon - October 21-24
The Dalles, Oregon - October 28-31
Long Beach, Washington, November 7-15
Seaside, Oregon - November 19-22
Vancouver, Washington - November 28 - Dec. 11

2006

St. Helens, Oregon - March 13-20
Grand Ronde, Oregon - March 25 - April 2
Stevenson, Washington - April 7-10
Toppinish, Washington - April 14-17
Warm Springs, Oregon - April 22-25
Pendleton, Oregon - April 29 - May 7
Dayton, Washington - May 12-15
Boise, Idaho - May 20-29
Lewiston, Idaho - June 5-17
Missoula, Montana - June 23-25
Lincoln, Montana - June 30 - July 2
Browning, Montana - July 7-10
Crow Agency, Montana - July 15-18
Billings, Montana - July 22-25
Miles City, Montana - July 30 - August 3
Sidney, Montana - August 8-12
New Town, North Dakota - August 17-20
Washburn, North Dakota, August 25-28
Ponca State Park, Nebraska - September 2-5
Atchison, Kansas - September 14-18
Saint Louis, Missouri - September 22-24

Elsie Dillewaard
Corps of Discovery II
2006

Elsie Dillewaard
Corps of Discovery II
2006