

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor



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Governor Kulongoski Celebrates “Fort to Sea” Project in Clatsop County
Trail will commemorate Lewis and Clark’s historic journey from Fort Clatsop to the ocean

(Fort Clatsop, Oregon) – Governor Ted Kulongoski today visited Fort Clatsop to celebrate a successful project to construct a trail from the Fort Clatsop National Memorial through Sunset Beach to the sea, and to expand the existing National Park Service facility.

“This project is a wonderful example of what we can accomplish when we bring together local, state and federal partners,” said the Governor. “The Fort-to-Sea project will commemorate an important part of our history and will add a beautiful stretch of Oregon coast to the vibrant park system that visitors and Oregonians already enjoy.”

In conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, the “Fort-to-Sea” trail will commemorate the historic trail Lewis and Clark took to reach the ocean from their winter shelter at Fort Clatsop. The trail is scheduled to be completed by 2005, in time for Oregon’s signature event for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial that will occur in November of 2005.

Last week, the Clatsop County commissioners voted unanimously to convey 149 unspoiled acres at Sunset Beach to the Oregon State Parks. This transaction will create an oceanfront state park and provide for the terminus of the Fort-to-Sea Trail. Oregon State Parks and the National Park Service are working as partners to construct the Fort-to-Sea Trail, as well as a Trailhead at Sunset Beach.

“Two hundred years ago, the success of the Corps of Discovery relied on the strength of its partnerships -the teamwork of the members of the Corps of Discovery – and the relationships developed with the Native Americans the explorers met on their journey,” said Helen Westbrook, Chairperson of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners. “We would not be here today to celebrate if not for our partners and their willingness to work together for the public good.”

(more)

Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Gordon Smith and Congressman David Wu successfully led the effort for Congressional approval of the National Parks boundary expansion and helped secure \$1.25 million in federal funding for the land acquisition through the Department of Interior.

Other successes to date include Oregon Transportation Commission approval of a \$1.5 million investment in federal Transportation Enhancement Funds by ODOT to build the pedestrian underpass to allow the Fort to the Sea trail to cross under Hwy 101.

The Governor designated the Fort-to-Sea Trail as his first Oregon Solutions project in March 2003 in order to facilitate collaboration between local, state and federal partners on issues such as trail location, trail ownership, design, funding and construction, transportation solutions and other economic and community implications.

The Oregon Solutions Team, convened by State Representative Betsy Johnson and community member June Spence, includes:

- Clatsop County
- Fort Clatsop National Monument, US National Park Service
- Governor's Economic Revitalization Office
- Northwest Economic Revitalization Team members:
 - Oregon Department of Transportation
 - Department of Environmental Quality
 - Oregon Economic and Community Development
 - Division of State Lands
 - Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Oregon Military Department (Camp Rilea)
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Weyerhaeuser Corporation

For more information about the Fort-to-the-Sea project, contact Robin Roberts, coordinator with the Governor's Economic Revitalization Team, at 503-988-3962 or Pete Dalke, coordinator with the Oregon Solutions Office and DEQ staff to the Economic Revitalization Team, at 503-229-5588.