



## Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Interpretive Sign Maintenance Fund Grant Guidelines

### V.1.14.1

#### **Background**

In preparation for commemorating the 2005-2006 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Montana, the Montana Governor's Bicentennial Commission provided a significant amount of funding to various entities across the state to develop and install Wayside Interpretive Signs along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Montana. At the close of the Bicentennial, the Commission granted \$50,000 to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to establish a grant program to help maintain the signs that were installed during the Bicentennial. This fund has been established and is called the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Montana Interpretive Sign Maintenance Fund.

#### **Purpose of the Montana Bicentennial Interpretive Sign Maintenance Fund**

For the replacement or maintenance of Interpretive Signs along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in the State of Montana.

#### **Who is Eligible?**

- **First Priority:** MT Bicentennial Commission Funded, community based non-profit organizations who were awarded grant funding during the Bicentennial to install interpretive Signs:
  - Camp Fortunate Chapter
  - Park County
  - Stevensville Civic Club/Project Pride
  - Lewis and Clark County LC Bicentennial Commission-Lincoln
  - Great Falls Park and Recreation Department
  - Headwaters RC&D
  - Headwaters Chapter
  - Montana Community Development Corporation and Travelers Rest Heritage and Preservation Association
  - Golden Triangle LC Bicentennial Commission
  - Lower Yellowstone LC Regional Committee
  - LC Trail Bicentennial Commission of Lewis and Clark County
  - Ft. Benton Community Improvement Association, Choteau County
  - Western Mt. Bicentennial Commission
  - Reaching the Rockies Chapter
- **Second Priority:** Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Chapters who have responsibility for interpretive sites in their area, or who partner with other non-profit organizations to work on interpretive signs owned by private or non-profit entities.
- **Third Priority:** Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Chapters, or other organizations who partner with County, State, or Federal agencies to replace or maintain signs on county, state, or federal lands.

Documentation is required to ensure that the funding is being applied to a sign where the individual has the “right to work on it”.

**How much is available?**

Annually there is approximately \$4,500 available to be granted until the fund is exhausted.

The agreement with the Montana Bicentennial Commission requires 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the \$50,000 fund to be distributed every year. A small administrative fee of 10% will be assessed on the total value of the grants distributed every year.

1/10<sup>th</sup> of the remaining funds will be granted in each successive year until the fund is exhausted. The amount granted every year will vary according to the actual total amount of the grants distributed the previous year. It is anticipated the fund will be exhausted in 8-9 years.

**Size of Grants Available**

Maximum Grant Request: \$2,000

Minimum Grant Request: \$500

**Example of What Type of Projects Qualify**

- Stain or Painting of Sign Structures
- Repair of Vandalism, repair of the sign structure.
- Replacement of Graphic Panels
- Mowing Grass and Site Litter Pickup



Typical “Wayside” Interpretive Sign  
Installed by an “Undaunted  
Stewardship” Grant



Typical Three Panel Kiosk  
Lewis’ Return Route, Blackfoot. Installed by the  
Blackfoot Challenge w/ NPS Grant

**Grant Application Deadline May 1**

**Recipients notified @ June 1**