



## Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

### Trail Stewardship Policy

(Approved by the Board of Directors on March 16, 2012)

#### Background

During the Bicentennial (2003-2006) of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (hereafter, "Expedition"), the United States Mint produced and sold 500,000 silver commemorative dollar coins. In 2006, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (hereafter, "Foundation"), the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and the Missouri Historical Society signed an agreement (hereafter, "Fund Agreement") authorizing the transfer of approximately \$1.6 million of the proceeds from the sale of the coins to the Foundation for the establishment of the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project (hereafter, "Endowment"). The Fund Agreement included a set of guidelines that specified that the income from the Endowment be used for the purpose of preservation, protection, and interpretation of the natural, historic, educational, and cultural resources of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Agreement also specified that the Foundation create the Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee (hereafter, "Committee") to recommend to the Board of Directors of the Foundation the types of distributions to be made to promote Trail Stewardship.

#### Scope of Trail Stewardship

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, administered by the National Park Service, encompasses the pathways taken by the Expedition in 11 states between Camp Wood River, Illinois and the Pacific in 1804-1805, and during their return to St. Louis, Missouri in 1806. Over the past few years, the Foundation has led the effort to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include what is referred to as the "Eastern Legacy," the paths travelled by Captains Lewis and Clark and other Expedition members in 1803-1804 before they arrived at Camp Wood River and in 1806 as some returned to points East. The Committee believes that it is appropriate to use income from the Endowment for specific Trail Stewardship projects along both the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy paths of the Expedition, and for the general work of the Foundation that enhances the public understanding of and support for preservation and

protection of the National Lewis and Clark Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy pathways, and of specific sites along those routes.

Trail Stewardship includes the following activities:

Educating our membership, the public, government agencies, and elected officials as to the importance, relevance, and need for adequate funding and protection of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Educating our membership, the public, government agencies, and elected officials as to the importance and relevance of the Eastern Legacy pathways to the complete history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and to advocate its approval by Congress.

Establishing formal stewardship partnerships with a wide diversity of tribal, public, and private institutions, corporations, and individuals to monitor the Expedition's route along the Eastern Legacy pathways and the National Lewis and Clark Historic Trail to ensure the preservation of its historic sites and encourage positive recreation ethics.

Ensuring that public access to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy pathways is maintained and that existing roads and/or trails remain open to the public where appropriate.

Providing continued vigilance over the Lewis and Clark Trail National Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy pathways at their most historically important sites to protect their natural resources from negative impacts and make every effort to preserve the nature of the routes.

Targeting youth by increasing children's awareness of, and involvement in, trail stewardship programs.

Assisting chapters and others in identifying sites and providing interpretation that accurately interprets the historic sites along the National Lewis and Clark Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy pathways.

Promoting cultural diversity and tribal stewardship initiatives.

Encouraging sustainability in all stewardship activities.

Providing documentation, when requested, on the relevance and significance of an historic site relating to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy pathways.

Encouraging dialogue about trail stewardship throughout the nation.