



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Lewis and Clark National Historical Park News Release

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**Lewis and Clark National Historical Park seeks public input on project that would reconnect historic tidal wetlands with the Netul (Lewis and Clark) River**



**ASTORIA, Ore.** – Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is seeking public input on a plan to restore 28.5 acres of historic tidal wetlands in the Netul (Lewis and Clark) River. Lewis and Clark National Historical Park proposes to collaborate with the Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and other partners.

The project intends to restore valuable estuarine habitat and provide enhanced flood protection to neighboring properties through the construction of a new setback levee on a neighboring

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agricultural field. It would also enhance the visitor experience by providing a flow-through channel for ranger-led kayak tours through the restored floodplain.

“Completing this project will contribute to re-creating the historic tidal marsh setting of Fort Clatsop and provide increased visitor kayaking opportunities,” said interim Superintendent Paul Hosten. “It will also meet our mandate to reestablish natural functions and processes within the lands we manage and contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered salmon runs in the Columbia River system.”

At the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the site of Fort Clatsop was a hill above the river surrounded by tidal marsh on both the north and south. These tidelands were diked in the 19th and early 20th centuries and converted from wetland to pastureland.

In 1995, the park worked with partners and the public to complete a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. The plan recommends restoring pasturelands to historic tidal wetland conditions where feasible.

The site known as East Netul is directly across from the popular kayak launch at Netul Landing, approximately one mile south of the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

This project will complement previous work the partners have completed within the park at Otter Point (2012) and Colewort Creek (2013) and assist in the recovery of anadromous fish populations within the Youngs Bay watershed and greater Columbia River system.

The proposed project area falls within the designated critical habitat for two species that are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Past fish presence monitoring data conducted within the Netul (Lewis and Clark) River and previously restored off-channel wetlands in the same reach as the project site have documented the presence of coho, chinook, steelhead, and chum salmonids, as well as cutthroat trout.

All species of migrating salmonids and anadromous fish rely on high quality estuarine wetlands and off-channel habitats for feeding and refuge.

To meet our objectives of restoring the historic scene and enhancing salmon rearing habitat, we are considering the following actions:

- Levee breaches and dike lowering
- Shoreline improvements
- Tidegate removal & installation of setback fish-friendly tidegates
- Tidal channel excavation
- Marshplain grading
- Construction of a new setback levee
- Large wood placement
- Native plant community establishment

The park is seeking public input as they begin to draft an environmental assessment for this project. There will be a range of alternatives and officials will evaluate the potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, and the human environment. This initial public scoping period will run from Jan. 20 through Feb. 20, 2025.

If you have any questions or wish to comment, please do so here:  
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/EastNetul>.

For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/lewi](http://www.nps.gov/lewi), and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

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