



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bison Range Discovery Workshops - Explore the Geology and Prairie of the Refuge

During the next few years, there will be a number of events to bring alive the Lewis and Clark expedition to the west. And it may become overwhelming. But to put it into perspective, all you need to do is look around you. And remember that the landscapes you see today were seen by Lewis and Clark and the members of the Corps as well as by the native Americans met, and not met, along the way. While much has changed over the past 200 years, the basic shape and nature of the land has not.

Lewis and Clark and their company missed out on viewing the Mission Valley, choosing a route to the south. However, much of what they encountered can be seen at the National Bison Range. The Refuge plans to host a number of Discovery Workshops over the next few years to explore what the Corps encountered, what is still around to see, the changes over time and how we can protect what we have for future "explorers."

This spring, join us for two workshops as we lay the foundation for the journey. On Saturday, May 15, we will start with what shaped the very land on which Lewis Clark once walked and on which we walk today. Two hundred years is a blink of an eye for geologic forces so the mountains and prairies, rivers and lakes which we see today were seen by those who lived and traveled the land all those years ago. We will discuss the geology of the land and how glaciers and the famous (or infamous) Glacial Lake Missoula shaped it as we travel across the landscape during a bus trip over Red Sleep Mountain Drive.

Then on Saturday, June 19, we'll be in the field exploring the plant life that blankets the land. We'll look at native plants and learn how and why they grow here. We will also cover threats to their well-being, such as noxious weeds and land use, as well as what we can do to insure their survival. We'll practice documenting and pressing plants for educational uses and herbarium collections in the manner Lewis and Clark used (and which is still used today).

We invite all to participate in this **DISCOVERY WORKSHOP** sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This workshop will be held at the National Bison Range all day on Saturday, May 15 and Saturday, June 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attend one or both sessions. Educators will be eligible for Office of Public Instruction (OPI) recertification units. Come spend a day at the Bison Range. Discover its diverse plants, animals and habitats. Learn about activities and resources available for students and teachers. Have a good time and enjoy yourself. Preregistration is required for all participants. For information and registration forms, contact Pat Jamieson at the National Bison Range, 406-644-2211, ext 207. There is a \$15.00 registration fee.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses over 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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