

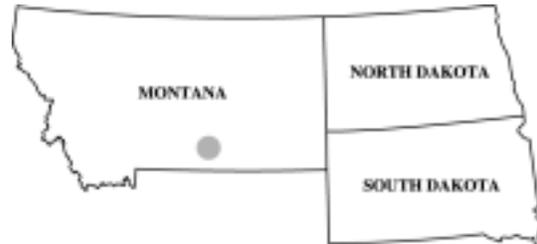


July 2004

INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT POMPEYS PILLAR NATIONAL MONUMENT

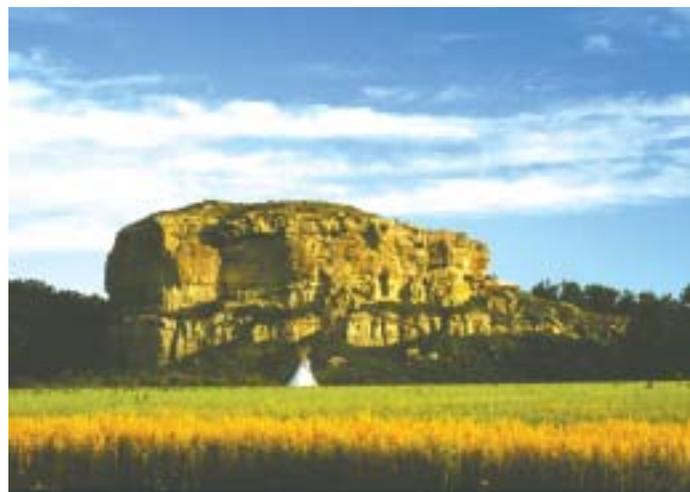
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- Pompeys Pillar National Monument has been designated by the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council as the site of one of 15 national Lewis & Clark Signature events. The Pompeys Pillar Signature event will be in July 2006.
- Construction has begun on a 5,700-square foot new interpretive center and related infrastructure improvements. Two Congressional appropriations totalling \$4.9 million have made this project possible. The new interpretive center and exhibits will be completed in the summer of 2005.



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Pompeys Pillar is a 121-foot sandstone butte 28 miles northeast of Billings, Montana. The only known physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that is still visible along the trail is Captain Clark's signature which he carved into the Pillar on July 25, 1806. He recorded doing so in his journal.
- The BLM purchased Pompeys Pillar November 22, 1991, for its historic significance and its interpretive and recreational potential.
- In 1992, the BLM constructed limited facilities for the protection of resources and the comfort and safety of visitors. Facilities included a small, log contact station and a stairway to Clark's signature and the top of the Pillar.
- The Pompeys Pillar Historical Association has worked closely with BLM in the acquisition, operation and development of this site. It has also agreed to raise \$2 million to match an FY1999 \$2 million Congressional appropriation to go toward the construction of a new interpretive center.
- In FY2002, Congress appropriated an additional \$2.9 million for construction of the center.
- The site's designation as a national monument on January 17, 2001, was widely supported.



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- We need to remain cognizant of our ability to fund annual operation and maintenance costs. We will need to explore all available means to provide funding to keep the center open, especially since the community has expressed a strong desire to have the facility open year-round.

WHO ELSE IS CONCERNED?

- Public interest is high regarding both the site itself and construction of an interpretive center.
- Feedback from public meetings, briefings for elected officials, and public comment letters has been generally favorable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Richard Kodeski, Pompeys Pillar National Monument Manager, at (406) 896-5235.

