

Purchasing Rare Books and Manuscripts: The purchase of these materials by the Montana Historical Society as suggested in testimony for HB164 is an incredibly expensive proposition, and the funds are not adequate to do this and everything else. The Trail Heritage Foundation has a substantial library and archival collection in Great Falls. Why duplicate another existing and successful program?

Regarding Government involvement at the three Lewis and Clark sites: First, while Traveler's Rest is a State Park, it receives no state funding whatsoever. The private, non-profit that runs it receives no state funds, according to Loren Flynn, their Executive Director. The BLM at Pompeys Pillar and the Forest Service at the Interpretive Center do not fund anything beyond the bare minimum operating costs. Any educational programs, exhibits, marketing/advertising and facilities expansion, etc. are the responsibility of the private non-profits.

Funding Options: The three Lewis and Clark sites are limited in scope and so are their funding options. The Society has an endowment through its private foundation. None of the three L&C organizations have been around long enough to establish endowments. The Society has a \$3.7 million annual budget, as was noted in the hearing. Other budgets are \$275,000 for Traveler's Rest, and approx. \$150,000 each for the Interpretive Center and Pompeys Pillar.

Indian Tribe and Rural Community Involvement: All three Lewis and Clark sites have many programs involving rural communities and our state's Indian Tribes. The Interpretive Center, for example, has partnered with the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance for several years, and paid tribal members for hosting an encampment at the Center. This summer tribal members will participate in cultural demonstrations over a 2-day period, at a cost of \$15,000. Indian Voices is another program where individuals from some of the tribes are compensated for speaking and giving evening presentations in the summer. Rural communities benefit with special programs that reach out into these communities, and through school tours at the sites. All of the organizations reach well beyond their respective sites, with programs too numerous to mention.

Ongoing Lewis and Clark Duties: The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission is quite competent, and has made plans for much of this. The Commission has, in fact, appointed a Transition Committee which can take care of these details as they come up. Any administrative work can be handled through the Montana Historical Society, and the Transition Committee can devise a fair compensation plan to cover any minimal costs, if any. In addition, Bicentennial Commission staff will have time in the latter half of 2006 to compile a final report for the state and complete the NPS report. Legacy campaign pledges will be very nominal, as most have now been re-directed back to the Interpretive Center, Pompey's Pillar or Travelers' Rest. For the few that are left, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Foundation has offered its services to receive and disburse funds, and provide quarterly reports to the receiving entities for the year or two that this may be necessary. The Interpretive Center Foundation has offered to do this at no cost.

The Focal Point of Lewis and Clark Activities: Clearly, the three major Lewis and Clark sites will continue to be a major tourist draw. Like the anchor stores in a mall, they will drive traffic to secondary locations and destinations, and can help promote other rural activities. Strong and healthy anchor sites with the ability to market and draw tourists year after year will do more to advance Lewis and Clark for everyone in Montana.