



Congressional delegation - 04. 095
Council endorses Proposal. RP/MP
Resolution No. 03 - RP

Amend ment

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE
THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES
OF THE
FORT BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION**

include name Cheyenne (MHA Knife River Villages) National Historical Sites

A Resolution entitled, "Protecting the Garrison Reach of the Missouri River."

WHEREAS, This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and

WHEREAS, The Three Affiliated Tribes Constitution authorizes and empowers the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Tribal Business Council to engage in activity on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and the enrolled members thereof; and

WHEREAS, The Garrison Reach of the Missouri River is home to numerous cultural and historic sites of inestimable value to the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara as well as all citizens of North Dakota and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Many of these sites are threatened by residential and commercial development, especially near the towns of Bismarck, Mandan, and Washburn; and

WHEREAS, The bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition provides an opportunity to protect, as well as increase awareness and appreciation of, cultural and historic sites along the Garrison Reach; and

WHEREAS, The Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Tribal Business Council approved of the creation of a joint task force with the Dacotah Chapter of the Sierra Club in order to work toward the protection of these sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Tribal Business Council hereby endorses the joint task force "Proposal for Protecting the Garrison Reach of the Missouri River" and urges North Dakota's congressional delegation to work toward authorization and implementation of the proposal.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation hereby certify that the tribal Business Council is composed of seven (7) members of whom five (5) constitute a quorum, 5 were present at a **Regular Meeting** thereof duly called, noticed, convened and held on the 21 day of 2003, 2004 that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of Members, members opposed, members abstained, members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED TO CREATE LEWIS & CLARK HISTORICAL PARK

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced that the Bush administration is proposing legislation to expand Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Oregon to include three sites along the lower Columbia River in Washington State. The legislation would rename the park as the Lewis & Clark National Historical Park.

“With the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition underway, it is important to create legislation to protect the sites in Washington where the explorers first camped when they reached the Pacific Ocean,” said Secretary Norton, who chairs the federal Bicentennial commemoration. “Bicentennial visitors and future generations of Americans can then visit the place at the mouth of the Columbia River where Captain William Clark was inspired to exclaim, ‘Ocian in view! O the joy!’ in his November 7, 1805, journal. They can imagine his elation at finally seeing the Pacific at the end of an arduous journey that had started almost three years earlier at President Jefferson’s Virginia home.”

north toward the Square Buttes, it is easy to appreciate the scenes of visionary enchantment that welcomed the Corps of Discovery two centuries ago. It is also easy to appreciate the great reverence for these lands among the Mandan and Hidatsa.

Looking due west from the Double Ditch site evokes a different feeling. Directly across the river from the site there exists a small housing development. In many cases the cottonwoods and native vegetation between the house and the riverbank have been



removed, making the large white structures and riprapped shores all the more apparent. The housing development seriously harms the view from, and therefore the integrity of, the Double Ditch site. It is hard for visitors to appreciate the historic and natural importance of the site itself when the area within view is marred by development.

If development along the Garrison Reach continues at its current pace, the historic integrity of Double Ditch and many other sites along the river will be lost. Fortunately, we still have an opportunity to protect the remaining sites along the Garrison Reach before it is too late.

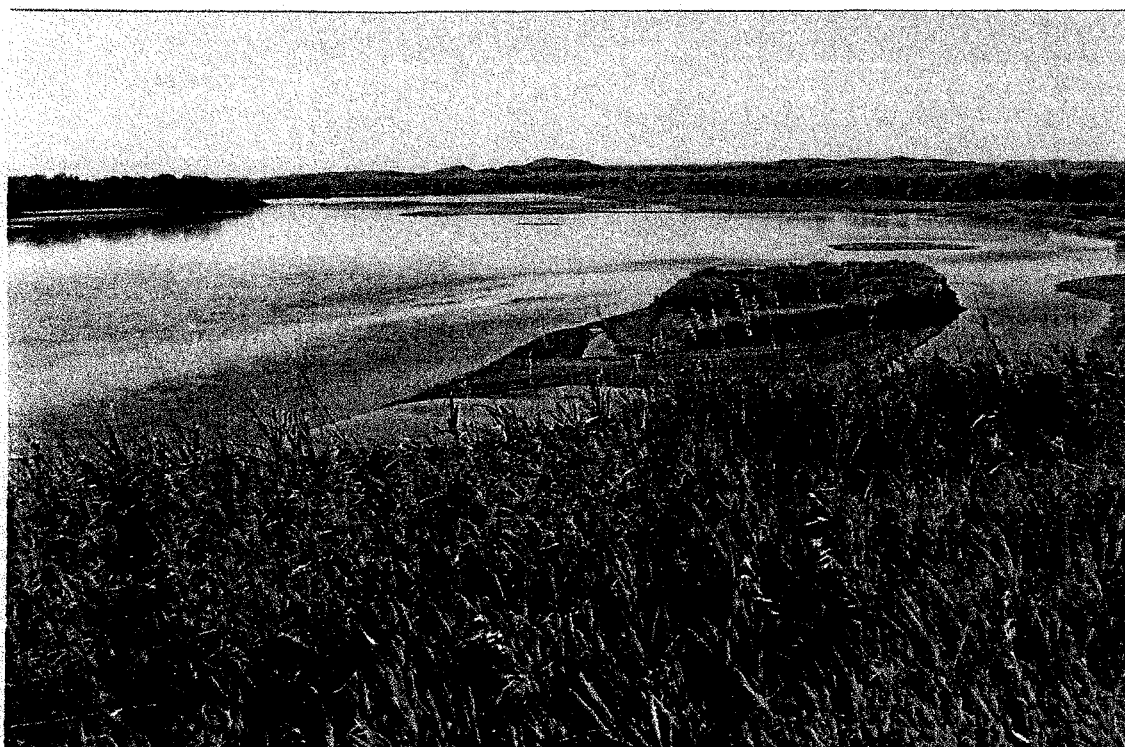
PROPOSED SOLUTION

We propose that North Dakota's congressional delegation seek authorization for the National Park Service (NPS) to expand and rename the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in order to include additional historic, cultural, and scenic sites along the Garrison Reach. Authorization language should include the following provisions:

- 1. National Historic Park Designation.** Legislation should authorize the NPS to rename the existing Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site to the ~~Missouri River National Historic Park~~. The new park will include sites along the Garrison Reach of historic, cultural, and ecological importance.
- 2. Flexibility in Management.** As is the case with National Historic Parks across the country, many of the sites would remain under their current ownership and management, whether federal, state, local, or private. A National Historic Park designation would recognize the shared cultural, historic, and ecological values of the various sites along the Garrison Reach. Thus, the legislation should require that the NPS work with various state, tribal, local, and private stakeholders while implementing and administrating the Missouri River National Historic Park.

*MHA National
Historical
Park*

**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR PROTECTING
THE GARRISON REACH OF THE
MISSOURI RIVER**



May 20, 2004

INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines a proposal for protection of the Garrison Reach of the Missouri River focusing on the area's many cultural, historic, and scenic sites. With the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's arrival in North Dakota growing near, the Garrison Reach has received some much-needed attention in recent years. Public and private entities are touting the importance of the reach as it relates to the Corps of Discovery.

The role of the Mandan and Hidatsa, the original inhabitants of the Missouri River Valley in North Dakota, has also received welcome attention. Through the construction of trails, improvement and maintenance of sites, and public outreach efforts, the Garrison Reach would be the centerpiece of North Dakota's bicentennial celebration.

Therefore, this is an opportune time in which to work towards the protection of this last stretch of natural Missouri River in North Dakota, for the benefit of the current generation and countless others to follow.



DEVELOPMENT THREATS

The Garrison Reach of the Missouri River is one of North Dakota's most valuable natural resources. The reach provides recreation for citizens, water supplies for communities, habitat for fish and wildlife, and irrigation for agriculture. The Garrison Reach is also the most historic section of the Missouri River. Historic and cultural sites including Double Ditch, Fort Mandan, Fort Clark, and the Knife River Indian Villages provide a tangible connection to our shared past.

Unfortunately, this historic and scenic stretch of river is threatened by urban sprawl, especially near the towns of Bismarck, Mandan, and Washburn. Private housing developments are replacing the riparian cottonwood forests and other native vegetation along the river. With the increased number of homes along the riverbank comes a demand that riprap, or large boulders, be installed to protect homes that are built near the waters edge. Thus, riparian areas that provide habitat for fish and wildlife are being destroyed.

The negative effects of urban sprawl, however, go far beyond ecological concerns. Historic and cultural sites are being lost as well. The Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site is a prime example of the development threat along the Garrison Reach. The site, located eight miles north of Bismarck on Highway 1804, includes the remains of a Mandan village inhabited until about 1781, the year of the first large smallpox epidemic. Double Ditch is located on a prominent bluff overlooking a magnificent bend in the Missouri River. As one stands at the site gazing east towards the gently rolling plains or

3. **Selection of Sites.** The Missouri River National Historic Park should include sites along the entire Garrison Reach, from the Garrison Dam to the headwaters of Lake Oahe south of Bismarck. Sites along the northern stretch of Lake Oahe, while technically not within the Garrison Reach, should be included as well. When selecting sites, the NPS should consider site-specific factors including development threats, historic and cultural value, scenic value, recreation potential, and wildlife habitat. In addition, the NPS should include the Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail corridor within the boundaries of the park.

4. **Site protection.** The NPS should be authorized to protect sites within the Missouri River National Historic Park through perpetual conservation easements or acquisitions, depending on circumstances at each individual site. Such measures should be used to protect the view-shed from a site, ensure public access, and provide river access (where possible). The NPS should also work to mitigate the effects of any current development near a site.



5. **Visitors Center.** The Missouri River National Historic Park should include two visitors centers, one near each end of the Garrison Reach. The current visitors center at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site could serve the northern end of the reach, while a new center in Bismarck could serve the southern end. This would increase tourism and provide visitors with a wonderful experience encompassing the entire Garrison Reach.

The NPS should consider locating the Bismarck visitors center somewhere along Burnt Boat Drive placing it near both the current Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau building and Chief Looking Village (formerly Ward Village). Doing so will also ensure easy public access to the center, especially from the interstate.

CONCLUSION

The people of North Dakota face a stark choice when it comes to the future of the Garrison Reach. If we do nothing, and allow development to continue at its current pace, many of the important sites along the Garrison Reach will suffer from increasing development and much of this last natural stretch of Missouri River in North Dakota will be lined with houses and riprap rather than cottonwoods, wildlife, and open space. If, on the other hand, we work together toward a National Park Service designation for the

Garrison Reach, we will ensure that future generations can enjoy the scenic and historic beauty that it provides.

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Dated this ____ day of _____, 2003.

ATTEST:

Executive Secretary, Randy Phalen
Tribal Business Council

Chairman, Tex G. Hall
Tribal Business Council