



**National Association of Tribal Historic
Preservation Officers**

P.O. Box 19189 Washington, DC 20036-9189
Phone: 202-628-8476 Fax: 202-628-2241
E-mail: info@nathpo.org
www.nathpo.org

NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.



Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
www.nps.gov/lecl/

This publication produced, in part, under a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the NATHPO.

Cultural Preservation Along the Lewis and Clark Trail



**National Association of Tribal Historic
Preservation Officers**



**Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

CULTURAL RESOURCE STATUTES

Two federal laws have been enacted to protect cultural resources:

**The Archaeological Resources Protection
Act of 1979 (ARPA)**

It is unlawful to excavate, damage, alter, or deface archaeological resources on public or Indian lands. It is also unlawful to sell, purchase, transport, or receive archaeological resources removed from these lands or to have someone else do it for you.

ARPA also protects archaeological resources that are illegally removed from state and private lands by making it illegal to sell, purchase, exchange, transport, or receive archaeological resources that have been removed in violation of any state or local law and moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

Both criminal and civil penalties, including forfeiture of tools and vehicles, apply to the protection of archaeological resources.

For private property, state criminal and civil laws against theft, trespass, and burial desecration may be applied to protect cultural resources.

Melissa Annis and her great granddaughter Cache Hebb, 7, hold a picture of Yellow Hawk, Melissa's grandfather who met with the Lewis and Clark expedition when it passed through the current Cheyenne River Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

**The Native American Graves Protection
and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA)**

It is unlawful to sell, purchase, use for profit, or transport for sale or profit, the human remains, associated funerary objects, and items of cultural patrimony in violation of this statute.



Photo by M. A. Pamber, www.mapamber.com



PROTECT THE CULTURES ALONG THE TRAIL



For millennia, tribal nations have lived and prospered along what is now the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. So there are thousands of tribal cultural resource areas, burial grounds and sacred sites along the trail. These sacred places are connections to our history, messages from our ancestors, treasures for our future and the cradle of our existence. The flesh, blood and bones of our ancestors are holy. Our archaeological sites, sacred sites and objects, and burial sites are monuments, and like monuments of other great nations, they deserve respect.

Desecration and looting of tribal cultural resources is a growing national disgrace and an irreparable loss to all Americans. Tribes along the Lewis and Clark Trail are concerned about the potential for destruction and urge you to help protect these sacred treasures by:

- **Not entering areas you suspect or know to be culturally sensitive**
- **Leaving things the way you found them**
- **Reporting suspicious activity, vandalism, and theft to the nearest law enforcement agency**

– From the official website of the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, www.lewisandclark200.org



Photo by M. A. Pember, www.mapember.com

Iowa tribal council member Joann Comer and tribal chairman Louis DeRoin stand behind the glass case at the tribal headquarters containing the White Cloud family bear claw necklace that was handed down to traditional Iowa chiefs, 2003.

One of the major concerns identified during the Bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition was how to protect Native American sacred places and cultural items that a Trail visitor may inadvertently come upon. Unfortunately, most Trail visitors are unfamiliar with the federal, state, and tribal laws and codes that protect these irreplaceable resources. This informational brochure and additional information on the NATHPO website provide available information for the protection of these sacred places and cultural properties.



Photo by M. A. Pember, www.mapember.com

Grand entry at the 199th Omaha Harvest Dance in Macy, Nebraska, August 2003.

Photo by M. A. Pember, www.mapember.com



A horse grazes in the morning sun on the Ft. Berthold reservation August 2003.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition left their mark and legacy on a world that would be forever changed. This brochure is intended to help visitors learn more about the need and what you can do to preserve the heritage along the trail. A list of contacts is too long to incorporate within the brochure, but can be accessed through the following weblink: www.nathpo.org/lawenforcement.html. Included on the website is how to respond to looting and damage to an archaeological site and other helpful information.

