



Date: May 24, 2006
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BILLINGS – Pompeys Pillar National Monument will open for the season on Saturday, May 27. The historic site is 25 miles east of Billings off Interstate 94. It will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from May 27 through Labor Day, and then 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through September. Admission is \$3 per vehicle.

Saturday also marks the long-awaited opening of the new Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center. Exhibits in the 5,700-square foot center relate the journey of Captain William Clark and his detachment, including Sacagawea and her son Pomp, down the Yellowstone River Valley in 1806. On July 25, 1806, Clark carved his signature into a 121-foot sandstone bluff he called bluff Pompey's Tower; it is the only known physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition still visible along the trail. The center doesn't focus only on Clark's story; it tells the story of the Yellowstone Valley from pre-history through the coming of the steamboats and railroad and its early settlement by Euro-Americans.

This summer, Pompeys Pillar National Monument will be the site of "Clark on the Yellowstone," the 13th (and the last one to be held in Montana) of 15 national Lewis & Clark Bicentennial signature events. The signature event will take place July 22–25, 2006. The interpretive center will have its official dedication during the signature event on July 22 at 10:00 a.m.

The Pompeys Pillar Historical Association has worked closely with BLM in the acquisition, operation and development of the national monument and interpretive center.

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