



Contact: Greg Albright (406) 896-5260

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FORT BENTON, Mont.—Montana's Undaunted Stewardship program is working with the Bureau of Land Management to enhance BLM's new interpretive center in Fort Benton and extend the city's walking trail.

As construction on the interpretive center winds down, work to develop an interpretive trail along the Missouri River on the center property is getting underway. Signs along the new trail segment will interpret local cultural history and the area's natural history. The trail information will dovetail with exhibits and information inside the interpretive center.

Additional information along the fully accessible trail will highlight the Undaunted Stewardship goals to recognize the stewardship of private landowners that has resulted in many areas along the Lewis and Clark Trail remaining undeveloped and closely resembling what Lewis and Clark saw during their expedition through the state.

"Another aspect of Undaunted Stewardship is to develop on-the-ground projects with private landowners that can enhance the natural resources along the trail," said Jim Peterson, Montana State University's representative on the Undaunted Stewardship Executive Steering Committee. "It also highlights the importance of public-private partnerships and the good results that can come from them."

"The new trail will enhance the interpretive experience for visitors and add an important outdoor component to the site," said Connie Jacobs, BLM's interpretive center director.

Undaunted Stewardship is helping to fund the new trail that will connect with, and become an extension of, Fort Benton's walking trail that fronts the Missouri across much of the town. The trail is expected to be completed this fall.

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