

# Park: Project 'will cause adverse impacts to listed species'

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of the Fort Clatsop unit, east of the Lewis and Clark River.

In addition, the terminal would be located within 0.25 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the new pipeline segment would actually cross the trail.

Visitors following the route of Lewis and Clark along the Columbia River would be exposed, during accidental spills near the terminal, to "flammable vapor, hydrogen sulfide vapor, and benzene," according to the modeled design spills contained in FERC's draft statement, the letter notes.

Visitors paddling on the Lewis and Clark River, including those on guided kayak tours, would pass over or near three horizontal directional drilling crossings and "would be within the potential impact circle of a pipeline incident."

"These are new and novel hazards and many visitors to the national parks would not be familiar with them," the letter reads, adding that Oregon LNG should consider introducing educational signs and materials — akin to those illustrating tsunami hazards — near the project site and all potential affected areas.

## Economics

The Interior Department worries that the LNG project may reduce visitation and recreation at the park because of a drop in scenic values and the rise in traffic during construction.

Though the increases in noise and air pollution may fall below statutory limits, both "may lead to a decrease in recreation as visitors avoid these effects."

When analyzing the project's impact on visitors, Oregon LNG consulted with the Port of Astoria and cruise ship representatives. "However, neither the (draft statement) nor Oregon LNG included consultation or interviews with other types of tourists to determine if they would con-



Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Scott Tucker pauses along the Kwis-Kwis Trail. The park has joined in comments about potential adverse impacts of Oregon LNG's proposed terminal and pipeline project.

Daily Astorian/File Photo

tinue to visit the area during or after the construction of an LNG facility, as has been done with other LNG projects," the letter states.

Oregon LNG argues in press materials that the project will "create thousands of good construction and support jobs for more than four years, plus many permanent direct and indirect jobs at good wages."

But visitation to the park also provides an economic benefit to the community, the letter points out.

In 2014, the park's 244,920 visitors spent \$13.7 million in communities near the park. "That spending supported 221 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of over \$19 million."

"The economic loss from a potential decrease in visitation should be included in the

calculation of economic benefits of the project."

## Species

The Interior Department said the LNG project "will cause adverse impacts to listed species due to the permanent loss of rearing habitat for federally threatened and endangered juvenile salmonids in park lands."

In order to upgrade a transmission line linked to the terminal and pipeline, the project developers would "construct 1,000 feet of access road, create structure laydown and worksite areas, and install permanent footings through juvenile salmon habitat."

This habitat, the Interior Department noted, was restored as part of the federal government's commitments to recover these species.

"Large woody debris installed to provide structural

habitat would have to be removed, plants installed to provide cover and food web connections would be removed or filled, and tidal channels that had been excavated would be filled."

The National Park Service has offered to work with the project's design team to identify impacts at this site

and find the best solution to avoid harm. To date, however, the park service has not been contacted by Oregon LNG regarding the matter, the letter states.

"FERC and Oregon LNG — in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the (Interior) Department — should develop

a plan that identifies ways to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts to the wetlands at the Otter Point wetland restoration site that serve as juvenile salmonid habitat."

## Cultural resources

The letter says there could be negative effects on the national park's historical and archaeological resources as well because park lands within the area of the pipeline have not yet been surveyed.

The work involved in upgrading the transmission line would "adversely affect cultural resources at the park by degrading the cultural landscape at the Otter Point wetland restoration site through activities such as filling wetlands and removing vegetation."

"The Otter Point project was undertaken not only to provide habitat for federally listed salmonids, but also to restore the cultural landscape associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The wetland plant species chosen for revegetation were documented in the journals of Lewis and Clark and are still culturally important to local tribes.

"Moreover," the letter continues, "the landscape itself has become an interpretive medium, with park staff using key landmarks and habitats including those at Otter Point as part of their ongoing retelling of the Lewis and Clark story to park visitors."

Oregon LNG could not be reached for comment.




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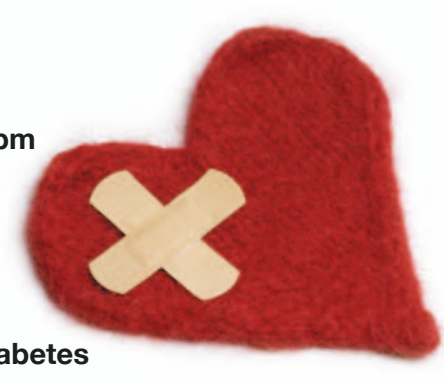
## of North Oregon Coast

community support connection

*Meetings:*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm**  
**CMH Health & Wellness Pavilion**  
3rd Floor Conference Room  
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**Oct 21: Dr. Anna Marina, Type 2 Diabetes**  
**Nov 18: Heart Healthy Cooking**



Join your local chapter of WomenHeart, an organization for women living with or at risk of heart disease. This chapter is sponsored by Columbia Memorial Hospital.

**Contact Michele Abrahams** for more information at [WH-NorthOregonCoast@womenheart.org](mailto:WH-NorthOregonCoast@womenheart.org).

WomenHeart is the only national organization dedicated to advancing women's heart health through advocacy, community education and patient support. As the leading voice for the 42 million American women living with or at risk of heart disease, WomenHeart advocates for equal access to quality care and provides information and resources to help women take charge of their heart health.

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