

Follow in the Corp of Discovery's footsteps on Long Beach's Discovery Trail

BY SKYLER ARCHIBALD

Not long ago, my daily travels took me across the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon on three different bridges. My professional life coupled with my interests and avocation often call for travel in between the

state I was born in and the state that I live now. I feel fortunate to claim both and have been privileged to become more acquainted with their beauty and offerings.

In the same vein perhaps, albeit less conveniently, were some of the first explorers to our region in the Corps of Discovery. I find it remarkable that they too traversed the Columbia in search of

the right spot to settle for a long and wet winter.

The Corps spent roughly 10 days on the Washington side of the Columbia, stopping first at the aptly named Dismal Nitch before proceeding to Station Camp and Cape Disappointment further west.

One of the lasting heritages of their voyage across the United States was the development of parks, facilities

and other recreation opportunities created to ensure that we have an opportunity to experience just a small portion of what they may have seen and felt as they discovered this climate and land for themselves.

Such is the case with the Discovery Trail on the Long Beach Peninsula,

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Beach grass blows in the wind on the Discovery Trail. *Skylar Archibald*

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