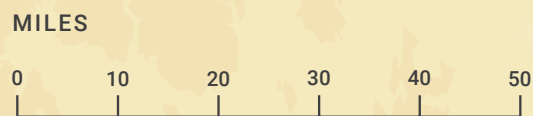


confluence



Driving Directions:
Digital Map links available at
confluenceproject.org/river-sites

Plan Your Visit

Confluence River Sites were chosen for their historic and cultural significance to the Indigenous peoples of the Columbia River system.

Confluence is yours. Confluence project sites span 438 miles of river in Oregon and Washington. Find your “confluence moment,” where art has a unique power to connect you to the intersection of the history, living cultures and ecology of this land.



Confluence artworks invite you to reimagine our shared environment as it once was and what it could be. The Lewis and Clark journals are a snapshot in recorded time more than two centuries ago to give us perspective to look two centuries forward to envision a better future for the Columbia River system.

For generations, our region's origin story has been essentially “Lewis and Clark ‘discovered’ this place and the pioneers settled it.” Our mission compels us to replace this tragically oversimplified story with a more holistic and inclusive view of history that includes the long-neglected voices of Indigenous cultures that still call this place home.

Confluence formed in 2002 as a response to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial as an opportunity to elevate Native American perspectives in our collective understanding of our shared homeland. Confluence helps share the stories about the people who have lived here since time immemorial and the ecological and cultural transformation that happened in the two centuries since Lewis and Clark’s visit.

Today, Confluence is a community-supported nonprofit with the mission to connect people to the history, living cultures and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. We work through six art landscapes, educational programs, community gatherings, and our online digital library in collaboration with Tribes, communities and the celebrated artist Maya Lin.

As you plan your visit, always feel free to contact us for advice and guidance at 360-693-0123 or info@confluenceproject.org.

“In the 200 years since Lewis and Clark ... What happened to the Tribes? What happened to the country? In seven generations, this is where we are today. What are the next seven generations going to be?”

—Antone Minthorn, Confluence founding board chair and former chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

In the Community

Confluence in the Community is a series of public gatherings designed to elevate Indigenous Voices in our collective understanding of the Columbia River system. Volunteer work parties connect people to the land as they help conserve our art landscapes for future generations.

In the Schools

Confluence in the Classroom and Confluence Outdoors connect students and teachers with Indigenous artists and culture bearers from Columbia River Tribes to learn lessons in art, history, culture, and the environment. Professional development workshops help educators bring an inclusive understanding of our land and people to their teaching.

Cape Disappointment State Park

“Having an intimate connection to your place, I think really changes how you feel about it. And we’re compelled to have people understanding it in that way ... because we really do believe they’re going to treat it differently.” –Tony Johnson, Chairman Chinook Indian Nation

At this site, Lewis and Clark came to the place they were looking for: the point where the Columbia River meets the majestic Pacific Ocean. Their journey’s endpoint is where Confluence’s work began, with installations that draw together the site’s bay side and oceanfront in a single, steadily unfolding experience that interweaves the stories of the Corps of Discovery expedition and the Chinook people. Dedicated May 2006

Waikiki Beach Along oceanfront dunes, follow a path of crushed oyster shells inland from the coastal forest, and read the text of a Chinook song of praise in the pathway. Encounter a group of five cedar driftwood columns surrounding a cedar tree trunk that existed before Lewis and Clark arrived.



1—Cedar Circle In a secluded grove, cedar driftwood columns surround a cedar tree trunk that predates Lewis and Clark’s arrival.

2—Amphitheater and Walkway From this natural amphitheater, a path of crushed oyster shells leads you from the coastal forest environment through dune grasses to a secluded grove. As you walk, read the lyrics of a Chinook praise song that was recited at this site on November 18, 2005, the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark’s arrival.

3—Boardwalk Retrace the final steps of Lewis and Clark’s 4,133-mile journey from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Read text from the journals documenting the many Indigenous homelands they passed through to reach this place.

Baker Bay Visit the site today to find a restored native landscape that integrates Maya Lin’s artwork with the site’s shifting cultural and ecological history. Run your hands along the surface of a fish-cleaning table formed from a single block of native basalt and inscribed with a Chinookan creation story. At estuary overlook, read excerpts from Lewis and Clark’s journals to see this place as they saw it.



1—Fish Cleaning Table Cut from a single polished block of native basalt, this artistic fish-cleaning table is inscribed with a Chinook origin story about the interdependence of the Chinook people and Columbia River salmon.

2—Overlook A simple, curved viewing platform offers an unobstructed view of Baker Bay and its surroundings. Text from the Lewis and Clark journals etched into the platform evokes the scene and moment they finally arrived here.

Celilo Park

“We have to acknowledge the loss of this amazing place but we also need to reveal what’s still below the water. We have to use the past to shape a different future.” –Maya Lin

For generations, Celilo Falls was a center of culture and commerce in the Northwest, the oldest continuously inhabited place in the region. It was also one of the most productive fisheries in North America. The roar of the falls could be heard for miles. On March 10, 1957, that roar fell silent when gates of The Dalles Dam closed. Celilo Falls was flooded in a matter of hours. The Confluence project by Maya Lin proposed for Celilo Park is designed to educate people about Celilo Falls and honor the people who have lived and fished on this river for generations and will continue to for generations to come.

Celilo History The Celilo Falls were submerged in 1957 with the construction of The Dalles Dam, which disregarded long-standing fishing rights for members of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe. The flooding of Celilo Falls was an enormous and historic tragedy for the Columbia River Treaty Tribes whose members lived and fished at Celilo, and for the fishery resource and environment of the Columbia River.

Celilo Arc and Educational Pavilion Maya Lin’s design for the Celilo Arc is a 500-foot elevated walkway inspired by the Indigenous fishing platforms that still populate the shores of the Columbia River system. When it is completed, an elliptical pavilion and plaza will be an education center for visitors to learn more about the history, living cultures, and ecology of this historically and culturally significant place.

Vancouver Land Bridge

Long before the Hudson’s Bay Company founded Ft. Vancouver, the prairie where the Klickitat Trail meets the Columbia River was a center of trade among Indigenous peoples.

For generations, Native American cultures lived and traded at this site along the Columbia River. Lewis and Clark camped here. Later, the Hudson’s Bay Company’s Ft. Vancouver became the first European trading post in the Pacific Northwest.

The Confluence Land Bridge is a 40-foot wide earth-covered pedestrian path that arcs over State Route 14. It features indigenous plants and a Welcome Gate designed by Native American artist Lillian Pitt. Two cedar canoe paddles are adorned with a cast-glass sculpture of a Chinook woman’s face, evoke the site’s role as a historic Tribal crossroads as well as a point of contact between European and Native peoples. Dedicated August 2008



1—Welcome Gate The Welcome Gate by artist Lillian Pitt greets visitors, representing the way Chinook people would welcome someone arriving by canoe.

2—Overlooks Three overlooks on the bridge mark the River, Prairie and Village. Spirit Baskets by Lillian Pitt, feature figures inspired by Columbia River petroglyphs.

3—Ethnobotanical Walkway Native plant species from prairie, forest and wetland habitats are now showcased along the Land Bridge walkway, identified by a series of interpretive panels.

Sacajawea State Park

“We found about 2 hundred or upwards camped on the point between the two rivers. A very pleasant place, ceremonially.” –Joseph Whitehouse, October 18, 1805

Long before Lewis and Clark first passed this spot on October 16, 1805, this was a significant and well-established gathering place for Native people. Maya Lin designed seven basalt story circles that explore the Native cultures, language, flora and fauna, geology, and natural history of the site. As you pass from one story circle to the next, consider how the confluence of not only the Snake and Columbia rivers but also the cultures, communities, and environmental forces have shaped and continue to affect the land around you. Dedicated August 2010



1—Story Circles Maya Lin’s artwork at Sacajawea State Park tells the tales of people, place and the connection between them in text etched into seven circles, some raised above and some lowered into the ground. The information in the story circles comes from tribal stories, Lewis and Clark’s journals, Yakama elder and Sahaptin speaker Virginia Beavert, Ph.D., and the natural history of this site, which has been a gathering place for Native people since time immemorial.

Sandy River Delta

“Stories don’t only come from people, the landscape is always talking to us.” –Robin Dobson, Retired US Forest Service Ecologist

The confluence of what we now call the Columbia and Sandy Rivers is traditional hunting and fishing grounds for the Native peoples of this region. Today, the Sandy River Delta is undergoing a dramatic restoration, led by the US Forest Service, to revive important riparian and wetland habitats for fish, birds and animals. The living ancestors of the peoples indigenous to this area continue to maintain a connection to this place. The Confluence Bird Blind, at the end of the 1.2 mile Confluence Trail, lists the bird, animals, and fish documented by Lewis and Clark, along with the environmental status of those species today. Stroll up a gently curving 150-foot ramp to the bird blind, constructed of sustainably harvested, durable black locust wood. Dedicated August 2008



1—Bird Blind A 1.2-mile trail, built primarily by volunteers, leads from the parking lot to Maya Lin’s elliptical bird blind. The wood used to build the bird blind comes from the black locust tree, a long-lasting, sustainable hardwood that is considered invasive in the Northwest.



Chief Timothy Park

“It is beautiful to think about seven generations in the past and seven generations yet to come. That is what we live for, that there will be something we can pass on to our children.” –Anthony Johnson (Nez Perce)

Here, near the confluence of the Snake and Alpowa Creek, Nez Perce people lived and fished long before Lewis and Clark arrived in 1805. Today, the Listening Circle honors Indigenous traditions in a landscape that today remains similar to what the explorers described in their journals. Dedicated May 2015



1—Listening Circle The Listening Circle is a basalt amphitheater inspired by the Nez Perce blessing ceremony that took place here in 2005 where the women faced north, the men faced south, the elders faced east, and no one passed behind them. From above, the arced basalt seating resembles ripples of water.

This map is printed on Polyart® recyclable synthetic paper, it is water and tear resistant for durability and ease of use in all conditions.

river sites

confluence

www.confluenceproject.org