

RESOLUTION NO. 673

WHEREAS, in 1803 Thomas Jefferson said to Meriwether Lewis “The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river & such principal stream of it, as, by it’s course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean... may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce.”

WHEREAS, in 1804 the Corps. Of Discovery was formed and began its journey west, led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark;

WHEREAS, on November 15, 1805 while the Corps. Of Discovery was pinned down for several days very near to the present day Megler Safety Rest Area, trying to shelter themselves from the wind, waves and rain, William Clark wrote: “this dismal nitch where we have been confined for 6 days past, without the possibility of proceeding on, returning to a better Situation, or get out to hunt, Scerce of Provisions, and torrents of rain poreing on us all the time...”

WHEREAS, RCW 27.34.342 created the sixteen member Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee, including the Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, RCW 27.34.344 states the role of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee is to coordinate and provide guidance to Washington's observance of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

WHEREAS, a scenic byway corridor management plan was completed for the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington identifying Clark’s Dismal Nitch as a priority site for improving interpretation;

WHEREAS, in August 2002 public law 105-391 directed the National Park Service to conduct a study of the possible expansion of Fort Clatsop National Memorial (this included the Megler safety rest area) this study was completed in September 2003;

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2004 congressional and presidential action resulted in public law 108-387 expanding the Fort Clatsop National Memorial as part of the bi-state Lewis and Clark National Historical Park; designating the Megler safety rest area as an in-holding to the Dismal Nitch park unit

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation has received requests from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee, the Pacific County friends of Lewis and Clark, the Pacific County Commissioners, and the National Park Service to rename the Megler safety rest area Dismal Nitch

WHEREAS, the Washington State Transportation Commission deems it appropriate to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Transportation Commission does hereby rename the Megler safety rest area “Dismal Nitch.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation shall implement this name change, including the development of appropriate interpretation of Joseph G. Megler at the Dismal Nitch site.

ADOPTED this 19th day of October 2005.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAN O’NEAL, Chair

RICHARD FORD, Vice-Chair

ED BARNES, Member

ELMIRA FORNER, Member

ROBERT S. DISTLER, Member

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DOUGLAS B. MACDONALD
Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Administrator

Assistant Attorney General