

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## American Cruise Lines Headed to Port of Lewiston

(Lewiston, ID) - The Port of Lewiston and American Cruise Lines are proud to announce a public-private partnership that will bring cruise boats into the Port and millions of dollars in tourist revenue into Lewiston and the LC Valley.

"We couldn't be more proud to see this collaborative effort come to fruition," said Port Commissioner Jerry Klemm. "American Cruise Lines is a leader in the industry, and we're looking forward to working with them to maximize the economic opportunities for Valley businesses while enhancing our recreational opportunities at the Port."

The partnership will create a dock for cruise ships in the Port, giving Columbia and Snake River cruise routes an ideal stopping point to explore all the region has to offer. The Port of Lewiston dock, the only one in the state, will bring added capacity to the expanding industry presence in the LC Valley, ensuring an increasing flow of tourist dollars to our local retail, recreational and hospitality businesses. The dock is expected to be up and running for the 2025 cruise season.

"American Cruise Lines is proud to operate a fleet of modern, U.S. built riverboats on the Columbia Snake River System," said Kristin Meira, Director of Government Affairs for American Cruise Lines. "Partnering with the Port of Lewiston will bring even greater economic benefits to the Lewis-Clark Valley, bringing sustainable tourism to the Lewiston waterfront and strengthening existing ties to excursion providers, downtown retailers, hotels and the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport. American Cruise Lines is thrilled to build upon its already robust presence in the community, and looks forward to showcasing Lewiston as a tourism destination."

Port Commissioner Joe Anderson also expressed support for the partnership and its potential for the economic development of the Valley.

"This partnership fits perfectly in line with the Port's mission to foster job creation and industry growth that ultimately enhances the quality of life for area residents," Anderson said. "We are excited to get started."

The Port's team and Commissioners have worked closely with American Cruise Lines on the partnership, which will also create public access to the river for other recreational activities. While the Port will retain ownership of the dock, American Cruise Lines will provide dock management services.

"The American Cruise Lines agreement comes after months of negotiation. It is good to be a part of this very successful and growing tourism effort that will bring millions of dollars to our community," said Port Commission President Mike Thomason.

American Cruise Lines offers river cruising and small ship cruising in the United States. All cruises focus on the history, spirit and culture of the country. In 2023, the company operates 17 ships cruising more than 50 domestic routes in 35 states.

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