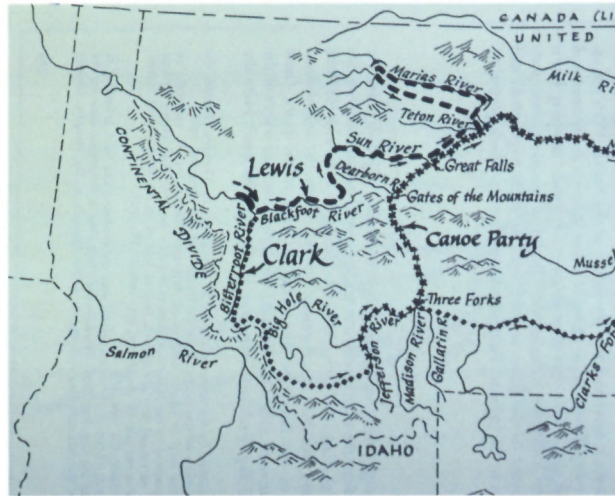




LEWIS AND CLARK ACROSS THE LOLO TRAIL

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST
LOLO NATIONAL FOREST



The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806 was one of the most significant exploration events in the history of the United States. It established U.S. claims and led the way for future settlement of the West. It also provided abundant scientific information about the animals, plants and geography of this great land.

Leaving St. Louis on May 14, 1804, the expedition followed the Missouri River system for over a thousand miles and finally crossed the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass on August 12, 1805. At this point the waters flowed westward, and they realized they were in the Columbia River system. Hoping to find a water route to the Pacific, the expedition attempted to follow the Salmon River but found this route impossible. Having been advised by local Indians of a land trail to the west, they proceeded north over Lost Trail Pass and into the Bitterroot Valley. On September 9 they camped near the present town of Lolo, Montana, at a site they named "Traveller's Rest."

From this point, the expedition turned westward and followed the Lolo Trail, an historic Indian trade and hunting route across the Bitterroot Mountains to the Clearwater River. They returned by this route in 1806. The Lolo Trail is now a National Historic Landmark that crosses the Clearwater and Lolo National Forests.

From Lolo, Montana, to a few miles west of Lolo Pass, the trail closely follows U.S. Highway 12. It then follows the high mountain ridges north of the highway for over 80 miles, eventually descending to the Welppe Prairie near Welppe, Idaho.

In the 1930s the Lolo Motorway (Forest Road 500) was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on or adjacent to much of the original trail. Although the motorway displaced some trail sections, it now provides access to points where one may see and hike remnants of the original trail.

NOTE: The Lolo Motorway is a primitive dirt road and most sections are not designed to accommodate low clearance vehicles, trailers, or large recreational vehicles. Visitors planning to complete the two-day trip from Powell to Welppe will find a few rustic campsites with minimum facilities along the way. Adequate supplies of fuel, fresh water, food and warm clothing should be carried.

Amateur and professional historians have spent many years tracing the actual route and locating campsites used by the expedition. This work was guided by the journals kept by Lewis and Clark. Some trail sections have been brushed and maintained for horse and foot travel. All marked trail sections are closed to motorized vehicle use. Interpretive and directional signs mark campsite locations and other historic or cultural features along the way. The map in this brochure shows the relationship of the original trail to the Lolo Motorway and to some of the other roads and trails in the area. Most of the trail area is snowbound and inaccessible between early November and late June. Specific information about road and trail conditions and about the Lewis and Clark Trail itself is available from the Lolo Pass Visitor Center or from Forest Service offices at Powell, Kooskia, Kamiah and Orofino, Idaho, and Missoula, Montana.



The following text is liberally sprinkled with direct quotations from journals kept by Lewis and Clark. Campsites have been named, in most cases, by Forest

Service personnel using colorful and descriptive phrases from those journals.

It is important to recognize that the expedition followed this route twice—the westward journey to the Pacific in 1805 and the return trip to St. Louis in 1806. To designate these separate events, information about the 1805 trip is designated with a red square (■) and the 1806 return trip with a red circle (●).

TRAVELLER'S REST

1 September 9-11, 1805 — After crossing the Continental Divide and traveling down the Bitterroot Valley under the direction of their Shoshone guide "Toby," the expedition camped at the mouth of Lolo Creek and rested for two days before starting their westward trek over the Bitterroot range. Lewis wrote, "...we continued our rout down the W. side of the river about 5 miles further and encamped on a large creek which falls in on the West. as our guide inform[ed] me that we should leave the river at this place and the weather appearing settled and fair I determined to halt the next day rest our horses and take some scelestial Observations. we called this Creek Travellers rest."



1 June 30, 1806 — After 9-1/2 months of travel, the expedition arrived back at Traveller's Rest. "...a little before sunset we arrived at our old encampment on the south side of the creek a little above it's entrance into Clark's river. here we encamped with a view to remain two days in order to rest ourselves and horses & make our final arrangements for seperation," noted Lewis.

WOODMAN CREEK

2 September 11, 1805 — Due to the loss of two horses, the expedition did not leave Traveller's Rest

until 3 p.m. They traveled only about eight miles on this date and camped near the mouth of Woodman Creek. Clark described their day's journey: "...we proceeded on up the Creek [Travellers rest] on the right [hand] Side [left bank] thro a narrow valie and good road for 7 miles and Encamped at Some old Indian Lodges, nothing killed this evening hills on the right high & ruged, the mountains on the left high & Covered with Snow. The day Verry worm."

8 P.M. CAMP

3 September 12, 1805 — This campsite is near the Montana State Highway maintenance yard along U.S. Highway 12. The expedition encountered rough terrain on the hillside to the north of Lolo Creek as they tried to avoid the brushy creek bottom. They traveled about 23 miles this day, starting at 7 a.m. and finally making camp at 8 p.m. According to Clark, "I mad[e] camp at 8 on this roade & particularly on this Creek the Indians have pealed a number of Pine for the under bark which they eate at certain Seasons of the year..."



LOLO HOT SPRINGS

4 September 13, 1805 — The expedition passed these hot springs on their way to Lolo Pass. Clark described them in his journal, "I found this water nearly boiling hot at the places it Spouted from the rocks (which [are] a hard Corse Grit, and of great size the rocks on the Side of the Mountain of the Same texture) I put my finger in the water, at first could not bare it in a Second."

4 June 29, 1806 — The expedition camped at this site on the return journey eastward nine months later.

LOLO PASS AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

Lolo Pass is on the Idaho-Montana border at an elevation of 5,235 feet. Ancient Indian travel routes from north, south, east and west intersect at this point, the most significant of which is the east/west Lolo Trail. The Clearwater National Forest operates a visitor information center here during the summer months.

For More Information:

Forest Supervisor
Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, Idaho 83544
(208) 476-4541

Pierce Ranger District
P.O. Box 308
Kamiah, Idaho 83536
(208) 935-2513

Lochsa Ranger District
Rt. 1, Box 398
Kooskia, Idaho 83539
(208) 926-4275

Powell Ranger District
Lolo, Montana 59847
(208) 942-3113

Forest Supervisor
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59801
(406) 329-3832

Missoula Ranger District
Building 24-A, Ft. Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59801
(406) 329-3705



Partial funding provided by
The Northwest Interpretive Association



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R1-91-58



GLADE CREEK CAMP

5 Lewis and Clark camped here on September 13, 1805. The site is close to the Lolo Pass Visitor Center and at the lower end of the string of openings known collectively as Packer Meadows. Clark wrote in his journal, "...we fell on a Small Creek from the left which Passed through open glades Some of which [were] 1/2 a mile wide; we proceeded down this Creek about 2 miles to where the mountains Closed on either Side crossing the Creek Several times & Encamped."

PARACHUTE HILL ROAD (FOREST ROAD 569)

This is the best connecting road from Powell to the Lolo Motorway. It leaves Highway 12 near milepost 162 and climbs over 2,400 feet in approximately five miles. This is a single-lane, graveled road with turnouts. Log trucks and heavy equipment use the road, so drive slowly and defensively.

POWELL RANGER STATION

6 September 14, 1805 — The expedition mistakenly left the main Lolo Trail and ended up on the Koos Koos Kee (Lochsa) River. Clark's journal described the camp they made at the site of the present-day Powell Ranger Station, "...Encamped opposit a Small Island at the mouth of a branch on the right side of the river which is at this place 80 yards wide, Swift and Stoney..."

The small island documented in their journals is located across the river from the Ranger Station. The "branch on the right side of the river" refers to a small stream that once flowed between the cookhouse and the bunk-houses.



points rockey & bruschey as usial for 4 miles to an old Indian fishing place..."

The fishing place mentioned is the small meadow within the Wendover Campground. Nearby is Whitehouse Pond, a small pond mentioned in the journal of an expedition member (Private Whitehouse). The trail they were following turned north, climbed the very steep Wendover Ridge and finally returned to the Lolo Trail again at Snowbank Camp.

WENDOVER RIDGE REST SITE

7 On September 15, 1805, Clark rested for two hours here. While he was waiting for those at the rear to catch up he wrote, "...[in] about 2 hours the rear of the party came up much fatigued & horses more So, Several horses Sliped and roled down Steep hills which hurt them verry much the one which Carried my desk & Small trunk Turned over & roled down a mountain for 40 yards & lodged against a tree, broke the Desk the horse escaped and appeared but little hurt..."

13 MILE CAMP

8 Lewis and Clark camped here June 28, 1806. Although they were able to make good time traveling on the snow, progress for the day was limited by lack of feed for the horses. Lewis wrote: "...about eleven O'clock we arrived at an untimbered side of a mountain with a Southern aspect just above the fishery here we found an abundance of grass for our horses as the Indians had informed us. as our horses were very hungary and much fatigued and from information no other place where we could obtain grass for them within the reach of this evening's travel we determined to remain at this place all night having come 13 miles only."

WENDOVER

7 Continuing downriver from their camp at the site of the present-day Powell Ranger Station, the expedition "...proceeded on Down the right Side of (Koos Koos Kee) River over Steep

SNOWBANK CAMP

9 September 15, 1805 —The expedition completed the difficult climb up Wendover Ridge and finally arrived back on the Lolo Trail. Clark described their situation, "...when we arrived at the top As we Conceved, we could find no water and Concluded to Camp and make use of the Snow we found on the top to cook the remn. of our Colt & make our Supe, evening verry cold and cloudy."

The next morning the expedition awoke to four inches of new snow.

BEARS OIL AND ROOTS

10 After an early start the morning of June 27, 1806, Lewis and Clark made good progress and arrived at this camp early in the evening. Clark wrote, "...here we Encamped for the night haveing traveled 28 M. over these mountains without releiving the horses from their packs or their haveing any food.our Meat being exhosted we issued a point of Bears Oil to a mess which with their boiled roots made an agreeable dish."

DOE CREEK ROAD (FOREST ROAD 566)

This road accesses the Lolo Motorway and joins Highway 12 at the mouth of Squaw Creek near milepost 154. It is very steep and narrow and is NOT recommended for general public use.



INDIAN POST OFFICE

The rock mounds called Indian Post Office are located at the highest point (7,033 feet) on the Lolo Trail. The purpose and origin of these rock cairns are uncertain. They may have been there when Lewis and Clark passed this point on September 16, 1805, but neither explorer mentioned them in his journals. (They did note a similar cairn farther to the west on



their return journey in 1806.) Here the expedition left the main ridge and followed a route on the north side of the mountain for about 12 miles.

LONESOME COVE

11 Lewis and Clark's camp of September 16, 1805. On the journey west, Private Whitehouse, a member of the party, described the site in his diary: "...towards evening we descended the mountain down in a lonesome cove on a creek where we Camped in a thicket of Spruce pine & bolsom fir timber, all being tired & hungry obledged us to kill another colt and eat the half of it this evening. it has quit Snowing this evening, but continues chilley and cold."

THE DEVIL'S CHAIR

This is an interesting rock formation along the Lolo Motorway. The Lolo Trail is about two miles to the north of this spot. Visitors are tempted to climb to the top to sit in the natural depression in the rock that resembles an armchair. Some people are then tempted to jump across the gap in front of the main rock to a slab several feet away. Climbing "the chair" is dangerous and should only be done at your own risk.

SADDLE CAMP ROAD

This is a good road connection to the Lolo Motorway and leaves U.S. Highway 12 near milepost 140. Caution should be used because trucks hauling logs also use the road, so drive carefully.



THE SINQUE HOLE

12 Private Whitehouse's diary entry of September 17, 1805, describes this landmark: "...and Camped at a Small branch on the mountain near a round deep Sinque hole full of water. we being hungry obledged us to kill the other Sucking colt to eat."

INDIAN GRAVE

This is the burial place of a 14-year-old Nez Perce Indian boy who died here in 1895.

THE SMOKING PLACE

13 On the journey east, June 27, 1806, the Nez Perce guides requested that the party halt at a rock cairn where they smoked a pipe. This cairn is described as being one mile short of the camp of September 17, 1805, which is now known as the Sinque Hole Camp. Clark described the situation confronting the party: "...from this place we had an extensive view of these stupendous mountains principally covered with snow like that on which we stood; we were entirely surrounded by those mountains from which to one unacquainted with them it would have seemed

impossible ever to have escaped; in short without the assistance of our guides I doubt much whether we who had once passed them could find our way to Travellers rest in their present situation..."

GREENSWARD CAMP

14 The party set out early from Hungry Creek on the morning of June 26, 1806, retracing the route abandoned because of deep snows and the lack of Indian guides. Lewis wrote: "...late in the evening much to the satisfaction of ourselves and the comfort of our horses we arrived at the desired spot and encamped on the steep side of a mountain convenient to a good spring (having passed a few miles our camp of 18 Sep 1805). there we found an abundance of fine grass for our horses. this situation was the side of an untimbered mountain with a fair southern aspect where the snows from appearance had been desolved about 10 days. the grass was young and tender of course and had much the appearance of the greensward."

DRY CAMP

15 On the morning of September 18, 1805, the party split. Clark moved ahead with six hunters to look for game, and Lewis followed with the main party, heavier equipment and supplies. When Lewis made a dry camp that evening, he wrote in his journal: "...we marched 18 miles this day and encamped on the side of a steep mountain; we suffered for water this day passing one rivulet only; we wer[e] fortunate in finding water in a steep ravine about 1/2 maile from our camp. this morning we finished the remainder of our last coult. we dined & suped on a skant proportion of portable soupe, a few canesters of which, a little bears oil and about 20 lb. of candles form our stock of provision..."



SPIRIT REVIVAL RIDGE

16 From Sherman Peak on September 19, 1805, Lewis described his party's reaction to their first view of the vast Camas Prairie: "...when the ridge terminated and we to our inexpressable joy discovered a large tract of Prairie country, lying to the S.W. and widening as it appeared to extend to the W. through that plain the Indian informed us that the Columbia river, (in which we were in surch) run. this plain appeared to be about 60 Miles distant, but our guide assured us that we should reach it's borders tomorrow the appearance of this country our only hope for subsistance greatly revived the sperits of the party already reduced and much weakened for the want of food."

HORSE SWEAT PASS

After leaving Sherman Peak, Lewis's party traveled through a pass now known as Sherman Saddle. Private Whitehouse described this section of the route: "...we descended down the moun. which was verry Steep descent, for about three miles. then assended another as bad as any we had every been up before, it made the sweat run off of our horses & ourselves."

CACHE MOUNTAIN

17 On June 17, 1806, the Lewis and Clark party reached this point on their return trip. Due to deep snow they had difficulty finding the Lolo Trail and also realized they would not find enough food for themselves or their horses to make the trip across the mountains. They decided to cache their equipment and return to the Welppe Prairie to get an Indian guide and wait for the snow to recede. Clark wrote, "...having come to this resolution, we ordered the party to make a deposit of all the baggage which we had not imediate use for and also the roots and bread of Cows which they had except an allowance for a few days to enable them to return to some place at which we could substist by hunting untill we precured a guide..."

HUNGERY CREEK

18 On September 18, 1805, on the journey west, Clark had gone ahead of the main party to hunt. He describes the naming of Hungery Creek in these words: "...Encamped on a bold running Creek passing to the left which I call Hungery Creek as at that place we had nothing to eate."

RETREAT CAMP

19 After having to cache their supplies and turn back on June 17, 1806, the party camped at this site. Captain Lewis wrote, "...the party were a good deel dejected, tho' not as much so as I had apprehended they would have been. this is the first time since we have been on this tour that we have ever been compelled to retreat or make a retragrade march. it rained on us the most of this evening."

PORTABLE SOUP CAMP

20 Captain Lewis and the main party camped here on September 19, 1805. He wrote, "...having traveled 18 miles over a very bad road. we took a small quantity of portable soup, and retired to rest much fatigued. several of the men are unwell of the disentary. brakings out, or irruptions of the Skin, have also been common with us for some time."



NOTE: Portable soup was a dehydrated, powdered soup developed by Lewis.

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE CAMP

21 Lewis and Clark camped here June 25, 1806, on their second attempt to cross the mountains on the journey east. At noon Lewis wrote, "...at this place I met with a plant the root of which the shoshones eat."

it is a small knob root a good deel in flavor an consistency like the Jerusalem Artichoke." His notes continued, "...after dinner we continued our rout to hungary Creek and encamped about one and a half miles below our encampment of the 16th". (September 16, 1805).

HORSE STEAK MEADOW

22 The party set out early the morning of June 16, 1806, retracing the route of the previous September. Progress was slow because of fallen timber and snow. They made only 15 miles by evening. Captain Clark wrote, "We found much difficulty in finding the road, as it was so frequently covered with snow. we arived early in the evening at the place I had killed and left the flesh of a horse for the party in my rear last Sept. here is a Small glade in which there is some grass, not a Sufficiency of [for] our horses, but we thought it adviseable to remain here all night as we apprehended if we proceeded further we should find less grass."

HEARTY MEAL STOP

Lewis and his party stopped here to eat at about 1 p.m. on September 20, 1805. Earlier in the day, they had come upon a horse which had been killed and butchered the day before by Clark who, with six men, had gone ahead of the main party. Lewis wrote, "...we halted on a small branch runing to the left and made a hearty meal on our horse beef much to the comfort of our hungry stomachs".

FULL STOMACH CAMP

23 Captain Lewis and his men camped here September 20, 1805. Following several days of extremely diffiult travel with little food, the men bedded down this night with full stomachs. In his journal entry Lewis notes, "...we encamped on a ridge where ther was but little grass for our horses, and at a distance from water. however we obtained as much as served our culinary purposes and suped on our beef."

SALMON TROUT CAMP

24 On the morning of June 18, 1806, Lewis and Clark retreated from Hungery Creek and decided to camp in a small meadow along "Collins Creek" (presently called Eldorado Creek). Lewis wrote, "...we sent out several hunters but they returned without having killed anything. they saw a number of salmon (trout) and shot at them several times without success. we directed Colter and Gibson to fix each of them a gigg in the morning and indeavour to take some of the salmon."

They camped at this campsite from June 18 through June 20, 1806.



SMALL PRAIRIE CAMP

25 On the morning of June 15, 1806, they set out from Welppe in a hard rain. According to Lewis after a hard day of travel they "...incamped near a small prarie in the bottom land. the fallen timber in addition to the slippry roads made our march slow and extremely laborious on our horses. the country is exceedingly thickly timbered with a longleafed pine, some pitch pine, larch, white pine, white cedar or arbor vita of large size, and a variety of frs."

LEWIS AND CLARK GROVE

26 Clark camped here September 19, 1805, on the journey west. Captain Clark, with six hunters, traveled from the mouth of Doubt Creek on Hungery Creek to Cedar Creek in one day. They came 22 miles on a direct course, but according to Clark, "...passed over a mountain, and the heads of a branch of hungary Creek, two high mountains, ridges and through much falling timber (which caused our road of to day to be double the direct distance on the Course) Struck a large Creek passing to our left which I Kept down for 4 miles and left it to our left & passed over a (down the) mountain bad falling timber to a Small Creek passing to our left and Encamped."

PHEASANT CAMP

27 September 21, 1805, Lewis's party left the camp on the ridge between Dollar and Sixbits Creeks and made their way to Lolo Creek. Lewis wrote, "...encamped in a small open bottom where there was tolerable food for our horses. directed the horses to be hubbled to prevent delay in the morning being deter-mined to make a forced march tomorrow in order to reach if possible the open country. we killed a few Pheasants, and I killed a prarie woolf which together with the ballance of our horse beef and some crawfish which we obtained in the creek enabled us to make one more hearty meal, not knowing where the next was to be found."



WEIPPE PRAIRIE . . . AND ON TO THE PACIFIC

Clark met with members of the Nez Perce Indian Tribe on September 20, 1805, in the vicinity of Welppe, Idaho. This large prairie was the site of several villages and a major area used by the tribe for the digging of camas roots. Clark was joined by Lewis and the rest of the party on September 22. They rested here a day and then proceeded toward the Clearwater River to Canoe Camp on the west city limits of present-day Orofino. They stayed at this site until October 5, 1805, and built canoes for the downriver trip to the Pacific.

After wintering at Fort Clatsop near the mouth of the Columbia River, the Lewis and Clark party began their return trip to St. Louis on March 23, 1806. They arrived back on the Welppe prairie on June 10, 1806.

On June 15 they and their Nez Perce guides started across the mountains again, only to be turned back by deep snows. Finally on June 30 the company arrived back at their Traveller's Rest Camp near Lolo, Montana. Here they bid farewell to their guides and continued their journey to St. Louis.



A member of the party wrote of the Nez Perce, "after taking our farewell of these good hearted, hospitable and obliging sons of the west, we proceeded on..."

