

# Experience the Lolo Trail 2013

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**The Lolo Trail**, that route over the Bitterroot Mountains traveled by Lewis and Clark and many other explorers and travelers needs your help. Spend 5 days/ 6 nights with a group of up to 20 energetic volunteers working to maintain the trail, interpretive signs, and related historic sites. We will set up a camp near Spirit Revival Ridge and spend our days working on a variety of projects, doing a little sightseeing and learning a little history.



**WORK TO BE DONE:** The greatest need is to keep the existing trail from being overgrown by brush. To that end we will be equipped with long handled pruning cutters. Small crews will tackle various sections of the trail with a goal of 5 miles of brushing each day. The trail travels along the east-west ridge line intersected occasionally by the Lolo Motorway, a very rocky and primitive road. Along the road are many log interpretive signs which need to be oiled annually. You can't visit any part of the trail without doing some sightseeing so that together with local history will be included in all activities. We'll be doing our own cooking so we'll rotate kitchen duties.

**WHEN:** August 4 to 10. We'll meet in Orofino, Idaho Sunday morning, August 4 and caravan to the campsite near Spirit Revival Ridge. We spend the work week on the Lolo Trail and we'll break camp after breakfast on Saturday, Aug 10.

**WHAT YOU WILL GAIN:** The satisfaction of doing work that needs to be done, visits to many historic sites, some "oh-Wows" at the incredible views of the endless mountains surrounding you, an idea of how the Nez Perce used these mountains, an understanding of the challenge of modern management of a historic resource, a whole lot of local history, lots of Lewis and Clark history, new friends, some sore muscles and perhaps a few blisters.



**THE COST:** Forest Service funding is dwindling so those who love these mountains for their history and their special places need to step up. We've received a grant to help with two-thirds of week's foods, estimated at \$150 per person. Your week will cost you just \$50 plus your travel costs. Pre-teen kids charged at special rates. We'll do our own cooking. Bring your own plastic plates, utensils and drinking mugs.

**WHAT ELSE IS NEEDED?** Bring a tent, mattress pad and sleeping bag for the often cool nights and hard ground. We don't recommend a pickup-camper or travel trailers as the road is very primitive and you would experience significant damage. We suggest you drive SUVs or empty pickups with heavy duty tires

because tire side wall damage is common. To travel to the work sites from camp we will consolidate crews into as few vehicles as possible. In regard to clothing think layers. Mountain weather is extremely variable and a bright sunny morning with "T" shirt temperatures often leads to an afternoon thunderstorm with heavy rain and hail. Be prepared.

**MORE INFORMATION:** The work project is organized by the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, with support from the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. Tools and technical support come from the Clearwater National Forest and you will be signed up as a National Forest Volunteer. For more information contact Kathy Von Barga at [LandC2013@gmail.com](mailto:LandC2013@gmail.com) for an application form and multi-page information document you need to understand before you can commit to joining us.