

National Trails Day . . . June 5

. . . Salmon, Idaho

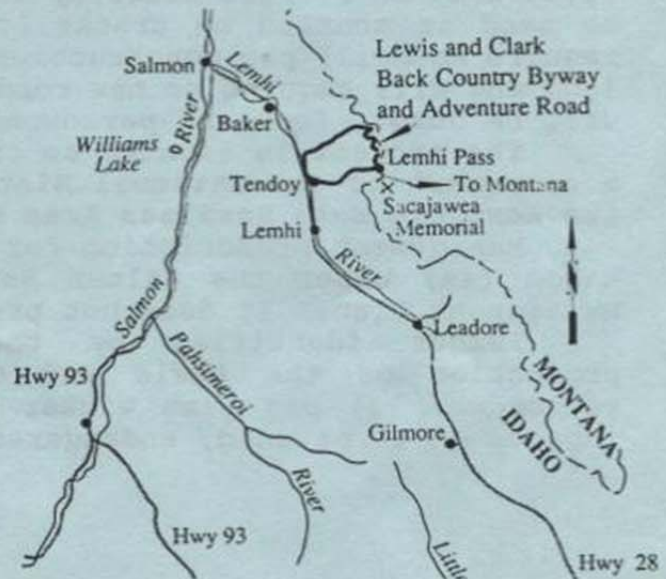
LEWIS AND CLARK BACK COUNTRY BYWAY AND ADVENTURE ROAD

Recently, the Bureau of Land Management initiated a new recreation program called "Back Country Byways". This program combines America's century old love affair with motor vehicles and the outdoors by providing safe, well marked back road outdoor driving opportunities throughout the west. Depending on the Back Country Byway you choose, you may see wildlife, ancient petroglyphs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, wild horses and burros, or portions of historic trails.

The Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway and Adventure Road near Salmon offers such an experience. Cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, this 38 mile loop road winds through the Bitterroot Range to the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass - that point over which the Lewis and Clark Expedition struggled to finally taste the waters of the great Columbia.

Along this route, you can visit the site where Captain Lewis unfurled Old Glory for the first time west of the Divide and claimed the Pacific Northwest. A side road leads to an Expedition campsite that is still much the same as when visited by the explorers. Signs along the Byway also interpret the history of mining, the Red Rock Stage, range activities, wolves, and more.

The Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway is accessed off Highway 28, approximately 20 miles south of Salmon at Tendoy. Take the Tendoy intersection east and follow the signs. The road is single lane with occasional pullouts for passing. It is gravel surfaced and can be driven via normal passenger car. However, the road is usually closed to passenger cars due to snowpack November to June. In winter, the loop is groomed for snowmobile access. For more information on current conditions, contact the Bureau of Land Management, Salmon District, P.O. Box 430, Salmon, Idaho, 83467, (208) 756-5404, or the U.S. Forest Service, Leadore Ranger District, P.O. Box 180, Leadore, Idaho, 83464, (208) 768-2371.



ACTION ALERT

The Powell Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest is seeking comments on the preparation of a master plan to guide development of Lolo Pass over the next few years. Send comments by May 15 to District Ranger, Powell Ranger District, Lolo, MT 59847 or call (208) 942-3113.

Objectives include: provide safe and effective access for a variety of recreation and commercial uses; provide adequate sanitation, water and solid waste facilities for the public; provide travel information and educational and interpretive information; provide an attractive site and recreation facilities.

Some of the specific proposals include: provide a high standard interpretive trail from the Glade Creek Lewis and Clark site to Packer Meadows with appropriate signing and brochures; provide more interpretation of natural history and more in-depth interpretation of various aspects of Native American history. Provide upgraded and redesigned facilities including landscaping of VIS, picnic sites, rebuilt water and toilet facilities, parking facilities, allow for future base facilities for a potential year round recreation concessionaire, separating logging and recreation traffic from Highway 12 access road, some building relocation, building a multi-season, multi-use trail system. In partnership with the States of Idaho and Montana, explore the construction of a highway rest stop at the summit of Lolo Pass.

The North Fork Ranger District, Salmon National Forest is accepting comments on a proposed exploratory drilling project in Burns Basin located in Lemhi County. They are accepting comments through May 17 to Rogers M. Thomas, North Fork District Ranger, Box 180, North Fork, ID 83466; phone (208) 865-2383.

KRL Minerals, Inc., of Vancouver, BC, has submitted a plan of operation to continue exploration of the Eclipse Group. The project consists of a reverse circulation drill program totaling 5,000 feet in 9 drill holes up to 600 feet deep. The drill rig to be used is mounted on tracks, the body is adjustable, and will require no drill pad construction. This track drill can move over land and will require no new road construction. Only dry drilling will be done. Fuel and personnel will be helicoptered in daily.

The project is located on or near the Lewis and Clark Trail, a component of the National Historic Trail System. It is within the West Big Hole Roadless Area No. 13943.

Management prescription for this area is Key Big Game Winter Range (4A) under the Salmon National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. It does not preclude mineral activity.

Issues identified by the Interdisciplinary Team: (1) protection of the Lewis and Clark Trail and other cultural resources; (2) big game winter range; (3) soils and water; (4) impacts on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

Celebrate National Trails Day ... June 5th, Salmon

The Idaho Chapter, in conjunction with Salmon District of the BLM, Leadore District of the Salmon National Forest, Farmers Insurance, Back Country Horseman, Lemhi County Commissioners, and the Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce, will join forces to host a National Trails Day event along the Lewis and Clark Backcountry Byway. A full schedule of interesting events has been planned. The schedule includes:



10:00 a.m. - Meet at Tendoy School (20 miles SE of Salmon on Highway 28)

3 options available: Hiking, auto tour, and horseback ride

Stops include: Alkali Flat with interpretative talk by Wilmer Rigby: "The meeting of Two Cultures"; "Flag Unfurling" reenactment at monument by Mountainmen; Lunch stop with music by the Old Time Fiddlers; Elias Williams will demonstrate the dress of the expedition; and a flintknapping demonstration. In the afternoon, the hikers will depart to Clark's campsite; the auto tour departs for Lemhi Pass; and the riders will continue their ride. All groups will return to the point of origin by 4 p.m.

The Idaho Chapter will have special "National Trails Day" t-shirts available for sale. Proceeds will go to the Chapter activities.

LCSC Elderhostel: Nez Perce Tribe and Lewis & Clark

Carole Simon-Smolinski, Chapter member and local historian, will teach a class on Lewis & Clark and the Nez Perce Tribe, assisted by various tribal members. An all-day field trip to Spalding Park will include lunch and dance demonstrations and meets from 8:30 to 10 a.m. June 8; from 8:30 a.m. to noon June 9; from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 10; and from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and 1:30 to 3 p.m. June 11. Cost is \$30 and includes transportation to and from the park and lunch June 10. Deadline for enrollment is June 1 through the LCSC Vocational Short-Term Training Center. 799-5272, general information number.

Lolo Trail Campout

At the Chapter meeting in April, the dates for the Lolo Trail campout were set for July 13 through July 16. The Take Pride in America project is scheduled from July 16 through July 18th. Anyone interested in going on this trip should contact Steve Lee or Chuck Raddon. We have a sign-up sheet of interested persons and we need to know of all others so we can coordinate this trip.