

Where to go for Information

Bicentennial Observance

To learn more about the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial observance on the Clearwater National Forest, contact:

Bicentennial Coordinator

Kooskia Ranger Station
Rt. 1, Box 398
Kooskia, ID 83539
Phone: (208) 926-4274

Or visit the Clearwater National Forest website:

www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater



R1-00-15

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Commercial Enterprises

Many people have expressed interest in offering guided trips onto the national forest during the Bicentennial.

Clearwater National Forest managers have analyzed the capacities of the resources and potential visitor needs to determine the number and type of guided services needed.

For information, contact:

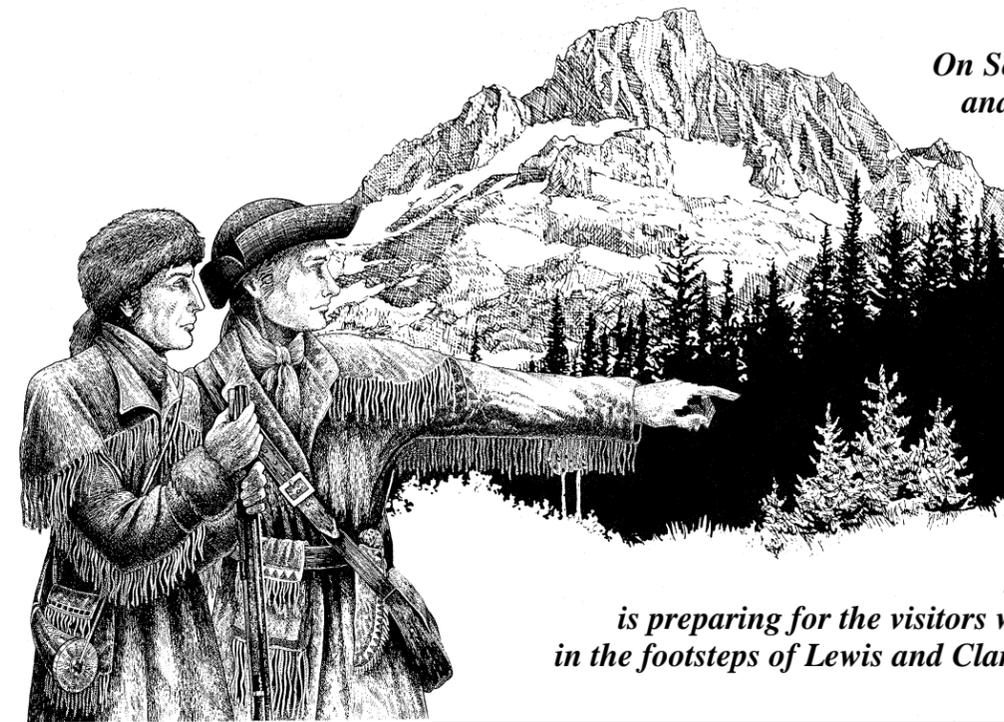
Special Uses Permits Officer

Clearwater National Forest
Supervisor's Office
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
Phone: (208) 476-8245

A permit is required for commercial use of national forest land.

Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Observance — Following the Lewis and Clark Route Across the Clearwater National Forest



On September 11, 1805, Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery began one of the most difficult and demanding legs of their voyage to the Pacific Ocean — the 86-mile trek across the Bitterroot Mountains — over what is now the Clearwater National Forest. Today, at the Bicentennial of this historic event, the Forest

is preparing for the visitors who are coming to follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark.

The Visitor Will Find Many Opportunities for an Outstanding Lewis & Clark Experience

- ◆ A new visitor and interpretive center at Lolo Pass, anticipated opening date 2002.
- ◆ Self-guided driving tours on Highway 12.
- ◆ Interpretive signs on Highway 12, the Lolo Motorway itself, and Road 100, which accesses the Motorway northeast of Kamiah.
- ◆ Guided trips by local outfitters.
- ◆ Segments of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail* to hike or ride horseback.
- ◆ Many special events to be sponsored by communities along Highway 12.

**The actual route Lewis and Clark followed across the Bitterroot Mountains climbs north of Highway 12 to a high ridge above the Lochsa River. Because this is a sensitive area for both natural and cultural resources, it will be protected with some restrictions during the Bicentennial years. See the following page for details.*

U.S. Highway 12: a magnificent scenic experience

Few drives can compare with traveling Highway 12 along the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River. The two-lane highway winds through a narrow canyon between forest and river, with campgrounds and picnic areas along the route. White-water enthusiasts, fishermen, swimmers, and hikers take advantage of recreation opportunities in the river canyon. And, of course, for those seeking to experience the country the Lewis and Clark Expedition crossed, the Lochsa River corridor captures the remote, rugged, wild character of the land.

Travel in the Lolo Trail Corridor: *A permit system will be in effect.*

A Letter to Forest Visitors:

The Lolo Trail Corridor holds a wealth of treasures. It was the site of many historical events, and carries the memories of hundreds of years of American Indian use. Two National Historic Trails – the Nez Perce and the Lewis and Clark – stretch the full length of the Lolo Trail, which is also a National Historic Landmark. These designations require, and warrant, legal protection. To protect these resources, Clearwater National Forest managers are committed to:

- ❖ Use all measures possible to protect the cultural and heritage resources.
- ❖ Minimize changes from existing conditions. The 1930's character of the Motorway will be maintained. No improvements that would change its primitive character will be made. The corridor is undeveloped and will remain a self-discovery experience.

We want the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial visitor to have a meaningful and memorable experience, but the Lolo Trail Corridor is a primitive area, with minimal development. Capacity is limited due to primitive road conditions, few suitable camping areas, and many sensitive cultural and vegetative sites.

Because of the cultural and historical significance of the area, and the limited capacity, we will implement a permit system to manage use on the high elevation portion of the Lolo Trail Corridor during the Bicentennial years.

In order to protect the resources of the Lolo Trail, it is my decision to initiate the permit system by the summer of 2003, or if visitor use warrants, by 2002. The permit system will end in 2007 or sooner if a decline in visitor use occurs. The following permit system is the result of many months of deliberation and hundreds of comments from members of the public.

Permit System

- Permits will be granted through a lottery system.
- Availability of permits will be announced in December of each year. People will have two months to apply, noting their preferred dates.
- The permit system will be in effect during periods of high visitor use – from about July 1 through October 1 each year.

- A \$6 non-refundable fee will be charged to apply for a permit. Permit holders may be required to pay an additional fee to help defray permit administration costs.
- A maximum of 10 parties will be allowed on the Lolo Trail each day. Each party may have up to 10 people and 2 full-size vehicles, and up to 10 horses, bicycles, ATVs, or motorcycles.
- All motorized vehicles will be subject to noise level restrictions.
- Towing of trailers will not be allowed, except for a small trailer, less than 50" wide, behind an ATV.
- Vehicle size is limited to 23' long, 8' wide, and 12' high.
- Visitors will register at "Wendover Staging Area," which will be located near milepost 159 on Highway 12. They will be provided orientation and educational materials, camping instructions, and campsite assignments. Limited facilities for camping, horses, and parking will be available at the staging area.
- Entrance to the permitted area will be on the east end of the Motorway via Parachute Hill Road 569. The exit will be at the Weitas Butte junction, Road 557. Permit holders may also enter or exit on Saddle Camp Road 107.
- The general flow of traffic will be east to west, although once on the Motorway, permit holders may travel back and forth.
- The maximum length of stay on the permitted section is 8 days.
- Access to national forest land north of the Motorway in the Gravey Creek area will be provided via Road 107. A permit will not be required to cross the Motorway.
- Permits will be available for walk-in visitors if there have been cancellations or no-shows.
- Renters of Castle Butte Lookout and Liz Butte Cabin will go through the rental process and pay rental fees; however, all other requirements for permit holders apply to them.

• Permits will also be required of institutions or organizations planning trips or special events on the Lolo Trail. They will be subject to a party size limitation of 35 with up to 4 vehicles per party. A maximum of 1 group per week will be allowed. All other permit holder requirements apply.

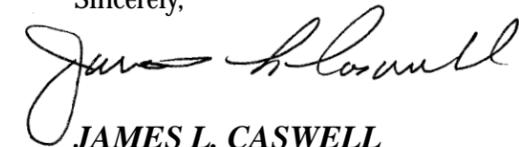
• Nez Perce treaty rights will be honored. Tribal members are entitled to use the Lolo Trail area for their cultural activities. Permits will not be required of them. The Nez Perce people are partners in the planning of this event, as they were partners in the success of the Expedition.

• Area restrictions will be implemented where needed, and motorized vehicles will be restricted to designated routes.

Outfitter-guided trips will be offered, so people not selected through the lottery, or who prefer travel with an outfitter, have that option. (For information on outfitted trips contact the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, 208-342-1438.)

To find out how to apply for a permit, contact the Bicentennial Coordinator at 208-926-4274.

Sincerely,



JAMES L. CASWELL
Forest Supervisor

