A Modern Explorer’s Guide

Welcome to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail!

We hope you enjoy your visit as a modern explorer on your own Voyage of Discovery.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (L&CNHT) along Lolo Creek consists of a fourteen-mile section between Grave Creek and Lolo Pass. West of Lolo Pass the trail continues into the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho. East of Grave Creek the trail is on private land and is either intermittent or non-existent. Lewis and Clark traveled mostly along the north side of what is now U.S. Highway 12.

To help you make the most of your explorations, we’ve provided a map showing the location of the historic trail with answers to commonly asked questions. General access to the L&CNHT is limited to the locations shown on the map. The rules and regulations for the trail from Grave Creek to Lolo Pass are intended to protect this remarkable historic resource for generations to come.

What is the trail like?

Protection of historic resources and education are priorities for this section of the L&CNHT. Along Lolo Creek you’ll find a predominantly undeveloped, non-motorized setting managed for a self-discovery experience. There are few developed parking areas and access sites are relatively small. During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, it may be difficult to find parking during peak use periods. Since much of the original trail tread is still intact, this is a place where you can step back in time, learn about this historic event, and imagine what it was like along this trail 200 years ago.

What kind of travel is allowed?

Due to steep grades and erosive soils, this section of the trail is closed to mechanized travel. Only pedestrian travel is allowed on most of the L&CNHT along Lolo Creek, although horses are allowed on the historic tread from Lolo Hot Springs to approximately 1/4 mile south of Fish Creek Road. If you wish to leave U.S. Highway 12 on a mountain bike or motor vehicle, you can roughly parallel the L&CNHT on existing unpaved forest roads and trails shown on a Lolo National Forest map. To obtain a map, visit or call the Lolo National Forest at (406) 329-3814.
Are there interpretive signs along the trail?

Yes! Interpretive signs and points of interest along this section of trail are shown on the map. Since the L&CNHT follows the same route as the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and the Lolo Trail in this area, you’ll find interpretive information about these historic travelways, as well. Since Lewis and Clark first traveled this trail westbound, you’ll find L&CNHT markers facing you as you travel west along the trail. The Nez Perce traveled eastbound on this trail to hunt buffalo, so Nez Perce NHT markers face the eastbound traveler. As long as you see either of these NHT markers, you are on the right trail.

Where can I camp or picnic?

Opportunities abound! Developed campgrounds and picnic areas are listed to the right beneath the map. Due to steep slopes and dense vegetation, camping is not allowed along or next to the historic trail. Camping at undeveloped sites is allowed on national forest land in the Lolo Creek drainage, but please use existing sites.

Please help maintain this historic pathway for the enjoyment of other visitors by following the “Leave No Trace” principles listed on the back of this brochure.

All visitors are encouraged to practice the seven “Leave No Trace” principles:

1. Plan ahead. Obtain maps and know the rules and regulations.
2. Stay on the trail. Avoid traveling or camping on vegetation.
3. Pack out more garbage than you brought. Use public restrooms.
4. Leave any artifacts you may find. Do not take souvenirs or historic objects.
5. Use only established fire rings or camp stoves. Keep campfires small.
6. Do not disturb or harass wildlife.
7. Respect other visitors.

For further information, contact the Missoula Ranger District Lolo National Forest (406) 329-3814

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