



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service
Clearwater National Forest
12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lewis and Clark Across the Lolo Trail

Join in the activities planned at Lolo Pass and Wendover Trail to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial September 13th, 14th and 15th

Would you like to meet “Lewis and Clark”? They are once again crossing back into Idaho to journey over the Bitterroot Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. However, unlike their 1805 trip, this journey is filled with events to commemorate their passage 200 years ago. The Discovery Expedition: Bitterroot Corps are a group of dedicated volunteers retracing the steps of Captains Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the Corps of Discovery members. Starting September 11th they will leave Traveler’s Rest State Park in Lolo, MT to begin their re-enactment of the crossing of the Bitterroots or what we now know as the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark.

Lolo Pass Events

On September 13th and 14th Lolo Pass (located on Highway 12 on the Idaho-Montana border) will be transformed into an 1805 military encampment. During these days Lolo Pass Visitor Center Staff will host period and Nez Perce interpretive programs. The public is invited to visit with the corps, experience their encampment and meet “Captain Clark” who is portrayed by Payton (Bud) Clark the great, great, great grandson of Captain William Clark. Their encampment includes interpretive displays and programs on period dress, firearms, survey and expedition equipment. Ceremonial flag raisings and retiring of the colors are planned each day at 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM PST

The public is also invited to participate in a Lewis and Clark Commemorative Postal Service event at Lolo Pass on Sept 13th and 14th from 9:00 to 3:00 PST. During these two days Lolo Pass will be turned



into a mini-post office where mail can be stamped with “Lolo Pass Station” before being sent anywhere around the world. Commemorative, pictorial envelopes featuring John Clymer's 'Lewis and Clark in the Bitterroots' will be available to collectors and the public.

On September 14th from 12:00 to 1:00 PM PST, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial will be formally welcomed back into Idaho. Events during this hour include the “Passing of the Esponentoon” between the Montana and Idaho National Guard units. This event symbolizes the military support of the 1805 expedition. Veterans will be honored and are encouraged to attend this event.

Wendover Ridge Ascent

At 8:00 AM PST on the morning of September 15th, the Discovery Expedition: Bitterroots Corps will assemble at Wendover Ridge Trailhead (Highway 12; Milepost 158, 16 miles west of Lolo Pass) to begin preparations for their arduous crossing of the Bitterroot Mountains. The Forest Service 9 Mile Packstring will be on-site to pack the corps provisions up the steep ridgeline trail. From 8:00 to 9:30 AM PST, professional interpreters will be at the trailhead providing programs on historic packing techniques and insight into what Lewis and Clark may have been thinking as they ventured into these rugged mountains. Visitors are invited to watch as the corps and packstring load Clark's desk, saddle mounts and begin the ascent of the ridgeline trail. At 9:30 AM PST, the Forest Service packstring, followed by the Discovery Expedition: Bitterroot Corps will begin the Wendover Ridge ascent.

Between September 16th and 19th the Discovery Expedition: Bitterroots Corps, will spend “5 sleeps” crossing the permitted section of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. At 1:00 PM on September 20th the public is once again encouraged to see the corps as they re-enact the meeting of Captain Clark and the Nez Perce at Weippe, Id.

A complete schedule of events is attached (brochure1.doc).

For more information, contact:

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