

THEME XI: Lewis and Clark Expedition;
THEME XV: Military and Indian Affairs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Lolo Trail

24M0104

AND/OR COMMON

Lolo Trail

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

A trail about 140-150 miles southwesterly from vic. Lolo, Montana to Weippe Prairie

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clearwater and Lolo National Forests

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

1st (Montana and Idaho)

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Idaho

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER forest

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Forest Service, Clearwater and Lolo National Forests (major owner)

STREET & NUMBER

Missoula District (some private ownership at east and west ends of trail)

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Montana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Missoula County Courthouse, Missoula, Montana
Clearwater County Courthouse, Orofino, Idaho

STREET & NUMBER

Idaho County Courthouse, Grangeville, Idaho

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None known

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (minor)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the remote and mountainous sector of eastern Idaho, within some of the largest national forest wilderness areas in the country, the Lolo Trail of Lewis and Clark Expedition is at best a faint trace through the thick virgin forests and over the rugged terrain of the Bitterroot Mountain Range. ^{Montana}

The Nez Perce Indians had long used the trail during their annual trek across the mountains from their homes along the Clearwater River in north-central Idaho to their various buffalo hunting grounds in Montana. Originally it was not a single trail, but a network of trails, cut-offs and shortcuts, since the trail was so infrequently used that there were many detours to by-pass fallen trees, rocks, and snow in the thick forest.

Not until the 1850s did the trail become known as the Lolo Trail; it was apparently not named by either the Indians or Lewis and Clark. Today it is also known as the Nez Perce Buffalo Road. In 1805, proceeding westerly from Travellers Rest the expedition found that the trail, which began as a clearly defined road along the Lolo Creek, soon became a mere path and nearly impossible with fallen timber crossing the trail. There were steep hills, rocky mountain slopes, deep gorges and hollows with unnavigable streams and rivers, tangled forest and underbrush, and high divides which sometimes reached more than 7,000 feet in elevation. The horses often slid down the steep mountainsides and snow and ice hid the trail and made it even more treacherous. On the westward trip the expedition lost the trail in the vicinity of Lolo Pass, for a number of miles. Fortunately, in 1806, Indian guides kept them on the trail proper for its entire length.

The Lewis and Clark expedition's routes, including the alternate paths taken in 1805 and 1806, and nearly 30 historic campsites, have been plotted in black on the enclosed Forest Service map ("Following Lewis and Clark Across Clearwater National Forest"). Also indicated (in red) is the present fire access road which coincides quite nearly with the original trail for some distance, and provides the only vehicular access to parts of the trail. Westerly from Travellers Rest to Lolo Pass the expedition's trail along Lolo Creek is followed approximately by Route 12, a two-lane highway completed in 1964 and the first paved road through the eastern Idaho wilderness. Except for a very few scattered Forest Service facilities such as camping areas, fire lookout stations and a few farm structures, the view from the road is of undisturbed forests and mountains, along the valley of Lolo Creek.

The trail generally follows along a series of ridges, through untamed natural forest, occasionally dipping into valleys and gorges and saddles, but mostly following the high lands, and in those areas coinciding with the route of the one-lane dirt fire access road built along the ridges by the Forest Service in 1934-35. This access road is called, and often labeled on maps, the Lolo Trail today. Steep, narrow and usually passable only July to early September, the road is generally suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles and is used by relatively few campers, hunters, and fisherman. Running from Pierce, Idaho, easterly to Powell Ranger Station (on Route 12), the road's western section is

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

located generally north of the Lewis and Clark trail, but its central and eastern path follows closely the expedition's 1805-1806 routes.

Many of the expedition's campsites have been pinpointed and identified and are located adjacent to, or a short hike from, the access road. Proceeding west to east, the sites are identified on the accompanying map and described as follows by the Forest Service interpretive material and markers:

Pheasant Camp September 21, 1805, Lewis' party left the camp on the ridge between Dollar and Sixbits Creeks and made their way to Lolo Creek. Here they "...encamped on a small open bottom where there was tolerable food for our horses." After making camp, they "...killed a few pheasants,...a prairie wolf which together with the balance of our horse beef and some crawfish which we obtained in the creek enabled us to make one more hearty meal, not knowing where the next was to be found."

Lewis and Clark Grove Clark camped here September 19, 1805, on the journey west. Captain Clark, with six hunters, traveled from the mouth of Doubt Creek on Hungery Creek to Cedar Creek in one day. They came 22 miles on a direct course, but according to Clark, "...passed over a mountain, and the heads of a branch of hungary Creek, two high mountains, ridges, and through much falling timber (which caused our road of the day to be double the direct distance on the Course..."

Small Prarie Camp On the morning of June 15, 1806, they set out from Weippe in a hard rain. After covering about 11 miles, they caught up to two members of the party who had gone ahead to hunt and had killed a deer. Lewis wrote, "We halted at the creek, dined and grazed our horses. ...after dinner we proceeded up the creek...and incamped near a small prarie in the bottom land. The fallen timber in addition to the slippery roads made our march slow and extreemly laborious on our horses."

"Salmon Trout" Camp On the morning of June 18, 1806, Lewis and Clark retreated from Hungery Creek. As described in Lewis' journal, "we hope by means of fish together with what deer and bear we can kill be to enabled to subsist until our guide arrives without the necessity of returning to the quawmash flats." (Weippe Prairie) "there is a great abundance of good food here to sustain our horses." They camped here June 18 through June 20, 1806, and again on June 24, 1806.

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Full Stomach Camp Captain Lewis camped here on the journey west, September 20, 1805. The party came upon a stray Indian horse butchered the day before by Clark who, with six men, had gone ahead of the main party. Lewis wrote, "...we halted on a small branch runing to the left and made a hearty meal on our horse beef to the comfort of our hungry stomachs."

The journal entry for this day also takes note of the plants the party encountered, "was the huckleberry, honesuckle and alder...also a king of honeysuckle which bears a white bury...."

Horse Steak Meadow The party set out early the morning of June 16, 1806, retracing the route of the previous September. Progress was slow because of fallen timber and snow. They made 15 miles by evening, but decided against proceeding further due to the anticipated lack of food for the horses. Captain Lewis describes it: "we arrived early in the evening at the place that Capt. C. had killed and left the flesh of a horse for us last September."

Jerusalem Artichokes Campsite Lewis and Clark camped here June 25, 1806, on their second attempt to cross the mountains on the journey east. Lewis wrote: "...at this place I met with a plant the root of which the shoshones eat. It is a small knob root a good deel in flavor an consistency like the Jerusalem Artichoke...after dinner we continued our rout to hungary Creek and encamped about one and a half miles below our encampment of the 16th." (September 16, 1805).

Portable Soup Camp Captain Lewis, with the main party, was following Captain Clark. The party traveled 18 miles and had "...only a small quantity of portable soup..." for supper. The men were showing the effects of the lack of food and exhaustion. Several were "...unwell with the disentary, breaking out, or irruptions of the skin." Portable soup was dehydrated, powered soup Lewis developed.

Retreat Camp This first attempt by Lewis and Clark in June 1806, to cross the Bitterroot' Mountains from west to east was made without guides. On June 17, 1806, they went as far as Cache Mountain and found snow 10 feet deep. They decided to send for Indian guides and moved back to Hungery Creek on the evening of June 17, 1806, and camped. Captain Lewis: "The party were a good deel dejected tho not much so as I had apprehanded they would have been. this is the first time since we have been on this long tour that we have ever been compelled to retreat or make a retrograde march."

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Hungery Creek On September 18, 1805, on the journey west, Clark had gone ahead of the main party to hunt. He describes the naming of Hungery Creek in these words..."encamped on a bold running creek passing to the left which I call Hungery Creek as that place we had nothing to eate."

Cache Mountain This is the point where Lewis and Clark were forced to turn back on June 17, 1806.

Horse Sweat Pass Considering this site it is small wonder that the Lewis and Clark journals are full of comments about "high rugged knobs...much falling timber which fatigues our men & horses." Add to this the discomfort of cold and snow plus starvation rations.

Spirit Revival Ridge An imposing site in addition to the view, with evidence of Indian occupation grey, flint chips are common; reddish arrowheads and tools have been found. Basalt rocks (use unknown) have also been left here. Indian-camping here seems implausible except during early summer while snow-banks could still provide water.

Dry Camp On the morning of September 18, 1805, on the journey west, the party split, Clark moving on ahead with six hunters. Lewis followed with the main party and the heavier equipment and supplies. After making 18 miles that day, Captain Lewis made a dry camp on the sidehill below, procuring water with difficulty from a steep ravine. According to the Journal kept by Lewis, "...we dined and suped on a skant proportion of portable soupe, a few canesters of which, a little bears oil and about 20 lb. of candles from our stock of provision."

"Greensward" Camp The party set out early from Hungery Creek on the morning of June 26, 1806, retracing the route abandoned because of deep snows and the lack of Indian guides. Lewis wrote: "late in the evening much to the satisfaction of ourselves and the comfort of our horses we arrived at the desired spot and encamped on the steep side of a mountain convenient to a good spring. there we found a abundance of fine grass for our horses, the grass was young and tender of course and had much the appearance of greensward."

The Smoking Place On the journey east June 27, 1806, the Nez Perce guides requested that the party halt at a rock cairn where they smoked a pipe. This cairn is described as being one mile short of the camp of September 17, 1805, which is now known as the Sinque Hole Camp. Clark described the view confronting the party: "from this place we had an extensive view of these

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

Stupendous mountains principally covered with snow like that on which we stood; we were entirely surrounded by those mountains from which to one unacquainted with them it would have seemed impossible ever to have escaped..."

Indian Grave The burial place of a 14-year-old Indian boy who died here in 1895.

The Sinque Hole derives its name from the description of Pvt. Whitehouse a member of the party: "camped at a small branch on the mountain near a round sinque hole full of water." This was the camp of September 17, 1805, on the westward journey. According to Clark, "we encamped on the top of a high knob of the mountain at a run passing to the left." The combination of these descriptions fits this sinkhole location well.

Saddle Camp Road This is a good road connection to the Lewis and Clark Highway. Logging trucks may be encountered.

The Devil's Chair an interesting rock formation.

Howard Camp On August 4, 1877, General Howard stopped here during his pursuit of Chief Joseph. Several cannon balls were found to identify the spot.

Lonesome Cove Lewis and Clark's camp of September 16, 1805, on the journey west. Pvt. Whitehouse, a member of the party, described the site in his diary of September 16, 1805, "...towards evening we descended the mountain down in a lonesome cove on a creek where we camped in a thicket of Spruce pine and balsome fir timber." Lewis adds, "...we encamped at this branch in a thickly timbered bottom which was scarcely large enough for us to lie leavil men all wet cold and hungary."

Indian Postoffice Several theories exist as to the purpose of these rock mounds. Lewis and Clark did not mention them. It is here that Lolo Trail departs from the main divide and follows the north side to the Sinque Hole.

Jerry Johnson Road This road is of similar standard to the 1934 access road. It joins the Lewis and Clark Highway at Squaw Creek.

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

Bears Oil and Roots After an early start the morning of June 27, 1806, Lewis and Clark made much progress and arrived at this camp early in the evening. Lewis wrote "we arrived at a situation very similar to our encampment of the last evening tho' the ridge was somewhat higher and the snow had not been so desolved of course there was but little grass. here we encamped for the night having traveled 28 miles over these mountains without relieving the horses from their packs or their having any food."

Snowbank Camp On September 15, 1805, the expedition left the present site of Powell Ranger Station and proceeded downriver. Blocked by the steep river canyon, they were forced to ascend Wendover Ridge. The Indian route they followed was extremely rough and covered with windfalls. Lewis wrote: "Several horses slipped and roled down steep hills which hurt them very much..." Upon reaching the top, they encountered further hardships. According to the Journal "when we arrived at the top as we conceived, we could find no water and concluded to camp and make use of the snow we found on the top to cook the remains of our colt and make supe, evening verry cold and cloudy."

13 Mile Camp Lewis and Clark camped here June 28, 1806, going east. Although they were able to make good time traveling on the snow, progress for the day was limited by lack of feed for the horses. Lewis wrote: "about eleven o'clock we arrived at an untimbered side of a mountain with a Southern aspect...here we found an abundance of grass for our horses as the Indians had informed us. As our horses were very hungary and much fatieged and from information no other place where we could obtain grass for them within the reach of this evenings travel we determined to remain at this place all night having come 13 miles only...the whole of the rout of this day was over deep snows. we find the traveling on the snow not worse than without it, as the easy passage it gives us over rocks and fallen timber fully compensate for the inconvenience of slipping, certain it is that we travel considerable faster on the snow than without it."

Wendover Ridge Rest Site On September 15, 1806, the party rested for two hours here, waiting for those at the rear to catch up. "the timber has been burnt and lies in every direction..."

Wendover Continuing down river from their camp of Sept. 14, 1805, at Powell Ranger Station, the expedition proceeded "over steep points rocky and buschey as usial for 4 miles to an old Indian fishing place." This site is the small meadow within the Wendover Campground. Unable to travel further, they climbed the ridge to the north and finally returned to the Lolo Trail at Snow Bank Camp.

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

Powell Ranger Station The sign at the station describes the hardships which were starting to beset the party. They were only two days away from the relatively easy terrain and abundant game on Lolo Creek but were already experiencing fatigue and hunger, but they persisted. The small island documented in their journals is located near the fuel supply area at the station. The "branch on the right side of the river" is the small stream flowing between the cookhouse and the bunkhouses.

21 Mile Camp General Howard camped here August 6, 1877, after marching "the cavalry 21 miles (from Howard Camp), camping after dark at another fork of the Clearwater, where there is not a particle of food for the animals."

Glade Creek Camp Lewis and Clark camped here on September 13, 1805. The site is at the lower end of the string of openings associated with Packer Meadow. A small side spring supplied water.

Route 12, the two-lane paved road completed in 1964, called the Lewis and Clark Highway, coincides nearly with the original Lewis and Clark route from Lolo westerly to Lolo Pass, then descends southerly, paralleling the historic trail, but following the bottom of the Lochsa River canyon several miles to the south, while the original trail followed the ridge line.

On this highway, about 5 miles east of the Powell Ranger Station is the Bernard de Voto Memorial Grove, of tall cedars, commemorating the historian who authored various works on the Lewis and Clark expedition, and whose ashes are scattered over this area.

In 1865 the Federal Government appropriated \$50,000 for construction of a road from Lewiston, Idaho, across the Bitterroots to Virginia City, Montana, then a booming mining town. After several surveys, the old Lolo Trail was chosen as the only suitable route. A primitive trail was blazed by a 60 man crew under Sewell Turax along the old Indian path, but no real road was ever made through Lolo Pass. During the Nez Perce War, in 1877, the non-treaty Nez Perce crossed this trail easterly, pursued by General Howard. Howard had 32 axe men clear the trail back to its 1866 condition in order to get his artillery and mule train through.

After the Nez Perce War, the trail fell into disuse and became so overgrown that many sections are indistinguishable in the timber and undergrowth. In order to provide fire protection and access to important timberland, the Forest Service completed the present ridge road in 1935. It is maintained, but remains a primitive road, accessible only two months of the year.

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 8

The historical and natural integrity of this wilderness area is excellent, well-protected within the confines of the forest preserve and by the remoteness and inaccessibility of the Bitterroot Range which is little changed today from September 14, 1805, when the explorers described the vicinity of Lolo Pass as "excessivly bad & thickly Strowed with falling timber & Pine Spruce fur Hackmatack & Tamarack, Steep & Stony."

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES September 11-22, 1805
 June 15-30, 1806 BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Developed by the Nez Perce Indians as a route that would take them to the bison country of Montana, the Lolo Trail was the means by which the Lewis and Clark expedition finally breached the mighty Bitterroot Mountain barrier on its way to the Pacific in September, 1805.

The Lolo Trail represents probably the most arduous single stretch of the entire route travelled by the Lewis and Clark expedition between St. Louis and the Pacific. The almost unbelievably rugged nature of the mountainous terrain, the lack of food which seriously depleted the physical resources of the men, the lateness of the season which threatened to strand the party in the midst of the Rocky Mountains for the winter--all combined to make the crossing of the Bitterroots a most critical phase of the expedition.

From the inception of the idea of an expedition to the Pacific, the crossing of the Rocky Mountains seemed to present one of the greatest problems. Although some information of a general nature could be obtained from the Indians and fur traders of the upper course of the Missouri, and about 100 miles of the Lower Columbia River had been explored, almost nothing was known of the great mountain range which separated the two drainage systems. The expedition had no precise information as to the location or extent of trails through the Rocky Mountains.

When the explorers reached the Bitterroot Range and the Continental Divide, they first attempted to cross it through Lemhi Pass and down the headwaters of the Salmon River. But this way proved impassable, and they were forced to turn northward to seek another passage. Guided by "Old Toby" a Shoshone Indian, they followed the Lemhi River north and crossed by Lost Trail Pass to the Bitterroot River and proceeded north down that river to a point about 11 miles southwest of present-day Missoula, in Montana, camping at a site which they called "Travelers Rest" on September 9 and 10.

Still guided by "Old Toby," and supplied with 40 horses and 3 colts, to be considered a source of food as well as pack animals, the expedition left Travelers Rest in the Bitterroot Valley on September 11, 1805, and followed Lolo Creek up into the Mountains towards Lolo Pass. They utilized the Nez Perce Indian trail until they reached Lolo Pass, 5,233-foot elevation, on the crest of the ridge on September 13. As was customary for all Indian

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

trails, this one did not follow along the creek bed itself but ran up a higher ridge to the side. The Lolo Trail was always a difficult one to follow, twisting through thickets, changing slightly from year to year when a tree fell across the old trail, and at best being only a dim track through primeval land. Once through Lolo Pass, the explorers lost the trail. On the western side of the crest it did not follow the lowest land but climbed upward to a great backbone of a ridge that curled westward high above the Lochsa River.

On September 14, Lewis and Clark started down Crooked Creek, a small white-water stream that joins with others to form the Lochsa River. They travelled past the present-day Powell Ranger Station, down the Lochsa itself about 4 miles, only to realize they had again reached an impassable barrier of steep canyon walls separated only by a tumultuous river. Finding no game, the expedition killed one of their colts that night for supper.

With good sense, on September 15, they climbed a steep finger north of the river and on the high ridge again found the Indian trail.

The next day, September 16, was one of their worst. They passed near the prehistoric landmark now known as the Indian Post Office at the highest point of the Lolo Trail, 7,036 feet elevation, and in a snow storm almost froze their feet. Again the hunters found no game and a second colt was killed that night for supper. On the 17th they made ten miles along the high ridge. A jumble of mountains lay in all directions as far as the eye could see. That night, still without game, they killed the third colt for supper. The journals of the explorers record this travel as being the most difficult the men experienced on their whole adventure. "The most terrible mountains I ever beheld," wrote Patrick Gass of the Bitterroots. Clark noted he was "wet and as cold in every part as I ever was in my life," and for the first time the journals report low morale among the men who were constantly wet, cold, exhausted, and hungry.

That night the two Captains conferred on their plight and decided that they would have to separate temporarily to get the expedition out of the mountains. On September 18 accompanied by six men Clark went ahead in search of game. He moved westward for about 20 miles, and from a mountain top, believed to be Sherman Peak, he got a view of an extensive plain, bounded by mountains, to the west and southwest. Clark then continued on for another 12 miles. The main party covered about 18 miles that day, also finding no game en route.

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

On the 19th Clark covered about 22 miles in direct course and camped on Lolo Creek, and discovering a horse, they killed it and hung it up for the use of the main party. On September 20th Clark marched some 17 miles, emerging from the mountains and coming out onto a beautiful open plain partially covered with pine. Here on Weippe Prairie Clark found a Nez Perce Village. He purchased some food--dried salmon, camas roots, and berries--from the Indians and sent them back along the trail to Lewis and the main party. With "inexpressable joy," the main party descended to Weippe Prairie and reached Chief Twisted Hair's village on September 22; by then the men had been reduced nearly to status of invalids.

Establishing a base at the forks of the Clearwater (at Canoe Camp) on September 26, the men there recuperated from the passage of the Lolo Trail until October 7, 1805, and also constructed canoes for the trip to the Pacific.

On the return journey in 1806, the expedition reached the Lolo Trail too early in the season, forcing Lewis and Clark to go into camp (at Kamiah, Chopunnish, or Long Camp) where they remained for a month, waiting for the snows to melt in the Bitterroots. On June 15, 1806, after moving their camp to Weippe Prairie on June 10, they entered once again on the Lolo Trail. Meeting snow up to 15 feet deep and numbing cold, and facing the threat of becoming "bewildered" due to the snow which obliterated the trail, the leaders regretfully decided to withdraw to Weippe Prairie and await better conditions. On June 24, accompanied by Nez Perce guides, the second attempt commenced. Facing the Lolo Trail again, Lewis commented, "not any of us have yet forgotten our suffering in these mountains September last, and I think it probable we never shall."

Although there was still some seven feet of snow remaining in the mountains, the Indian guides followed the trail with "instinctive sagacity" and without hesitation, apparently having no difficulty in keeping the route despite the snow. Experiencing less difficulty than had been anticipated, the expedition reached Travellers Rest in Montana in good condition on June 30, 1806. Here the party divided, Lewis and Clark leading separate divisions to a rendezvous at the mouth of the Yellowstone River.

The Nez Perce Indians continued to use their Lolo Trail on their unrecorded trips to the buffalo country. Then in 1877, for a brief time, the trail was thickly populated with travelers. The Nez Perce War brought about the largest cavalcade ever to follow the trail. Following the Battle of the Clearwater, the hostile Nez Perce decided to leave their homeland and to seek the security of Montana far from General O. O. Howard's rifles.

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

In September, 1877, about 700 men, women, and children, accompanied by several thousand horses, climbed the ridge from Weippe Prairie, followed the trail eastward, through Lolo Pass, and on to tragedy in the east. Following them painfully and slowly came Howard's men. Considering his limitations in horses and men experienced in such an endeavor, Howard's crossing was done in fair time and without undue hardship. But it was not easy, Howard wrote: "none of us will ever forget the now-famous Lolo Trail, with its sharp-edged, irregular mountains, and its endless forests."

*History from revised report by Charles W. Snell, 1964.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Reuben G. Thwaites, ed., Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806 (8 vols., New York, 1959), III 64-83, VII, 143-169; Olin D. Wheeler, The Trail of Lewis and Clark (2 vols., New York, 1904), II, 51-113; John Bakeless, Lewis and Clark (New York, 1934); Patrick Gass, A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery (Pittsburgh, 1808); Elliot Couen, ed., History of the Expedition under the Command of Lewis and Clark (4 vols., New York, 1897); Mile M. Quife, ed., The Journals of Captain Meriweather Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway (Madison, 1916); W. Turrentine Jackson, Wagon Roads West (Berkeley, 1952), 315; Merrill D. Beal, "I Will Fight no More Forever, Chief Joseph and the Nez Percé War" (Seattle, 1963), 89.

Robert Ferris, ed., Lewis and Clark, Historic Peaces Associated with Their Transcontinental Exploration (1804-1806), (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1975).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The national historic landmark boundary for the Lolo Trail as followed by the Lewis and Clark expedition has been drawn to include the approximate location of the Lolo Trail, as determined by a number of experts, and plotted on the accompanying maps. The trail itself winds through the mountains for approximately 140-150 miles, in a northeasterly-southwesterly direction, from the vicinity of Lolo, Montana, to the southeastern corner of Weippe Prairie.

The landmark boundary encloses approximately 532,000 acres, including the Lolo Trail, as closely as the route can be delineated, and enclosing a sizeable portion of land on both sides to allow for campsites and unidentified sections of the trail, as well as a necessary wilderness setting. Since there is no extant evidence in the area of the expedition's journey except for faint signs of the trail itself, the integrity of the landmark depends upon preservation of the undisturbed natural setting as seen and described by the explorers. Since the trail generally follows the high ridge line across the mountains range, at an altitude of several thousand feet, the view from the trail is magnificent and extensive, of virgin forests and mountainous range for many miles in all directions.

The landmark trail is located within two very large national forests where the vegetation and terrain is nearly pristine, except for a very few primitive Forest Service facilities, including campsites, fire lookout stations, fire access roads, and also logging roads and some unfortunate areas of clearcut logging.

The boundary, where possible, runs along ridges and high points which parallel the trail, and between easily identified topographic and cartographic features. None of the man-made features within the area contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

Travellers Rest, the expedition's campsite at the mouth of Lolo Creek on the Bitterroot River is a separate national historic landmark, as is Weippe Prairie at the west end of the trail in Idaho. The boundaries for these two campsites have been individually drawn and so the Lolo Trail national historic landmark stretches between, but does not include the campsites at both ends.

Beginning at the northeast corner of the boundary on the USGS Hamilton map, scale 1:250,000, at the center point of T12N, R20W, the national historic landmark boundary runs due south about 9 miles to the Missoula County-Rawall

(CONTINUED)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Lolo Trail

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

County line; thence west about 19 miles to the midpoint of the south line of T11N, R23W; thence southwesterly about 13 miles to the southeast corner of T37N, R14E; thence westerly about 14 1/2 miles to the top of a lookout peak (elevation about 5400), located about 2 miles north of Colgate Warm Spring; thence southwest about 9 miles to another prominent peak (elevation about 6000 feet); thence southwesterly about 30 miles to the southeast corner of T34N, R6E; thence westerly about 12 miles to the southwest corner of T34N, R5E; thence north about 9 miles to the midpoint of the west line of T35N, R5E; thence east about 12 miles to the midpoint of the east line of T35N, R6E; thence northeasterly about 20 1/2 miles to the southeast corner of T37N, R9E; thence northeasterly about 8 miles to the top of Stoney Point peak; thence northeasterly about 17 miles to the peak of Blacklead Mountain; thence east about 9 1/2 miles to the east ridge of Granite Pass on the Montana-Idaho border; thence northeasterly about 10 miles to the midpoint of the west side of T12N, R23W, on the Mineral County-Missoula County line; thence due east about 21 miles to the beginning point.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 532,000 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	7 2 0 0 2 0	5 2 0 0 7 0 0	B	1 1	7 2 0 1 5 0	5 1 6 7 5 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 1	5 8 0 5 7 0	5 1 1 3 1 0 0	D	1 1	5 8 0 5 3 0	5 1 3 8 9 0 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Idaho	16	Clearwater	035
Montana	30	Missoula	063

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Blanche H. Schroer, Landmark Review Project; William C. Everhart 1958; Charles W. Snell, 1964

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE 7/13/76

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE 202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN Washington

STATE D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS



400 000 FEET IN

T. 38 N

T. 37 N

30

T. 36 N

GREER 13 MI.
T. 35 N

T. 35 N

T. 34 N

R. 15 E

CLEARWATER

A R W A

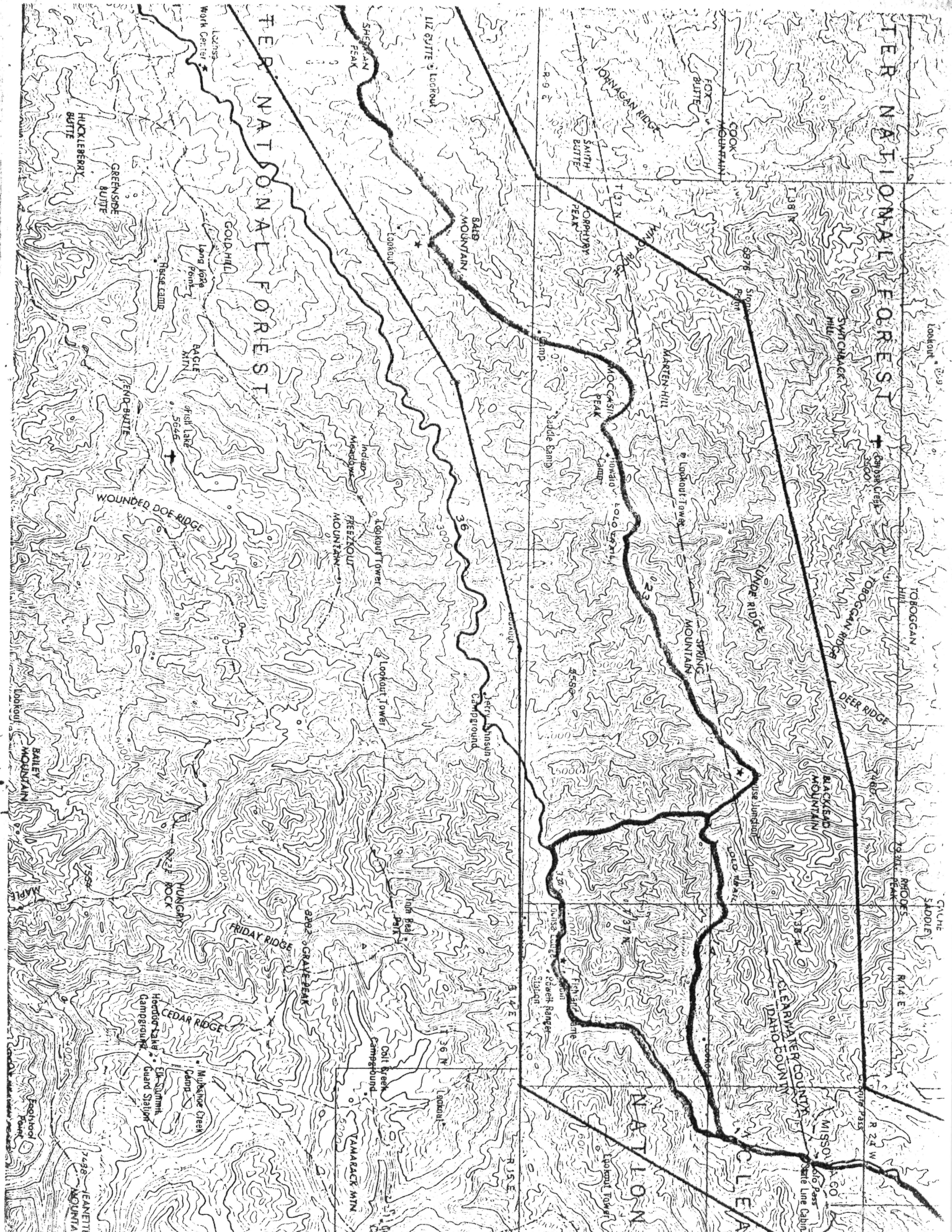
E R R

CLEARWATER

M O U N

T. 34 N

CEDAR



FERN NATIONAL FOREST

FERN NATIONAL FOREST

NATIONAL

FOREST

IDAHO COUNTY

BLAINE

DEER RIDGE

TOBOGAN RIDGE

TOBOGAN HILL

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

BLAKEHEAD MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

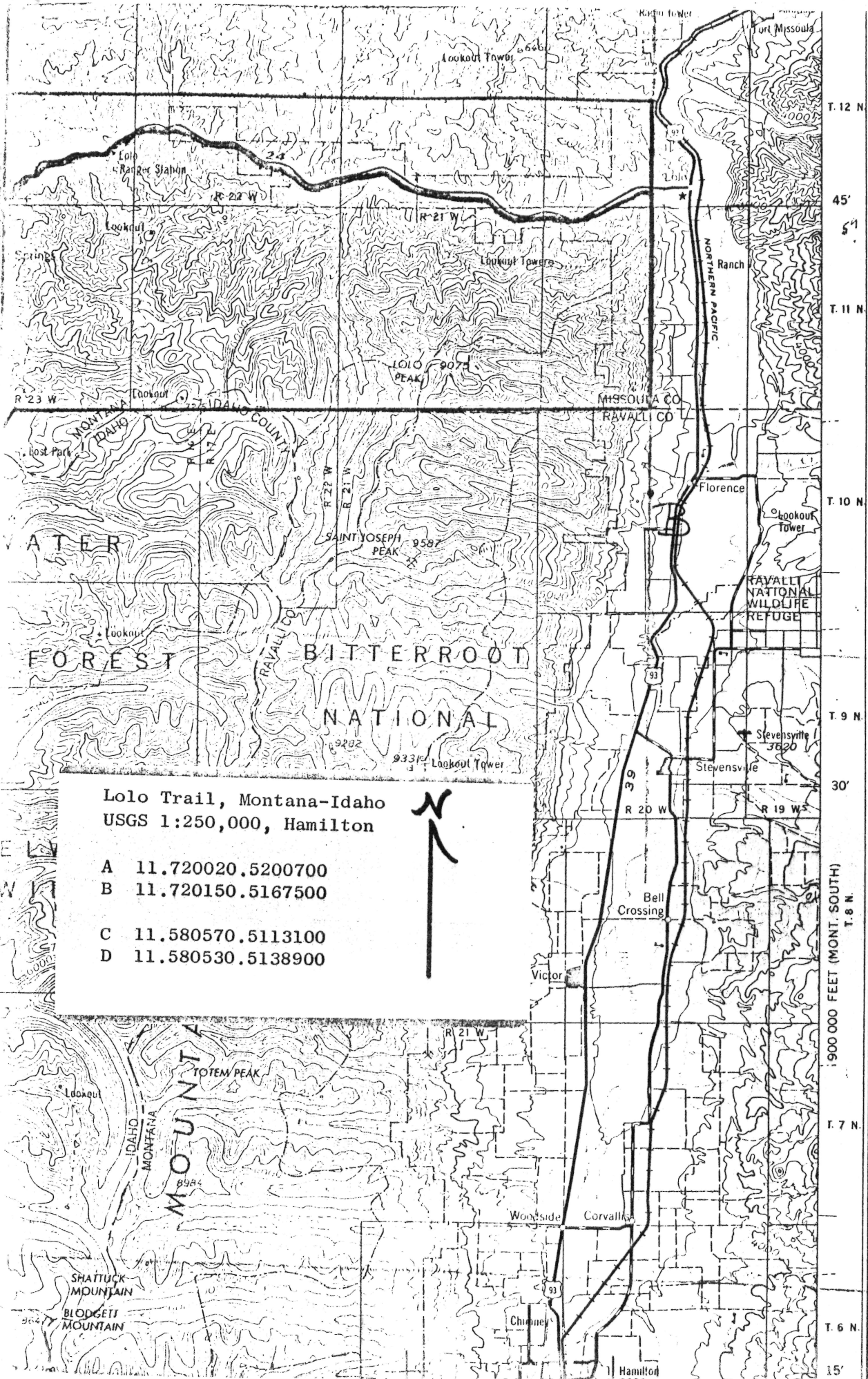
TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN

TOBOGAN MOUNTAIN



Lolo Trail, Montana-Idaho
 USGS 1:250,000, Hamilton



- A 11.720020.5200700
- B 11.720150.5167500
- C 11.580570.5113100
- D 11.580530.5138900

T. 12 N.
 45'
 T. 11 N.
 T. 10 N.
 T. 9 N.
 30'
 T. 8 N.
 1:900,000 FEET (MONT. SOUTH)
 T. 7 N.
 T. 6 N.
 15'

58

57

55