


**Lewis & Clark Trail Research  
Presentation  
to  
Idaho Lewis & Clark Governor's  
Committee  
Powell Ranger Station, Idaho  
September 12, 2014**

**PRESENTER**

Steve F. Russell, PhD, PE  
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RESEARCHER IDENTIFICATION	
The researcher named below has duly applied to use records administered by the National Archives of the United States.	
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMIN. GSA FORM 3355 (REV. 11-80)

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## PRESENTER BACKGROUND

### Professional Career Highlights

#### Professional Degrees

- Ph.D. EE Iowa State University, 1978,  
Dissertation Title: *"Spectral Analysis Methods for Noisy Sampled-Data Systems."*
- M.S. EE Iowa State University, 1973,  
Thesis Title: *"Noise and Sensitivity-Measurement Theory for Receiving Systems and Circuits."*
- B.S. EE Montana State University, 1966

#### Work History

- 1966-1970 Collin Radio (RF Design Engineer), Cedar Rapids, Iowa. TACSATCOM first military tactical satellite communication system, low noise radio system development.
- 1970-1975 Iowa State University (Instructor, B-base), Ames, Iowa. Electrical Technology. ISU University Research Fellowship  
University of Iowa: Physics Research Center, research engineer  
Ruscom Engineering: Private Consultant
- 1976-1980 Rockwell-Collins (Engineer/Scientist V, NAVSTAR GPS Program, Avionics Advanced Technology), Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- 1980-1984 King Radio: Principal Engineer and Head of Advanced Technology Group.
- 1984-2007 Iowa State University: Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty, Communication Theory, Circuit Theory, Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Computer Networking, Computer Security, Wireless Security. 5 patents, 37 MS & PhD students graduated, Warren Boast Teaching Excellence Award, chaired various committees, created PhD program in Communications and Digital Signal Processing. Retirement in Spring, 2007, granted Emeritus status.
- 2007-2014 Retirement  
Historic Trails Research  
Traditional Jazz Musician, Band Leader, Music Arranger

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## TRAIL RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- 1985-2004 – Research on the Lewis & Clark NHT, Idaho & Montana
- 1986-1998 – Research on the Virginia & Lewiston Wagon Road (Bird-Truax Trail)
- 1978-2014 – Research on Historic Trails of Montana and Idaho: Lolo Trail NHL, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Northern Nez Perces Trail, Southern Nez Perces Trail, Mullan Wagon Road 1854, John Work 1831, Carroll Trail 1875, Oregon-California Trail 1843, Old North Trail (prehistoric), Bozeman Trail, Snake River Expedition 1825, Clift Indian Trails 1869, Florence-Lewiston Wagon Road, 1825 Snake River Expedition, 1872\_WR\_Lewiston\_Mt\_Idaho, 1872\_WR\_Mt\_Idaho\_Lewiston, Boise & Kooskia Trail 1877, Boise & Silver City & California Trail, Boise & Camp Lyons Trail, Bozeman\_Trail\_to\_Virginia\_City, Camp Lewis & Fort Shaw Trail 1875, Carroll\_Trail\_Wagon\_Road\_Montana, Clearwater Battlefield Trail 1877, Clift Wagon Road Exploration 1869, Diamond City & Canyon Ferry Road 1869, Florence & Slate Creek Trail, Florence & Lewiston Wagon Road, Florence & Warren Trail, Fort Boise to Montana Road, Fort Hall North\_South Trail 1850, Freemont Explorations, Goodrich Trail (Idaho City & Rocky Bar), Idaho City & Lewiston Trail, Kelton State Road Idaho, Milner Trail Idaho 1862, Old North Trail (Ice Age), Oregon-California Military Road, Snake Expedition Kittson HBC 1825, Tongue River Road 1880s, Umatilla Road 1867 (Silver City)

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## BOOKS, MONOGRAPHS, AND WEBSITES

Geographical report on the Bird-Truax Trail: Its history and geography by Steve F. Russell. Historic Trails Research, Ames, Iowa (1988)

Lewis and Clark Across the Mountains: An Engineer Tracks the Trail by Steve F. Russell (1997-98). Idaho Public Television, (Website:)  
<http://idahoptv.org/lc/echoes/gps/LCengr.cfm>.

Echoes of a Bitter Crossing by Idaho Public Television, (one-hour DVD Video) Bruce Reichert, Producer (1999)

Echoes of a Bitter Crossing: Campfire Discussion by Idaho Public Television, (DVD Video) Bruce Reichert, Producer (1999) (Website:)  
<http://idahoptv.org/lc/echoes/campfire.cfm>

Mystery of Lost Trail Pass: A Quest for Lewis and Clark's Campsite of September 3, 1805, Edited by James R. Fazio, with authors: James R. Wolf, Hadley B. Roberts, Robert Bergantino, J. Wilmer Rigby, and Steve F. Russell. Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Great Falls, Montana. (2000) ISBN-13: 9780967888712

Across the Snowy Ranges: The Lewis and Clark Expedition in Idaho and Western Montana by James R. Fazio, Mike Venso and Steve F. Russell. Woodland Press (hardcover, 204 pages, photos, maps) 1st edition (April 1, 2001) ISBN-13: 978-0961503147

Virginia City and Lewiston Wagon Road Report: 1865-1870 by Steve F. Russell. Historic Trails Research, Ames, Iowa (2001) ISBN-13: 978-0-9676327-1-1

Hike Lewis and Clark's Idaho by Mary Aegerter and Steve F Russell. Caxton Press (2002). Distributed by the University of Nebraska Press for the University of Idaho Press. ISBN-13: 9780893012571

Ordway's Salmon River Fishing Expedition: Research Results for Summer 2002 by Steve F. Russell. Historic Trails Research, Ames, Iowa. (2003) HTR Technical Report No. 01A03

Ordway's Salmon River fishing Expedition, (Brochure) (c) Steve f. Russell. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Lewiston, Idaho (2002)

Lewis and Clark : Lolo trail precision survey: summary of research results by Steve F. Russell. Historic Trails Research, Ames, Iowa (2005)

Lewis and Clark Across the Mountains: Mapping the Corps of Discovery in Idaho by Steve F. Russell, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho (2007) ISBN-10: 0-931406-16-1

## AND NUMEROUS PRESENTATIONS

## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

# Echoes of a Bitter Crossing

Idaho Public Television



### CAMPFIRE DISCUSSION

Left to Right:

Steve F. Russell, Cort Conley, Norm Steadman,  
Chuck Raddon, Alan Pinkham



Steve F. Russell

### What is Your Greatest Concern for the Lewis & Clark Trail?

My greatest concern for this trail is that right now, it's in a condition that is as close to the condition it was in when Lewis and Clark passed as we can hope for or imagine. **My concern is that things will happen that will change the historic character of the trail so that we would no longer recognize it as an historic trail and no longer recognize this route and this land as what Lewis and Clark might recognize if they came through day.**

If Lewis and Clark came through today, particularly Smoking Place, Willow Ridge, Bold Butte, down into Hungry Creek, except for some vegetation changes, I think they would really see essentially the same country they saw when they passed. But I'm real concerned about what I would call development, in the sense that development would occur to where this route would become an established trail of campsites, and lose that historic wild character.

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

**\*IDENTIFICATION**

**\*DOCUMENTATION**

**PRESERVATION**

**INTERPRETATION**

\*By Steve F. Russell

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## Researchers on the Lewis and Clark Trail in Idaho

### HISTORICAL

- 1814 – Nicholas Biddle & Paul Allen
- 1866 – George B. Nicholson
- 1893 – Elliot Coues
- 1898 – Olin D. Wheeler
- 1905 – Reuben G. Thwaites
- 1925 – Jack Harlan

### CONTEMPORARY

- c1964 – Ralph Space
- 1966 – John Peebles
- 1968 – Ralph Space
- c1969 – Andy Arvish & Ralph Space
- c1982 – Karl Roenke
- 1986 – Steve F. Russell
- 2000 – Martin Plamondon
- 2002 – Gene and Molly Eastman
- 2004 – Ted Hall
- 2005 – Gene and Molly Eastman
- 2007 – Steve F. Russell

# Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark

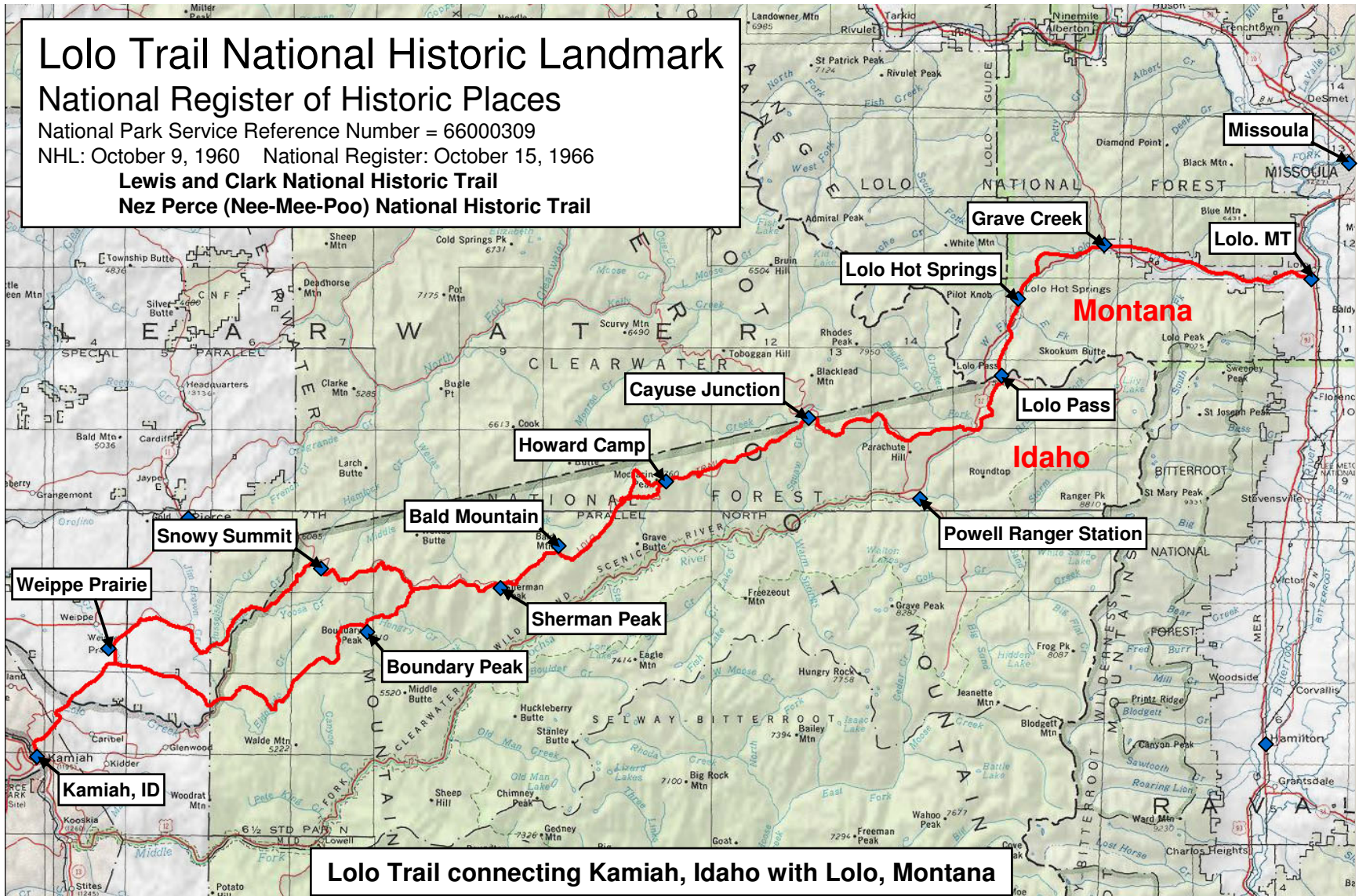
## National Register of Historic Places

National Park Service Reference Number = 66000309

NHL: October 9, 1960 National Register: October 15, 1966

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Nez Perce (Nee-Mee-Poo) National Historic Trail



Lolo Trail connecting Kamiah, Idaho with Lolo, Montana

Steve F. Russell



## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

### LEWIS & CLARK IN NORTH-CENTRAL IDAHO 1805-1806 (83 Days and 369 trail miles in North-Central Idaho)

Westbound: Crossed from Montana to Idaho, Lolo Pass, September 13, 1805  
Crossed from Idaho to Washington, Lewiston, October 10, 1805

Eastbound: Crossed from Washington to Idaho, Lewiston, May 5, 1806  
Crossed from Idaho to Montana, Lolo Pass, June 29, 1806

#### Major Trail Segments

104 TOTAL MILES; Lolo Pass to Weippe Prairie (Party); (Westbound), Sep 13 to Sep 22, 1805

65 TOTAL MILES; Weippe Prairie to Lewiston (Party); (Westbound), Sep 22 to Oct 10, 1805 (includes travel on water)

81 TOTAL MILES – Lewiston to Weippe Prairie (Party), (Eastbound), May 5 to Jun 10, 1806

134 TOTAL MILES – Kamiah to Snake River Canyon and Return (Ordway), May 27 to Jun 2, 1806

**I have hiked all the public land and whatever private land was available to me.**

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## HIGHLIGHTS

Preserving a Rare Heritage Resource of National Interest

1. There are 369 miles of Lewis & Clark Trail in North-Central Idaho.
2. Of these, approximately 149 miles are on public land and 220 miles are on private land.
3. Of the 149 miles on public land, about 116 miles are in prime condition and exhibit the characteristics of the old indigenous trails of the 1800s.
4. The remaining 33 miles have been impacted by logging, and road building.
5. The 116 miles of prime Lewis & Clark Trail represent a valuable national legacy for historic trails, as much as, if not more than, the Oregon Trail, Old Santa Fe Trail, or any of the other National Historic Trails such as the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.
7. What I ask for, from the State of Idaho, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and all people in the Nation, is that we work together to protect this rare heritage resource from destruction by development, misguided and uninformed management, and any other potential agents of unwise change or outright destruction.

## **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail**

### **HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

#### Preserving a Rare Heritage Resource of National Interest

8. By careful planning, management, and protection, this trail can be preserved for future generations, generations of stake holders who do not yet have a place at the table. It is up to the current generation to keep their ambitions and egos in check, and to act, in a selfless way, in the best interest of present and future trail enthusiasts.

9, My 27 years of scholarly research on historic trails, many of those devoted to the precise determination of the location of the Lewis & Clark trail treads and campsites, provides most of the necessary information to develop and implement a management plan that truly deserves the label of “Preserving a Rare Heritage Resource.”

10. Now, 2014, is the time to act and set in place management practices and protections for this trail. I have been struggling to make this happen since the early 1990s, but it is clear that many people across many organizations and groups are needed to make it happen -- not just one person.

**Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail**

**PLEASE TAKE UP THE FLAG TODAY FOR  
PRESERVING THIS RARE AND  
REMARKABLE LEGACY OF WESTERN HISTORY**

***IDAHO'S GIFT TO THE NATION***

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### *INFERENCE*

*A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.*

- We all use inference in our private lives and in our work lives. Inference is everywhere! However, nobody is alive today that has any first-hand knowledge of Lewis and Clark and the trails they traveled. In this area of research, top-notch inference skills are essential.
- My inference skills are derived from a 43-year career in research and development using the highest quality academic research standards and the inference skills it requires.
- My trail research inference skills were obtained through 27 years of primitive camping and hiking the erosion traces of many trails and wagon roads. My skill in being able to identify the trail characteristics of, and the differences among, historic trails, Forest Service trails, wild game trails, cow trails, hunter trails, etc, It has taken years of on-the-ground experience.
- These inference skills were also strengthened by years of using logic and reasoning as well as using tools such as GPS, GIS and mathematical methods of data analysis.
- For the basis of my research, I use only original sources such as historic journals and maps, geographic clues, topography, satellite photos, and historic aerial photos.
- There is seldom an absolute truth that exists for things historical. It is no less true for historic trails. Trails researchers can engage in a heated argument that they are right and you are wrong but what they really are saying is the “My inference skills are better than yours.”

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND DOCUMENTATION

The Clearwater National Forest Plan is currently in revision. If the Forest Service is receptive, this would be an excellent time to add historic trail management into the plan. Since the plan is broad, a short paragraph is all that is need to bring attention to this area. The paragraph can give an overview and then refer to an ancillary document entitled “Historic Trail Management and Maintenance Practices.”

This ancillary document can specify management goals for historic trails. It can define who is in control of, and responsible for, this management. It can also flesh out the details of how the trail is maintained. (Currently, trail crews maintain all trails to the same standards).

The number one priority of historic trail management should be to kept the indigenous nature of the trails. **The following practices are not acceptable** for management of an historic trail: 1) rerouting, 2) extending the length of switchbacks, 3) installing waterbars, 4) covering the natural surface with gravel, asphalt, or other non-natural material, 5) building modern trailheads.

## **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail**

### **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES AND DOCUMENTATION (Cont.)**

Selected small portions of these trails can be brushed out and interpreted for forest visitors. Brushing should only be done as wide as needed for foot and horse traffic – no wider. Small downfall less than 6 inches in diameter and less than 14 inches above the trail surface should be left in place to discourage motorcycle and mountain bike traffic. ATV use is a separate problem. I have seen where ATV users carry chain saws and cut out trails to fit them -- in defiance of Forest Service policy. If they decide to cut it out, windfalls are not a barrier.

It has been the practice of the Clearwater National Forest to manage the trails of the Lolo Trail corridor in such a way as to cater to the needs of a very small group of people, e.g. the Appaloosa Horse Club and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides who work the Lolo Motorway area. This preferential treatment has to stop. It is public land on a national scale and should be managed for everyone, not for just a few local influential groups.

**THE CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST DOES NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE WORD “NATIONAL”**

## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

Glade Creek Camp Sep 13, 1805  
Packer Meadows, Lolo Pass





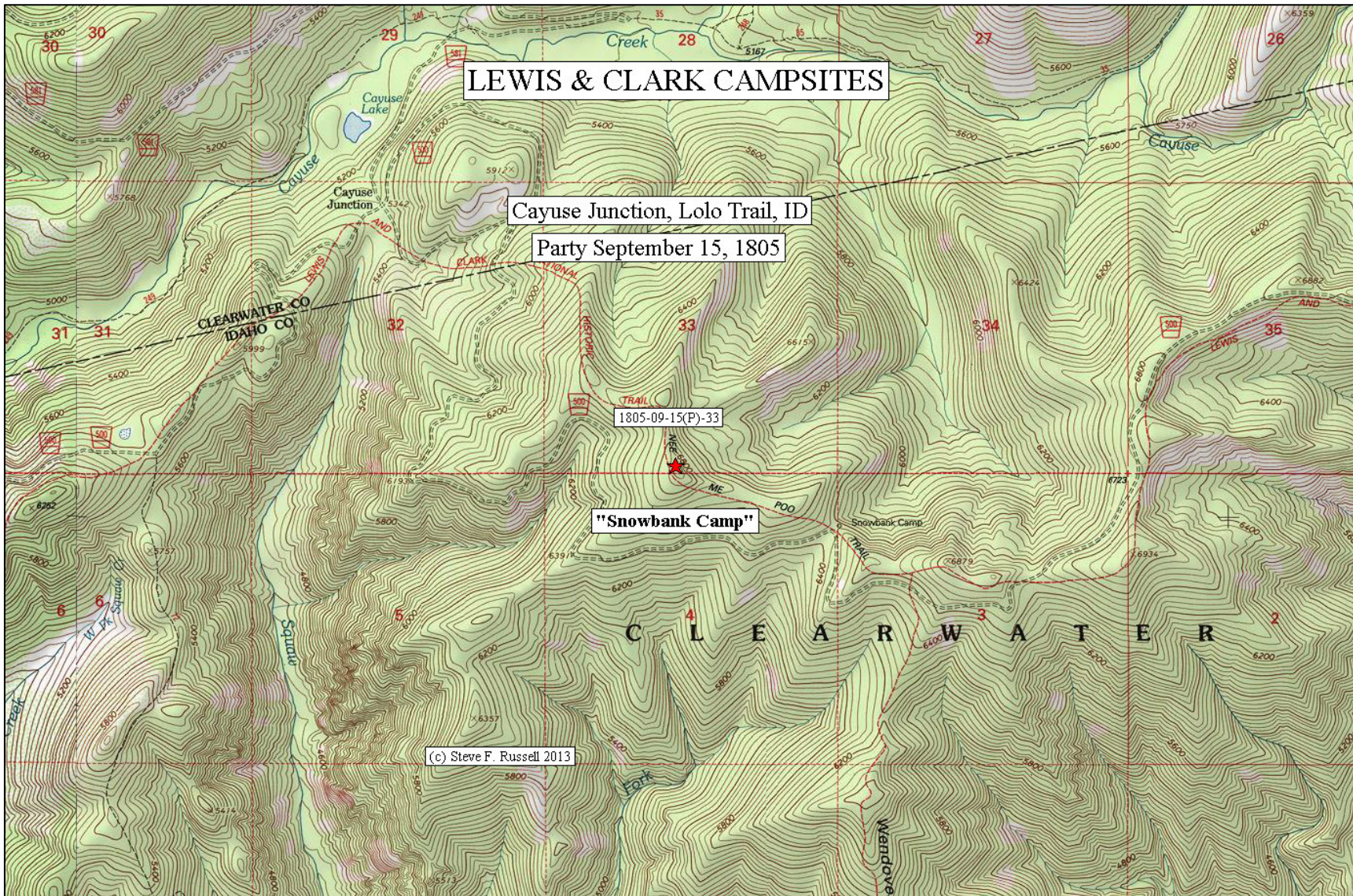
## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

Snowbank Camp Sep 15, 1805  
Lolo Trail east of Cayuse Junction

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

Snowbank Camp Sep 15, 1805  
Lolo Trail east of Cayuse Junction

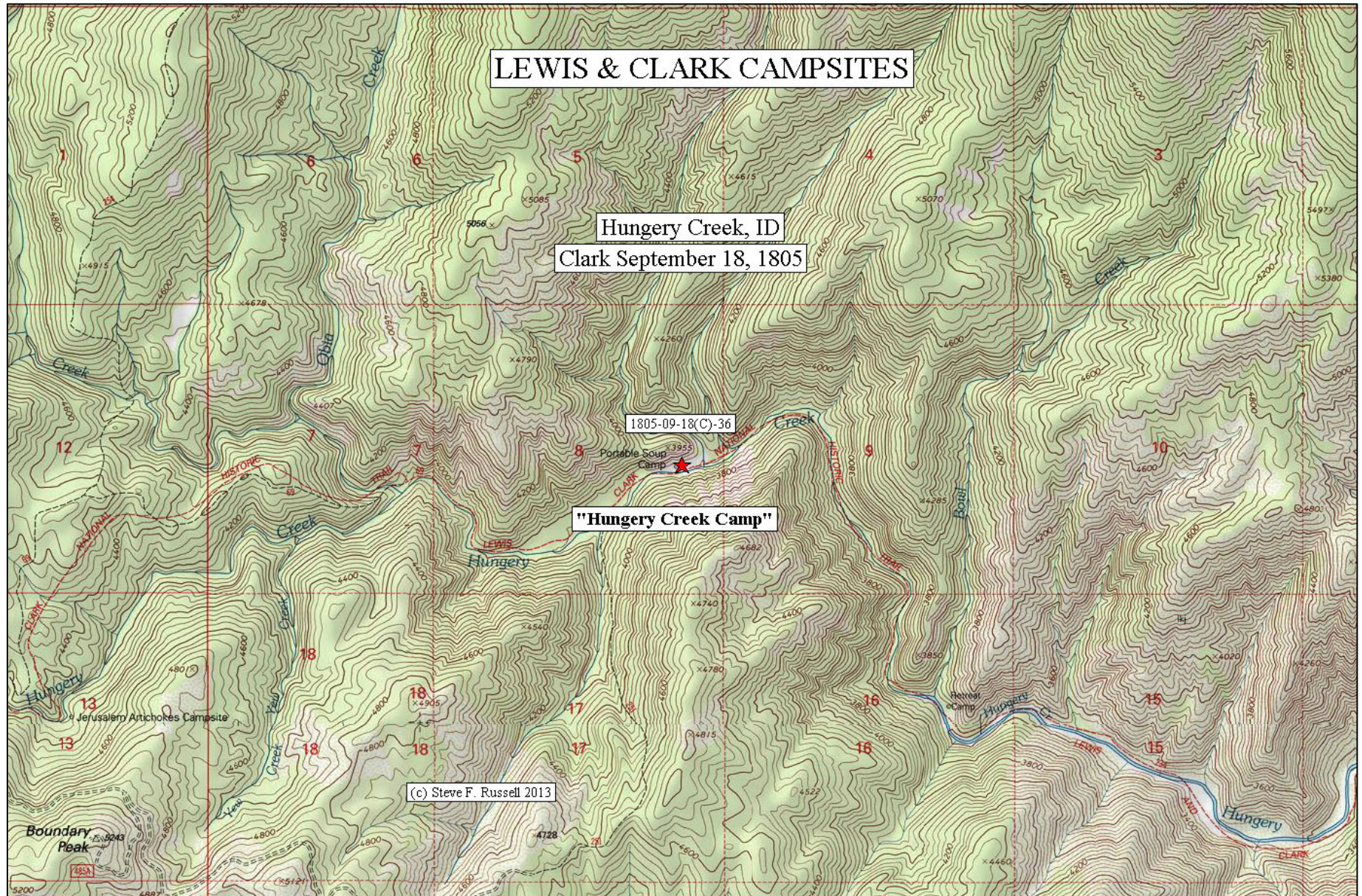
## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

Hungry Creek Camp (Clark) Sep 18, 1805  
Hungry Creek

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

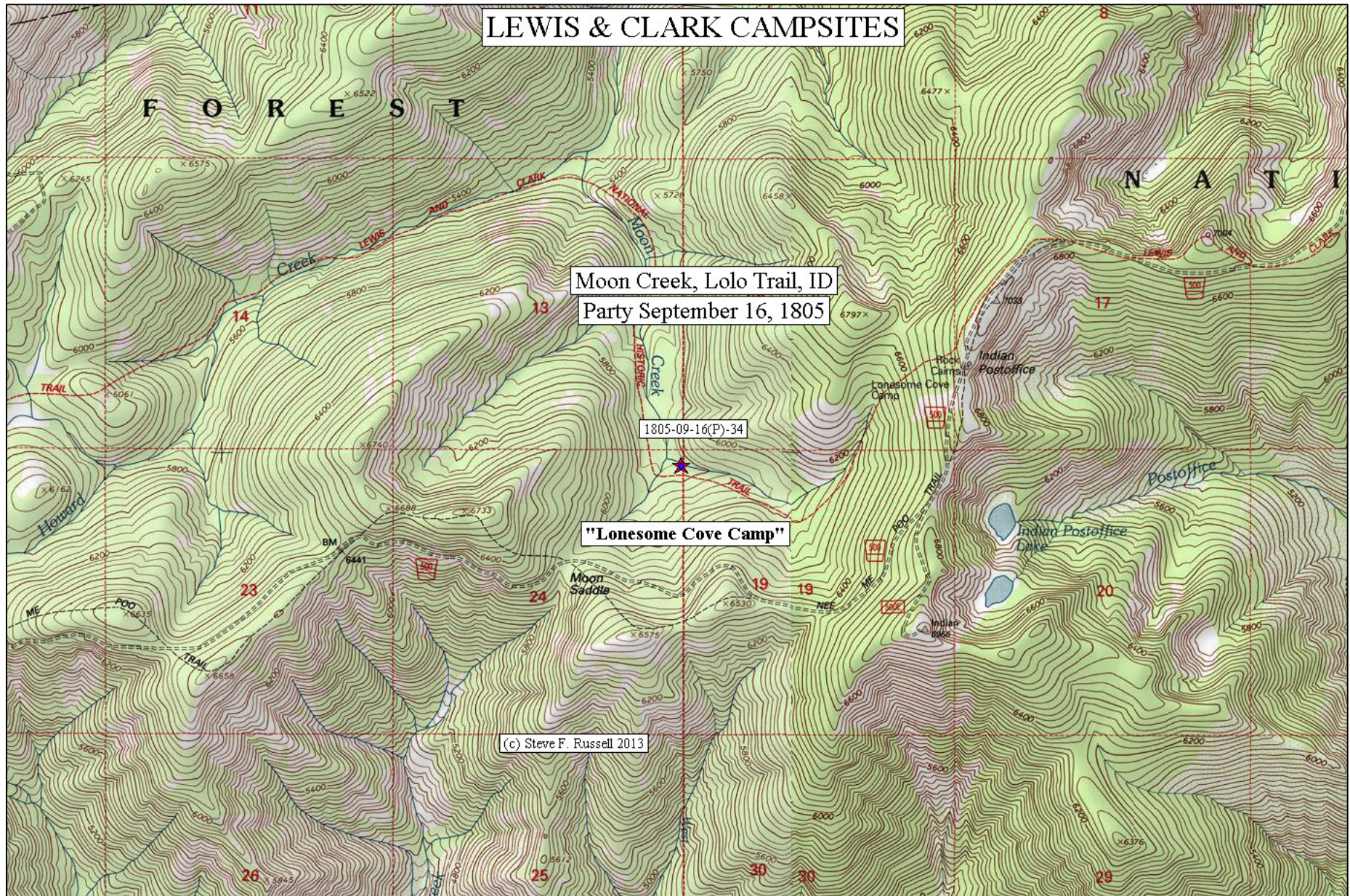


Steve F. Russell

Lonesome Cove Camp Sep 16, 1805  
Moon Creek

© 2014 Steve F. Russell

# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

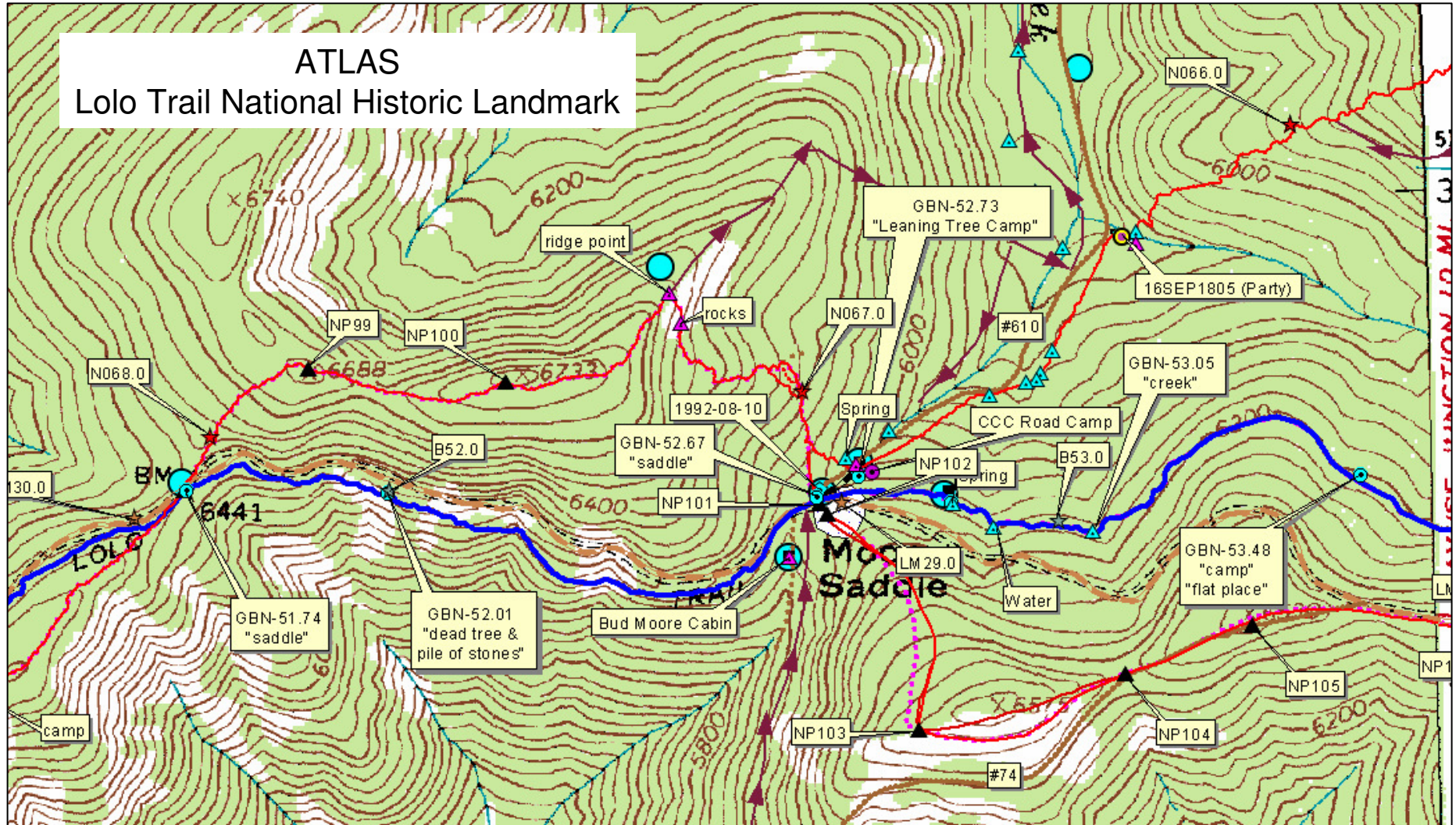


Steve F. Russell

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# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



## Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

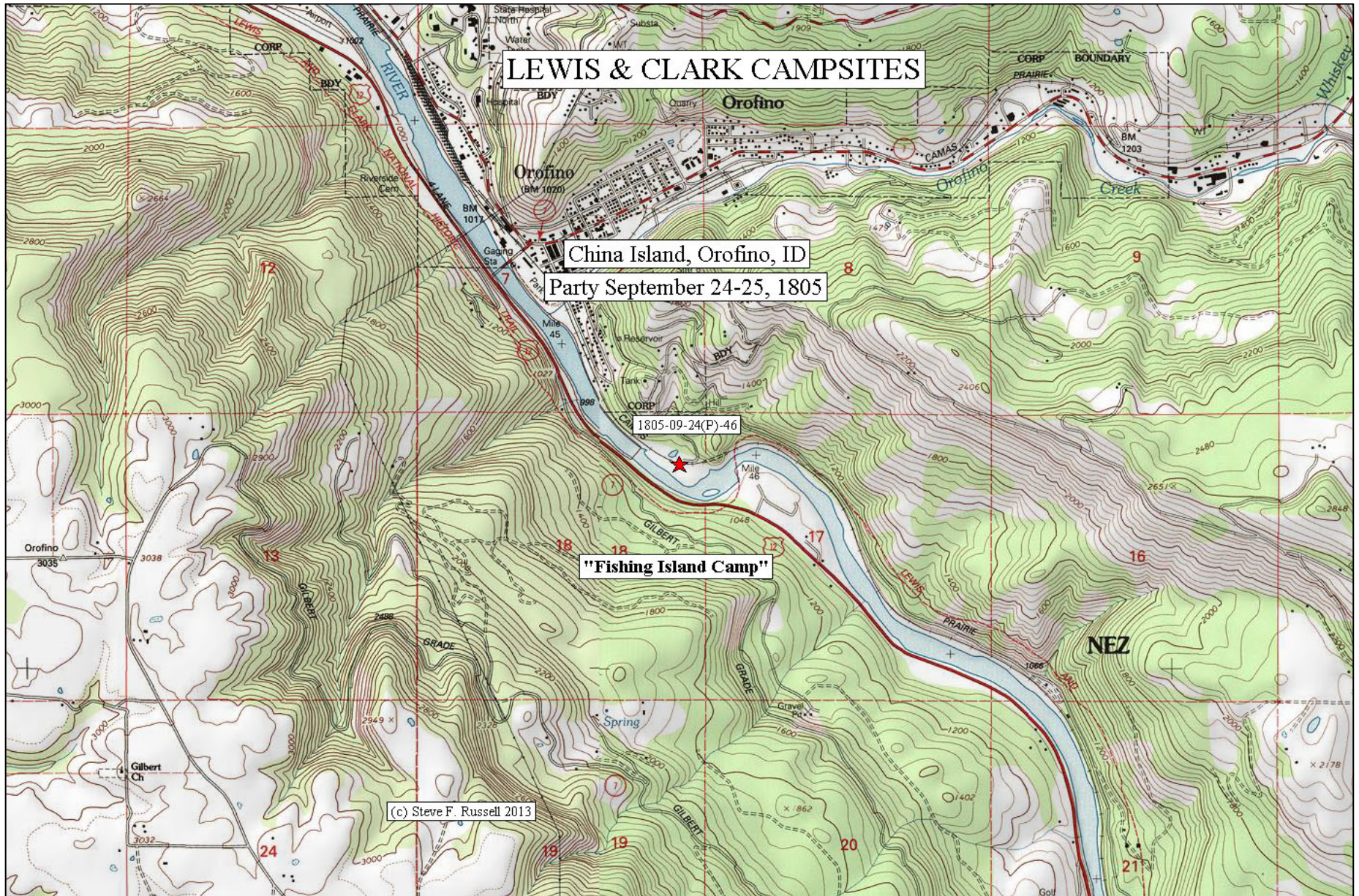


Steve F. Russell

Fishing Island Camp Sep 24, 1805  
China Island, Clearwater River above Orofino

© 2014 Steve F. Russell

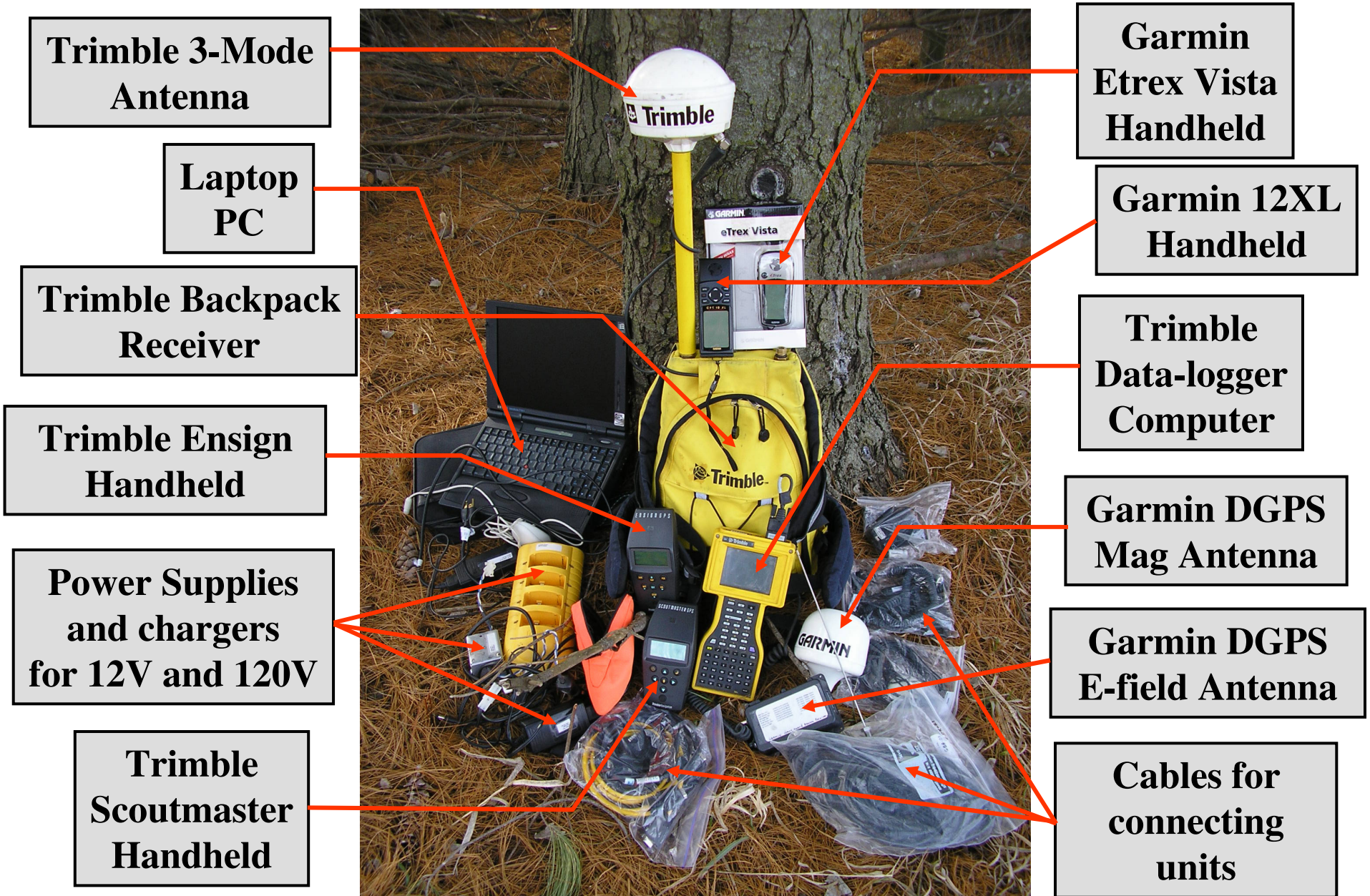
# Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail



Steve F. Russell

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# GPS Menagerie



**Trimble 3-Mode  
Antenna**

**Laptop  
PC**

**Trimble Backpack  
Receiver**

**Trimble Ensign  
Handheld**

**Power Supplies  
and chargers  
for 12V and 120V**

**Trimble  
Scoutmaster  
Handheld**

**Garmin  
Etrex Vista  
Handheld**

**Garmin 12XL  
Handheld**

**Trimble  
Data-logger  
Computer**

**Garmin DGPS  
Mag Antenna**

**Garmin DGPS  
E-field Antenna**

**Cables for  
connecting  
units**

Steve F. Russell

# Initial Processing of Data

*“A different kind of tailgating”*



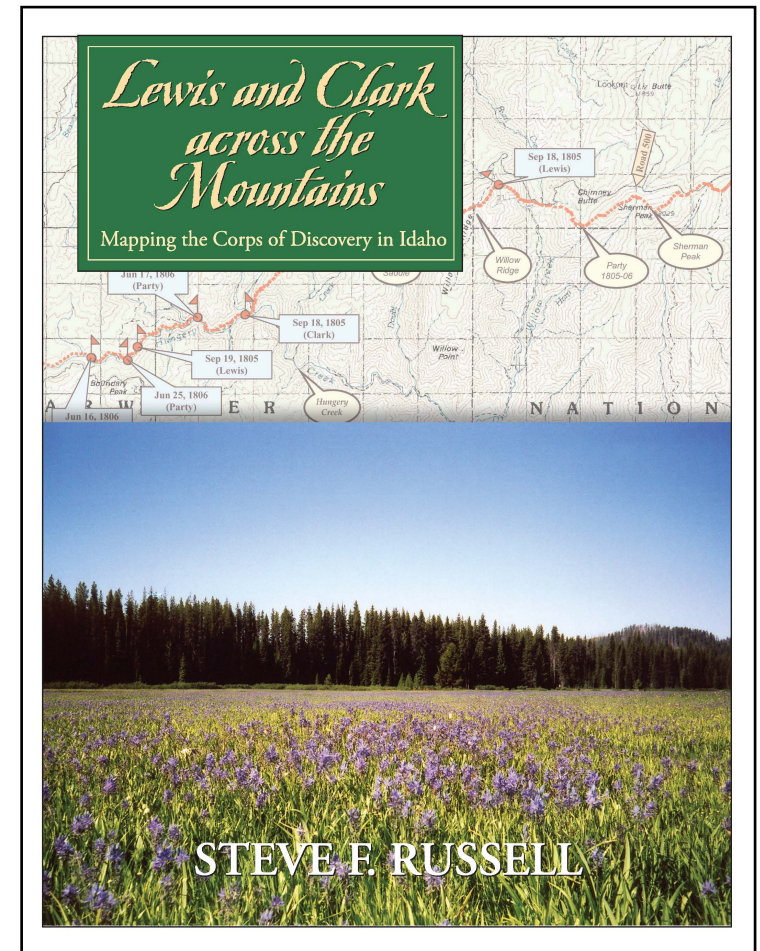
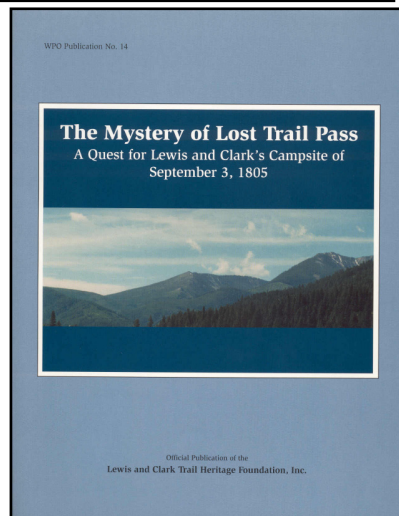
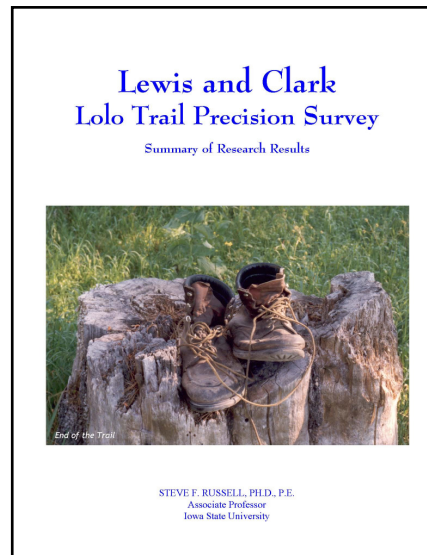
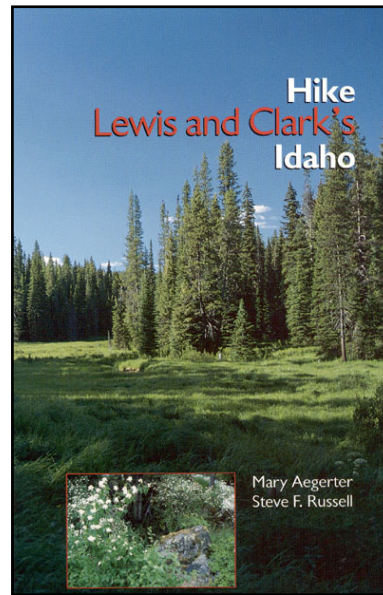
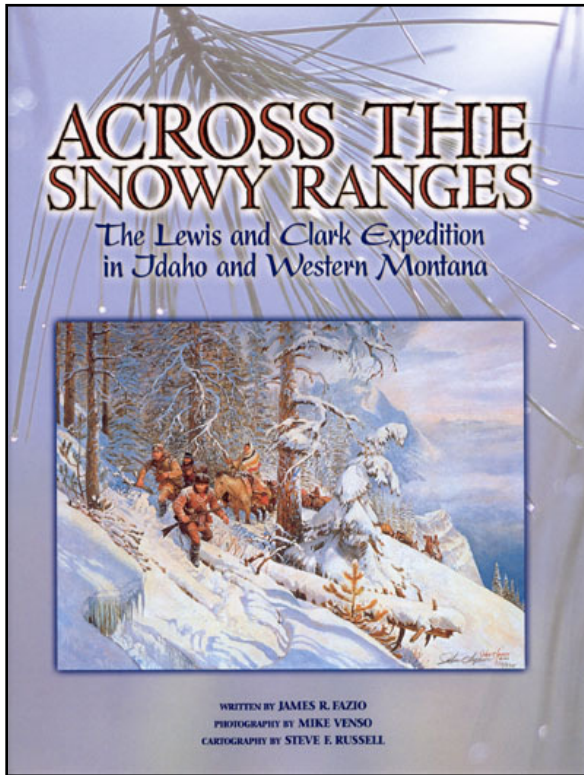
Steve F. Russell

# Last surviving plaque put along the trail by Jack Harlan, 1935



Steve F. Russell

# Books & Monographs



# Websites

*ECHOES OF A BITTER CROSSING*  
**LEWIS & CLARK  
IN IDAHO**

- Program Description
- The Interactive Journey
- Historian Gary Moulton
- A GPS Expert on the Trail ←
- A Campfire Discussion
- Dugout Canoes on the Clearwater
- What If... The Salmon River
- The Journey of Sacagawea
- A Native American Perspective
- The Return Trip

Video Available    Watch the Show    Test Your Knowledge    Related Sites

**A Production of Idaho Public Television**



# Presentations

## *Fourth Annual Lewis and Clark Symposium*

*"Trails Through Time"*

*June 20-22, 2002*

*Lewis-Clark State College  
Lewiston, Idaho*

### **Two Centuries, Two Peoples: A Confluence of Histories**

*The 2002 Symposium will focus on mapping, studying, and retracing a part of the trail of the Corps of Discovery through the land of the Nez Perce. Speakers will present more specific views of culture, preservation, protection and the interaction of the two peoples:*

*The Nez Perce Tribe and the  
Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery*

*"...this hi Mountain is covered with Spruce & Pitch  
pine fir..." Capt. Clark, September 13, 1805  
(Lolo Summit)*

# Presentations

## *Welcome to a preview of the Lewis and Clark Symposium Presenters:*

**Joseph Mussulman**



Dr. Joseph Mussulman, featured speaker, noted teacher, humanist, and author, has gained a nationwide reputation as a serious student of the Lewis and Clark expedition. He has written several articles and created maps of the expedition's route for several books, including *Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark*. He is also the producer and principal writer for the encyclopedic web site, *Discovering Lewis & Clark* ([www.lewis-clark.org](http://www.lewis-clark.org)), which currently exceeds 1,300 pages. Dr. Mussulman will present the program, "Filling in the Zeros: Space, Pace, and Place on the Lewis & Clark Trail" on June 20, and "Men in High Spirits: Humor on the Lewis & Clark Trail" on June 21. Dr. Mussulman will also be performing music of the time of Lewis & Clark - In Greatest Harmony: "Medicine Songs" on the Lewis & Clark Trail at Brackenbury Square on Main St., Lewiston, Idaho.

**Ron Craig**



Ron Craig, filmmaker-author, has made a one-hour documentary on "Who was York?" York was the only African-American member of the 1803-06 Corp of Discovery's expedition to the Northwest. Ron will present his program on June 20 entitled, "Who was York? A New Look at the Lewis and Clark Expedition."

**Ken Karsmizki**



Ken Karsmizki, noted archeologist, works with NASA combining airborne and satellite imagery with historic maps and Lewis & Clark journals to locate sites along the trail. On June 21, Ken will discuss the use of satellite remote sensing equipment in location and analysis of Lewis and Clark campsites.

**Steve Russell**



Steve Russell, Associate Professor, Iowa State University, has researched the historic trails of the Lolo Trail corridor. His methods include the study of old maps, early aerial photos, pioneer survey notes, National Archive records and the journals of the expedition of Lewis and Clark. On June 21, Steve will present his program entitled, "Ordway's Salmon Fishing Excursion," and participate in a panel discussion of the study on the trail. He will also be involved in a book signing event at the Lewis-Clark Center for Arts and History on June 21. Steve will provide participants with historical overviews and interpretations on the bus tour to the Salmon Trout Camp

# Newspapers



## High-tech equipment used to plot Lewis

Satellites, journals aid professor as he traces historic trail

By DAN GALLAGHER  
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — For 15 summers, Iowa State University engineering professor Steve Russell has scrambled along the same forest deadfall and rocky hillsides that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Corps of Discovery encountered in Idaho's mountains two centuries ago.

But instead of a flintlock rifle and trade beads, Russell carries state-of-the-art mapping equipment to pinpoint within several feet the actual ground the expedition crossed as it went west over the treacherous Bitterroot Mountains in 1805 to reach the Lewiston area and the Nez Perce Tribe who acted as Samaritans to the starved and weary explorers.

"The Lolo Trail spans a land of history, exploration, courage, and danger," Russell said. "It is regrettable that we will never be able to fully learn about its early history but



Iowa State University engineering professor Steve Russell looks at a pasture near Ross' Hole, Mont., in July, where Lewis and Clark met the Salish Tribe before crossing Montana's Bitterroot Mountains.

began. The route is largely untouched from the time it served as

changed so much. The mountain-scene doesn't change," Russell

the North and Middle Forks of the Clearwater River. Russell's research

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# “The Latest News”

## Lewis & Clark Expedition Site Discovery

- Discovered in 2000
- Research Monograph published in 2003
- Archaeologist surveys in 2006 & 2007
- Eligible for **National Historic Landmark status**

6 -- THE MEAGHER COUNTY NEWS Thursday, July 26, 2007



THE VIEW from the Snake River looking northeast toward Cougar Rapids Bar shows where Steve Russell spotted the site of an Native American longhouse near Lewiston, Idaho.

### Steve Russell Locates Lewis and Clark Expedition Site

Archaeologists believe they have found the Nez Perce Indian village where three members of the Lewis and Clark expedition spent two nights and one day on an ill-fated fishing expedition.

In the spring of 1806, while expedition members were camped along the Clearwater River waiting for mountain snows to melt, Sgt. Ordway was dispatched to fetch salmon from the nearby Salmon River. Historians have speculated over the route that Ordway and Pvts. Robert Frazer and Peter Weise took. But until recently, historians didn't know exactly where the men descended into the lower Salmon River gorge and Hells Canyon or precisely

Cottonwood Creek. From there, he says, they dropped down to Big Cougar Bar.

The topography there matches that described by Ordway in his journal. When Russell flew over the site a few years ago he noticed some depressions on a bench above the bar. He figured that is where the longhouse, also described by Ordway, stood.

This year the archaeologists, led by Ken Reid of the State Historical Preservation Office at Boise, conducted a dig there. They uncovered clues that a longhouse did stand at the site and it was there in the right time frame to match the Ordway trip.

"The dimensions match what

Service.

None of the artifacts can be directly linked to Ordway. But Reid points out Ordway and his men only spent two nights and one day there. And during this part of their cross-country journey the men were wearing pants and shirts made of buck skin.

"There were no uniform pieces or buttons to lose," he said.

Before Reid and his colleagues unearthed a single scoop of dirt the historians used high-tech equipment to map the small bench where they believed the longhouse once stood. The map allowed them to surgically excavate the site while leaving most of it undisturbed.



March 3-4, 2005  
Benton Convention Center  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

## **Invited Speaker Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery**

**Steve F. Russell  
Associate Professor  
Iowa State University  
sfr@iastate.edu**

**Thursday, March 3, 2005, 10:45-11:30am**

# Deer Creek Salmon River Canyon in Idaho



Steve F. Russell

# Camping With the Nez Perce



Steve F. Russell

The  
End



# Lava Springs Valley, Soda Springs, Idaho

Steve F. Russell



**Octagon Spring (Carbonated) 2014  
Soda Springs, Idaho**

Steve F. Russell



**Carbon Dioxide Powered Travertine Spring Cone  
Soda Springs, Idaho**

Steve F. Russell



**Soda Springs Captive Geyser  
Soda Springs, Idaho**

Steve F. Russell



**Iron Spring Pool  
Soda Springs, Idaho**

**Minutes of the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee  
September 11-14, 2014  
Powell Ranger Station, Lochsa River, Idaho**

**Members present:** Bob Russell, retiring member Keith Petersen, new member Hope Benedict, Pat Rathmann, Jim Fazio, Gina Knudson, Anne Schorzman and Brian Miller.

**Also Attending (on 9/12):** Rick Brazell, Carol Hennessy, Heather Berg, and Steve Lucas, USFS; Steve Lee and Margaret Gorski, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF); Chuck Raddon, Idaho Chapter of the LCTHF; Steve Russell and Dawn Fazio.

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM on September 11. He acknowledged Keith Petersen's resignation from the Committee and welcomed new member Hope Benedict. Anne Schorzman volunteered to take minutes for this meeting with the understanding that duties formerly performed by Mr. Petersen would be shared by Committee members.

Knudson moved and Miller seconded that the minutes from the meeting held in May 2014 be approved as written. **Motion passed.**

**Committee Account Balance:** Petersen reported approximately \$233,000 in the dedicated account within the Idaho State Historical Society. He stated the fiscal officer at the ISHS could give the Committee an exact account balance when requested. The rack card describing the license plate program is almost complete and Petersen will follow-up. He stated sales of plates and renewals are staying constant, so the Committee is spending about what it makes. New plate sales and renewals are staying high enough to keep the license plate program going.

**Grant Program:** Members agreed to continue the grant program through 2015. It appears to be the most equitable way to distribute funds and show the Committee's relevance. Miller stated we need to generate more interest in the grant program and asked members to think about ways to do that. In addition to \$20,000 per year available for grants, the Committee will continue yearly funding of two main legacy projects: Weippe Discovery Center and the Sacajawea Center for \$3,000 each. The LCSC speaker's bureau, and the Idaho Chapter Lolo Trail work project will be up for discussion on a yearly basis. Petersen reported the Idaho Chapter didn't ask for any funds for 2014 (they received funding from other sources) and the most the Chapter has requested in any given year has not exceeded \$2900 for the work project. The Sacajawea Center may be submitting a grant for landscaping in front of the Center to increase visibility to highway traffic. The Idaho Botanical Gardens expressed interest in applying for a grant in 2015. The Committee decided to continue the grant program with the \$20,000 limit through 2015.

**Website Update:** Jim Fazio completed the information for a Committee webpage on the ISHS website. The information will go to Chris Brady, webmaster at ISHS.

Schorzman suggested she work with Chris to get the webpage moving forward because of Petersen's busy schedule. The page will link to the LCTHF and the Idaho Chapter of the LCTHF.

**Idaho Chapter, LCTHF Update:** Pat Rathmann gave a written report to the Committee about Idaho Chapter activities. The Chapter is looking for a new president; Chuck Raddon will retire in December 2014. One Chapter highlight was completion of a Lewis and Clark display at the Moscow library. Pat intends to work with Chris Sokol, Moscow librarian, for future displays. Petersen mentioned the ISHS Lewis and Clark traveling trunks and traveling exhibit could be used for such purposes.

**LCTHF Annual Meeting:** Schorzman reported on the 2014 meeting held in Richland WA in August 2014. She stated that the speakers and field trips were relevant and the Foundation appears to be in good fiscal shape. Leadership is strong. Schorzman suggested any questions about fiscal matters be referred to Margaret Gorski who would attend the Committee meeting the following day.

**Lemhi Pass/Lost Trail Pass:** Knudson and Russell reported that a temporary electric fence was put up at Lemhi Pass and the grazing permittee was okay with the action. The fence will come down after summer visitation months. Rare earth minerals have been sited on Lemhi Pass. They are more visible from the Montana side. No mining has occurred although there is talk about it. Knudson reported that the Upper North Fork Project (Lost Trail Pass) went through the whole environmental process without any objections. The work will begin next spring on the forest restoration project between Lost Trail Pass and Hughes Creek. The fuel reductions part of the plan calls for thinning of the forested area on Lost Trail Pass near the ski resort. Stream improvement for Chinook salmon is planned. Knudson and Russell are part of the group working with the USFS and will be able to track what is going on. Public input on the project does not end.

**Committee Responsibilities Outlined:**

- \* Benedict will give Committee report annually to the ISHS Board of Trustees. Her name will be given as the Governor's liaison to the Committee. She will obtain financial information from ISHS about fund balances. She will process financial reimbursements for the Committee.
- \* Minute-taker will be assigned by the Chairman either per meeting or per year.
- \* Grants: Committee will try to advertise the grant program more extensively.
- \* Meeting Planning: Chairman will assign.
- \* Agenda: Chairman.

**September 12, 2014**

Chairman Russell opened the meeting with introduction and welcoming of guests. He outlined the day's agenda with Steve Russell's presentation first on the docket followed by the USFS overview of their planning process.

**Historical Moment:** Jim Fazio set the tone of the meeting by providing the historical moment. He talked about the Expedition being in the area in September 1805. They had camped at Glade Creek the night before the day Toby missed the junction of the main trail. It was easy to miss and Fazio noted that in more recent times Steve Russell relocated the junction but it can be found for viewing only with the help of GPS. The expedition went into the headwaters of the Lochsa before going up Wendover Ridge to the main trail. And the rest is history.

**Steve Russell Presentation:**

Steve Russell introduced himself as a historical trails enthusiast and the only person who has GPSed the Lewis and Clark Trail through Idaho. (Note - Steve came to the meeting by request from the Governor's Committee to update the Committee on his research about the trail and co-lead the field trip.) His concern is the Lewis and Clark Trail will be modernized by the USFS like the Bird-Truax Trail has been modernized. Russell noted he has been working with the National Park Service and they have established his research as the "true trail." He explained anyone could take the GPS coordinates he has established and find the Trail. He asked for preservation of the 114 miles of original trail tread and would like the USFS to include historic trail management in their plan. He also outlined practices NOT acceptable: 1) rerouting, 2) extending length of switchbacks, 3) installing water bars, 4) covering the natural surface with gravel, asphalt or other non-natural materials and 5) building modern trailheads.

Steve showed a series of maps and pictures on a power point presentation and stated that remote campsites such as Hungry Creek and Lonesome Cove Camp offer self-discovery opportunities. He objects to modern trail head at any places where self-discovery could be used. He advocates minimal development of the area and the use of brochures for interpretation and GPS navigation for self-discovery. He noted that Indian Post Office and Smoking Place still have interpretive signs. He is not in favor of interpretive signing and would rather see other methods used to interpret the area.

**USFS Forest Management Plan Discussion:** Why are we still struggling with preserving sections of the Lewis and Clark Trail? Carol Hennessy stated the problem needs to be revisited because of revision of the 1987 Forest Management Plan. The revision is more complicated because of the combination of the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests now known as the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest. Steve Russell asked her why the USFS has not used his research. She stated the USFS listens to all people who think they know where the true trail is and include all the comments when updating a plan.

USFS is currently operating under a 1987 Forest Management Plan. A strategy needs to be developed to manage the historic trail corridor. The 1987 Plan has no historical trail maintenance standards. The landmark corridor needs to be updated. USFS needs public input about preserving sections of the Trail including un-treaded routes such as Hungry Creek and the Upper Lochsa by November 14, 2014.

**Interpretive Sign Plan:** The 1987 Plan did address interpretive signs in light of the 2003 -2006 bicentennial. Big log signs were erected which are huge, heavy and hard to maintain. USFS does not have money or personnel to keep up with sign damage. When signs deteriorate it is an opportunity to move to new kinds of interpretation. There are new concrete posts that contain a light-weight filler, look like wood and could possibly be used as a replacement. There is also the idea that big signs do not need to exist – interpretation and information could be given out in different form. Chuck Raddon and his Idaho Chapter group of volunteers have helped with the interpretive signage removal when they came across a sign in bad shape. Once down, the signs are taken to the USFS. Raddon is reinstalling a sign that was damaged and removed from Gass Creek. The sign structure will be minimal and the interpretive sign will be reused. The new Forest Management Plan needs to address what kind of experience they envision for visitors to the area.

**Access and Trail Maintenance:** Highway 500 maintenance needs to be addressed in the plan. Hennessy stated brochure development is in place with the USFS, especially because of the merger of the two forests. Hennessy thanked Chuck and his group of volunteers for all of the trail maintenance work they did this past summer. The Lolo Motorway ranger program no longer exists and the USFS staff is limited to the amount of trail maintenance they can accomplish. Carol suggested an MOU between a group (either the Governor’s Committee or the Idaho Chapter) to define goals to help take care of the Trails. The bottom line is the USFS no longer has resources to maintain the trails although they could facilitate a group of volunteers through an MOU and put some money toward it. Petersen asked Hennessy for a framework to begin the process for the MOU. Because Highway 500 is part of the Trail, it would be included in the maintenance of historic trails part of the MOU.

Landmark boundaries should be in a management plan for the Nez Perce sites just outside the trail and would be protected under the “historic trail corridor” and would include both Lewis and Clark and Ni Me Poo Trails.

The Committee asked Rick Brazell and his staff to consider Steve Russell’s data as the USFS develops the new Forest Management Plan. Russell’s information has GPS coordinates and a prepared management map covering many aspects of the Trail. Russell said he would get the information into a usable form for the FS Plan. Russell plans to publish his work online.

**Action items for Committee/USFS Planning:**

- 1) Develop MOU between the Governor’s Committee; NPS, LCTHF, and the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest for maintenance of the Trail.
- 2) Provide USFS with back-up from the State Historic Preservation Office that Steve Russell’s data is the most definitive research about the historic trail corridor in Idaho.
- 3) Comments on the Forest Management Plan by the Governor’s Committee and/or individual comments are due to the USFS by November 14, 2014.

- 4) USFS will provide logistical help to volunteer groups (such as the Idaho Chapter of the LCTHF) working on the maintenance of existing trails and will address the issue in the MOU.

**Clearwater Basin Collaborative:** Rick Brazell described the CBC as a group of 23 organizations working together with the USFS to protect the forest as well as keep it open for logging. The collaborative is diverse with involvement from wilderness groups, business groups, and the tribe. Their purpose is to help the USFS get projects done. He described the group as progressive thinkers with lobbying power. He stated they have a strong recreation subcommittee and are interested in historic trails. He feels the group is effective and gives activists on either side of the logging/wilderness issue a way to be heard.

**Lochsa Land Exchange:**

Brazell overviewed what the program entailed: trading other USFS land for acreage owned by Western Pacific Timber that is adjacent to the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest. USFS would like jurisdiction of this land to allow for better management of the forest. The exchange talks are on hold in Risch's office and the timber company has a new owner. In lieu of the exchange, the timber company asked for \$40 million as a purchase price for the property adjacent to the USFS NezPerce-Clearwater Forest. The USFS received \$1 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, not even close to the asking price.

Fazio pointed out the land exchange was of specific interest to the Committee because of a significant L&C camp – 13-mile camp -- located on the land owned by Western Pacific Timber. Chairman Russell asked the USFS staff to look into the possibility of using the \$1 million for purchase of 13-mile camp.

**Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Update:** Margaret Gorski thanked the Idaho Chapter for its trail stewardship work under the watchful eye of Chuck Raddon. She recognized Idaho as being the only state with a Governor's Committee still intact following the bicentennial. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the LCTHF will be celebrated in 2018 or 2020. Gorski stated the Foundation would like to compile an administrative history of the LCTHF. Bob Clark from WSU Press is the new editor of *We Proceeded On*, the quarterly journal published by the LCTHF. Gorski stated the WPO journals now may be word-searched online.

**Committee Discussion and Assignments:**

1. Fazio will contact Carol Hennessy about the possibility of using the \$1 million for purchase of 13-mile camp. The Committee was enthused about the possibility of protecting another very important campsite. Knudson stated even if the money is not available a good opportunity exists to provide information about the Governor's Committee to the timber company and USFS. Gorski suggested contacting Western Timber and ask the Committee be notified if further development or logging is planned for sites along this section of the trail. Fazio noted it might be good PR for Western Timber to

- consider donating part of the land at 13-mile camp. Knudson stated she could help on the project after November 1.
2. The Committee will provide general comments to the USFS 1987 Forest Management Plan revision as a group. Chairman Russell volunteered to draft the comments and other members will send him ideas. Russell was asked to suggest historic corridor boundaries be defined or redefined as well as the actual trail sites noted. Other suggestions include acknowledgment of private ownership of land and ideas about how we'd like to see the USFS manage this area. "Who do we see as visitors and what type of experience to we envision?" Emphasize the point this area of the trail as "Idaho's gift to the nation." Also note the interpretive plan needs to be analyzed with alternatives for interpretation other than big signs. Committee members were urged to comment individually as well.
  3. Benedict read a letter from director, Lynn Gray, of the Sacajawea Center asking for \$8500 total cost (would include the \$3,000 already appropriated to the Center making actual request approximately \$5,500) for landscaping in front of the Center to improve way finding from the highway. Generally, the Committee was supportive of the idea and asked Chairman Russell to convey the following suggestions:
    - a. Sign-orientation – consider orienting the sign perpendicular to the road as opposed to parallel. If this cannot be done with the current sign, perhaps a new sign would be in order. Fazio suggested something "green" in the landscaping might be eye catching to those traveling on Highway 28.
    - b. A complete proposal needs to be submitted to the Committee before a final decision is made. The request could go through the normal grant cycle instead of being considered outside that cycle. The next Committee grant review meeting will be in April, giving the Committee time to discuss the proposal as a group. If everything is in order, construction could begin as early as May 2014.
    - c. In addition to getting a landscape graphic to the Committee, the Center needs to address any right-of-way issues about signage.
  4. Chuck Raddon talked about putting up his new prototype sign holder. If it works, he would be willing to use it as a pattern to reinstall other interpretive signs along the Trail. He asked the Committee if they would be willing to use the \$4,000 appropriated to the Chapter for the work group for the signage project. He received funding from the Nez Perce Forest to cover the costs of the 2014 trail stewardship project. Petersen stated the funding from the Committee was specifically for the work party supplies and food and signage did not necessarily fall under that overview. Schorzman stated she thought use of the money for the signs didn't stretch the intent of the money, it could be considered as part of trail maintenance. However, the Committee agreed to review the four commitments it makes each year outside the grant program at the April meeting. If the Idaho Chapter wants to change the focus of their trail stewardship grant for 2015, the Committee would need to know by the time of their next meeting scheduled in April. The Idaho Chapter received

- \$5,000 from the LCTHF for trail stewardship on the Lolo and the funds may be used for signs. The signage is allowed under the 1987 Forest Management Plan (still in effect).
5. Knudson will report on the Lemhi Pass/Rare Earth mining issue at the April 2015 meeting.
  6. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23-25, 2015, at St. Gertrude's in Cottonwood. Benedict will make meeting arrangements.

**September 13, 2014:**

A field trip was taken by Committee members and guests along the eastern corridor of the Lolo Motorway with Steve Russell and Jim Fazio as leaders. The tour included Lewis and Clark sites at Indian Post Office, Spring Mountain, and Snowbank Camp. Russell pointed out original trail tread. An important stop was made at 13-mile camp which is currently under private ownership. This camp was used by the Corps of Discovery on the eastern journey.

The group bush-whacked into Packer Meadows and saw peeled trees and trail tread, and then went to the Glade Creek campsite. The field trip outline is attached to these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM by Chairman Russell.

Minutes submitted by temporary note taker,  
Anne Schorzman