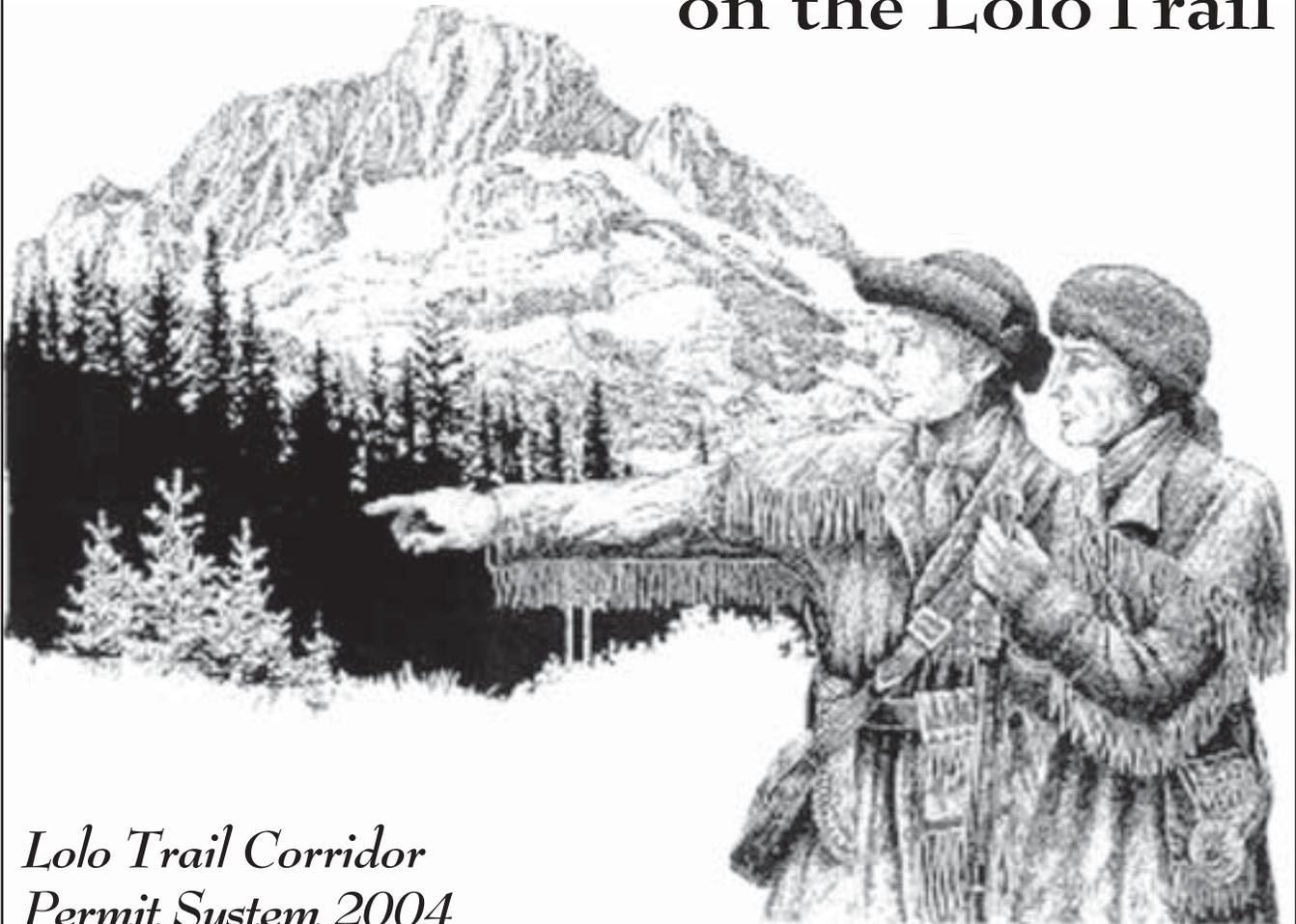


Following Lewis & Clark on the Lolo Trail



Lolo Trail Corridor Permit System 2004

- ★ You need a permit to travel a primitive segment of the Lolo Motorway from July 15-October 1, 2004.
- ★ The permit is free, and you can get it from Clearwater National Forest offices.
 - The number of permits is limited.
 - There are a few restrictions in place.
 - Some restrictions originally planned will not be in place.
 - The permitted segment begins at Grizzly Bear Junction (also known as Papoose Junction). It ends at Weitas Butte Road 557.



Clearwater National Forest

Why set party-per-day limit in 2004?

Clearwater National Forest Bicentennial managers expect the trend for permitted use along the Lolo Motorway to continue in 2004 in spite of fewer applications received from prospective travelers than expected during the application period in December and January. Based on last year's use figures, managers believe that the number of applications received this year likely comprises a fraction of the permits that will actually be issued.

The number of permit applications received last year was only about a third of the permits issued throughout the season. From applications received this year it's apparent that the "ideal" allowable number of parties per day has already been reached for several days.

Last year's use and this year's potential use have prompted managers to implement a 10-party-per-day limit.

Why a permit at all?

In anticipation that the Lolo Trail area would receive increased visitation due to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration, in 2000 Clearwater National Forest managers, with public involvement, developed a lottery system and special regulations for the Bicentennial years 2003-2007.

These measures were designed to protect the area, and it is imperative to monitor use of the Lolo Trail area and ensure its protection.

"To protect cultural and natural resources, we are implementing some of the original permit restrictions this year," said Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Larry Dawson. "We modified the permit system but will continue to offer protection in the Lolo Trail area."

What will permits accomplish?

- Permits are necessary to help the Forest Service monitor the amount of use on this primitive road segment.
- Permits enable Forest Service personnel to visit with users to discuss road conditions and steps that can be taken to protect fragile cultural and natural resources.
- The Lolo Trail area is a National Historic Landmark. It includes the Nez Perce and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails and the Lolo Motorway. All require and warrant protection.

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Restrictions in effect for 2004

- Limitations of party size and number of vehicles.
 - A maximum of 10 small group parties will be allowed on the Lolo Trail each **day**. Each small group party may have up to 10 people, 2 full-size vehicles, and up to 10 horses, bicycles, ATVs or motorcycles.
 - A maximum of 1 large group party will be allowed on the Lolo Trail each **week**. Each group may have up to 35 people, 4 full-size vehicles, and up to 31 horses, bicycles, ATVs or motorcycles.
- No open grazing. Visitors must take certified weed-free feed for their stock.
- Visitors must camp at designated campsites only. No campsites will be assigned.
- Motorized and mechanized vehicles will be allowed only on designated routes. (Refer to the Travel Guide available free at Clearwater National Forest offices for information.)
 - All motorized vehicles used on national forest roads and trails are subject to State of Idaho laws and requirements as well as a 96-decibel maximum noise level.
- Firewood. Only dead and down wood will be gathered for campfires. Some areas will be closed to wood gathering because of their cultural significance. Signs will be posted to note the closure of such areas.

Waived restrictions for 2004

- Towing trailers allowed but strongly discouraged.
- No required points of entry and no requirement to travel from east to west.
- No 8-day camping limit (the Forest's 14-day limit will still apply).

What does the future hold?

Bicentennial managers will initiate the lottery again in December 2004 and may implement all restrictions in the summer of 2005.

For information

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