

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### LOST TRAIL PASS

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Lost Trail Pass is named for the route of Lewis and Clark who crossed the ridge west of there on September 3, 1805. They came through with Shoshoni guides who were taking them north toward the Lolo Trail, but were not following any trail from the North Fork of the Salmon River to the Bitterroot. They had gotten off the regular trail system by coming over to the Salmon instead of going through Big Hole and over Gibbon's Pass to the Bitterroot; if the Nez Perce Trail (from the North Fork of the Salmon to the lower Clearwater) had been developed by then, their Shoshoni guides apparently were not aware of it.

In any case, in the twentieth century, someone (perhaps John Rees) named the pass near the crossing Lewis and Clark used for their misadventure in having to go through that rough country without a trail. They had a hard time on that part of the trip, but by 1835, when Samuel Parker came through that way with a Nez Perce party, he was able to use the Nez Perce Trail, which would have saved Lewis and Clark a lot of time and trouble, if it had been available.

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