

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### PACKERS' MEADOWS

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A major Lolo Trail campground adjacent to that route's Bitterroot crossing, Packers' Meadows has interesting connections with Lewis and Clark, as well as with other travelers over that historic passageway. Lewis and Clark descended a small ridge to reenter Idaho there on their way West in 1805. That also is where they finally left Idaho on their return to Saint Louis in 1806. Much of Packers' Meadows has not changed too much since 1806; fur trapping expeditions and later traffic such as general O. O. Howard's Nez Perce campaign left little or no evidence of their passage. That area offers a decided contrast with other Lolo Trail segments that range over high ridges and descend into deep canyons. It is easily accessible from U.S. 12 at Lolo Pass: a United States Forest Service interpretive center there explains its significance and a good road leads two miles or more from U.S. 12 into Packers' Meadows.

(This information has not been edited.)

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