

LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION

Sgt. Ordway's Salmon River Fishing Expedition

On May 27th, both Lewis and Clark report in their journals that Sergeant Ordway, and privates Frazer, and Weiser were being sent over to Lewis's River [Salmon River] to procure an abundance of salmon which the Nez Perce had informed them about. The Nez Perce said that the signal for the returning salmon is the dove cooing, which they had heard on May 27th. The salmon fishing party crossed the Clearwater River at Kamiah and headed westward on a well-worn trail up the north side of Lawyer Creek. After crossing Suzie Creek, the trail went up the steep sidehill to the ridge on the west side of the creek and followed the ridge until coming to the Nez Perce Prairie. Here the trail forked, one branch going northward and one branch going westward. The northward branch accessed the Clearwater River area between Orofino and Lewiston. They took the westward branch on a direct route toward the bridge where Highway 95 crosses Lawyer Creek; passing through the open prairie just south of the town of Nez Perce. At the highway bridge, they crossed the creek

and went southward into Icicle Flat. Passing just west of Ferdinand, and staying on top of the shallow ridges all the way, they arrived at the Nez Perce village in a large meadow where Lawyer Creek comes out of the narrow canyon. The inhabitants of the Nez Perce village showed them great hospitality and provided them sleeping accommodations in their lodges. This was their camp of May 27th.

On May 28th, they headed westward on a major Nez Perce trail that passed just south of the old towns of Westlake and Morrow. After two hours of travel, the trail branched. The major branch kept heading westward toward Lake Waha and the other branch headed southward toward the head of Deer Creek and the Salmon River. The trail they followed crossed the heads of Maloney and Deer Creek and went down the steep, rocky ridge at the Deer Creek Mine. After reaching Deer Creek, the trail then stayed on the west side of the creek, at the midpoint of the sidehill, until reaching the Nez Perce lodges on the extreme lower part of

Deer Creek. There is more than one excellent village site in this area where they could have camped the night of May 28th. They were again shown great hospitality by their Nez Perce hosts.

On May 29th, they continued to the mouth of Deer Creek and then headed down the Salmon River on the north bank. The salmon run had not reached this part of the river so they had to go to the main Snake River to get their fish. They traveled to the mouth of Wapshilla Creek and then went up the main creek and its first main western branch to the top of Wapshilla Ridge. This route is easy to travel by horse and there is now a primitive dirt road along its entire length. Their trail went northward on the main ridge and then turned westward, dropping into Cottonwood Creek. The trail down Cottonwood is easy going and was used by homesteaders to access the agricultural land in that area. After going down the creek about two miles, the trail went westward up to the ridge between Cottonwood and Big Cougar Creeks. It then followed the ridge system down to the mouth of Big Cougar Creek and then onto Cougar Rapids Bar. Their camp of May 29th was on Cougar Rapids Bar.

On May 30th, they stayed at their camp on Cougar Rapids Bar and continued purchasing fish.

On May 31st, they started their journey back to 'Long Camp' at Kamiah. They retraced their route from Cougar Rapids Bar to lower Deer Creek and returned to the Nez Perce village where they had camped the evening of May 28th. The village chief told them that there was a village on that road. From Deer Creek, they went up, over, and down the steep sidehills of the lower part of Hoover Ridge. The trail then took them around the sidehills of the Salmon River 'Oxbow'

and to the mouth of Maloney Creek. They then went up the long ridge going northeast until reaching the plains at the top and a village in a small meadow. They camped with the Nez Perce at this village the night of May 31st.

On June 1st, they headed eastward, crossing Lawyer, Deep, and Telcher Creeks. The trail took them through Keuterville, north of St. Gertrude, and eastward through the town of Cottonwood. They continued eastward down the north side of Cottonwood Creek. They crossed to the south side of Cottonwood Creek at the same point where Reservation Line Road crosses it. The trail then went across the plains



West side of Deer Creek trail

south of Cottonwood Creek, along the same route as the old Stites stage road and down the ridge to the Clearwater River. Here, the party went down the west side of the Clearwater to a Nez Perce village on the west side of the river at Kooskia, Idaho. They camped on the west side of the river across from the current town of Kooskia and just south of the mouth of the Middle Fork.

On June 2nd, they left Kooskia and traveled northward on the west side of the Clearwater River all the way back to Kamiah. Their June 2nd camp was with the main party at Long Camp.

CRAIG MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



John Barker

Steve F. Russell

PUBLIC USE

Recreational use of the public lands depicted on the map is available year-round. During spring, summer and fall, public use includes camping and picnicing, sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, horse back, hiking and mountain bike trips, hunting activities for upland game and big game, and gathering mushrooms. Travel by motorized vehicles is restricted to open roads. There are 75 miles of open roads that allow adequate and dispersed use. During the winter snowmobiling is very popular. Open roads vary from graveled roadways to single-lane dirt roads. Inclement weather can make traction difficult, requiring 4 wheel drive.

With over 196 wildlife species inhabiting the area, the Craig Mountain area offers a variety of opportunities to observe wildlife in a natural setting. The species list includes 133 birds, 47 mammals, 9 reptiles and 7 amphibians. While visitors can observe some of the wildlife richness from a vehicle, it is much more rewarding to roam areas on foot. Over a hundred miles of closed roads provide easy travel for this activity. For those interested in the botanical array, plant communities include native grasslands, wet meadow and riparian complexes, shrubfields and forest stands. Within the varied plant community, there are 13 rare plant species.

There are excellent upland game and big game hunting opportunities on the area as well as outstanding fishing in the river systems.

WILDLIFE

Huntable species abound with blue and ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, mourning doves, valley quail, gray partridge and chukars. Big game species include bighorn sheep, whitetailed deer and mule deer, elk, black bear and cougars. Fishing opportunities are confined to the two

river systems - the Snake and Salmon Rivers located on the south and west border of Craig Mountain and in Waha Lake and Soldier's Meadow Reservoir. Fisheries associated with these waters include rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, catfish, white sturgeon, steelhead and chinook salmon.

Within the 184 non-hunted species, there are four that are listed as threatened. Additionally, at least 12 other terrestrial species have rare or sensitive designations.

SETTING

Craig Mountain is located in southern Nez Perce County and western Lewis County at the northern end of the Hells Canyon ecosystem. It lies north of the Salmon River and east of the Snake River from the mouth of the Salmon River to Redbird Creek about 10 miles south of the City of Lewiston. The area contains spectacular topographic relief, rising from 800 feet elevation along the Snake River to over 5,300 ft. at its summit. The steep, highly dissected canyons are dominated by grassland, woodland, shrubfield and riparian habitats. Summers in the canyons are hot - temperatures can exceed 100 degrees F at river elevations and are somewhat cooler at the higher elevations. Upper elevation plateaus are covered with coniferous forests. The dominant rock formations are of the Columbia River Basalt which erupted during Miocene times some 6 to 17 million years ago.

HISTORY

Prior to the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804, the area was occupied by the Nez Perce. European settlers arrived and homesteaded the area during the 1905 - 1920 period although miners had searched the area for gold as early as 1860.



HOW TO GET THERE

Craig Mountain can be accessed by several routes, but some can be difficult to locate. We recommend that visitors use the following two main routes that are adequately signed. We also recommend that you NOT pull trailers on these routes. It is best to leave them at either Winchester State Park or Hellsgate State Park in Lewiston with water and power hookups, showers and flush toilets available. Camping fees at these sites are required.

Craig Mountain is located south of the City of Lewiston or west of City of Winchester. Both are located on U. S. Highway 95.

From Lewiston, go south on U.S. Highway 95 to county road P2. Go west on P2 to the junction with the Waha road, follow it to Waha Lake and county road 540. Stay on 540 until you arrive at the kiosk at Kruze Meadow that has displays about the Ordway trip.



East Deer Creek Route

From Winchester, turn west off U. S. Highway 95 to Winchester and Winchester State Park. Follow the signs south and west to Soldiers Meadow reservoir and on to county road 540. Turn south on 540 and follow it to the kiosk at Kruze Meadows.

These routes are passable to 2-wheeled vehicles, but are graveled secondary roads. At the kiosk at Kruze Meadows, follow Road 540 to Eagle Creek Road, then down that road to the Salmon River and on downriver to Wapshilla Creek. Or from Eagle Creek, you can proceed on west then south, still on Road 540, to spectacular scenic vistas overlooking the Snake River and the Salmon River. These roads are **much** more primitive and absolutely not suitable for travel for motorhomes or if pulling trailer. You may see two species of forest grouse, wild turkeys, mourning doves, valley quail, gray partridge and chukars. Big game species available include bighorn sheep, whitetailed deer and mule deer, elk, black



*West
Deer Creek
Route*

bear and cougars. Fishing opportunities are confined to the two river systems - the Snake and Salmon rivers located on the south and west border of Craig Mountain.

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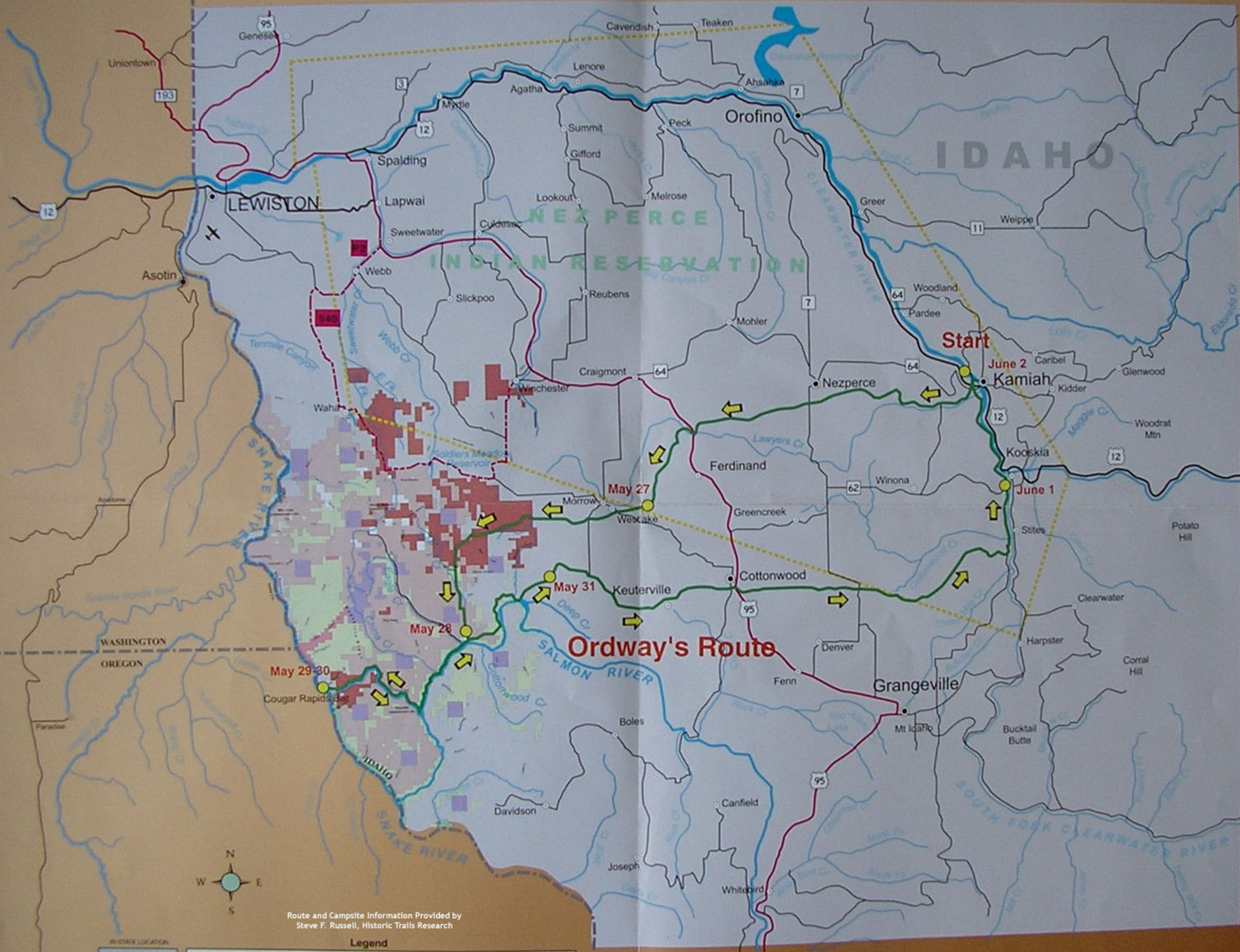
This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

*For additional information on road and trail conditions or to discuss the Ordway Project call:
IDFG, Region 2 office, (208) 799-5010
or John Barker (208) 743-7459.*

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Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area with Ordway Fishing Expedition Trail



Route and Campsite Information Provided by
Steve F. Russell, Historic Trails Research



Legend			
	Idaho Fish and Game Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area		Private
	Idaho Department of Lands		Nez Perce Indian Reservation Boundary
	The Nature Conservancy		Bureau of Land Management
	Nez Perce Title		Ordway's Route
	U.S. Forest Service		General Access Route
			Access Road
			Water
			Ordway Camp Sites

Scale

1 inch = approximately 7.25 miles



Map for general reference only



For more information call
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Clearwater Region
1040 Warner Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-5010