Divide Ride Dogs Lewis & Clark Trail Summer 2006 Itinerary

Final As Pedaled

Mileages are from ACA's book "Bicycling the Lewis & Clark Trail." There are motel options in many places.

We are now back in BLM territory, so you may want to opt for a BML map or two for MT & ID.

Day/Date	To/From	Miles	Camping	Services (see maps for "usual" info.	Comments - See ACA Map for L&C Field Notes.
Pre-trip	Great Falls , MT (airport code = GTF)		Best Western Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Rd. Great Falls (406) 761-1900		Hamilton, MT: Treasure State Art Show (July 7-9). Great Falls: River's Edge Trail (bike & ped). Acclaiimed. Begins at 3rd Ave S and River Dr. Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center: Accessible from the River's Edge Trail.Includes a 30 min. Ken Burns orientation film. Giant Springs Heritage State Park: The Interpretive Center is within this park which sits high above the MoRiver. Home of WORLD'S largest cold fresh water springs and also the world's shortest (the Roe) river.
Day 1 July 10 Monday	Great Falls-> Craig -> Wolf Creek/Holter Lake	58	Wolf Creek: Camping @ "Montana River Outfitters" (406-235-4350 or "The Bungalow B&B" at 406-235-4276 (off route 4 mi. N on US 287) or Camping at Holter	Buy groceries in Cascade (or carry from Great Falls). Can camp at the beginning of Wolf Creek where there is a rest./bar. Can camp if having dinner at Cafe.	Outside of Ulm: Ulm Pishkun State Monument. Detour to see the buffalo jump. Do NOT take fork that goes to Canyon Creek. (12 mi. S. of Great Falls on I-15 & west from the Ulm exit. Adjacent picnic area.) Flat route. Gorgeous ride along Wolf Creek. Wolf Creek: The Bungalow: "Quaint stately structure

			Lake, a few miles BEFORE Wolf Creek (see ACA map). or (see "services" about another option)	(This might be incorrect information from what we saw.)	designed by the architect who built the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone". It is hidden in the hills off the route 4 mi. N on US 287 from just north of Wolf Creek. (call for precise directions. 406-235-4276)
Day 2 July 11 Tuesday	Wolf Creek -> through Gates of the Mountains Wilderness area -> Helena **OR** Wolf Creek -> *Alternate route* ALTERNATE ROUTE NORTH OF HELENA - MAP 76 # Cyclists have recommended an alternate north of Helena to avoid 24.5 miles of I-15 and a steep climb. It is 4 miles longer and includes 11.1 miles of hard-packed dirt/gravel, and is slightly rolling following a creek. # Westbound, begin alternate at mile 14:*14(23)At exit #216, exit I-15S./US 287 and turn right onto unsigned road. 16(26)Begin 11.1	32	Helena RV Park (been there during DR)	Helena: "Morning Lights" for pastry; Toi's Thai for 1st rate Thai ("Montana's best"). Miller's Crossing for burgers & pasta or Bert & Ernies for similar. Fancier = On Broadway or River Grille.	Gates of the Mountains: Tour boats leave from the south shore of Holter Lake 18 mi. N. of Helena at 11am, 1,& 3pm (times may have changed).\$10/9 (Sr.) http://www.gatesofthemountains.com/ Short day to Helena. Multiple things to see & do including: Montana Historial Society Museum. Holter Museum of Art (12 E. Lawrence). Archie Bray Foundation - "one of the foremost schools of pottery in the US. (4 m. west of downtown at 2915 Country Club Ave take Euclid to Joslyn & turn right.) A magical place where pottery is scattered irreverantly across the landscape & artists-in-residence are busy working. Self-guided tour." Gallery open 10-5 exc. Sunday. Can roam grounds at any time. Nationally renowned residential center for potters has displays of pottery for sale or view. State Capitol: The State Capital building is now partially reopened for tours. Norwest Bank's nugget display: Largest display of gold nuggets in the northwest. Also see Federal Reserve Bank's collection of nuggets. Myrna Loy Center for Performing Arts may have something while we are there. Check on this. (15 N. Ewing.) Grandstreet Community Theater (Corner of Park & Lawrence).

mi. of gravel. 23(37)Duffy Ln. 26.5(42)Silver City. Cross RR and continue straight. *27(43)Turn left onto paved unsigned CR 279 which becomes Lincoln Rd. In 0.2 mi., cross RR. *35(56)Turn right onto N. Montana Ave. Rejoin route.

(Took this route.)

Day 3 July 12 Wednesday

Helena -> Canyon Ferry Rec. Area -> Three Forks= Junction 287 & I-90near Wheat Bakery 69

(Too much wind, t-storms, and heat to make it to Three Forks.) Missosuri **Headwaters State** Park. 7 mi. off route. "Go into Three Forks and ask," per ACA. But it doces show on their route map. (According to Park web site: 4 miles northeast of Three Forks, off of Hwy 205, then onto Hwv 286. Lat 45.924, Lna -111.498. Pet Restriction Leash required. This could be an issue for a pack of Dogs) No water except for the confluence of three rivers, therefore filter

KOA RV park at junction just south on Hwy 2 towards Three

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Root Beer Stand: I
know for fact (been
there, done that) that
there is a root beer
stand in town with
wonderful root beer
floats on a hot day.
(Gone)

familiy operation.

(Yummy!)

Sacagawea Hotel Bar:

"The bar itself is a reclaimed trestle that is more than 100 years old and was once a part of a bridge that spanned

Last Chance Tour Train:

For a wealth of knowledge about Helena, board the "Last Chance," tour train, a guided tour of historic Helena. Tours begin at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, and 6pm. Adults,\$6.50, Seniors 60+ \$6.00. Catch the train at the Montana Historical Society. Call (406) 442-1023 for more info.

Last Chance Gulch: Pedestraian mall.

Reeder's Alley: Cluster of old brick bachelor-miner's shanties, now restaurants, etc.

Victorian architecture: All over town but espcially in the hilly (oops) area west of town with some of the most lavish old homes in MT.

Canyon Ferry Village Visitor Center.

These past two days are mileages such that we can camp at Missouri Headwaters S.P. Seems that since we are in the L&C, we ought to spend some time where the Missouri River begins.

Three Forks: The Three Forks of today owes its existence to the establishment of the Milwaukee Railroad in 1908. The location was chosen by J. Q. Adams, Milwaukee Railroad Land Agent. The railroad era lasted until March 25, 1980, when the last Milwaukee Train pulled out of Three Forks.

Headwaters State Park: Go to the **Viewpoint** to see the confluence of the three rivers that form the Missouri River: The Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin Rivers.

Headwaters Heritage Museum corner of Main & Cedar.

Rodeo: (if we are running a couple of days late in our itinerary: July 14-15)

Sacagawea Hotel:

"Standing proudly at the entrance to Three

			Forks.	the Great Salt Lake. On any evening, one can sit back and enjoy the company of locals, sports enthusiasts, cowboys, bikers, [think they mean cyclists? or Hogs?] hunters, truckers, fishermen, tourists, business travelers, and a wide variety of others." [Gee, seems like they covered nearly everyone.] 5 N. Main St. Historic Headwaters Restaurant, 105 S. Main St. "Creative food."	Forks, the Sac is situated across from the old Railroad Depot." A good place to sit on the veranda and enjoy the afternoon, with a drink. (The tip-off to recognizing the finer old inns of the west is the porch. In times of slower travel, an inn was a respite from often arduous journeys, a comfy perch for looking out at the vistas of America's rural provinces while stretching your legs. In the southwest Montana town of Three Forks, the front porch of the Sacajawea Hotel has that feeling: It runs the length of the long building, wrapping around the east end. Here one can sit and rock as the world goes by. National Geographic Traveler, May/June 1994) http://www.sacajaweahotel.com/history.htm
Day 4 July 13 Thursday	Junction 287/90 -> Three Forks -> Twin Bridges Whitehall (Hot with punishing head winds, 15 gusting to 20mph. Had to pedal downhill. Couldn't get to Twin Bridges)	63 ~50	Twin Bridges: RV Park in town. Super 8 Motel in Whitehall. Campground looked like pure gravel. No shade. Too hot to deal with that. We were exhausted.		Flat miles. (Mostly.) Lewis & Clark Caverns: 16 miles along route from Three Forks. Enormous limestone cave system. 3 mi. up a 1,400' hill. Takes about 2 hr. to walk the 2 mile tour of caverns. Confluence of the Jefferson River: Look for the three rivers that come together to form the Jefferson: Ruby, Beaverhead & Big Hole.
Day 5 July 14 Friday	Twin Bridges Whitehall-> Dillon	27 55	Dillon: Camping KOA . 735 Park St. (Same place as on DR)	Dillon: - Lion's Den has enormous prime rib dinnersSweetwater Coffee Co., 26 E. Bannock, has good b/l items, inexpensively.	Short day to have 1/2 day rest day. Just outside of Twin BridgesBeaver Head Rock: Sacagawea recognized this rock and knew she was near Shoshones. Be sure to stop & contemplate how they saw a beaver head in the rock formation.

				- Moose Bar, Bighorn Saloon, Shooter's, Papa T's (with dance floor & live music on weekendsCarl can teach jitterbug again).	
Day 6 July 15 Saturday	BIG HOLE OPTION ON MAP: Dillon -> Badger Pass -> Big Hole Pass -> Jackson	48 41	Camping at Jackson HOT SPRINGS <smile> Lodge (Camping is behind the Lodge.)</smile>	(Need lunches.) (Wicked Felina's for breakfast.)	Badger Pass today. Also Big Hole Pass.
Day 7 July 16 Sunday	Jackson -> Wisdom -> Big Hole Nat'l. Battlefield -> May Creek C.G.	34	May Creek camping. (Need to buy camping food in Wisdom.)	Wisdom: - Big Hole Crossing has heavenly pie. (Indeed. Even at 10:30 am.)	Wisdom: A good place to stop for a few minutes to poke around. Bitterroot = State flower of MT. Big Hole Valley. Serious ranching country with spreads averaging 2,000-5,000 acres. Big Hole National Battlefield: Just west of Wisdom - an excellent place to stop. Long gentle climb to Chief Joe Pass. Worth a detour.
Day 8 July 17 Monday	May Creek c.g> Chief Jos. & Lost Trail Passes -> Sula -> Darby	39 41	Darby: Camping. (Wilderness RV Park is the only camping park in town which can accomodate tents. Other place doesn't have toilet provisions yetonly hookups for RVs.)	Rocky Knob Lodge (12 mi. S. of Darby on US93): Famous for hickory smoked ribs. Lunch ~\$8. Darby: - Trapper's, 516 Main has huge b/l/d menu. (Food wasn't all that good.) -Darmont Hotel,123 N. Main, is Darby's	At the top of Lost Trail Pass = picnic & info area across the road. Nice downhill of ~6mi. Then rolling into Sula and then Darby. Sula: - Lost Trails Hot Springs Resort. ~\$5 for a soak in the hot outdoor pool. (8am-10pm) - Cute store in Sula. Darby: - Marcus Darby built the first lumber mill in the Bitterroot Valley Original Town Square; Library in the old fire house; Pioneer Memorial Museum (housed in an old chicken coop). Darby Historical Ranger

original pub & colorful spot for burgers, steak, pizza. (Also known as The Sawmill, perhaps because of the saws hanging from the ceiling!) (There was a good selection of beer here.)

-Valley Bar & Dotson's. Along with the Darmont, all are classic western gems w/ darts, pool & live music on weekends.

Station (north end of town) where Main St. turns into US 93.

Day 9 July 18 Tuesday

Darby -> Hamilton Stevensville-> **Missoula**

(Could split this into two days if necessary)

70 Missoula:

Options: **Motel** or camping.

(The 100+ deg. days begin. We stayed in a motel - The Bel Aire **Motel**. The motel is very close to the Adventure Cycling office. However, if staying at the Bel Aire, be very sure to get a WRITTEN confirmation of room rate PRIOR to signing on the dotted line when registering at the office. We had rate problems. Other than that, it was fine.)

Arriba! Fresh Mexican Grill:

featuring the Cabo Margarita Lounge and the Baja Casino. Scratch made lunch and dinners. No reservations. Seats 200. Northwest's largest tequila selection. Southgate Mall's Main Entrance.

The Montana Club:

serves up true Montana size portions of the cities best breakfast, lunch and dinner. 2100 Stephens.

The Iron Horse Brew Pub:

restaurant, cafe, tavern, pub. 501 N. Higgins Just south of Missoula near Hamilton = Traveler's Rest State Park where L&C spent one winter. A good related sight. (May not be on maps yet...it's relatively new.) Can get to via bike path paralleling US 93 going into Hamilton. (Bike path is shown on our ACA map, plate # 89.)

Hamilton:

- Marcus Darby Mansion (24 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms) had T. Roosevelt, Will Rogers, Charles Russel as guests. It remains "An exquisite estate" which was built in 1890. Roam grounds 10-5pm [free] Tours are ~\$5. 2 mi. N of Hamiton on Eastside Rd. Turn E. on A St. from Hwy 93.
- Shantilly Theater Group & Hamilto Players perform in a restored schoolhouse. Tix. available at Chapter One Bookstore.

Victor:

"People venture great distances for **English pints** & pub atmosphere of The Hamilton, 1/2 block west of US 93 in the small town of Victor. Owner wears kilts & pulls a perfect Guinness & makes excellent fish & chips."

(**The Depot Restaurant.** Had an outstanding meal.
Excellent steak!)

(The Press Box Sports Bar/Rest. opens at 7am for inexpensive breakfast. We were able to watch The Tour d' France there.)

Stevensville:

Explore the grounds of St. Mary's Mission founded in 1841

Missoula:

- ACA is here. We'll stop in and say "hi" as they are expecting to see us on our way through.

Noon picnic on 7/19 with ACA folks.

- Food & music in the park. Wed. Noon?
- Farmer's Mkt: Tues 6:30-8pm. ??
- **Rockin' Ruby's,** 237 Blaine, "Quite possibly the best record store between Minneapolis & Seattle.

The **Missoula Art Museum** (MAM). Tours, classes, poetry readings, concerts, public discussions and other special events are available year-round. MAM expanding the building, expected to be completed in summer 2006. MAM presents exhibitions and educational programs in The Florence at 111 N. Higgins Ave. during construction. Galleries are open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Ride the first fully **hand-carved Carousel** built in America in the last sixty years and enjoy numerous special events throughout the year at **Caras Park. 11a.m. to 7p.m.**http://www.carrousel.com/ \$0.50 for most of us.

Elk Country Visitor Center, one of the newest and best conservation education facilities in the Northwest. Showcasing the efforts of the Foundation to conserve elk country, the Elk Country Visitor Center features hands-on conservation and hunting heritage exhibits for all ages. The Visitor Center also includes a Lewis and Clark display, an impressive collection of world record elk mounts, a western wildlife diorama and a state of the art conservation theater. 5705 Grant Creek. Free.

				The Smokejumper Center features murals, videos, a reconstructed lookout tower and exhibits of men and women fighting wildfire, from the advent of the smokejumper in 1939 to the present day. In addition, Forest Service smokejumpers are trained here. The Center is open Memorial Day through Labor Day and tours are available on the hour, beginning at 10:00a.m. Located adjacent to Johnson Bell Airport on Hwy 93. (406) 329-4900 (7 mi. west of town on Broadway.)
Day 10 & 11 July 19 Wednesday (& Thursday)	REST DAYS-Missoula (Took two rest days in Missoula to recover from the heat, mileages and saddle "inconveniences.")			Explore Missoula. Meet with Adventure Cycling folks at their place.
Day 11- 12 July 21 Thursday Friday	Missoula -> Lolo Hot Springs (can continue another mile to -> Lee Creek c.g.) Wx = HOT HOT HOT.	41 (or 43) 40	RV park at Lolo Hot Springs (No Hookup/Tent = \$15.00 per tent) (We negotiated a much better deal.) or continue a bit to Lee Creek c.g. (USFS) (2 mi. off route.) Lee Creek Campground is located in the Lolo National Forest in northwest Montana. At an elevation of 4,200 feet, the campground encompasses 6 acres. The 22 campsites are provided in 2 separate loops; 17 sites on a hill above the highway in	This is NOT the off-road Lolo Trail route that ACA also shows on the maps. A bit of a hilly day. Lolo Hot Springs: Pool Hours: Summer 10am until 10pm. 38500 W. Highway 12, Lolo, MT.

			lodgepole timber, and 5 sites in pine and spruce near the creek. Restrooms are provided.	
Day 13 July 21 Friday Saturday	Lee Creek c.g. Lolo Hot Springs-> Lolo Pass -> Cross into Idaho -> Powell	21	Camping ? Or? (At Powell Station (USFS c.g.)	Over Lolo Pass. 3 mi. before Powell, stop and enjoy the stand of ancient cedar trees at DeVoto Memorial Grove.
Day 14 July 22 Saturday Sunday	Powell -> Warm Springs Pack Bridge -> Eagle Mt. Pack Bridge -> Lone Knob Wilderness Gateway c.g.	39 41	Lone Knob Wilderness Gateway c.g. (USFS)	"At Warm Springs Pack Bridge there is a hot springs 1 mi. off route. Johnson Hot Springs . Also, a few miles down the road, on the right, near Milepost 1423 is a trail leading to Weir Hot Springs, another undeveloped site [as is Johnson Hot Springs]. In the interest of overcrowding we won't divulge any more information about these two very special places. Just let it be said that they're well worth the off-route travel necessary to reach them." (Source: ACA's biking the L&C Trail.) Between Powell & Lowell: Lochsa Historial Ranger Station .(Open 9-5, daily.)
Day 15 July 23 Sunday Monday	Wilderness Gateway c.g> Lowell -> Syringa (Lochsa Hist. Ranger Station) -> L&C Resort (or Riverside town park in-Kamiah) (Stayed in Kamiah. Temps continue to be 105+ deg.)	55 58	Lewis & Clark Resort (2 mi. s. of Kamiah). (RV/camping) One of the largest private c.g.s in Idaho. Situated across the road from Heart of the Monster. In Kamiah, camping is allowed at Riverside town park (Motel: Kamiah Inn Motel. Clean. Unimpressive.)	Pretty flat.

Day 16 July 24 Monday Tuesday	REST DAY- Kamiah				
Day 17 July 25 Tuesday Wednesday	Kamiah-(L&C Resort) -> Winchester	45 51	Winchester: Winchester Lake St. Park (1/4 mi. prior to Winchester). "Go for an overnight. Can rent a yurt." (per ACA.) Winchester Lake State Park surrounds a 103-acre lake, nestled in a forested area at the foot of the Craig Mountains, just off US 95 adjoining the town of Winchester. The Dog Bark Park Inn D&B is located off route, from the junction of Jentges Rd. and US 95, 2.9 mi. S. on US 95, 962-3647. Stayed at Winchest Lake Lodge (in town, not on a lak)e.		A lumpy climb out of Kamiah (2,000+' in 11 mi). and lumpy downhill after that.
Day 18 July 26 Wednesday Thursday	Winchester -> Lewiston/Clarkson (Temps continue to be well over 100 deg.)	37 45	(Stayed at Hotel Lewiston [former Howard Johnson's Motel]. Would stay elsewhere next time.)	Lewiston Motels: Budget motels clustered N. of Memorial Bridge. Places to eat: - MJ Barleyhoppers	Lewiston: - Hell's Gate State Park (on Snake R.) 4 mi. S. Swimming, camping, showers, picnic area. Hiking trails A relatively small town which can be walked around in an afternoon. (My comment - I've been there on a bike trip.)

			Microbrewery has best quality & selection in town Zany's for burgers & retro atmostphere BoJacks for "broiler pit" steaks Casa de Oro for good Mexican food. Clarkston's best is Tomato Bros (wood fired pizza, salads, pasta). (MaCullen's. Excellent food. Also a DQ in town.)	
Day 19 July 27 Thursday Friday	(Available day for weather or other delaying situations.)			(Or, a ride day into Lewiston) Explore Lewiston/Clarkson. Ride along the Snake River. Etc.
Day 20 July 28 Saturday	Fly Home from LEWISTON, ID airport (aircport code = LWS)			Ditto above.
Day 21 July 29 Saturday Sunday	Fly Home from LEWISTON, ID airport (aircport code = LWS)			

Information from "Bicycling the Lewis & Clark Trail" by Mac McCoy/Adventure Cycling Association.

Also "Traveling the Lewis & Clark Trail" by Julie Faneslow. And, various city web pages. Lonely Planet. Marianne Lipanovich

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