

WILLIAM CLARK AND HIS SCOUTS AT TWO CAMP

July 19, 1805

Gates of the Mountains

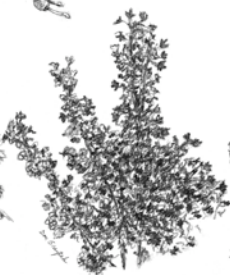
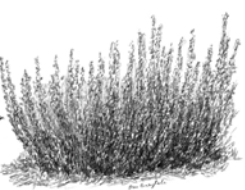
"The river appears to have forced it's way through this immense body of solid rock for the distance of 5 3/4 miles and where it makes it's exit below has thown on either side vast columns of rocks mountains high . . ."

MERIWETHER LEWIS

July 19, 1805 — Traveling upstream through the impressive geology of the Gates of the Mountains, Lewis and Clark recorded a wealth of information in their journals about the native flora and fauna they encountered.

The men traveling overland struggled with the rough, flinty limestone ground and the ubiquitous spines of the prickly-pear cactus. Clark pulled out 17 thorns by the light of the campfire.

Native Plant Species

Sunflower	Currant	Sagewort
height: up to 7 feet habitat: dry to moist open sites, disturbed areas	height: 3 to 10 feet habitat: grassland, stream banks, and dry forest	height: less than 2 feet habitat: dry open plains and foothills
Lewis observed the common sunflower, "The Indians of the Missouri ... make great use of the seed of this plant for bread, or use it in thickening their soups."	Lewis said of golden currant: "there are a great abundance of red yellow purple & black currants, and service berries."	Fringed sagewort is an aromatic herb or sub-shrub with clustered leaves covered with fine silvery hairs.
		
		
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>



Montana artist Don Greytak interprets July 1805 near one of Lewis and Clark's two camps along the Gates of the Rocky Mountains as Captain William Clark and his scouts hope to meet the Shoshone Indians.

www.dongreytak.com
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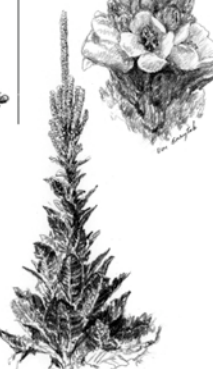
The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail weed education project was initiated and developed in 1997 by Montana's Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign Task Force. The project grew to eleven locations by 2003 with the addition of Tower Creek Pyramids site cooperating with Idaho's Weed Awareness Campaign. By 2008 collaboration increased to the diverse entities shown on the reverse side of this sheet.

Today — As you travel through the Gates of the Mountains, you will observe non-native plant species like Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed that were not present when Lewis and Clark traveled up the river. Invasive plant species we find today at many areas along the Missouri River were brought by unsuspecting travelers along waterways, roads, and trails. Wildlife, livestock, people, and pets transport seeds on their coats, clothing, shoe treads, vehicles, and boats.

Once introduced, invasive species can spread rapidly and become difficult and costly to eradicate. Dalmatian toadflax is an extremely aggressive invader that can survive a wide range of habitats. Diffuse knapweed is very competitive in dry, rangeland conditions.

You can help protect pristine areas from invasive species by not walking or driving through infestations, and by washing your clothing, gear, and vehicles between site visits.

Invasive Plant Species

Knapweed	Toadflax	Mullein
height: 1 to 2 feet habitat: roadsides, dry rangeland	height: 2 to 3 feet habitat: variety	height: 2 to 7 feet habitat: disturbed areas, gravelly soil
Diffuse knapweed flowers can be white, pink, or purple. Spiny bracts cup the buds and stems are rough.	Dalmatian toadflax, introduced to the United States as an ornamental, is used in fabric dyes and cold remedies.	First year common mullein plants form a rosette of thick, velvety leaves. In the second year, a robust stem bolts and produces tiny yellow flowers in spikes at the tip of the stalk.
		
		
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>