

Travel Corridors Provide a System of Destinations

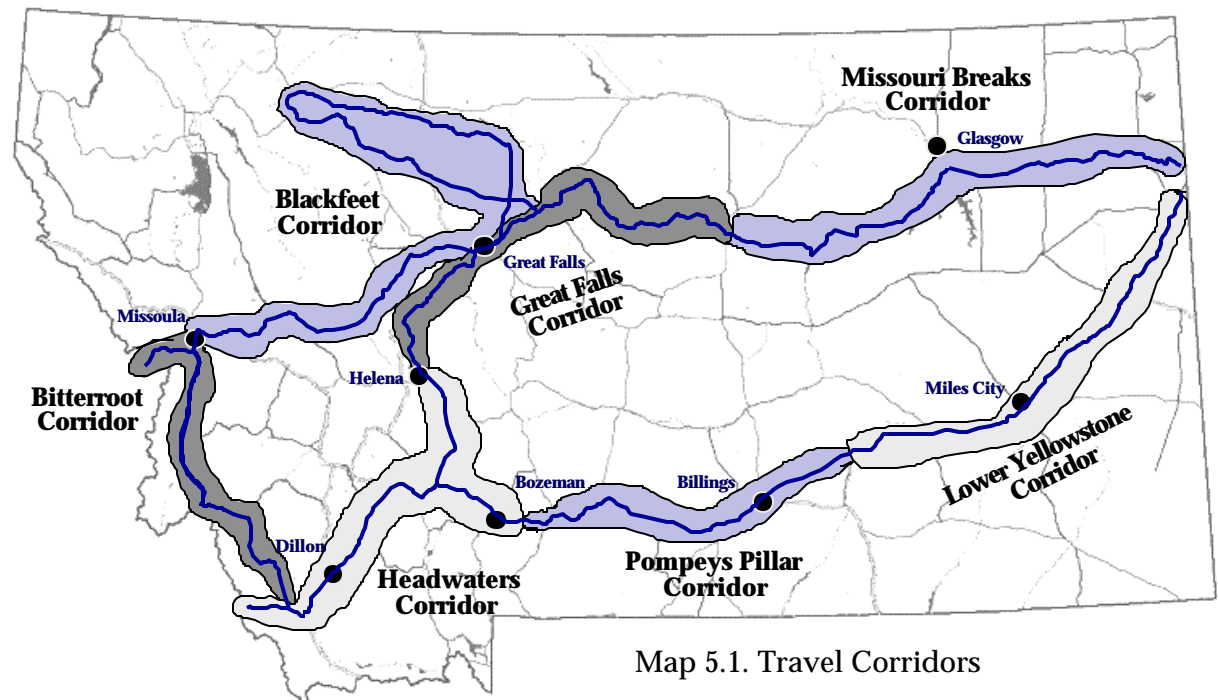
Most people who visit Montana do not come specifically to experience Lewis & Clark heritage. Instead, they tend to add this option to their agenda as they learn about the Trail or sites along their way. It is clear from survey research that people do become much more enthusiastic about this opportunity once they are exposed to it inside the state. By this time, however, their travel plans and timing are fairly set. In addition, Montana's portion of the Trail is so large that extremely few people should be expected to visit its entire length. In fact, even the most avid Lewis & Clark enthusiasts are likely to concentrate on smaller segments.

In response to these visitor tendencies, a system is needed to encourage people to seek at least a "taste" of the Trail and its attractions. Toward this end, creation of a set of seven Lewis & Clark travel corridors is recommended (see Map 5.1). These corridors will divide the state system into portions that anyone might be able to experience in one or two days of extended visitation. The corridor system addresses the following realities:

- ◆ Montana is VERY big
- ◆ Visitors need "bite size" portions
- ◆ Most visitors will not be here primarily for Lewis & Clark experiences
- ◆ Most visitors come to see family, friends, cities, and National Parks
- ◆ Major Lewis & Clark sites tend to exist in clusters that can be tapped by a corridor system

Chapter V: Travel Corridors

- ❖ Destination System
- ❖ Bitterroot Corridor
- ❖ Blackfeet Corridor
- ❖ Great Falls Corridor
- ❖ Headwaters Corridor
- ❖ Pompeys Pillar Corridor
- ❖ Lower Yellowstone Corridor
- ❖ Missouri Breaks Corridor



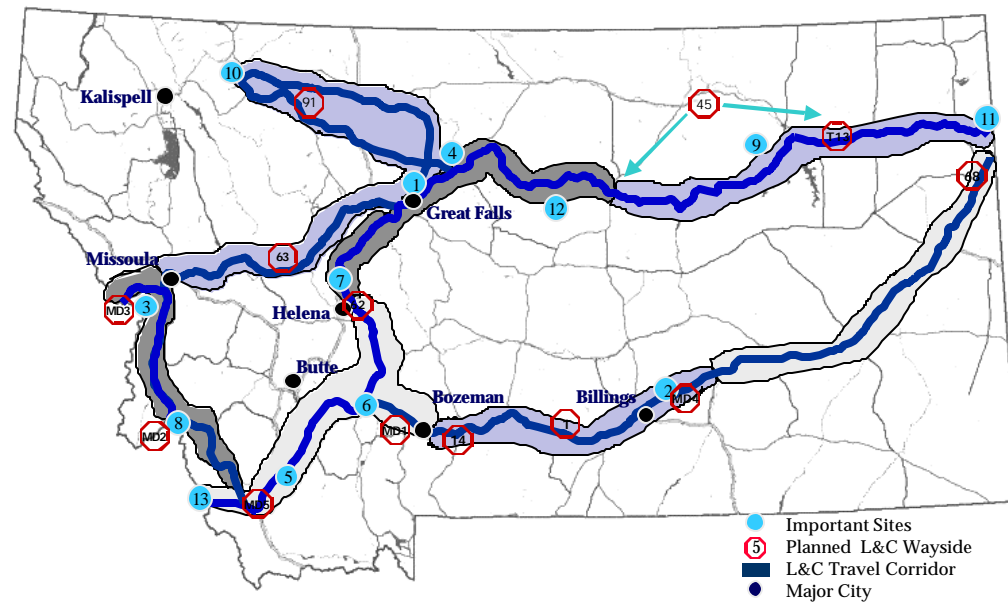
Map 5.1. Travel Corridors



Gates of the Mountains

In addition, travel corridors offer many advantages:

- ◆ Corridors tap and serve people who are visiting other major attractions
- ◆ Corridors are attractive add-ons to visit
- ◆ Corridors help focus limited resources
- ◆ Each of the corridors is distinctly different from the rest, offering a range of visitor experiences
- ◆ Corridors are widely dispersed, providing practically every state visitor a Lewis & Clark experience
- ◆ All key sites are within corridors (see Map 5.2)
- ◆ All corridors include a hub city or town that can be the focus for promotion and base for regional visitation
- ◆ Corridors are highly marketable
- ◆ Corridors help strengthen individual sites that might otherwise be missed
- ◆ Minor destinations can tap the attractiveness of nearby major destinations
- ◆ Through systematic development, corridors improve the quality of visitors' experiences



Map 5.2. Travel Corridors & Key Sites

Bitterroot Corridor Highlights

10 Communities

- ∪ Travelers Rest
- ∪ Bitterroot Valley
- ∪ Lolo & Lost Trail Passes
- ∪ Lee Metcalf NWR
- ∪ Ross' Hole / Camp Creek
- ∪ Ravalli County Museum
- ∪ Glacier Nat'l Park nearby
- ∪ 0 events (to date)
- ∪ 6 Tier I projects
- ∪ 4 Tier II projects

Blackfeet Corridor Highlights

16 Communities

- ∪ Camp Disappointment
- ∪ Lewis & Clark Pass
- ∪ Blackfeet Fight Site
- ∪ National Bison Range
- ∪ Museum of the Plains Indian
- ∪ Glacier Nat'l Park nearby
- ∪ 1 event
- ∪ 5 Tier I projects
- ∪ 10 Tier II projects

Bitterroot Corridor

Tier I Projects

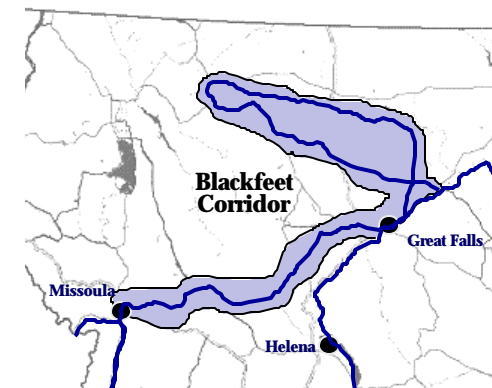
- ∪ Signage: Trail of the American Nations
- ∪ Lolo & Lost Trail Pass rest areas/visitor facilities
- ∪ Traveler's Rest archeology, land acquisition & interpretive facility
- ∪ Feasibility study/business plan for Traveler's Rest interpretive facility
- ∪ Ravalli County Museum display
- ∪ Ross' Hole pull-out, interpretive signs

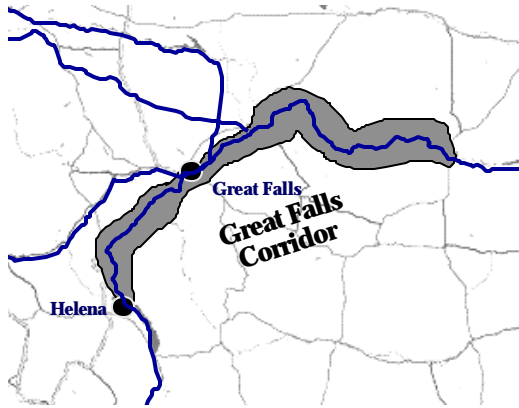


Blackfeet Corridor

Tier I Projects

- ∪ Camp Disappointment Monument Renovation
- ∪ 2 interpretive sign projects
- ∪ Museum of the Plains Indian upgrades
- ∪ Golden Triangle visitor contact station
- ∪ Oral history of Blackfeet Tribe
- ∪ BLM/USFS on-site interpreters and caretakers
- ∪ Games of the Past (Blackfeet Res.)





Great Falls Corridor Highlights

15 Communities

- ∪ LCNHT Interpretive Center
- ∪ Great Falls Portage Route
- ∪ Upper Missouri/Decision Point
- ∪ Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River
- ∪ Gates of the Mountains
- ∪ Fort Benton
- ∪ Benton Lake NWR
- ∪ 11 Tier I projects
- ∪ 20 Tier II projects

Great Falls Corridor

Tier I Projects

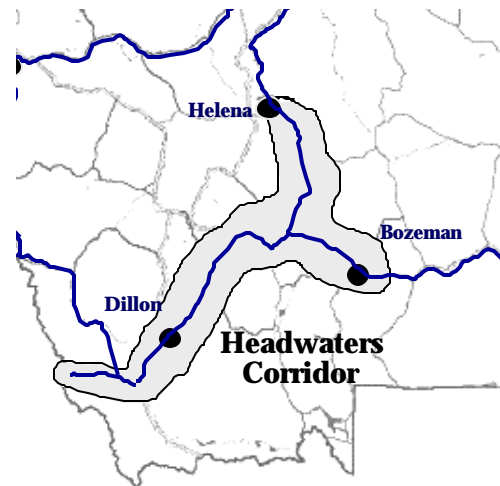
- ∪ 5 interpretive sign projects
- ∪ LCNHT Interpretive Ctr exhibits/improvem'ts
- ∪ Fort Benton reconstruction
- ∪ 5 BLM Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic river management projects
- ∪ BLM riverwide seasonal support staff
- ∪ First Person Re-enactor Training
- ∪ Portage reenactment
- ∪ "Discovering the Big Sky" event
- ∪ Games of the Past (Rocky Boys Res.)

Headwaters Corridor

Highlights

18 Communities

- ∪ State Historical Museum
- ∪ Canyon Ferry/Crimson Bluffs
- ∪ Camp Fortunate
- ∪ Dillon/Clark Canyon area
- ∪ Three Forks/Headwaters SP
- ∪ Beaverhead Rock
- ∪ Lemhi Pass Nat'l Landmark
- ∪ Museum of the Rockies
- ∪ 4 events/reenactments/theater productions
- ∪ Yellowstone National Park nearby
- ∪ 11 Tier I projects
- ∪ 23 Tier II projects



Headwaters Corridor

Tier I Projects

- ∪ State Historical Museum exhibit
- ∪ 4 interpretive sign/exhibit projects
- ∪ Whitehall amphitheater, L&C drama
- ∪ USFS, BLM, BOR seasonal staff, EMS planning
- ∪ Camp Fortunate and Headwaters Reenactments
- ∪ Lemhi Pass facility upgrades and visitor management
- ∪ Crimson Bluffs protection
- ∪ Three Forks interpretive center
- ∪ "Festival at the Headwaters" event

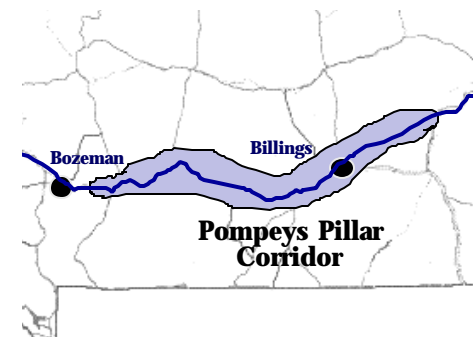
Pompeys Pillar Corridor Highlights

13 Communities

- ∪ Pompeys Pillar
- ∪ Upper Yellowstone River
- ∪ Clark campsites
- ∪ Billings sites/amenities
- ∪ Yellowstone Park nearby
- ∪ Little Bighorn Battlefield nearby
- ∪ 6 Tier I projects
- ∪ 9 Tier II projects

Pompeys Pillar Corridor Tier I Projects

- ∪ Pompeys Pillar interpretive center and rest area
- ∪ 2 interpretive sign projects
- ∪ Clark's Yellowstone River Camp reenactment
- ∪ Yellowstone County Museum exhibit
- ∪ Clark Day at Pompeys Pillar (with Crow participation)



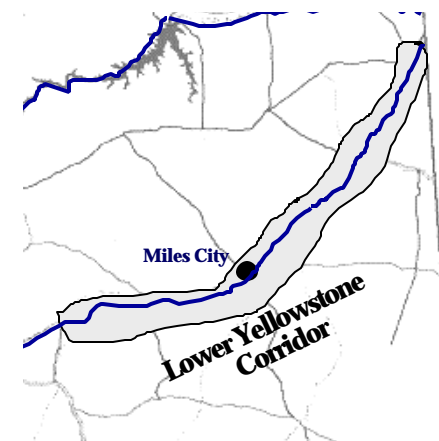
Lower Yellowstone River Corridor Highlights

18 Communities

- ∪ Clark's Yellowstone River campsites
- ∪ Miles City
- ∪ Little Bighorn nearby
- ∪ Sidney/Confluence area
- ∪ Ft. Union nearby
- ∪ 1 events
- ∪ 5 Tier I projects
- ∪ 7 Tier II projects

Lower Yellowstone River Tier I Projects

- ∪ Amphitheater in Forsyth
- ∪ Crow and Northern Cheyenne oral histories
- ∪ Chief Plenty Coups State Park training package
- ∪ Lower Yellowstone kiosks
- ∪ Sidney gateway visitor center upgrade (L&C info)
- ∪ "Clark on the Yellowstone" event
- ∪ Games of the Past (Crow & Northern Cheyenne Reservations)





Missouri Breaks Corridor Highlights 10 Communities

- ∪ Fort Peck Interp Center (construction 2000-03)
- ∪ Fort Peck Reservoir
- ∪ CMR Wildlife Refuge
- ∪ Missouri Breaks Byway
- ∪ 3 reenactments/events
- ∪ 6 Tier I projects
- ∪ 15 Tier II projects

Missouri Breaks Corridor Tier I Projects

- ∪ Ft. Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum exhibit
- ∪ James Kipp Recreation Area site upgrades and interpretation
- ∪ Tribal oral histories
- ∪ 2 reenactments
- ∪ Northeastern Plains signage
- ∪ Games of the Past (Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Reservations)



Canoeing on the National Wild & Scenic Missouri River