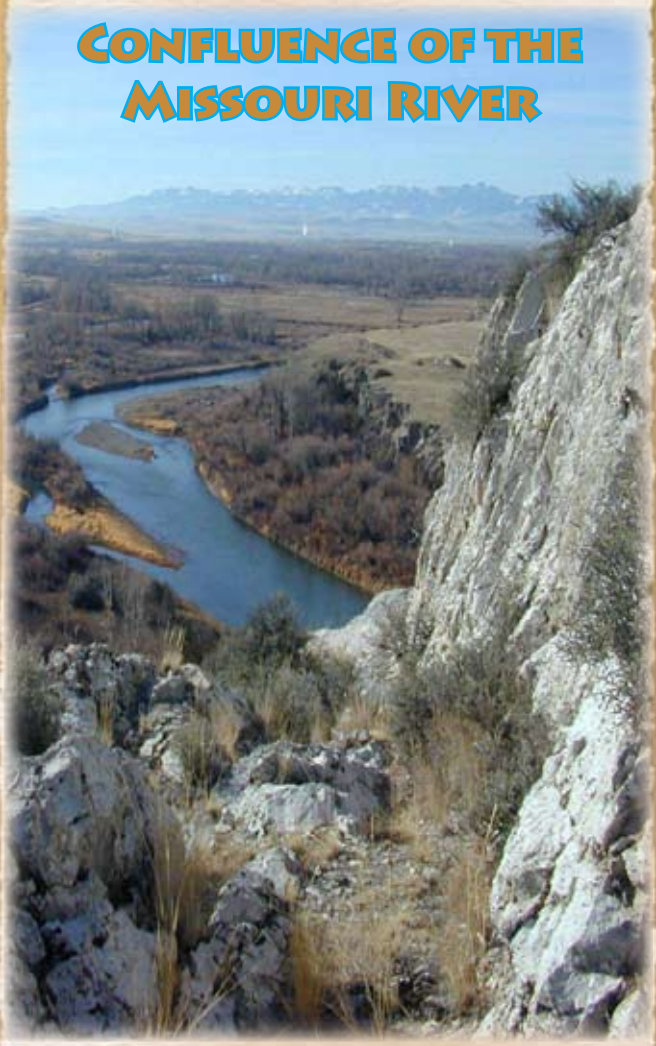
Missouri Headwaters State Park

Confluence of the Missouri River



MONTANA STATE PARKS

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Situated in Montana's scenic Gallatin Valley are the headwaters of the mighty Missouri River, where the Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson rivers join together. The confluence of the Missouri became a historically significant site for the Lewis and Clark expedition, which arrived there on July 25, 1805. Meriwether Lewis was so moved by the beauty of the rivers that he remarked in his journal: "...the beds of all these streams are formed of smooth pebble and gravel, and their waters are perfectly transparent; in short they are three noble streams." and Sacajawea, the expedition's famous Indian guide, recognized this region to be her native land where she had lived before being kidnapped as young girl.

Missouri Headwaters State Park is located four miles north of Three Forks, Montana, just off of Interstate 90. It is open year round, and is in close proximity to Yellowstone National Park and other State Parks.

Fees:

Daily Entrance Fee…..$5 per out-of-state vehicle
*Free with Montana State Parks Passport

Overnight Camping….$12 per camping unit (RV plus Tent), or 2 Tents

Tipi Rental……..$25 per night.

Montana State Parks Passport…..$25 for first vehicle
$20 for second vehicle

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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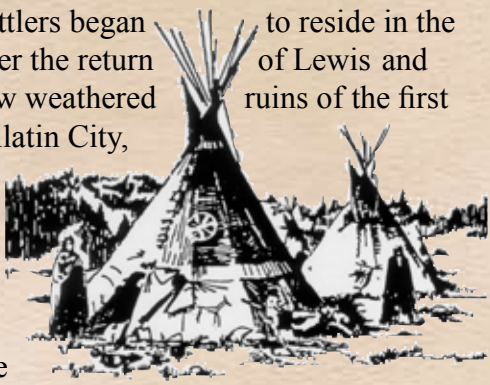
A natural crossroads and an ideal camping and hunting site, the headwaters was the meeting ground of various Native American tribes, like the Blackfeet, Shoshone, and Crow, long before the famous expedition. Faint pictographs within the park are the only physical evidence of the tribes passing through. Fur trappers and settlers began to reside in the region soon after the return of Lewis and Clark, and a few weathered ruins of the first and second Gallatin City, both established in the 1860s, still stand in the park as testament to the determination and resilience of the pioneers.



Today, the location of the headwaters is the center of a 506-acre state park, and visitors will find that the scenery which Lewis and Clark first encountered in 1805 has changed very little. The park offers superb attractions for the camper, floater, history buff and fisherman. The river ecosystems provide a rich environment for over 90 animals. Visitors can explore the park by using its walking trails which are enhanced by interpretive displays describing the vistas. Overnight camping and picnic areas are also available.