Missouri River Canoe Trip Reading List

ROW always brings along an on river library and many of these titles will be included for your reading pleasure while on the river. The following is a list of books we find to be some of the best about this area that you may want to read before your trip. Several titles are available through ROW.

Books about the Lewis & Clark Expedition:

The original, handwritten journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark remain to this day in Philadelphia, but all of the 750,000 words in them have also been published.

- The best, most modern edition of the published journals are The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Edited Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press, 1983-1998. These volumes can be tough reading because they contain the unique spelling, paragraphing, and punctuation of the journal writes. On the other hand, the journal entries are complete and fascinating and the editor’s footnotes contain a wealth of explanatory information, along with copies of the original illustrations by Lewis & Clark.
  - Lewis and Clark’s journal entries for the Upper Missouri National Wild & Scenic River are located in volume 4 (May 24 – June 1, 1805). ROW has copies of this volume for sale for $65 postpaid. For Lewis alone on the return trip, see volume 8 (July 28-August 1, 1806); and the entries by the three enlisted men can be found in volumes 9, 10 and 11, though only volume 10 also covers the events of July 1806.

- Another option for those interested in the Journals of Lewis and Clark is The Lewis and Clark Journals: An American Epic of Discovery. By Gary E. Moulton and Patrick Cullen. University of Nebraska Press, 2003. This is a one-volume abridgement of the University of Nebraska’s The Journals of Lewis and Clark Expedition, first published in 13 volumes under the editorship of historian Gary Moulton. Here, complete, are the detailed notes on natural history, geography, and ethnology recorded by Lewis & Clark and their colleagues in the Corps of Discovery.
  - The day-by-day format can also be sampled in scaled down versions of the journals where the original text has been “cleaned up”.
    - The Journals of Lewis and Clark. Edited by Bernard DeVoto. Houghton Mifflin, 1953. Reprinted by same publisher in 1997 with an introduction by Stephen E. Ambrose. 504 pages. DeVoto, a distinguished historian, selected only the most exciting entries for inclusion in his volume. The reprint did not correct mistakes DeVoto made in 1953. This is a fun way to read about the highlights of the expedition, but it is not entirely accurate.

- General works on the expedition run into the hundreds, but among the best are these:


• Some books dealing with the expedition focus on special topics:


• Books about Montana and the Missouri River:


  • Lourie, Peter, *In the Path of Lewis and Clark: Travelling the Missouri*. Silver Burdett, 1996. (out of print, available online)


  • Fanselow, Julie, *Traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail*. Falcon Press, 1994 and 1998. Julie has been one of ROW’s guest interpreters.


• Bodmer, Karl, Karl Bodmer’s America. University of Nebraska Press, 1984. Karl Bodmer was a professional Swiss artist hired by German Prince Maximilllilan who traveled along the Missouri in 1833 courtesy of arrangements made by William Clark. It contains illustrations from this journey as well as others.
• Monahan, Glenn, Montana’s Wild & Scenic Upper Missouri river. Northern Rocky Mountain Books, 1997. This book includes a history digest for the 149 mile wild and scenic river corridor – including historic events and the people who used the river as a highway into Montana. (Out of print, available online)

❖ General River Books:
• Seton, Ernest Thompson, The Biography of a Grizzly. University of Nebraska Press, 1987. Seton wrote over 60 books around the turn of the century and was the main person to bring to Western consciousness the idea of wild animals having personalities and character, sharing life struggles similar to humans. This book is the story of the life a grizzly cub that groups up alone in the mountain of northwestern Wyoming. Highly recommended. (Out of print, available online)
• Orr, William N. & Elizabeth L., Rivers of the West – A Guide to the Geology & History. (out of print, available online)
• Reisner, Marc, Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water. Penguin Books. This is an enlightening and easy to read book about water politics in the West.
• Nisbet, Jack, Sources of the River. Sasquatch Books, 1994. Jack re-creates the life and times of David Thompson – fur trader, explorer, surveyor, and mapmaker who blazed the way West before Lewis and Clark. As a result of adding his own observations Jack has created a fascinating story of two men discovering the Northwest Territory almost two hundred years apart. (Author Jack Nisbet lives in Spokane and has traveled the Missouri River as a ROW interpretive guest.) Highly recommended.

❖ Maps:
• Maps of the Upper Missouri National Wild & Scenic River. (4 maps on two sheets, printed by the Bureau of Land Management)

❖ Music:
• “Lewis & Clark, West for America”. This album captures in song the raw emotions and drama of an adventure that consumed two years and 8,000 miles. With eleven original songs, singer David Walburn creatively follows the Lewis & Clark Expedition with each song representing a feeling or event along the route. The music is “folk” in nature with lots of nice guitar and vocals. It get you to think of some of the different emotions the Corps must have felt – missing their families back home, York’s longing for freedom, the bravado of the journey, etc. If you want to listen to a sample go to www.davidwalburn.com.

There are so many books about this area and its many phases in history. If you have ready any books you feel would be worth adding to this list, please let us know, and we’ll be happy to add them.

See the reverse side for an order form >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Below is an order form for any of the books available through ROW. You can either return this form to our office with your trip applications or you can fax it to us at (208)6 67-6506.
### ORDER FORM

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— Please bill me on my invoice.

— Please charge my credit card.

I authorize R.O.W., Inc. to charge my credit card for the above amount.

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