

CAMP DISAPPOINTMENT

12 miles northeast of Browning, Blackfoot vicinity

This pristine site on Cut Bank Creek in the Blackfoot Reservation marks the northernmost point reached by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, important because Meriwether Lewis, who camped here in July 1806, hoped to find that the headwaters of the Marais River arose north of the 49th parallel. Had this been the case, the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase would have been extended. From the site he observed that the headwaters of the river arose in the west, not in the north. That disappointment, and four days of rainy weather that prevented him from taking the latitude, gave the site its name. Lewis recorded on July 26 that he was “bidding a lasting adieu to this place which I now call camp disappointment.”