



August 14, 1805, mile 2967

Six lanes of highway, two railroad tracks, and a river divide the mountains at Rattlesnake Cliffs, 7 miles southwest of Dillon, Montana on Interstate 15.

I saw several bald eagles and two large, white-headed fishing hawks. Both these birds were the same common to our country. From the number of rattlesnakes about the cliffs at which we halted, we call them the Rattlesnake Cliffs.

*Lewis, August 10, 1805*

On August 14, Clark and the main party went “7 miles to the gap of the mountains at Rattlesnake Cliffs where the river enters the mountains, the same being 16 miles by the meanders of the river.” They camped near Rattlesnake Cliffs. Lewis had passed here four days earlier. On the 14th he was on the Lemhi River with the Indians he had met the day before, over the Continental Divide and about 70 miles ahead.

The morning being cold and the men stiff, I determined to take breakfast at the place we encamped. We set out at 7 o'clock and proceeded on. The river is very crooked and rapid as below. Some few trees are on the borders near the mountain. The river near the mountain is one continued rapid, which requires great labor to push and haul the canoes up. We encamped on the larboard side near the place the river passes through the mountain.

I checked our interpreter for striking his woman at their dinner. Several men have hurt themselves pushing up the canoes. I am obliged to use a pole occasionally.

*Clark, August 14, 1805*