

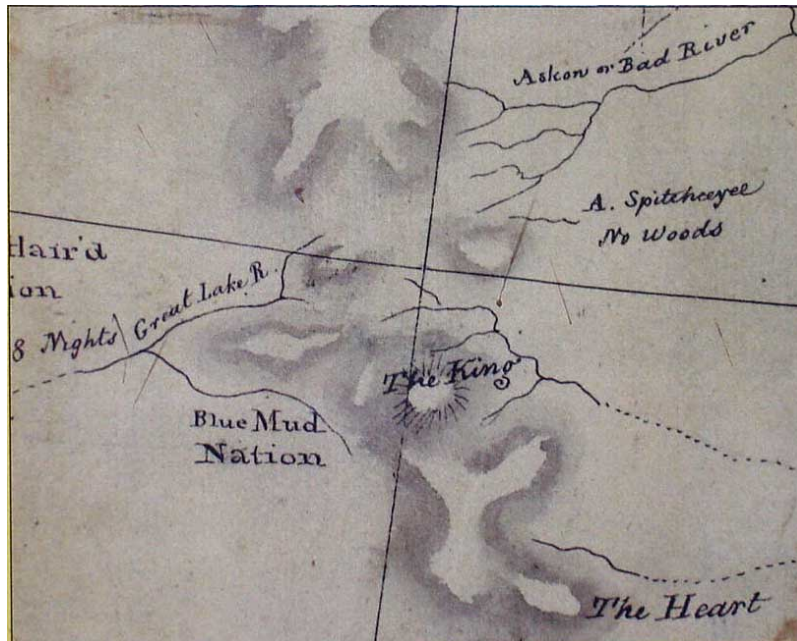
## Changing Images of the Clark Fork Watershed, Montana

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"Over the course of the past two hundred years, cartographical impressions of the Clark Fork watershed have changed dramatically. Each image reflects the current state of understanding regarding the nature of the watershed, its connection to larger watershed units, and its significance as a corridor for the movement of goods and services, ecological flows, and general human migration. This poster captures these various snapshots in time, allows for a comparison of these landscape impressions and depicts the role a Cartesian coordinate system plays in transforming a three-dimensional percept into a two dimensional concept.

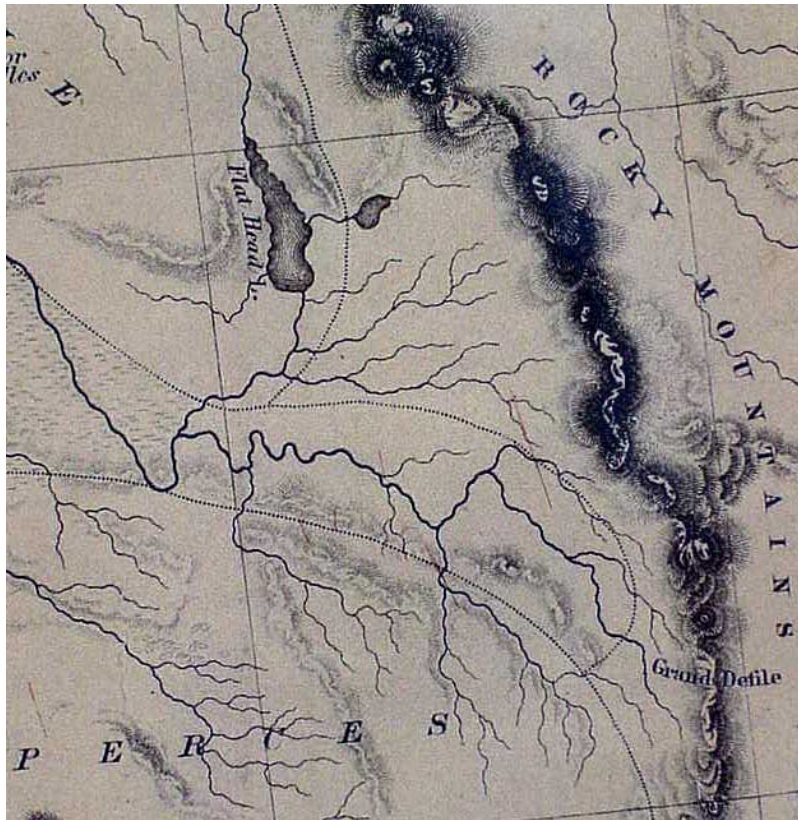
Of notable significance, the last two hundred years have produced a number of geographical names for the Clark Fork Watershed. This dynamic, colonial nomenclature reflects the power of geographical place names to change our understanding of an ecocultural system. In particular, the pre-Euroamerican, indigenous place names, which largely described landscape processes and spiritual attributes, have been replaced by a succession of euroamerican naming conventions. As such, the psycho-spiritual connections to place have been concealed. Today, the "Clark Fork" name is a direct consequence of the Lewis and Clark expedition (1803-1806) and its role in re-imagining the landscape through political, economical, social filters, european naturalist traditions.

It is this historical and modern cartographic legacy, represented here through a sampling of images, that defines in part our conceptualizations and impressions of the hydrological unit that we know as the Clark Fork watershed. Our challenge is to excavate the lost or hidden meanings of pre-colonial, indigeness geography, and use these meanings to redefine our perceptions of the watershed. The watershed can be reimagined as a holistic unit consisting of diverse ecosystems and cultures interacting in a discrete, perceivable place. Through such rediscovery, the inherent meaning of place can be restored into our experience and understanding of landscape imagery, and by extension, the watershed itself. Such efforts can be described as an archaeological phenomenology of the Clark Fork watershed as place."



Nicolas King Map of 1803

"Pyramidal Height of Land" and "Northwest Passage" are hypothesized by King from the work of Aaron Arrowsmith's Atlas of North America and other sources. The only major river west of the Continental Divide is commonly referred to as the "Oregon" or "Great river of the West". Lewis and Clark had a copy of Nicolas King's map during their expedition: 1803-1806. Some of the geographical information of King's map was derived from a Southern Piegan Chief, as translated and transmitted by the Hudson's Bay Company. An euroamerican interpretation for the Clark Fork watershed is not depicted on this map. (image courtesy of The Library of Congress and Compression by LizardTech)



1841 Map of the Oregon Territory

Note there are no names associated with any branch of the Clark Fork Watershed. (image courtesy of the Library of Congress and Compression by LizardTech)



Samuel Lewis Map of 1814

Samuel Lewis' map of 1814 was a published copy of William Clark's map, which was created following the expedition's completion in 1806. The modern day Bitterroot River is identified as the "Main Fork of Clark's River". The modern day Clark Fork River is identified as the "East Fork of



Clark's River". The traveler's Rest (sic) site is also depicted as well as the modern day Blackfoot River, which is identified as the "Cokahlarishkit" or "River of the Road to Buffalo," which is a translation of the Nez Perce "quqa lx iskit" or "Bison Trail".  
(image courtesy of the Library of Congress and Compression by LizardTech)



Map of the Trans-Mississippi West 1807-1843

Note the naming convention for Upper Clark Fork as "Deer Lodge R", and "Hell Gate R" (image courtesy of the Library of Congress and Compression by LizardTech)



1888 Historic Lithography of Missoula and Clark Fork River.

Image is looking east toward "Hell's Gate" Canyon, bounded by Mt Sentinel and Mt. Jumbo. Note the relative lack of vegetation from this landscape interpretation. (image courtesy of the Library of Congress and Compression by LizardTech)



IRS Satellite Image (5) Meter Pixel resolution  
(Courtesy of Space Imaging 1998)