

He relates how "The men so nearly exhausted, began to prey upon their almost equally exhausted animals. At night when they made camp, by mutual consent a mule was bled and a soup was made from its blood." [(3) p.120] And on another occasion he tells "Our provisions were all spoiled. We had nothing to carry with us to satisfy hunger but the bodies of the two beavers which we had caught the night before. To increase the depression of our spirits, our moccasins were worn out, our feet sore and tender, and the route full of sharp rocks We met no trace of game. The first of April we commenced descending the mountain, it required two severe days of travel. During this 2 days we had nothing to eat or drink.." [(3) p. 43] When they finally did find food, it was neither tasty nor plentiful. "On the 8<sup>th</sup> our provisions were entirely exhausted, and having nothing to eat, we felt less the need for water. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>, we killed a raven, which we cooked for seven men. It was unsavory flesh in itself and would have badly afforded a meal for one hungry man. We were all obliged to breakfast on this nauseous bird. I killed a buzzard, which disagreeable as it was, we cooked for supper." [(3) p. 44-45] Times were not quite as difficult for Clyman who says "Game is very scarce, but one deer having been killed." [(4) p. 82] James Russell speaks of how "The whole camp was starving, fortunately I killed a deer in crossing the mountains which made supper for the whole camp." [(5) p, 91] He also tells of living on non-game foods "The place were we struck the river is called Cache Valley. This place is entirely destitute of game. We had to live chiefly upon roots for 10 days. Had to stay another night without supper. Our camp kettles had not been greased for some time as we were continually boiling thistle roots in them." [(5) p. 9]

Lewis and Clark make several references to lean times. "4 Sept. we were compelled to kill a colt to eat for the want of meat." [(6), p.239] "10 Oct. nothing to eat except a little dried fish." [(6) p. 241-242] "Our diet extremely bad eating nothing but roots and dried fish." [(6) p. 246] and Clark's reference to "Christmas Wednesday 25 Dec. 1805 Fort Clatsop - Our Dinner consisted of pore Elk, so much spoiled that we eate it this near necessity, some Spoiled pounded fish and a few roots." [(6) p. 294]

At times it was problems other than the lack of game that kept the mountain