

adventurers hungry. Long tells how "One of the hunters shot a badger that afternoon, but could not roast it for lack of wood or buffalo dung for a fuel for their fire." [(1) p. 143] and Russell describes "The land appears to be poor and cold with great quantities of springs and brooks in all directions with the finest kind of trout but were difficult to be taken." [(5) p.114]

As the mountaineers traveled about, sometimes they were faced with the challenge of obtaining water. Russell writes, "I soon had a fire blazing and a side of ribs roasting and procured water by heating stones and melting snow in a piece of skin." [(5) p. 179] Times were even harder when James Pattie wrote, "They had become so exhausted by fruitless efforts to climb the hill, that they could no longer drag one foot after the other. They had each so completely abandoned the hope of ever reaching the water, or even gaining the summit of the hill that they threw themselves on the ground, apparently convinced of their fate, and resigned to die." [(3) p. 120] but then things began to look brighter as he wrote "Imagine my joy at seeing a clear beautiful running stream of water just below us at the foot of a hill! Such a blissful sight I have never seen before, and never expect to see again." [(3) p. 121]

Clothing was another thing that the mountain man had to obtain from the land. After the trappers left the East and had been gone for a while, their clothing began to wear out and they were forced to make or trade for clothes that were suitable for their environment. Meek says "Buckskin breeches, a blanket capote, and a beaver skin cap makes up our rig." [(2) p. 136] and according to Russell "Sheep, Elk, Deer, Buffalo and Bear skins mostly supply the Mountaineers with clothing, bedding and lodges, while the meat of the same animals supplies them with food." [(5) p.58] Lewis and Clark, after being en route for a while, talked about "The party's only footwear by now was the moccasins, and they had learned to sew to them double soles of parfleche, buffalo rawhide as the Plains Indians did. (The moccasins of forest tribes did not have stiff soles) but no rawhide was thick enough to turn cactus and everyone had viciously sore feet." [(6) p.147] They also spoke of how "Everyone was wearing buckskin - rather elk skin - shirts and breeches now. A supply of them had to be built up in this wonderland of game for there was no telling what lay ahead." [(6) p. 149] They also talked