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The Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal

An annual academic peer-reviewed publication intended to further the knowledge and discussion of the Rocky Mountain fur trade era and provide an avenue for researchers to showcase their work.

The Rocky Mountain fur trade era is defined as starting in 1824 and ending in 1840. In March 1824, Jed Smith led a party of trappers into the Green River Valley, finding an abundance of beaver and no hostile Indians. The mountain man, rendezvous, and overland supply system followed this discovery and ultimately characterized the Rocky Mountain fur trade era. The rendezvous of 1840 was the last classic rendezvous and marked the end of the era. Fur trade in the mountains existed before this time and after, but these dates bracket the unique period of the fur trade based on the rendezvous system. The geographic boundaries of the Rocky Mountain fur trade are roughly defined as the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah encompassing the area trapped and traded by the mountain men and Indians who were primarily supplied by the rendezvous system.

Cover image: Detail of “Scalp Hunters,” (2009) by Michael Haynes

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The background image is a lithograph of the Three Forks area, where part of the John Colter legend was born. The illustration was published as Plate 11 in Alfred E. Mathews' *Pencil Sketches of Montana*, 1868. It shows the Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson rivers joining to form the Missouri.

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