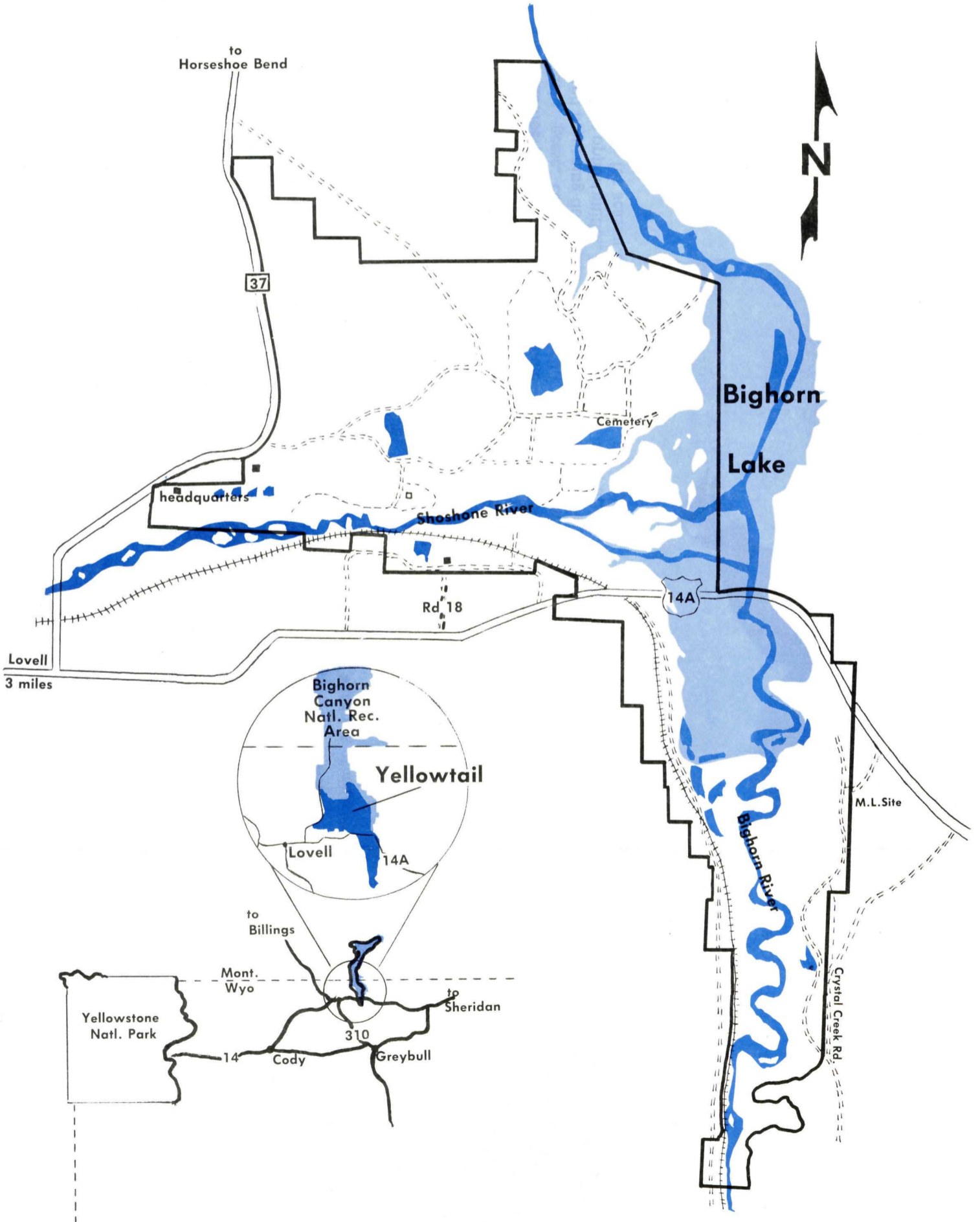


yellowtail

wildlife habitat management unit



Yellowtail Unit designed to be a multiple-use recreation area

The Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Unit, located six miles east of Lovell, Wyoming, provides numerous opportunities for wildlife-orientated recreation. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department manages the 19,424-acre area under cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, and Bureaus of Reclamation and Land Management. Situated along Bighorn Lake and the Bighorn River and Shoshone River deltas, the area provides a diversity in habitat types for a wide array of wildlife.

Open year-round, the Yellowtail unit provides many forms of outdoor recreation. Over 35 miles of roads and many trails allow hikers, wildlife observers and photographers to travel throughout the unit. Access to Bighorn Lake enables anglers to test their fishing skills against walleye, trout, catfish and perch. Camping is permitted in most areas.



Left—Pheasant hunters are among those who travel hundreds of miles to hunt in the Yellowtail area.

Above—Both mule and white-tailed deer are common on Yellowtail.

Photos by Matt Lentsch

Yellowtail is probably most recognized for pheasant hunting. Annually about 2,500 birds are released to supplement the native bird population. An average of 1,800 hunters harvest about 1,900 pheasants each year.

Good numbers of white-tailed deer, mule deer, ducks, geese, cottontail rabbits, wild turkeys and mourning doves also provide excellent hunting opportunities. Hunters should check regulations for season dates.

Waterfowl management and production is the number one objective on the habitat unit. Construction of dikes, ponds and over 100 artificial nesting structures have helped increase waterfowl populations dramatically.

In 1964 and 1965, a total of 60 Canada goose goslings were released. Today the resident flock has grown to 450-500 geese. During the migration, up to 10,000 ducks may be observed in the area.

The best locations to see waterfowl and shore birds are the marshy areas south of U.S. Highway 14A. Great blue herons and white pelicans can be seen commonly during the summer.

The densely-wooded river bottoms hold one of the richest concentrations of game and nongame animals found in Wyoming. Bird watchers may observe more than 160 species.

About 850 acres within the habitat area are farmed under cooperative cash lease contracts. Farming is designed to maximize benefits to wildlife. Cereal grains such as corn, wheat and barley are preferred by wildlife and are planted on more than half of the cropland.

Additional information may be obtained at the Game and Fish headquarters located in the northwest corner of the unit along Wyoming Highway 37.

Phone (307) 548-7004.



Above—Bird watchers find Yellowtail a great place to identify many of the species in Wyoming.

Photo by Matt Lentsch

Left—Man-made ponds have enabled wetland species to increase significantly.

Photo by Matt Lentsch

Right—Canada geese use artificial nesting structures which help protect nests from predators.

Photo by Dennis Davis

