



Canyon Echoes



Your Guide to Bighorn Canyon
2011

Kleine Photo Collection

Welcome to Bighorn Canyon

Welcome to Bighorn Canyon, the park staff invites you to enjoy the recreation area and participate in activities offered here to make your visit more enjoyable. New program opportunities will be offered as a way for you to enjoy America's Great Outdoors.

If you've picked this paper up at one of our visitor centers you're well on your way to exploring this amazing park!

The interpretive division of Bighorn Canyon NRA has been busy creating new programs and introducing new faces. One of the most exciting new opportunities will be the chance to explore the inner reaches of Bighorn Canyon on Ranger led boat tour provided by Hidden Treasures Charters, a park concessionaire. This tour offers breath taking views of sculpted canyon walls; don't forget to bring your camera! Visit page 2 in this paper for information on scheduling a tour.

Other interpretive opportunities include Ranger-led tours, evening campground programs, area talks, and special events. Program schedules are posted in park visitor centers and campgrounds.

Highlights of things to come at Bighorn Canyon includes installation of web cameras at both Ok-A-Beh and Horseshoe Bend Marinas. This will allow for a real time look at activities, conditions on the launch ramp, current weather conditions, and status of parking.

This is your park to preserve and enjoy in America's Great Outdoors!



Superintendent Jerry Case

How Much Time Do You Have?

North End - Fort Smith, MT

One Hour: There are two short drives from Fort Smith. One will take you to the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center where you will learn the history of the Dam. The second will take you to Ok-A-Beh marina and boat ramp on the backside of the Yellowtail Dam.

Two Hours: A short walk along the Beaver Pond Natural Trail and the Head Gate trail are a great addition to the short drives. Both trails offer wildlife watching opportunities.

Half-day: In a half day you could try your hand at fly fishing along the Bighorn River or explore the 3 Mile Access Trail.

One or More Days: A boat ride on the lake from one end to the other is a great way to spend a day, or contact a local fishing guide for a float and fishing trip on the river. The Little Bighorn Battlefield and Bighorn County Museum in Hardin are also nearby.

South End - Lovell, WY

One Hour: Take a scenic drive up HWY 37 to Devil's Canyon Overlook. At the overlook you are 1000 feet above the water with a magnificent view of Bighorn Canyon. You may also see bighorn sheep, wild horses, and a variety of birds.

Two Hours: Drive up HWY 37 to the end of the pavement at Barry's Landing. A short hike along the way at Stateline or at Sullivan's Knob offers a good break from the car.

Half-day: With a little more time, take a hike or visit one of the four historic ranches, which include the ghost town of Hillsboro and the ranch of famous writer, Caroline Lockhart.

One or More Days: A drive into the Pryor Mountains or a lake trip with Hidden Treasure Charters is a great way to spend a day.

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Summer

Visitor Center Hours

Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center
Fort Smith, MT
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily
Memorial Day to Labor Day
406-666-3218

Cal S. Taggart Bighorn Canyon
Visitor Center
Lovell, WY
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily
Memorial Day to Labor Day
307-548-5406

Crooked Creek Ranger Station,
Horseshoe Bend, WY
Hours may vary depending on staffing
307-548 7326

Afterbay Contact Station
Fort Smith, MT
Hours may vary depending on staffing
406-666-2452

For winter hours, visit our website at:
www.nps.gov/bica

Emergencies

Dial 911 or contact a Park Ranger

Concession Services

Ok-A-Beh Marina

The Ok-A-Beh Marina is located 10 miles from Fort Smith, Montana, south of Hardin. It is open everyday from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Marina may offer:

- Gas and Oil
- Safety Equipment
- Fishing and Boating Supplies
- Boat Slip Rental
- Food and Beverages
- Pontoon Boat Rentals

To contact the Ok-A-Beh Marina:

Phone: 406-666-2349

Address: Ok-A-Beh Marina, PO Box 515,
Hardin, MT 59034.

Horseshoe Bend Marina

The Horseshoe Bend Marina is located at Horseshoe Bend, 14 miles outside of Lovell, Wyoming. It is open Memorial Day weekend through September 30.

Marina may Offer:

- Gas and Oil
- Safety Equipment
- Fishing and Boating Supplies
- Paddle Boat Rental
- Food and Beverages
- Boat Slip Rental

To contact the Horseshoe Bend Marina:

Phone: 307-548-7230

Address: 575 E Main Street
Lovell, WY 82431

Hidden Treasure Charters & Wyoming Eco-tours

Hidden Treasure Charters offers scenic boat tours of Bighorn Canyon.

Services offered:

- 2 hour daily tours from Horseshoe Bend.
- Mon/Wed 10 a.m. (by reservation)
- Tues/Thur 4 p.m. (by reservation)
- Fri, Sat, Sun 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Large group tours by reservation
- Fishing charters by reservation

To contact Hidden Treasure Charters:

Phone: 307-899-1401

Email:

reservations@hiddentreasurecharters.com

or garrison@tritnet.net

Website: www.hiddentreasurecharters.com

Boating on Bighorn Lake

Boating registers are located on the launch ramps at Ok-A-Beh, Barry's Landing, and Horseshoe Bend. For your boating safety, please sign the register prior to your departure and upon your return. The information on the register will assist us in locating you if necessary. If your boat stalls, NEVER attempt to climb out of the canyon. Stay with your craft until help arrives.

Watch for driftwood on Bighorn Lake. It can injure a skier and damage your boat's lower unit. Be prepared: carry a spare prop and shear pins.

A special permit is not required to operate on Bighorn Lake. However, boats must display valid registrations for the state in which they are registered. Vessels must carry appropriate lights for operating between sunset and sunrise, clean and operating flame arrester, proper ventilation, muffling system and a valid certificate of numbers. Depending on the type of boat, sound-producing devices and fire extinguishers may be required.

A Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device in good and serviceable condition, and of appropriate size for the intended

user is required for each person on board. Watercraft 16 feet and over (except canoes and kayaks in Montana) must also have a type IV throw-able PFD on board and immediately available for use. In Montana and Wyoming children under 13 must wear a PFD on boats less than 26 feet that are in motion.

Detailed state and federal regulations and park maps are available at visitor centers and ranger stations. Bighorn Lake boating maps are also available on our website at www.nps.gov/bica/playourvisit/map.htm.



Broken Prop, Photo Courtesy of Friends of Bighorn Lake

Pack it In, Pack it Out, Recycle

In an effort to remove litter from the lake, decrease the cost of trash collection, and decrease bear activity at boat-in only campgrounds, all trash cans located on the lake have been removed. Bighorn Canyon is asking boaters to **pack it in, pack it out, and recycle**.

Did you know that much of the trash and litter found on the lake originates from the packaging of food items? Many of those items can be recycled. Aluminum cans and plastic bottles can be recycled in recycling containers located at Horseshoe Bend, Barry's Landing, and Ok-A-Beh. Community recycling trailers offer expanded recycling opportunities in Lovell,

Wyoming at the Red Apple Grocery store and in Fort Smith, Montana at the Park Service Headquarters office.

In addition to Pack it in, Pack it Out, and Recycle, please help us decrease our human footprint on the lake by:

- 1) always keeping a clean camp;
- 2) packing out all trash and placing it in trash bins located at the boat ramps;
- 3) not burning food or trash items in the fire pits;
- 4) not placing trash in the floating comfort station pits and
- 5) by using the aluminum and plastic recycling bins.

Zap the Zebra

Zebra or quagga mussels are invasive freshwater mollusks that infest waters in large numbers, attaching to hard surfaces. Once the mussels invade a water way, they clog power plant and public water systems. These creatures spread to new habitats on boats trailered by the public or by commercial haulers unaware they have hitchhikers. At this time Bighorn Canyon does not have zebra or quagga mussels. Since the summer of 2010, boat operators are required to complete and display a mussel free certificate to ensure the lake remains free of invasive mussels. If check stations are open all vehicles with boats must stop.

You can help stop aquatic hitchhikers by following these simple steps:

Clean:

Remove all plants, animals and mud. Then thoroughly wash everything, including all crevices and other hidden areas on your boat and equipment.



Zebra Mussels, NPS photo

Drain:

Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water.

Dry:

Allow time for your boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.

Personal Water Craft Regulations

Personal Watercraft (PWC) are allowed on Bighorn Lake, in accordance with state and federal law, with the exceptions of seven closed areas. PWC is defined as a small vessel that uses an inboard jet drive for propulsion and is operated by sitting, standing, or kneeling on or astride the vessel using motorcycle-like handlebars.

Closed Areas Include:

1. The reservoir and shoreline south of the area known as the South Narrows; approximately 1 mile south of

Horseshoe Bend.

2. Crooked Creek Bay.
3. Bighorn River from Yellowtail Dam to cable 3,500 feet north.
4. Afterbay Lake between dam intake works and buoy/cable line 100 feet west.
5. Government docks as posted.
6. Ok-A-Beh gas dock. (customers excepted)
7. Yellowtail Dam upstream to the orange log boom.

You Need To Know

Firearms:

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in this park.

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws.

Federal law prohibits firearms in all Government offices, visitor centers, ranger stations, fee collection buildings, and maintenance facilities.

Visit the following websites for more information:

In Wyoming:

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title6/T6CH8.htm>

In Montana:

http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/mca_toc/45_8_3.htm

Trespass:

It is unlawful to go upon tribal, trust, or allotted lands on the Crow Reservation without tribal permission. The Crow land within the authorized boundaries of the recreation area is shown on the park map as part of the reservation. Lake users must stay below elevation 3,675. Bighorn River users must stay below the normal high water line unless granted permission by the adjacent landowner.

Pets:

Pets must be kept on a leash up to 6 feet long everywhere in the park. This is for their protection, safety of other park visitors, and protection of wildlife. Pet waste must be cleaned up and disposed of properly. Pets are not allowed on the swim beach use area, including the grassy picnic area behind the swim beach.

Campfires:

Campfires are permitted in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Campfires are allowed in the backcountry and below the high water mark along Bighorn Lake. Fire restrictions during periods of high fire danger may close certain areas to fires and camping. Check at the campgrounds and visitor centers for restrictions. Do not leave campfires unattended. High winds can spread a fire. Only collect driftwood below the high water mark.

Roads:

Off-road use by vehicles is prohibited. Motorcycles and ATVs must be operated on park roads by a licensed driver. ATVs must be registered and insured. No off-road or trail use is allowed.

Protection of Park Features:

Collecting, defacing or destroying any plant, animal, mineral, natural or archeological feature is prohibited by federal law.

Fishing

Bighorn Lake – Wyoming/Montana

Whether you choose to fish from a boat or from the shoreline, Bighorn Lake provides abundant opportunities to catch numerous species of fish while being surrounded by some of the most beautiful outdoor scenery. Brown trout, rainbow trout, lake trout, walleye, sauger, smallmouth bass, black crappie, yellow perch, channel catfish, or ling (burbot) or shovel nose sturgeon are among the fish you catch.

Bighorn River - Montana

The Bighorn River is one of the finest trout streams in the United States. Rainbow and brown trout are prevalent. Public access to the Bighorn River is limited to three points on the upper 13 miles of the river: Afterbay, 3 Mile (Lind Ranch) and

13 Mile (Bighorn Access). Fisherman can float and wade the waters of the Bighorn, but are required to stay below the high water mark.

Bighorn River - Wyoming

Over a dozen species of game fish call the Bighorn River between the Wedding of the Waters near Thermopolis, Wyoming and Bighorn Lake home. Rainbow and brown trout are found north and south of Thermopolis, while walleye, sauger, ling, shovel nose sturgeon, and channel catfish are found closer to Bighorn Lake. The Yellowtail Habitat offers public access. Other areas may require permission from private land owners. Please respect public and private access areas.

Hiking

There are 13 trails that add up to approximately 27 miles in the park. The trails offer varying sights and tranquil settings. Some trails go through historic areas, while other trails wander through areas of disturbance that nature has begun to reclaim.

Whether out hiking to experience nature, for exercise, or just taking a break, stop to consider the effects of your own footsteps. What are you going to leave behind?

While hiking please refrain from creating new rock cairns along the trail. This helps minimize confusion among hikers. Enjoy your hike and remember to stop and look around occasionally. Sometimes the best views are behind you.

Trail Safety and Tips

1. Carry plenty of water.
2. Wear good, sturdy shoes with closed toes. The canyon trails are rocky and have a lot of spiny vegetation.
3. There may be rattlesnakes anywhere in Bighorn Canyon. Although they generally shy away from people, you need to watch where you put your hands and feet.
4. Don't forget sunscreen, a broad brimmed hat, and sun glasses to keep you protected from the sun.
5. After any spring or summer hike, check your skin and clothing for ticks.
6. If hiking alone, let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

	Trail	Distance	Difficulty	Description
1	Sykes Mountain Trail	3.75 Miles	Hard	Rugged hike up a desert mountain to amazing views of Horseshoe Bend
2	Mouth of the Canyon Trail	1.75 Miles	Moderate	Seldom seen views of the canyon and the Pryor and Bighorn Mountains
3	State Line Trail	1 Mile	Easy to Moderate	Hike to the rim through juniper shrub-land above limestone plateaus
4	Ranger Delight Trail	.5 Miles	Easy	View one of many bends in the canyon from the same location as the bighorn sheep
5	Sullivan's Knob Trail	1 Mile	Easy to Moderate	A great place to try getting a triple echo
6	Lower Layout Creek Trail	3.5 Miles	Easy to Moderate	Amazing views in a popular wild horse use area
7	Upper Layout Creek Trail	4 Miles	Hard	A diverse trail with a waterfall and spring, nestled in a desert landscape
8	Hillsboro Trail	up to 3 Miles	Easy to Moderate	The longer trail loop directs hikers along the seldom hiked, historic Hillsboro entrance road
9	Barry's Island Trail	4.5 Miles	Moderate	Hike along the lake in the footprints of cattle rustlers from the late 1800's and early 1900's
10	Lockhart Ranch	.5 to 2 Miles	Easy	After visiting the ranch buildings, walk around Caroline Lockhart's pasture lands
11	Bighorn Head Gate Trail	.1 Mile	Easy	See remnants of the Bighorn Head Gate system built in the early 1900's
12	Beaver Pond Nature Trail	.5 Miles	Moderate	Area sees abundant beaver activity
13	Three-Mile Access Trail	1.3 Miles	Easy	A tranquil setting to watch the ducks float by on the Bighorn River

*All above distances are round trip. Please see the park map on the back page for trail locations using the numbers above. For more detailed information, hiking guides may be purchased at the Cal S. Taggart Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Visitor Center and the Afterbay Contact Station.

Wildlife Watching at Yellowtail



Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area, NPS Photo

The Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management area is located six miles east of Lovell, Wyoming. The Habitat is cooperatively managed by Wyoming Game and Fish, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation. This area offers one of the best wildlife viewing areas in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

The Habitat contains a variety of habitat types which attract a diverse concentration of wildlife. Such habitat supports waterfowl migration and nesting. The area also supports

cooperative farming leases in which crops such as alfalfa and cereal crops are grown, benefitting many species through food and cover.

Excellent opportunities await bird enthusiasts in the Yellowtail Habitat. More than 155 species of birds can be found here including great blue herons, osprey, bald eagles, and pelicans. Park visitors can also hope to see coyotes, red fox, white-tail deer, mule deer, cottontail rabbits and many other species.

Bighorn Canyon Camping

Campground	# of Sites	Description
Afterbay Campground	28 RV and tent sites. An additional 12 sites without water are on the north shore.	Open All Year Near Fort Smith, Montana Composting vault toilets, RV dump station, drinking water. No RV hookups.
Black Canyon Campground **	17 tent sites	Open All Year Boat-in-only campground, 5 miles south of Ok-A-Beh boat ramp. A floating, vault toilet is available. No drinking water available.
Horseshoe Bend Campground	48 total campsites. 3 are pull through sites. 20 improved sites with water & electrical hook-ups. Improved sites are \$15 per night.	Open All Year 14 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming. Modern restrooms, a RV dump station, and drinking water is available during summer months. Some sites have shade shelters.
Medicine Creek Campground***	6 tent sites	Open All Year Boat-in or hike-in only to enjoy this lakeshore setting. Vault toilet is available, but no drinking water. Be prepared as the park provides a limited number of bear boxes.
Trail Creek Campground at Barry's Landing	10 RV sites for short RVs 5 tent-only sites	Open All Year Primitive campground 27 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming via WY Hwy. 37 Vault toilets. No drinking water or RV hookups. Overflow camping in Barry's Landing parking area.
All camping in Bighorn Canyon is on a first come first serve basis. No reservations will be taken.		
**Lake levels and seasonal weather can affect the proximity of the boat moorings to campsites at Black Canyon Campground and Medicine Creek Campground. Docks to these campsites are removed in the winter.		

Be Safe, Not Sorry

Footwear

Ankle injuries are our number one safety problem! Wear hiking boots with good ankle support and traction.

Park Roads

Observe speed limits. Drive only on established roadways. Watch for wildlife. Buckle up!

Drink Your Water

Carry and drink plenty of water. Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses that block ultraviolet light.

Steep Cliffs

Stay away from cliff edges. Loose and crumbly rocks can make footing treacherous. Falls can be deadly. Don't throw rocks into the canyon; you may injure boaters below you.

Lightning

During lightning storms, stay away from the rim and do not take shelter under trees.

Don't Feed The Animals

Human food is harmful to wild animals. Animals will bite and can transmit diseases such as rabies and bubonic plague. Watch wildlife from a distance.

Camping with Bears

Black bears make their home in Bighorn Canyon and in the Bighorn and Pryor Mountains. Bear sightings are common from spring through fall in the Black Canyon boat-in campground and, more recently, in the Trail Creek campground at Barry's Landing. Bear welfare depends on our ability and willingness as humans to follow these basic safety rules when visiting bear country.

- * Do not leave any fish or entrails on the lakeshore. Dispose of them (and all refuse) in bear-proof garbage cans. If garbage cans are not available, dispose of any fish parts by sinking them in deep water.
- * Odor attracts bears! Never leave food or garbage unattended.
- * Use bear boxes and hanging racks for food storage. If unavailable, food should be kept in your motor vehicle or boat.
- * Do not leave food, dirty dishes, empty food containers, or cooking utensils out or stored in a tent.
- * **NEVER FEED A BEAR!**

Bear problems are people problems, and they are preventable. Bears remember easily obtained human food sources and will return to them, becoming problem bears that have to be destroyed. By simply following these rules, we can ensure the preservation of this magnificent resident of Bighorn Canyon.

Archeology Field Schools Focus on Stone Circles in Bighorn Canyon

Since 2005, Bighorn Canyon has been hosting archeological field schools. Students from a variety of educational institutes are working together to document stone circles, or tipi rings, using 21st century technology. The work is part of a larger research project: Exploring Historical and Social Landscapes of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Prior to the use of wooden stakes as tent pegs, Plains Indians used stones to weigh down the edges of their tipis. When they moved camp, the stones stayed in place recording the location of camps and characteristics of the lodge. By recording, mapping, and studying stone circle sites, students learn a variety of skills in both Archeology and Anthropology. For the American Indian students, it is a tangible way to link their own history to the stories they have heard through oral traditions.

By performing limited excavations within selected stone circles, students have learned that these sites were used up to 2,500 years ago and as recently as 300 years ago. They have also recorded more than 3,782 rocks from 72 stone circles and documented data for over 2,109 stone tools and lithic scatters. The field school has been a successful program and continues to

grow each year. The unique landscape and travel route along the Prehistoric Bad Pass trail system offers students a combination of experiences including academic research, sharing of culture, and resource management.



Tipi at Ewing Snell Ranch during the Crow Archeological Field Camp, NPS photo

Eddy Hulbert

Edmund “Eddy” Hulbert was born in Chicago in 1898. Orphaned at the age of 13, it is believed that Eddy’s great aunt saw one of Doc Barry’s ads for the Cedarvale Dude Ranch (Hillsboro Ranch). She thought it would be a good place that a young boy could to stay for the summer. Upon arriving in Wyoming, Eddy was taken in by the Barrys after they heard of the boy’s troubles.

Eddy’s aunt likely paid for his stay at the ranch, but he soon made his own way by working the ranch and blacksmithing. He first gained experience working with metals by helping Doc Barry work on the engines that propelled the motorboats of the Bighorn River. He had a knack for fixing things. He could just look at a horse hoof and make the shoe fit without measuring. Eddy used his blacksmithing skills at the Cedarvale Dude Ranch as well as at the neighboring Dryhead Ranch.

It is not known for certain when or how Eddy learned the art of silversmithing. Eddy occasionally visited a great uncle in Denver; which is where he may have picked up blacksmithing skills. At the Canyon City state penitentiary there lived a prisoner by the name

of Cox who taught many prisoners to blacksmith spurs. This style filtered out to the community, Eddy’s blacksmithing style reflects the Canyon City prison style. A “how to book” was found among Eddy’s possessions at the time of his death. His work was sold at guest ranches throughout the area, displayed in local stores, auctioned at the Medicine Wheel Bar in Lovell, and sold in catalogs. He also made many belt buckles as prizes for local rodeos.

Eddy had more than blacksmithing duties on the ranch. After Doc Barry’s death Eddy took on many of the responsibilities of running the Hillsboro Ranch including: tending livestock, haying, and he keeping up the stud barns and corral where he kept his stallions. Eddy kept the horses fed, the fences mended, and horses shod.

Eddy lived at Hillsboro for most of his adult life. One July day in 1960 he was found slouched over his workbench, probably suffering from a heart attack. His wife, with help from a neighbor, put him in their jeep and started the two hour trip to Lovell. He died on the way.



Eddy’s Restored Blacksmith Shop Located at Hillsboro Ranch, NPS Photo

Fees

Entrance Fees

Vehicle Entrance Fees

\$ 5.00 – Day

\$30.00 – Annual

Commercial Tours

1 – 6 passenger \$ 25.00

7 – 25 passenger \$ 40.00

26 + passenger \$100.00

Interagency Annual Pass

The \$80 Interagency Annual Pass provides entrance or access to pass holder and accompanying passengers in a single, private non-commercial vehicle at most federal recreation sites across the country. The pass is valid for 12 months from date of purchase. The pass is not valid for Expanded Amenity fees such as camping or parking.

Interagency Senior Pass

The \$10 Interagency Senior Pass (62 and older) is a lifetime pass available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Pass is available to purchase in-person only and with appropriate documentation, such as official photo identification.

Interagency Access Pass

Free lifetime pass available to citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled. Pass is available only in-person and with appropriate documentation.

Utility Fee

A \$15 per day utility fee is required when camping at the improved sites at Horseshoe Bend campground.

Local Attractions

National Parks:

Yellowstone National Park (100 miles west of Lovell, Wyoming)

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (40 miles north of Fort Smith, Montana)

Devils Tower National Monument (240 miles east of Lovell, Wyoming)

Attractions Near Fort Smith, MT:

Big Horn County Museum (45 miles)

Pompey’s Pillar (70 miles)

Chief Plenty Coups State Park (60 miles)

Pictograph Cave State Park (90 miles)

Yellowstone County Museum (90 miles)

Attractions Near Lovell, WY:

Bighorn National Forest - Medicine Wheel (35 miles)

Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range
Pryor Mountain Mustang Center

Buffalo Bill Museum (50 miles)

Homesteader Museum (30 miles)

Buffalo Bill State Park (60 miles)

Activities

Ranger Led Activities

During the summer months, visitors can attend weekend programs that include evening campground programs, guided hikes, and ranch tours. Times, locations and dates for these activities vary. Activities will be posted at the visitor centers and campgrounds.



Ranger Program at Horseshoe Bend
Photo from the Loner Collection

Swimming

Swimmers are encouraged to use the roped swimming areas at Ok-A-Beh and Horseshoe Bend where a lifeguard is on duty during busier periods. Because the water entering Yellowtail Dam is drawn from some depth, it is very cold and makes swimming impractical in the Afterbay and the Bighorn River. Do not swim in the harbors or launch areas.

Diving

Scuba divers should display a diving flag (red with white diagonal stripe or white and blue vertical bars) while diving. **Under no circumstance should any motor powered craft approach to within 50 feet of a craft displaying either flag.**

Water Skiing

Inspect for driftwood before starting to water ski. There must be at least two people in the towing boat: an operator and an observer. In Wyoming an orange flag is required while skier is in the water.

Picnicking

Picnic areas are available at the M-K Hill Picnic Area near the Government Housing area at Fort Smith, and at Horseshoe Bend. A number of picnic tables are available on the grounds of the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center in Lovell. The porch at the Ewing/Snell ranch is also a nice place to relax, take in the scenery, and have a picnic.

Bicycling

Bicycling is permitted only on established public roads and in parking areas.

Lights and reflectors are required after dark. We strongly suggest that safety helmets be worn by all bicyclists. Park roads are narrow and winding and the scenery can be distracting.

Mountain Men of Bighorn Canyon

During the legendary days of the Rocky Mountain fur trade, the list of mountain men crossing the Bad Pass Trail and floating furs from the mouth of Bighorn Canyon to the Yellowstone River read like a who's who of the mountains. Jedediah Smith, Alexander Henry, William Ashley, Milton Sublette, Jim Bridger, and Jim Beckwourth.

The Bad Pass Trail

There are at least three known instances - 1815, 1824, and 1833 - where the Bad Pass Trail was used as the primary route to bring back furs from the rich beaver trapping grounds in the Green River Basin of western Wyoming. There were other crossings during this time where couriers for the fur trade companies brought messages back to their superiors asking for supplies or trade goods be transported to their men in the field or at a rendezvous.

Crossing the trail brought considerable risks. There were maulings by grizzly bears and attacks by hostile tribes. Conversely, the trail was much easier to cross than overland routes further south or a trek across the high country of the Bighorn Mountains. With one notable exception no one wanted to chance the dangerous rapids of the down in the Bighorn Canyon.

Bullboats

At the end of the Bad Pass Trail was Grapevine Creek, at the mouth of Bighorn Canyon. It was here that the mountain men would construct bullboats. These simple yet effective watercraft were made from tanned buffalo hides, stretched over a green willow frame, and waterproofed with elk tallow.

The trappers would then run the bullboats down the Bighorn to the Yellowstone River. From there they would head downriver to forts either on the Yellowstone itself or near its confluence on the Missouri. The fur packs would then be placed on keelboats, headed for St. Louis. The furs were exceedingly valuable. In 1825, William Ashley and his Rocky Mountain Fur Company's men brought in \$50,000 worth of furs. This would be literally millions of dollars in today's terms.

Back To the Mountains

Meanwhile, other groups of trappers would not make the long journey down river. They would head from the mouth of the Canyon back over the Bad Pass Trail and reenter the Green River basin or head to other areas further south and west to continue their hunts.

The era of the beaver fur trade lasted from approximately 1805 to 1840. The whims of fashion then changed, silk replacing beaver fur on hats worn by the masses in the eastern United States and Europe.



Fee Dollars At Work

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area is being cared for today and for future generations by the National Park Service. This dual objective—use today and tomorrow—comes at a price. Protecting our natural and cultural heritage while at the same time ensuring that visitors have a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience is expensive.

As park visitation increases funding for visitor for necessities such as road and building repairs, campground maintenance, visitor protection, resource protection, and programs has not kept pace with demand.

In 2004, to address these needs, Congress signed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) which allows the U.S. Department of the Interior to implement an interagency Fee Program in three of its agencies—the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The program also includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. The program directs funds collected

towards the maintenance of the facilities they are utilizing. Bighorn Canyon is a participant in the Interagency Recreational Fee Program. The program authorizes Bighorn Canyon to keep up to 80% of the fees collected. These funds have been and will continue to be used for maintenance, repair projects, public service programs, signage, and natural and historical resource preservation, as listed below. The remaining revenue is generally distributed to parks that do not collect fees but have similar needs and to fund other servicewide initiatives.

The following is a list of some of the projects that have been completed using fees collected by the park.

- Crooked Creek Contact Station
- Horseshoe Bend Pavilion for public programs
- Horseshoe Bend Campground upgrades
- Restoration work at the Historic Ranches
- 3 Mile Access bathroom
- Afterbay Launch Ramp

Junior Ranger Program



Bighorn Canyon's Junior Ranger Program is a great way for children, as well as their parents, to experience Bighorn Canyon. By completing several different activities, the whole family will learn about the Yellowtail Dam, the history of the area, and the wide variety of wildlife. The booklets are available at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center in Lovell, Wyoming, the Crooked Creek Contact Station, the Afterbay Contact Station and the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center in Fort Smith, Montana. When the booklets are filled out, the children can return them to any of the above sites to receive their Junior Ranger badge and become an official Bighorn Canyon Junior Ranger. Check out our website at www.nps.gov/bica for more Junior Ranger fun! Below is a word puzzle from the Junior Ranger Booklet. Use the list of words to fill in the blanks.



Flood Control	Industrial Water	_____	Y
Mining	Irrigation	_____	E
Recreation	Wildlife	_____	L
Beauty	Electricity	_____	L
Swimming	Restrooms	_____	O
Power	Shopping Malls	_____	W
Weather	Airports	_____	T
Municipal Water	Fishing	_____	A
		_____	I
		_____	L

Bozeman Trail at Fort Smith

Of all the overland trails blazed during the westward movement, the Bozeman Trail ranks as one of the most violent, contentious and ultimately failed experiments in American frontier history.



John Bozeman

Though the trail is named for John Bozeman, an emigrant from Georgia, who was said to have blazed the route, in actuality Native Americans had been using the route as a travel corridor for centuries. In 1863, Bozeman and partner John Jacobs widened this corridor for use as a wagon road. They were following in the footsteps as Captain William Reynolds had four years earlier in a mapping and exploration expedition for the Army Corps of Topographic Engineers. The impetus for the trail was as a shortcut to goldfields, in and around Virginia City, Montana territory. The Bozeman route left the Oregon Trail in central Wyoming, skirted the Bighorn Mountains, crossed several rivers including the Bighorn, then traversed mountainous terrain into western Montana. The trail had several advantages, including an abundant supply of water along with the most direct route to the goldfields.

The Powder River Country

It also had one major drawback, it cut through the heart of territory that had been promised to several Indian tribes by the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1848. This included the rich hunting grounds of the Powder River Country, claimed by the Lakota and other tribes. The first emigrant trains began traveling up the trail not long after Bozeman and Jacobs had finished marking the route. In 1864, a large train of 2,000 settlers successfully made the trek. This was the high water mark of travel along the corridor. Though some wagon trains, were successful, they were under constant threat of attack. Over the next two years, travel along the corridor came to a complete halt because of numerous raids by a coalition of tribes. Pressure was then placed upon the U.S. government to

protect travelers. In 1866, U.S. Army troops were dispatched to construct three forts along the trail, which would supposedly offer protection to wagon trains. These posts, running from south to north, were Forts Reno, Phil Kearney and C.F. Smith. Ominously, each of these forts were named after generals who had died during the recent Civil War.

Red Cloud's War

In effect the Bozeman Trail had become a military road. The protection afforded by the U.S. Army presence enraged the tribes and began a two year conflict, known as Red Cloud's War. Under the leadership of Oglalla Lakota chief Red Cloud, raids and ambushes were carried out against soldiers, civilians, supply trains and anyone else brazen enough to attempt the trail. These attacks culminated in three famous incidents. The Fetterman Fight, occurred in December 1866 when an army detachment, under the command of Colonel William Fetterman, was lured away from the relative safety of Fort Phil Kearney. The resulting battle ended with the deaths of all 79 soldiers and 2 civilians. On August 1, 1867, the Hayfield Fight, where 19 soldiers and 6 civilians detailed for guard and hay cutting duty were attacked. Under siege for over 8 hours they managed to hold off 500 hundred warriors until help arrived. The Wagon Box Fight occurred when a detachment of 31 soldiers sent out to guard a team of wood cutters, was encircled, yet fought off numerous attacks over a five hour period from hundreds of warriors.

Abandonment and Failure

Continued raids and skirmishes were the rule that proved peace was a rare and evasive exception. Life guarding the trail was a combination of tension, monotony, and loneliness. Low morale led to numerous desertions, soldiers on the verge of mutiny and even cases of insanity, at the most isolated outpost, Fort C.F. Smith. With few, if any, emigrants using the trail, the army sequestered behind fortress walls with tribes showing few signs of easing up on attacks, the United States government decided to pursue a peace policy. The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty recognized the Powder River Country once again as the hunting territory of the Lakota and their allies. A presidential proclamation was issued to abandon the forts. The Bozeman Trail was history. For the first time, the United States government had lost a war.

WNPA

Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is a nonprofit cooperating association of the National Park Service that manages the book sales area at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Centers. Their mission is: to promote preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation, and research. The association is now located in sixty-three National Park areas in eleven states.

How does WNPA help Bighorn Canyon? Over the last couple years WNPA has been a tremendous help to the interpretive and resource divisions of Bighorn Canyon. They have worked with Bighorn Staff to print and publish several brochures including ranch brochures, hiking guides, lake maps, and mountain man brochures. Several natural and cultural resource research projects have also been funded. If you would like to learn more about WNPA you can go to their website at www.wnpa.org.

Top 5 Sales Items at Bighorn Canyon

1. Land of the Bighorn DVD
2. Cloud's Legacy DVD
3. Bighorn Canyon Lapel Pin
4. Among Wild Horses
5. Bighorn Canyon T-Shirt



WNPA Sales Area, NPS Photo

Volunteer Your Time

We are looking for volunteers willing to share the wonders of Bighorn Canyon with the public and to work as part of the Bighorn Canyon team.

A variety of skills are needed, but most important is the willingness to help. Some projects require a block of time, while others need the occasional helping hand.

During the summer months, volunteers help visitors in the campgrounds, staff the contact station and work with park personnel on a variety of projects.

To volunteer, please contact the park Volunteer Coordinator, at :
307-548-5406

To apply online:
www.nps.gov/bica/supportyourpark/volunteer
www.volunteer.gov/gov

Bighorn Canyon NRA

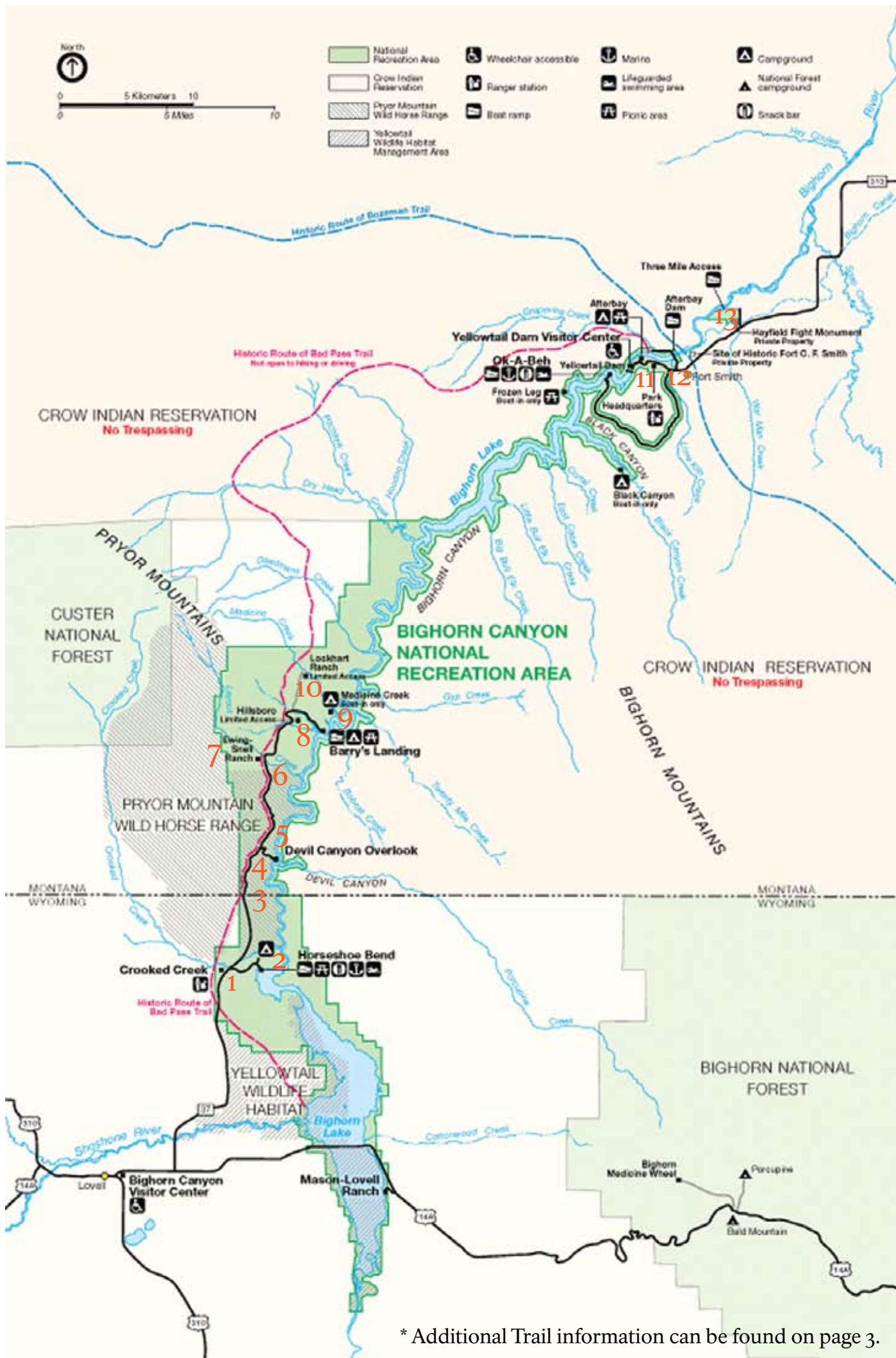
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area was established by an act of Congress on October 15, 1966, following the construction of the Yellowtail Dam by the Bureau of Reclamation. This dam, named after Crow chairman Robert Yellowtail, harnessed the waters of the Bighorn River and turned this variable river into a lake overflowing with recreational opportunities.

Bighorn Lake extends approximately 71 miles through Wyoming and Montana, 55 miles of which are held within spectacular Bighorn Canyon. The Recreation Area is composed of a host of habitat types providing necessities to a variety of wildlife species. The park boundaries straddle the northern Wyoming and southern Montana borders.

Bighorn Canyon has been host to generations of peoples. It has been used as a travel corridor and home place for over 10,000 years. American Indians know this land well and are responsible for its name. Settlers moved to the area for abundant ranching opportunities. Today you can visit four restored historic ranches in the south portion of the park or immerse yourself in American Indian history and culture in the Fort Smith, MT area of the park.

There are two visitor centers and other developed facilities in Fort Smith, Montana and in Lovell, Wyoming. The Afterbay Lake below the Yellowtail Dam is a good spot for trout fishing and wildlife viewing for ducks, geese and other animals. The Bighorn River below the Afterbay Dam is a world class trout fishing area. The South District or Lovell, Wyoming provides campgrounds, ranger led programs in the summer months, hiking trails and a host of other activities.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area is a lesser known treasure waiting to be discovered. It boasts breath-taking scenery, countless varieties of wildlife, numerous cultural resources, and abundant recreational opportunities. Bighorn Canyon offers visitors what few other National Park areas can, that of solitude, serenity, a connection to the past, and beauty. In the midst of our ever changing world, this is a truly unique quality. Come lose yourself in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.



* Additional Trail information can be found on page 3.

Other National Parks in Montana and Wyoming:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Little Bighorn Battle Field National Monument (MT) | Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (MT) |
| Big Hole National Battlefield (MT) | Yellowstone National Park (WY, MT) |
| Grand Teton National Park (WY) | Fort Laramie National Historic Site (WY) |
| Devils Tower National Monument (WY) | Fossil Butte National Monument (WY) |
| Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (MT) | Oregon, California, Mormon & Pony Express National Historic Trails (WY) |
| Glacier National Park (MT) | John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (WY) |