



Canyon Echoes



1266-1991
BIGHORN
CANYON
NRA
25

Visitor Guide to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
Montana - Wyoming

June, 1991-May 1992

Volume 12

Information and Assistance

National Park Service employees at park visitor centers, ranger stations and the headquarters will be happy to provide you with information, assistance and orientation. Films, exhibits, maps and brochures are available. Both visitor centers have a fine selection of books for sale. A self-guided automobile tour on cassette tape is available for check-out at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center.

BIGHORN CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Address: 20 Hwy. 14A East, Lovell, WY 82431

Phone: (307)548-2251

Hours: Open daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days.)

Memorial Day through Labor Day: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Remainder of the year: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FORT SMITH VISITOR CENTER

Location: Highway 313 and Afterbay Road, Fort Smith, Montana

Phone: (406)666-2339

Hours: Open daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days.)

Memorial Day through Labor Day: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Remainder of the year: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PARK HEADQUARTERS

Address: P.O. Box 458, Fort Smith, Montana 59035

Phone: (406)666-2412

Hours: Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HORSESHOE BEND RANGER STATION

Address: Entrance to Horseshoe Bend Campground.

Information and courtesy boat inspections.

Phone: (307)548-7326

Hours: Open daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours may vary.

YELLOWTAIL DAM VISITOR CENTER

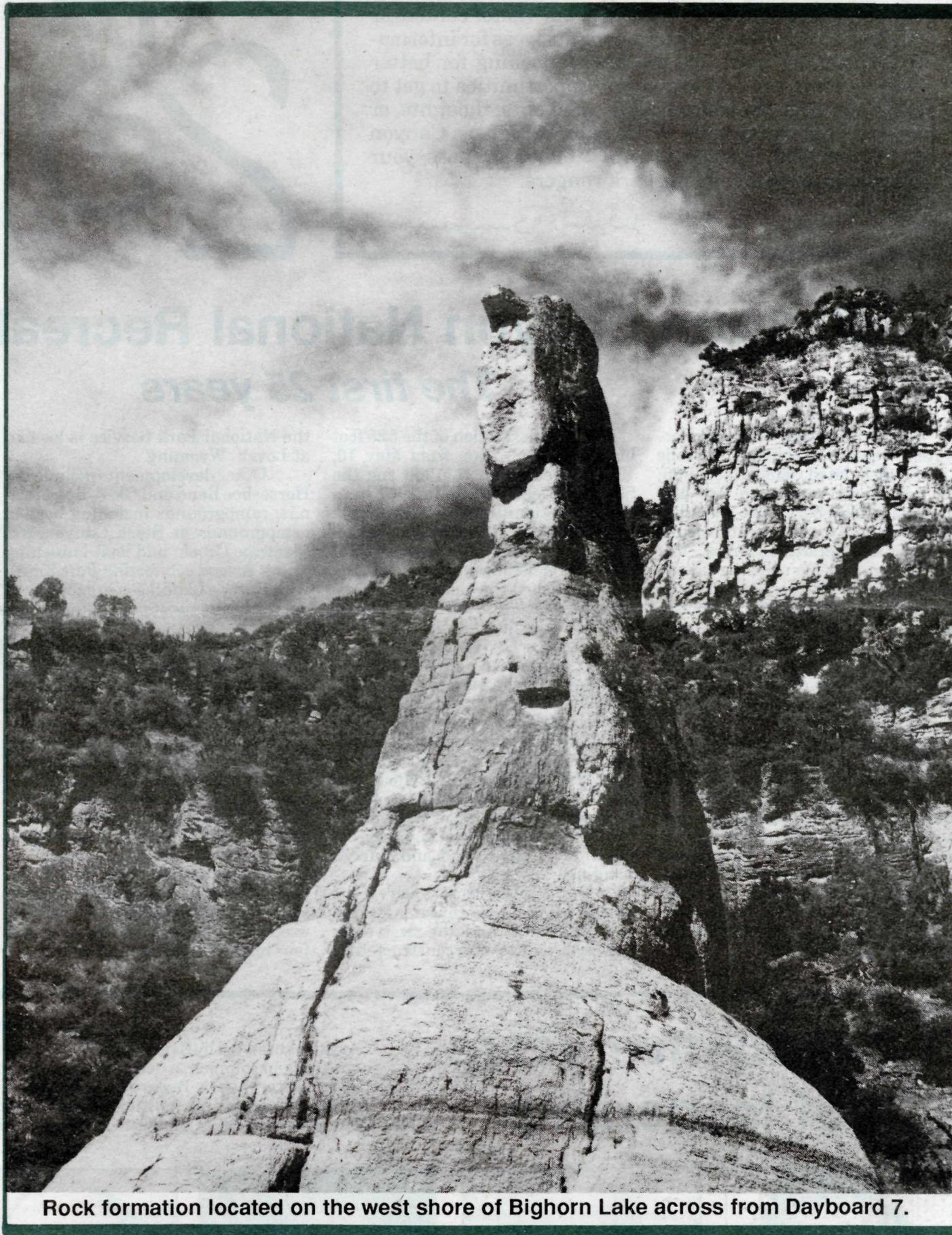
(BUREAU OF RECLAMATION)

Location: Located at the end of Highway 313 at Yellowtail Dam.

Yellowtail Dam information and tours.

Phone: (406)666-2358

Hours: Open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day.



Rock formation located on the west shore of Bighorn Lake across from Dayboard 7.

Emergency

Dial 911 (South)

666-2413

(North, daytime)

666-2237 (North, nights)

For a Safe Visit,

please inform yourself about:

- ☞ Park regulations
- ☞ Fishing regulations
- ☞ Weather conditions
- ☞ Wildlife
- ☞ Boating
- ☞ Private property

Detailed information is available at visitor centers and ranger stations.

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Welcome!

Welcome to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. As you read through the *Canyon Echoes*, you will note that Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area has a variety of diverse resources including geology, wildlife, both game and non-game fish, and a wide range of scenic vistas and environments. Stop in at our visitor centers or feel free to contact any of our park employees for information about the park. We are always looking for better ways to serve you and to give you opportunities to get to know our area. We welcome any comments, thoughts, or ideas that you may have. Write to us at Bighorn Canyon NRA, Box 458, Fort Smith, MT 59035 or pass your comments on to any of our park rangers.

Wm. Binnewies

1966 · 1991

BIGHORN
CANYON
NRA

25

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Left is the official logo for the 25th anniversary of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area and above is the 75th anniversary logo of the National Park Service.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area The first 25 years

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area was established by Public Law 89-664, dated October 15, 1966, "to provide for recreation use and enjoyment of Bighorn Lake and adjacent lands, and to preserve the scenic, scientific and historic resources." The law also provides for utilizing renewable natural resources, which include grazing and hunting, and for entering into cooperative agreements with other federal and state agencies for the joint administration and use of various land and water areas within and adjoining the recreation area.

Bighorn Canyon in its regional setting well illustrates the interpretive theme of the recreation area: "Man and the Bighorn Environment." This theme includes how past human occupants were directly dependent on the land and how this dependence has changed with the advent of ranching and farming, and with respect to technological achievements such as hydroelectric power generation and solar energy utilization.

The construction of the 525 foot high Yellowtail Dam from May 10, 1961 to December 22, 1966 and the filling of Bighorn Lake in 1967 were the most significant events in the history of the National Recreation Area. The water based recreational activities of fishing and boating in the canyon pushed the visitation figures over 285,000 in 1975, and over 400,000 in 1985 and since.

Bighorn Canyon is truly a diverse area. Included within the boundaries of the park is the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat, which is a wildlife habitat which is administered by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and a portion of the Pyor Mountain Wild Horse Range which was established in 1968 by order of the Secretary of the Interior. Wild horses can be seen along the highway between Horseshoe Bend and Barry's Landing.

Two visitor centers serve the area. A small visitor center is located at Fort Smith, and the first solar powered visitor center constructed for

the National Park Service is located at Lovell, Wyoming.

Other developments include the Horseshoe Bend and Ok-A-Beh Marinas, campgrounds including boat-in campgrounds at Black Canyon and Medicine Creek, and boat launching areas. A road connecting Fort Smith with Barry's Landing is proposed and other developments are planned for the future.

Because of a great diversity in the landscape, Bighorn Canyon is the home to large and small animals including bear, elk, deer, mountain lion, coyote, fox, badger, bobcats and bighorn sheep. The present band of bighorn sheep originated from a group of sheep released in the Big Horn Mountains. The sheep established themselves by crossing the ice near Devil's Canyon Overlook where they are now commonly seen.

Prehistory and history are important parts of the Bighorn Canyon story. The ancient Bad Pass Trail was used for 8,000 years. The park has four historic ranches with 32 historic

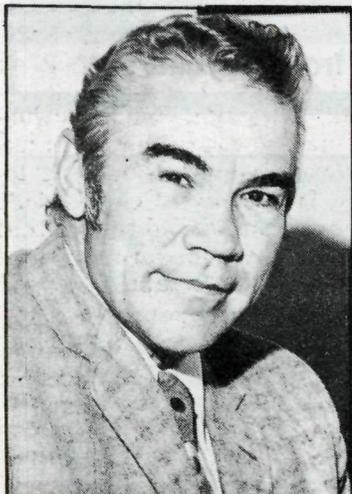
buildings on them. The village of Fort Smith on the north end of the park was named after one of the forts located on the Bozeman Trail.

For 25 years now the National Park Service has been providing recreational opportunities at Bighorn Canyon as well as preserving the natural environment. The maintenance crew, the administrative staff and the park rangers all play a vital role in providing the American public the National Park System they desire and have enacted through their representatives in Congress.

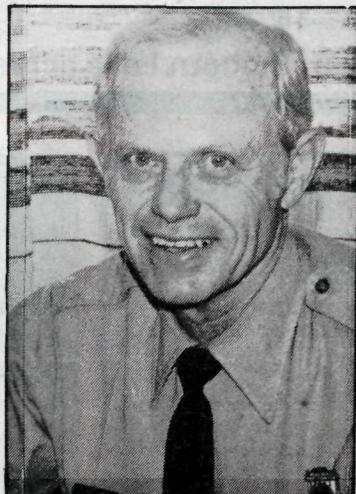
Since long ago individual Crow Indians have been coming to the rim of the canyon and fasting for three or four days in quest of visions that would be powerful medicine they could return with to aid their tribe. People still come here to enjoy the beauty of the land and restore their internal energy with recreation and with serenity and tranquility in order to return to their everyday lives better able to contribute to society.

Twenty-five years of leadership

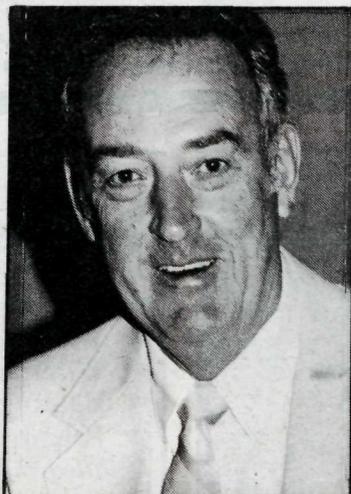
During its 25 years of existence, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area has been led by five different superintendents. These people have all had one thing in common: a dedication to this unique place, and desire to see that each visitor has a rewarding experience while here. Each has brought different talents and abilities, and all have combined to insure the protection and preservation of Bighorn Canyon for this and future generations.



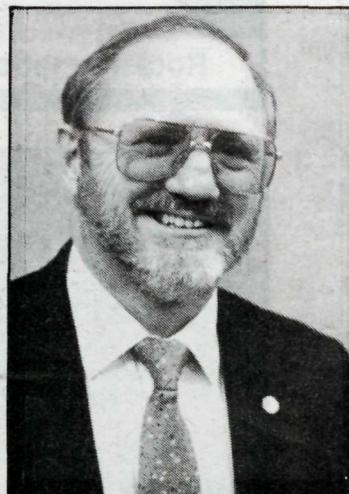
Joe Rumburg
1966-1969



Bruce Shaw
1969-1971



Art Sullivan
1971-1976



Homer Rouse
1976-1981



Bill Binnewies
1981 - Present

Happy Birthday: National Park Service 75 years old

In 1914, businessman Steven T. Mather complained to Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane about the sorry state of this country's national parks. Lane replied if Mather didn't like the way things were in the parks come to Washington, D.C. and take on the job of running them. Mather accepted the challenge, and in 1916 established the world's first National Park Service.

Assisted by a capable young lawyer, Horace Albright, Mather overcame myriads of obstacles in establishing the system, and today their creation has its 75th Anniversary, boasts 357 diverse units ranging from the Statue of Liberty to Grand Teton National Park.

Americans have always been proud of this country's natural splendors, and equally proud of our historic landmarks. Prior to the turn of the 20th Century, a number of areas had been designated national parks. But there was no system to manage them, and no cohesive set of laws guiding to their operation.

The care given the parks generally slipshod, with park managers appointed mainly for their political connections, not for any dedication to conservation or interest in preservation. In some parks, including Yellowstone, administration was in the hands of the army. Whether civilian or military, management was less than professional, and many people were unhappy with the situation.

Among the unhappiest was Mather, so he fired off his letter to the secretary. A widely known out-

doorsman and conservationist, Mather also happened to be a millionaire, giving him a certain independence of action. Opinionated, hard-driving, and used to getting things done, Mather entered his new job with enthusiasm. Not willing to let anything get in the way of achieving his goals, he informed his new assistant that the most important job was keeping him, Mather, out of jail. In the rush to get the job done there might be times when legal niceties might be treated

somewhat nonchalantly. Mather felt that correcting poor facilities, poor services, and even poorer roads required his undivided attention. Albright could worry about rules and bureaucratic details: Mather had the national parks on his mind.

It was altogether fitting that while Albright guided the bill creating the National Park Service through the wilderness of Congress, on the day it was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson, Mather was

guiding a group of VIP's through a High Sierras wilderness, he envisioned adding the national park system.

Mather served as national park service director until shortly before his death in 1930. As his successor, Albright carried on the legacy. On Albright's departure in 1933, the system has grown three-fold, including not only the "Crown Jewel" parks such as Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and other equally spectacular locales, but also historic places and prehistoric archeological sites.

Today there are national parks, monuments, historic sites, military parks, seashores, riverways, and recreation areas in the system. One of these additions was Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, which entered the system in 1966, and celebrates its 25th birthday in 1991. Located astride the Montana-Wyoming State line, Bighorn Canyon is a spectacular landscape of canyons carved between the Bighorn and Pryor Mountain ranges. Bighorn Lake nestles within 71 mile-long Bighorn Canyon, and the recreation area encompasses some of the most dramatic scenery in the northwestern United States.

Along with the other units of the park system, in 1991 Bighorn Canyon joins in observing the 75th birthday of a truly American idea, the National Park Service.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



1916 - 1991

Crow Country

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area shares two-thirds of its boundary with the Crow Indian Reservation, and the Crow have played an important role in the history of the park and the Bighorn Country as a whole. This land has been the home of the Crow for generations, and they have defended it against all threats.

The Crow call themselves "Asaloga" which translates as "Children of the Big Beaked Bird." Other Plains Indian tribes referred to the Crow as "Sharp People," meaning they were as crafty and alert as their namesake bird. In the universal sign language of the Plains, Asaloga was communicated by flapping the hands like a bird's wings in flight. European explorers and traders interpreted this as "Crow" and applied the name to the Crow people.

The Crow have a long history of friendship and cooperation with Europeans, and with the United States Government. The earliest traders found the Crow to be among

the most hospitable and friendly of the Native American groups encountered.

In 1851 the Treaty of Fort Laramie was signed between the Crow and the United States. Crow territory was generally recognized as encom-



Robert Yellowtail

passing much of south-central Montana and northern Wyoming. In 1863 the Bozeman Trail was pioneered through Crow country, and in 1866 Fort C.F. Smith was constructed on the Bighorn River to protect the Trail. The Crow camped and traded at the fort during its existence, and helped protect it from their hereditary enemies, the Sioux and Cheyenne. In the Plains Indian War of 1876 the Crow scouted for the United States Army, and five celebrated scouts, Curly, White-Man Runs-Him, White Swan, Hairy Moccasins, and Goes Ahead, were guides for George Custer and his ill-fated expedition to the Little Bighorn.

Over the years, the size of the Crow Reservation was steadily reduced from its original 38 million acres to its present two and one-half million. Today many non-Indians live on the reservation, and own much of the land. The Bighorn River, one of the country's blue-ribbon trout streams, attracts many non-Indian visitors to

the vicinity.

The Crow influence is still predominant in the Bighorn Country, and the place names of the recreation area ring with the history of the Crow people. Locations including the Bighorn River, Frozen Leg, Pretty Eagle, and Eye-of-the Eagle conjure visions of the past, and the Crow people's love of this land they call "The best place on earth."

Still a dynamic and growing nation, the Crow carry on the traditions of the past, while moving toward the Twenty-first Century. One of their most lasting traditions is that of the Crow Fair, held every August at Crow Agency, their capital. It is a combination family reunion, cultural celebration, and a reaffirmation of the people to the Crow way of life. A bumper sticker a few years ago appeared that said much about the feelings of many Crow toward their fair; it stated: "I haven't been to heaven, but I've been to the Crow Fair." Enough said.

Exploring Bighorn Canyon country



Hiking

Hiking at Bighorn Canyon can range from a short stroll from one of the campgrounds to the water's edge, to longer cross-country routes. The following section recommends some short hikes and destinations.

North District

Beaver Pond Nature Trail: This level .2 mile trail leads to some overlooks of Lime Kiln Creek and its many beaver ponds. The trail starts from the Fort Smith Visitor Center where self-guiding brochures are available.

Bighorn Headgate Trail: The .1 mile trail leads to the stone and mortar headgate built as an irrigation project by Crow Indian laborers at the turn of the century. Trail leaves from west end of Afterbay campground parking area.

Om-Ne-A Trail: This 3 mile, scenic trail follows the canyon rim from the Yellowtail Dam to the Ok-A-Beh boat ramp. Trail is steep for the first 1/4 mile, then levels off along the rim. Trail begins at

south end of parking area at Yellowtail Dam.

South District

Crooked Creek Nature Trail: A .3 mile trail over gently sloping terrain. Self-guiding brochures located at the trailhead explain the plant and animal relationships of the arid environment. Horseshoe Bend campground, loop C.

Hillsboro: The Hillsboro access road leads to the homestead settlement of G.W. Barry, for whom the landing is named. Buildings from his Cedarvale dude ranch and the Hillsboro post office still stand. The access road meets the Barry's Landing road just east of the campgrounds. The 1 mile trail is open to foot traffic only.

Lockhart Ranch: Hike or drive the dirt road where the pavement ends for 2.5 miles beyond the Barry's Landing turnoff. From the Lockhart Lane parking turnout at the ranch access, it is a .3 mile hike to the ranch. Western novelist Caroline Lockhart made these ranch buildings headquarters for

her cattle operation from 1926 to 1955.

Medicine Creek: Once a prospecting road for uranium mining, this 1.8 mile trail follows the west canyon rim north from Barry's Landing to the boat-in/hike-in only campground on Medicine Creek. Trailhead at north end of Barry's Landing parking area. Following the dirt road (foot or horse traffic only) that circles "Barry's Island," actually a round peninsula, is an enjoyable and easy variation of the above hike.

In addition to Bighorn Canyon's trails, there are several interesting hiking routes found either by following former roads or simply venturing crosscountry. Visit a ranger at either visitor center for route suggestions and directions.

Backcountry

More adventuresome hikers, with map and compass in hand, may hike cross-country in any section open to public use within the 120,000 acres of

the N.R.A. Backcountry permits may be obtained free of charge at visitor centers and ranger stations. Become informed about private property and areas closed to public access while obtaining your permit.

Use common sense when hiking in the backcountry. Sturdy shoes, plenty of drinking water, and a first aid kit should be every hiker's companions. Be careful where you place your hands and feet. Bighorn Canyon's residents include prairie rattlesnakes and blackwidow spiders. It is also wise to hike with a friend, and to tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.

Wilderness

Excellent backpacking opportunities can be found in the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area in the central Big Horn Mountains contained in Bighorn National Forest, 604 E. Main, P.O. Box 367, Lovell, WY 82431. Phone (307)548-6541, and in the Bear-tooth-Absaroka Wilderness in Custer National Forest (2602 First Avenue North, P.O. Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103 Phone (406) 657-6361).

Camping

Camping at Bighorn Canyon is available in a variety of environments, including sage/juniper communities, riparian habitat (stream and creek-side), pine forest, and lake-side camping. Camp only in designated areas. Campsites are available on a first-come/first served basis and reservations are not accepted. Current status of campsite availability may be obtained at either visitor center. Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m.

Backcountry camping is available for hikers in the South District. A limited amount of backcountry camping on the lake shore is accessible by boat from either end. Before camping in the backcountry, obtain a free, required backcountry permit and information on restricted areas at a visitor center or ranger station.

Overnight parking for those staying in self-contained vehicles is allowed in the upper parking lot at Ok-A-Beh and in the parking lot above the boat ramp at Barry's Landing.

North District		Tent sites	RV and tent sites	Dates	Fee per night	Tables and grills	Rest rooms	Boat launch ramp	Drinking water	RV dump station	Hook-ups	Showers
Afterbay	Near Ft. Smith on south shore of Afterbay		30	all year	no	yes	vault	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Black Canyon boat-in	5 mi. south of Ok-A-Beh ramp, boat-in at dayboard 5 (area subject to bears)	12		late spring to fall	no fee	yes	floating vault toilets	no	no	no	no	no
South District												
Barry's Landing	27 mi. north of Lovell on Hwy. 37. Along Trail Creek	5	9	all year	no	yes	vault toilets	yes	no	no	no	no
Horseshoe Bend	14 mi. north of Lovell on Hwy. 37		126	Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends - rest of year no fee	\$3	yes	modern	yes	yes	yes	no	no
Medicine Creek boat-in or hike-in	2 mi. north of Barry's Landing boat-in at dayboard 32	2		late spring to fall	no fee	yes	vault toilet	no	no	no	no	no



Camping with Bears

The National Recreation Area is the home of black bears. Bear sightings are common from spring through fall, especially in the Black Canyon boat-in campground. The bears' welfare depends upon the ability and willingness of humans to follow these simple 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 which are provided for food storage. Should boxes be unavailable, food must be kept in hardsided ice chests.

- Do not leave food, dirty dishes, empty food containers, cooking utensils, etc. out or stored in a tent.
- NEVER FEED A BEAR!

Bear problems are actually people problems, and they are preventable. By simply following these rules, humans can work together to help ensure the preservation of this magnificent resident of Bighorn Canyon.

Concession Services

Concessions services are available at Horseshoe Bend Marina, Wyoming and Ok-a-Beh Marina, Montana.

Both marinas offer:

Gas and Oil

Safety Equipment: Required U.S. Coast Guard items.

Fishing Supplies: Bait, lures; Wyoming and Montana licenses available at Horseshoe Bend. Montana licenses available at Yellowtail Market, Fort Smith, MT.

Boat Storage: Dry storage and slips are available at Horseshoe Bend. Boat slips are available at Ok-A-Beh Marina on long and short term leases.

Food and Beverages: Fast food, hot and cold drinks, snacks, ice and meals are available at Ok-A-Beh.

Horseshoe Bend Marina is open daily, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Sun. - Thurs.), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. Phone: (307)548-7766. The marina also offers: **Rental Boats and Recreation Equipment (hourly)** Fishing boats with 10hp motors, 4 person capacity. Pontoon boat w/ motor, 6 person capacity. Foot-powered paddle boats, 2 person capacity. Innertubes for swim beach, water ski equipment.

Ok-A-Beh Marina, is open daily, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 15 - Sept. 15, phone (406)665-2216. A 24' pontoon boat 60 hp and a 110hp 17' Run-A-Boat are available for rental. Lunch and dinner meals are served 7 days a week.

...and enjoying Bighorn Lake



Fishing

BIGHORN RIVER

Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout, and this portion of the Bighorn River has developed into a blue ribbon trout fishery. Brown trout are the most abundant, with rainbow trout also present.

On the first 13 miles of the river, from the Afterbay Dam to the Bighorn Access, **MOTORS are PROHIBITED.**

Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions are available at the Fort Smith Visitor Center. Guide services, boat rentals, vehicle shuttle service, food and equipment are available in Fort Smith.

The water can be swift and very cold, especially during periods of high water release. Know the hazards of waders and what can be done to eliminate those hazards.

WARNING: One mile downstream from the Afterbay Dam are three cement blocks on the right side of the river. Two more cement blocks lie beneath the water and are very efficient at rolling canoes over. Stay to the left side of the river in this area.

Limits

Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access area: Live bait allowed, 5 trout, only 1 of which may be over 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a rainbow trout.

Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access: Artificial lures only. No motors. 5 trout, only 1 of which may be over 18 inches. Catch and release only for rainbow trout.

Any trout caught in Montana must be released or killed immediately.

FLOAT DISTANCES

Afterbay Dam to NPS River Ranch Access 3 miles
NPS River Ranch to Bighorn Access 10 miles

BIGHORN LAKE

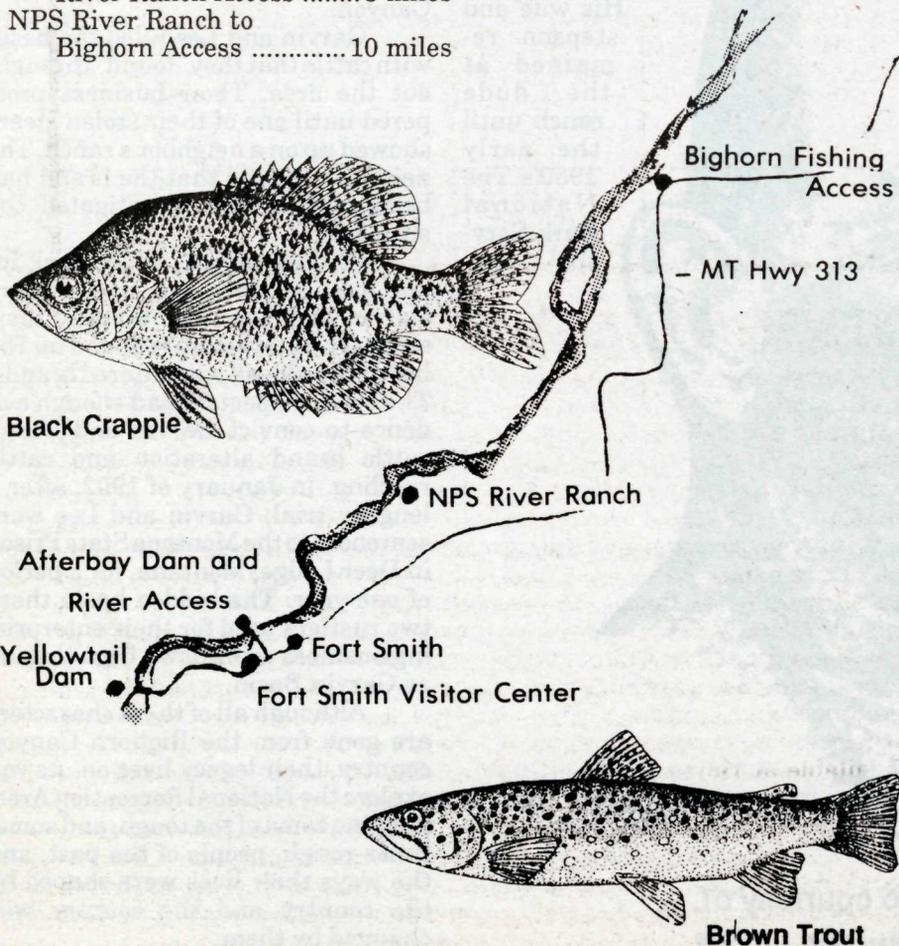
Bighorn Canyon offers year-round fishing opportunities. Walleye, rainbow and brown trout, yellow perch, ling, crappie, and catfish are among the usual catches. Fishing regulations and limits follow state laws, and fishing in either Montana or Wyoming requires the appropriate state fishing license. There is no special provision that provides for fishing in both states under one permit. Copies of Montana and Wyoming regulations and information on fishing conditions are available at visitor centers and ranger stations. Wyoming and Montana fishing licenses are available at the Horseshoe Bend Marina and the community of Lovell, Wyoming. Montana fishing licenses may be obtained in Fort Smith.

Fish cleaning stations are located at Ok-A-Beh and Horseshoe Bend boat ramps.

Winter ice fishing is popular, with ling, walleye, and trout commonly caught. Be sure to check state regulations for ice fishing information. Caution is advised when walking on the ice--**KEEP INFORMED OF CURRENT CONDITIONS.** Vehicles and snowmachines are **NOT** allowed on the ice.

Limits

Fish limits for Bighorn Lake.
TROUT: 10 lbs. + 1 fish not to exceed 10 fish.
WALLEYE, SAUGAR and BASS: 6 in combination
CHANNEL CATFISH: 6
OTHER GAME FISH: No limit.
See regulations for more information.



Bighorn Canyon Boat Tours

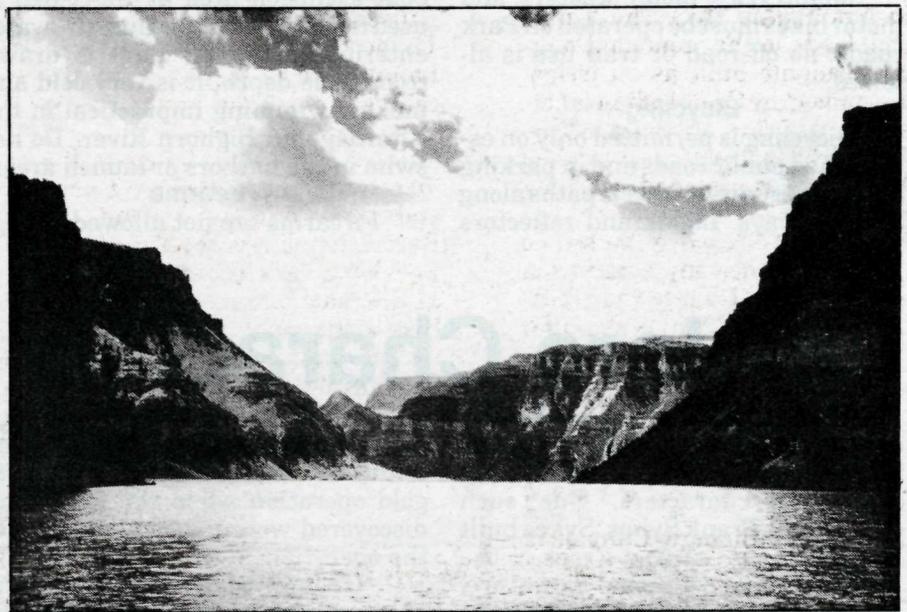
Visitors to Bighorn Canyon N.R.A. can see beautiful Bighorn Lake on tour boats during the summer months. The boats, which are piloted by Coast Guard licensed operators, will take you through Bighorn's steep, winding canyons. On-board tour guides are available to answer your questions, explain the geologic features dating back 400 million years, and point out the canyon's fascinating wildlife. For a refreshing and fun view of the National Recreation Area, inquire about a tour boat at the visitor center.

HORSESHOE BEND MARINA

Tours may be available from the Horseshoe Bend Marina in 1991. Inquire at the National Park Service, Visitor Center in Lovell, WY.

OK-A-BEH MARINA

Tours at 10 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Tours are available from June through September. Charter tours by reservation. For reservations, time schedules and prices, contact: Bighorn Charters, P.O. Box 796 YRS, Hardin, MT 59035 Phone: (406)248-6651.



Boating



For your boating safety, please sign the boating register located at each boat ramp prior to your departure and upon return. Filling out 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.

When towing water skiers, two persons must be on board, one to observe the skier and one to operate the boat. In Montana, both of these people must be at least 12 years old. Waterski only between sunrise and sunset.

Be aware of boat exclusion areas, no wake zones near docks (no white water), and watch for occasional S.C.U.B.A. diver's flags.

Remember that a blood alcohol concentration of .10 means that a boat operator is driving under the influence. Similar penalties apply.

A special permit is not required to operate on Bighorn Lake; however, boats must display valid registration for the state in which they are registered. Free courtesy boat inspections for U.S. Coast Guard required equipment are available at Horseshoe Bend and Ok-A-Beh, and can be required of any boat operating on the lake. Vessels must carry appropriately sized PFD's for each person on board, fire extinguishers as required, appropriate lights for operating between sunset and sunrise, clean and operating flame arrester, proper ventilation, muffling system and a valid certificate of numbers. Boats 16 feet and over must carry a type IV throwable PFDs and a sound signaling device. Detailed state and federal regulations and boating maps of Bighorn Lake are available at visitor centers and ranger stations.

Safe operating load capacities must be adhered to. Riding on closed bow decking, transom, or gunwales is dangerous and prohibited (the operator is responsible). In Montana, all children 11 and under must wear PFD's when the boat is underway.

If you question your ability, or the ability of your craft, in periods of rough water or under other dangerous circumstances, find protection from the wind and open water and wait until it is safe to proceed or until help arrives.

LAUNCH SITES

NORTH DISTRICT
Ok-A-Beh
Afterbay
Bighorn River (North of Afterbay Bridge, no motorized craft.)
NPS River Ranch

SOUTH DISTRICT
Barry's Landing
Horseshoe Bend



Courtesy docks are provided at Horseshoe Bend, Barry's Landing, Ok-A-Beh, and Afterbay ramps for your boarding convenience. As a courtesy to others, please limit your stay at launch ramp docks to 15 minutes, and be aware of some docks marked "Government Use Only."

Important Information



Entrance Fees: None

Accommodation and Services

Ft. Smith, MT: cafe, motels, grocery stores, gas station, guide services, and post office.

Lovell, WY, and Hardin, MT: restaurants, motels, gas stations, grocery stores, auto repair shops, hospitals, post offices, libraries, pharmacies, churches, and a variety of shops.

Write local Chamber of Commerce for more information.

Roads

There is no off-road use by vehicles. Some non-paved roads are open for use in the South District, all of which are marked with a sign.

Motorcycles, motor scooters, and motor bikes must be operated on Park roads; no off-road or trail use is allowed.

Bicycling

Bicycling is permitted only on established public roads and in parking areas. There are no bicycle paths along the roadways. Lights and reflectors

are required after dark. We strongly suggest that safety helmets be worn by all bicyclists. Park roads are narrow and winding.

Pets

Pets must be leashed or physically restrained at all times. This is for their own protection, protection of wildlife, and the protection of other visitors. Pets must be cleaned up after in public use areas. Horses are not allowed in picnic areas, campgrounds, on sidewalks, or in any areas closed to public entry.

Swimming

Swimmers are encouraged to use the swim beach at Horseshoe Bend where a lifeguard is on duty noon to 6 p.m., Friday through Tuesday. The boat exclusion area at Ok-A-Beh is used for swimming. Because the water entering Yellowtail Dam is drawn from some depth, it is very cold and makes swimming impractical in the Afterbay and Bighorn River. Do not swim in the harbors or launch areas.

Firearms

Firearms are not allowed in Big-

horn Canyon except by those actively hunting in areas open to hunting. Unloaded firearms may be transported in a vehicle when the weapon is cased, broken down, or rendered inoperable.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Backcountry permits are required for campfires in the backcountry. High fire danger may cause fire restrictions to be placed in effect. Do not leave campfires unattended. Only collect driftwood below the high water level. Driftwood is usually removed from the lake and made available for campfires. Woodpiles are stacked at Ok-a-Beh, Barry's Landing and Horseshoe Bend.

Defacing Park Features

Collecting natural or archeological objects, or defacing or destroying any plant, animal, or mineral is prohibited. LEAVE THE BEAUTY FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY!

Trespass

It is unlawful to go upon tribal, trust, or allotted lands on the Crow Reservation without tribal permission. Much of the land in the northern section of Bighorn Canyon N.R.A. is Crow land. River users must stay between the high water marks on the Bighorn unless permission has been granted by the adjacent landowner.

Weather

Spring is often cloudy and cool. Summer has many hot days that cool quickly at night. Expect the most rainfall in May and June. Some summer thunderstorms come unexpectedly to boaters as the storm's approach is hidden by the canyon walls. Lightning storms are common.

Fall is often filled with pleasant days. Winter weather fluctuates with cold waves interspersed with warm chinooks that melt the snow away.

Average high and low temperatures:

November to March: 30-40, 0-25

April: 55-60, 30-35

May & June: 70-80, 40-50

July & August: 85-95, 55-60

September & October: 60-75, 30-45

Folklore Characters of Bighorn Canyon

The remote and rugged beauty of Bighorn Canyon serves as a colorful backdrop for folklore about many interesting characters. One such character is Frank Sykes. Sykes built his cabin near Crooked Creek in the 1890's. A suspicious man by nature, he placed his cabin on high ground to command a good view. He didn't want anyone sneaking up on him. Syke's appearance aroused interest. Short and powerfully built, he normally wore buckskins, a large black hat, and sported a handlebar mustache. Rarely did he travel without his Colt .44 strapped to his hip.

Stories of Syke's unusual behavior abound. One such story concerns his unique eating habits. It seems Sykes ate only one course per meal. One afternoon a friend of Sykes', Jim Kelsy, stopped for a visit. Sykes, cooking up a batch of potatoes for dinner, invited Kelsy to join him. Kelsy didn't care much for Sykes' cooking habits and decided that all he'd have was coffee. But Sykes insisted. When Kelsy obligingly ate a few and refused a second helping, Sykes thrust the skillet towards him, drew his Colt .44, and growled "EAT! Finish 'em up!" Kelsy ate! Then he staggered to his horse, mounted, and headed for home. His taste for potatoes was permanently destroyed.

Sykes continued to live on Crooked Creek until 1921 when he was shot in his own bunk by an unknown assailant. He is buried beside his cabin.

One of Bighorn's more industrious characters was Grosvener William Barry. A self-proclaimed physician from New York and a born promoter, he engaged in many "get rich quick" schemes. Barry established himself and his family in the Dryhead country around 1903. During the next decade, Barry's attention focused on schemes to extract gold from Bighorn Canyon. He persuaded two officials from the U.S. Steel Corporation to invest \$50,000.00 in a gold dredging venture on the river. A steam dredge

and mechanical rocker were purchased and shipped by rail and wagon to the site. He abandoned his placer gold operation when the quantities discovered were too small to pay for the operation.

Undaunted by the poor showing of his gold venture, he converted the family homestead into a dude ranch called Cedarvale Ranch. He promoted the ranch as "a new resort noted for its cleanliness and bounteous meals." For \$100 per month, guests could enjoy motorboat trips through Bighorn Canyon, fishing, camping, and horseback riding. Business at the ranch flourished until the early 1930's, with the ranch boasting running water and electricity.

To publicize his ranch, Dr. Barry, his stepson, Claude St. John, and a

friend embarked on a six week motorboat trip to New Orleans. In late May they left Horseshoe Bend in an 18 foot powerboat. They successfully navigated through the Bighorn, Yellowstone, Missouri and Mississippi rivers to arrive in New Orleans in mid-July.

By 1915, enough ranch families moved into the Dryhead country to merit the establishment of a Post Office at Cedarvale. The area became known as Hillsboro, Montana, with Barry as the first postmaster.

Dr. Barry died on January 25, 1920, in Billings, Montana, after diagnosing himself as having a brain tumor.

His wife and stepson remained at the dude ranch until the early 1950's. The National Park Service ac-

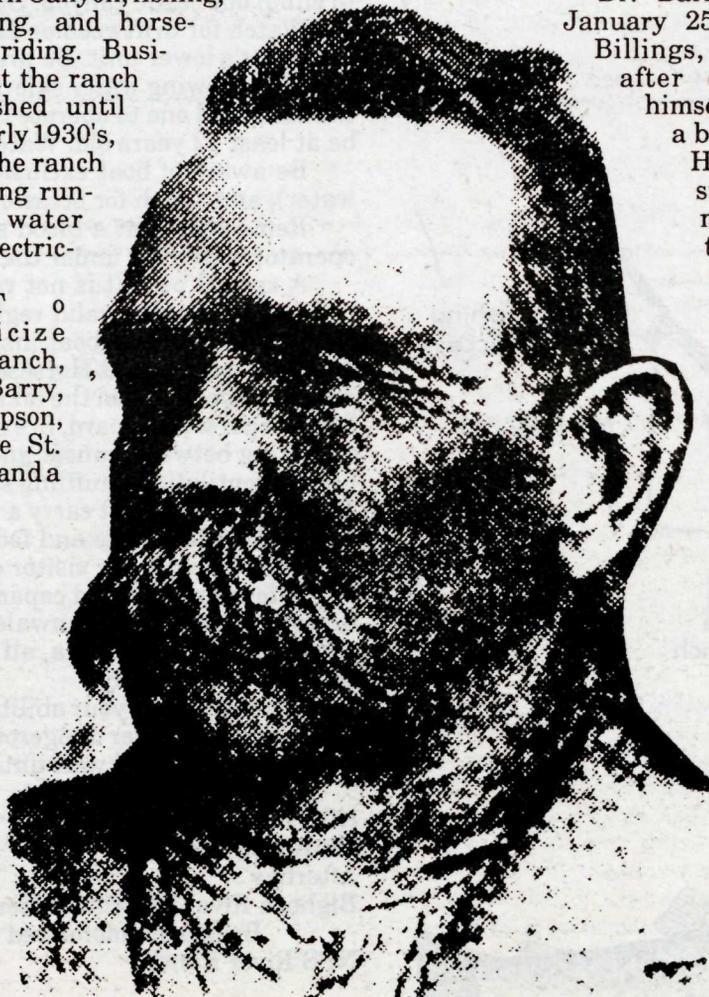
quired the site in 1968, and it is open for visitors to explore.

Two enterprising thieves, Samuel Garvin and Robert Lee, became successful businessmen through their cattle rustling operation during the 1890's. The two stocky, tough cowboys rode into a large hidden basin and saw it as a perfect location for a cattle operation. The basin was bounded on the east by the Bighorn Mountains and on the west by Bighorn Canyon, a secure holding place for cattle except for a small passageway. To close off this passageway, Garvin and Lee stretched two large log chains across the opening of the canyon and secured the ends into the steep walls of the canyon. Thus, the canyon is still known today as Chain Canyon.

Garvin and Lee filled the basin with cattle that they "found" throughout the area. Their business prospered until one of their stolen steers showed up on a neighbor's ranch. The neighbor noticed that the brand had been altered and investigated the situation.

On February 1, 1901, stock inspectors entered the area where Garvin and Lee were keeping their stock. The inspectors rounded up 750 head of stock--all with altered brands! The stock inspectors had enough evidence to convict Garvin and Lee of cattle brand alteration and cattle rustling. In January of 1902, after a lengthy trial, Garvin and Lee were sentenced to the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, Montana, for a period of one year. The hidden basin these two rustlers used for their enterprising business was known from then on as Garvin Basin.

Although all of these characters are gone from the Bighorn Canyon country, their legacy lives on. As you explore the National Recreation Area, imagine some of the tough, and sometimes rough, people of the past, and the ways their lives were shaped by the country and the country was changed by them.



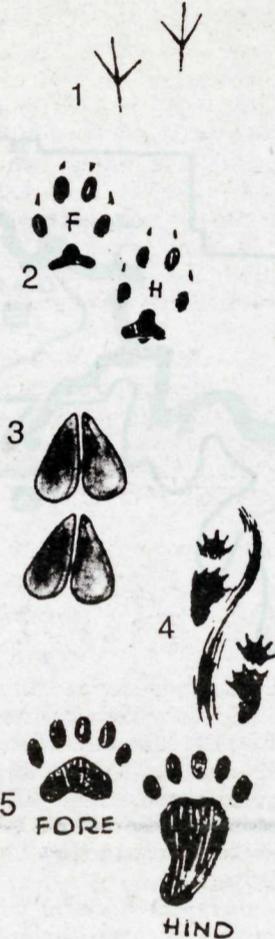
Frank Sykes photo courtesy of Mrs. Frances G. Burrell, Lovell

Corner

Kids

Tricky Tracks!

Connect the animal and its tracks with a line.



Animal Scramble

Unscramble these letters to discover some of the animals living in Bighorn Canyon.

STAHIFC _____

OOTYCE _____

ALERTSNKEA _____

VRBAEE _____

DRE-TLDAIE KWHA _____



Word Search

Look for all the words that appear in boldface in the paragraph below. We've circled "porcupine" just to get you started!

Porcupines are sometimes called quill **pigs** but they are really **rodents**. Long sharp **claws** and rough **pads** on the bottom of their feet help them **climb**. You can sometimes see them high up on **trees** gnawing on the **bark**. They also eat **shrubs**, wildflowers, berries, **twigs** and **nuts**. Porcupines may also try to **gnaw** on something you've handled. That's because our sweat contains **salt** and porcupines have a "salty tooth." They have poor **eyesight** but a keen sense of **smell** and excellent **hearing**. An adult porcupine can also possess 30,000 or more needle-sharp **quills**. So who would want to tangle with a "walking pincushion?" Not many. A weasel-like animal called a **fisher** can **flip** a "porky" on its back to get at its soft **belly**. It will sometimes even tunnel through snow to attack a porky from underneath. Early **Plains** Indians used porcupine quills to decorate their garments. They also tied the quill-covered tail to a stick for a hairbrush!

F	L	I	P	T	S	B	U	R	H	S
I	A	B	E	W	S	G	I	W	T	N
S	W	E	A	T	L	P	P	N	R	I
H	F	S	X	H	M	A	E	Y	E	A
E	I	G	N	A	W	D	S	Q	E	L
R	W	I	R	I	O	S	E	U	S	P
P	F	P	O	R	C	U	P	I	N	E
Y	L	L	E	B	L	D	C	L	U	M
O	S	I	M	R	A	Q	T	L	T	C
T	A	I	L	U	W	R	H	S	S	O
L	L	E	M	S	S	O	K	H	B	F
C	T	L	B	H	E	A	R	I	N	G

Ranger - Led Activities

Schedule for Summer Activities - 1991

Join a ranger for a better understanding and appreciation of park features. All activities are free of charge. Everyone is invited to participate. Check information boards and visitor centers for dates, times, and places for special demonstrations or programs.

NORTH DISTRICT - FORT SMITH, MONTANA

Campfire Programs -- Afterbay Campground. Meet at the Amphitheatre at the west end of the campground for a 45-minute slide-illustrated talk or demonstration about wildlife, Crow Indian culture, geology, recreation, boating safety, fishing, and other park-related subjects. Current topics are posted at the visitor center and on the campground bulletin board. **Friday and Saturday, May 24 through September 2, plus Sundays May 26 and September 1. Demonstrations begin at 8 p.m., all others during May, June and July at 9:30 p.m.; during August and September at 9:00 p.m.**

Walking Tours of Fort Smith Site -- Sunday afternoons. As the site is on private land, a park ranger must accompany those visiting the site. Start from the Ft. Smith Visitor Center, car caravan to the site for a 1/4 mile walk. Learn about the fort, why it was here, and what became of it. Memorial Day through Labor Day.

SOUTH DISTRICT - LOVELL, WYOMING

Campfire Programs -- Horseshoe Bend Campground. Meet at the Horseshoe Bend Amphitheater in B Loop for a 45-minute slide-illustrated talk or demonstration. Topics include wildlife, geology, early settlers, Native Americans, recreation, and other park-related subjects. Current topics are posted at the visitor center and at Horseshoe Bend. **Friday and Saturday, May 24 through September 2, plus Sunday May 26, and September 1. Programs begin at 9:00 p.m.**

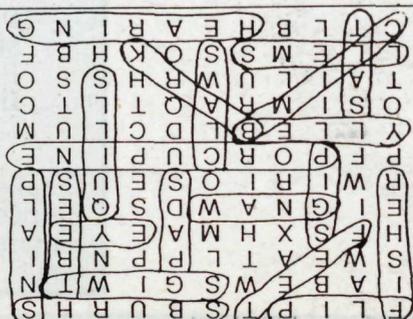
Solar Energy Demonstrations -- Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center. Learn how the sun's energy can be harnessed to heat buildings, produce electricity, and do work for us. Demonstrations on request. All year.

ANSWERS:

•Beaver•Red-tailed Hawk

Catfish•Coyote•Rattlesnake

- 1. Great Blue Heron
- 2. Fox
- 3. Deer
- 4. Beaver
- 5. Bear



What is the Bighorn Canyon Natural History Association?

The Natural History Association is a non profit cooperating association aimed at promoting the education, interpretive, and research activities of the National Park Service and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Publications on the history, natural history and recreational features of the area, including this newspaper, are funded and produced by the Association.

You are invited to join the Association! An annual membership fee of \$5 per year entitles you to a 15% discount on all visitor center bookstore items, except Native American beadwork.

To join, complete the following application:

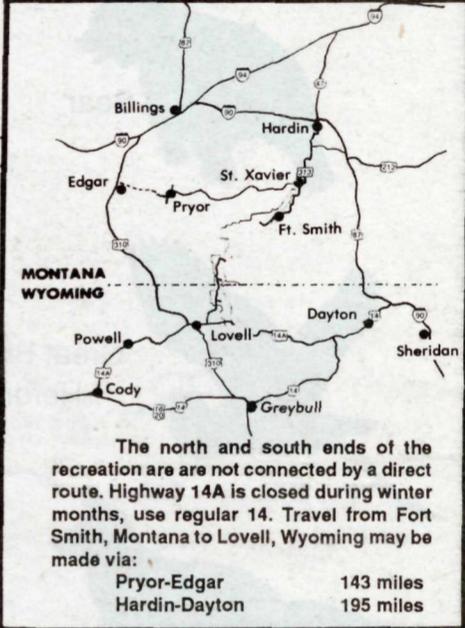
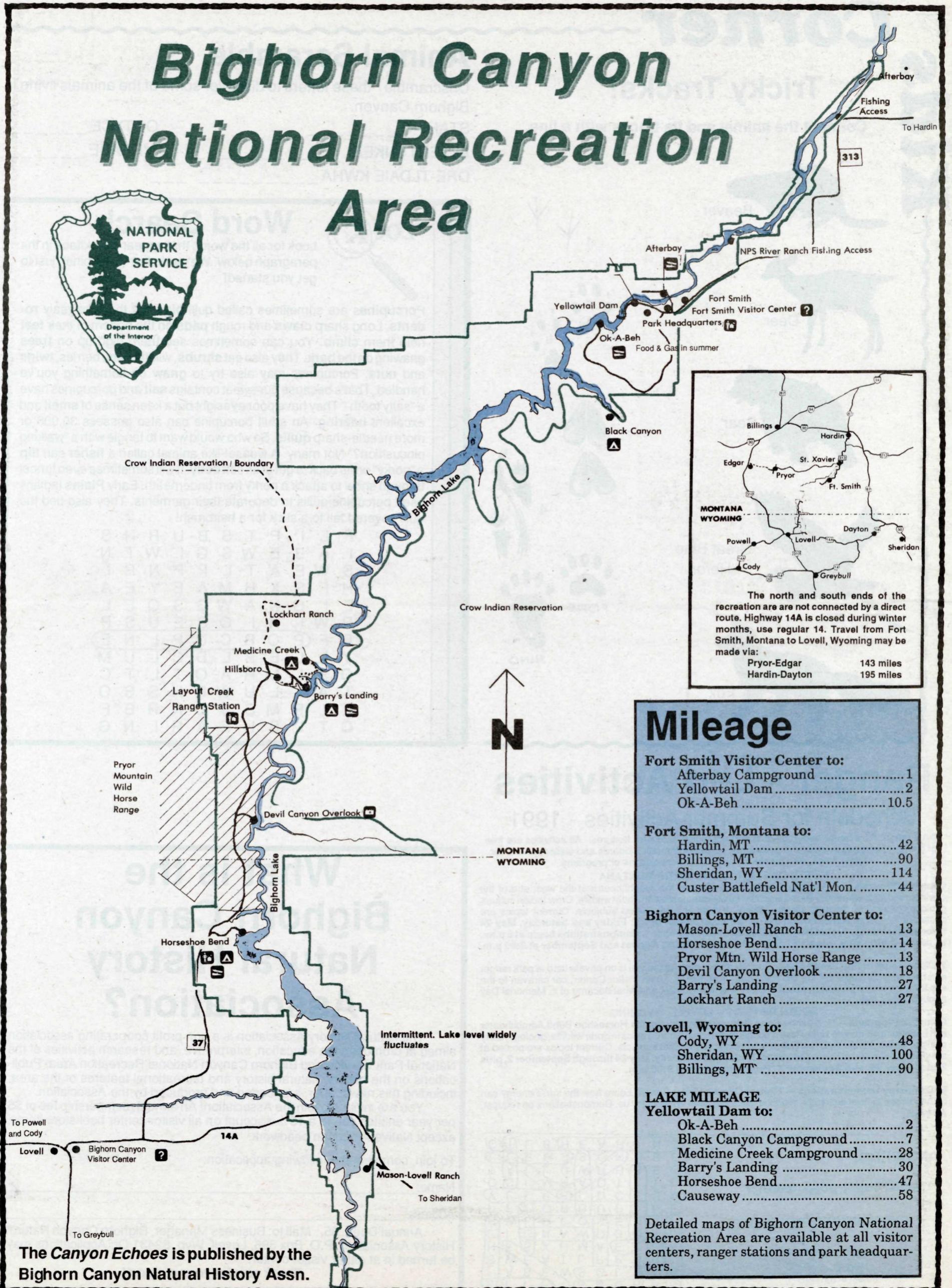
Name: _____

Address: _____

Annual Dues: \$5. Mail to: Business Manager, Bighorn Canyon Natural History Association, P.O. Box 396, Lovell, Wyo. 82431. Or: Applications may be turned in at either visitor center.

Thank you for your support!

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area



Mileage

Fort Smith Visitor Center to:	
Afterbay Campground	1
Yellowtail Dam	2
Ok-A-Beh	10.5
Fort Smith, Montana to:	
Hardin, MT	42
Billings, MT	90
Sheridan, WY	114
Custer Battlefield Nat'l Mon.	44
Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center to:	
Mason-Lovell Ranch	13
Horseshoe Bend	14
Pryor Mtn. Wild Horse Range	13
Devil Canyon Overlook	18
Barry's Landing	27
Lockhart Ranch	27
Lovell, Wyoming to:	
Cody, WY	48
Sheridan, WY	100
Billings, MT	90
LAKE MILEAGE	
Yellowtail Dam to:	
Ok-A-Beh	2
Black Canyon Campground	7
Medicine Creek Campground	28
Barry's Landing	30
Horseshoe Bend	47
Causeway	58

Detailed maps of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area are available at all visitor centers, ranger stations and park headquarters.