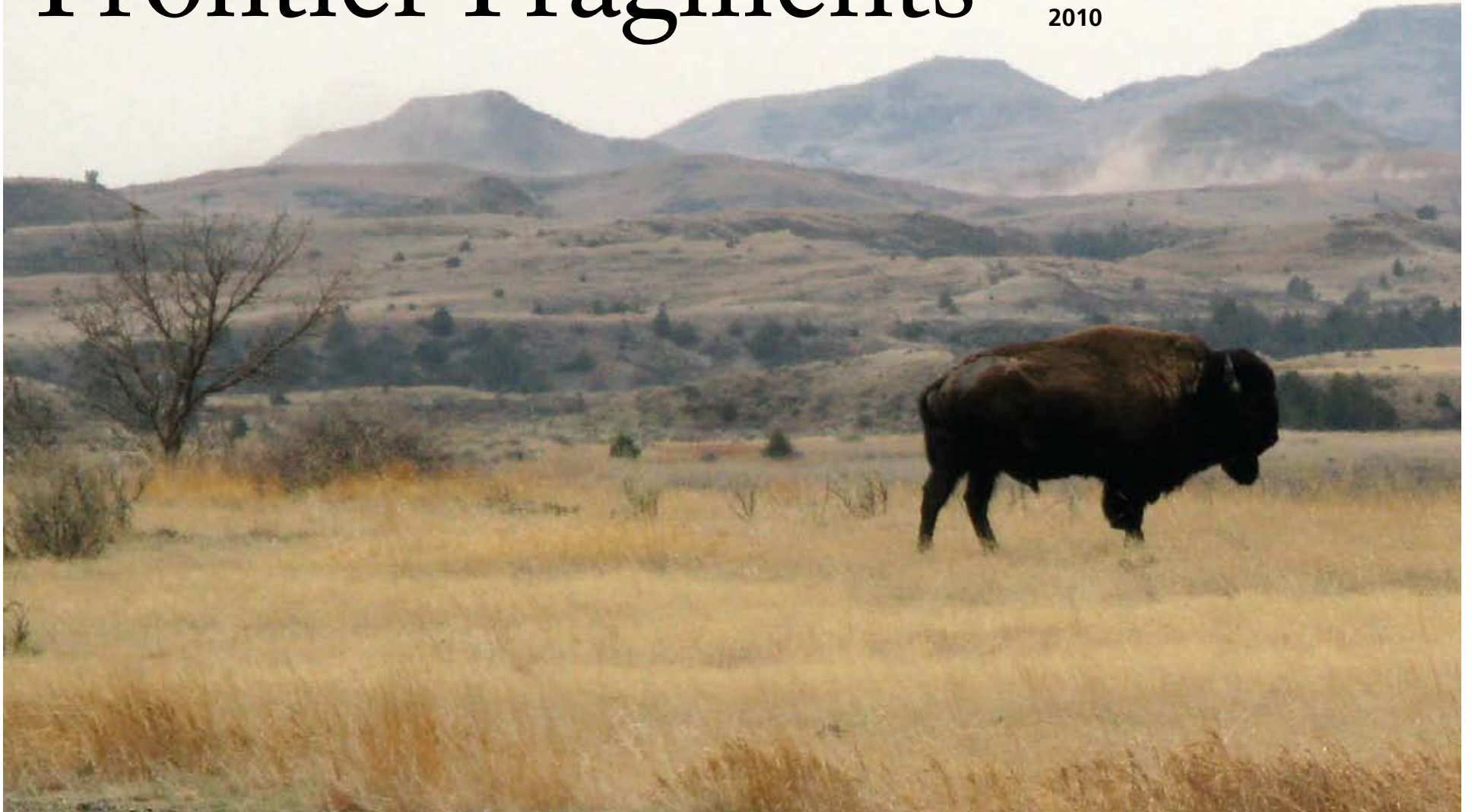




Frontier Fragments

The official newspaper of
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
2010



American bison in the badlands

North Dakota's National Parks Welcome You

Welcome to the National Parks of North Dakota! Let Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site launch your North Dakota adventure. There are many wondrous experiences waiting for you in the national parks in North Dakota.

National parks are very special places. Each was set aside as an outstanding example of our nation's natural environment, scenery, recreational assets, or history.

American writer Wallace Stegner said, "National Parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." His words have resonated with many Americans in recent months.

Americans are visiting national parks in record numbers. In 2009, Theodore Roosevelt National Park hosted over 593,000 visitors – more than in any year since 1982. Knife River Indian Villages NHS and Fort Union Trading Post NHS also had busy years. But the National Parks of North Dakota have plenty of room to roam. Here, you will not find crowds, lines, or traffic jams (unless the buffalo are crossing the road). Parking spaces are always available. Hike a short distance away from the roads and developed areas, and you can find satisfying solitude and a place to yourself.

Nationwide, there are over 390 units of the National Park System to visit and explore – from American Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii to Alaska and the U.S. mainland, to the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. All of these areas are managed by the National Park Service, the agency that

was established within the Department of Interior in 1916 to unite the parks into one cohesive system. Chances are you have a national park in your own "backyard." A lifetime of experiences awaits you in America's national parks. I hope you will continue your national park journeys and adventures. With you, we are making America's best idea even better!

Valerie Naylor
Superintendent
Theodore Roosevelt NP



"The joy of living is his who has the heart to demand it." ~Theodore Roosevelt



What to do in the Park

Visitors to Theodore Roosevelt National Park have many options to help them discover and enjoy the beauty of the badlands. Initially the landscape may appear inhospitable and desolate, but a closer look will reveal panoramic vistas and a bounty of plant and animal life. The park is divided into three units; all offer wonderful opportunities. The park has three visitor centers: one at the South Unit entrance in Medora, one at Painted Canyon on I-94, and one at the entrance to the North Unit just off of Hwy 85. Start your visit at one of the visitor centers to obtain information and maps, view exhibits, and watch a short film about the park. Then, begin an adventure in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The following information will help plan a visit that fits your time, interests, and abilities.

ELKHORN RANCH UNIT

To stand where Roosevelt stood and to see the badlands as he saw them can be an incredibly moving experience. This small section of the park preserves the site of Roosevelt's "home ranch," the Elkhorn. Although no structures remain, foundation blocks mark the outline of the original ranch house. Please inquire at one of the park visitor centers for detailed instructions on how to reach this unit and for current road conditions. Allow at least a half day to make the trip and plan on a 2-3 mile (round trip) hike once you arrive at the parking area. All roads to the Elkhorn Ranch Unit are dirt and can be slippery or impassable when wet.

SOUTH UNIT

Driving the 36-mile Scenic Loop Drive is the best way to see the South Unit. The drive takes about two hours. Wildlife including prairie dogs, bison, feral horses, mule deer and white-tailed deer are commonly seen along the route. Along the drive visitors will experience a variety of habitats including river bottoms, grasslands, forested slopes and coulees as the road traverses the broken badlands topography. Stop at the Badlands and Boicourt Overlooks or walk to the top of Buck Hill for dramatic views. If time allows, include several short hikes along your drive. The Ridgeline, Coal Vein and Wind Canyon Trails are all less than one mile round-trip and offer outstanding views. If you want a longer hike, Jones Creek, Lower Paddock Creek and the Petrified Forest trails are all good choices. Stop at the visitor center for route descriptions and free maps or for information on other hiking options.

Don't leave the Medora area without a stop at Painted Canyon, at exit 32 on I-94. This overlook offers a magnificent panoramic view of the badlands. It is also the best place to view the soft glow on the badlands hills at either sunrise or sunset. Visitors who want to stretch their legs can include a short walk along the rim or a more strenuous hike on the one mile loop trail that drops into the canyon. The trailhead is located near the picnic shelters.

NORTH UNIT

Allow at least 1½ hours to complete the 28-mile round trip North Unit Scenic Drive. Along the way, one can see unique geologic formations called "cannonball concretions," drive through grasslands, peer into canyons, enjoy great views of the Little Missouri River, and maybe spot a longhorn steer or bighorn sheep. The River Bend Overlook, with its beautiful shelter built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and Oxbow Overlook offer the best views. For those who want to include a short walk, the 1.1 mile Little Mo Nature Trail begins at the campground. For a longer hike, the Caprock Coulee Nature Trail, 1.6 miles round trip, is a good choice, or combine it with the Upper Caprock Coulee Trail for a 4.3 mile loop. Stop at the visitor center to inquire about other hiking options.



A roadlog guide can be purchased at park visitor centers and provides an orientation to geology and other features along the North and South Unit Scenic Drives. Other free informational handouts are also available. Inquire at the Information Desk.

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees are required at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. To enter, one must pay the fee at the entrance station or at the park visitor center when the station is closed during the off-season.

Private vehicle including motorcycles

\$10.00 per vehicle

Valid only at TRNP for 7 days

Entrance fee for all persons traveling in a single, private vehicle. Good for both North and South Units. Children under 16 are free. Non-transferable.

Individual - entrance by foot, bike, horse

\$5.00 per person

Valid only at TRNP for 7 days

Per person entrance fee for a visitor traveling on foot, bicycle, horse, or for individuals traveling together in a vehicle as a non-commercial, organized group. Good for both units. Children under 16 are free. Non-transferable.

TRNP Annual Park Pass

\$20.00 per vehicle

Valid only at TRNP for one year from month of purchase

Admits purchaser and passengers in a single, private vehicle, or the pass holder and their immediate family (spouse, children, parents) when entry is by other means (foot, bicycle). Children under 16 are free. Non-transferable.

America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass

\$80.00

Valid for one year from month of purchase

This non-transferable pass provides access to all federal sites that charge an entrance fee. The pass admits the pass holder/s and passengers in a private vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults at per person fee areas. Children under 16 are free.

Senior Pass

\$10.00, one-time fee

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over.

Access Pass

Free

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities.

Both passes provide access to federal sites that charge an entrance fee. The passes admit the pass holder and passengers in a private vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, at per person fee areas. Children under 16 are free. The passes must be obtained in person. Both passes provide a 50% discount on some expanded amenity fees such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases, only the pass holder will be given the 50% price reduction. The passes are non-transferable.

Visitor Services and Activities



South Unit



Visitor Centers

Medora: Open daily 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MT)
Extended hours during summer months.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.



Painted Canyon: Open daily April 1 - Nov. 11,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MT) with extended hours during
summer months. Hours of operation may vary during
shoulder seasons. Closed in winter.



Interpretive programs*

Guided tours of Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Cabin are offered
daily during summer months. Check the current activity
schedule for times. Self-guided tours are available during the
off-season.

Evening Programs at Cottonwood Campground and a
variety of other ranger-guided activities are offered early-June
through mid-September. Check at the visitor center or park
bulletin boards for the current activity schedule.



Campgrounds

Cottonwood: \$10/night, \$5 with Senior or Access Pass;
78 sites; first-come, first-served; group campsite available by
reservation only.



Roundup Horse Camp: Available by reservation only.

North Unit



Visitor Center

Open daily, April 1 to Nov. 11; Friday, Saturday, and
Sunday, and as staffing allows, the rest of the year, 9:00
a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (CT) with extended hours during summer
months. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



Interpretive programs*

Evening Programs at Juniper Campground and a
variety of other ranger-guided activities are offered early-June
through mid-September. Check at the visitor center or park
bulletin boards for the current activity schedule.



Campground

Juniper: \$10/night, \$5 with Senior or Access Pass; 50 sites;
first-come, first-served; group camp available by reservation
only.



***All listed activities, with the exception of some
guided hikes, are wheelchair accessible.**

Shadow Country Outfitters, Inc.

at Historic Peaceful Valley Ranch
P.O. Box 308 Medora, ND 58645
701-623-4568

<http://home.ctctel.com/peacefulvalley>



Trail rides & horse boarding

Shadow Country Outfitters is authorized by the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior, to serve the public in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



Backcountry

Ninety-five miles of backcountry trails are available in
Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Hikers, horseback
riders, and boaters who wish to camp overnight in
the backcountry must obtain a free backcountry permit at
either the South or North Unit visitor center. A free
backcountry trail guide is available.



Fires

Fire grills are provided at each campsite and in the picnic
areas. Self-contained campstoves are also permitted and may
be used in the backcountry. There may be fire restrictions
when wildfire danger is high.



Water

Drinking water is available in the campgrounds, picnic
areas, and visitor centers. Water sources in the backcountry
are minimal and must be treated. Carry water!



Pets

Pets must be on a leash at all times. They are not permitted
on hiking trails or in the backcountry. Pets cannot be
left unattended in the campground.



Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the visitor centers, picnic areas, and
campgrounds.



Superintendent

Valerie Naylor

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

P.O. Box 7
Medora, ND 58645

701-623-4466

Park Web Site

www.nps.gov/thro

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thro_interpretation@nps.gov

Employment with the National Park Service

www.usajobs.opm.gov

www.theSCA.org

Emergencies Call 911



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the historical, scientific and educational
activities of Theodore Roosevelt National Park,
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site,
and Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.



Wildlife Viewing

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is home to a wide variety of animals and wildlife viewing is one of the most popular activities enjoyed by visitors to the park. Dawn and dusk are the best times to spot animals. When watching wildlife, please remember that the park is their home, we are the visitors. Drive slowly, view from a distance, and never feed animals. Here are some of the park's more commonly seen inhabitants:



Black-tailed prairie dog are the park's most gregarious residents. They live in large towns composed of many families. Their antics are sure to amuse visitors of all ages. Prairie dogs communicate using a wide variety of barks. Look for the "jump yip." During this "all clear" call, the prairie dog stands on hind legs while throwing its front legs back over the head. The South Unit Loop Drive passes through several large prairie dog towns. Many prairie residents live in or frequent prairie dog towns, so they are hot spots for wildlife viewing.



Pronghorn, often incorrectly called *antelope*, live mainly on the open grasslands. These animals possess remarkable endurance and can run at speeds up to 40 mph for long distances. Look for them along the north side of the Scenic Loop in the South Unit or in the open grassland areas east of Painted Canyon.

The South Unit is home to approximately 85 feral horses, descendants from horses that escaped from local ranches decades ago. Horses travel in bands of 5-15 individuals led by a dominant stallion. They are often seen near the Cottonwood Campground.



Although numerous, elk are seldom seen during the daytime. Found only in the South Unit, the best time to look for them is at dawn or dusk near the tree line on the badlands hills. They are also frequently spotted from I-94 east of Painted Canyon.



White-tailed and mule deer are both found in the park. Mule deer are seen most often and are well suited to the badlands terrain. The best field identifier is their short, narrow, black-tipped tail. Mule deer often bound with a stiff-legged gait, called *stotting*, during which all four legs leave the ground at the same time. White-tailed deer live mostly along the river bottoms. As the name implies, the underside of their large, wedge-shaped tail is composed of white hair. When White-tailed deer run, the tail flips up and looks like a waving flag.



The American bison is the park's most popular resident. Bison are constantly on the move and travel in herds led by a matriarch cow. They are frequently seen in prairie dog towns, grazing on new grass shoots or wallowing in the loose dirt. Bison are dangerous animals, so don't let their seemingly slow and lumbering nature fool you. They can spin around faster than a horse and run at speeds up to 35 mph. Mature bulls can weigh up to 2000 lbs and stand 6 feet tall at the shoulder. The best way to view bison is from the inside of your car. Move slowly and quietly near these majestic animals.



How Many Animals?

The effects of the westward expansion movement on the northern plains were profound. Some species were hunted to extinction. Others were extirpated from North Dakota by the 20th century. Over the years, some species have been reintroduced and provide much enjoyment to keen observers. Today, Theodore Roosevelt National Park exists as an "island" of wilderness, providing necessary habitats for many wildlife species. Here are population estimates for hoofed species within the park. These estimates are for 2010 before the young are born:

Species	North Unit	South Unit
Bighorn Sheep	30-35	occasional
Bison	290	300
Elk	occasional	900
Feral Horses	-	80-85
Longhorn Steers	12	-

Mule deer, white-tailed deer, and pronghorn are not counted.

"Around the prairie-dog towns it is always well to keep a look-out for the smaller carnivora, especially coyotes and badgers...and for the larger kinds of hawks. Rattlesnakes are quite plenty, living in the deserted holes, and the latter are also the homes of the little burrowing owls."

~Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is preserved because...



The park offers visitors the freedom to enjoy panoramic vistas and a sense of solitude, inspiration, and timelessness. Roosevelt thrived on similar experiences in Dakota Territory in the 1880s; an environment and way of life that helped shape his attitudes and philosophy regarding conservation.

On-going geological processes create spectacular examples of badlands topography and provide opportunities for visual interpretation of erosional activities.



The colorful North Dakota badlands provide the scenic backdrop to the park that memorializes the 26th president for his enduring contributions to the conservation of our nation's resources.

The park is designated as a Class I air quality area providing for clean air, clear day and night skies, and outstanding examples of a relatively unpolluted environment.



The park has one of the largest petrified wood areas in the country and extensive paleontological deposits from the Paleocene Epoch, providing outstanding examples for visitor viewing.

The park contains one of the few islands of designated wilderness in the Northern Great Plains.



The Little Missouri River has shaped the land that is home to a variety of prairie plants and animals including bison, prairie dogs, pronghorn, and elk. A park experience is created by the interplay of natural forces including weather, vegetation, wildlife, vistas, smells, color and shape of landforms, air quality, natural silence, varied light and seasons.

“There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the grove of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children’s children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred.” ~Theodore Roosevelt, 1905



Prairie Dogs: Pests or the Key to a Healthy Prairie?

by Andrea Staron, Park Ranger



Photo by Andrea Staron

A common misconception is that prairie dogs destroy the landscape. The truth is prairie dogs play a vital role in keeping the prairie ecosystem healthy and balanced. Without prairie dogs, the prairie would change dramatically. More than 180 plant and animal species have been linked to the prairie dog. Nine species, including hawks, eagles, foxes and ferrets directly depend on them for survival. Prairie dogs keep plants under control by eating what is seasonally abundant, they aerate the soil with their burrows, and fertilize the land with their scat. Continual clipping of grasses and other plants encourages tender new shoots to sprout, providing a continuous supply of nutritious food for large herbivores such as bison, elk, pronghorn, and deer. Prairie dogs themselves are an important food source for carnivores like badgers, coyotes, hawks, and eagles. Their burrows provide homes and protection for many creatures including burrowing owls, rabbits, snakes, turtles, toads, and black widow spiders.

In the 1700s, the prairie was an abundant ecosystem. Bison numbered over 60 million, grizzly bears and wolves roamed the prairies, and prairie dog towns covered the landscape. Historically, prairie dog towns were huge. One town recorded in Texas in 1901 was 24,000 square miles in size and was home to an estimated 400 million prairie dogs. Negative ideas towards prairie dogs began in the 1800s as pioneers started to develop farms and ranches and domestic cattle were introduced to the plains. Prairie dog towns began expanding not only onto land cleared for agriculture, but also into disturbed areas where buildings and roads were being constructed. Development of farmlands and cities has greatly depleted the natural diversity of the Great Plains.

Concerned that prairie dogs would eat grasses needed for cattle and that domestic animals would break their legs in the burrows, ranchers began aggressively killing prairie dogs in the early 1900s. Entire colonies could be destroyed in just weeks or months. The accidental introduction of sylvatic plague in the late 1800s also contributed to the decline of the prairie dog. Since 1900, prairie dog populations have been reduced up to 98% in some areas and eliminated in others. Today, prairie dogs continue to be shot and poisoned through government sanctioned programs and many states encourage hunting of prairie dogs as a popular sport. Lack of immunity to sylvatic plague continues to wipe out entire populations. And, urban sprawl often dooms entire colonies. Of the 5 species of prairie dogs, 2 are now on federally protected lists and the remaining species may not be far behind.

Theodore Roosevelt NP is home to Black-tailed prairie dogs. They are the largest and most abundant of the five prairie dog species and typically live in short or mixed grass prairies. They occupy about 1,545 acres of the park or about 2.2% of the total park acreage. Living in a protected area, the colonies in the park are doing well. Even though prairie dog towns in the park may appear large they are actually very small when compared to the typical size of prairie dog towns prior to westward expansion and settling of the frontier.

As prairie dog numbers continue to decline throughout North America, so do the animals that depend on them. For example, Mountain plovers historically lived in this area and relied on prairie dog towns for breeding, nesting, and feeding. As prairie dog towns declined, Mountain plovers eventually disappeared. Similarly, Ferruginous hawks migrate to Mexico in the winter where the Mexican prairie dog is one of their primary food sources. Mexican prairie dogs are now endangered and their decline has contributed to the hawk's endangerment.

The species most affected by the declining prairie dog population is the Black footed ferret, which feeds almost entirely on prairie dogs. A single adult ferret requires a prairie dog town of at least 100 acres to provide an adequate food source. The Black footed ferret is one of the most endangered animals in the world with only 18 animals known to exist in 1986. Captive breeding and reintroduction of the ferret to protected areas such as Wind Cave and Badlands National Parks is slowly restoring this species.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park offers visitors the chance to experience a small piece of the natural prairie environment. Careful management of the land and the species that live here, including the prairie dog, is something park managers do not take lightly. If those we are charged to protect disappear, much may be lost or irreparably changed forever.



Photo by Andrea Staron

"Prairie-dogs are abundant...; they are in shape like little woodchucks, and are the most noisy and inquisitive animals imaginable. They are never found singly, but always in towns of several hundred inhabitants; and these towns are found in all kinds of places where the country is flat and treeless." ~Theodore Roosevelt

History Vignettes

Indian Wars in the Badlands by Nathan King, Park Ranger



Among the numerous engagements between American Indians and the U.S. Army in North Dakota, several encounters occurred near modern Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota. War came to the badlands with General Alfred Sully's 1864 campaign.

In July of 1864, Gen. Sully led two brigades – approximately 2,200 men from Iowa, Minnesota, and Dakota – to the Killdeer Mountains, about twenty miles southeast of today's Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit. A village of about 8,000 people was encamped there. Sully dismounted his troops into formation and advanced on the village on the afternoon of July 28, 1864.

Warriors led by Sitting Bull, Gall, and Inkpaduta sparred with Sully's formation to little effect as the army advanced toward the village of 1,600 lodges. For warriors like Sitting Bull, it was the first battle in which they experienced cannons and a large number of guns. Once within artillery range, Sully pounded the village with two mountain howitzers until sundown, holding his troops back to avoid hand to hand combat. The village was abandoned.

The next day, Sully's troops destroyed the large stores of food, tipis, and supplies that had been left behind. Lt. Kingsbury reported, "The amount of supplies, including pemmican, jerked buffalo meat, dried berries, and buffalo robes, that was burned could not be estimated."

Continuing his pursuit of one of the Sioux bands, Sully reached the edge of the badlands on August 5, 1864. He called the landscape "hell with the fires put out." Knowing that supplies were waiting for him along the Yellowstone River beyond the badlands, Sully led his troops into the rough terrain of steep, clay buttes. Using the terrain to their advantage, the Sioux attacked.

Sioux warriors attacked Sully's encampment near Square Butte, halfway between present-day Medora and Sentinel Butte, ND on August 7, 1864. Continuous small-scale combat continued over the next two days as the Sioux harassed the slow-moving, extended column of troops struggling through the labyrinthine badlands. Sully claimed 100 warriors killed and suffered 9 dead and 100 wounded of his own over three days of fighting in the badlands. Sully exited the badlands and reached the Yellowstone River on August 10, where steamboats were waiting with supplies. His unit later proceeded to Fort Union, then to Fort Rice.

Twelve years later, General Alfred Terry and Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer followed the same path through the badlands, passing just south of modern day Medora in late May, 1876. The next month, Custer and 262 of his troops were killed at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Visitors can pick up a brochure for the Custer Trail Auto Tour at park visitor centers. The tour includes stops at Terry and Custer's campsites, south of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's South Unit, and Initial Rock, where two enlisted men's carvings from 1876 are still visible. A monument for the Killdeer Mountains Battlefield is located near Killdeer, ND. Learn more about park history on the web: www.nps.gov/thro/historyculture

TR's Dakota Ranches



Maltese Cross

During a bison hunting trip in 1883, TR became intrigued with the "Bad Lands" and decided to invest in a cattle operation in Dakota. He joined Bill Merrifield and Sylvane Ferris in a partnership in the Maltese Cross (Chimney Butte) Ranch, 7 miles south of Medora. Roosevelt was an active rancher until 1886. During the ensuing years, Ferris and Merrifield maintained his operations until 1898 when he sold all of his Dakota interests. After several relocations, Roosevelt's Maltese Cross cabin was acquired by the National Park Service in 1959 and now sits adjacent to the South Unit Visitor Center.



Elkhorn

TR's "home ranch," the Elkhorn, was 35 miles north of Medora on the banks of the Little Missouri River. It was built by Roosevelt's Maine hunting guides, Wilmot Dow and Bill Sewall, during the fall of 1884 and was completed by spring of 1885. Sewall and Dow lived at the ranch with their families and ran the operation for Roosevelt until 1886. Today, none of the ranch buildings remain; foundation blocks mark the former location of the house. The ranch site is now part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park: 218 acres known as the Elkhorn Ranch Unit.

"I do not believe that any man can adequately appreciate the world of to-day unless he has some knowledge of -- a little more than a slight knowledge, some feeling for and of -- the history of the world of the past." ~Theodore Roosevelt



Things to Know

Don't let your visit be spoiled by misfortune. Please help protect park resources and ensure a safe, enjoyable visit by observing these regulations and warnings:

Wear your seat belt. All vehicle occupants are required to wear seat belts.

Observe speed limits. Park speed limits range from a maximum of 35 mph (56 kph) to a minimum of 15 mph (25 kph). Use caution! Wildlife may unexpectedly enter the roadway.

Report all wildfires and unsafe visitor fire practices. During periods of extreme fire danger, restrictions are placed on smoking, cooking fires and campfires.

Carry water, wear a hat, and use sunscreen. There are no approved drinking water sources in the backcountry.

Watch your footing. Trails may be rocky with uneven surfaces. During wet or freezing conditions trails will be slippery. Use caution near cliff edges.

When hiking, be alert. Watch for bison, prairie rattlesnakes, ticks, prickly pear cactus, and poison ivy.

Collection of any kind is prohibited. This prohibition includes rocks, fossils, petrified wood, antlers, bones, and picking flowers or plants.

Do not feed or harass prairie dogs or other wildlife. Help keep wildlife "wild" by not feeding them. Even small animals can inflict painful bites and some animals may carry diseases. All animals in the park are wild including the feral horses. Always watch animals from a distance. Keep dogs under control; wild animals are often nervous when dogs are nearby and bison may charge if dogs are too noisy or too close.

Restrooms along the Scenic Drive are located at the picnic area, campground and Peaceful Valley Ranch in the South Unit and at the picnic area and campground in the North Unit.

Firewood Alert

Help stop the spread of exotic pests. Don't bring firewood into North Dakota.



Exotic insects like Emerald Ash Borer are a major threat to North Dakota's trees. Such pests are easily spread to new areas when infested firewood is brought from other states. If you or someone you know is planning to visit North Dakota, please follow these steps:

- Don't bring firewood from out of state
- If you already brought firewood into the state, do not leave it in the park or take it with you - **burn it immediately.**
- Use North Dakota sources of firewood. Firewood may be available for purchase at the park visitor centers; inquire at the information desk or ask a ranger.

For more information, contact the ND Dept. of Agriculture at 701-239-7295 or the US Forest Service at 701-231-5936.

Firearms in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, North Dakota and local laws to possess firearms in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances. For more information, see the park web site: www.nps.gov/thro/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm

Lost & Found

Last year, nearly 600,000 people visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Occasionally, people misplace possessions or find one lost by another visitor. All lost and found items should be reported at a visitor center where a staff member will fill out a Lost and Found form. Found items are held for 60 days. The park will return lost items to their owners if the item is located. Found items cannot be kept by park visitors.

REMEMBER ...
WILDLIFE CAN BE
UNPREDICTABLE &
DANGEROUS.
**VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH
FROM A DISTANCE**



Brad Waldoch photo

"...wild flowers should be enjoyed unplucked where they grow." ~Theodore Roosevelt



Explore-Learn-Protect

Become a Junior Ranger



by Joseph A. Camisa, Park Ranger

Every year visitors of all ages participate in Junior Ranger programs across the country. Most park sites offer programs that contain a variety of site specific activities geared to connect participants to the park and its natural and cultural resources. Shared stewardship, a core value of the National Park Service, is a primary focus of these activities. The goal of these programs is to foster civic engagement in America's parks with the mission of creating public commitment to the preservation of our natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations.

The Junior Ranger motto, "Explore-Learn-Protect," is much more than words. It is the journey that every child and family takes to become stewards of America's greatest treasures, one park at a time. Participating in a Junior Ranger program is not only a great way to learn about a park, but to explore it. Family members are strongly encouraged to join in the activities that will navigate children through a particular park site. These activities are designed to immerse children into the site so they can experience its beauty and heritage first hand.

As Junior Rangers, children will not only come to appreciate America's parks, but become their stewards. Besides learning about a park's natural and cultural history, children learn why it is important to keep these special places unimpaired for future generations. Through the Junior Ranger program, children will be equipped to protect not only national parks, but their communities as well.

Every year hundreds of families participate in the Junior Ranger program at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The program offers a variety of activities that include hiking and attending ranger-led programs while completion of the Junior Ranger journal explores a variety of topics including wildlife, geology, and history.

For those interested in becoming a Junior Ranger, journals can be obtained at any of the park's visitor centers by asking a park employee. Most children can finish the activities during a brief visit in the park. Both the North and South Unit visitor centers offer exhibits and films that can help complete some of the activities.

Upon completion of a Junior Ranger journal, children will be sworn in by a park ranger as the Junior Ranger pledge is recited. The pledge instills the importance of leading by example and continuing to explore all that national parks have to offer. After taking the pledge, children receive Junior Ranger badges or patches signifying their hard work and dedication to an individual park.

Those who may not have the time to complete the Junior Ranger program can become "Web Rangers." This online program can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection. Go to: www.nps.gov/webrangers. The website contains over 50 activities with topics ranging from natural science to American history. Those finishing all of the activities earn a free Web Ranger patch.

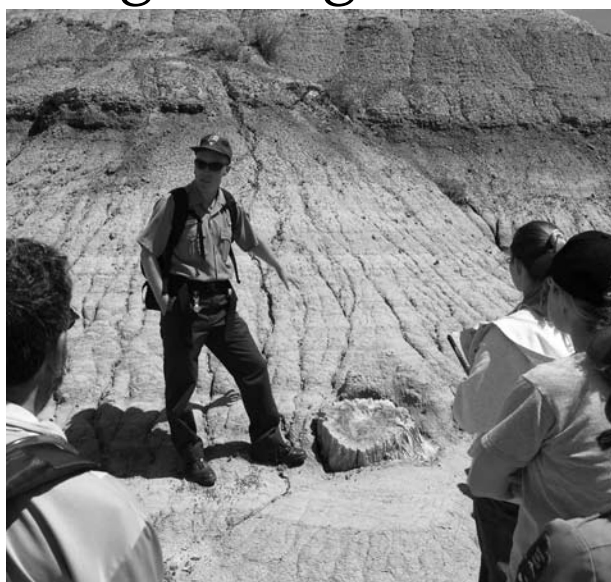
Whether a child participates in the Junior Ranger program or a Web Ranger activity, they will understand what it means to "Explore-Learn-Protect." A Junior Ranger may become an adventurer, caretaker, and protector of our public lands. Three simple words are the path to ensuring that America's treasures are left safe and unimpaired for future generations.

Borrow a Family Fun Pack

Theodore Roosevelt National Park offers a great tool to help potential Junior Rangers and their families explore the park: the Family Fun Pack. Families can check out the packs for 24 hours at either the North or South Unit visitor centers at no charge. Each pack contains a pair of binoculars, magnifying glasses, guide books, and activities for all ages. Visitors are encouraged to check out a fun pack, even if no one in their group is participating in the Junior Ranger program.



Ranger Programs



Interpretive programs are presented by park rangers in both units beginning in early June and continuing through Labor Day. A variety of programs are offered each day.

South Unit (Mountain Time)

- **Cabin Tours**, every hour on the half hour, first tour at 8:30 AM & last tour at 5:30 PM
- **2 PM Short Talk** in the visitor center auditorium
- **12:30 PM Guided Walk**
- **9 PM Evening Program** at the campground amphitheater (starting time will change throughout the summer as daylight hours decrease)

North Unit (Central Time)

- **9 AM Guided Walk**
- **2 PM Short Talk** at River Bend Overlook
- **8 PM Evening Program** at the picnic area amphitheater

Programs cover a wide variety of topics including wildlife, plants, grasslands ecology, geology, astronomy, history, and Theodore Roosevelt. Check park visitor centers or bulletin boards for a complete list of current program offerings. Joining a ranger-led activity is a great way to enhance your park visit!

"It is an incalculable added pleasure to any one's sum of happiness if he or she grows to know, even slightly and imperfectly, how to read and enjoy the wonder-book of nature." ~Theodore Roosevelt



Supporting the National Parks

Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association was organized in 1951 by a group of park enthusiasts to promote and support the historical, scientific and educational activities of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This commitment has broadened to offer support to Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

The Association is a non-federal, nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. To accomplish its goals, the Association is authorized by the National Park Service to sell publications, maps, interpretive learning tools, and theme-related items. From its inception, the Association has donated more than \$840,000 from the sale of these materials to the National

Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service areas in North Dakota. This money has been used to support interpretive and visitor service activities such as trail guides, exhibits, informational handouts, new site-specific publications and this newspaper, *Frontier Fragments*. The Association has also paid for housing volunteers, sponsored scientific research, funded Student Conservation Association positions, and many other projects.

You are invited to enjoy the visitor centers that house our bookstores. All purchases will directly support the parks. The association takes great pride in its ability to provide assistance to natural areas throughout North Dakota. Enjoy the adventure!



The Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association publishes quality products about the park areas it serves. These interpretive publications unravel the parks' stories, and are an extension of the interpretive activities offered by the National Park Service. In addition to books, this organization offers a variety of theme-related items: maps, posters, custom t-shirts, postcards, and American Indian crafts. These items can be purchased at park visitor centers, online, or by mail.

Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association MEMBERSHIP

Membership benefits include:

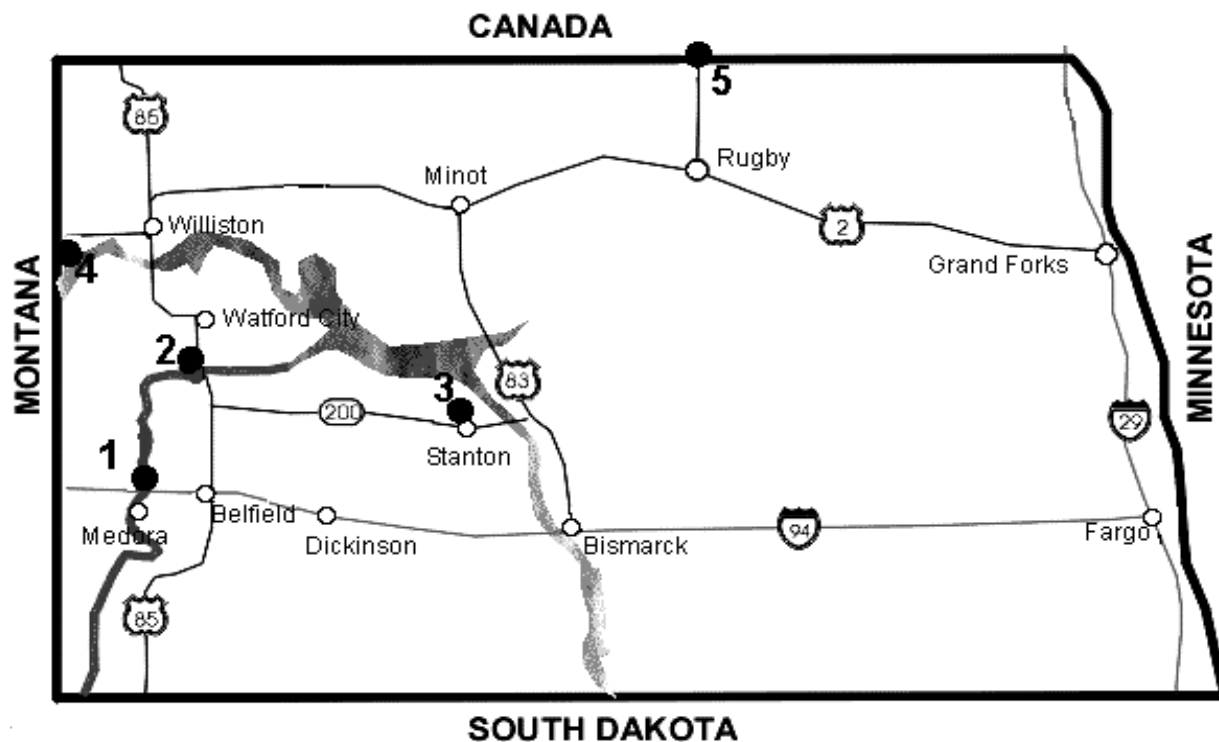
- A 15% discount at all TRNHA bookstores
- A discount on items purchased at other National Park Cooperating Association bookstores
- Newsletter and program announcements on the activities of the Association and areas it serves
- The pleasure of knowing that your membership contributes to the support of park and refuge sites in North Dakota

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$ 75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$250.00

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____

Please make checks payable to:
 THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATURE
 & HISTORY ASSOCIATION (TRNHA)
 PO BOX 167
 MEDORA, ND 58645
 701-623-4884 www.trnha.org

National Park Service Sites in North Dakota



1. Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit via Interstate 94: 17 miles west of Belfield (exit 27) or 25 miles east of Beach (exit 24).
2. Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit via Highway 85: 15 miles south of Watford City or 55 miles north of Belfield.
3. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site: 1/2 mile from Stanton on County Road 37.
4. Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site: 24 miles southwest of Williston or 21 miles north of Sidney, MT.
5. International Peace Garden (affiliated site) 13 miles north of Dunseith, ND on Hwy 3.

FORT UNION TRADING POST

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



Fort Union Rendezvous

by Randy Kane, Park Ranger



Fort Union Trading Post hosts its 28th annual Rendezvous Thursday through Sunday, June 17-20, 2010. Mark the dates on your calendar, and come and participate in the upper Missouri's finest fur trade fair at one of the West's most imposing historic sites.

Richard Baker of the Montana Humanities Council Speaker's Bureau will headline the event this year and give daily presentations as Pierre Cruzatte of Lewis & Clark fame. Baker's portrayal of Cruzatte will include period tunes on the fiddle, and, hopefully, explain why he shot Captain Lewis in the backside. Baker, who hails from Great Falls, Montana, will give daily presentations at 2 pm (CDT).

Traders and campers in period dress will set up just outside of Fort Union's north wall, with trader's row extending northward from the back gate. The traders will have their usual array of furs and handcrafted items available. Each day will feature a variety of speakers and demonstrations including blacksmithing, canoes of the fur trade, sign language, flint knapping, period cloth, finger weaving, weapon firing, beaver skinning, brain tanning and pottery making. Bagpipers will perform Sunday afternoon from 12:30-3:30 pm CDT. A special daily presentation will be done on the use of cameras and photography during the 19th century.

An array of trade goods will also be presented in the trade house. The American Fur Company traded beads, cloth, blankets, knives, guns, tobacco, and cooking kettles in exchange for buffalo robes and other furs from the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibway, Blackfeet, and Hidatsa tribes. Taken from the clerk's ledger lists of 1848-51, exact replicas of more than 200 trade items are available for purchase today.



Richard Baker

Cultural Program Series

by Loren Yellow Bird, Park Ranger



Culture Program Series presentation, Assiniboine camp

For a second year, Fort Union Trading Post NHS will sponsor their Cultural Program Series. Groups from the Arikara, Assiniboine, Hidatsa, Mandan and Dakota tribes will come to the fort and interpret their history, language and culture this summer at 10 a.m. CDT on selected days. These interpretive programs will again provide visitors with a variety of opportunities to learn about the various tribes who came here. Visitors, families, and groups attending these programs will learn what life was like for many of these tribes before modern times and what cultural history and language preservation work is currently being done. Programs last year included shinny ball, hand games, oral stories, music from various tribes, history of the tribes, and cultural sharing. Be sure and contact the fort for a list of the programs offered this summer and any other questions you might have regarding the Cultural Program Series. All programs and entrance to the park are free of charge.



Culture Program Series presentation, Hidatsa camp

Special Events:

June 17-20 Fort Union Rendezvous
A 19th century fur trade fair

August 14-15 Indian Arts Showcase
Traditional crafts and music

August 21-22 Fort Buford Encampment
Commemorates frontier military post

Sept 4-6 Living History Weekend
Reenactors portray fur trade employees

Visitor Services and Activities

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is located 66 miles northwest of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's North Unit, 25 miles southwest of Williston or 24 miles north of Sidney, MT.

? Bourgeois House Visitor Center

Open daily, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. CT. Open daily remainder of year, except winter holidays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Indian Trade House


Open daily during warm weather months, 9:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. CT.

Living History Activities

Daily, 9:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. CT Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Fort Tours

Ranger tours available from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CT daily, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day; self-guiding the rest of the year. Group tours may be arranged by contacting the park.

 Listed facilities and activities are wheelchair accessible.

Hiking

Bodmer Overlook Trail is open May through October. Ask for details at the Visitor Center.

For more information:
Fort Union Trading Post NHS
15550 HWY 1804
Williston, ND 58801

701-572-9083
www.nps.gov/fous



Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

They Celebrated Life

A Plains Oasis

Amid the vast open Northern Plains stood an oasis of life, culture, and hospitality; vibrant villages of round earthlodges nestled together on the high banks of the Knife and Missouri Rivers. Here, the Hidatsa and Mandan welcomed Arikara, Crow, Cheyenne, Assiniboine, Chippewa, Sioux, and American. They traded corn, flint, and metal. They exchanged gossip, news, and ideas. They went to war, they celebrated life, they called this place home.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site preserves 11,000 years of human settlement and culture along the banks of the Knife River. Residing here over 500 years, the Hidatsa and Mandan Indians were part of this long line of residents. Located in west central North Dakota, their villages welcomed diverse visitors from near and far - Lewis and Clark, David Thompson, George Catlin, Prince Maximillian, and Karl Bodmer. Today, we invite you to visit the Knife River Indian Villages where the spirit of the past becomes the present.

Walking Through Time

Your visit begins in one of three visible Indian Villages. Walk through a quiet field amid round rings of earth that outline the former earthlodges. A piece of flint glistens in the sunlight beneath you as a patch of dirt reveals a story. Imagine the drums beating, the children playing, the dogs barking in this village of over 1,000 thousand people. Imagine at the edge of the villages lush gardens, thick woodlands, and a myriad of travois trails leading to and from each village. A craftsman slowly works a flint cobble in secret until he has a perfect arrowhead. A woman with great skill forms a pot following sacred rites. The remains of those works are beneath you now.

Walking along a gravel trail from the village you reach the Hidatsa earthlodge, a spirit within the clan. Push aside the buffalo robe and enter a different world. Forty feet in diameter, the unique structure was the center of Indian life. Imagine a father telling his sons war stories, a grandmother passing the art of quilling to another generation. Imagine traders and trappers offering beads or metal for corn and beans.

Finally, you reach the Visitor Center to see some of the over 200,000 artifacts uncovered through archaeological excavations in the park. You enter the museum where hands on

activities, displays, and artifacts bring to life the story of the Hidatsa, Mandan and Arikara. In the theater, you watch the 15-minute film, *Maxidiwiac*, based on the beloved children's book *Waheenee*.

This place still exists today. Walk in the shadows of the villages, listen for the echo of voices long past and become a part of history.



Big Hidatsa

An Earthlodge in the Classroom

Would you like a Knife River Indian Villages park ranger in your classroom, but you live across the country? Distance learning makes it possible for students of all ages from anywhere in the United States or around the globe to enjoy a live program. Curriculum based programs are available by park rangers through the web, audio, or video conferencing. For example, a class in Savannah, GA, can sign up and join a ranger on an earthlodge tour. The session will be broadcast live from inside the earthlodge at the park. Students will be able to interact with the ranger. Classrooms will need to have the distance learning equipment.

A wide variety of programs focused on the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara culture as well as other historical, cultural, and natural topics can be tailored to support your curriculum. For additional information on the variety of potential topics, go to the park's website at www.nps.gov/knri and check out the Teacher's Guide. Contact the park's Education Specialist, 701-745-3300, or look under the teacher's section at the park's website to learn more about the program including details for broadcasting. There is no fee for the programs.

Distance Learning is available from many National Park sites. Watch for Theodore Roosevelt National Park broadcasts to begin in the future. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/learn/distance.htm> for information on parks that offer Distance Learning.

Visitor Services and Activities

The park is located 1/2 mile north of Stanton, ND via County Road 37.



Visitor Center

Open daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. MT. Winter hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MT, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Park grounds are open until 10:00 p.m. MT. A museum and film (closed captioned) interpret tribal life in the villages. No admission fee.



Programs

Ranger-guided programs are offered throughout the day, Memorial Day through Labor Day.



The Visitor Center and picnic shelter are wheelchair accessible. Some activities and trails are also accessible.



Hiking

Consisting of almost 1,800 acres of prairie and woodland, the park offers a wealth of hiking opportunities. Due to recent erosion, sections of trails have been lost, areas have been rerouted and ground may be unstable.

For more information:

Knife River Indian Villages NHS
PO Box 9
Stanton, ND 58571

701-745-3300
www.nps.gov/knri

Special Events 2010:

Tuesdays in July: Kid's Camp

July 25-26: Northern Great Plains Culture Fest

September 14, 15 & 16: Lifeways of the Northern Great Plains

October 2: Fall in-the-field Photography Workshop