



Visitor Guide

The official newspaper of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Summer 2012 - Winter 2013



Little Missouri River, Theodore Roosevelt NP

Exploring North Dakota's National Treasures

THERE ARE THREE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES IN North Dakota. They are Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site in far north-western North Dakota, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site in central North Dakota. Each is a unique experience; each protects and preserves a different aspect of American natural and cultural history; and each is an adventure to remember.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

COMPRISED OF THREE UNITS: THE NORTH UNIT, the South Unit, and the Elkhorn Ranch Unit, Theodore Roosevelt National Park stretches across 70,416 acres of western North Dakota. Preserving an area of land that profoundly affected President Theodore Roosevelt, this park is a mecca for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. Abundant wildlife, scenic drives, and miles of trails await your arrival. *Turn to page 2 to learn more!*

Fort Union Trading Post NHS

NOT YOUR STANDARD FORT - FORT UNION TRADING Post National Historic Site is a must for anyone with an interest in Early American History. Not a government or military post, but built for trade, the Fort has seen the likes of George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, John James Audubon, and Prince Maximilian. Great tribal leaders from many of the nations that traded here also graced this Fort. Come for a visit and walk in their footsteps. Special events throughout the year help make history come alive. *Turn to page 10 to learn more!*

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

IS LOCATED ON THE KNIFE RIVER DIRECTLY NORTH of its confluence with the Missouri River. Earthlodge people hunted bison and other game, but were in essence farmers living in villages along the Missouri and its tributaries. The site was a major American Indian trade center for hundreds of years prior to becoming an important marketplace for fur traders after 1750. Today, visitors can see the archeological remains of earthlodge villages and experience the landscape where Lewis and Clark met Sakakawea on their journey west. *Turn to page 11 to learn more!*



Top Image: Rendezvous at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site
Bottom Image: Reconstructed Earthlodge at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

Welcome to the North Dakota National Parks

Whether you are seeking to encounter a piece of American history, take a glimpse into the life of a former president, or enjoy wildlife in their natural habitat, the North Dakota National Parks have something for you. Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site each provide opportunities to experience important chapters of the American story.

The vast North Dakota prairies, rivers, and badlands are home to a wide variety of native wildlife such as bison, elk, bighorn sheep, bald and golden eagles, meadowlarks, burrowing owls, and prairie dogs. They have provided food, clothing, shelter, and a way of life to American Indian tribes for generations. They have been the land of opportunity for trappers and traders, homesteaders and ranchers, and a source of inspiration for a future president. And they offer you the chance to savor the outdoors, find solitude, take some time with your family, or make your own connections with your national parks.

National Parks – more than 397 units throughout the United States and its territories – have been set aside to preserve and protect the many aspects of our natural and cultural heritage. They tell the story of us as Americans. While doing so, they are also managed for us – and future generations - to enjoy. They are here for all of us, and they belong to you. Welcome!

Valerie Naylor
Superintendent

Elkhorn Ranch 4

The Elkhorn was the "home ranch" of Theodore Roosevelt while he cowboied in the Dakota Badlands. It was here, Roosevelt said, that "...the romance of my life began." Although the home no longer stands, the site of the ranch house is protected and available for visitors to enjoy today just as Theodore Roosevelt did in the 1880s. Take a trip out and see why this area had such a profound impact on a future U.S. President. *Turn to page 4 to learn more!*

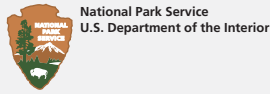
Petrified Forest 4

Wander through the remains of an ancient forest. Remote and protected, this is the third most important collection of petrified wood in North America. Just a short visit here can offer insight into the past, instill wonder, inspire questions, and spark a desire to learn more about the geologic forces still at work in the badlands. A 45 minute drive and a 3 mile hike are all that is required for this incredible journey. *Turn to page 4 to learn more!*

Hiking Trails 8

With over 95 miles of trails in TRNP, there is plenty of opportunity to get out and truly explore the North Dakota Badlands. Detailed hiking maps and descriptions will help you choose the right adventure for you. For your safety, be sure you and someone **not** with you knows where you are going and how long you plan to be out. Hike prepared. Always carry water and a hat. **Maps are found on pages 6 & 7. The hiking guide is located on page 8.**

Plan Your Visit to TRNP	2 - 3
The Elkhorn & Petrified Forest	4
Getting to the Elkhorn	5
TRNP North and South Unit Maps	6 - 7
TRNP Hiking Guide	8
Junior Ranger Activities	9
Fort Union NHS	10
Knife River Indian Villages NHS	11
TRNHA & Area Map	12



Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Superintendent
Valerie Naylor

Mailing Address
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
P.O. Box 7
315 2nd Avenue
Medora, North Dakota 58645

Park Information & Lost and Found
701-623-4466

Website
www.nps.gov/thro
Find us on Facebook and Twitter

Fax Number
701-623-4840

EMERGENCY
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed employee



KNOW THE LAW

Did you know it is illegal to collect items inside a National Park, including wildflowers, antlers, & rocks? Rules may be different here than what you are used to. **It is your responsibility to know the law.** If you have a question, ask! Or visit our website and read the Superintendent's Compendium & Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Find them at www.nps.gov/thro by clicking on *Management* and then *Laws and Policies*.

What Can Get Me Hurt?



Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The vastness and wildness of this place will undoubtedly add to your adventure, however this may also create unfamiliar challenges that you are not expecting. It is important to plan carefully for your stay. Park Rangers at the visitor centers can provide planning information and weather forecasts, but your safety ultimately depends on your own good judgement, adequate preparation, and awareness.



DRIVING
Park roads are used by vehicles, bicyclists, and walkers, as well as our abundant wildlife. Roads are narrow with steep hills and blind curves. Obey posted speed limits. In most areas of the park, the posted speed is 25 MPH. Per federal law, seatbelts are required for all occupants in a vehicle while driving in the park.

For your safety, do not stop or park on the road. Other drivers are not expecting a stopped car and may not be able to see you. Pull off of the roadway when stopping to view wildlife. To protect park resources, please turn off your vehicle when parked.

Don't drink and drive. For your safety, Park Rangers enforce laws against alcohol and drug-related driving offenses, including open container violations.



HEAT & DEHYDRATION
The prairie environment can be deceiving. It is often hotter and more exposed than expected. Shade is hard to come by. Dehydration and heat exhaustion are common dangers that can be avoided with adequate preparation.

Carry and drink water: at least 2 quarts per person for a half-day hike. Wear a hat. Know where you are going and how long you plan to be out.

Do not expect to find water in the backcountry. Much of the year, water is scarce. Never drink untreated water.



BENTONITE CLAY
Rain may be scarce, however when precipitation does come, it can cause horrific mud. The mud in the North Dakota Badlands has been known to turn a day hike into a trudge for survival, fatally trap horses on trail rides, and sink the tires of more than one vehicle.

When wet, clay particles swell to several times their original

size, causing the clay to become extremely sticky and slick. Mudslides are common. Mud may look dry on top while it is wet underneath. Be careful where you lead your horse. Be aware of the forecast when heading out for a hike or ride.



THUNDERSTORMS
Lightning kills more people each year than any other weather event.

On the Great Plains, severe thunderstorms are a common summer experience. While in the park, keep an eye to the sky. If thunderheads begin to develop, consider moving toward shelter.

Do not seek shelter from lightning under an overhang, tree, or other open shelter. Get inside something – a building or vehicle. If shelter is unavailable, crouch down in a low area.

In the case of a tornado, the best shelter is inside a sturdy building, away from windows. If a building is not available, lie down in a ditch or low area and cover your head to protect yourself against flying debris.

When choosing a low-lying area for shelter from lightning or tornado, be sure to look around for evidence of past flash floods. Heavy rains often accompany severe thunderstorms.

Hours of Operation

November 12 – March 31

North Unit Visitor Center Fri. – Sun. 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, CT

South Unit Visitor Center Daily, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, MT

Painted Canyon Visitor Center Closed for the Season

April 1 – November 11

North Unit Visitor Center Daily, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, CT

South Unit Visitor Center Daily, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, MT

Painted Canyon Visitor Center Daily, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, MT

June – early September

Visitor Center hours are further extended.

Visitor Centers are closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The North Unit operates on Central Time. The South Unit operates on Mountain Time.

Fees

Fees: \$10 per vehicle (including motorcycles); \$5 per individual: pedestrian, bicycle, or horseback. Entrance fees are valid for seven days.

Commercial groups: Inquire at the entrance stations or visitor centers.

Annual Passes are available.

Plan Your Visit



INFORMATION
Park Rangers and Visitor Centers are excellent sources of information. The North Unit Visitor Center is located at the entrance off of Hwy 85. The South Unit has two visitor centers: Painted Canyon Visitor Center at exit 32 on I-94 and the South Unit Visitor Center at the entrance to the park in Medora, ND.



PETS
Pets are allowed along park roads, in picnic areas, and in campgrounds if they are under control and on leashes not longer than 6 feet. Pets are not allowed on trails, in

buildings, or in the backcountry. You must clean up after your pet.



RESTROOMS
Restrooms can be found at the visitor centers, campgrounds, and picnic areas. There are **NO RESTROOMS** available along the scenic drives. Please plan accordingly.

In case of an emergency, practice Leave No Trace principles: bury human waste six inches deep and dispose of toilet paper properly. Leaving toilet paper behind is considered littering and could result in a \$100 fine. Please do your part to keep the park beautiful!



TELEPHONES
Your cell phone may not work in the park. Telephones are available for public use at the campgrounds, North Unit Visitor Center, and seasonally at Painted Canyon Visitor Center. Calling cards are required for long-distance calls.



ACCESSIBILITY
The park's buildings, picnic areas, and some trails are accessible. Service dogs are permitted on leashes throughout the park. The South Unit orientation film offers captioning, audio description, and assistive listening devices. Accessibility guides are available.

TRNP ANNUAL PASS \$20
Admission to this National Park for one year from date of purchase.



ANNUAL PASS \$80
Admission to all federal fee areas for one year from date of purchase.



SENIOR PASS \$10
Admission to all federal fee areas for life, U.S. residents 62 years or older.



ACCESS PASS FREE
Admission to all federal fee areas for life, permanently disabled U.S. residents.



Firearms

Firearms are permitted in National Parks. As of February 22, 2010, federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, North Dakota, and local laws, to possess firearms in a National Park area. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable North Dakota, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in National Park buildings and certain facilities.

Recreation



CAMPING

Campgrounds have restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, and fire grates. There are no showers available within Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Shower facilities are limited in Medora and Watford City. The availability of these services varies seasonally.



BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Permits are required for all backcountry camping. Permits are free and available at park visitor centers. The maximum group size is 10 people without horses or 8 people with 8 horses. Backcountry regulations apply.



FIRES

When fire danger is high, campfires may be prohibited. At all other times, fires are only allowed in fire grates in the campgrounds and picnic areas. Fires are never permitted on the ground or in the backcountry. Collecting firewood is allowed in the campgrounds; the wood must be dead and down. Destruction or injury to standing trees is prohibited. Collecting wood outside of the campground is prohibited. Please do not bring wood in from other states or counties. *Turn to page 9 to find out why.*



PICNIC AREA

Shaded picnic areas are available adjacent to the campgrounds in both the North and South Units. These facilities have restrooms, picnic tables, and fire grates. They are available on a first come, first served basis.



HORSEBACK RIDING

Backcountry trails throughout the park are open to horseback riders. Stock are prohibited on nature trails and in all campgrounds except the Roundup Horse Camp. Boarding is available at Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Guided rides are conducted from Peaceful Valley Ranch in the South Unit by a private concessionaire. They are offered daily from late May through early September. Ask at the visitor center for more information.



BICYCLING

Bicycles may travel only on developed roadways. They are not allowed off roadways or on trails, including the sections of the Maah Daah Hey Trail that lie within park boundaries. Remember, the rules of the road apply to bicycles. Please ride on the right side of the road in single file and wear your helmet.



A bull bison rolling, or *wallowing*, in the dirt. This behavior deters biting flies and removes tufts of loose fur. During the rut, bull bison also wallow to display their strength and vigor.

Wildlife truly is *Wild*

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is home to a wide variety of native prairie animals. It is a place where you can see the Great American West in almost the same condition as the first explorers found it. For your safety when visiting a place like this, remember that these animals are truly wild and should be regarded as such.

WHAT WILL I SEE?

Bison, deer, wild horses, and prairie dogs are common. Elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep are harder to spot. Careful eyes may find animals like badgers and

coyotes. Only the lucky few see mountain lions and bobcats. Sightings of these animals are rare.

ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Most injuries happen when visitors disturb the wildlife. If you see a bison or a rattlesnake on a trail give it a wide berth. Never attempt to move or "herd" it off the trail.

If bitten by a rattlesnake, call 911 or contact a ranger. While deaths are extremely rare, medical attention is usually necessary.

Campgrounds

	Fees	Reservations
Juniper Campground North Unit - No Hookups	\$10/night, \$5 with Senior or Access Pass	First Come, First Served 41 RV/Tent, 9 Walk-in Tent Only
Cottonwood Campground South Unit - No Hookups	\$10/night, \$5 with Senior or Access Pass	First Come, First Served 64 RV/Tent, 12 Walk-in Tent Only
Round-up Horse Camp South Unit - Primitive	Inquire at Visitor Center	Assigned through a lottery system. Details are available on park website.
Backcountry Camping Both Units - Undeveloped	Free Permit Required	Permits are available at park visitor centers. Backcountry regulations apply.

Group sites are available by reservation only. Campgrounds are open year-round. Winter camping fees are half-price. Inquire at park visitor centers for more information.



WATERCRAFT

The Little Missouri River is usually navigable for part of the year. River ice generally breaks up by early April. A river depth of at least 2.5 feet at Medora is required for fair boating and 2.5-3.5 feet for good boating. Depths can be checked at the visitor centers and online at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nd/nwis/rt>. Click on the location of the river reading you need.



HIKING

With over 95 miles of hiking trails throughout the park – much of it through designated wilderness – there is plenty of room to stretch your legs. The park boasts of a variety of trails ranging from nature trails less than a mile long to epic hikes of more than 20 miles in length. *Turn to page 8 to learn more!*

Weather

Like most areas of the Great Plains, the climate of western North Dakota is extremely variable. Temperatures as high as 110° F and as low as -49° F have been recorded in Medora. The climate is semi-arid with average precipitation of 15 inches per year. Wind is common.

Summer Weather

Between May and September, average high temperatures range from the 70s to upper 80s °F and average lows range in the 40s and 50s °F. In July and August, highs are frequently in the 90s and will sometimes climb to over 100° F.

Summer is the wettest time of the year. Thunderstorms are common and can be severe. June receives the most precipitation with an average rainfall of 3.3 inches.



Winter Weather

The winter climate is cold with occasional warming spells. Between December and March, average highs are in the 20s and 30s with average lows in the single digits. Temperatures vary wildly, and are often much warmer or colder than the average. Low temperatures commonly dip well below zero. Average snowfall is 30 inches per year, falling mostly between November and April. Roads may be partially closed due to snowy and icy conditions. Winter visitors should be prepared for cold, extreme wind chill, and blowing snow that may obscure visibility and create deep drifts across the roads.

Spring and Fall Weather

Although the weather can vary widely, spring and fall can be pleasant times to visit the park. These seasons generally see the most rapid changes to the area's daily temperature, wind, and precipitation. In the spring, be aware of high river levels which can make river crossings dangerous or impossible.

Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Remember that the park is their home and we are the visitors.
- Pick the right time of day – dawn and dusk are the best times to see wildlife.
- Drive slowly. Animals are often overlooked by speedy drivers.
- View them from a distance. How close is too close? By law, if your presence changes an animal's behavior, you are too close and can be fined for disturbing wildlife.
- Don't feed the wildlife. Dependence on human sources of food often leads to death for wild animals. Protect the animals by not feeding them and share with others why this is so important.
- Protect yourself by keeping your distance. Bison can spin around faster than a horse, run at speeds of 35 mph, and weigh up to 2000 pounds. They have been known to charge visitors who have disturbed them.

The Elkhorn Ranch

"My home ranch-house stands on the river brink. From the low, long veranda, shaded by leafy cotton-woods, one looks across sand bars and shallows to a strip of meadowland, behind which rises a line of sheer cliffs and grassy plateaus. This veranda is a pleasant place in the summer evenings when a cool breeze stirs along the river and blows in the faces of the tired men, who lol back in their rocking chairs (what true American does not enjoy a rocking chair?), book in hand - though they do not often read the books, but rock gently to and fro, gazing sleepily out at the weird-looking buttes opposite, until their sharp outlines grow indistinct and purple in the after-glow of the sunset."

- Theodore Roosevelt, from *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman*



The Elkhorn Ranch site today. A local rancher of the time, J.H. Reid, stated that by 1901, "...every scrap of the ranch had disappeared with the exception of a couple of half rotted foundations."

THIS SECLUDED AND QUIET SPOT that Roosevelt chose for his Elkhorn Ranch brought much comfort and solitude to a man who was still reeling from personal tragedy. His days were filled with the rewarding labor of cattle ranching and the adventures of hunting. His evenings were spent relaxing on the veranda overlooking the Little Missouri River or at his writing desk.

Because it was so important to the greatest conservationist in

presidential history, the National Park Service chooses to leave this special place as undeveloped as possible. The park does not intend to rebuild the house or other structures.

Take time to wander the trails, sit quietly at the house site, and listen to the cottonwood leaves rustling in the trees. Let the solitude and beauty of this rugged landscape calm and inspire you, just as it did our "Conservationist President."

Getting There

You should plan on approximately one hour to drive to the site from the South Unit.

High Clearance vehicle recommended. Begin your journey west-bound on I-94. Take exit 10 at Camel Hump Lake. Journey north (or right) along County Road 11. Follow the main road as it curves. Continue along until you come to the intersection of County Road 11 and Westerheim Road, approximately 13.5 miles from the interstate. Bear right along Westerheim Road. Follow this road until you pass Westerheim Hall on the right - a small wooden building approximately 1.5 miles from the intersection. Shortly after the hall, approximately 0.5 miles, turn left onto Bell Lake Road (708). Follow this road approximately 11.5 miles until you reach FH 2. There will be signs directing you to the Elkhorn Campground. Turn right. Continue past the turn for the Elkhorn Campground until you reach the Elkhorn Ranch Parking Area, approximately 3 miles. **Check current road conditions at the visitor center before making the drive.**

Petrified Forest

THE NORTH DAKOTA BADLANDS contain a wealth of fossil information including bands

of lignite coal and petrified trees, as well as fossils of freshwater clams, crocodiles, alligators, turtles, and champsosaurs. Each fossil is like a piece in a giant puzzle that scientists have used to reconstruct the ancient history of the park.

These clues indicate that the park was once on the eastern edge of a flat, swampy area covered with rivers that fanned out into a broad, sea-level delta. This swampy region contained dense forests of sequoia, bald cypress, magnolia, and other

water-loving trees growing in or near the shallow waters.

Attention:

The hike to Petrified Forest is approximately 3 miles round-trip, out and back. If you follow the whole loop, be prepared for a 10 mile hike!

Some forests were buried by flood deposits or volcanic ash falls. When silica-rich water soaked into the trees, organic compounds in the wood were dissolved and replaced by very small crystals of

quartz. This is petrification.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park has the third most important collection of petrified wood in North America. No roads lead to this area, keeping it remote and well preserved.

Head out for an adventure of discovery! A three mile round-trip hike will have you strolling through the remains of this ancient forest.



Petrified stumps eroding out of the hillside.



Everything within a National Park is protected for ourselves and future generations. If you witness anyone collecting petrified wood or defacing these beautiful trees, please report it to a ranger as soon as possible.

Getting There

You should plan on approximately a 40 minute drive to get to the trailhead.

High Clearance vehicle recommended. Begin your journey west-bound on I-94. Take exit 23. Journey north (or right) along Forest Service Road 730. At the entrance to the Myers ranch, continue left to follow Road 730. There is a "Private Road" sign, however, as a visitor to the park, you have permission to follow this road. Continue along Road 730 until you get to Road 730-2. You will see a sign for Petrified Forest. Turn right. After turning on 730-2, take your first left. When you get to the next Y, veer left. Park in the parking area. Locate the lift gate in the fence east of the parking area. This is the beginning of the trail. **Check road conditions at the visitor center before making the drive.**

Dynamic Geology in the North Unit

LAST YEAR WAS AN INCREDIBLY WET year for western North Dakota. The result: geology in action. Part of what creates the beautiful scenery you enjoy at Theodore Roosevelt National Park is the variety of rock layers, including bentonite clay.

Commercially used in kitty litter and waterproofing basements, this mineral is known for its ability to soak up water and swell to several times its size. As it swells and contracts, it causes

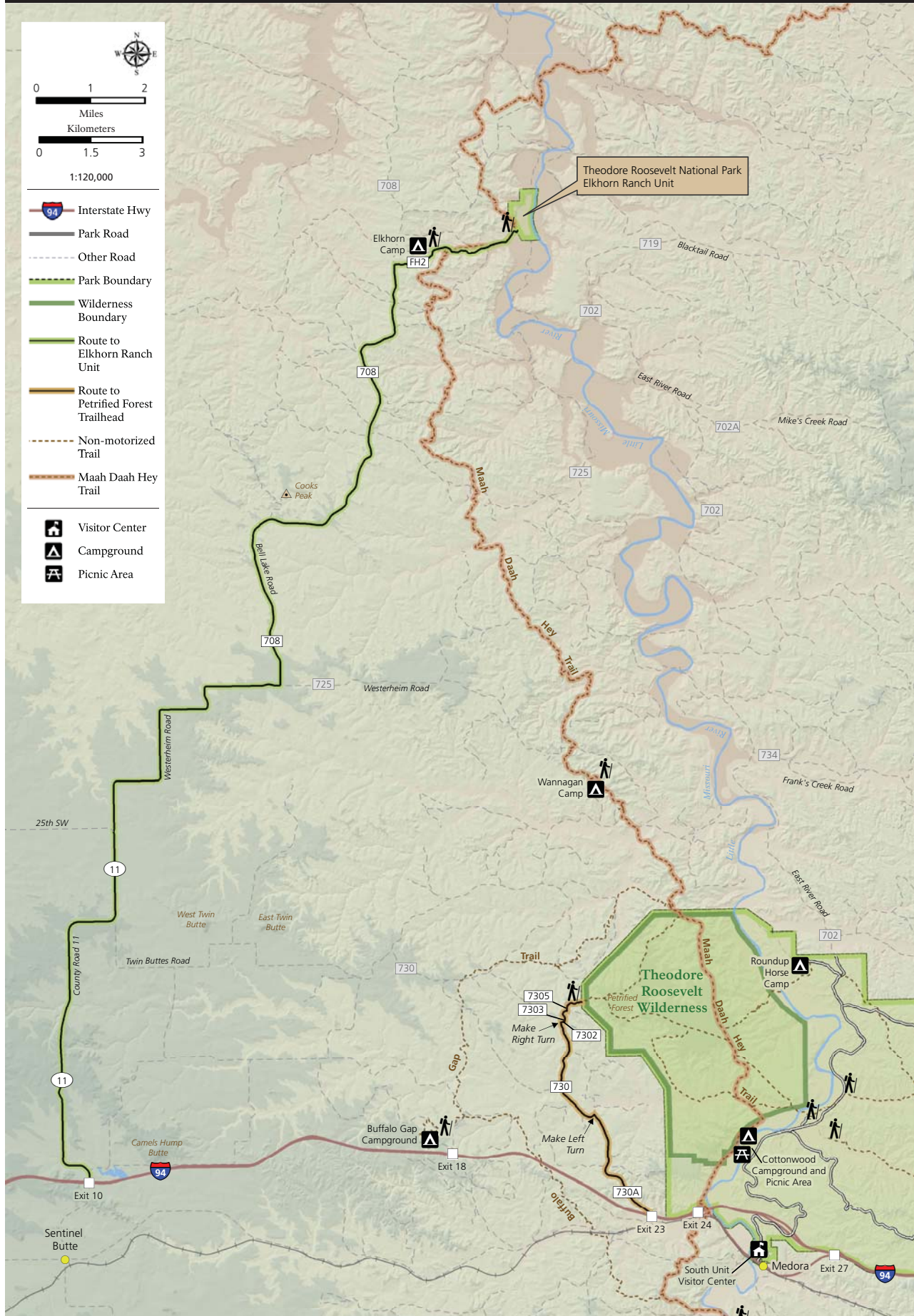
movement and slumping in the rock layers above and around it.

The park road is a good example of what happens when you build on such unstable layers. Have you noticed how plants avoid growing on the exposed slopes in the park? On these slopes, erosion is a constant threat.

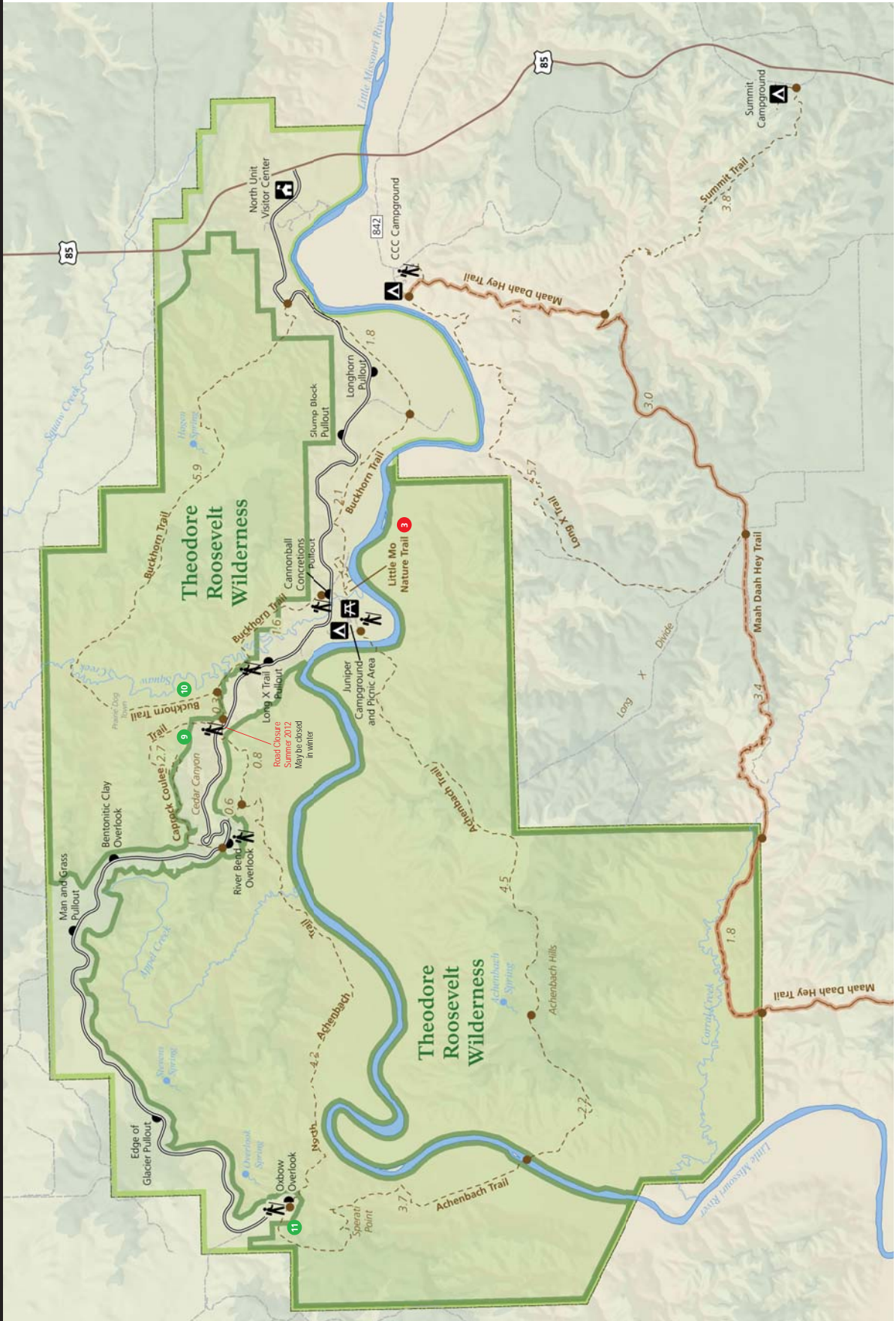
The road is being rebuilt this summer. We anticipate this section of road will be closed to vehicles through August.



Elkhorn Ranch & Petrified Forest



North Unit Map



1 : 50,000

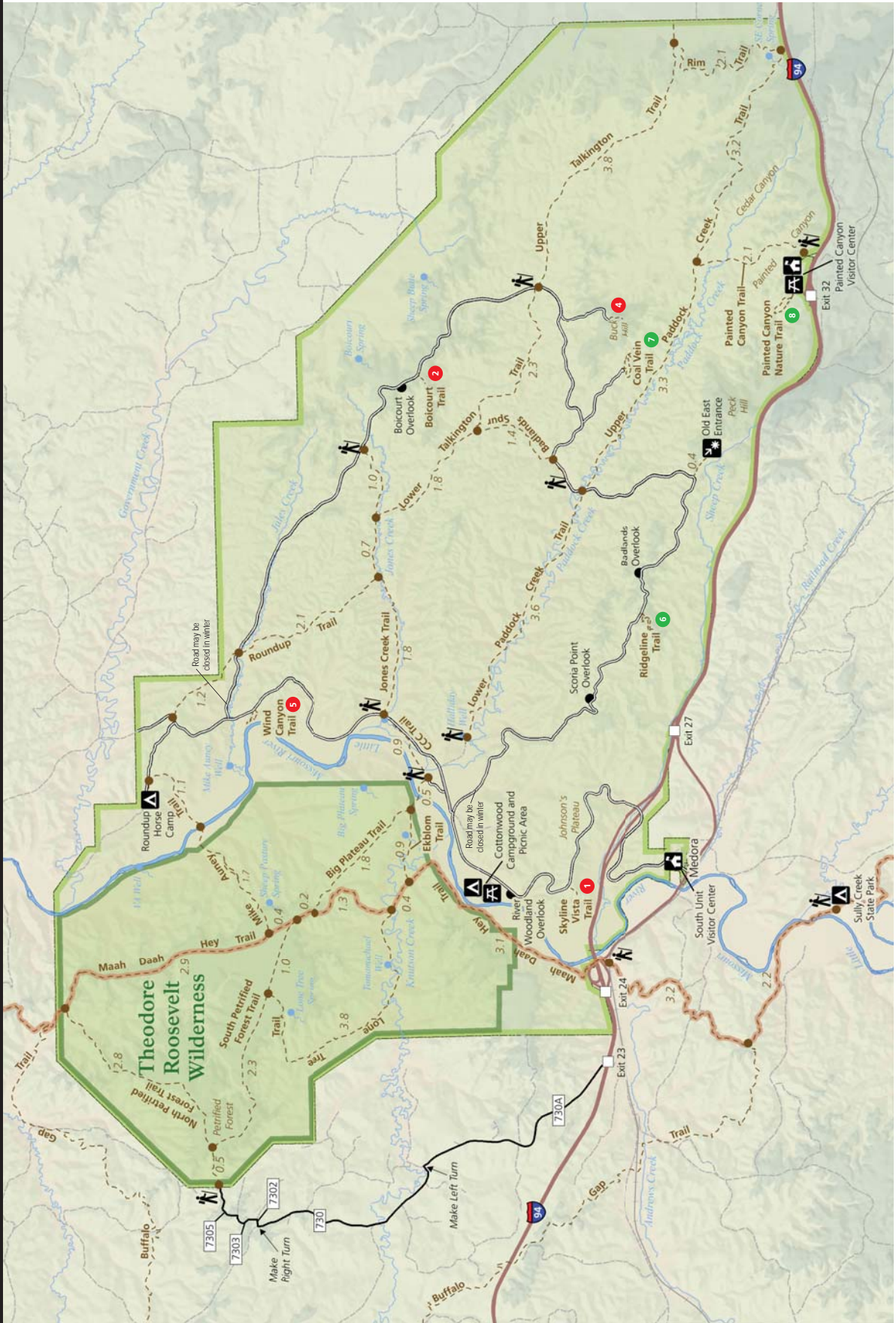
- U.S. Highway
- Park Road
- Other Road
- Park Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary
- Park Trail (Miles between points)
- Maah Daah Hey Trail (Miles between points)

- Visitor Center
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Backcountry Trailhead
- Spring or Well
- Key to Hiking Guide - Easy to Moderate








ROAD CLOSURE

The North Unit Scenic Drive is closed to vehicles beyond mile 6. The road is still open to cyclists and hikers. It is anticipated the road will remain closed to vehicles through August 2012, possibly longer. Check our website for current road conditions. *Turn to page 4 to learn more.*

South Unit Map



Hiking Guide for TRNP

Hiking Trail	Round-Trip Average Time & Distance	Trail Description
Easy		
1 Skyline Vista South Unit	10 minutes 0.1 mi / 0.16 km	 Feel the wind in your hair high atop Johnson's Plateau. This flat, paved nature trail is perfect for those who want to step out for just a moment.
2 Boicourt Overlook Trail South Unit	15 minutes 0.2 mi / 0.3 km	 One of the most beautiful South Unit overlooks is accessible by this easy nature trail with slight grade. This overlook is a ranger favorite for sunset over the badlands!
3 Little Mo Trail North Unit	20 – 30 minutes 0.7 mi / 1.1 km (paved inner loop) 1.1 mi / 1.8 km (unpaved outer loop)	  Explore the river bottom habitat along a paved nature trail with slight grades. Take along a trail brochure, available at the trailhead, to learn as you adventure.
4 Buck Hill South Unit	10 minutes 0.2 mi / 0.3 km	You'll be on top of the world when you climb to the highest accessible point in the park. This is a short, but steep trail. The view from the top is worth every step.
5 Wind Canyon Trail South Unit	15 minutes 0.4 mi / 0.6 km	Enjoy hiking this nature trail alongside a wind sculpted canyon as you climb to the best view of the Little Missouri River the South Unit has to offer. Another ranger favorite for sunsets!
Easy to Moderate		
6 Ridgeline Trail South Unit	20 minutes 0.6 mi / 1 km	 Explore the badlands environment along a nature trail with moderate to steep grades. Take along a trail brochure, available at the trailhead, to learn as you adventure. This trail has stairs.
7 Coal Vein Trail South Unit	20 – 30 minutes 0.6 mi / 1 km (inner loop) 0.8 mi / 1.3 km (outer loop)	 Although this coal vein is no longer burning, this nature trail is an excellent place to learn about badlands geology and ecology. Take along a trail brochure, available at the trailhead. This trail has stairs.
8 Painted Canyon Nature Trail South Unit	45 minutes 0.9 mi / 1.4 km	The canyon looks amazing from the rim, but wait until you experience a hike down into it! Get up close and personal with the rock layers, junipers, and wildlife. Remember, every step down means a step back up on the return.
9 Caprock Coulee Nature Trail North Unit	1 hour 1.5 mi / 2.4 km	 Hike through badlands terrain and dry washes as you experience a variety of habitats. Take along a trail brochure, available at the trailhead, to learn as you adventure.
10 Prairie Dog Town via the Buckhorn Trail North Unit	1 hour 1.5 mi / 2.4 km	Start at the Caprock Coulee Trailhead and follow the Buckhorn Trail to a prairie dog town. Be sure to plan some extra time for wildlife viewing; where there are prairie dogs, there are often lots of other animals, too!
11 Sperati Point via the Achenbach Trail North Unit	1 hour 1.5 mi / 2.4 km	Begin at Oxbow Overlook. A gently rolling walk leads to an overlook of the Little Missouri River. Along the way, pay attention to the wide variety of forbs and grasses. The prairie ecosystem is one of the most diverse on the planet!
Moderate to Strenuous		
Caprock Coulee North Unit	2 – 3 hours 4.3 mi / 6.9 km	The first 0.75 miles of this trail consists of the Caprock Coulee Nature Trail. The trail becomes more strenuous as it climbs to the top of a grassy butte, follows a ridgeline with incredible views, and descends back down.
Maah Daah Hey South Unit	3 – 4 hours (one way) 7.1 mi / 11.4 km (one way)	The Maah Daah Hey Trail stretches 96 miles across the National Grassland connecting all three units of the park. This portion of the trail runs through the South Unit.
Lone Tree Loop South Unit	5 – 6 hours 9.6 mi / 15.4 km	You can begin this trail at Peaceful Valley Ranch by following the Ekblom Trail. To avoid a river crossing, access the loop via the Maah Daah Hey Trail. This will add 3.2 miles round trip. Be aware of difficult stream crossings.
Petrified Forest Loop South Unit	5 – 6 hours 10.3 mi / 16.6 km	Located in the remote northwest corner of the South Unit, this hike takes you through ancient petrified forests and badlands wilderness. The loop includes the North and South Petrified Forest Trails as well as the Maah Daah Hey.
Buckhorn North Unit	6 – 8 hours 11.4 mi / 18.3 km	Hike through prairie dog towns, sagebrush terraces, deep canyons, and high open prairies. Experience the diversity of plant and animal life in these distinct habitats.
Jones/Lower Talkington/ Lower Paddock Loop South Unit	6 – 8 hours 11.4 mi / 18.3 km	This loop combines the Jones Creek Trail, the Lower Talkington Trail, and the Lower Paddock Creek Trail. Add it to the Upper Paddock/Talkington Loop for an epic adventure of 23.4 miles.
Upper Paddock/ Talkington Loop South Unit	8 – 10 hours 15.4 mi / 24.8 km 19.4 mi / 31.2 km (Painted Canyon)	This trail combines part of the Lower Talkington Trail with the Upper Talkington and Upper Paddock Creek Trails. Accessing the loop from Painted Canyon will add 4 miles round trip to your hike.
Achenbach North Unit	10 – 12 hours 18 mi / 30 km	Steep climbs and descents and two river crossings await you on a trail that leads deep into the heart of the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness. Cross the Little Missouri River at daybreak and climb the buttes to greet the rising sun.



Junior Rangers

JUNIOR RANGERS ARE AN ELITE CLASS OF YOUNG PARK ENTHUSIASTS. THEY dedicate their time and energy to the protection and care of National Parks. They learn valuable lessons and gain a deeper understanding of the natural and cultural history of the places they visit.

All Junior Ranger hopefuls should report to their nearest visitor center. There, they will be given an activity book to complete. Those who complete the activities specified for their age group will be sworn in and awarded a badge. Most programs can be completed in as little as half a day.



COLLECT THEM ALL:

- Theodore Roosevelt NP
- Knife River Indian Villages NHS
- Junior Trader at Fort Union Trading Post NHS
- Junior Paleontologist

All programs are free of charge. Ask at park visitor centers for more information.



Explore this country and its most precious protected areas. There are over 397 units of the National Park System, many of them offering this program. See how many badges you can collect!

Upper Photo: Junior Rangers being sworn in at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Bottom Photo: One family takes collecting Jr. Ranger Badges very seriously! Both the boys had sashes as full as the girls'.

Family Fun Packs and Discovery Packs



DID YOU NOTICE A WILDFLOWER THAT YOU COULDN'T IDENTIFY? HAVE YOU BEEN SQUINTING AT EAGLES SOARING overhead because you left your binoculars at home? Borrow a Family Fun Pack or Discovery Pack! It costs nothing and is packed with helpful tools like field guides, hand lenses, binoculars, an informational booklet, creative activities, and games. You'll be fully equipped for a day of discovery and learning.

FAMILY FUN PACKS

- THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK
- May be borrowed for up to 24 hours
- A credit card or driver's license is required for checkout.
- Must be returned during visitor center open hours.
- Available to everyone and every age group

DISCOVERY PACKS

- KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NHS
- A credit card or driver's license is **not** required for checkout.
- Must be returned during visitor center open hours.
- Available to everyone and every age group



The Emerald Enemy

THIS IS A TRAVELING LITTLE BUG! ORIGINALLY FROM ASIA, IT IS BELIEVED the Emerald Ash Borer hitchhiked its way across the ocean on wooden shipping crates. It was discovered in Michigan in 2002 after tens of thousands of ash trees began to die.

The larvae of the beetle burrow under the bark and feed. They leave behind S-shaped galleries that block the flow of nutrients, killing the tree within months. The tree has no defense for this and an infestation is always fatal. The workers in the photo are cleaning up a dead ash forest in order to prevent further spread of the beetle.



From 2002 through 2011, this tiny green beetle has spread to 15 states,



as well as Ontario and Quebec. It has been responsible for the deaths of more than 50 million ash trees in the U.S. "This insect has the potential to eliminate ash from North America," says Michael Brown of the USDA. "It attacks all species of ash and it kills 100 percent of what it attacks."

Surveys have shown little natural movement of the insect. Experts are focused on preventing the spread by human means. *The primary way the beetle travels is on loads of firewood carried by travelers from one state to another.* Stowed away among the kindling and logs are tiny eggs and larvae that will develop into adult beetles.

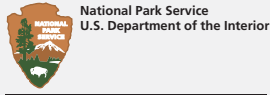


About 50 percent of the hardwood trees in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are Ash Trees. How can you protect them?

BUY AND USE LOCAL WOOD.

If you have brought wood from home, burn it as soon as possible - even if you have come from an area without a known population of Emerald Ash Borer. There is lag time between when the beetle arrives and when the trees begin to die. Your area could be infected and you may not know it. Thank you for your help!





Fort Union Trading Post NHS

Superintendent
Andy Banta

Mailing Address
Fort Union Trading Post NHS
15550 Highway 1804
Williston, North Dakota 58801

Park Information
701-572-9083

Website
www.nps.gov/fous
Find us on Facebook and Twitter

Fax Number
701-572-7321

Lost and Found
701-572-9083

EMERGENCY
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed park employee

Hours of Operation
Winter Hours: Labor Day – Memorial Day

Visitor Center Daily 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, CT

Summer Hours: Memorial Day – Labor Day

Visitor Center Daily, 8:00 am – 6:30 pm, CT

The Fort is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Admission is free.



Fort Union Trading Post NHS



WELCOME TO FORT
Union Trading Post National Historic Site. A trip to Fort Union takes you back in time to the mid-19th century, the heyday of Fort Union and the fur trade on the Upper Missouri River. Fort Union Trading Post was the most important fur trading post on the upper Missouri from 1828 to 1867. At this post, the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibway, Blackfeet, Hidatsa, and other tribes traded buffalo robes and other furs for trade goods such as cloth, guns, blankets, knives, cookware, and beads.



EXPLORE THE POST
This partially reconstructed trading post serves as a stage for living history interpretation. During the summer, various fur trade personnel are portrayed within the courtyard of the trading post. Walk in the steps of many famous individuals from several countries and cultures such as Kenneth McKenzie, Alexander & Natawista Culbertson, George Catlin, Father Pierre DeSmet, John James Audubon, Sitting Bull, Karl Bodmer, and Jim Bridger.

AVAILABLE ACTIVITIES
-Use the self-guiding map to tour the reconstructed fort.

-Visit the visitor center, museum, and bookstore inside the Bourgeois House.

-Watch various films on Fort Union and the fur trade, including *Firearms of the Fur Trade*, *The Buffalo Robe*, *Mysteries of the Archeological Collection*, and more!

-Experience the Reconstructed Trade House where living history programs are conducted in the summer.

-Junior Trader program for kids.

-Bodmer Overlook hiking trail (open seasonally).



BODMER TRAIL
This two mile trail climbs to the point where in 1833, Karl Bodmer sketched images of Fort Union, Assiniboine Indians, and the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. The trail passes through the historic ruins of the short-lived railroad town of Mondak and some privately owned pasture land. Please make sure to close all gates while hiking. The parking area and trailhead are on the north side of

the highway. Ask for a Bodmer Trail Guide at the visitor center.



TRADE HOUSE
Our costumed interpreters transport you back to 1851 in the most important building at Fort Union. The Trade House is located between the Fort gates through the south entrance. When tribes came to trade, the main trading sessions were done here. Come learn the stories and history of this unique place.



2012 Schedule of Events

Fort Rendezvous

June 14-17

Fort Union Trading Post NHS hosts its 30th annual Rendezvous. Come and experience the Upper Missouri's finest fur trade fair at one of the West's most imposing historic sites. Activities include historic demonstrations and traditional American Indian crafts. Join us for the biggest special event of the year!

Fort Union Rendezvous Kids Day

June 14

A day of fun activities for kids of all ages. Kids can participate in traditional American Indian games, learn Indian sign language and more! Program hours 10:00 am CT to 2:00 pm CT.

Indian Arts Showcase

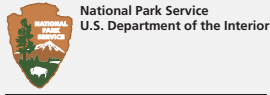
August 4-5

Come to the 21st annual Indian Arts Showcase. This event commemorates American Indian history and culture through music, traditional crafts, and lectures by tribal historians and elders from tribes of the Upper Missouri. Traditional dancers and singers will perform each day. Artisans will demonstrate beading, quill work, pipe making, and other crafts. The show will be another exciting opportunity to visit the Fort and enjoy the native cultures.

Living History Weekend

September 1-3

Re-enactors portray American Fur Company employees and American Indians working and trading at Fort Union. These actors will demonstrate what a living, active fort was like during Fort Union's heyday. Last Bell Tours are historic re-enactments that bring to life one of Fort Union's many stories. They will be performed Saturday evening beginning at 8:00 pm CT.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

Superintendent
Wendy Ross

Mailing Address
Knife River Indian Villages NHS
P.O. Box 9
564 County Road 37
Stanton, North Dakota 58571

Park Information
701-745-3300

Website
www.nps.gov/knri

Fax Number
701-745-3708

Lost and Found
701-745-3300

EMERGENCY
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed park employee

Hours of Operation
Winter Hours: Labor Day – Memorial Day

Visitor Center Daily 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, CT

Summer Hours: Memorial Day – Labor Day

Visitor Center Daily, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, CT

The visitor center is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Park Grounds are open until 10:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Knife River Indian Villages NHS



WELCOME TO KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, where history comes alive. By touring our visitor center, you can learn about Northern Great Plains Indian Culture as well as native plants and animals. Stroll through the museum and enjoy a 15 minute film describing life in an Indian Village from the perspective of Maxidiwiac. Step back in time as you walk through the remains of village sites.



RANGER PROGRAMS
Take your park experience to a whole new level! Ranger Programs are available Memorial Day through Labor Day. Programs are free and visitors of all ages are welcome.



MORE FUN!
Discovery Packs containing bird guides, binoculars, magnifying glasses, and a pack of wildflower cards are available for checkout at the visitor center. This is a free service.

Jr. Ranger Booklets are available for kids 6-12. For ages 3-5, Jr. Explorer booklets are available. Return them to the visitor center to receive your badge or button. *Turn to page 9 to learn more.*

2012 Schedule of Events

Ninth Annual Knife River Bird Watching Event

May 19
Gather at the 7 Trails Trading Post, located between the city of Stanton and Knife River Indian Villages NHS, for breakfast and bird watching. Don't forget to dress for the weather and bring your field glasses.

Spring Photography-in-the-Field Workshop

May 19
Whether you are a professional or you are just getting started, join our group for the practical application of photography lessons. All camera formats are welcome - from "point and shoot," to digital SLR, to film.

Kid's Camp

July 10, 17, 24, & 31
Tuesdays in July, children ages 6 to 12 can participate in special activities at the park. Each Tuesday focuses on a different theme. Join for one or all four weeks. For safety reasons, those who wish to participate on the 31st must have already attended at least one other week. Please reserve your space in advance by calling 701-745-3300.

Northern Great Plains Culture Fest

July 28 – 29
All ages are invited to enjoy free cultural demonstrations, participate in games, and learn about the lives of people that lived on the Plains from their descendants. The event will encompass a wide range of activities exemplifying challenges of living on the Northern Plains. Rolling hills and the Knife River serve as the backdrop for this two day event.

Fall Photography-in-the-Field Workshop

September 29
Whether you are a professional or you are just getting started, join our group for the practical application of photography lessons. All camera formats are welcome - from "point and shoot," to digital SLR, to film.

Winter Adventure*

February of 2013
Knife River Indian Villages NHS, in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota, presents a day of winter activities including learning about American Indian crafts, a snowshoe hike into the villages, and dinner in an earthlodge with special presentations by American Indian storytellers and artists.

*Fee Applies

Attention Teachers:

Would you like a Park Ranger from Knife River Indian Villages NHS to visit your classroom? Distance learning technology makes it possible for Park Rangers to visit classrooms anywhere in the country. Curriculum-based programs are available focusing on the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara cultures. Other historical, cultural, or natural history topics can be tailored to your curriculum.

For additional information, please visit the "For Teachers" section of the park's website at www.nps.gov/knri or contact the park's Education Specialist at 701-745-3300. Distance learning programs are free.

Distance learning programs are available from many National Park sites. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/learn/distance.cfm> for a complete listing.

Hiking Guide

Hiking Trail	Round-Trip Time & Distance	Trail Description
Village Trail	30 minutes 1.3 mi / 2.1 km	The Village Trail begins at the visitor center and leads to two village sites: the Lower Hidatsa Village and the Sakakawea Village (Awatixa Village). There is a loop at the second village site that includes a walk along the Knife River.
North Forest Trail	2 – 3 hours 5 mi / 8.0 km	The North Forest Trail cuts through bottomland forest and native prairie. It has spectacular views of the Missouri River. Upon entering the forest, you can chose to walk 0.1 miles on the Big Hidatsa Trail to the Big Hidatsa Village.
Two Rivers Trail	3 – 4 hours 6.2 mi / 10 km	The Two Rivers Trail follows the Knife River to the south end of the park. At the southern tip of the trail you can see where the Knife River flows into the Missouri River.



FISHING AT KNIFE RIVER

For an opportunity to catch walleye, catfish, or pike, fish from the shore of the Knife River. The parking lot of the Sakakawea Site is a great location. North Dakota fishing regulations apply. Applicable state license is required. Visitors under the age of 16 may fish without a license.



Supporting our National Parks

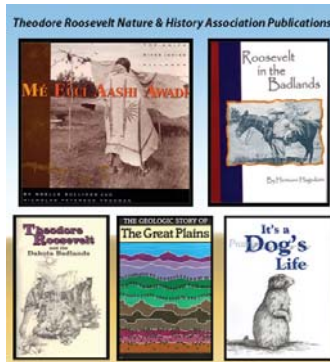
THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATURE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION WAS ORGANIZED IN 1951 BY A GROUP of park enthusiasts to promote and support the historical, scientific, and educational activities of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This commitment has broadened to offer support to Knife River Indian Villages National 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 \$870,000 from the sales receipts 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, and funding for new site-specific publications. The Association has also paid for housing for volunteers, supported park libraries, sponsored scientific research, funded Student Conservation Association interns, and many other projects.

You are invited to enjoy the visitor centers that house our bookstores, and we remind you that all purchases will directly support the park. The association takes great pride in its ability to provide assistance to our natural areas throughout North Dakota. Enjoy the adventure!

Annual Membership benefits Include:

- 15% discount in all TRNHA bookstores.
- A discount on items purchased at other National Park Cooperating Association bookstores.
- Monthly e-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!



Membership Registration Form

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

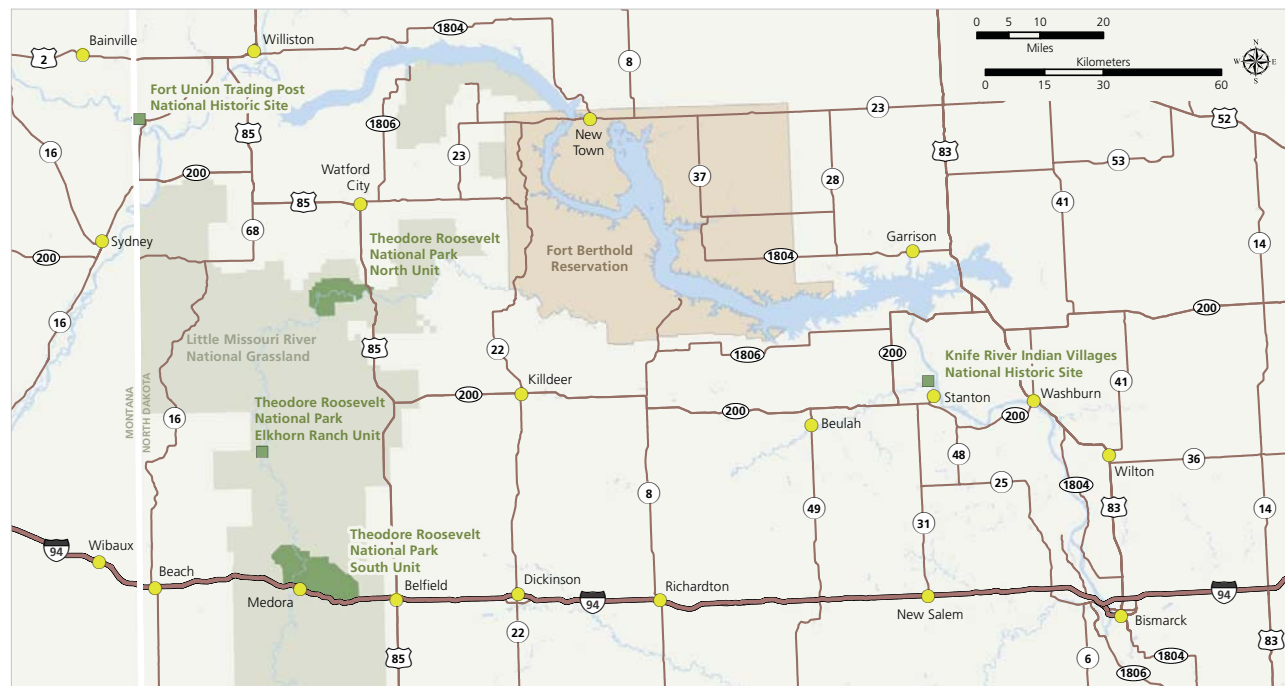
STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Please Make Checks Payable to:
Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association
PO Box 167, Medora, ND 58645
701-623-4884 info@trnha.org



Visit our website at www.TRNHA.org



What's Going on Around Here?!

Surprised by the amount of truck traffic in the area? Unable to get a hotel reservation? Can't find the sleepy cowboy towns you remember? The reason for the incredible changes this area is experiencing lies two miles below the surface of western North Dakota - a formation called the Bakken. The Bakken formation is a rock layer rich with oil reserves. Until recently, the oil was not extractable. A new and controversial technique - hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" - has allowed oil companies to more than quadruple their daily oil production in the last five years. The huge influx of activity has brought tens of thousands of new jobs to the area. In a national economy where jobs are scarce, North Dakota has become the 'land of opportunity' for many.

All three North Dakota National Parks are experiencing serious issues due to the oil boom. New wells are going in every month; many can be seen from inside park boundaries. Each new well means another drill rig, well pad, pumpjack, debris pit, flare pit, storage tanks, and access road on the landscape. Each new well requires 2000 "trucking events" to complete its setup and to begin pumping oil. Noise and dust from heavy truck traffic and pumping equipment is constant. Numerous flares can be seen in the formerly dark night sky as excess natural gas is burned off. Socioeconomic impacts are altering local communities. A multifaceted topic to be sure, the oil boom begs a difficult question: how can we develop our resources while still protecting our parks and communities?