



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 2014 - Winter 2015



Photo by Chad Allmendinger, 2013 Photo Contest Entry

Exploring North Dakota's National Treasures

THERE ARE THREE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES in 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. It preserves an area of land that profoundly affected President Theodore Roosevelt and is a beacon 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. Built not as a government or military post, but rather for trade, Fort Union 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 have also graced this Fort. Come for a visit and walk in their footsteps. Special events throughout the year make history come alive. *Turn to page 14 to learn more!*

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

IS LOCATED ON THE KNIFE RIVER DIRECTLY NORTH of its confluence with the Missouri River. Though Hidatsa and Mandan hunted bison and other game, they were primarily 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 15 to learn more!*



Top Image: Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site
Bottom Image: A Reconstructed Earthlodge silhouetted by a Dakota sunrise 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 all 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 400 units throughout the United States and its territories – have been set aside to preserve and protect 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 5

The Elkhorn was the "home ranch" of Theodore Roosevelt while he cowboied in the Dakota Badlands. It was here, Roosevelt said, "...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 5 to learn more!*

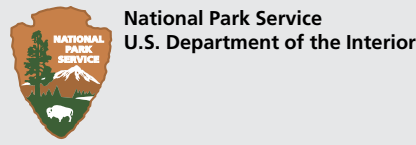
Petrified Forest 5

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 30 minute drive and a 3 mile hike are all that is required for this incredible journey. *Turn to page 5 to learn more!*

Hiking Guide 7

With over 95 miles of trails in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, 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 your safety, be sure you and someone not hiking with you know where you are going and how long you plan to be out. Hike prepared. Always carry water and a hat. *The Hiking Guide is located on pages 7-10.*

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Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Superintendent
Valerie Naylor

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Medora, North Dakota 58645

Park Information & Lost and Found
701-623-4466

Website
www.nps.gov/thro

Follow us Online
Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr

Fax Number
701-623-4840

Hours of Operation
The park is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Visitor Center hours vary by season. Check our website for current information.

EMERGENCY
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed employee

Plan Your Visit



INFORMATION
Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt National Park! There are three park visitor centers where you can obtain information and maps: the North Unit Visitor Center located near Juniper Campground, the South Unit Visitor Center located at the park entrance in Medora, and Painted Canyon Visitor Center at exit 32 on I-94.



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

In case of an emergency, practice Leave No Trace principles. Leaving toilet paper behind is considered littering and could result in a \$100 fine.



ACCESSIBILITY
The park's developed areas are accessible. Service dogs are permitted on leashes in developed areas and on the Little Mo, Boicourt, Skyline Vista, Wind Canyon, and Buck Hill Trails. Service dogs are not allowed in the backcountry or on other trails. The South Unit Visitor Center film offers captioning, audio description, and assistive listening devices.

How Can I Stay Safe?



HEAT & DEHYDRATION
The prairie is often hotter and more exposed than expected. Dehydration and heat exhaustion are common dangers that can be avoided with adequate preparation. Carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always wear a hat.

sink the tires of vehicles. Always be aware of the forecast before heading out for adventure.



WILDLIFE
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" them off the trail. Bison are known to charge visitors who disturb them.

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



THUNDERSTORMS
Lightning kills more people each year than any other weather event. On the Great Plains, severe thunderstorms are a common summer experience. If thunderheads begin to develop, consider moving toward a vehicle or enclosed shelter. Overhangs do not protect against lightning.

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.



BENTONITE CLAY
When it rains here, soft clays become horrific mud. Mud in the North Dakota Badlands has been known to turn a day hike into a trudge for survival, fatally trap horses, and



KNOW THE LAW
Did you know that 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 Should I Know?



DRIVING
Obey posted speed limits. In most areas of the park, the posted speed is 25 MPH. Never stop or park on the road. To protect park resources, please use pullouts and turn off your car while parked. Per federal law, seat belts are required for all occupants in a vehicle.

that lie within park boundaries. Remember, the rules of the road apply to bicycles. Please wear your helmet.



PETS
Pets are not allowed on trails, in buildings, or in the backcountry. If they are attended and on leashes not longer than 6 feet, pets may go where cars can go: roads, picnic areas, and campgrounds. You must clean up after your pet.



FIRES
Fires are never permitted on the ground or in the backcountry. Fires are allowed in fire grates at the campgrounds and picnic areas. When fire danger is high, even these campfires may be prohibited.

Collecting dead and down wood is allowed in the campgrounds. Collecting wood outside of the campground is prohibited. Destruction or injury to standing trees is prohibited. It is illegal to bring in wood from out-of-state. *Read "Will We Lose Our Trees?" on the next page to find out why.*



COLLECTING/DEFACING
All natural features of the park are protected. This includes, but is not limited to, wildlife, cultural artifacts, rocks, soil, plants, shed antlers, and animal bones. Collecting of these items is prohibited. In addition, graffiti (including carving initials in rocks or wood) is illegal.

Help us keep the park clean, safe, and beautiful for ourselves and all of those who come after us.

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



BICYCLING
Bicycles may only travel where cars may travel. They are not allowed off roadways or on trails, including sections of the Maah Daah Hey Trail

Firearms

As of February 22, 2010, if you can legally possess firearms under North Dakota, local, and federal laws, you may possess firearms in a National Park area. It is your 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. Federal law also prohibits discharging a firearm inside a National Park area.

Fees

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

A variety of passes are available (listed to the right).

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

TRNP ANNUAL PASS \$20
Admission to this National Park 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.



MILITARY PASS FREE
Admission to all federal fee areas for one year, U.S. Active Military.



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



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



Fee dollars are used to fund projects throughout the park including publishing this Visitor Guide and our new Jr. Ranger Book! Thank you for your support. Experience your America®.

WILL YOUR PHOTO BE ON THE NEXT TRNP ANNUAL PASS?

Enter the **2014 Picture Yourself in Theodore Roosevelt National Park Photo Contest!** Visit www.trnha.org for more information.

What Can I Do Here?



CAMPING
Campgrounds have restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, and fire grates.

There are no showers. Limited shower facilities are available in the communities of Medora and Watford City.



HIKING
With over 95 miles of hiking trails throughout the park there is plenty of room to stretch your legs. Trails vary from less than a mile to epic hikes of more than 20 miles in length. Turn to the Hiking Guide on pages 7-11 to learn more.



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.



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 TRAIL RIDES
Rides are conducted from Peaceful Valley Ranch in the South Unit by a private concessionaire. Rides are offered daily from late May through early September. For more information call (701) 623-4568.



WATERCRAFT
The Little Missouri River is usually navigable from mid-April through June. 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.



BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING
The park is open to backcountry camping. Free permits are required and are available at park visitor centers.

Campsites must be at least 1/4 mile from a road or trailhead and out of sight of roads and trails. Your campsite must be at least 200 feet from water sources. The maximum group size is 10 people without horses or 8 people with 8 horses. Additional backcountry regulations apply. Please visit our website or visitor centers for more information.

Campgrounds

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.

Hey, Ranger!

Many people are confused about the role of park rangers in a National Park. Some wear guns and defensive gear while others do not. You can expect to see two types of rangers while you are here: Protection Rangers and Interpretation Rangers.

Protection Rangers are responsible for protecting the park and the visitors who come here. They patrol, write tickets, and have full authority as Federal Law Enforcement Officers. You might see them in their marked trucks patrolling the road, roving the campground, or hiking a trail in the backcountry.



Interpretation Rangers do not carry guns or have the authority to write tickets. Their specialty is providing information and helping people understand these special places. They *interpret* the park and its resources. You'll see them giving ranger programs, roving trails, and working at visitor centers.

You may also come across maintenance workers and park scientists during your visit. If you see someone in uniform, take a closer look and see if you can determine their job. Everyone's job is important!

Will We Lose Our Trees?

Fifty percent of the hardwood trees in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are ash trees. A little green beetle from Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer, is threatening their existence. From 2002 through 2014, this insect has spread to 21 states, as well as to 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. The primary way the beetle travels is on loads of firewood carried by travelers from one state to another. If humans don't stop helping this beetle spread, it could reach the park this year! To help save our trees, please remember:



IT IS ILLEGAL TO BRING IN WOOD FROM ANOTHER STATE.

If you have brought wood from home, burn it as soon as possible!

Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Pick the right time of day – dawn and dusk are the best times to see wildlife.
- Drive slowly. In this terrain, animals are often overlooked by speedy drivers.
- View wildlife from a distance. How close is too close? If your presence changes an animal's behavior, you are too close and can be fined for disturbing wildlife. Need binoculars? *Turn to page 13.*
- Don't feed the wildlife. Dependence on human sources of food often leads to injuries to visitors and death for wild animals.
- Protect yourself by keeping your distance. Bison can weigh up to 2000 pounds, spin around faster than a horse, and run at speeds of 35 mph. They are known to charge visitors and their vehicles if disturbed.
- Remember that the park is their home and we are the visitors.

DOES THE PARK FEED THE ANIMALS?

The wildlife is native to the Northern Great Plains and adapted to living in what can be a very harsh environment. Even in winter, park staff does not assist any of the animals with food or water.

ARE THE HORSES WILD?

The horses are "wild" by the common use of the word; park staff does not assist in their survival. By true definition, they are considered "feral" because they originated from escaped domestic stock.



During the rut, bull bison spar to display their strength and vigor. Photo by Teresina Wheaton, 2012 Photo Contest 1st Place Runner-up

Wildlife truly is Wild

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a place where you can see the Great American West in action. It is home to a wide variety of native animals that generally live without human interference. They are not tame. For your safety, remember that these animals are truly wild and should be regarded as such.

WHAT ABOUT BEARS AND WOLVES?

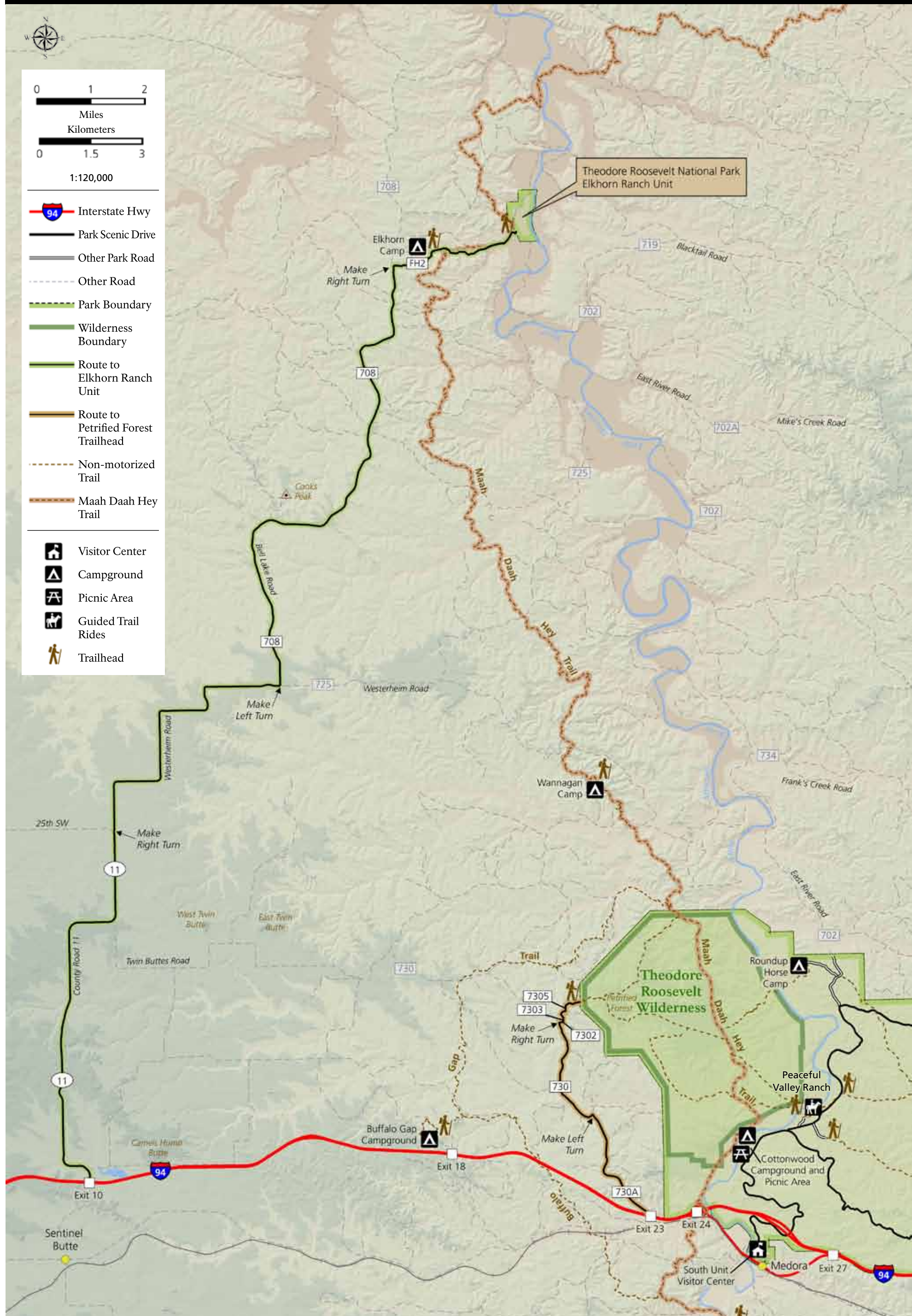
At one time, grizzly bears roamed across the Northern Great Plains. They were hunted out of this area by the early 1800's. They have not returned. Black bears are rare in eastern North Dakota and do not exist near here.

Wolves were once common in North Dakota. Today a wolf may wander into the state from Canada, Minnesota, or Montana, but North Dakota has not had a wolf population since the early 1900's. State biologists do not believe a recovery of the wolf population is likely to occur anytime soon.

WHAT WILL I SEE?

Bison, deer, and prairie dogs are common. Elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep are harder to spot. Careful eyes may find animals such as badgers and coyotes. Only the lucky few see mountain lions and bobcats. *Wildlife Checklist on page 6!*

Elkhorn Ranch & Petrified Forest



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 loll 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. Here, he filled his days with the rewarding labor of cattle ranching and the adventures of hunting. Many say this is where Theodore Roosevelt developed his conservation ethic.

Today, the National Park Service chooses to leave this special place as undeveloped as possible.

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

Getting There

From the South Unit, it is an hour and fifteen minute drive to the Ranch Site. **High-clearance vehicle recommended.** Check road conditions at the visitor center.

- Begin your journey west-bound on I-94.
- Take exit 10 at Camel Hump Lake turning north (right) along County Road 11.
- Follow County Road 11 for 8.8 miles until it intersects with Westerheim Road.
- Bear right along Westerheim Road. Follow this road for 6.5 miles until it intersects with Bell Lake Road (708), about 0.5 miles past Westerheim Hall (a small wooden building).
- Follow Bell Lake Road 11.7 miles until you reach FH 2. There will be a sign directing you to the Elkhorn Campground.
- Turn right onto FH 2. Continue past the Elkhorn Campground until you reach the Elkhorn Ranch Parking Area, approximately 3 miles.
- The site of the ranch house is an easy 3/4 mile walk from this point.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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

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

Getting There

From the South Unit, it is a 30 minute drive to the trailhead. **High-clearance vehicle recommended.** Check road conditions at the visitor center.

- Begin your journey west-bound on I-94.
- Take exit 23 turning north (right) along Forest Service Road 730.
- At the entrance to the Myers ranch, you will see a sign for Petrified Forest. Turn left to follow Road 730. You will pass a "Private Road" sign; you have permission to continue.
- Continue until you reach Road 730-2. You will see a sign for Petrified Forest. Turn right.
- Immediately after turning on 730-2, take your first left.
- At the next Y, veer left and continue to the parking area.
- Locate the lift gate in the fence east of the parking area. This is the beginning of the trail.

Maah Daah Hey Trail (pronounced *ma da hey*)

IN THE MANDAN LANGUAGE the trail name means "an area that has been or will be around for a long time." In the adventure world, it is simply legendary.

The trail is generally open to horseback riders, hikers, and bicyclists. However, bicycles are not allowed on trails within the National Park, so an alternate route bypassing the South Unit is provided.

The north end of the 101-mile trail begins at the US Forest Service CCC Campground located 20 miles south of Watford City, near the North Unit of the park. From there, the trail winds south, connecting seven campgrounds and all three units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It ends south of Medora.

For more information visit www.mdhta.com or www.dakotacyclery.com. Let the adventure begin!



The Big Six Wildlife Checklist

Elk

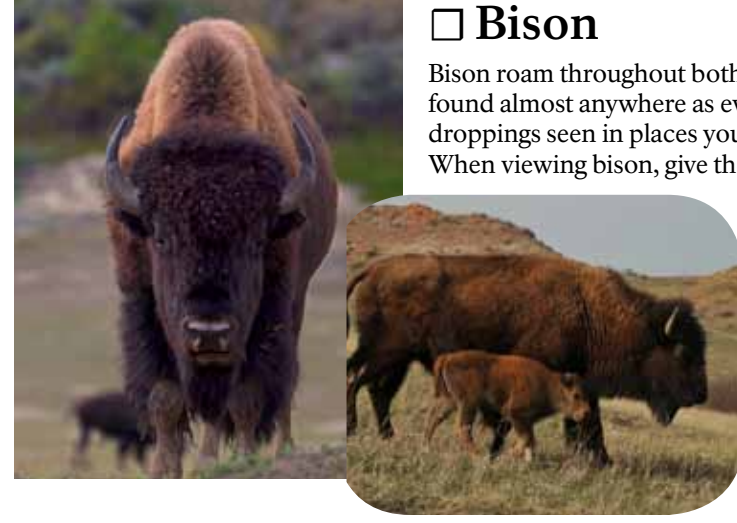
Look for elk in the South Unit grazing in prairie dog towns near sunrise or sunset. Before Euro-American settlers arrived, elk were one of the most widely distributed of the deer species. They are at home on the plains and in the mountains. Gone from the area by the late 1800's, the National Park Service brought them back to the badlands in 1985.



Bison

Bison roam throughout both units. They can be found almost anywhere as evidenced by their droppings seen in places you would least expect! When viewing bison, give them a wide berth.

They may appear slow and docile, but these animals are incredibly athletic and temperamental. When disturbed, they will respond like angry bulls, not domestic cows.



Bighorn Sheep

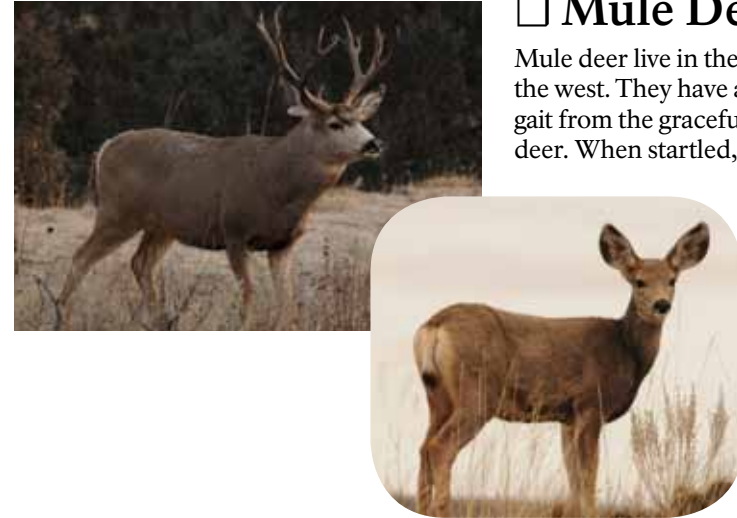
Bighorn sheep blend so well into the terrain they are tough to spot! Rarely seen in the South Unit, look for white rumps and agile movements on the steep canyon walls of the North Unit. Like elk and bison, these animals were extirpated from the area in the 1800's. They were reintroduced by the National Park Service in 1997.



Mule Deer

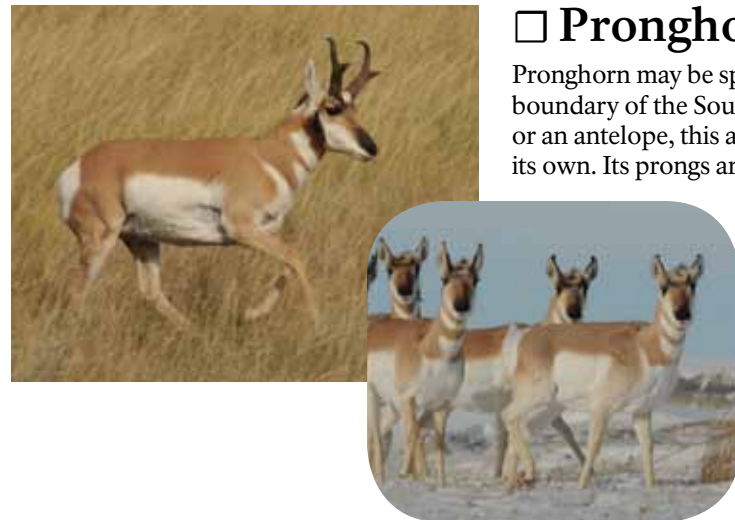
Mule deer live in the dry, rugged land of the west. They have a distinctly different gait from the graceful leaps of white-tailed deer. When startled, a mule deer will

move in a series of stiff-legged jumps with all four feet hitting the ground together. This gait allows the deer to out-distance predators in rough terrain. Look for them in open areas at dawn and dusk.



Pronghorn

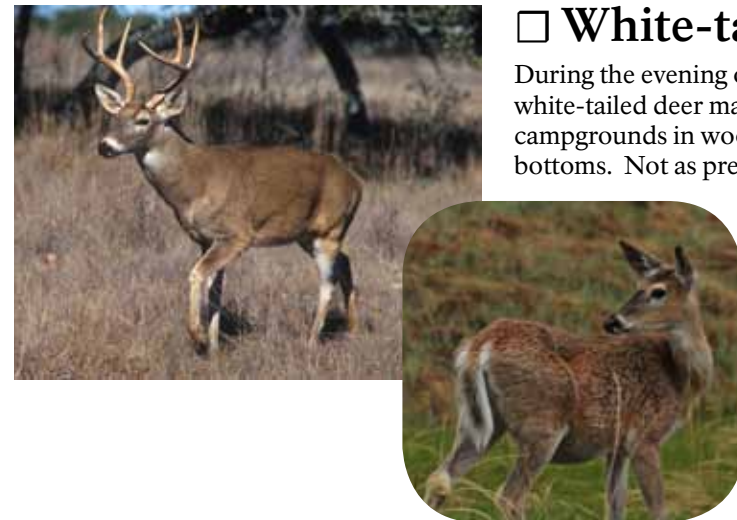
Pronghorn may be spotted near the north boundary of the South Unit. Not a deer or an antelope, this animal is in a family all its own. Its prongs are not horns or antlers but something in between. While other animals may leap over fences, the pronghorn crawls underneath. It is the fastest animal in North America with top speeds reaching 50 - 60 MPH.



White-tailed Deer

During the evening or early morning, white-tailed deer may be seen near the campgrounds in wooded areas and river bottoms. Not as prevalent in the park as

mule deer, they can be identified by their long white tail that stands straight up like a flag when startled. Compare them to the mule deer pictured above. What other differences do you see?



Other Possible Wildlife Sightings

Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs live in family communities or "towns" and are a critical part of the food web. See them from the South Unit road or on a hike in the North Unit.



Coyote

Coyotes are often seen in prairie dog towns. They have a complex communication system; you may hear them more often than you see them.



Badger

A ferocious digging machine, the badger might be spied working along side a coyote in a prairie dog town. Badgers can dig as fast as most animals can hide.



Birds of Prey

Look up and you might see a hawk or eagle searching for prairie dogs or other prey. The park is also home to falcons, kites, owls, and vultures.



Historic Open-Range Demonstration Herds

Feral Horses

The park's horses are considered feral because they are descendants of domestic stock. They are often spotted on the east side of the South Unit. Free-roaming and completely independent of human care, these "wild" horses provide the opportunity to experience a piece of wilderness spirit that was common to Theodore Roosevelt's era but is increasingly rare today.



Longhorn Steers

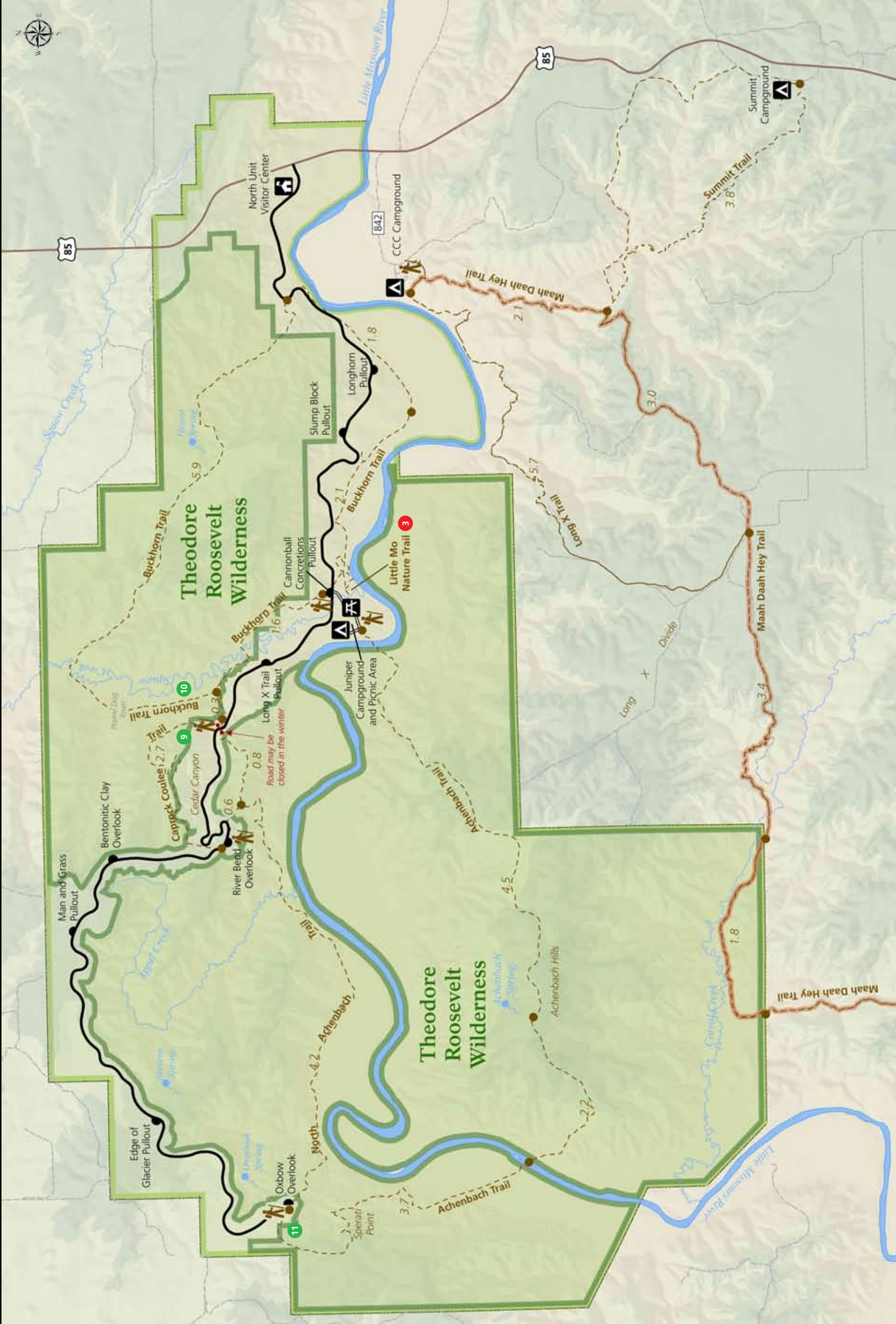
In 1884, 4,500 longhorns were driven from Texas on the Long X Trail to what is now the North Unit of the park. Since 1967, the park has maintained a small demonstration herd to commemorate the cattle operations of the 1880's. The herd is comprised of steers, which are males that cannot reproduce. They are often seen in the sagebrush flats near the North Unit's "Longhorn Pullout."



Hiking Guide

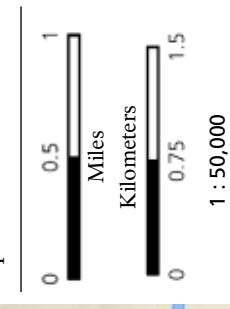
Hiking Trail	Round-Trip Average Hiking Time & Distance (Plan extra time for breaks and pictures)	Trail Description
Easy		
1 Skyline Vista South Unit	10 minutes 0.1 mi / 0.16 km Out and back	Feel the wind in your hair high atop Johnson's Plateau. This flat, paved nature trail is perfect for those who want to step out for just a moment.
2 Boicourt Overlook Trail South Unit	15 minutes 0.2 mi / 0.3 km Out and back	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 sunsets over the badlands!
3 Little Mo Trail North Unit	30 - 45 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	15 minutes 0.2 mi / 0.3 km Out and back	You'll be on top of the world when you climb to the highest accessible point in the park. This is a short, steep trail. The view from the top is worth every step.
5 Wind Canyon Trail South Unit	20 minutes 0.4 mi / 0.6 km Loop	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	30 minutes 0.6 mi / 1 km Loop	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	30 - 45 minutes 0.6 mi / 1 km (inner loop) 0.8 mi / 1.3 km (outer loop)	Although the 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 Loop	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 Out and back	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 Out and back	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 Out and back	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 Loop	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 7.1 mi / 11.4 km One-way	The Maah Daah Hey Trail stretches 101 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 Loop	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 Loop	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 Loop	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 Loop	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 Loop	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.

North Unit Map



CAUTION

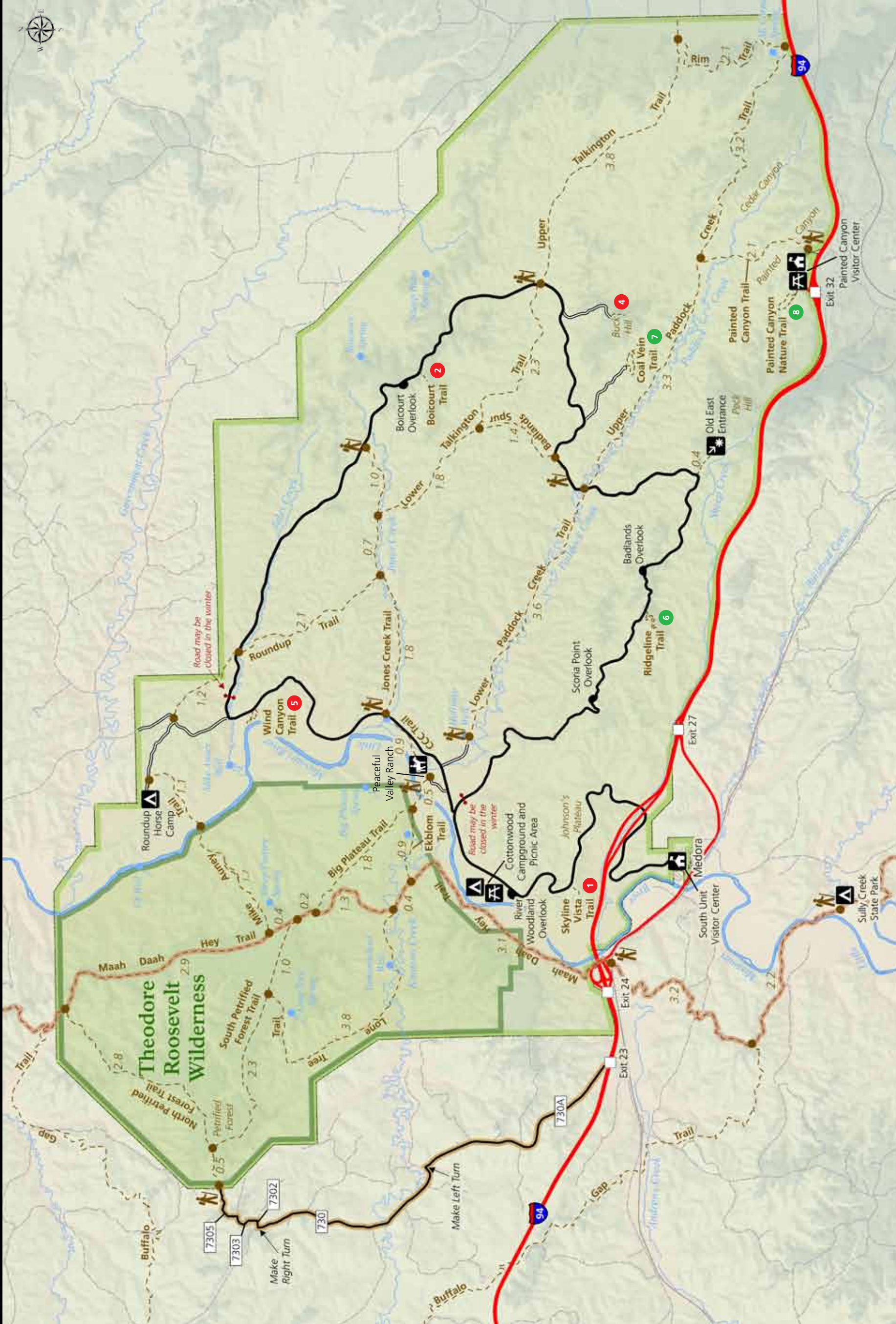
Burning coal veins exist off-trail in the North Unit's backcountry. Coal veins can burn at temperatures above 1000°F – hot enough to melt rock. Ground around these areas is extremely unstable. For your safety, stay away from smoking ground and report any suspected fire activity to the visitor center. These areas have been closed by order of the Superintendent.



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

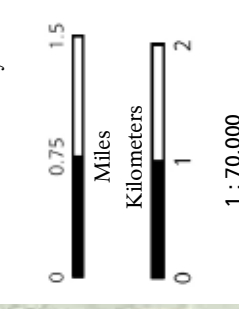
- Visitor Center
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Backcountry Trailhead
- Spring or Well
- Key to Hiking Guide - Easy to Moderate
- Key to Hiking Guide - Easy to Moderate

South Unit Map



NAVIGATION

While these maps are sufficient for short day hikes, topographic maps purchased at park visitor centers are recommended for longer hikes. Be aware that trail names have changed in recent years and may not be updated on commercial maps. We suggest taking this map along with a topographic map when heading out into the backcountry.



- Interstate Hwy
- Park Scenic Drive
- Other 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
- Point of Interest
- Guided Trail Rides
- Backcountry Trailhead
- Spring or Well
- Key to Hiking Guide - Easy to Moderate
- Key to Hiking Guide - Easy to Moderate



Photo by Richard Spener, 2013 Photo Contest Finalist

Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness

“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

Wilderness Act of 1964

When Europeans first came to North America, they encountered a continent which was unlike any of the places they left behind. It seemed foreign, threatening, and intimidating. They felt the need to conquer it. It took less than 500 years to turn the 2 billion acres of what is now the United States into a mostly developed country. As the country grew, the rare wild lands became valuable to Americans.

Preservation of Wilderness did not come easily or quickly. Much had been written about the need to preserve wild lands for the public. The idea began to solidify in the 1930s; the first draft of the Wilderness Act was written in 1956. After nine years, 65 versions, and 18 public hearings, the Wilderness Act was passed by congress by a nearly unanimous vote. It was signed into law on September 3, 1964. The Act acknowledges the immediate and lasting benefits of wild places for the human spirit and for the fabric of our nation. It also created the National Wilderness Preservation System and designated 9 million acres of Wilderness.

The Wilderness Act was the world’s first legislation of its kind and continues to serve as a way to protect the wildest places in the U.S. Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas receive the highest form of legal protection of any land in the United States.

The Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness

“There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Established in 1978 and comprising 29,920 acres, the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness is located in both the North and South Units of the park at the heart of the North Dakota badlands. This landscape fascinated our 26th president and served as a place of solace, healing, and rejuvenation at a devastating time in his life. “Here is where the romance of my life began,” he wrote. The wilderness of the Dakota badlands is where Roosevelt began to think seriously about conservation. His experiences were life changing and led directly to his accomplishments as the “Conservationist President.”

Exploring Wilderness Safely

Visiting the wilderness and backcountry areas of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is fun and exciting, but should not be taken lightly. The badlands environment can be deceptively physically and mentally challenging, regardless of your chosen activity. You can’t always predict what you will encounter in the park, but some careful planning can help protect you and ensure a safe and enjoyable adventure.

- WHO’S YOUR BUDDY?** Leave your itinerary with a trusted friend or family member who is not travelling with you, in case you become overdue.
- KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW...AND WHAT YOU DON’T.** When picking up your backcountry camping permit, talk with park staff about terrain, current trail conditions, and possible hazards.
- CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT.** Make sure you have everything you need before you hit the trail. Make a list and check it twice.
- KNOW THYSELF.** Be honest about your knowledge and physical ability. Do not overestimate what you’re capable of.
- DRINK WATER.** Water is your friend: drink lots before and during your trip. If you wait until you’re thirsty, you’re already becoming dehydrated. Avoid drinking alcohol, caffeine, or sugary beverages before and during your trip. Carry at least one gallon of water/person/day. Backcountry water sources are high in sediment and are not recommended for filtering.
- COTTON IS ROTTEN.** Cotton absorbs water and sweat and does not dry quickly. Avoid wearing it. Wool and polypropylene are better.
- WHAT’S YOUR ROUTE?** Be familiar with your intended route before you take off. Some of the park’s trails, particularly in the North Unit, can become hidden by vegetation during wet years and some wildlife trails can appear to be hiking trails. A GPS unit can be handy (if it’s charged), but a good map and compass will never fail you!
- GET A CURRENT WEATHER FORECAST.** Park staff can help you with this when you get your backcountry permit.
- ARRIVE EARLY AND RESTED.** Give yourself plenty of daylight and be well rested.
- STAY AWAY** from cliffs, sinkhole edges, and burning coal veins.
- BE AWARE OF HAZARDOUS PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.** When getting your backcountry permit, talk with staff about the natives.
- CARRY THE 10 ESSENTIALS** listed on the next page.

Wilderness Celebration

“Wilderness is not only a condition of nature, but a state of mind and mood and heart.”
Ansel Adams

This year, Theodore Roosevelt National Park joins the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service—the land management agencies that manage our wilderness areas—in celebrating the preservation of our Wilderness heritage. Each week we’ll hike into a different area of the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness for a true “Taste of Wilderness” and we will take longer excursions on Wilderness Hikes in the North Unit once every month. Will a journey into the wilderness change *your* life? Please join us!

A Taste of the Wilderness Schedule

June 7 NU Oxbow Overlook, Westbound	July 5* SU Peaceful Valley Ranch, Westbound	August 2* SU Round-Up Horse Camp, Westbound
June 14 SU Petrified Forest, Northbound	July 12* NU Juniper Campground, Westbound	August 9 NU Caprock Coulee, SW bound
June 21 NU Mile 1, Buckhorn Trail, Westbound	July 19* SU Peaceful Valley Ranch, NW bound	August 16 SU Petrified Forest, SE bound
June 28 NU Oxbow Overlook, Eastbound	July 26 NU Caprock Coulee, SE bound	August 23 NU Caprock Coulee, Northbound

Prepare for Your “Taste of the Wilderness” Hike

Be sure to bring the 10 Essentials listed in the next box.

New to hiking? Our staff will help you learn how to carry and use your gear.

Meet at the trailhead at 8:00 AM MDT/9:00 AM CDT.

Be ready for a moderate hike 2-4 miles in length. The hike will last between 2-4 hours.

More detailed information is available on our website: www.nps.gov/thro

*Hike includes a river crossing. Alternate routes will be chosen if water levels are too high.

Always Carry the 10 Essentials

- High Energy Food and Plenty of Water (at least 1 gallon per person, per day)
- Sun Protection (hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen)
- Navigation (topographic map, compass, and/or GPS)
- First Aid (including mole skin and insect repellent)
- Clothing (extra layer, rain gear, extra socks, and sturdy hiking boots)
- Light Source (with extra batteries)
- Heat Source (lighter or matches in a waterproof container)
- Utility Knife
- Communication (whistle, mirror, and/or cell phone)
- Shelter (emergency blanket)



Thankful for Helping Hands

Theodore Roosevelt National Park would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to our partners and volunteers who have given their time or raised funds in support of the park’s mission. In this fiscally challenging time, outside support is becoming increasingly vital to our efforts to preserve and protect this special place.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS (VIPS) are involved in many facets of park management - maintenance of the native garden, up-keep of trails and facilities, preservation and archiving of historic documents, staffing special events, working in visitor centers and campgrounds, and completing projects. They have donated over 46,000 hours of service in the past 5 years to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. To join the effort, contact Laura Thomas at Laura_H_Thomas@nps.gov.

FRIENDS OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK advocate for the park, raise much-needed funds, and engage in volunteer projects throughout the year. They play a significant role in promoting and sustaining Theodore Roosevelt National Park. To join, visit www.friendsoftr.org. Follow them on Facebook!

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION promotes the park by sponsoring events and operating book stores in park visitor centers. Portions of these proceeds are used to support the park. Last year, your purchases and memberships allowed TRNHA to provide the park with a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern and over \$12,000 in aid. To join, inquire at a park bookstore or online at www.trnha.org.



May 2011 Volunteers assist park staff with filling and stacking sandbags to protect Theodore Roosevelt’s Maltese Cross Cabin from spring flooding.

Attention Teachers!

AUGUST 1, 2013 MARKED A MILESTONE IN DISTANCE LEARNING AS PARK Rangers from Theodore Roosevelt National Park connected with staff at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site via video teleconference, holding up a sign to that said, “Finally, we did it!” Now learners around the nation will be able to experience the rich cultural and natural history that North Dakota offers from all three National Park Sites without ever leaving the classroom!

WANT TO GET YOUR CLASS INVOLVED? CALL ANY OF THESE PARKS OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITES!








Knife River Indian Villages NHS
701-745-3300
www.nps.gov/knri

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
701-623-4466
www.nps.gov/thro

Fort Union Trading Post NHS
701-572-9083
www.nps.gov/fous

Summer Program Schedule

Please check website and park bulletin boards for up-to-date information for fall programming (after Labor Day).

Park Movies Visitor Center Theaters	<i>Refuge of the American Spirit</i> (17 mins) <i>Theodore Roosevelt National Park</i> (8 mins) <i>An Ever Changing Land</i> (12 mins)	South Unit Visitor Center Painted Canyon Visitor Center North Unit Visitor Center	(on the hour and half hour) (on demand) (on demand)
South Unit (Mountain Time)			
Rim Walk Painted Canyon Flagpole (June 1 - August 18)	10:00 AM MDT/11:00 AM CDT Tuesday - Sunday Approximately 30 - 45 minutes		Meet at the flagpole of the Painted Canyon Visitor Center. Take a leisurely stroll along the rim of the canyon and learn more about the natural and historic aspects of the park. Topics vary.
Geology Talk Painted Canyon Overlook (June 1 - August 18)	2:30 PM MDT/3:30 PM CDT Daily Approximately 15 - 30 minutes		Out of the gently rolling plains, a sudden view of broken land and jutting buttes breaks before you. Come to Painted Canyon Overlook and take a deeper look into the geology of the park!
Cabin Tours South Unit Visitor Center	Daily, Approximately 15 - 20 minutes June 1 - August 18 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, & 4:00 PM (All times MDT) August 19 - September 1 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM & 3:00 PM (All times MDT)		Behind the South Unit Visitor Center sits the original Maltese Cross Cabin, Theodore Roosevelt's first cabin in the Dakota badlands. Join this 15-20 minute tour and learn about how Theodore Roosevelt's experiences in Dakota Territory as a young man influenced the president he would become.
Guided Hike Locations Vary (June 1 - August 18)	4:00 PM MDT/5:00 PM CDT Daily Approximately 1 - 2 hours		Explore the wild side of the North Dakota Badlands with a ranger as your guide! Check program schedules posted throughout the park for topics and locations. Hikes are considered easy, but may contain steep grades or stairs.
Family Program Cottonwood Picnic Area (June 14 - August 16)	2:00 PM MDT/3:00 PM CDT Saturdays Only Approximately 1 - 2 hours		A program for kids of all ages! Join a ranger as they reveal the secrets and mysteries of nature through fun, interactive activities. Everyone is welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Topics vary. See postings online and on park bulletin boards for current program descriptions.
Evening Program Cottonwood Campground Amphitheater	June 1 - July 26, Nightly 9:00 PM MDT/10:00 PM CDT July 27 - August 24, Nightly 8:30 PM MDT/9:30 PM CDT August 24 - September 1, Nightly 8:00 PM MDT/9:00 PM CDT		National Park visitors have been gathering in campground amphitheaters for nearly a century to hear tales, legends, and even some authentic education! As dusk falls, join in this time-honored tradition at the Cottonwood Campground Amphitheater. See postings online and on park bulletin boards for current program descriptions. No Evening Program on Full Moons, Night Prowls (see below), or on Wednesday, August 13, 2014.
Full Moon Hike Locations Vary	Thursday, June 12 at 8:30 PM MDT Saturday, July 12 at 8:30 PM MDT Sunday, August 10 at 8:00 PM MDT		An awesome experience! Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are required and available for free on the day of the hike at the South Unit Visitor Center. Directions and locations will be provided.
Night Prowl Locations Vary	June 20 & 27 at 10:00 PM MDT July 18 & 25 at 9:30 PM MDT August 15 at 9:00 PM MDT		Prepare for a hike into the darkness and experience the nocturnal world of the badlands. Finish the adventure with telescopes and star viewing (weather & wildlife permitting). See park bulletin boards for current program locations.
Petrified Forest Hike Meet at the South Unit Visitor Center Flagpole (June 13 - August 15)	8:00 AM MDT/ 9:00 AM CDT Fridays Only		Follow a caravan on dirt and gravel roads to the remote northwest corner of the South Unit (high-clearance vehicle recommended) where you'll begin a 2-3 hour hike through designated Wilderness to the Petrified Forest — an amazing exposure of petrified wood. Plan for 4-5 hours including drive time.
Elkhorn Excursion Meet at the South Unit Visitor Center Flagpole (June 15 - August 10)	9:00 AM MDT/10:00 AM CDT Sundays Only		Walk in Theodore Roosevelt's footsteps at his home ranch: the Elkhorn. Follow a caravan on dirt and gravel roads (high-clearance vehicle recommended) to the ranch. Take a leisurely 3/4 mile walk to the house site. Total time is approximately 4-5 hours.
North Unit (Central Time)			
Pocket Programs Locations Vary (June 1 - August 18)	Anytime Especially on the Weekends Approximately 3-5 minutes		Watch for roving rangers with props in their pockets or backpacks! Rangers may be spotted at popular view points and pull-outs with fun and information to share!
Evening Program Juniper Campground Amphitheater	June 1 - September 1 7:00 PM MDT/8:00 PM CDT Thursday - Monday		National Park visitors have been gathering in campground amphitheaters for nearly a century to hear tales, legends, and even some authentic education! Join in this time-honored tradition at the Juniper Campground Amphitheater. See postings online and on park bulletin boards for current program descriptions.
Wilderness Hike Meet at the Juniper Campground Amphitheater	8:00 AM MDT/9:00 AM CDT One Sunday a Month (See postings online or on park bulletin boards for current schedule)		Get deep into the badlands on a Wilderness Hike! Meet a ranger for an adventure to remember as he shares his vast knowledge and favorite locations gained from years of experience in the field. Be prepared for a strenuous hike that could last from 4 - 6 hours.
A Taste of the Wilderness (Both Units)			
Hike of the Week Locations listed on Page 11 (June 7 - August 23)	8:00 AM MDT/9:00 AM CDT Saturdays Only Approximately 2- 4 hours		Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act! Each week, our rangers will guide you to new and exciting locations within the congressionally-designated Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness! You will find a full schedule on page 11 and detailed information on our website.



Be a Junior Ranger!

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. There are over 400 units of the National Park System. See how many badges you can collect!

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Report to your nearest visitor center and receive a free activity book. Complete the activities specified for your age group and you will be

sworn in and awarded a badge. Most programs can be completed in as little as half a day.



COLLECT THEM ALL IN NORTH DAKOTA:

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

One family takes collecting Jr. Ranger badges very seriously!

Family Fun Packs and Discovery Packs



DID YOU NOTICE A WILDFLOWER YOU COULDN'T IDENTIFY? HAVE YOU BEEN SQUINTING AT EAGLES SOARING overhead because you left your binoculars at home? Problem solved! Borrow a Family Fun Pack or Discovery Pack! It costs nothing and is packed with helpful tools like field guides, hand lenses, binoculars, informational booklets, 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 and 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

Half the Park is After Dark

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE MILKY WAY POURING ACROSS A JET BLACK SKY? OR CAST A moon shadow on the face of a pale white butte? Heard coyotes yapping in the distance or smelled nightfall on the prairie? Half the park really is after dark! Experience the night like you never have before.

Join us as we explore and celebrate the dark side of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Activities are free and open to all:



FULL MOON HIKES

Free tickets are required and available at the South Unit Visitor Center on the day of the hike.

Schedule for 2014:

- Thursday, June 12
- Saturday, July 12
- Sunday, August 10

NIGHT PROWL AND STAR VIEWING
A ranger guided hike at nightfall followed by star viewing (weather and wildlife permitting).

Schedule for 2014:

- June 20 & 27
- July 18 & 25
- August 15



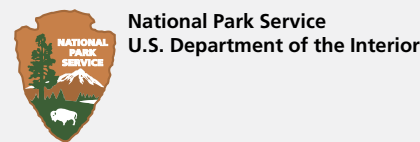
BADLANDS STAR PARTY (NORTH UNIT) — AUGUST 22-23, 2014

Join the Northern Sky Astronomical Society for a tour of the universe, telescopes, and solar scopes! Call 701-842-9071 to learn more.

DAKOTA NIGHTS, AN ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL — SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2014

Astronomers, Rangers, and Historians come together for a three day festival celebrating North Dakota's dark skies and rich heritage. Visit our website to learn more: www.nps.gov/thro.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Union Trading Post NHS

Superintendent
Andy Banta

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

Park Information & Lost and Found
701-572-9083

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

EMERGENCY
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed park employee

Hours of Operation
Winter Hours:
Labor Day through Memorial Day
Daily 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, CT
Summer Hours:
Memorial Day through Labor Day
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. 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.
- Junior Trader program for kids.
- 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.
- Bodmer Overlook hiking trail (open seasonally).



Images: Living history demonstrations at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site



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.

2014 Schedule of Events

Fort Rendezvous

June 19-22
Fort Union Trading Post NHS hosts its 31st 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 19
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

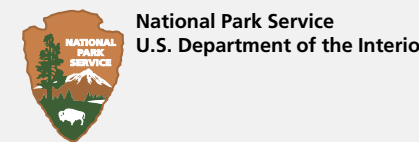
August 2-3
Come to the 22nd annual Indian Arts Showcase. This event commemorates American Indian history and culture through music, traditional crafts, and lectures by tribal historians and elders from tribes of the Upper Missouri. Traditional dancers and singers will perform each day. Artisans will 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

August 30 - September 1
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.

Blacksmith Workshop

September 20
Learn the basic techniques of blacksmithing presented by Fort Union. Participants are advised to bring their own lunch and wear appropriate clothing.



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 & Lost and Found
701-745-3300

Website
www.nps.gov/knri

EMERGENCY
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed park employee

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

Visitor Center hours may be extended Memorial Day – Labor Day. Check the park website for up-to-date information.

Park Grounds are open until 10:00 p.m.

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

Admission is free.

Camping is not allowed within the park. Camping is available in surrounding communities.

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. Free!

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.*

2014 Schedule of Events

Spring Photography-in-the-Field Workshop

May 10
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. Workshop hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CDT.

3rd Annual Knap-In

June 21
Join flint knappers as they demonstrate their skills in creating arrowheads, knives, and other tools. Event hours are 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM CDT.

Hands on History Series

July 5, 12, 19
Learn about pottery, quillwork, jewelry, and other topics. Come and join in! Be a part of the hands-on activities!

Kid's Camp

July 8, 15, 22, & 29
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 29th must have already attended at least one other week. Please reserve your space in advance by calling 701-745-3300.

Music for the Villages

July 26
Enjoy Native American music performed by traditional artists.

Fall Photography-in-the-Field Workshop

September 27
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. Workshop hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CDT.



Visitors participating in summer events at Knife River Indian Villages NHS

Hiking Guide

Hiking Trail	Round-Trip Time & Distance	Trail Description
Village Trail	30 minutes 1.3 mi / 2.1 km	This trail begins at the visitor center and meanders to two village sites: the Lower Hidatsa Village and the Sakakawea Village (Awatixa Village). A loop at the second site includes a walk along the Knife River.
North Forest Trail	2 – 3 hours 5 mi / 8.0 km	This trail cuts through bottom-land forest and native prairie. It has spectacular views of the Missouri River. As you enter 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	This trail follows the Knife River to the south end of the park. Here you can see where the Knife River flows into the Missouri River.



PETS Pets are allowed on trails, in picnic areas, and along park roads if they are under control and on leashes not longer than 6 feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings. Please clean up after your pet.



FISHING Catch walleye, catfish, or pike from the shore of the Knife River. The parking lot of the Sakakawea Site is a great location. North Dakota fishing regulations apply. Visitors under the age of 16 may fish without a license.



Supporting our National Parks

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK OR Knife River Indian Villages National Historic site in their efforts to preserve and protect spectacular natural and cultural features? We recommend visiting one of our park bookstores! Any purchase you make helps to support the National Park Service. Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association takes great pride in its ability to provide assistance to our natural areas throughout North Dakota.

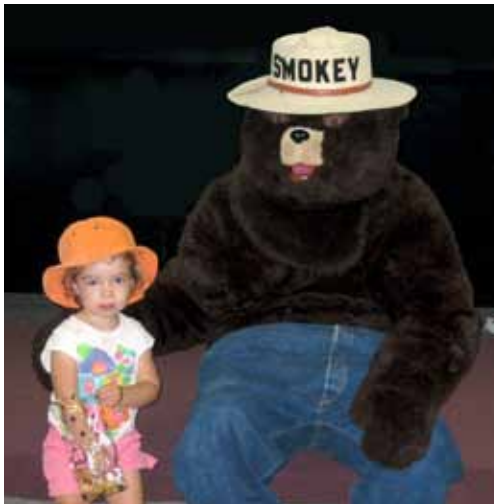
The Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association was established in 1951 as a non-federal, nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. Over the years, TRNHA has donated approximately \$900,000 to be used for various educational activities and research projects. Funds are raised by the sale of maps, books, and interpretive merchandise in bookstores located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park's three visitor centers, at Knife River Indian Villages NHS, and at Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

The funds raised by TRNHA have been used to support interpretive and visitor service activities including the printing of trail guides, junior ranger booklets, informational handouts, and site-specific publications. The Association has also supported the parks by funding research projects, park libraries, and Student Conservation Association interns. They are a proud supporter of this year's *Dakota Nights*, *An Astronomy Festival*. It's because of visitors like you that TRNHA is able to continue to support the parks we serve.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Membership Incentives
- 15% discount in all TRNHA bookstores.
- Reciprocal discounts at other National Park bookstores
- Monthly e-newsletter subscriptions
- Member only coupons

Learn more at www.trnha.org/membership.html



Join us for a Teddy Bear Picnic in the South Unit Visitor Center on July 10, 2014! For more information visit: www.trnha.org

Membership Registration Form

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$35 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | \$50 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | \$100 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$250 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner | \$500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$1000 |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Theodore Roosevelt
Nature & History Association



www.trnha.org

701-623-4884

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What's Going on Around Here?!

Surprised by the amount of truck traffic in the area? Can't find the sleepy cowboy towns you remember? The reason for all of the changes you will see lies two miles below the surface of western North Dakota - a formation called the Bakken, which is 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. This huge influx of activity has brought tens of thousands of new jobs to the area making North Dakota the 'land of opportunity' for many.

But what does this mean for our parks? It's important to realize

that the land area of all three parks combined makes up less than 1% of the area known as the Bakken Oil Field. These tiny islands of natural landscape are being surrounded by development. 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. The oil boom begs a difficult question: how can we develop our resources while still protecting our parks and wildlife?