



Canyon Echoes



Your Guide to Bighorn Canyon 2013

Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Welde

What Does a Visit to a National Park Area Mean to You?

Many years ago while walking in downtown Seattle I was in desperate need of a restroom. As I glanced ahead on the sidewalk, I noticed a sandwich board sign with the National Park Service Arrowhead. I knew from my time working for the Service that I could find a clean and free restroom in a National Park Service area. I had no idea what site this was but I knew a bathroom was within close reach. One mantra of mine is that you can always find a clean bathroom in a National Park Service area.

I hope that here at Bighorn Canyon we live up to that particular standard and to several other standards as well. So how about you – what National Park Service standards do you expect when visiting a national park?

How about unconfined water recreation and opportunities for solitude – what does this mean to you? Boating whenever or wherever you please? With the exception of personal watercraft limits, boaters can go anywhere at any time of the year. Feel free to launch your kayak or canoe and head up lake to explore the many side canyons, marveling at the immensity of the canyon walls. Life suddenly takes on a different perspective when you are floating in your tiny watercraft at the base of a 1000' wall of rock. Many fishermen care more about seeking that opportunity for solitude in the far reaches of a side canyon than they do about catching that elusive sauger. And water sports take on a whole new dimension when you are water skiing in the depths of the canyon without another boat-in sight.

Or is it your expectation that Bighorn Canyon will look the same as it did when you visited back in the late 1980s? The bighorn sheep, the mountain lions, the black bears and the Pryor Mountain wild horses are still here and doing quite well. My guess is that you would expect no less from the National Park Service.

Maybe you come to Bighorn Canyon to relive a piece of history. Imagine that you were on one of the earliest cattle drives moving the herd to its summer pasture. Or while visiting the Lockhart Ranch, you might have found yourself dreaming what life might have been like as a hired hand working for Caroline Lockhart. Or better yet standing on the Bad Pass Trail, not an easy trail as the name suggests, you



Superintendent Jerry Case

imagine heading north in the spring with all your worldly possessions to the buffalo plains.

Many folks take great comfort in just knowing that Bighorn Canyon exists, even if they never set foot in the park and knowing or expecting that this land will remain in this same condition forever!

Whatever your expectations, when you visit a National Park Service area know that as employees of the NPS we have those same expectations and high standards for protecting these special lands forever and for managing use, unimpaired, for future generations.

Whatever you do in Bighorn Canyon today, do it safely. Consider the hazards, the distance for medical assistance and that Bighorn Canyon is a wild, wonderful and extremely remote location and that you help us keep those qualities intact.

In these wild and uncertain financial times we are also challenged in making ends meet. I honestly don't know what our fiscal future holds, but we promise to do all we can to keep the park open and to provide the services you expect when you visit a National Park.

Every year we conduct an annual visitor survey during the summer. If you have the opportunity to participate, please do – we take your comments seriously. If you are not here during the survey period please write, call or email me if we don't meet your expectations!

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Summer Visitor Center Hours

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

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

Crooked Creek Ranger Station,
Horseshoe Bend, WY
Closed in 2013
307-548-7326

Afterbay Ranger Station
Fort Smith, MT
Closed in 2013
406-666-2452

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

Emergencies

Dial 911 or contact a Park Ranger

You Need To Know

Firearms:

People who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state and local laws, may legally possess firearms in this park.

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

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

Trespass:

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

Personal Water Craft

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

1. The reservoir and shoreline south of the area known as the South Narrows. This boundary is marked by buoys and is approximately 1 mile south of Horseshoe Bend.
2. Crooked Creek Bay.
3. Bighorn River from Yellowtail Dam to cable 3,500 feet north.
4. Afterbay Lake between dam intake works and buoy/cable line 100 feet west.
5. Government docks as posted.
6. Ok-A-Beh gas dock. (customers excepted)
7. Yellowtail Dam upstream to the orange log boom.

All PWC operators must wear USCG approved PFD. In Montana children 12 and under may not operate a PWC. In Wyoming, PWC operators must be over 16 years of age.

Pets:

Pets must be kept on a leash when in developed areas, in areas of concentrated public use, on trails and in the backcountry. This is for their protection and the safety of other visitors and wildlife. Pets must be cleaned up after in public use areas, campgrounds and sidewalks. Pets are not allowed on the swim beaches.

Boating Safety on Bighorn Lake

Boating in the Bighorn Canyon is the number one recreational activity. Before leaving the launch ramps at Ok-A-Beh, Horseshoe Bend or Barry's Landing be sure to sign the register. This information will be helpful in assisting in locating you if necessary.

Cell phone service in the canyon is intermittent and most persons needing assistance have to rely on other boaters. If your boat stalls NEVER attempt to climb out of the canyon, stay with your vessel until help arrives. Be prepared to stay overnight in the canyon and keep an extra paddle or oar, waterproof container with extra clothes, first aid kit and waste receptacle. Keep an air horn or loud whistle for signaling help.

Special permits are not required for boats on Bighorn Lake, except for valid state registrations. Vessels are required to have Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) for all persons and fire extinguishers on board at all times. Children 12 and under must wear a USCG approved PFD while vessel is underway. When underway from sunset to sunrise boats must have vessel lights on. While anchored at night boats must have a light that is visible and can be seen from all directions.

Boating Don'ts

- Don't operate a motorboat or jet ski while under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Don't operate a vessel in excess of 5 mph or create a wake in areas designated "No wake; speed 5 mph"
- Don't operate in a reckless, negligent manner or in a manner that is likely to endanger any other person or property.
- Don't operate motorized craft within 100 feet of other watercraft.

Lake Invasion

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are organisms that are not native and cause significant harm to an ecosystem when introduced. Harmful impacts can occur to municipal water supplies, recreation, agriculture, aquaculture and other commercial activities.

Zebra or quagga mussels are invasive freshwater mollusks that infest waters in large numbers, attaching to hard surfaces. Once the mussels invade a water way, they clog power-plant and public water systems. These creatures spread to new habitats on boats trailored by the public or by commercial haulers unaware they have hitchhikers. At this time Bighorn Canyon does not have zebra or quagga mussels. To ensure the lake remains mussel free, boat operators will be required to complete and display a mussel free certificate. For more information inquire at the visitor centers or talk with a ranger.

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

Clean:

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

Pack it In, Pack it Out, Recycle

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

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



Broken Prop, Photo Courtesy of Friends of Bighorn Lake

- Don't operate while any person is riding on the gunwales, transom or on the decking over the bow while the vessel is underway.
- Don't carry passengers for hire or perform any other commercial operation within the recreation area without Superintendent's authorization.
- Don't operate within 500 feet of any designated swimming area.
- Don't operate a vessel within 100 feet of a diver's marker, downed skier or swimmer.
- Don't leave any vessel unattended outside of designated mooring or beaching areas for more than 24 hours without prior written permission from the Superintendent.

Detailed state and federal regulations and park maps are available at visitor centers and ranger stations. Bighorn Lake maps and the Superintendents Compendium are available online on our website at www.nps.gov/bica/planyourvisit.



Zebra Mussels, NPS photo

Drain:

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

Dry:

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

Additional AIS information for Wyoming and Montana can be found at:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/ais>

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/fishing-1000216.aspx>

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

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

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

Fishing

Bighorn Lake – Wyoming/Montana

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

Bighorn River – Montana

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

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

Bighorn River – Wyoming

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

Hiking

Trail Safety and Tips

Bighorn Canyon invites you to enjoy the park trails that wind through varying sights and tranquil settings. Be prepared for your journey by following these simple safety tips.

1. Carry plenty of water especially on longer hikes and on hot summer days – one quart/liter for every two hours.
2. Bring salty snacks and eat often even if you are not hungry.
3. Wear good, sturdy shoes with closed toes. The canyon trails are rocky and have a lot of spiny vegetation.
4. There may be rattlesnakes anywhere in Bighorn Canyon. Although they generally shy away from people, you need to watch where you put your hands and feet.
5. Don't forget sunscreen, a broad brimmed hat and sun glasses to keep you protected from the sun.
6. After any spring or summer hike, check your skin and clothing for ticks.
7. If hiking alone let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
8. Have a small survival kit in your pack with first aid kit, maps, flashlight, emergency shelter, whistle or signal mirror. Cell phones are not reliable in the canyon.
9. Check the weather forecast. Heat-related illnesses, dehydration and hypothermia are potential health risks related to the weather.
10. Leave No Trace. Take all your trash out with you.

Trail	Distance (round trip)	Difficulty	Description
1. Sykes Mountain Trail	3.75 Miles	Hard	Rugged hike up a desert mountain to amazing views of Horseshoe Bend
2. Mouth of the Canyon Trail	1.75 Miles	Moderate	Seldom seen views of the canyon and the Pryor and Bighorn Mountains
3. State Line Trail	1 Mile	Easy to Moderate	Hike to the rim through juniper shrub land above limestone plateaus
4. Ranger Delight Trail	.5 Mile	Easy	View one of many bends in the canyon from the same location as the bighorn sheep
5. Sullivan's Knob Trail	1 Mile	Easy to Moderate	A great place to try getting a triple echo
6. Two Eagle Interpretive Trail	.62 Miles	Easy	Walk back in time to learn about Native life in Bighorn Canyon, including archeological interpretation of stone features
7. Lower Layout Creek Trail	3.5 Miles	Easy to Moderate	Amazing views in a popular wild horse use area
8. Upper Layout Creek Trail	4 Miles	Hard	A diverse trail with a waterfall and spring, nestled in a desert landscape
9. Hillsboro Trail	1 to 3 Miles	Easy to Moderate	The longer trail loop directs hikers along the seldom hiked, historic Hillsboro entrance road
10. Barry's Island Trail	4.5 Miles	Moderate	Hike along the lake in the footprints of cattle rustlers from the late 1800s and early 1900s
11. Lockhart Ranch	.5 to 2 Miles	Easy	After visiting the ranch buildings, walk around Caroline Lockhart's pasture lands
12. Bighorn Head Gate Trail	.10 Mile	Easy	See remnants of the Bighorn Head Gate system built in the early 1900s
13. Beaver Pond Nature Trail	.5 Miles	Moderate	Indications that Beaver and other wildlife use this area are abundant
14. Three-Mile Access Trail	1.3 Miles	Easy	A tranquil setting to watch the ducks float by on the Bighorn River

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

Need to Know Cont...

Campfires:

Campfires are permitted in designated campgrounds and picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Campfires are allowed in the backcountry and below the high water mark along Bighorn Lake. Fire restrictions during periods of high fire danger may close certain areas to fires and camping. Check at the campgrounds and visitor centers for restrictions.

Do not leave campfires unattended. High winds can spread a fire out of the fire ring. Only collect driftwood below the high water mark.

Roads:

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

Be Safe, Not Sorry

Footwear

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

Park Roads

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

Drink Your Water

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

Steep Cliffs

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

Lightning

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

Don't Feed The Animals

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

Cell Phone

Cell phone service in the canyon is intermittent. The most reliable service can be found in the south district at the park entrance sign and Devil Canyon Overlook. On the north district you may have service near the headquarters building.

Have a plan

A good trip plan is key to a fun outing. Stick to your plan and know where and how to seek help if you need it.

Concession Services

Ok-A-Beh Marina

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

Marina offers:

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

To contact the Ok-A-Beh Marina:

Phone: 406-666-2349 (Mid-May to Sept.)

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

Horseshoe Bend Marina

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

Marina Offers:

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

To contact the Horseshoe Bend Marina:

Phone: 307-548-7230 (Summer)

307-548-7110 (Winter)

Address: 575 E Main Street
Lovell, WY 82431

Hidden Treasure Charters & Wyoming Eco-tours

Hidden Treasure Charters offers scenic boat tours of Bighorn Canyon.

Services offered:

- 2 hour daily tours from Horseshoe Bend.
- Friday and Saturday @ 10 and 2
- Other times available by reservation.
- Large group tours by reservation
- Fishing charters by reservation

To contact Hidden Treasure Charters:

Phone: 307-899-1401

Email:

reservations@hiddentreasurecharters.com

or garrison@tritnet.net

Website: www.hiddentreasurecharters.com

Mountain Lions

Called mountain lions, cougars, or pumas, *Felis concolor* is a fascinating cat. Bighorn Canyon NRA and Graduate student, Linsey Blake of Utah State University, have been collaborating on a project to learn more about these big cats at Bighorn Canyon. Mountain lions prey on bighorn sheep, mule deer and occasionally on horses. We were interested in the density of cats in the park area and in what and where they were eating. Using dogs and cage traps we captured and collared six cats. The collars we used were GPS collars which were programmed to calculate and store the location of the cat eight times a day. The collars uploaded this information back to the satellite so that researchers could analyze where the cat had been. Anytime a cat stayed in the same location for more than two locations, we called this a cluster and hiked in to investigate what was there. A total of 378 clusters were investigated, with 198 mountain lion prey animals found. Not surprisingly, most (140) of these were mule deer. Bighorn sheep were the next most popular menu item, with 17 eaten, most by the same cat. (Figure 1) While beaver, coyote and duck were all eaten, we did not document any mountain lion kills of horses or of any domestic livestock during this study. Another interesting finding was how different the individual cats were regarding diet. (Figure 2) F1 (the first female cat we collared) ate 70% mule deer and 25% bighorn sheep, while M3 (the third male) consumed deer 45% and beaver 31% of the time. We are in the process of looking at kill sites to determine how they are different from other sites on the landscape. We then may be able to predict where future kills are likely to occur.

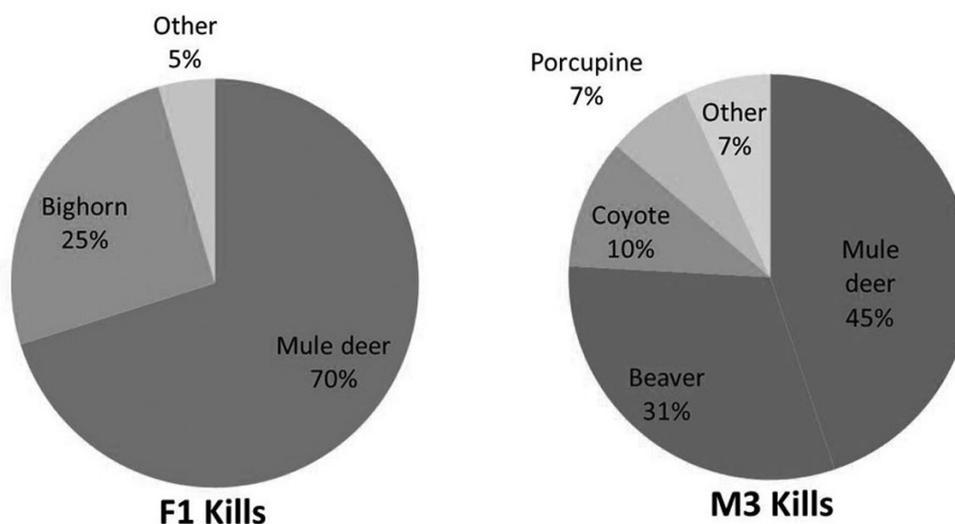
The number of mountain lions in the Bighorn Canyon area is



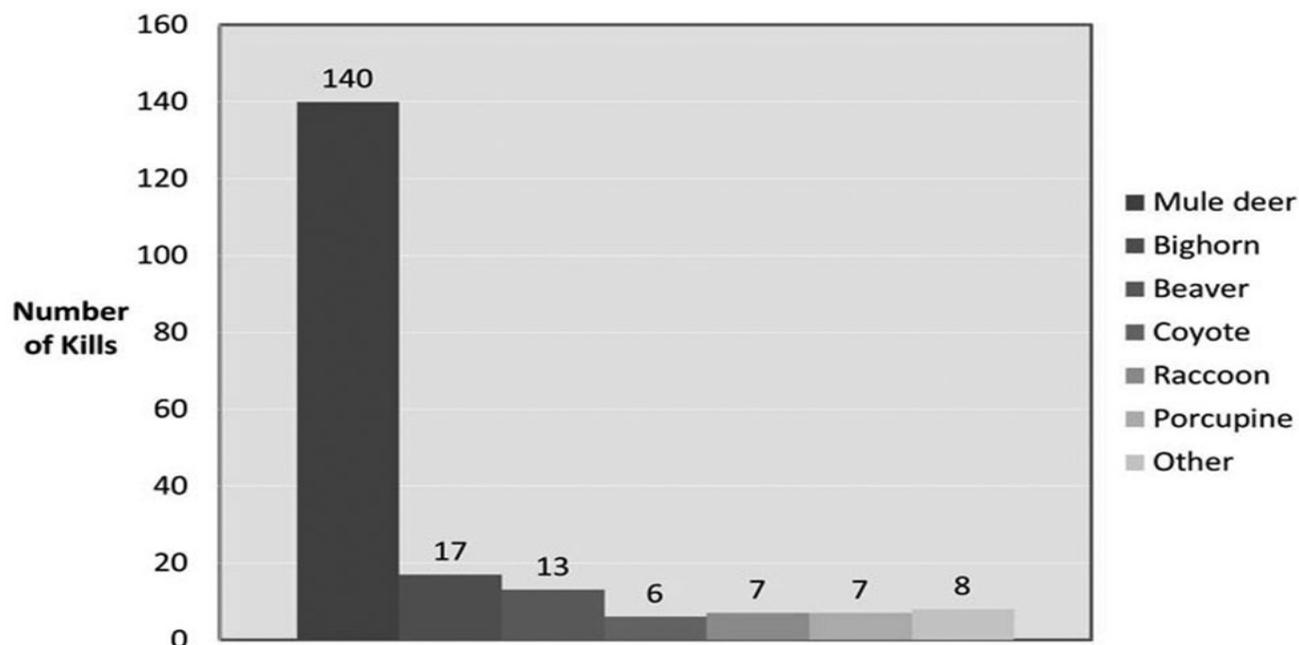
Mountain lions are rarely seen in the park. If you do see one, don't run. Pick up small children and make yourself look larger. If the cat acts aggressive, fight back. Bear spray is also effective against cats. NPS Photo

much smaller than the number in the Bighorn Mountains, perhaps because there is not as much to eat. Bighorn Canyon cats covered large areas, with males using about 450 square miles of terrain and females using about 250 square miles.

Data from this study will help us to better target habitat improvement projects for bighorn sheep and better understand how bighorn sheep, mule deer, horses and mountain lions coexist in the park.



F1 and M3, two mountain lions inhabiting a similar area, had different diets. F1 preferred bighorn sheep, while M3 frequently dined on beaver. The other category includes elk, mallard, pine marten, red fox and striped skunk.



Total located kills made by lions tracked during the study. Mule deer were by far the most common prey item. No kills of domestic livestock or horses were documented during the study.

Dire Wolf

Thousands of years ago water cut a cave through the limestone rock on the western slope of the Bighorn Mountains. The opening of the cave was 10 feet in diameter and it descended 85 feet into the earth. The cave became a “natural trap” for hundreds of prehistoric animals because they fell to their deaths when they accidentally walked over the edge into the abyss leaving a huge bone pile which would become a paleontologist’s gold mine of information.

Twenty thousand years ago Wyoming looked much different than it does today. There were plains like there are today but there was much more vegetation which attracted many plant-eating animals. The meat-eaters were attracted to the area because of the plant-eaters. Many of these animals have long been extinct, but some have descendants that still roam the area. The bones of these animals were preserved by the cool temperatures and minerals inside the cave. These bones indicate that the dire wolf, woolly mammoth and saber-toothed lion, among others, roamed what is now northern Wyoming.

The dire wolf is related to the smaller gray wolf of today and they were approximately five feet in length and weighed somewhere between 110 to 170 pounds. Their jaws were very powerful and they could crush bones very easily. The dire wolves’ teeth were similar to the present-day gray wolf but they were quite a bit larger. The dire wolf was also a very social animal just like the gray wolves of today. They often roamed in packs and they hunted together in packs. Dire wolves seemed to live in a variety of environments. They survived in forests, grasslands and plains all across what is now North America.

The saber-toothed lions are known for their huge canine front teeth, which could reach to approximately 19 inches in length. These long teeth helped these animals kill mammoths and sloths for food. The saber-toothed lions were apparently social carnivores and they lived together in groups. The present-day mountain lions that sometimes pass through the area are not quite as social. The present-day descendants prefer to remain solitary animals and hunt on their own.

There are no elephant-like species roaming Wyoming today but at one time the woolly mammoth lived across North America. The



Artwork from designeranimals2011.wikispaces.com

mammoth’s thick hair enabled it to live in very cold climates. The hair contained a coarse outer layer with a thick layer underneath. Many of these animals reached a height of 9-11 feet at the shoulder and they could weigh up to six tons. In other parts of the world cave art drawn by prehistoric humans has helped present-day paleontologists figure out what these animals possibly looked like.

The remains of equine species were also found inside Natural Trap Cave. Bones of horse-like creatures that resembled a zebra and donkey were left in the cave. There were also the remains of animals similar to present-day horses in the cave. These herbivores were likely hunted by the dire wolves and saber-toothed lions. The prehistoric horse species were extinct about 10,000 years ago and there were no horses in North America until the Spanish reintroduced the horse to the continent in the 1500s. The wild horses that roam the area today include descendants of the Spanish horses.

It is hard to imagine that there were camels in North America at one time, but a small number of prehistoric camel bones were actually found in Natural Trap Cave. There were also a small number of bones from prehistoric bison, antelope, fox and short-faced bear found in the cave. The oldest bone found in the cave was radiocarbon dated at 20,000 years old. The bone belonged to a prehistoric sheep. Perhaps it belonged to one of the ancestors of our present-day bighorn sheep, the namesake of our park.

Camping with Bears

While bears prefer the mountains surrounding Bighorn Canyon where there are plenty of nuts and berries, sightings are common in the canyon as well as the campgrounds and picnic areas. Generally bears can be seen from late spring until early fall and will cross through the more populated areas of the Recreation Area.

Black bears are good swimmers and climbers and are generally afraid of people. They will either go another way or flee if they sense or see you. They are most active during the twilight hours; however, they can be seen anytime during the day.

Please help us keep bears wild and humans safe by following some basic safety rules and keep your food properly stored. Allowing bears to obtain human food can and does, result in aggressive bear behavior which can pose a threat to human safety. Bears that become aggressive must be relocated and, in some cases, killed.

- Do not feed bears – Or other wildlife for any reason.
- Use our Bear Box’s to store food –They are provided in all campgrounds and boat-in locations.
- Don’t Leave Dirty Dishes and Food Out – Keep them in a Bear Box or hidden containers inside your vehicle or boat.

Failure to follow Recreation Area food storage regulations is a violation of federal law and you can receive a citation.



Black Bear at Lockhart Ranch. NPS Photo

What to do if you encounter a bear

- Walk away facing the bear.
- Don’t look a bear in the eyes.
- Let the bear know you are not a threat.
- Make yourself look as large as possible.
- Bang pots, yell and scream.
- If you have air horns or whistles use them.
- Contact a Ranger immediately.

Activities

Ranger Led Activities:

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



Log restoration demonstration at Homesteader Day in Powell. NPS Photo

Swimming:

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

Diving:

Scuba divers should display a diving flag (red with white diagonal stripe or white and blue vertical bars) while diving. **Under no circumstance should any motor powered craft approach to within 100 feet of a craft displaying either flag.**

Water Skiing:

Check out the area where you will be water skiing for driftwood before starting to ski. There must be at least two people in the towing boat: an operator and an observer.

Picnicking:

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

Bicycling:

Bicycling is permitted only on established public roads and in parking areas. Lights and reflectors are required after dark. We strongly suggest that safety helmets be worn by all bicyclists. Park roads are narrow and winding and the scenery can be distracting.

WNPA

Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is a nonprofit cooperating association of the National Park Service that manages the book sales area at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Centers. Their mission is: to promote preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation and research. The association is now located in 63 National Park areas in 11 states.

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

Top 5 sales items at Bighorn Canyon

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



WNPA Sales Area, NPS Photo

Volunteer Your Time

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

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

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

To volunteer please contact Shawn Williams, park volunteer coordinator, at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center in Lovell, WY or call:

307-548-5406

To apply online:

www.nps.gov/bica/supportyourpark/volunteer

www.volunteer.gov/gov

Cattle Queen of Montana

Tucked away in a remote spot of the Dryhead area of Montana visitors to Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area can find the Lockhart Ranch. Caroline Lockhart came to Cody, Wyoming in 1904 for a short visit, but ended up staying in the region for the rest of her life. Caroline was already 33 years old when she arrived, but she was a woman who had built a name for herself even before she came to the West.

At the age of eighteen, Caroline began her career as a journalist with the *Boston Post*, which was known as a “yellow sheet” because the paper had a reputation for its sensationalized form of journalism. Caroline’s first assignment as a reporter was to write an article about the “freaks” at Austin and Stone’s Dime Museum in Boston. The owner of the museum thought the article would be a great advertisement for his business and he suggested that Caroline participate in the show with the people who worked in the museum to gain their trust. This experience would be the beginning of a common thread that would always run through Caroline’s articles. She would experience things before writing about it.

Over the years, Caroline would walk on the bottom of Boston Harbor in a diving suit, swim across the Delaware River, walk on top of William Penn’s statue and jump four stories into a rescue net that the fire department was testing all before writing amazing articles that grabbed the public’s attention. Writing about her many experiences became the hallmark of her journalistic career. Caroline was a woman ahead of her time because many people frowned on her work. Many people of the time believed that working as a journalist was a “dirty” job for a woman unless she was writing about housekeeping or taking care of children.

After Caroline arrived in Cody, her career moved more towards writing novels. Two of her novels were actually made into silent movies during the 1920s. She also used her writing as a form of

social activism. Her novel *The Lady Doc* was used as a way to expose a corrupt doctor in Cody who was providing horrible care for her patients, especially her patients who were building a dam nearby. Several of her patients died because of her poor care. The novel split Cody because many people supported Caroline while many supported the doctor.

Caroline did not get out of journalism completely while she was living in Cody. She purchased the *Cody Enterprise* in the 1920s and she would use the paper to speak out against the prohibition of alcohol. Caroline disagreed with prohibition because she believed that it was an infringement on personal liberties. Her paper was the only “wet” newspaper in all of Wyoming during prohibition and her column was often published in other papers around the country. She also used her paper to build the Cody Stampede into the huge rodeo that it is today and to raise money to build a statue of Buffalo Bill Cody, a good friend of hers.

By 1926, Caroline sold her newspaper and she became a rancher, which was something she had been considering for quite some time. Caroline started off with approximately 160 acres and by the time she retired she had amassed over 6,000 acres of land. She was able to use her money and the Homestead Act to build her ranch. The Depression hit many ranchers very hard and Caroline was no exception. She had to borrow money during the 1930s to pay some of her bills. In 1935, however, Caroline’s ranch achieved the best price of any herd at the stockyards in Omaha, Nebraska. Caroline would become the “Cattle Queen of Montana” before retiring from ranching in her eighties. She spent her last years living in Cody before passing away at the age of 91 in 1962. She had never married but she was known to have had many boyfriends during her lifetime. Her ashes were scattered from an airplane over her former ranch in the Dryhead of Bighorn Canyon.

Entrance Fee Dollars at Work

In 2004, Congress signed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) which allows the U.S. Department of the Interior to implement an interagency fee program in several of its agencies—the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service. The program directs 80% of funds collected at Bighorn Canyon NRA for entrance fees towards the following improvements to Bighorn Canyon NRA: maintenance, repairs, public service programs, signage and natural/historical resource preservation. The remaining 20% is generally distributed to parks that do not collect fees.

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

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



The Lockhart garage was in desperate need of repair due to structural instability. The foundation sill logs were decaying and the slope-wash was collapsing the sides. The sod roof was well on its way to deteriorating completely off the structure. The restoration on the Lockhart garage helped in preserving this historic structure and allowed for the continuation of public visitation.

Other Area Attractions

National Parks:

Yellowstone National Park (100 miles west of Lovell, Wyoming)
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (40 miles north of Fort Smith, Montana)
Devils Tower National Monument (240 miles east of Lovell, Wyoming)

Attractions Near Fort Smith, MT:

Big Horn County Museum (45 miles)
Pompey’s Pillar (70 miles)

Chief Plenty Coups State Park (60 miles)
Pictograph Cave State Park (90 miles)
Yellowstone County Museum (90 miles)

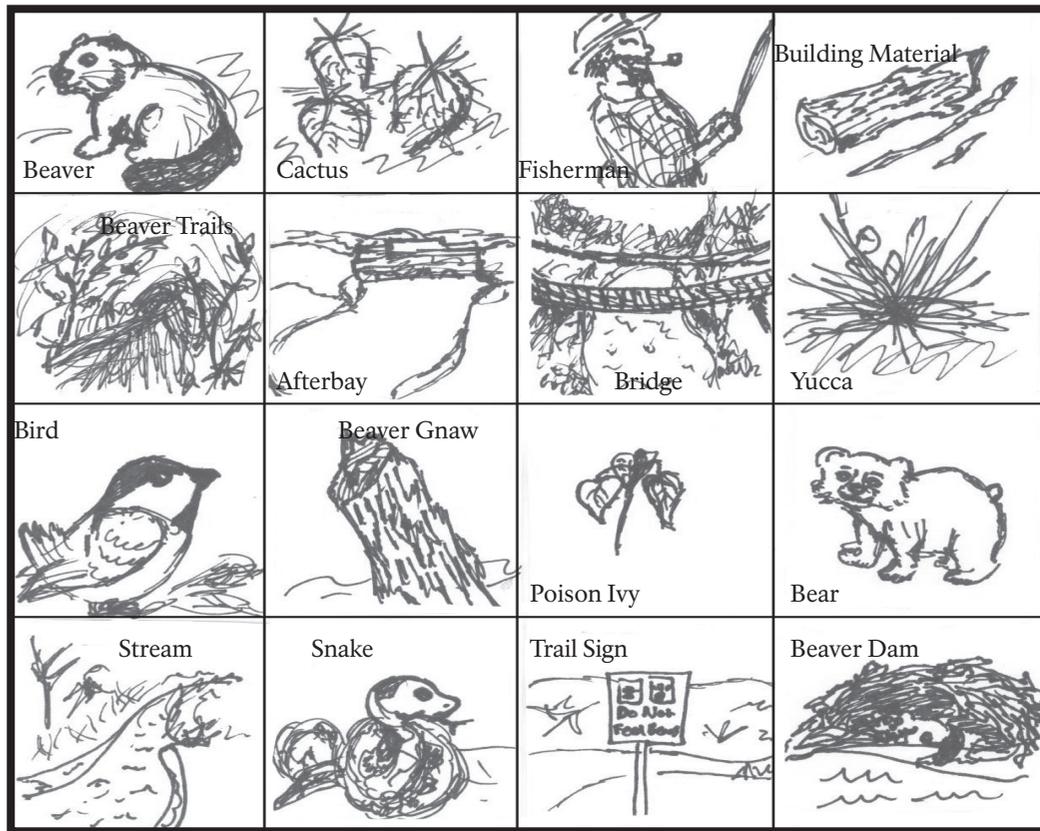
Attractions Near Lovell, WY:

Bighorn National Forest – Medicine Wheel (35 miles)
Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center (.5 mile)
Buffalo Bill Historical Center (50 miles)
Homesteader Museum (30 miles)
Heart Mountain Interpretive Center (40 miles)

Kids Corner

Beaver Pond Trail Bingo

The Beaver Pond Trail, located west of the Afterbay Ranger Station in Fort Smith, is a great hike for the entire family. The creek is littered with gnawed trees and other building materials. This is one construction site you will want to take a closer look at. As you follow the trail, cross off the things you see. Can you cross off all items, make an x or a +?



Bighorn Canyon Camping

Campground	# of Sites	Description
Afterbay Campground	28 RV and tent sites on the south shore. 8 RV sites and 6 tent sites on the north shore	Near Fort Smith, Montana, this campground has sites on the north and south shore of the Afterbay. Composting vault toilets, RV dump station near campground, drinking water, no RV hookups.
Black Canyon Campground **	17 tent sites	This boat-in-only campground, five miles south of Ok-A-Beh boat ramp, is along the lake shore in Douglas fir/ponderosa pine forest. A floating, vault toilet is available. No drinking water available.
Day Board 9 **	5 tent sites	This boat-in-only site has a floating, vault toilet available during summer months. No drinking water available.
Horseshoe Bend Campground	48 total campsites 3 are pull through sites 20 sites have been improved with water and electrical hook-ups. Improved sites have a \$15 per night utility fee.	14 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming. Nestled in sagebrush and juniper woodland communities, overlooking the lake and the red sandstone cliffs of Sykes Mountain. Modern restrooms, a RV dump station and drinking water is available during summer months. Some sites have shade shelters.
Medicine Creek Campground **	6 tent sites	Boat-in or hike-in only to enjoy this lakeshore setting. Floating, vault toilet is available at lake elevation 3635. No drinking water.
Trail Creek Campground at Barry's Landing	10 RV sites for short RVs 16 tent only sites in the Trail Creek Campground. 4 new RV sites are now just off the Barry's Landing parking area.	This primitive campground 27 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming, via WY Hwy 37 is located among the various deciduous trees that line the side canyon of Trail Creek. Vault toilets, no drinking water or RV hookups.

Campgrounds are open all year. All camping in Bighorn Canyon is on a first come first serve basis. No reservations will be taken.

**Lake levels and seasonal weather can affect the proximity of the boat moorings to campsites at Black Canyon Campground, Day Board 9 and Medicine Creek Campground. Docks and floating, vault toilets at these campsites are removed in the winter.

Junior Ranger Program



Bighorn Canyon's Junior Ranger Program is a great way for children, as well as their parents, to experience Bighorn Canyon. By completing several different activities, the whole family will learn about the Yellowstone Dam, the history of the area and the wide variety of wildlife. The booklets are available at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center in Lovell, Wyoming, the Crooked Creek Ranger Station, the Afterbay Ranger Station and the Yellowstone Dam Visitor Center in Fort Smith, Montana.

Fees

Entrance Fees

Vehicle Entrance Fees
 \$5 – Day (Valid 24 hours)
 \$30 – Annual
 (Valid for one year from month of purchase)

Commercial Tours
 1 – 6 passenger \$ 25.00
 7 – 25 passenger \$ 40.00
 26 + passenger \$100.00

Interagency Passes
 \$80 – Interagency Annual Pass
 (Valid for one year from month of purchase)

\$10 – Interagency Senior Pass
 (Must be a US citizen or permanent resident age 62 or older)

Free – Access Pass (Must be a US citizen or permanent resident with documentation of a permanent disability)

Free – Military Pass (Valid for one year from month of issue for US military personnel and their dependents with proper ID (CAC Card or DD Form 1173))

Utility Fee

A \$15 per day utility fee is required when camping in the Horseshoe Bend campground in the improved sites with water and electric hook-ups. Horseshoe Bend is open year round, but utilities are not available from mid-September to mid-May.

Protecting the Crown Jewels

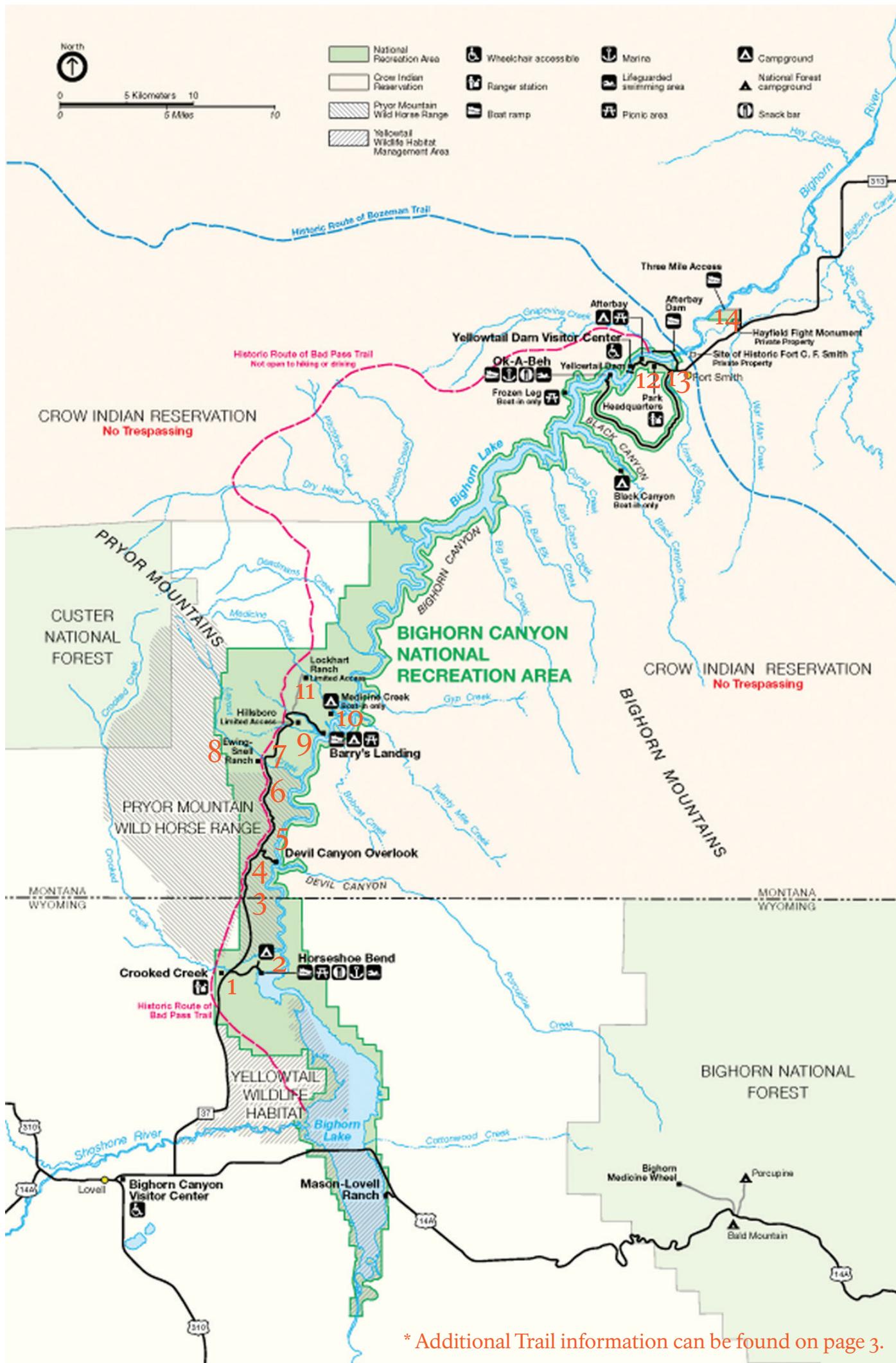
The National Park Service was established in 1916 to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects and the wildlife that would provide for the enjoyment of the resources leaving them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

What started out as an attempt to save some geological wonders and spectacular scenery, gradually took on a greater goal with a more focused mission. Parks have been set aside to save samples of most of the various types of landscapes found in our country from mountains to canyons, to deserts and swamps and from seashores to prairies. Our cultural heritage has been set aside as well. From the American Revolution to the Civil War, the Yorktowns and the Gettysburgs teach us of our past and remind us of our progress.

How we manage our parks has changed through time. Park visitors have come to recognize the sensible regulations against collecting petrified wood at Petrified Forest National Park, cutting live trees for firewood in Yosemite Valley, throwing coins in a geyser at Yellowstone, taking fossils from Dinosaur National Monument or sneaking off with pieces of pottery from Mesa Verde. But sometimes we don't stop to think that collecting arrowheads or taking home fossils from Bighorn Canyon is the same thing. Maybe we think that one or two won't matter, but when we are trying to protect an area for future generations we need to realize that it does matter. Indian artifacts and fossils have received stronger protections in recent years with the passage of the Archeological Resources Protection Act (1979) and the Paleontological Resources Protection Act (2009).

The phrase "THE CROWN JEWELS" is often used to refer to our major parks like the Grand Canyon. Some jewels are in the back of the crown and not always noticed. To protect the crown, we need to protect all the jewels. The geological wonders of the canyon, the rich variety of plant and wildlife, the centuries old archeological sites and the more recent historical ranches and recreational opportunities for boating, fishing and camping make Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area a multi-faceted jewel.

We invite you to experience the sparkle of the Bighorn Canyon jewel.



* Additional Trail information can be found on page 3.

Other Crown Jewels in Montana and Wyoming:

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
 Big Hole National Battlefield
 Grand Teton National Park
 Devils Tower National Monument
 Glacier National Park

Grant Kohrs National Historic Site
 Yellowstone National Park
 Fort Laramie National Historic Site
 Fossil Butte National Monument
 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway