

VOL. 8 2024-2025

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E  
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E  
T

# The BASIN

**4** **Worland Area**  
Washakie Museum.....6  
WY State BBQ.....6

**9** **Ten Sleep Area**  
Nowoodstock Festival,  
Rodeo, Ranches, Brewery

**10** **BLM Public Lands**  
Hiking trails, scenic  
areas, wildlife viewing

**14** **Bighorn National  
Forest**  
Camping, wildlife

**16** **Medicine Lodge &  
Legend Rock**  
Native American culture

**18** **Hunting, Fishing &  
Outdoor Rec**  
Locations, regulations

**20** **Wyoming Whiskey**  
Distillery tours,  
whiskey tasting

**22** **Thermopolis Area**  
Hot Springs Museum....23  
WY Dinosaur Center....24

**27** **Biking & Golfing**  
Trails, greens,  
mountain biking access

**28** **Meeteetse & Kirwin**  
Old west town and  
museums, ghost town

**30** **Basin & Greybull**  
Parades, river access,  
drag races, fossils

**33** **Lovell**  
Wild horses,  
Medicine Wheel

**35** **Powell**  
Homesteader Museum,  
Heart Mountain

**36** **Cody & Yellowstone**  
Rodeo, museums,  
Yellowstone Park

**38** **Rodeo & Snow**  
See a rodeo and play  
in the snow

Northern Wyoming  
**NEWS**

"The Basin" is a publication of NWN  
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Cover photo Paintrock Canyon in the  
Bighorns by Jim Gates. Thank you to all of  
our local photographers who contributed to  
this publication!

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# WORLAND AREA

*Your gateway to adventure and fun*



Fifteenmile Horse Management Area, Renee Lund

**W**ashakie County is home to both Worland and Ten Sleep where you can enjoy the beauty and simplicity of small-town Wyoming while being surrounded by our Bighorn Mountains. Lots of activity and several events in Washakie County throughout the year.



Cloud Peak Wilderness, Alex Kuhn

## **MOUNTAINS**

The Bighorn Mountains are full of rustic cabins surrounded by majestic scenery, beautiful Meadowlark Lake, wildlife, etc.

The Lark Restaurant, Meadowlark Ski Lodge & Lake Resort, Deer Haven and South Fork Mountain Lodge offer activities to keep you busy all year round. Spend your vacations or family/friend time hiking, fishing, horseback riding, backpacking, ATVing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, or downhill skiing at Meadowlark Ski Lodge.

Ten Sleep Canyon features world-class rock-climbing attracting hundreds of climbers every day in the summer.

Contact WTS Chamber  
307-347-3226 or  
Town of Ten Sleep  
307-366-2265 for  
details



## WORLAND

You are sure to find several events to pique your interest in Worland. Join Worland-Ten Sleep Chamber and other businesses for great fun events.

Cool off in the summer or warm up in the winter at the Worland Aquatic Center, open daily to the public. Several special events too.

Enjoy the weekly Saturday Farmers Market during the summer, with local harvest, great music, and local wares from several vendors.

Worland Community Center Complex is always a hub of activity. Year-round enjoy youth sporting events, children's art camps, public basketball games with walking center for exercise, and much more.



Pioneer Square, Karla Pomeroy

## TEN SLEEP, BADLANDS AND MORE

Ten Sleep also has great restaurants, shops, rodeos, parades, and more. Discover the diverse landscape of Washakie County from the mountains to badlands to the Big Horn River Basin. Hike through the badlands or stop at the Castle Gardens rock formations and Honeycomb Wilderness area between Worland and Ten Sleep. There is never a shortage of wildlife to view or photograph.



Ten Sleep Splash Pad, Karla Pomeroy

# Events Calendar

## JUNE

- 15** - Bloedorn Lumber Customer Appreciation Day 10 am - 3 pm
- 22** - CultureFest, Worland Community Center Complex, 9 am - 5 pm

## JULY

- 4** - Pony Express, Ten Sleep Parade, 10 am
- Rodeo, 1:30 pm
- Craft Fair, Vista Park 10 am - 2 pm
- 20** - Business Expo, Washakie Museum 9 am - 3 pm,
- 20-27** - Washakie County Fair
- 27- Thompson Square Concert
- 27 - Fair Parade, Big Horn Ave., 9 am

**Farmers Market: Saturdays 8 am - 12:30 pm, Ninth Street in Worland. Lots of vendors, food, music, late July through September 30**

## AUGUST

- 9-11** - Nowoodstock Music Festival, Ten Sleep Vista Park
- 16-17** - 19th Annual Pepsi Wyoming BBQ Championship & Bluegrass Festival, Washakie County Fairgrounds
- 22** - WTS Chamber FREE Customer Appreciation BBQ, 5 - 7:30 pm, Washakie County Courthouse Lawn

## SEPTEMBER

- 14** - Crazy Days, downtown Worland, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## OCTOBER

- 5** - WTS Chamber Oktoberfest/Pumpkin Drop, Fairgrounds, 9 am - 5 pm
- 14** - WTS Chamber Hunter/Harvest Fest, Downtown Ten Sleep, 10 am - 2 pm
- 31** - WTS Chamber Trunk or Treat, Pioneer Square and Ninth Street, 4-7 pm

## NOVEMBER

- 22** - Range Trim a Tree Light Ceremony, Pioneer Square, Worland, 5 - 7 pm,

## DECEMBER

- 7** - WTS Chamber Parade of Lights, Downtown Worland, 6 - 7 pm

# WASHAKIE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER



Washakie Museum, David Huber

**D**iscover the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming at the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center, 2200 Big Horn Avenue, Worland. A life-size Columbian Mammoth bronze statue greets visitors at the entrance to the parking lot. The beautiful modern building was built through the generosity of the Newell B. Sargent Foundation. Visitors can explore two spacious permanent galleries featuring regional geology, paleontology, archaeology, and Worland town history, with interactive exhibits including video and audio components. A new permanent exhibit on the museum's mezzanine features a wide array of Wyoming wildlife.

The Museum's temporary gallery features up to five different

exhibits each year. The Museum also offers a wide variety of performing arts events, regional artist exhibitions, lectures, and education programs for children and adults.

The museum also serves as the visitor center for Washakie County, providing regional route and activity information. The Museum is open May 15 to September 15 from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. From September 16 to May 14 the Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission discounts are available to AAA members, veterans, and active-duty military families.

Visit [www.washakiemuseum.org](http://www.washakiemuseum.org), the Washakie Museum Facebook page, or call (307) 347-4102.

## Events Calendar

### JUNE

7-August 17 — Immersive Art Exhibit

28-29 — Children's play "Matilda Jr."

### JULY

6 - Paleontology Symposium

12 - Evening with Shakespeare Dinner

13 - Shakespeare in the Park

### AUGUST

Aug. 30-Oct. 13 Wyoming Rock Art Exhibit

## WY STATE BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



Bluegrass Festival, Karla Pomeroy

**T**he Pepsi Wyoming State BBQ Championship and Bluegrass Festival will be Aug. 16-17 this year at the Washakie County Fairgrounds in Worland.

Each year, the third weekend in August, over 25 BBQ teams compete at the festival in Worland in a Kansas City Barbecue Society sanctioned event for prizes totaling \$15,000.

At the festival you can taste mouthwatering BBQ while listening to fabulous bluegrass musicians. Bring the family and enjoy tasty food while visiting with

friends.

There are many other fun activities going on during the BBQ and Bluegrass Festival:

—Annual BBQ and Bluegrass Festival Car Show, Aug. 17, Washakie County Fairgrounds.

—BBQ and Bluegrass Festival Brewfest Aug. 15.

—Kids Q the morning of Aug. 17

—Bluegrass 5K Walk &

Run: morning of Aug. 17, Washakie County Fairgrounds in Worland.

—Pancake Breakfast morning of Aug. 17 next to the stage.

See [wyobbqandbluegrass.com](http://wyobbqandbluegrass.com) for more information

# VISITOR SITE

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Worland Ten Sleep  
Chamber of Commerce



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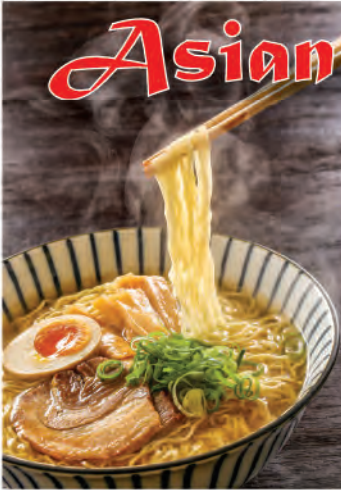
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# TEN SLEEP

## SMALL TOWN, BIG EVENTS



Fourth of July Rodeo, Alex Kuhn

Nestled below the Bighorn Mountains on U.S. 16 is the little western town of Ten Sleep, population 257. According to the Town of Ten Sleep website, “Ten Sleep got our name from our location “ten sleeps” (or nights) midway between the Sioux Camps on the Platte River from the south to an historical Sioux campsite to the north, near Bridger, Montana.”

The town offers a mix of restaurants, a motel, a community garden, and Vista Park, the home of one of Wyoming’s most popular summer events: the Nowoodstock Festival.

Ten Sleep also features multiple amazing stops like the Ten Sleep Brewery, the Red Reflet Guest Ranch and the Ten Sleep Rock Ranch.

Ten Sleep Brewery Co. is locally owned and located one mile west of Ten Sleep. Weekly events showcase local music and food talents. Camping is available on their acreage for tents and small campers.

Circle J Ranch in scenic Ten Sleep Canyon offers camping, cabins, tween camps, retreats, weddings and other events throughout the year. The annual Apple Festival in October is Circle J’s largest fundraiser, held each autumn with the apple harvest.

## Events

### JULY

-Fourth of July Rodeo  
-Youth Rodeo

### AUGUST

-9-11 - Nowoodstock Festival

### OCTOBER

Oct. 14 - Hunter Fest

### DECEMBER

-Christmas Parade of Lights

The Ten Sleep Recreation District provides a variety of activities throughout the year. The Ten Sleep town park features a splash pad, there is public access to Tensleep Creek adjacent to the pad. There is a “dinosaur sand pit” where children can find “fossils.” There is an ice skating rink with a warming hut in the winter.

Contact WTS Chamber  
307-347-3226 or  
Town of Ten Sleep  
307-366-2265 for  
details

## NOWOODSTOCK

Celebrating its 24th year, Nowoodstock is a three-day music festival, held on the banks of the Tensleep Creek in Ten Sleep’s Vista Park.

Originally a locals-only jam session, the festival has grown into a fully-sponsored event, with food and craft vendors, and featuring musical acts from all around the world. The festival is a sanctioned Wyoming Arts Council event, and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

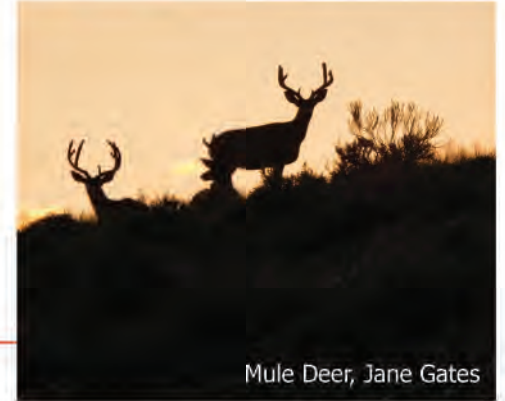
The festival is traditionally held the second week in August, for 2024 that will be Aug. 9-11.

For more information, and schedule, visit [www.nowoodstock.com](http://www.nowoodstock.com).

# Bureau of Land Management

## Outdoor Adventures in Your Backyard

**T**he Big Horn Basin is home to stunning public lands where you can enjoy countless types of outdoor adventures and make lifetime memories. Staffs at the Bureau of Land Management Cody and Worland field offices are happy to assist with trip planning. It's always a good idea to check with the BLM for current road conditions and for more information. Many of the dirt roads leading to these areas are not suitable for low clearance vehicles and may become impassable when wet.



Mule Deer, Jane Gates

### **EAST SIDE of THE BIG HORN BASIN Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Site**

The Big Cedar Ridge Fossil Site can be found in the great wide-open southeast of Worland. Seventy million years ago, a mudflow of volcanic ash suddenly entombed the entire landscape around Big Cedar Ridge. Interpretive panels discuss the geology and illustrate the fossilized plants of the area. To reach Big Cedar Ridge, travel east from Worland on U.S. Highway 16 for approximately 15 miles then turn south onto BLM Road 1411 (Blue Bank Road). Follow Blue Bank Road for 14.5 miles and look for a parking area and interpretive panels on the right (west side of the road).

### **Castle Gardens Scenic Area and Campground**

Explore fabulous hoodoos and other cool formations at the Castle Gardens Scenic Area near Ten Sleep. Primitive camping is permitted and shade structures, tables, grills, fire rings and restrooms also make this a great day-use area. The turnoff to Castle Gardens is approximately 2 miles west of Ten Sleep on U.S. Highway 16. A dirt road and signs lead to the site about 6 miles south of the highway.

### **Cottonwood Creek Trail and**

### **Campground**

Vistas of the Big Horn Basin and the magnificent and inspiring Cottonwood Canyon (walls exceed 1000') can be enjoyed along this trail up the west slope of the Big-horn Mountains. At the trailhead, you will find an interpretive kiosk, 5 campsites with fire rings, picnic tables, restroom, 4 horse corrals, horse watering trough and food storage boxes (this is bear country!). From Lovell, take U.S. Highway 14A east for approximately 10 miles. Immediately past the causeway on the east side of Big-horn Lake, turn left onto John Blue Canyon Road/BLM Road #1122. Take the first road on the right and travel roughly 5 miles until you reach the campground and trailhead.

### **Duck Swamp Interpretive Area**

Just five minutes from downtown Worland, this 81-acre oxbow lake and marsh is a cut-off meander of the Big Horn River. Visitors can hike a 1-mile interpretive loop overlooking the wetland to view and learn about its many residents: songbirds, wading birds, ducks, raptors, muskrats, mink, beaver and others. The area is about 3 miles north of Worland on Wyoming Highway 433. Paved path, drinking water, restroom, car and bus park-

ing, barbecue and covered picnic tables are available for day-use.

### **Five Springs Falls Campground and Trail**

A waterfall tucked into steep cliff walls and picturesque campsites along the creek make this campground in the dramatic flanks of the Bighorn Mountains a true gem. A short hike on the trail from the parking area leads to a lookout of Five Springs Falls. Travel 22 miles east on U.S. Highway 14A from Lovell to the Five Springs Falls Campground sign. There is an overnight fee for camping at one of the 19 campsites. Potable water is available from May to October. The campground is not suitable for recreational vehicles over 25 feet in length.

### **Honeycombs Wilderness Study Area and Badlands**

Not far from Worland, hardy hikers wanting to get away from it all in the badlands can explore the Honeycombs Wilderness Study Area. The badlands provide a dramatic backdrop for a variety of primitive recreation opportunities such as geologic sightseeing, photography, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, rock collecting, wildlife viewing and hunting. To



Gooseberry Badlands, BLM

Visit [www.blm.gov/wyoming](http://www.blm.gov/wyoming) or [www.recreation.gov/](http://www.recreation.gov/) for more information about these and other public land recreation areas, or stop by the Cody Field Office (1002 Blackburn Street) or the Worland Field Office (101 South 23rd Street).

### Gooseberry Badlands

NEW IN 2024! The Gooseberry Trail underwent a major facelift last fall. Return hikers will notice new steps and bridges, improved trail surfaces and rerouted sections of trail. Enjoy new sheltered picnic areas, benches and permanent binoculars at the scenic overlook. The parking lot and upper trail are all accessible to people with disabilities. The panoramic views of colorful desert and steep-sided cliffs, hoodoos and pedestals are as beautiful as ever. The 1.5-mile trail offers hikers an easy way to explore the badlands. From U.S. Hwy 20 south of Worland, take Wyo. Hwy 431 approximately 15 miles west to the Gooseberry Badlands turnoff.

reach the Honeycombs, take US Highway 16 from Worland east for approximately 15 miles. Turn right on Blue Bank Road (BLM Road 1411) and follow for about 5 miles to where it becomes the northeast boundary of the WSA.

### Lone Tree Trail

Looking for a short but challenging hike, leading to a magnificent view? The 3/4-mile Lone Tree Trail, located on public land near Hyattville, starts out mellow before becoming a steep and rocky descent into scenic Paintrock Canyon and to Paintrock Creek, where it meets the Paintrock Canyon Trail. From Medicine Lodge State Park, travel the Cold Springs Road for approximately 7 miles and turn onto the signed two-track. Horses and mountain bikes are not recommended.

### Middle Fork of the Powder River Campground

Astride a blue-ribbon trout stream, this super-remote and picturesque campground features five campsites with fire rings, restroom and drinking water. The campground, located at an elevation of 7,500 feet, is open from May through September. From Ten Sleep, the area is reached by driv-

ing 20 miles south on State Highway 434 to Big Trails. From there turn left on the graveled Dry Farm Road and drive about 13 miles to the Hazelton Road. Turn right and drive about 17 miles to the campground.

### Rainbow Canyon

This scenic day-use area boasting unique geological features lies east of Lovell along the awe-inspiring western slope of the Bighorn Mountains. The picnic area at Rainbow Canyon is accessible to people with disabilities, with two accessible tables and charcoal grills. A bridge also aids in crossing Five Springs Creek. Pair a stop at Rainbow Canyon with a visit to Five Springs Falls just to the east. To reach Rainbow Canyon, travel 20 miles east on U.S. Highway 14A from Lovell. The turn is on the south side of the highway.

### Red Gulch/Alkali Backcountry Byway

Discover the wonders of the Red Gulch/Alkali National Backcountry Byway—a 32-mile scenic drive on improved gravel and dirt roads between Shell and Hyattville. As you tour, you will experience rolling red badlands and picturesque vistas of the Bighorn Mountains. High clear-

ance and dry roads are recommended in order to explore this off-the-beaten-path gem, which includes the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite. Contact the Worland Field Office for current road conditions.

### Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite

The Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite, located between Greybull and Shell along the Red Gulch/Alkali National Backcountry Byway, preserves the tangible remains of a population of meat-eating dinosaurs that traveled an ancient tidal flat 167 million years ago. It is the largest tracksite in Wyoming and one of only a few worldwide from the Middle Jurassic Period. The site includes a shade shelter, boardwalk, picnic area and interpretive signage. The tracksite can be found along the backcountry byway, which is approximately eight miles east of Greybull off U.S. Highway 14.

### Salt Lick Trail

This rugged 1.5-mile trail near Ten Sleep offers fantastic scenic views, an impressive display of flora and fauna, and moderately challenging climbs and descents. The trail winds up the northern wall of the canyon as it skirts massive cliffs of limestone to take hikers to the canyon rim. Once out of the

canyon, hikers enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding Big Horn Basin and the Bighorn and Absaroka mountain ranges from an elevation of 5,700 feet. A restroom and an information kiosk are located at the trailhead. The Salt Lick Trail is located along U.S. Highway 16 in Tensleep Canyon, approximately 6 miles east of Ten Sleep. Turn at the Salt Lick Trail sign.

## **WEST SIDE OF THE BIG HORN BASIN**

### **Sheep Mountain Trail**

The Sheep Mountain Trail is a foot/horse trail that winds up an impressive box canyon to the top of Sheep Mountain, where visitors have the freedom to explore over 25,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands. The trail is located near Buffalo Bill State Park along U.S. Highway 14 connecting Cody to Yellowstone National Park. Head west from Cody approximately 12 miles from the North and South Fork Road intersection and turn south onto County Road 6KV. Travel south over Gibbs Bridge to the intersection of C.R. 6KV and Stagecoach Trail Road. Turn east and drive 1.1 miles and head south to the gravel pit.

### **Four Bear Trail**

Spectacular views of the North Fork Shoshone River valley and fascinating volcanic spires, turrets

and banded rock formations can be found along the Four Bear Trail west of Cody. The trail is suitable for horseback riding, hiking and limited mountain biking and the elevation ranges from 5,600 feet to 7,600 feet. Facilities at the trailhead include an information kiosk, horse trailer parking, horse hitching rails, a picnic table and restroom. The trailhead is located 17 miles west of Cody on U.S. Highway 14/16/20 (the road to Yellowstone). Turn right at the Four Bear Trailhead sign.

### **Hogan and Luce Recreation Area and Campground**

This recreation site north of Cody provides opportunities for camping, picnicking, fishing, paddling, hiking and horseback riding. It is also the location of a comprehensive project to make the site more accessible for visitors with disabilities, which includes accessible picnic tables, fire rings, bear boxes and canoe/kayak dock. The site includes bathrooms, campsites, a horse corral, horse trailer parking, horse stanchions and hitching rails. Travel 18 miles north of Cody on Wyoming Highway 120. Turn left onto Park County Road 7RP and continue approximately 5 miles to the Hogan Luce Recreation Site sign.

### **Bald Ridge Trail**

This horseback riding and hiking

trail loops for 7.2 miles through BLM-managed public lands and state land to Bald Ridge in the Shoshone National Forest. The trail is steep and arduous. This site is located 18 miles north of Cody off Wyoming State Highway 120. Turn left onto Park County Road 7RP and continue approximately 5 miles; look for the Hogan-Luce Trailhead sign and take a left onto the 1-mile access road to the site. BLM-administered public lands in this area are closed to human presence from Jan. 1–April 30.

### **Bobcat/Houlihan Trailhead**

The picturesque Bobcat/Houlihan Trailhead is surrounded by the magnificent Absaroka Mountains located deep in the South Fork Shoshone River Valley. This popular trail features a moderately steep hike to the Shoshone National Forest boundary, suitable for horseback riding and hiking. Fishing access to the South Fork of the Shoshone River is also available. The site features horse trailer parking, horse hitching rails, food storage boxes, picnic tables, a fire ring and toilet facilities. The trailhead is located 28 miles southwest of Cody. Travel on Wyoming State Highway 291 (the South Fork Highway) 28 miles. Turn right onto Park County Road 6EH and travel approximately three miles to the trailhead.

### **McCullough Peaks**

McCullough Peaks are home to a famous wild horse herd. The management area encompasses more than 100,000 acres. Explore the colorful, rugged badlands and find the highly visible and easily photographed wild horses. To access the area from U.S. Highway 14/16/20, turn north onto either the McCullough Peaks Road #1212 or the Whistle Creek Road #1213 (near mile marker 74). This well-graded road is marked by a kiosk.



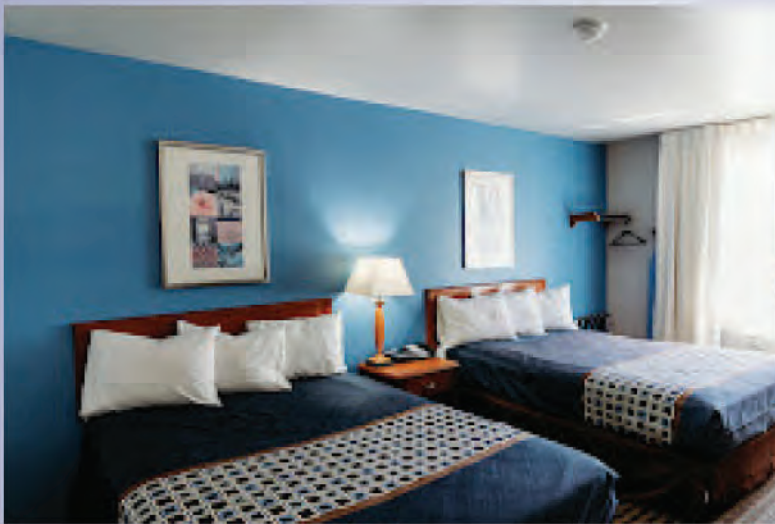
McCullough Peaks wild horses, Avery Howe

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# Bighorn National Forest

## LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

**T**aking a trip to Bighorn National Forest is more than just a routine outing. It's a great way to restore your well-being while reconnecting with friends and family as you enjoy a beautiful outdoor place with a colorful western history.

The Big Horn Forest Reserve was created by President Grover Cleveland's Presidential Proclamation on February 22, 1897. In 1905, under President Theodore Roosevelt, the Forest Reserves were absorbed into the US Forest Service. On July 2, 1908, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 908, changing the name to the Bighorn National Forest from the two word "Big Horn" title.

### **CAMPING**

The Bighorn National Forest offers 30 campgrounds, four group campgrounds, 10 picnic areas, two interpretive sites, one downhill ski area, five cross-country ski areas, eight lodges, three historic fire lookouts, and thousands of miles of roads and trails to access the interior of the Forest.

### **WILDLIFE**

The Bighorn National Forest offers an amazing opportunity to view over 300 species of wildlife in their natural habitats. These habitats range from low elevation deciduous riparian woodlands to alpine tundra. Small creatures like the porcupine, pika, yellow-bellied marmot, gophers, rabbits, chipmunks and squirrels abound on the land, along with the beaver, water vole, and a variety of frog species in the riparian, pond, and stream systems.

Moose, mule deer, and elk are commonly seen while traveling through the Bighorns. The area is also home to rarely seen and elusive animals such as black bear, bobcat, wolves, coyotes, and bighorn sheep. Birding is a growing pastime on the Forest. There is a large variety of waterfowl, gulls, terns, sandhill

crane, and herons. Many raptor species like the bald eagle, golden eagle, osprey, and a variety of owls can be seen and heard in the summer months along with a diversity of warblers, flycatchers, sparrows and many more.

### **BYWAYS**

Three scenic byways traverse the Bighorns: the Medicine Wheel Passage, the Bighorn Scenic Byway, and the Cloud Peak Skyway.

Opportunities to enjoy the outdoors are diverse on the Bighorn National Forest. A few points of interest include:

#### **SHELL FALLS**

This easy stop along Highway 14 features a rebuilt interpretive trail. There are several informative interpretive signs along the trail and at the site. Come learn about the area and enjoy the thunder of a close-up look at Shell Creek as it plummets 120 feet (36 meters) into Shell Canyon. Viewpoints also offer the opportunity to observe bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

#### **PORCUPINE FALLS**

This .4 mile (.6 kilometers) hike into the steep canyon of Porcupine Creek brings visitors to the edge of a refreshing pool fed by a dramatic nearly 150 foot (46 meters) drop waterfall. If one looks closely they will notice signs of a historic mining operation with relic cables, rock talus, and exploration pits. The road to the mining area has been converted to a trail, which has over 200 wooden and rock steps added to ease the strain of the steep descent and ascent on hikers. The Forest Service asks that people visiting the popular area keep their dogs on a leash. It is not open to horse use due to the trail design. It is reached by Forest System Road (FSR) 14 off of Highway 14A.

#### **BUCKING MULE FALLS TRAIL**

The 17-mile (27 kilometers) long Bucking Mule Falls Trail, a National Recreation Trail, takes visitors up

and down canyon walls and along the rims of Porcupine Creek and Devil Canyon. It provides dramatic views of canyons and multiple side drainage waterfalls along the way. The three-mile (5 kilometers) hike (one way) from Bucking Mule Falls Trailhead to the overlook of Bucking Mule Falls is the most popular and well used portion of the trail. The overlook provides a spectacular view of the nearly 400-foot (122 meters) waterfall drop.

The trail is open to non-motorized use including horse, hiking, and bicycling. *E-bikes are not allowed on non-motorized only trails.* It is important to have a map and compass or a GPS unit. The trail is marked but is faint through meadows once it passes the overlook. It is reached by Forest System Road (FSR) 14 off of Highway 14A. Bridge repairs are slated for this trail in late August through mid-September.

Contact the Forest Service office in Greybull in case of closures.

#### **SIBLEY LAKE RECREATION AREA**

This popular recreation area is conveniently located off of Highway 14. It has two picnic areas, a campground with an electrical hook-up loop, and a fishing dock. It is the gateway to a 15-mile Nordic trail system that is also frequented by hikers and horse users in the summer. Electric motorboats are welcome on the lake as well as human-powered craft such as canoes, kayaks and inflatables (don't forget your Wyoming Game & Fish Aquatic Invasive Species sticker).

#### **SHEEP MOUNTAIN FIRE LOOKOUT**

If you're looking for an interesting place to spend a summer night, Sheep Mountain Fire Lookout has been converted to a rental cabin with primitive amenities. The 360 panoramic views offer amazing star gazing opportunities and a beautiful sunrise and sunset vantage point.

# MEDICINE LODGE & LEGEND ROCK

## Ancient History

### MEDICINE LODGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

**O**n the Western slope of the famous Bighorn Mountains lays the Medicine Lodge Archaeological Site. The site's 12,700 acres provides a number of recreation opportunities including viewing the ancient petroglyphs that make the area so famous.

Medicine Lodge was homesteaded in 1881 by Byron F. Wickwine and was used as a cattle ranch. However, it was purchased in 1972 and established through a cooperative management agreement with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, State Land and Farm Loan Office and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Those looking to fish or hunt will be pleased to find that the park is home to winter elk, mule deer, trout and more. The area remains one of the best fishing spots in the state.

The area itself offers overnight camping, wilderness trail and grassland exploration, public corrals for horseback riding and an interpretive center to learn more about the site's rich native history. The visitor center offers plenty of exhibits, some including the natural history exhibits and the elk exhibit. Offered by the site are plenty of outdoor activities and interpretive

programs during the summer. The park provides a mass collection of shooting sports, junior archaeology, movie nights and arts and crafts during the summertime.

Summertime activities are offered from May until August including: an annual Halloween event in October and the winter games are held in January. Other wintertime activities include ice skating and ice hockey at the rink with the park providing skates, helmets and sticks. There is the Statewide First Day Hike on Jan. 1.

The new cultural center opened in the spring 2024.

### WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

Tall sandstone canyon and cold creeks are framed by an abundance of different natural grasses and plants including Wyoming sagebrush and the state flower, Indian paintbrush.

The site provides the opportunity to see wildlife, follow trails, fish, explore and visit the apple orchard or public corrals.

### LEGEND ROCK PETROGLYPH SITE

**L**egend Rock Petroglyph Site is considered by the American Indians of the region as a sacred site and has been for thousands of years.

As you travel down the trail that

leads to over 92 petroglyph panels containing more than 300 petroglyphs carved into the cliff side you can almost feel the spirits of the carvers themselves. This site was where many young braves would come for spiritual revelation and some of the petroglyphs represent their visions.

Before traveling into the distant past, stop at the visitor's center at the head of the trail. There you can pick up a flyer which explains the meaning behind some of the petroglyphs.

You will see where vandals have destroyed some areas of this sacred site. The State of Wyoming has taken precautions to protect it from further harm.

The visitors center has a covered picnic area attached and restrooms are nearby for the convenience of visitors. The area is open to the public from May to September from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. From October through April the site can be accessed by obtaining a key.

Legend Rock is located 29 miles northwest of Thermopolis. You must travel west 21 miles on U.S. Highway 120, turn onto Upper Cottonwood Creek road and travel about 8 miles following the signs to access the area. Medicine Lodge/Legend Rock/GPS

## USE MORE THAN YOUR PHONE TO GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

Nowadays, it's commonplace to rely strictly on GPS navigation services to arrive at your destination.

Navigating this way can get you into quite a predicament if you are unfamiliar with the area, especially in rural places such as the Big Horn Basin. Washakie County

Search and Rescue Commander Dave Michel warns against this practice on your travels through the Big Horn Basin. He says "Whether it be winter conditions, summer conditions, or anything in between, you should always know the road conditions when you are traveling."

He cautions visitors to be alert and use their judgment on whether the road ahead is passable or not.

Maps are available at Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices. Check online at [wyoroad.info](http://wyoroad.info) for road conditions or download the 511 app.



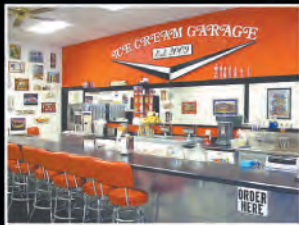


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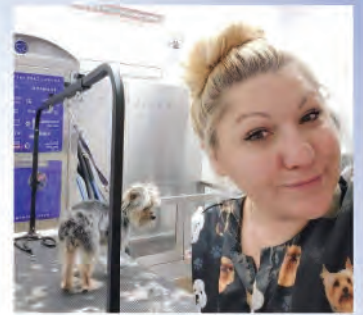
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Moose, Jane Gates

# HUNTING, FISHING & OUTDOOR REC

**V**isitors to the region can enjoy an immense amount of access to public land to pursue a variety of outdoor recreational activities.

In addition, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department works with private landowners through the Access Yes program to provide hunting access to over 290,000 acres of private land within the Big Horn Basin and 22 miles of stream and river access along with 20 acres of ponds for fishing access.

## YELLOWTAIL WHMA

Game and Fish also manages five Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMA) in the Big Horn Basin that provide over 53,000 acres of access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational opportunities. The largest WHMA in the Big Horn Basin and best known for its game bird hunting and numerous fishing opportunities, is the 19,500-acre Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area just east of

Lovell.

Recreational opportunities are abundant on Yellowtail and include everything from wildlife watching and birding to hunting and fishing.

## HUNTING

With terrain ranging from sagebrush flats to rugged mountain peaks, the Big Horn Basin offers other diverse hunting opportunities. Sportsmen have the opportunity to apply for licenses to harvest much sought after big game species such as mule deer, elk, and bighorn



sheep. Hunters can also purchase licenses to pursue mountain lion, black bear, small game, upland game birds and waterfowl.

## FISHING

Fishing is one of the favorite pastimes in the Big Horn Basin with ample opportunity for lake or stream fishing on Forest Service and Game and Fish lands.

There are three main reservoirs providing opportunity for anglers from the shore or via boat — Boysen Reservoir in Hot Springs and Fremont counties south of Thermopolis, Big Horn Lake in Big Horn County just outside of Lovell and Buffalo Bill Reservoir in Park County west of Cody. There is quite a variety of fish in the reservoirs including trout, bass, walleye, sauger, catfish

and sturgeon.

There are a variety of mountain lakes in both the Bighorn National Forest on the east side of the Big Horn Basin and in the Shoshone National Forest on the west side of the Basin, as well as many rivers and creeks.

When you go fishing in the Bighorn National Forest you're probably going to catch a trout or two.

Fishing on the Bighorn National Forest means trout fishing. The Bighorn National Forest has trout fishing in streams, lakes and reservoirs. Rainbow, Yellowstone cutthroat (native), Snake River cutthroat, eastern brook, brown, lake trout and golden trout, as well as whitefish, splake (lake trout and brook trout cross), and grayling are found in streams and



Boysen State Park, Lane Gates

mountain lakes. Bass, crappie, catfish, and other warm water species inhabit lakes at lower elevations, generally off-forest.

But there are also ample opportunity for lake fishing in the lower elevations as well with Wardell Reservoir near Otto in Big Horn County, Upper and Lower Sunshine near Meeteetse in Park County and Meadowlark Lake near Ten Sleep in Washakie County.

There are also smaller ponds near Basin and near Worland just off airport road.

There are three major rivers that run through the Big Horn Basin — Shoshone River, Greybull River and the Big Horn River. The Big Horn River turns into the Wind River as you head south from

Thermopolis.

### REGULATIONS

Make sure if you are fishing the Wind River that you check the fishing regulations as an additional license for the Wind River Indian Reservation is required in some areas.

Game and Fish regulations are available wherever licenses are sold. There are resident and nonresident annual, daily and youth licenses available.

### HATCHERIES

The Big Horn Basin is home to four of 10 fish hatcheries and rearing facilities in the Cowboy State. These facilities are open to the public year-round and offer visitors a unique opportunity to see fish at different developmental stages and learn about Wyoming fisher-

## FREE FISHING DAY

Saturday, June 1, 2024, anyone can fish in Wyoming without a license.

ies. Fish raised at these facilities are stocked locally and statewide to supplement fish populations and provide anglers ample opportunity to catch fish.

### Ten Sleep Fish

**Hatchery:** The hatchery is an integral part of the state's fish culture system stocking approximately 250,000 fish into Wyoming's waters.

**Location:** Located 8 miles east of the town of Ten Sleep on Highway 16.

### Wigwam Rearing

**Station:** The Wigwam Rearing Station is situated on 420 acres near the mouth of the Ten Sleep Canyon.

**Location:** 4 miles east of the town of Ten Sleep on Highway 16.

### Tillett Springs Fish

**Hatchery:** Located on the western slope of the Bighorn Mountains, Tillett Springs Rearing Station is approximately 17 miles northeast of Lovell, Wyoming. The main focus of the rearing station is the care and mainte-

nance of the Fire Hole Rainbow brood stock, but other species raised include brown trout and Snake River cutthroat trout.

**Location:** Two- and one-half miles east of Lovell on U.S Highway 14A, then 8.5 miles northeast on State Highway 37. Continue 5 miles on Crooked Creek Road.

### Clarks Fork Fish

**Hatchery:** The hatchery, built in 1970, is the second largest fish hatchery in the state and offers a unique opportunity to view fish culture in progress.

**Location:** Located approximately 29 miles north of Cody on State Highway 120, at mile post #129.5 turn west on County Road 1AB. Follow 1AB for 5 miles, then travel east on county road 8VE for 1.9 miles.

For more information see <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/public-access>

**First Come, First Serve Oil Service Station & Coffee Shop**

 An advertisement for a service station and coffee shop. The top part shows a building with a yellow and blue facade. The sign above the entrance says "Blue Lube". To the right, there's a sign for "Milly G's DRIVE-THRU ES". In the foreground, there's a small white truck, a cartoon character of a woman with glasses, and a cup of coffee with a swirl of cream. At the bottom, the text reads "BLUE LUBE Milly G's 307-347-9878 • 1520 Big Horn Ave. • 307-347-8346".

# WYOMING WHISKEY



**W**yoming Whiskey, in Kirby, Wyoming, 12 miles north of Thermopolis, is the state's first legal spirits distillery.

Until 2021, Wyoming Whiskey was the only bourbon distillery in the state. Specializing in creating a premium product, the entire process is performed onsite from cooking and fermentation, to distillation, aging, and bottling hand-crafted bourbon.

The ingredients of Wyoming Whiskey's famous bourbon products are sourced locally, right here in the Big Horn Basin. The non-GMO grains are grown on one farm in Byron, WY. The water used is from the Madison Formation aquifer located in Manderson, WY.

Wyoming Whiskey released its first batch of bourbon on December 1, 2012, sold exclusively in Wyoming. Since then, distribution has been expanded to include all 50 states, and a few international markets. The increase in production and distribution has closed the

distillery for tours, but guests can still enjoy free samples of whiskey and loads of information during a tasting at the gift shop.

Wyoming Whiskey currently ages around 15,000 barrels spread out between seven warehouses with plans to build more. These warehouses are not climate-controlled, and the extreme Wyoming temperature swings lend to the unique flavor profiles in the bourbon. To find your favorite product, and to learn about our business, please visit the Wyoming Whiskey gift shop. Expanded summer hours between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

To find the gift shop, take US Highway 20 N from Thermopolis 12 miles. Turn right on Highway 175 in Kirby, down Main Street. The Whiskey Shop is the only building on the left once you cross the railroad tracks. Whiskey is available for purchase as well as souvenirs, T-shirts, caps and much more! For more information, call 307-864-2116, extension 1.




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# THERMOPOLIS

**F**ounded in 1897, the town of Thermopolis lies at the southernmost point of the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. Thermopolis is a recreational and tourist community with attractions such as the Hot Springs State Park, the Historic Downtown District, the Wind River Canyon, and the nearby Boysen Reservoir.

Thermopolis has a small-town feel, with a population of about 2,700 people. Thermopolis boasts the only spotlight in Hot Springs County, whose total population is around 4,400.

—One of the highlights of a visit to Thermopolis is the “World’s Largest Mineral Hot Springs” located in Hot Springs State Park. Every year thousands of visitors travel here to seek out these therapeutic waters. Swimmers can enjoy a few indoor and outdoor hot water pools, slides and

steam caves. Many travelers come regularly to soak in the hot mineral water.

—Hot Springs State Park is also a great place to stretch your legs or enjoy a walk around the rainbow terraces and walk on the historic swinging bridge. Make sure to check out the trails throughout the park, they are dual use for hikers and mountain bike enthusiasts.

Buffalo roam freely in designated areas around the Park and can be spotted easily from the car. In the summer months the Park is alive with the sounds of music and events. There are often free concerts and other events such as the Gift of the Waters Pageant and Wyoming Discovery Days held in Hot Springs State Park each summer.

About 30 miles northwest of Thermopolis is the Legend Rock State Archaeology Site. Where you can find petroglyphs

at least 283 different drawings on 92 rock panels; some of them date back 10,000 years. It hosts some of the oldest and best examples of Dinwoody rock art in the world.

—The Wind River Canyon and Boysen State Park are located south of Thermopolis. Enjoy a relaxing drive along the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway on your way to Boysen Reservoir or you can take a white-water rafting trip down the Wind River Canyon. World class fishing is available at Boysen State Park as well as in the Wind River or try your luck blue ribbon trout fishing on the Big Horn River.

—Thermopolis features a wonderful 9-hole golf course with outstanding views of Roundtop Mountain and the town. Other recreational opportunities in Thermopolis include tennis courts, basketball

courts, soccer fields, disc golf course, rodeo arena, miniature golf, and fairgrounds.

—You can discover, explore, and excavate at The Wyoming Dinosaur Center, which provides a unique opportunity for visitors to discover the prehistoric world, and walk the same ground as ancient dinosaurs. This world class museum is open year around with dig sites open during summer months.

—Downtown you can find the local brewery-One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Company. They welcome you to come and take a tour and learn about their process. Wyoming’s first (legal) whiskey distillery, Wyoming Whiskey, is located 12 miles north of Thermopolis in the town of Kirby. There is a gift shop all year.

In Thermopolis you will find unique shopping opportunities.

Visit the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce website: [thermopolischamber.org](http://thermopolischamber.org) for a list of events happening during your visit.

# HOT SPRINGS COUNTY MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER



Hole in the Wall Bar, Hot Springs County Museum

The Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center has been reviewed as one of the best small-town museums in the area. There are many exquisite exhibits of all types depicting life in the west. A special feature is the cherrywood bar from the Hole in The Wall Bar that Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid often frequented.

The museum houses the Western art exhibit of Nick Eggenhoffer.

Across the street from the museum the vast collection continues with the petroleum building, agriculture building, BNSF caboose, poverty shack and the Middleton one-room schoolhouse, which was relocated from the Owl Creek area and recently refurbished

This family-friendly museum at 700 Broadway is open year-round: 9-5 Monday- Saturday; from May to September; and 9-4 Monday- Saturday from October to April.



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Therizinosaur, Wyoming Dinosaur Center

# WYOMING DINOSAUR CENTER



Triceratops, Wyoming Dinosaur Center

**T**he Wyoming Dinosaur Center is one of Wyoming's most popular visitor destinations.

For 160 million years, dinosaurs ruled the earth. They disappeared mysteriously long before the rise of humanity. Only in the last century have we discovered just how fascinating and complex these creatures were and what their lives may have been like.

Dinosaurs were first unearthed on the Warm Springs Ranch in 1993, a discovery that led to the construction of the Wyoming Dinosaur Center. The Wyoming Dinosaur Center & Dig Sites is located in Thermopolis, Wyoming at the Southern margin of the Big Horn Basin, the complex includes a world-class museum, active dig sites (which are only 3 miles away), and a modern preparation laboratory.

The museum provides visitors a window into the ancient past where creatures from prehistory are revealed. Guests start out in the Walk-through-time and discover the diversity of ancient life from the most primitive forms to the rise of the dinosaurs, from tiny trilobites inhabiting the seas to giant Pterosaurs that dominated the skies. In the main gallery the specimens on display include the only Archaeopteryx in North America and "Jimbo" a Supersaurus, one of the largest dinosaurs ever mounted and "Lori" a Hesperornithoides, one of the smallest dinosaurs ever found in

Wyoming. Among the other displays are two Velociraptor specimens, a Protoceratops and "Stan", a 41-foot Tyrannosaurus-rex that is charging a Triceratops, Allosaurus fragilis, a 35-foot meat eater from the upper Jurassic Period, Archelon, a giant sea turtle that inhabited the great interior seaway that covered much of North America, including Wyoming, during the time of the dinosaurs. Archelon is impressively mounted elevated, stretching 14 feet in length and 18 feet across its extended, massive front flippers.

Another impressive dinosaur display is that of two therizinosaurus - Falcarius and Nothronychus. Discovered in Utah, Falcarius lived some 120 million years ago and is the most primitive Therizinosaurus found so far, with features much like a large raptor. Found in Utah, Nothronychus is a massive, later Therizinosaurus with relatively short, heavy hind legs and huge claws on stout arms. It is one of the larger known members of the raptor group. Also noteworthy in the collection are fossil fish from Scotland, flying reptiles from Brazil, dinosaurs from China, and marine reptiles from Africa, Switzerland and Russia.

Interpretive dig site tours allow visitors to explore the layers where ancient dinosaurs are buried and watch as scientists remove fossils from the ground. Visit the hillside where the remains of long necked plant eaters such as Camarasau-

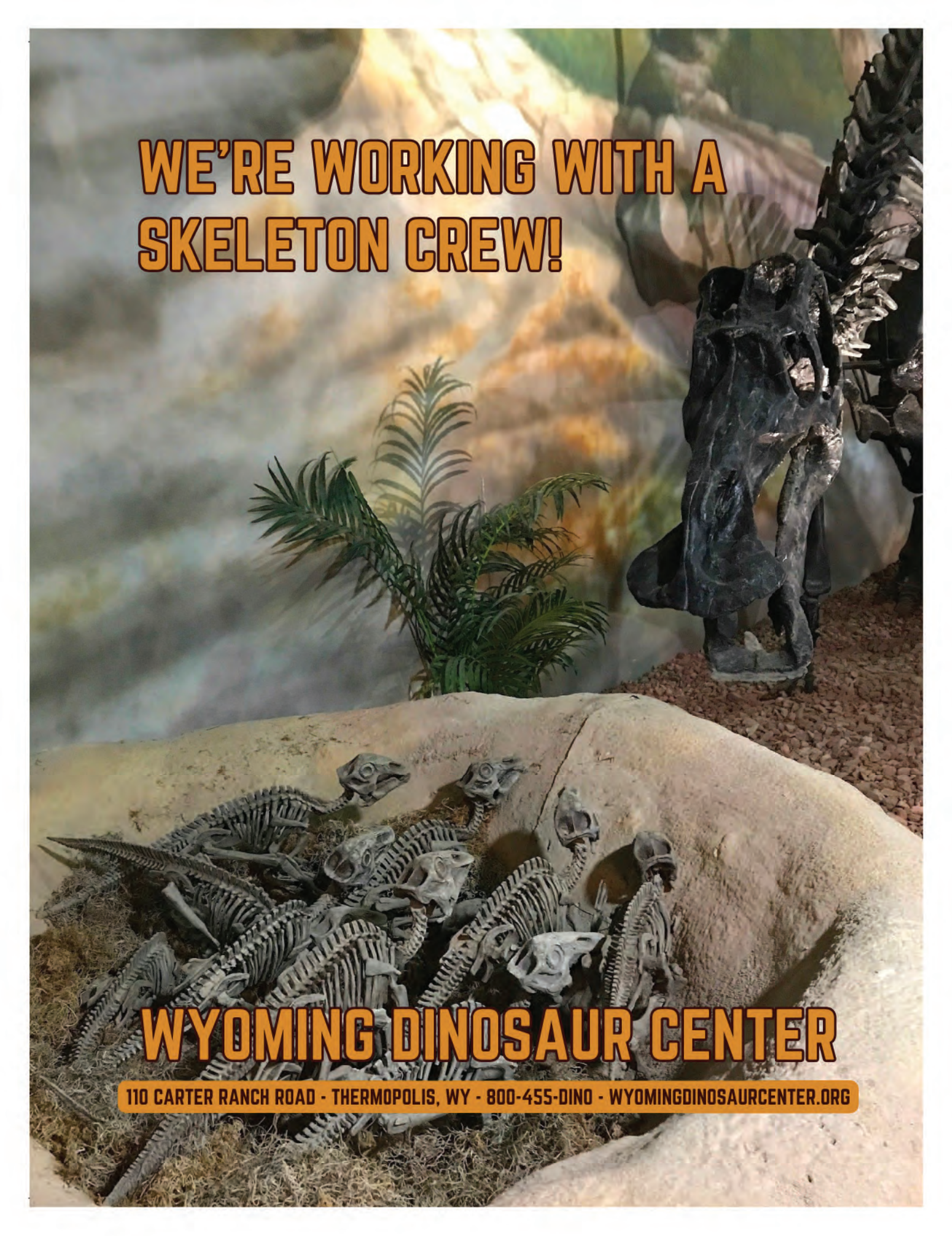
rus, Apatosaurus and Diplodocus have been discovered. Experience a dig site up close as an informative guide tells the story of how Allosaurus fed on a Camarasaurus carcass.

For those looking for adventure, individuals and families can work all day alongside skilled professionals in our Dig-For-a-Day program. Lunch, transportation, and tools are provided and the program begins June 3rd. Visitors can also participate in a half-day program called Shovel Ready. Kids' Digs are special two day events during the summer that allow children ages 7 to 12 to get their hands dirty and dig dinosaurs while learning about science, the Teachers Workshop and Dinosaur Academy are programs that allow science teachers and high school students the opportunity to gain college credits while exploring Wyoming geology and fossils.

The museum is open year round and starting May 15th, the hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hourly dig site tours start in May and run through the end of September. The gift shop includes outstanding fossils, gems, jewelry, books and excellent educational materials. It's an experience you won't forget.

**For more information visit:  
[wyomingdinosaurcenter.org](http://wyomingdinosaurcenter.org).**





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# BIKING & GOLFING

**T**here is a growing interest in bicycle touring across the United States, especially in Wyoming.

Greybull has a walking/biking path that runs along the west side of the Big Horn River and is about 2 miles long.

Basin has a small 1-mile loop.

Powell has a 1-mile path at the city park and around the perimeter of the town.

Cody has bike lanes throughout the downtown area as well as 10 miles of mountain bike trails at Beck Lake.

Worland has one bike path about 4 miles long.

## **MOUNTAIN BIKING**

Although there are no trails specifically earmarked for mountain biking, the Big Horn Basin offers a variety of opportunities.

The old highway in Ten Sleep Canyon is dirt road accessible for motor vehicles and mountain bikes. It is about eight miles long, and is considered an easy road as it is mostly downhill. For those who want more of a challenge, there is a road through the Honeycomb Buttes – Nowater area west of Ten Sleep. This dirt road gets extremely hot and dry in the middle of the summer

so it is recommended to ride the road in the spring and fall to avoid the heat.

Check out the 8 miles of mountain biking trail at the Beck Lake Mountain Biking Area in Cody. Enjoy climbing and downhill including jumps and banked turns.

Contact the local BLM offices in Worland and Cody for more information or the U.S. Forest Service offices in Greybull, Sheridan or Buffalo for mountain biking opportunities.

**G**olfing opportunities are bountiful throughout the Big Horn Basin.

Green Hills Golf Course is located in Worland. The course features 18 holes of family-friendly fun at low prices. The course is open to the public seven days a week.

Available are cart rentals, a golf shop, practice greens, a driving range and a full restaurant and bar with indoor and outdoor seating.

Thermopolis Golf Course offers nine challenging holes. With the course's convenient location, players may witness deer, antelope and foxes as well. Offered by the course is a driving range, practice greens and the opportunity to take lessons from a pro-golf resident.

Olive Glenn golf club is in Cody and the 18 hole, par 72 championship course is open year round. With a PGA pro on hand, and a fully staffed pro shop, the course also features a large putting green, driving range and the Stampede Bar and Grill. Offered are rental clubs, carts and club storage.

Powell Golf Club course is 18 holes. Open from 8 a.m. to dusk, the course offers a golf shop, practice

range, putting green, cart rental, a bar and lounge, along with instructions and clinics.

Foster Gulch in Lovell is another 9-hole course with a clubhouse, driving range and practice green.

Midway Golf Course is conveniently located midway between Greybull and Basin. The clubhouse is open the hours will be from 8 a.m. -7 p.m. It is a 9-hole course with golf carts and clubs available for rent.

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# MEETEETSE & KIRWIN

Once a wild and woolly cowboy town, home to the likes of Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch, Meeteetse is now an arts and cultural hub, retaining its classic western charm.

Featuring a dozen original buildings, walking tours, antique shops, and museums, Meeteetse is a prime destination for an afternoon in the Old West.

The downtown area features wooden boardwalks, hitching posts, period mercantile storefronts, and world-famous eateries.

The Labor Day celebration includes a rodeo, parade, team roping, craft fair and more.

## MEETEETSE MUSEUMS

The Meeteetse Museums consist of the Charles Belden Museum of Western Photography, the Meeteetse Museum, and the First National Bank Museum.

The Belden Museum features the work of photographer Charles Belden, which documents life on

the Pitchfork Ranch from 1907 through 1940.

The Belden Museum also contains a natural history section exploring the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. On display are two large grizzly bears.

The Meeteetse Museum has a series of exhibits showcasing historic events and local achievements. The Meeteetse Museum is home to several western sculptures by the late Harry Jackson and exhibits on the Black-footed Ferret, America's most endangered mammal.

The Bank Museum is in the restored First National Bank of Meeteetse, which served as Meeteetse's bank from 1901 to 1975. The First National Bank is currently the only building in Meeteetse listed on the National Register of Historic Places and today tells the story of the bank, its founders, and employees.

## DOUBLE DEE TOUR

The Double Dee Guest Ranch was established in 1931 by Carl Dunrud and operated almost contin-

uously until 1945. The ranch property, now part of the Shoshone National Forest, is located above 8,000 feet in the Absaroka Mountains, outside of Meeteetse, Wyoming.

The ranch entertained many famous guests, most notably aviatrix Amelia Earhart and her husband, George Putnam.

Several of the original buildings constructed by Carl Dunrud and others remain and are accessible to the public. The Lodge, the largest structure at the ranch, is currently closed to the public.

The July 20 tour of the Historic Double Dee Guest Ranch departs from the Museums at 9 am sharp. For more information, email [programs@meeteetsemuseums.org](mailto:programs@meeteetsemuseums.org) or visit our website [www.meeteetsemuseums.org](http://www.meeteetsemuseums.org).

## KIRWIN TOUR

The former mining town of Kirwin is located high in the Absaroka Mountains, 38 miles southwest of Meeteetse. Its mining history began in 1881 when prospectors William

Kirwin and Harry Adams discovered ore while hunting in the area.

When word got out, people rushed to Kirwin and, by the early 1900s, the mining town had a population of over 200.

Due to the geologic conditions of the mountain surrounding Kirwin, mining was not viable long-term. The town's demise was hastened further by a January 1907 avalanche.

In 1992, the U.S. Forest Service acquired Kirwin. Several well-preserved buildings from Kirwin's past are accessible to visitors.

On a Saturday in the first half of August the Meeteetse Museums will host an excursion to Kirwin. The tour begins at Kirwin at 10:30 a.m. Tour participants are encouraged to meet at the Museum at 8:30 am to depart at 9 am sharp for the mining town. Visit the Museum Facebook page and website for updated information or date, or email questions to [programs@meeteetsemuseums.org](mailto:programs@meeteetsemuseums.org).

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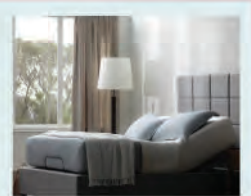
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# BASIN

Basin Bike Path, Barbara Anne Greene

**T**he town of Basin is located in Big Horn County at the intersection of U.S. Highway 16/20 and Wyoming Highway 30. It is the county seat and is home to historical buildings such as the courthouse and library.

Incorporated in 1902, Basin is 60 miles east of Cody and 110 miles from Yellowstone National Park's east entrance. A short drive east will put you in the Bighorn Mountains in 25 miles.

Basin isn't typically thought of as a "tourist"

town as we only have one motel and two RV parks. There are more in the neighboring community in Greybull. We have a café, a grocery store, a gas station with a convenience store and a drive-thru coffee place. Food is also available at the one bar in town. There is a pizza truck that comes Monday evenings.

—In nearby Burlington you'll enjoy a great pizza place that is in an old bank. There is limited access to fuel in Burlington.

—We have a very large and beautiful park with

a covered gazebo and playground. It is a great place to stretch your legs, relax and let the kids run around. During the summer we have an outdoor pool and a fishing pond. There is a lighted walking path and baseball fields. Tennis and pickleball courts are available in one of the smaller town parks.

—The boat ramp in Basin gives easy access to the Big Horn River for boating or fishing. There are bathrooms, picnic tables, gazebo and barbecue grills and a grassy

area for day stays. It is also a great place to start a 4-wheeler drive out to the trailed badlands to the east.

—If you need a Wi-Fi or computer visit the library.

—The towns/areas of Hyattville, Burlington, Otto and Manderson offer a view into small town America. They all have free parks with playgrounds. Be sure you check out the petroglyphs in Hyattville at the Medicine Lodge Archaeological Site and Wardell Reservoir for fishing/boating. It is located near Otto.

The Basin Area Chamber has an active Facebook page where what is happening in the area is shared every week. You can find us at Basin Area Chamber/South Big Horn County.

## Events Calendar

**MAY** - Hyattville Cowboy Carnival, Memorial Day weekend

**JUNE** - June 1 Free kids fishing day, Basin Fishing Pond; Lilac Days, first weekend, free.

**JUNE - JULY** - Entertainment in Washington Park, 7 p.m. Thursdays; Farmers Market, Saturdays, 10 a.m., Main Street.

**AUGUST** - Big Horn County Fair. July 29 - August 4; Fair Parade, Aug. 3

### DECEMBER

Christmas Lights-Once voted the most lit up small town in Wyoming this is the place to go if you enjoy Christmas lights.

Dec. 19 — Christmas Bazaar, 2 p.m., Fairgrounds

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# GREYBULL

**G**reybull, Wyoming, located at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains, along the route to Yellowstone from Sheridan on US Highways 14/16/20. As you travel to Greybull you will see breathtaking scenery along the way, such as the panoramic views of the deserts and the majestic mountains and valleys of the Big Horns.

If you head East up the mountain and turn to the north, you will find Devil's Kitchen – an eerie and colorful formation of rocks and weathered hills. This is a great place for a hike if you don't want much of an incline. Just watch out for the snakes, and make sure you have plenty of water! Further north, along the same road, we find Sheep Mountain – one of the world's most classical examples of an anticline that is easily viewable.

Further up the mountain, a turn to the south will take you to the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Enjoy the scenery as you make your way into the small town of Shell and stop at the Old Shell Store for one of their delicious pastries before continuing the climb. Once a few miles out of town, on

your right you will see the famous volcanic red dirt and Chimney Rock formation. Once in the beautiful switchbacks of the mountains, stop at Shell Falls! Here you can witness the beautiful waterfall, walk an interpretive trail, see Copman's Tomb, and the little formation known as 'The Elephant and his Trainer.'

After visiting Shell Falls, come on back to Greybull where you can grab an ice cold beverage at one of the three local bars, or a honey sweetened lemonade at Queen Bee Garden's on the corner. If you're more in the mood for something to eat, grab a bite to eat at the Speakeasy and you can take a step back in time to the prohibition era. Other cuisine offered in Greybull includes Chinese, Mexican, Mom-and-Pop, steaks, burgers, pizza, and subs.

After dinner, stay the night in

one of our hotels! We have the Historic Downtown, located conveniently above the Speakeasy, Maid Marians B&B, the Yellowstone, Antler, and Wheel motels for a more classic hotel stay, and the KOA or Green Oasis if you prefer camping.

In the morning, take a stroll downtown and pick up some souvenirs and clothes in our various shops and boutiques. Be sure and check out the FREE museums in the downtown area.

At the top of the hill, take the chance to stop and see the one-of-a-kind Museum of Flight and Aerial Firefighting. The museum displays a mix of old planes that were modified into aerial tankers to fight forest fires in the US. There are many displays and photos to tell you the history, and you can walk through a 'Flying Boxcar.' The museum is open from May – October 1.

## Events Calendar

### JUNE

June 6-9 – Days of '49 Multiple Events

June 29 Crazy Daze Shopping Sale

### JULY

4th of July, fireworks, community picnic with music

### AUGUST

August 10, Greybull Brew Fest, City Park.

### SEPTEMBER

Wine and Walk Shopping

### OCTOBER

Oct. 31 Main Street Trick or Treat

### DECEMBER

Dec. 6 Holidazzle event - chili feed, parade, Santa and shopping

Dec. 7 — Greybull Rec Districts annual bazaar



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# LOVELL



Pryor Mountain wild horses, Lovell Chamber of Commerce

A rare gem for travelers exploring the West can be found nestled in northern Wyoming a two-hour drive east of Yellowstone National Park: the small, friendly community of Lovell – the Rose Town of Wyoming and the gateway to the stunning Bighorn Canyon and the beautiful Bighorn and Pryor mountain ranges.

At the foot of the Bighorn Mountains and just 15 minutes from the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, you will see acres of green farmland surrounding the small community, home to myriad opportunities for outdoor activities and stress-free living. The peaceful surroundings contribute to a highly desirable and much sought-after quality of life for residents of the area, and make for a pleasant stop for visitors.

Just a stone's throw to the east of Lovell is the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. The vast, wild landscape, including massive canyon walls and great boating

lake, allows visitors to experience the wonders of nature and spectacular vistas.

To the east, the gorgeous Big-horn Mountains, home to the ancient Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and the Big-horn National Forest, sit right in Lovell's backyard. Visitors traveling U.S. Highway 14A are struck by the breathtaking beauty of the steep walls, rugged canyons green meadows and rich forests of the Bighorn Mountains. It is one of the most spectacular pieces of highway in America with turnouts and scenic vistas that look out over the entire Big Horn Basin. On a clear day, a traveler can see for 100 miles or more.

The pretty town of Lovell has much to offer visitors: friendly people, small-town shopping, beautiful murals with a veterans memorial, colorful rose gardens, Foster Gulch Golf Course (9 holes), newly remodeled motels, a variety of dining options, the Lovell-Kane Area



Medicine Wheel, Lovell Chamber

Museum, three town parks with picnic pavilions, playground equipment, newly constructed splash pad and lunar scaped skate park, free and full-service camping facilities, multiple places of worship, an eight-lane bowling alley, a public Olympic-sized swimming pool and Queen Bee Honey Candy factory and store.

The 70-year-old Hyart Theatre, on the National Register of Historic Places, boasts perhaps the largest screen in Wyoming and nearly 1,000 seats. Current movies are shown on weekends with digital projection and sound.



Bighorn Canyon, Renee Lund

**B**ighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, established by Congress on October 15, 1966, straddles the border between southeastern Montana and north-central Wyoming. The dominant feature of the national recreation area is Bighorn Lake, which was created by construction of the Yellowtail Dam on the Big Horn River. The Bureau of Reclamation completed the dam and hydroelectric power station in 1967 as part of the Missouri River Basin Project. In addition to the 12,700-acre lake, the diversified landscape includes forest and mountains, upland prairies, and deep canyons. Broad, relatively flat valleys bordered by low grassy hills characterize the northern and southern portions of the national recreation area, with the rugged Bighorn Mountains on the east and Pryor Mountains on the west.

Visitors can receive orientation and interpretation services at the Bighorn Canyon Visitor Center near Lovell, Wyoming, year round and at the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center 2 miles past the community of Fort Smith, Montana, during the summer months. Visitors

should ask about the parks kayak, campground and special programming at these locations. Programs are scheduled throughout the summer.

#### **BIGHORN CANYON**

The Big Horn River flows northward through the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming and enters Bighorn Canyon north of Lovell, Wyoming. Geological processes occurring over millions of years formed the canyon primarily as the result of accelerated stream erosion and gradual regional uplift. Much of Bighorn Canyon is narrow and confined within sheer rock walls that rise to more than 2,000 feet at the canyon's northern perimeter.

#### **PRYOR MOUNTAIN WILD HORSE RANGE**

About one-fifth of the 39,000-acre Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range lies within the national recreation area, providing habitat for approximately 160 wild horses managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The wild horses are genetically associated with horses introduced in the West by early Spanish explorers.

#### **WILDLIFE**

Wildlife in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area commonly in-

cludes bighorn sheep, wild horses, coyotes, mule deer, small mammals, mountain lions, bears, snakes, and more than 200 bird species.

Fishermen are drawn to the reservoir and Big Horn River for a wide range of game fish including walleye, sauger, rainbow and brown trout, black crappie, yellow perch, ling, and channel catfish.

Boating enthusiasts have access to Bighorn Lake at the marinas and boat ramps at Horseshoe Bend and Ok-A-Beh; boat ramps are also provided at Afterbay Dam and Barry's Landing. Other popular visitor activities include hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, photography, hunting, and opportunities to enjoy solitude.

#### **RANCHES**

The four primary historic cattle and dude ranches preserved in the national recreation area are the Mason-Lovell Ranch, the Hillsboro Ranch, the Lockhart Ranch, and the Ewing-Snell Ranch. Fort C. F. Smith (located on private property but interpreted by NPS staff) garrisoned US Army troops from 1866–1869 to protect prospectors and other travelers along the Bozeman Trail route to the Virginia City (Montana) gold fields. Other historic properties include the Bighorn Canal and headgate, completed in 1904, largely by Crow workers, to irrigate some 35,000 acres for farming. The canal was used until completion of the Yellowtail Dam in the 1960s.

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**P**owell, Wyoming has a little something for every curious visitor. Natural wonders, American history, engineering feats and lots of outdoor recreation can all be found in Powell's section of the Big Horn Basin.

## NATURAL WONDERS

Heart Mountain, west of Powell, has a great hiking and equestrian trail maintained by the Nature Conservancy. The trail is well signed with flora and fauna information to help you discover local species as you enjoy Wyoming's fresh air. What's the most fascinating thing about Heart Mountain? 49 million years ago, it was created in the largest terrestrial landslide known to geologists, named the Heart Mountain Detachment. The detachment originated near Cooke City, Montana. It was about 23 miles long and 2–3 miles deep. Heart Mountain broke off and flipped upside down. Native America Tribes thought it looked like a bison heart.

## AMERICAN HISTORY

150 years ago, on May 24, 1896, John Wesley Powell floated down the Green and Colorado rivers with his crew of 10 men. This is the first known river voyage through the Grand Canyon. Subsequently, Powell published his report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the United States in 1879. Although John Wesley never stepped foot in Powell, Wyoming, his report influenced the way we manage water and the locations of our homesteads.

## HOMESTEADER MUSEUM

The Homesteader Museum highlights an exciting time in American history. The people who settled here were rugged, hardworking homesteaders. The museum does a wonderful job with local programs and national exhibits. History buffs

love the pioneer and homesteading stories and the Beaver Homestead House at the museum. Engineers appreciate the scope of work it took to build the irrigation system. Families bring their kids to enjoy the red train caboose and great exhibits.

## ENGINEERING FEATS

Powell was part of the Shoshone Project, a federal Reclamation Project in 1904 to bring irrigation to the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming. The United States government aimed to expand productive farmland westward. The high desert of the Big Horn Basin needs a steady flow of water to produce food. The Buffalo Bill Dam was completed in 1910. It holds snow melt from Yellowstone National Park that flows into the Shoshone River. Some of that water diverts through a series of canals, and laterals to four irrigation districts that supply water to our farmlands.

## INTERPRETIVE AGRICULTURE TOUR

Powell was incorporated in 1909. It has been an agricultural community ever since. Farmers in Powell are innovative. A robust influence from the University of Wyoming Research and Extension Center and Northwest College agricultural programs position our large family farms to be leaders in the industry.

Our grass-fed beef is lean, our barley is golden, local foods are just better in Powell, Wyoming. Learn the secrets of farming in the desert and how our local irrigation and farming practices make your food look and taste better. The Powell Visitors Center hosts agriculture

and local foods tours for bus tours & custom tours.

## HEART MOUNTAIN

Park county is home to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and Historic site museum which depicts the time after the Pearl Harbor attack during World War II when Japanese Americans were rounded up and forced to live in camps due to racial profiling.

The Museum, at 1539 Road 19, between Powell and Cody at the Intersection of U.S. Highway 14A and Road 19, first opened in 2011.

“Our locale is a National Historic Landmark site which includes an award-winning museum, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and original camp structures. These include an original barracks building, the hospital buildings, a war memorial built in 1944 by those incarcerated there to honor those from Heart Mountain who served during the War, and a walking trail. Our mission is to promote education and awareness of the Japanese American Experience during World War II, have dialogue about the relevance of this situation today, working together to discourage and prevent contemporary social injustice and racial prejudice” Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF) Communications and Design Consultant Kate Wilson said. Heart Mountain Relocation Camp is open for visiting hours year around.

Contact the Powell Visitor Center year round at  
307-754-3494,  
[info@powellchamber.org](mailto:info@powellchamber.org)

# CODY-YELLOWSTONE

**C**ody/Yellowstone — comprised of the towns of Cody, Powell and Meeteetse as well as parts of Yellowstone National Park — is a prime destination for a great American adventure, and that has been the case for generations of travelers. This rugged, breathtakingly beautiful region of north-western Wyoming draws nearly 1 million visitors from around the world each year.

Many visitors spend time in Cody before or after a trip to the world's first national park, Yellowstone, just 52 miles west of town. Some come to spend a week playing at one of the region's 14 guest and dude ranches. And others come to explore the region's abundant outdoor adventures including fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, rock climbing, river float trips, kayaking, OHV, wildlife watching and the Sleeping Giant Zipline.

Cody was founded by William Frederick Cody — more commonly known as “Buffalo Bill Cody” — in 1895. The lanky, good-looking outdoorsman had tried his hand at many careers — trapper, bullwhacker, Pony Express rider, Colorado “Fifty-Niner,” wagon master, stagecoach driver, soldier, and Army scout. But he was at heart a showman. In 1872, he began playing himself in “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show,” and he became famous throughout the world.

In the mid-1890s Cody began a years-long mission to establish and build the town of Cody, and although he died over 100 years ago, visitors can still see the many ways that Buffalo Bill’s big dreams for the town of Cody came true.

The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is often an important stop for vacationers interested in learning

more about the region. With five highly regarded museums under one roof — Buffalo Bill Museum, Cody Firearms Museum, Whitney Western Art Museum, Draper Natural History Museum and Plains Indian Museum — the Center employs a variety of techniques to engage visitors. Other important cultural attractions include the Buffalo Bill Dam & Visitor Center,



Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Jane Gates

a perfect stop for travelers who like to know how things work; and Old Trail Town/Museum of the West, an enclave of 27 frontier buildings.

Throughout the summer season from the beginning of June through the end of August, visitors can enjoy the Cody Nite Rodeo, the longest running nightly rodeo in the world, as well as the Wild Bunch Gunfighters, a fun-loving group of local actors who put on a nightly show in front of the Irma Hotel, and the Cody Firearms Experience, an indoor shooting range and arcade featuring guns of the Old West.

Nature-lovers and road-trippers have plenty of options as well. Cody is a great home base for driving five spectacular scenic loops. A new option for this year is enjoying these scenic views on a Polaris slingshot available through Tread n Trails.

## **YELLOWSTONE - 151 YEARS**

Signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant, America’s first national park was set aside to preserve and protect the scenery, cultural heritage, wildlife, geologic and ecological systems and processes in their natural condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Yellowstone serves as the core of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the last and largest nearly intact natural ecosystems on the planet. Yellowstone has the most active, diverse, and intact collections of combined geothermal features with over 10,000 hydrothermal sites and half the world’s active geysers. The park is also rich in cultural and historical resources with 25 sites, landmarks, and districts on the National Register of Historic Places.

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**W**yoming has rodeo intertwined in every corner of this great state. There is seldom a city, county or event that doesn't have a rodeo attached. Cody, is the Rodeo Capital of the World and proudly so with a rodeo every night of the week from June 1 to Aug. 31. Northwest College is among many colleges in this state to have a Col-

lege Rodeo Team.

This year's Big Horn Rodeo Circuit rodeos are:

- June 7 - Greybull Days of '49
- June 29 - Lovell Mustang Days
- July 4-5 - Ten Sleep Rodeo
- July 20 - Cowley Pioneer Days
- July 26 - Washakie County Fair
- Aug. 3 - Big Horn County Fair
- Aug. 24 - Hot Springs County

Chute Out

- Sept. 2 - Meeteetse Labor Day
- Sept. 14 - Finals Rodeo in Basin

Check out the website at [www.bighornrodecircuit.com](http://www.bighornrodecircuit.com) and the Facebook page for information on rodeos near you.

## SNOW LOVERS

**I**t is no secret there is snow in Wyoming, but some of the best places for snowboarders and skiers are closer than expected with Northern Wyoming being home to some local resorts and lodges.

Sleeping Giant Ski Area & Zipline, in the Shoshone National Forest, is 48 miles west of Cody and near Yellowstone National Park on the North Fork Highway/U.S. 14.

Visit their Facebook page @sleepinggiantski-area for up-to-date information.

Meadowlark Ski Lodge, northeast of Ten Sleep on U.S. 16, is Ten Sleep's lo-

cal place for snow lovers.

See their website, <http://www.lodgesofthebighorns.com/>, for more information.

Antelope Butte Mountain Recreation Area is at the intersection of US Hwy 14 & FS Road 244; 35 miles east of Greybull.

Check their website, <http://www.antelopebuttefoundation.org/>, or Facebook page @AntelopeButte, for the latest information and details on upcoming events.

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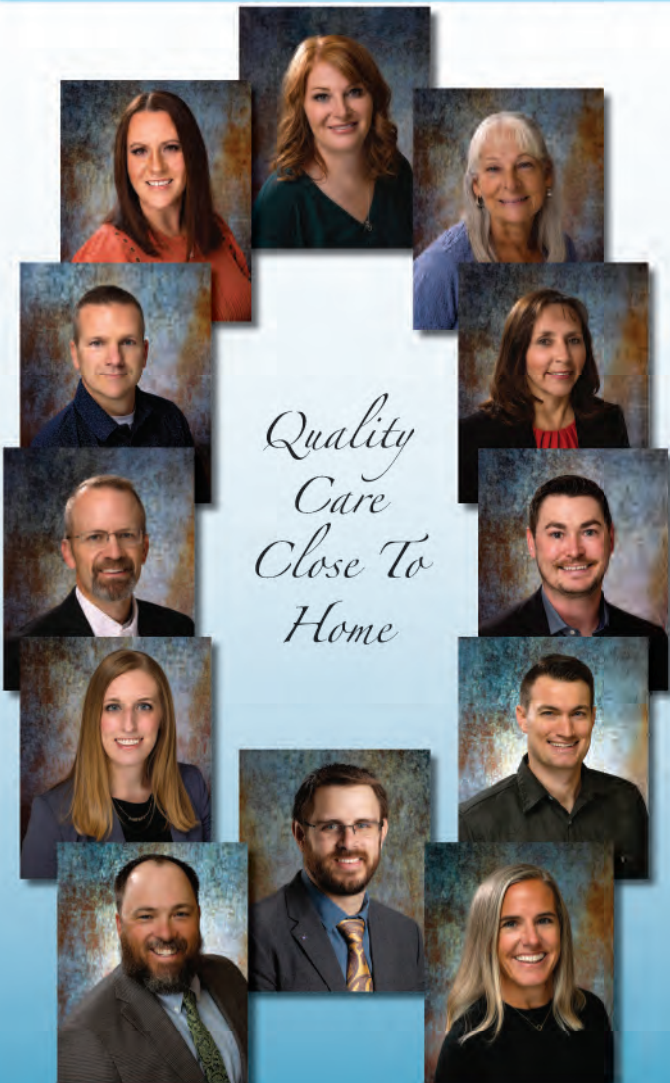


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