



Hiking in the Bighorn National Forest can be an enjoyable, rewarding experience. Trails are found along lakes and streams, across grassy

parklands, and climbing to reach the highest mountain summits. Take responsibility for a safe, memorable trip.

Practice Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace Seven Principles



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Wilderness: Please be aware, there are special regulations to protect wilderness. There is a group size limit of 10 people and a mandatory registration required. Registration tags can be found at major trail heads and Forest Service Offices. From the West Tensleep Corridor, human waste must be packed out and disposed of in a sanitary manner off National Forest System lands. In other locations, a cat hole may be dug and the waste buried. Familiarize yourself with all of the regulations prior to entering Cloud Peak Wilderness.

Multi-Use Recreation: At times, it is necessary to hike on two-track roads or motorized trails to reach hiking routes. Since they cannot leave a roadway, please yield to passing or oncoming vehicles.

Horseback riding is popular in the Bighorns, be prepared to meet them on trails. Please give right-of-way to horses and leave plenty of room for them to pass.



Wildlife: Wildlife is abundant in the Bighorn National Forest. While hiking, you may see elk, moose and deer. Other wildlife may be black bear, mountain lions (although both are rarely seen), beaver, snowshoe hare, squirrels, birds, and more.

For your safety and to reduce unnecessary stress on wildlife, please take extra precautions. Some animals can be aggressive during breeding season in the fall and when they are rearing their young in the spring. Moose may look huggable, but they are, potentially, the most dangerous animal on the Forest. Give all wildlife the space they need. Moose tend to stay in the meadow areas around streams and marshes. Elk prefer hillside meadows and forested areas.



Bighorn National Forest District Offices

Tongue Ranger District, Sheridan, WY 307-674-2600

Powder River Ranger District, Buffalo, WY 307-684-7806

Medicine Wheel Ranger District, Greybull, WY 307-765-4435

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United States Department of Agriculture

Bighorn National Forest

Day Hiking Northern Bighorns



Forest Service FS-1022 June 2020



Tongue Ranger District

Black Mountain Trail 011: 1 mile one way, trail class 3. This trail leads to the retired Black Mountain Fire Lookout. The hike is steep with a elevation gain of about 850', but the historic building and view from the 9,489' summit makes the effort worthwhile.

Coney Lake Trail 021: 4 miles one way, trail class 3. The trail starts at Coney Lake Trailhead, with a beginning elevation of about 8,560'. Big Stull Lake, a common turn around point, is two miles from the trailhead. The trail ends at Coney Lake, with an approximate elevation increase of 720'. This popular day use area is in Cloud Peak Wilderness.

South Piney Trail 626: 1.2 miles one way, trail class 3. The trail begins at an elevation of about 5,520' near Thorne-Rider Youth Camp in Story, WY. The trail follows South Piney Creek and ends at the creek after climbing approximately 280' in elevation.

Copper Creek Trail 424: 1.7 miles one way, trail class 1. The trail begins near Tie Flume campground at about 8,320'. The trail meanders along the South Tongue River and ends at the river after climbing about 240'. Visitors can explore remnants of a tie flume that once paralleled the river. This shady trail provides good fishing and picnic spots.

Tongue River Canyon Trail 002: 11.2 miles one way, trail class 3. The trail begins on WY State Lands at the Tongue River Trailhead at about 4,160' elevation. The trail ends near Burgess Ranger Station after climbing approximately 3,520'. A common turn around point is approximately four miles in near Sheep Creek.

Medicine Wheel Ranger District

Bucking Mule Falls National Recreation Trail 053: 17 miles one way, 3 miles one way to the waterfall overlook, trail class 3. The trail begins at Bucking Mule Trailhead at the end of FSR 14, at an elevation of about 8,320'. Hiking options include a visit to the overlook of Devil Canyon and Bucking Mule Falls, elevation about 8,038'. From the junction with the overlook spur, hikers can continue for another 15 miles to the Jaws Trailhead where the elevation is about 8,760'. There are several steep climbs in and out of canyons along the trail.

Porcupine Falls Trail 135: 0.4 miles one way, trail class 3. The trail begins at Porcupine Falls Trailhead at an elevation of about 8,200'. Visitors can hike to the base of Porcupine Falls Trail with an elevation change of approximately 250'. The thundering, vertical plunge of Porcupine Falls can be viewed and photographed from below and vantage points along the way.

Shell Creek Trail 057: 5.6 miles one way, trail class 3. The trail begins at Adelaide Trailhead, with an elevation of about 7,680'. This trail

meanders along Shell Creek and through Cloud Peak Wilderness. The final destination is Adelaide Lake, after a climb of about 1,600'.

Shell Bench 184: 10.6 miles one way, trail class 3. This trail begins near Ranger Creek Recreation Area, the elevation is about 7,640', and ends at Post Creek Picnic Area, after a decent of 1,920'. This trail is a popular for mountain biking route.

North High Park 059: 5 miles one way, trail class 3. The trail begins at Paintrock Lake Trailhead, where the elevation is about 9,212'. It accesses Teepee Pole Flats and ends at the junction with the Solitude Loop Trail 038, with an overall climb of about 92. Don't be mislead, there are several climbs in and out of drainages that add to the trail's challenge.

Edelman 025: 11.5 miles one way, trail class 3. Starting at Edelman Trailhead, where the elevation is about 9,280, the trail accesses Emerald Lake, at 10,250'. It ends at the junction with Solitude Loop Trail 038 at about 8,920', just under a mile south of Coffeen Park Trailhead.

Trail Class Guide:

Trail Class 1- Primitive/Undeveloped
Trail Class 2- Simple/Minor Development
Trail Class 3- Developed/Improved
Trail Class 4- Highly Developed
Trail Class 5- Fully Developed