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**

Nine out of 10 people in the outdoors are uninformed about their impacts. Let’s change that.

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

https://www.fs.usda.gov/bighorn
**Tongue Ranger District**
Black Mountain Trail 011: 1 mile one way. Approximately beginning elevation 8,640’, approximate ending elevation 9,489’. This trail leads to the retired Black Mountain Fire Lookout. The hike is steep, but the historic building and view from the 9,489’ summit makes the effort worthwhile.

Sibley Lake Nordic Area:
All trails begin and end in the Sibley Lake area off Hwy 14 and are marked with blue diamonds, approximate elevation 8,160’.

Blue Creek Loop: 2.4 miles
Prune Creek Loop: 2.7 miles
Dead Horse Park Loop: 6 miles

Coney Lake Trail 021: 3.7 miles one way. Park at the Coney Lake Trailhead, elevation about 8,560’, off Forest System Road (FSR) 26. Big Stull Lake, a common turn around point, is two miles from the trail head. The trail ends at Coney Lake, approximate elevation 9,280’. This is a popular day use area in Cloud Peak Wilderness.

South Piney Trail 626: 1.2 miles one way. Begins near Thorne-Rider Youth Camp in Story, WY, elevation about 5,520’ and ends at South Piney Creek, elevation approximately 9,280’. This trail offers easy access to the Forest and follows South Piney Creek.

Copper Creek Trail 424: 1.7 miles one way. The trail begins near Tie Flume campground at about 8,320’ elevation. The trail meanders along the South Tongue River and ends at the first crossing of the river at about 8,560’. 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: 10.2 miles one way. Approximate beginning elevation, 4,160’, approximate ending elevation 7,680’, The trail can be used year-round and accesses a beautiful canyon with shear limestone walls. Hiking the entire trail is an extended overnight trip, but a comfortable day hike will take you into Box Canyon, approximately 2.5 miles.

**Medicine Wheel Ranger District**
Bucking Mule Falls National Recreation Trail 053: 3 miles one way to the waterfall overlook (total is 17 miles one way). The trail begins at Bucking Mule Trailhead, elevation about 8,320’, at the end of FSR 14 and goes to an overlook of Devil Canyon and Bucking Mule Falls, elevation about 8,038’. From the junction with the overlook spur, the trail continues approximately 15.5 miles to the Jaws Trailhead, elevation about 8,760’.

Shell Creek Trail (#057): 5.2 miles one way. Park at the Adelaide Trailhead, elevation about 7,680’. This trail gently meanders along Shell Creek, crossing open meadows before reaching the Cloud Peak Wilderness boundary. The final destination is Adelaide Lake, elevation about 9,280’.

Shell Bench (#184): 10.6 miles one way. This trail begins near Ranger Creek Campground, elevation about 7,640’, and ends at Post Creek Picnic Area, elevation about 5,720’. The trail offers views of the red rock cliff bands that make up Shell Canyon. It is popular for mountain biking and long day hikes.

North High Park (# 059): 5 miles one way. The trail begins at Paintrock Lake Trailhead, elevation about 9,212’, accessing Tepee Pole Flats and ends at the junction with Solitude Loop Trail 038, elevation about 9,120’.

Edelman (#025): 11.5 miles one way. From the Edelman Trailhead, elevation about 8,560’, the trail accesses Emerald Lake and continues over Edelman Pass to its end, elevation about 8,560’, at the junction with Solitude Loop Trail 038 just under a mile from the Coffeen Park Trailhead on the Tongue Ranger District.