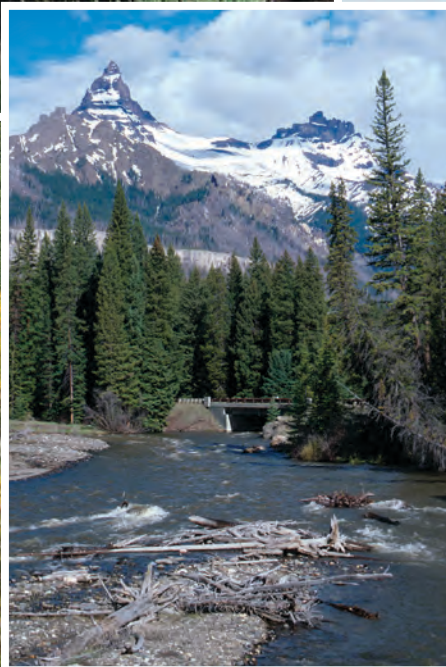


Shoshone National Forest Visitor Guide



America's first national forest



What's inside

Get to know us	2
Scenic byways	3
Special places	4
Know before you go . . .	6
Forest map	8
Campgrounds	10
Trails	11
Wilderness	12
Activities	14
Contact information . .	16



Fast Forest Facts

Acres/hectares: 2,466,577/998,188

The nation's first national forest: Established in 1891

Elevation range: 4,600 ft/1,402 m at the mouth of Clarks Fork Canyon to 13,804 ft/4,208 m at Gannett Peak, Wyoming's highest point

Home to: Over 335 species of wildlife, including the largest population of bighorn sheep and one of the few remaining grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states

Wilderness: 1.4 million ac/566,559 ha (56 percent of the Shoshone's acreage) in five designated wilderness areas – Absaroka-Beartooth, Fitzpatrick, North Absaroka, Popo Agie, and Washakie

Welcome . . .

. . . to America's first national forest. People come to the Shoshone National Forest for many reasons - hundreds of alpine lakes, three mountain ranges, back country trails, scenic byways, and an abundance of wildlife.

In the beginning, the Shoshone provided subsistence living for indigenous Americans, mountain men, and intrepid pioneers. Today, it offers people a retreat from everyday life.

We think the Shoshone is a special place, and we think you'll agree. If there's anything we can do to make your visit more enjoyable, please let us know.

*~The employees of the
Shoshone National Forest*

Come see for yourself!

*This Visitor Guide provides the information you need to make the most of your
Shoshone National Forest experience.*

Visit us on the web at www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone/.

Get to know us

About the Shoshone

History The Shoshone National Forest was created in 1891 as part of the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve. This part later became the Shoshone National Forest, the first national forest in the nation.

The Shoshone has a rich cultural history. Archaeological and ethnographic investigations indicate that people have lived in the area now known as the Shoshone National Forest for at least 10,000 years. The Arapahoe, Blackfeet, Comanche, Crow, Nez Perce, Northern Cheyenne, and Sioux Tribes used the Shoshone for traditional cultural practices and subsistence living. The Shoshone takes its name from the Shoshoni Indians living in the area.

Famous mountain men such as John Colter and Jim Bridger were early visitors, as well as miners who sought their fortunes in the area's mountains. The ghost town of Kirwin, an early-day mining town, is a window to the past, recalling one of the colorful eras in Wyoming's history. The remains of tie hack flumes and cabins on the southern part of the Shoshone are reminders of another era during which millions of railroad ties were produced.



Physical features

The Shoshone's distinct physical features include:

- Diverse landscapes, from lush grasslands to alpine meadows, crystal-clear alpine lakes to glacial-carved valleys, and rolling hills to sheer mountain walls.
- Three Waters Mountain, which funnels water to the Green, Missouri, and Snake Rivers.
- Paleontological specimens, including a petrified forest and geology ranging from volcanic formations to limestone.
- Over 25 percent of the Shoshone is a landscape above timberline, with over 13 percent mapped as rock, barren, or ice, which project as large expansive peaks and plateaus.

Scenic byways and lookouts

Chief Joseph Scenic Byway

Time to Allow: Allow at least 2 hours to tour this byway.

Located along the northeastern edge of Yellowstone National Park, the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway (State Highway 296) offers spectacular views and a unique history.

Not only will you find the breathtaking beauty for which Wyoming is known, you will find many opportunities for wildlife viewing, access to a variety of recreational opportunities, and a chance to see the land where the legendary flight of Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce occurred. Dedicated to this story, the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway offers you the opportunity to learn more about this tragic tale.

Length: 47.0 mi/75.6 km

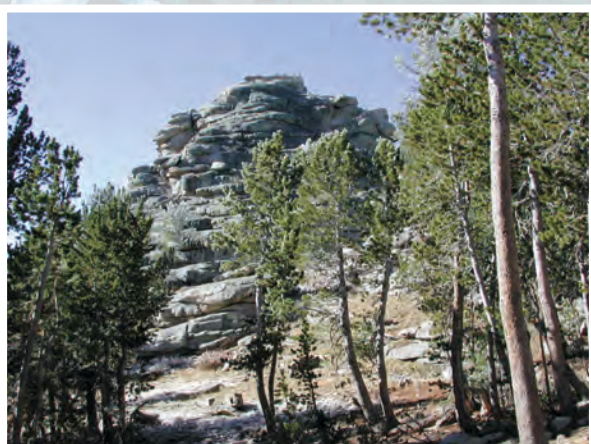


Buffalo Bill Cody Scenic Byway

Time to Allow: Allow 1 hour to drive this byway.

US Highway 14/16/20, the Buffalo Bill Cody Scenic Byway, follows the North Fork of the Shoshone River through the scenic Wapiti Valley to the East Entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The route is known for its abundant wildlife, rugged rock formations, and recreational opportunities.

Length: 27.5 mi/44.3 km



Scenic lookouts

Step back in time when you visit one of the historic fire lookouts located on the Shoshone National Forest. To the left is a photo of the Blue Ridge Lookout, which was built on a natural stone outcropping near Fiddlers Lake, southwest of Lander, Wyoming. On a clear day, you can see into the Popo Agie Wilderness.

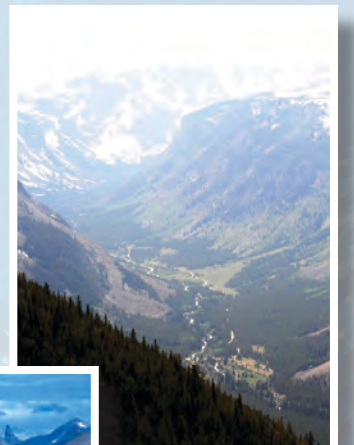
You can also visit the Clay Butte Lookout located in the northern part of the Shoshone along the Beartooth All-American Road (US Highway 212) northwest of Cody, WY). Clay Butte overlooks Beartooth Butte and Lake, and from its vista, you can see both the Absaroka and the Beartooth Mountains.

Beartooth All-American Road

Time to Allow: Allow about 3 hours to experience the entire byway.

The Beartooth Highway (US Highway 212) makes its way across the rugged Beartooth Mountains in Montana and Wyoming. The road is the highest elevation highway in the Northern Rockies and provides dramatic views, unlimited outdoor recreation opportunities, and unparalleled wildlife viewing.

Length: 68.7 mi/110.6 km



Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway

Time to Allow: Allow 4 hours to drive the byway.

The Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway (US Highway 26/287) provides travelers with a rich aesthetic, cultural, and historical experience, as well as views of diverse landscapes and ecosystems. It crosses the Continental Divide on Togwotee Pass and offers a route that, although well-traveled, is off the beaten path between Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

Length: 163.0 mi/262.3 km



Explore Wyoming's Scenic Byways at
www.byways.org

Get to know us

Special places

The Shoshone National Forest is filled with special places.

Humans left footprints here through the ages, from indigenous Americans, fur trappers and mountain men, pioneers, gold prospectors and miners, and the famous such as Albert I, Prince of Monaco, Ernest Hemingway, and Amelia Earhart. Some of these historic places are also special places to visit.

Kirwin High at the head of the Wood River, just below the timberline, sleeps the historic town and mining district of Kirwin, Wyoming. This small ghost town is a treasure trove for historians, with much to tell about the area's settlement and development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

At its peak, about 200 miners and their families lived in Kirwin. The town boasted a hotel, a boarding house, two general stores, a sawmill, an assay shop, a headquarters building, a post office, and a variety of cabins, stables, and meat storage sheds. Stagecoaches made the 34-mile trip between Kirwin and Meeteetse every other day.

On February 5, 1907, after several days of heavy snowfall, a massive avalanche roared down Brown Mountain, sweeping several buildings into the Wood River and killing three people. Most of the miners and their families decided they'd had enough. That spring, they packed up and left. A few attempts were made to revive the mines in later years, but nothing came of them.

Stabilization and restoration of Kirwin began in 1999 through a cooperative effort between the Shoshone National Forest, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Abandoned Mine Lands Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and numerous volunteers from Wyoming and across the country.

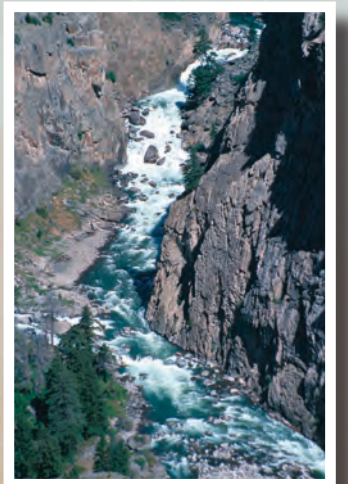


Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River Named after William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Clarks Fork Wild and Scenic River is a 20.5 mi/33 km rugged section of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River that flows through a deep, postcard-scenic canyon approximately 30 mi/48 km north-northwest of Cody, Wyoming. Its tumultuous waterfalls, whitewater cascades, deep pools, and rugged corridor lands are its special characteristics.

Designated in 1990, this section of the river became part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System along with a 0.5 mi/0.8 km corridor along its banks.

The escape route of an Idaho band of Nez Perce, led by Chief Joseph and several others, is thought to be along the southeast portion of the Clarks Fork River and Canyon.

This band fled their homelands in Idaho, came through Yellowstone and through the Clarks Fork area as they ran from the pursuing military in September 1877. They are thought to have exited the east entrance of the Clarks Fork Canyon along Cyclone Bar and headed north for Canada.



Brooks Lake Falls Located on Brooks Lake Creek near the Falls Campground northwest of Dubois, Wyoming, on the Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway (US Highway 26/287), this stunning waterfall is one of several geologic features in this area.

This waterfall was created as a result of two different rock layers underneath the creek that eroded at different times. Rock beneath the waterfall (which is in the Wind River Formation) eroded much faster than the rock near the Wind River. As a result, the creek moved through the Wind River Formation much quicker and formed a cliff or "knickpoint," creating the waterfall.

The waterfall can be reached from a trail that begins from the Falls Campground. Along that trail you can also get a great view of the Upper Wind River valley and even see into the Fitzpatrick Wilderness on the southeast horizon. To the north and northeast are the geological features of Pinnacle Buttes and Breccia Cliffs.



Special places

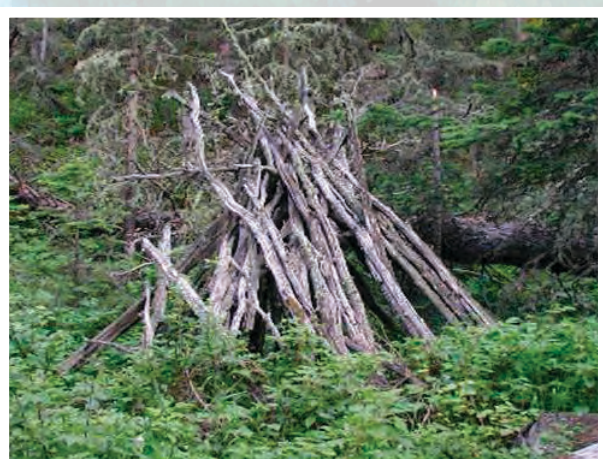
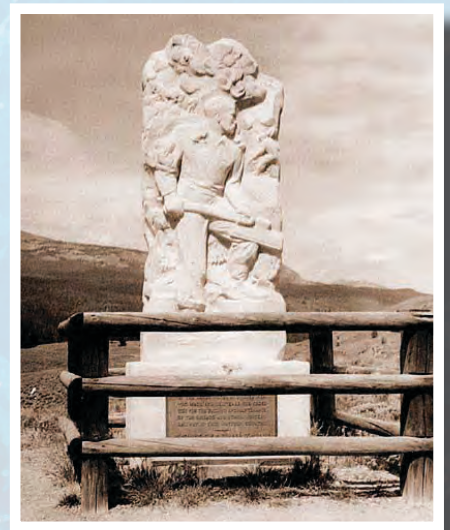
Tie Hack Memorial Between 1914 and 1946, Scandinavian loggers produced over 10 million hand-hewn railroad ties. Located approximately 12 mi/19 km northwest of Dubois, Wyoming, along the Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway, the Tie Hack Memorial is dedicated to the hard-working men and their families whose sweat and toil contributed to the first transcontinental railroad linking our country from coast to coast.

Ties were made from trees hacked and cut by hand, hence the name "tie hack." Tie hacks were a special breed of loggers who could quickly fell and limb a tree, and fashion the tie down to the specifications demanded.

In the early days, ties were delivered to the railroad by floating them down the Wind River on the annual "long walk to Riverton." This walk took place just after the Wind River peaked in spring runoff so the ties would move swiftly downstream, but it was dangerous and difficult. Wooden water channels (which can still be seen in the area) called flumes were built to carry logs down steep canyon sides to await downriver transport.

Ties were released into the river current along with a driver who poled the ties down river. Poor timing and high water could result in injuries, drownings, and an entire season of timber cutting lost.

Tie drives and tie hacks disappeared, being replaced by gas powered sawmills, sawyers, cutters, and skidders.



Traces of America's past

Archaeological and historical sites hold clues to America's past. If disturbed, a part of our heritage is lost forever.

Sites and artifacts on federal lands are protected by federal laws. If you discover such remains, leave them undisturbed and report them to the local ranger station.

Know before you go

Dispersed recreation and back country

Camping is free in the remote areas of the Shoshone and is a great way to get away from it all.

Many people enjoy the solitude and primitive experience of camping away from developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping means there are no toilets, tables, or drinking water. Follow these guidelines to ensure these areas can be enjoyed by future generations.

- Campsites should be at least 200 ft/61 m from trails, lakes, or wet meadows and 100 ft/30 m from streams or creeks.
- There is a 16-consecutive-day stay limit. Any new location must be at least five miles from the previous location.
- Group size may be limited. Check with the local ranger district office for specifics in the area you want to go.
- Choose sites that are already established.
- Don't tie stock to trees.
- Pack out all garbage.
- Do not carve or chop into tree trunks — this can eventually kill the tree.

Know where to go

You can help us protect the land and water for the forest by using established campsites rather than creating a new site. Please stick to roads that are marked as OPEN (see the motor vehicle use map for more information).

Know the stay limit

In general, you can camp outside a developed campground for up to 16 days in the same site. If you wish to remain longer, you must move your camp more than 5 mi/8 km for at least 7 days before returning to the first site. Check with the local ranger district office for stay limits in the area you want to visit.

Wash away from water

Soap degrades water quality and harms fish and other aquatic life. Wash at least 200 ft/61 m from the water.

Waste

Bacteria and viruses in human waste are known to cause many different gastro intestinal diseases. Please follow these simple steps when nature calls:

- Find a spot at least 200 ft/61 m from any water source.
- Dig a hole 6-8 in/15-20 cm deep and bury human waste.
- Pack out used toilet paper.



Campfire safety

Check at the local ranger district office or our website for current fire restrictions. Remember, conditions can change on a daily basis.

- Use existing fire rings if possible.
- To put out a campfire, slowly pour water onto the fire and stir with a shovel. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool to touch.
- Do not simply bury your fire. The coals can smolder and reignite.
- NEVER leave a campfire unattended, even if there are no flames present. Many wildfires have been caused by abandoned campfires.

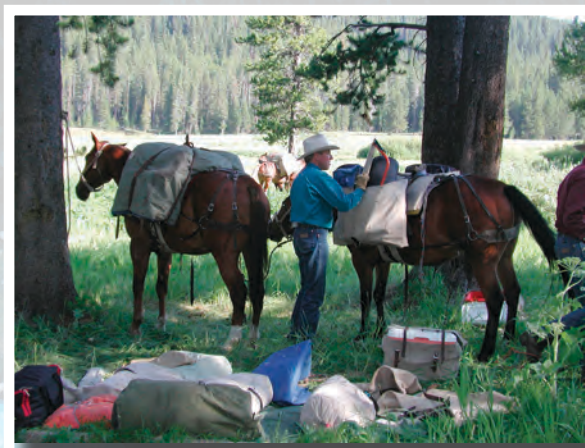
**To report a fire, call
800.295.9954**

Horse use

Horse users are encouraged to bring feed with them on back country trips since natural forage is limited in many places.

- Packed-in feed must be certified weed free on all national forests in Wyoming.
- Stock must be tethered more than 200 ft/61 m from lakes and 100 ft/30 m from streams or other flowing water.
- Use highlines or pickets for tethering stock.

Pack trips are a popular way to experience the wilderness. Popo Agie Wilderness stock users must obtain a free permit from the Washakie Ranger District in Lander.



Off highway vehicle use (OHV)

OHV use is a popular activity on the Shoshone. While many opportunities exist on the roads and trails, cross-country motorized travel is prohibited. Check at the local ranger district office for more information.

ATVs and motorcycles

ATVs and motorcycles are allowed on any forest road or trail that is posted open to motorized vehicles. It is your responsibility to know whether the trail you are on is open to motorized travel. Wyoming law requires all non-licensed motorized vehicles to have either a current Wyoming resident or non-resident user fee decal prominently displayed on the outside of each vehicle.



CAUTION - Pick up a free motor vehicle use map (MVUM) from any ranger district office to find out which trails are open to ATVs and motorcycles. Trails outside wilderness areas are open to all non-motorized uses. **Trails within wilderness areas are open only to non-mechanized travel.**

Be bear aware

Black and grizzly bears roam throughout the Shoshone National Forest, although grizzly bears are present primarily in the Clarks Fork, Greybull, Wapiti, and Wind River Ranger Districts.



Proper food storage and clean camping techniques are mandatory in most areas. Read and follow any special orders that specify these requirements.

- Keep a clean campsite. Store food, garbage, and stoves in closed vehicles or in an Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee-approved container. Most coolers are not bear resistant.
- Since bears may frequent campgrounds, bear-resistant dumpsters and food storage boxes are placed in many campgrounds.
- Never put food scraps in the campfire.
- Don't keep food, or anything with an odor, in tents.
- If you're in the back country, food, garbage, and other bear attractants must be hung at least 10 ft/3 m high and 4 ft/1.2 m from the nearest vertical support. In some areas, food storage poles are provided - check with the local ranger district office to find out where these are located.
- Some bears also target motor oil, insect repellent, liquor, and other items that look like food. Keep these items stored properly.



Some areas on the Shoshone may be closed to dispersed camping and signed as such due to grizzly bear activity or resource protection, while some campgrounds are restricted to hard-sided camping units only. Be alert to signage.

Bear repellent (bear pepper spray) is available at local outdoor retail stores. It is recommended for anyone traveling in bear country. Forest Service offices have bear-resistant panniers/food tubes for a small rental fee. Grizzly Country brochures are available, with instructions on proper food storage and clean camping techniques.

For more information about bears, visit

www.BeBearAware.org.

For more information about the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and approved storage containers, visit

www.igbconline.org.



Plan ahead

- Tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return, and what they need to do if you don't return.
- For safety, don't hike alone.
- Plan your route, check the weather, and be reasonable about travel distances.
- Cell phones often have sporadic or no reception in many areas of the forest.
- Dress appropriately. Remember, you may run into snow and freezing temperatures in the mountains, even in summer.
- Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes or boots suitable for the activity you have selected.
- Bring drinking water and high-energy snacks. DO NOT drink from streams and lakes unless you have first properly filtered or treated the water.

Hazard trees

Many of the Shoshone's forested acres have been affected by bark beetles or fire. Once the trees are infected or burned, their root systems become extremely weak and shallow, making it easy for them to blow or fall over.

Following these guidelines may help you avoid risks.

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when winds pick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road, you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax or chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the forest.



Remember, falling trees are always a hazard when traveling in the forest. Your safety is your responsibility.

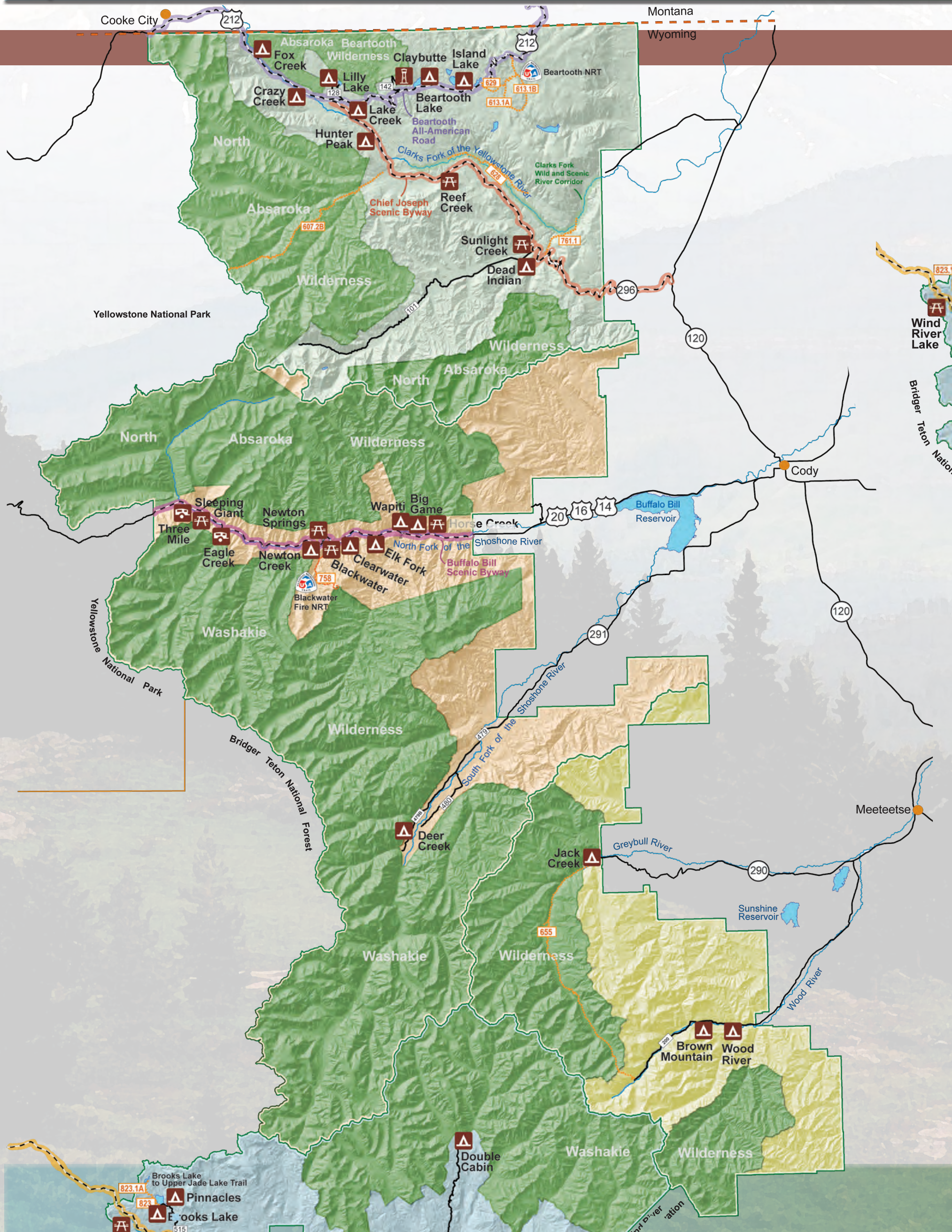
Disclaimer of liability: With respect to the identification and removal of all tree hazards found in a forested recreation setting, neither the United States Government nor any of its employees makes any warrant, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained herein, or actions that may be taken by a visitor to the national forest.

FOOD STORAGE

The Shoshone National Forest has implemented a food storage order in many areas in order to reduce wildlife / human conflicts. Grizzly Bear Food Storage Regulations must be followed in designated grizzly bear use areas. See the special orders page on our website to find out where these areas are and about their regulations www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone/.

Contact the local ranger district office for more details.

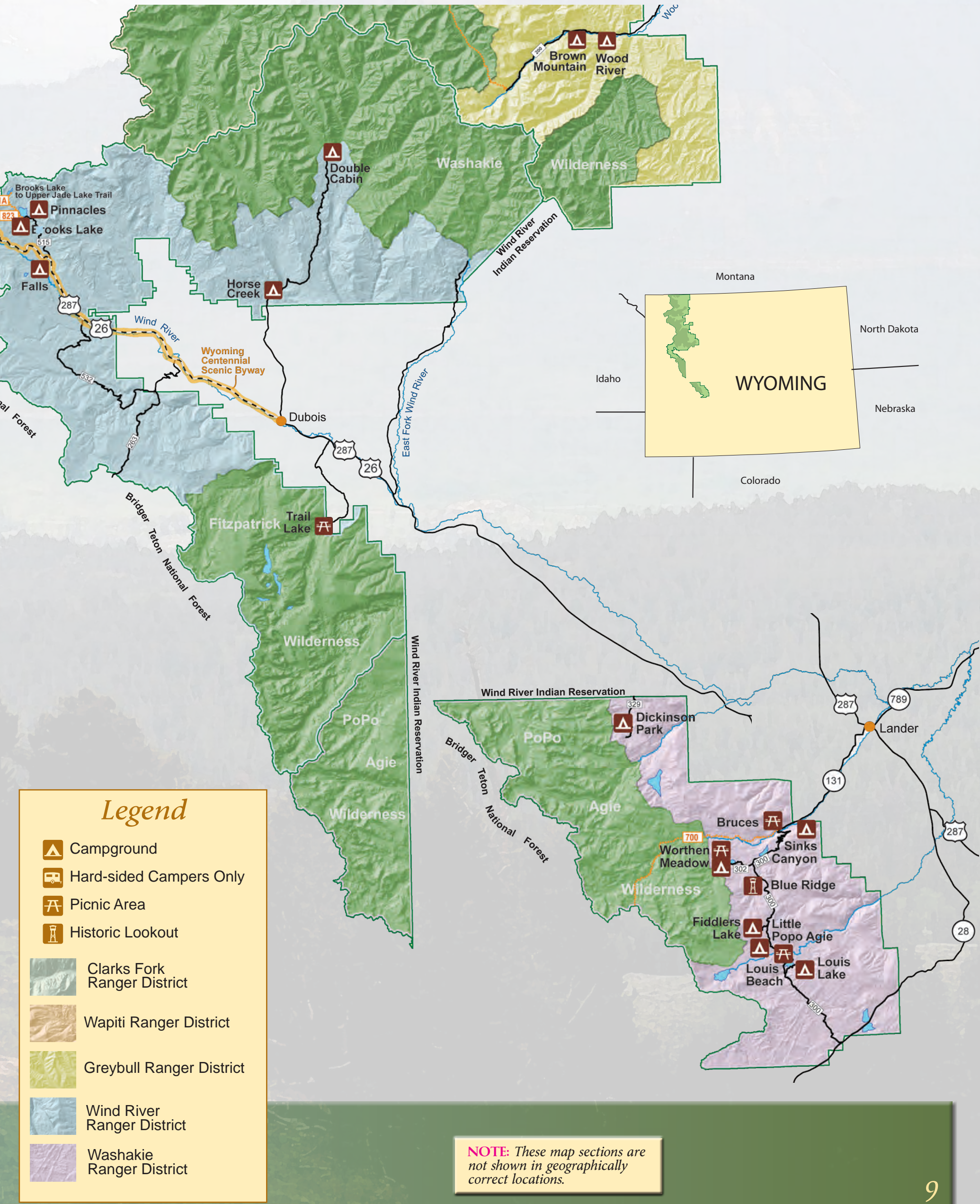
Shoshone National Forest



To make reservations for campgrounds or cabins,
use the **National Reservation Service**
at **877.444.6777** or www.recreation.gov



































































































Reserve
Your Place
Under the
Stars
RECREATION.gov



Recreation opportunities

Campgrounds

Northern half of the Shoshone National Forest

	Name	Fee	# of units (single/ multiple)	Typical season	Amenities	Reservable
Clarks Fork Ranger District	Beartooth Lake	\$15	21	July-September	      	No
	Crazy Creek	\$10	16	May-September	  	No
	Dead Indian	\$10 (May-September)	10	May-September (One loop open year-round)	  	No
	Fox Creek	\$20 (electricity) \$15 (w/out electricty)	34	June-September	     	No
	Hunter Peak	\$15	10	May-November	    	Yes
	Island Lake	\$15	21/2	July-September	      	No
	Lake Creek	\$10	6	June-September	  	No
Greybull Ranger District	Brown Mountain	None (Donations accepted)	7	May-October	  	No
	Jack Creek	None (Donations accepted)	7	Open year-round	    	No
	Wood River	None (Donations accepted)	5	May- October	  	No
Wapiti Ranger District	Big Game	\$10	16	June-September	   	Yes
	Clearwater	\$10	11/1	May-September	    	Reservable group site
	Deer Creek	None (Donations accepted)	6	Open year-round	 	No
	Eagle Creek	\$15	20	May-September	     	No
	Elk Fork	\$10 (May-September)	12	Open year-round	     	No
	Fishhawk Trailhead	\$10 (May-September)	5	Open year-round	    	Yes
	Newton Creek	\$15	29	May-September	    	No
	Rex Hale	\$20 (electricity) \$15 (w/out electricty)	29	May-September	     	Yes
	Threemile	\$15	20/1	June-September	     	No
	Wapiti	\$20 (electricity) \$15 (w/out electricity)	40/2	May-September	     	Yes

Southern half of the Shoshone National Forest























































	Name	Fee	# of units (single/ mult)	Typical season	Amenities	Reservable
Washakie Ranger District	Dickinson Creek	None	15	July-September	    	No
	Fiddlers Lake	\$15	20	July-September	   	No
	Little Popo Agie	None	4	July-September	    	No
	Louis Lake	\$10	9	July-September	 	No
	Sinks Canyon	\$15	14	May-October	   	No
	Worthen Meadow	\$15	28	July-September	      	No
Wind River Ranger District	Brooks Lake	\$10	13	July-September	     	No
	Double Cabin	\$15	15	May-September	     	No
	Falls	\$20 (electricity) \$15 (w/out electricty)	54	June-September	    	No
	Horse Creek	\$15	9	May-September	    	No
	Pinnacles	\$15	21	July-September	    	No

Table Legend



Drinking
water



Garbage
collection



Hard-sided
only



Restroom



Picnic tables



Horse corrals



Group
site



Fishing



Boat
ramp



Trailhead



Power
hookups



Trails and cabin rental

The Shoshone National Forest has over 1,600 mi/2,092 km of outstanding trails that provide opportunities for enjoying a variety of experiences on the national forest. Most are multi-use trails open to foot and stock traffic; some are open to mountain bikes. These non-motorized trails are just a few highlights - more information is available at the local ranger district office.

Trail		Miles/km (one way)	Difficulty	Highlights
Clarks Fork Ranger District	Beartooth Loop Beartooth Loop/Stockade Lake Trail #613.1A	1.9/3.0	Easy-moderate	The Beartooth Loop National Recreation Trail on the Beartooth Plateau offers a 15 to 20 mi/24-32 km loop through alpine and subalpine terrain and past abandoned Camp Sawtooth, an exclusive retreat built in the 1920s. The trail consists of three trails: Beartooth Loop/Stockade Lake Trail, Beartooth Loop/Little Rock Creek Trail, and Beartooth Loop/Houser Lake Trail.
	Beartooth Loop/Little Rock Creek Trail #613.1B	3.9/6.3	Easy-moderate	
	Beartooth Loop/Houser Lake Trail #629	2.6/4.2	Easy-moderate	
	Nez Perce National Historic Trail Papoose Creek Trail #607.2B Clarks Fork Trail #628 Dead Indian Gulch Trail #761.1	12/19 17.5/28 5/8	Moderate-difficult	The Nez Perce National Historic Trail traces the historic flight of the Nez Perce Indians as they fled the pursuing US Cavalry. The entire trail crosses four states. On the Shoshone, the trail extends about 34 mi/54.7 km along Crandall Creek and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, where it descends into the plains.
Greybull Ranger District	Greybull River Trail #655	24/39	Easy-moderate	This trail follows the Greybull River south from the Jack Creek Trailhead, summits at Greybull Pass, then drops into the historic mining town of Kirwin along the Wood River.
Wapiti Ranger District	Blackwater Memorial National Recreation Trail #758	7.8/12.6	Moderate	The Blackwater Memorial National Recreation Trail begins along Blackwater Creek and leads to a memorial near the point of origin of the Blackwater Fire, where 15 firefighters lost their lives in 1937.
Washakie Ranger District	Popo Agie Falls Trail #700	1.5/2.4	Easy-moderate	This hike leaves Bruce Parking Area and winds along and above the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River to the falls overlook. You can continue up the Middle Fork Trail for many miles if desired. This trail is accessible most of the year.
Wind River Ranger District	Brooks Lake to Upper Jade Lake Yellowstone Trail #823 Glacier Trail #823.1A	0.5/0.8 1.0/1.6	Easy Moderate	This hike is approximately 3 mi/4.8 km round trip and takes you to the scenic Upper Jade Lake area. Start at Brooks Lake and follow the Yellowstone Trail approximately 0.5 mi/0.8 km northwest to where the Jade Lake Trail splits off. Turn left on the Upper Jade Lake Trail and follow it for a little over 1 mi/1.6 km to Upper and Lower Jade Lakes.

Cabin rental

For reservations, call 877.444.6777 or visit www.recreation.gov .				
Name	Capacity/ fee	Season	Location	Notes
Sunlight Ranger Cabin	8/\$150	May - Sept	40 mi/64 km northwest of Cody	Fully furnished. Two queen beds, two sets of bunk beds. Fully-furnished kitchen: stove, refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot, pots, pans, dishes, and utensils. Fireplace and firewood. Linens are not furnished. No pets allowed. Cleaning supplies are included.

Campground fees range from \$10-20 depending on the amenities provided. Fees are subject to change.
NOTE: "Single/multiple" refers to the number of camping units, e.g., campers, RVs, that can use the site.

To make reservations for reservable sites in campgrounds, call the National Reservation Service at 877.444.6777 or visit www.recreation.gov.

Wilderness

The Shoshone National Forest encompasses all or parts of five designated wilderness areas, totaling 1,379,048 acres of wilderness. Wilderness areas are designated by Congress for preservation and protection of the area's natural conditions and primeval characteristics and influences, rather than human influences. These lands provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive (non-motorized/non-mechanized) recreation. Visitors can enjoy pristine lakes, tumbling waterfalls, slopes awash in wildflowers, cloud-shrouded peaks, glacier-carved valleys, and a plethora of wildlife.

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness



Quick Facts

Ac/ha: 943,626/381,871
(23,750 ac/9,611 ha on the Shoshone)
Year established: 1984

Lying on the Montana-Wyoming border in the Shoshone, Gallatin, and Custer National Forests, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is the juncture of two mountain ranges with differing geologic types. The Absaroka Range (pronounced ab-ZORE-kuh, the Crow Indian word for "crow") is of volcanic origin, while the Beartooth Range (named for a spike of rock resembling a bear's tooth) is granitic in formation.

The extremely rugged and picturesque topography contains hundreds of lakes, high-rolling plateaus, and deep, glacier-carved valleys. Granite Peak, Montana's highest point at 12,799 ft/3,901 m, is located near the Wyoming-Montana border. This area also is known for several "grasshopper glaciers," glaciers containing millions of grasshoppers frozen in ice.

North Absaroka Wilderness

Rugged volcanic mountains dissected by numerous creeks forming huge drainages - typical scenes of the 350,488 ac/141,837 ha of the North Absaroka Wilderness.

During summer rainstorms, tons of erodible material turn the waterways into frothing rivers of mud. Water comes off the slopes quickly, and flash floods and fast-flowing high water are hazards for the traveler. Trail distances are vast, and trails can be steep and narrow. Travelers can expect to encounter washouts, fallen trees, and loose rock on the trails. Because of the volcanic geology, there are only a handful of small lakes.

Quick Facts

Ac/ha: 350,488/141,837
Year established: 1964



Popo Agie Wilderness

Stretching out over 101,870 ac/41,225 ha of very rugged topography in the Wind River Range, the Popo Agie Wilderness (pronounced puh-PO-zha, meaning "beginning of the waters" in the Crow language) has high jagged peaks separating beautiful streams in deep, narrow valleys. Perennial snowfields dot the Continental Divide running through this wilderness. More than 20 summits reach above 12,000 ft/3,657 m in elevation, with Wind River Peak, at 13,192 ft/4,020 m, being the highest.

Over 300 lakes and ponds grace the area. The headwaters of the Middle Fork Popo Agie, North Fork Popo Agie, and South Fork Little Wind Rivers originate here. All are tributaries of the Wind River.

Rugged, picturesque formations, such as the Cirque of the Towers, attract climbers, photographers, backpackers, and pack and saddle stock users to this scenic and challenging area.



Quick Facts

Ac/ha: 101,870/41,225
Year established: 1984

Washakie Wilderness

Named in honor of Chief Washakie, a leader of the Shoshoni Indians, the Washakie Wilderness encompasses 704,274 ac/285,112 ha in the southern Absaroka Mountains. It is characterized by deep, narrow valleys exposing volcanic strata.

Broad, flat-topped mountains and plateaus separate canyons. This volcanic material, much of which is deposited in horizontal layers, is unstable and highly erodible, which results in steplike cliffs and buttes. These unusual geologic formations, along with petrified remains of forests and abundant wildlife, are the main attractions of the Washakie.

Quick Facts

Ac/ha: 704,274/285,112
Year established: 1964





Fitzpatrick Wilderness

Quick Facts

Ac/ha: 198,525/80,340
Year established: 1976

Named for Tom Fitzpatrick, a mountain man and partner of Jim Bridger, these 198,525 ac/80,340 ha of immeasurable magnificence in the Wind River Range were carved out of granite and limestone by glaciers and glacial streams.

The Fitzpatrick has 44 active glaciers.

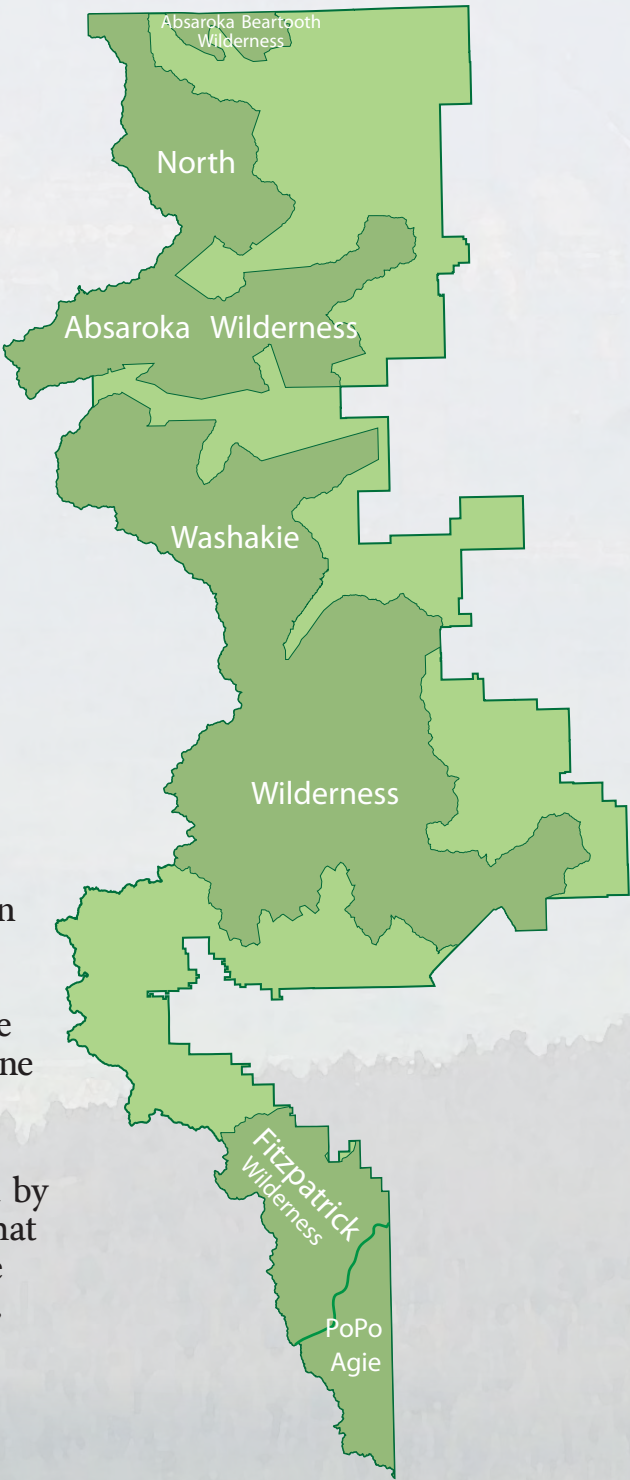
Gannett Peak, Wyoming’s highest point at 13,804 ft/4,208 m, is flanked by three of the largest of these glaciers. It is one of 25 peaks in the area that tower above 13,000 ft/3,962 m. Adding to the beauty and variety of the Fitzpatrick are alpine meadows, numerous lakes, rock-covered plateaus, precipitous canyons, and meandering streams.

Leave No Trace: Enjoy your visit, but please travel and camp with care. These special places are very fragile and easily damaged. Practice these Leave No Trace ethics when visiting these wilderness areas:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Camp and travel on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



For a more in-depth discussion of these principles, visit [lnt.org/programs/principles](https://www.fws.gov/lnt.org/programs/principles).



The vast resources of the Shoshone National Forest belong to all Americans. These resources must rely on the stewardship of all of us if they are to be sustained for future generations.

Activities

Watchable wildlife Bring your camera and binoculars! The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is one of the last intact temperate ecosystems in the United States, with a conservation heritage of world-wide value. Its status is due in large part to the wildlands that support natural processes and a full complement of plant communities, predators, and prey, making this ecosystem complete. The Shoshone National Forest is a key component of this ecosystem. This makes for outstanding opportunities to view wildlife species in their natural habitats. These are a few of the Shoshone's wildlife viewing highlights:

- Bears - The Shoshone is home to grizzly and black bears. Seeing a bear is a memorable experience, but view them from a distance.
- Bighorn sheep - The Shoshone is home to the largest herd of bighorn sheep of any national forest.
- Birds - Western meadowlarks, Brewer's sparrows, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles, to name just a few - the Shoshone is rich in bird life.
- Wintering wildlife - bison, elk, whitetail and mule deer, bighorn sheep, and moose can often be seen in portions of the Shoshone.

Wildlife viewing ethics

- Give wildlife their space. Use those binoculars!
- If you find what you believe to be an orphaned or sick animal, leave it alone. Often the parents are close by and are waiting for you to leave.
- Do not feed wildlife. Animals that become habituated to handouts can eventually become nuisances, losing their instinctive fear of people. Often the only solution is to euthanize the animal.
- Leave the area if an animal shows signs of alarm. Watch and listen for raised ears, skittish movements, or alarm calls.
- Keep your dog leashed, to protect both wildlife and your dog.



Wildflowers

The Shoshone provides habitat for many species of wildflowers and rare plants. Depending on the amount of precipitation and elevation, flowers bloom at different times. Some of the wildflowers on the Shoshone National Forest include glacier lily, alpine forget-me-not, spring beauty, wild strawberry, moss campion, lupine, arnica, stonecrop Indian paintbrush, Parry's lousewort, arrowleaf balsamroot, phlox, snow buttercup, gentians, and Indian paintbrush.

Ethics and native plants

For many of us, a field of wildflowers is one of the most beautiful sites we can encounter in nature. Millions of people visit public lands each year and if only a small fraction picked a few flowers, soon there wouldn't be any flowers for the rest of us to enjoy. Almost all wildflowers are fragile and many wilt and perish soon after being picked. Remember, respect and protect wildflowers and their habitats, leave only footprints, and take only memories and photos so future generations may enjoy our precious natural heritage.

Hunting and fishing The Shoshone provides habitat for a variety of big game and trophy animals including pronghorn, deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black bear, mountain lion, and game birds. There are approximately 1,500 mi/2,414 km of streams and 304 lakes with fish for the catching. Major game trout species are Yellowstone cutthroat, rainbow, brown, brook, golden, and Arctic grayling.

Hunting and fishing regulations are available from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and local retailers. Regulations are available from the WYG&F at 800.654.7862 or gf.state.wy.us/index.asp.

Quagga and zebra mussels

Aquatic invasive species, such as quagga and zebra mussels, can hitchhike a ride on boats, bait buckets, and other gear to our waters. They can ruin motorboat equipment, clog pipes, pumps, and filtration systems, and affect powerplants, irrigation systems, and other water uses. These organisms have not yet been found in Wyoming, but they have contaminated surrounding states.

Prevent the transport of nuisance species by following these three steps:

- Clean mud, plants, animals or other debris from your boat and equipment
- Drain the ballast tanks, bilge, livewells, and motor
- Dry (7 days summer; 18 days spring/fall) or freeze (30 days winter)

www.ProtectYourWaters.net



Noxious weeds Noxious weeds can rapidly displace native plant species that provide habitat for wildlife and food for people and livestock. Here's how you can help reduce their spread:

- Learn to recognize common weed species.
- Don't camp or drive in weed-infested areas.
- Don't pick the flowers of noxious weeds and take them home.
- When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed free. Within 96 hours before entering back country areas, feed stock only weed-free food.



NOTE

It is critical that you obtain a FREE motor vehicle use map (MVUM) from any Forest Service office to determine where you can ride. MVUMs are also available online at www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone/. Also, please keep in mind that all equipment and riders must meet federal and state standards and regulations (noise levels, spark arrestors, rider's age, helmet requirements, and other restrictions).



Winter recreation

Winter brings a magical quiet to the Shoshone National Forest. When blanketed by snow, the Shoshone assumes a primeval character that beckons to many.



Cross-country ski trails

There are about 48 mi/77 km of groomed and 17 mi/27 km of ungroomed ski trails on the Shoshone. Trails meander through meadows and wooded landscapes.

A few suggested ski tours are:

Wood River Valley Located 22 mi/35 km southwest of Meeteetse, the ski touring park offers over 15 mi/24 km of groomed trails, ranging from the scenic and gentle South Fork Trail to the thrilling Brown Creek Trail. A warming hut is located at the trailhead, and an overnight cabin can be reserved by calling 307.868.2603.

Beaver Creek Skiers of all ages and abilities are welcome to the Beaver Creek area, which provides a groomed skiing opportunity for both classic and modern skate skiing. The trail system is approximately 12 mi/19 km long. Parking is available approximately 24 mi/39 km south of Lander off Highway 28 and Limestone Road.

Pahaska Trail The Pahaska Trail system is located just 2 mi/3 km outside the East Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. With diverse difficulty ratings, novice and experienced skiers alike will enjoy this memorable area. The system contains about 15 mi/25 km of trails.

Snowmobiling

Over 800 mi/1,287 km of snowmobile trails connect into a vast network of statewide and regional snowmobile trails. Snowmobile trails are shown on the Continental Divide and Northern Wyoming Snowmobile Trail Maps, available at local ranger district offices.

Wyoming law requires all snowmobiles to have either a current Wyoming resident or non-resident user fee decal prominently displayed on the outside of each snowmobile. Permits are \$25 and may be purchased at permit selling agents located across the state.

Visit wyotrails.state.wy.us/Snow/index.asp for complete information or call the Wyoming State Trails Program at 307.777.7477.



Skier safety and etiquette

- All trails are two-way traffic – ski in tracks on the right side of the trail.
- Please – no dogs on groomed trails.
- When passing, make your presence known and pass on the left.
- Stay in control at all times. Ski in a manner that does not endanger others.
- Yield to skiers coming downhill.
- Do not walk in tracks with boots, snow-shoes, sleds, etc.
- Do not block the trail; step off the trail to adjust equipment or visit with friends.
- Be alert and respectful of wildlife, and do not approach or follow them.
- Please pick up a piece of litter every trip out.
- Bring plenty of water with you.
- Take frequent stops to enjoy your incredible surroundings.
- Watch out for areas marked “avalanche danger.”

Avalanche safety tips

- Eighty percent of all avalanches happen during or shortly after a storm, generally on slopes of 30 to 45 degrees.
- Snowfall greater than 1 in/2.5 cm an hour or winds of 15 mph/24 kph or higher greatly increase avalanche danger.
- Cross a suspected avalanche path on a ridge above or in the valley floor well below danger. In a group, cross single file and move quickly.
- Everyone should carry an avalanche beacon, a shovel, and survival/first aid gear.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you'll return.

For more information

Weekly snowmobile trail conditions:
307.777.6323

Wyoming Tourism Information:
307.777.7777

Avalanche Center for Northwestern Wyoming: 307.733.2664

wyotrails.state.wy.us

www.mtavalanche.com/

Shoshone National Forest

Your recreation fees at work



Pass information The Shoshone National Forest does not charge a general entrance fee. Campground fees, ranging from \$10 to \$20 per night, are charged at some campgrounds, depending on the services provided. There is no fee for camping at campgrounds where services, like water, electricity, and garbage collection are not provided.

Interagency Passes are honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish and Wildlife Service sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees. Most Interagency Passes can be purchased at ranger district offices. For more information, visit www.store.usgs.gov/pass.

The four types of Interagency Passes are

Annual Pass - \$80.00

Not accepted for camping discounts.

Senior Pass - \$10.00

Available to US citizens 62 years and older. Must be purchased in person, with proof of age such as a driver's license.

Access Pass - Free

Available to US citizens who have been medically determined to have a permanent disability that severely limits one or more major life activities. Must be obtained in person with written proof of disability.

Volunteer Pass - Free

A volunteer pass is an Annual Pass awarded to those individuals who volunteer 500 hours at one or more recreation sites managed by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, or US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Visit us at

www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone/



Recreation fees have made a meaningful difference in our ability to serve our national forest visitors because these dollars are reinvested into visitor services and facilities. For example, on the Shoshone National Forest, fees have been used for:

- Campground maintenance and operations.
- Funding the purchase of maintenance supplies and materials for campgrounds.
- Replacing bear-resistant dumpsters across the forest, and providing new bear boxes in Falls Campground.
- Funding a variety of trail reconstruction and maintenance projects on the Clarks Fork, Wapiti, and Greybull Ranger Districts.
- Supporting the campground host program by funding stipends and furnishing cleaning supplies and tools.
- Reconstructing Three Mile Campground.
- Increasing compliance patrols and law enforcement presence at all sites.
- Providing ADA-compliant campsites and restrooms.
- Testing water and providing water at sites.
- This Visitor Guide.

Contact information

All Shoshone National Forest offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. MT, except on legal holidays.

Supervisor's Office

808 Meadow Lane Avenue
Cody, WY 82414
Phone 307.527.6241
TDD 307.578.5104

Clarks Fork, Greybull, and Wapiti Ranger Districts

203A Yellowstone Avenue
Cody, WY 82414
Phone 307.527.6921

Washakie Ranger District

333 Highway 789 South
Lander, WY 82520
Phone 307.332.5460

Wind River Ranger District

1403 W Ramshorn
Dubois, WY 82513-0186
Phone 307.455.2466

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