

Start at the Wildlife viewing kiosk. Because the stops below aren't marked, we've identified each by its distance from the kiosk. **Don't forget to set your trip odometer before you leave the kiosk!**

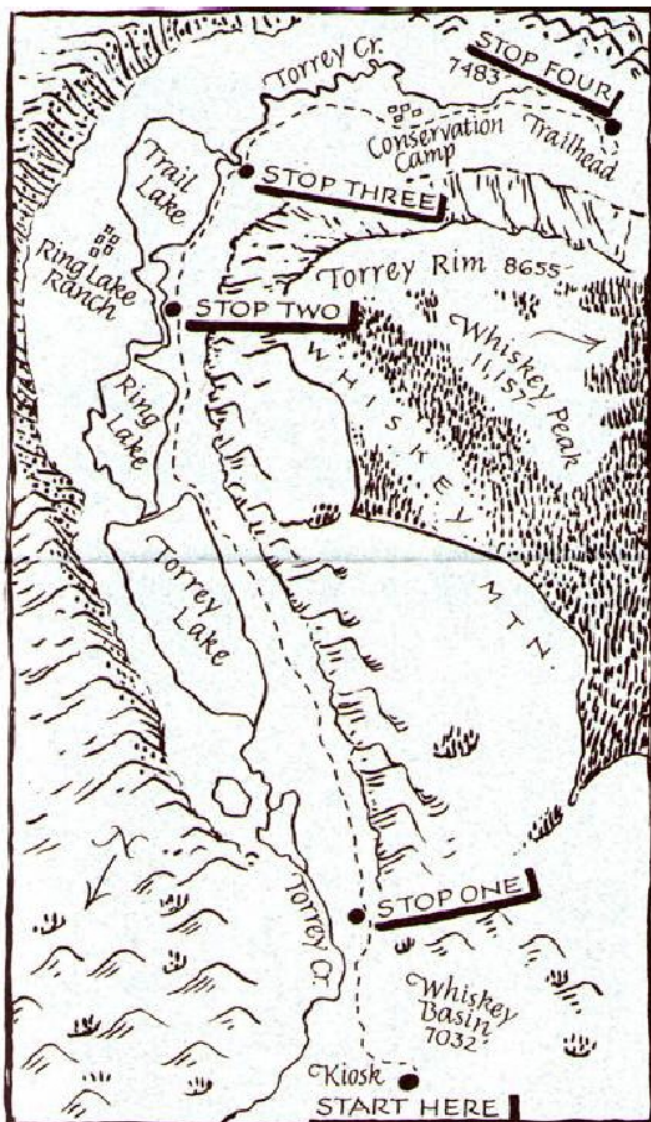
Stop 1 (Mile 1):

Stop just before the cattle guard at the top of the rise. Ahead and to your right, on the smooth, treeless north-facing slope, you may be able to pick out bighorns, elk and mule deer with your binoculars. The road now begins to drop into Torrey Valley, carved by glaciers that ground their way out of the Wind River Range as recently as 10,000 years ago. Glacier-fed Torrey Creek tumbles out of the mountains and feeds the valley's chain of three lakes - Torrey, Ring and Trail - which formed behind natural rock dams left by glaciers.

On the left you'll glimpse two shallow lakes, frequented by waterfowl (including trumpeter swans) in the migration seasons, then Torrey Lake, largest and deepest of the chain. Ring Lake comes next. At the far end of Ring Lake you'll find public restrooms and a picnic area. As you pass these lakes, watch for osprey - large brown and white hawk-like birds that plunge into the water feet-first to catch fish. There is an osprey nest near the head of Torrey Lake, but it's on private land, so please do NOT stop, park or get out of your vehicle to observe it.

Stop 2 (Mile 3.9):

There should be an exposed bank of dirt on your right. Stop and look carefully along it for sheep tracks and tooth marks. This is a natural mineral lick where bighorns often gather in winter. If you see sheep at the lick, please stop, stay in your vehicle and wait for them to move away before continuing.



Stop 3 (Mile 4.6 - 4.7):

This is a good place to look at Torrey Creek, whose willow-lined banks provide food and shelter for moose. If you're lucky (especially at dawn and dusk) you may see a beaver or hear one slap its tail on the water. Have you spotted a raven flying over yet? Ravens, large black soaring birds, are in the same family as magpies, common black & white birds with very long tails. Both species like to eat carrion and are year-round residents of the area. A mile further up the road is the Trail Lake Ranch / Whiskey Mountain Wildlife Conservation Camp. Bear to the right, around it - and watch for sheep in the road! Along Torrey Creek, to your left, you can see old beaver dams and lodges. In winter, look for sheep on the skyline of Torrey Rim to the right and the slopes below it.

Stop 4 (Mile 6.6):

As you approach the trailhead and turn-around, stay to the right. At the turn-around, you'll find restrooms, an information kiosk and the start of the Glacier Trail into the Fitzpatrick Wilderness. This is the most popular route to Gannett Peak, Wyoming's highest at 13,804'. Look for sheep at the crest of Torrey Rim to your right, and golden eagles (quite a bit bigger than ravens) soaring above it. The dark rocks that block the valley ahead are ancient granite, billions of years older than the rock you see on Torrey Rim. If the light is right, you might be able to see the wet-looking shine of "glacier polish". This granite is so hard that the glaciers could not remove it, but instead gouged grooves across it, or smoothed it to a high gloss.

If you're dressed for a hike and have another hour to spare, walk up the Glacier Trail for a half-mile to a footbridge that passes over a rocky gorge and a series of thundering waterfalls. Just before the bridge, the trail to Lake Louise forks to the right. A two-hour hike will take you to this picture-perfect alpine lake surrounded by soaring peaks.

We hope you've enjoyed your tour of this spectacular valley and the bighorns' winter range. To learn more about wild sheep, visit the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center in downtown Dubois, or call the Center at (307) 455-3429 for information. The bighorns thank you!