

Camp Bighorn General Information

The Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp is located southeast of Dubois, WY. This area is home to a significant population of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. The camp is approximately one mile from the Fitzpatrick Wilderness boundary and in easy view of the high glacial peaks of the northern Wind River Mountain Range. Torrey Creek runs through the camp. Access to the camp is 8 miles off Highway 26-287 on a graded dirt road. Passenger vehicles with average clearance can access the camp with no problems.

Meals

Individual sack lunches and individually packaged snacks will be provided to Camp Bighorn participants. Lunches and snacks will be prepared by the camp chef using state COVID19 guidelines. Vegetarian and other restricted diets will be accommodated when possible with advance notice (medical waiver form).

Clothing

Flexibility in clothing is the general rule for comfort and climate-appropriateness. Dressing in layers and removing clothing as the day warms up is a good idea. Please see the suggested "What to Bring" list for further information.

Weather in the Torrey Valley Area

Mountain climates and weather can change quickly. Early mornings might be cold; days can be very warm, even hot. The sun is intense and the air is very dry here at 7,500 feet. During summer, the high temperature can range from 80-90 degrees and the low temperature from 40-60 degrees. Rain, thunderstorms and most certainly wind can be expected to be encountered during Camp Bighorn. Snow falls every month of the year in the higher elevations nearby. Participants will be most comfortable if prepared for all possible weather conditions.

Medical Services

Dubois is a small community of a population of about 900 people. The medical clinic is located approximately 12 miles (30 minute drive) from the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp. All Camp Bighorn instructors and volunteers are trained in basic first aid, and a Medical and Emergency Plan is in place for Camp Bighorn. Hospitals are located in Jackson, Lander and Riverton (each 75-90 miles away). For vital emergencies, helicopter rescue can be activated. Please be sure to bring all necessary medications. All participants must complete and return the Camp Bighorn Medical and Waiver Form.

Telephone/Contact

Karen Sullivan is the education manager and her cell is 225-975-5140 (cell reception is spotty at best) and can also be reached at karen@bighorn.org. Other inquiries and calls may be directed to the National Bighorn Sheep Center at 307-455-3429. If you need to make emergency contact with camp staff during Camp Bighorn, contact staff at the National Bighorn Sheep Center and they will communicate with camp staff.

Arrival and Departure

Camp Bighorn youth participants should arrive between 8:45 and 9:00am each morning and be picked up at 4:00pm each day. Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles due to Covid 19 restrictions. Students will be dropped off and picked up each day at the outdoor, screened pavilion area on the left at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp.

Directions to Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp:

Driving from Jackson/Dubois:

Follow route 26/287 east through the town of Dubois. About 4.5 miles east of town is a small brown sign for Forest Service Road (FS RD) 411. Turn right and immediately turn left (NOT towards the Dubois Fish Hatchery). Follow the dirt road about 8 miles to the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp (past three large lakes and prior to the end of the road Trail Creek trailhead).

Driving from Lander and Riverton:

Follow route 26/287 west. When you reach the Diversion Dam Rest Area on your left (south) note your mileage as you are approximately 37 miles from road 411. After you pass the town of Crowheart, the road winds through the Red Cliffs area and curves along the Wind River and Dubois Badlands. Watch for the road 411 sign. Turn left immediately and then left again (NOT towards the Dubois Fish Hatchery). Follow the dirt road about 8 miles to the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp (past three large lakes and prior to the end of the road Trail Creek trailhead).

Camp Bighorn Staff & Key Volunteers

Camp Bighorn Lead Educators:

Karen Sullivan. Karen is the Education Manager at NBSC. After coming to the CM Ranch to visit Troy's son, Karen and Troy fell in love with Dubois and the surrounding area and decided to make the big move from Louisiana to Wyoming. Karen is first aid & CPR trained with a BS in Biology and a PhD in Microbiology. *Fun fact: Karen spent nearly twenty years teaching biology and microbiology at LSU before coming to Wyoming!*

Cindy Jackelen is an experienced teacher and outdoor educator. She moved to Dubois from Minnesota in 2005 to teach in the local middle school. She has a BS in Elementary Education and an MS in Experiential Education, along with a K12 Literacy degree. She is also trained in first aid and CPR. Cindy loves recreating in the beautiful Wind River mountains surrounding Dubois. Fun Fact: In 1995, Cindy and her students discovered hundreds of deformed frogs, launching national and international frog studies.

Camp Bighorn Cook: Connie Wood. Connie lives in Dubois and owns and operates "Connie's Cookin' & Catering". Connie has cooked at countless camps at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, and she helped design the new, fabulous kitchen at the camp. Connie is also one of the sweetest and most calm people you'll ever meet! *Fun fact: Everyone who tries Connie's cooking wishes she could move in and cook for them!*

Camp Bighorn Nurse: Anna Hinkle. Anna will serve as our on-site Camp Nurse during the entire Camp Bighorn program. Anna has 23 total years in healthcare and has been a licensed practical nurse for 16 years. Anna currently holds a Wyoming State Practical Nurse License (L.P.N) and is the current FCSD #2 School Nurse in Dubois. Nutrition and food service training education also. 8 years professional healthcare management experience also. Anna's long list of credentials includes: first aid & CPR, wound care, mental health as well as professional geriatric and pediatric experience.

Camp Bighorn Guest Instructors: Meredith Taylor, Tory Taylor, Kellyn Chandler, Laney Hicks, Lynn Stewart, Cheryl O'Brien, Erin Hannelly, Bruce Thompson, and more to come as we firm up our schedule.





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