



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. 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 National Bighorn Sheep Center. 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 in 2015.

Karen is First Aid & CPR trained with a BS in Biology and a PhD in Microbiology. Karen spent almost 20 years as a Senior Instructor teaching various Biology and Microbiology courses at Louisiana State University and is currently teaching online Biology courses for Logan University College of Health Sciences.

Karen started as a volunteer at the NBSC in 2016 and was soon hired part-time to develop the education and outreach program. She loves working with youth and helping inspire them to love wildlife and the outdoors.

In her spare time, Karen loves hiking, snow-shoeing, fishing, kayaking and almost anything outdoors.

Lori Sincavage

Lori was born and raised in Massachusetts, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1989. She taught and raised two daughters in the same town where she

lived and went to school. In 2011 she married her husband Bill, and since then Lori's family has grown to six children and six grandchildren.

After a family vacation to Yellowstone, Lori and Bill felt a strong desire to spend more time in the west. They bought a vacation home in Dubois, and very quickly decided that they would make the move permanent in 2015. Lori retired from teaching in Massachusetts, not intending to return to the classroom. Wanting to immerse herself in the community, she began substituting at the elementary school and volunteering at the National Bighorn Sheep Center. With a strong passion for education, Lori became a Board Member bringing her teaching experience to help develop educational programs at the center. Feeling the need to continue to educate youngsters, she took a permanent position as a classroom teacher at the elementary school. In 2021, Lori retired from teaching after 31 years.

Although she is no longer a board member, Lori made great connections to the staff and volunteers at the Sheep Center. She continues to be a part of the education committee, offering help wherever needed. She has worked with the Sheep Center team to help develop the foundation for the summer camp for children ages 9-12. As a teacher, she involved her students each year in the benefits of having the Center in town. Her classes visit the center as well as travel out to Torrey Valley where the sheep spend the winter.

In her spare time, Lori enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, baking, as well as gardening and home improvements. She and Bill love having guests stay with them in Dubois so they can show off this beautiful part of the country that they call home.

Camp Bighorn Cook:

Connie Wood. Connie lives in Dubois and owns and operates "Connie's Cookin' & Catering". Connie has cooked for 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! Everyone who tries Connie's cooking wishes she could move in and cook for them!

Camp Bighorn Nurse:

Anna Hinkle will serve as our on-site Camp Nurse during Camp Bighorn. Anna has 25 total years of experience in healthcare and has been a licensed practical nurse for 18 years. Anna currently holds a Wyoming State Practical Nurse License (L.P.N) and is the Fremont County School District #2 Nurse and Food Service Director. Anna's long list of credentials includes- Nutritional Education, 8 years of professional healthcare management, First aid & CPR certification, wound care treatment, mental health as well as professional geriatric and pediatric experience. Anna's passion has always been taking care of others, even as a young child. "For the last 3, almost 4 years, serving as Camp Bighorns nurse has been the highlight of my year. I enjoy meeting children from all over the country. I still write one girl from Alaska during my first year at camp. The best part is seeing the excitement on their faces as they experience the breathtaking area we explore, otherwise known as my backyard!"

Camp Bighorn Guest Instructors: Meredith Taylor, Lynn Stewart, Cheryl O'Brien, Erin Hannelly, Bruce Thompson, Steve Kilpatrick, Joe Brandl, Lora Engleman, Carolyn Gillette, and more to come as we firm up our schedule.