Backcountry Adventure On Wyoming's Scenic Backways Wyoming BICHWAY A backcountry travel guide to Wyoming's three Scenic Backways.

Adventures on Wyoming's Scenic Backways

Three Scenic Backways pass through some of central Wyoming's most sparsely populated and unspoiled areas. The Seminoe/Alcova Scenic Backway visits mountains, reservoirs, and some of Wyoming's most prized fishing waters. The South Big Horn/Red Wall Scenic Backway still embodies the solitude popular with 19th century outlaws, as well as bringing alive Wyoming's rich ranching history. The Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway contains more old sheepherder monuments than modern highway signs, and more dinosaur tracks than modern tire tracks.

These three Scenic Backways pass through both publicly- and privately-owned lands. In Wyoming it is necessary to obtain permission from the private landowner before entering private land. Much of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) area, however, is public land, which means it can be explored on foot, horseback, mountain bike or four-wheeler as long as travelers remain on public land or public roads, respect private property and do not trespass. Land ownership maps can be obtained from the BLM offices listed on the back cover.

The BLM manages the natural resources, grazing activities and other aspects of public lands in the areas the Backways cross.

The BLM is also responsible for protecting the historic and prehistoric resources on the lands it manages. Wyoming is rich in areas of historic and archeological significance. Unfortunately, in many instances these irreplaceable links with the past are being destroyed, either by vandals or amateur collectors unaware of federal antiquities laws. All historic and archeological sites and related artifacts—including pottery and arrowheads, old bottles and even vertebrate fossils—are protected by federal laws.

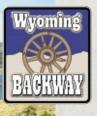
View from the Red Gulch Road looking north toward Shell Canyon and the Big Horn Mountains. (cover) These are truly back-country tours and some precautions should be taken, especially by travelers who are not experienced with Wyoming's out-of-the-way places. Travelers should check the spare tire and have a full tank of gas before heading out on the Backway. Bringing drinking water and sun screen is also advised because Wyoming's high altitude, low humidity and summer breezes can contribute to dehydration and sunburn for unwary outdoor enthusiasts.

Seminoe / Alcova Scenic Backway

The Seminoe/Alcova Scenic Backway is a 64-mile route passing through some of Wyoming's most arid country. But due to dams and reservoirs on the North Platte River, this country also boasts some of the choicest fishing and water recreation spots in Wyoming.

There are no towns, stores, gas stations or telephones on the Backway between Sinclair and Alcova. Limited services are available at the marina store at Seminoe Reservoir. The road

> varies from two lane to single lane with pullouts for passing as it goes



The Wyoming Scenic Backway program adopted this wagon wheel design as its logo. As you tour Wyoming's Scenic Backways, the wagon wheel signs will identify your route.

Alcova reservoir as viewed from the Cottonwood Creek Dinosaur Trail area.

Seminoe/Alcova Scenic Backway

Pathfinder

Reservoir

To Muddy Gap,

plit Rock, Jeffrey City

nd Rawlins

2

Medicine Bow River

Medicine Bow

(3)

Alcova Reservoir through the Seminoe Mountains. The Backway usually can be driven by a passenger car from May to December, depending on the amount of snow. In some places it is paved, and in others it is improved with gravel but can get quite muddy, especially north of the Miracle Mile area. Because of the steepness of the road in a few spots, motor homes and vehicles pulling large trailers are not advised to travel between Miracle Mile and Seminoe State Park. Driving time is about 2.5 hours, but it can take longer depending on stops to enjoy the sights

and varied recreation. Some of the special features of this area include Seminoe, Pathfinder and Alcova reservoirs; the North Platte River and fishing at the Miracle Mile; Seminoe State Park; and the Seminoe,



Pedro and Haystack mountain ranges. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manages the reservoirs, dams and campgrounds along the Miracle Mile, and the banks of the reservoirs (except for Seminoe State Park).

About the Area—The Seminoe/ Alcova Backway offers abundant and varied wildlife due to its contrasting environment - one that is both arid and lush, sage-plained and mountainpeaked. Antelope, mule deer and occasional elk can be seen from the road. Bighorn sheep may be found in the Morgan Creek drainage. Pelicans, ducks, geese and other waterfowl are plentiful near the waterways, along with a variety of hawks and golden and bald eagles. Besides viewing wildlife, many travelers enjoy fishing along the North Platte River—a blue-ribbon trout stream, or spending time recreating along of the area's reservoirs or the state park.

1. Natrona County Road 603/407. The northern part of the Backway begins at Natrona County Road 603/407 which leaves Highway 220 about a mile north of Alcova Dam.

2. Alcova Dam/Alcova Reservoir. The 265-foot Alcova Dam was built between 1935 and 1938 primarily for water control and to store water for downstream irrigation. The reservoir it created is a popular spot for water sports and fishing. It even boasts a small sandy beach and a marina restaurant, making it a popular spot for area sun worshipers. The town of Alcova has about a hundred residents, a post office and school.

3. Cottonwood Creek Dinosaur Trail. In 1991, numerous dinosaur bones and the skeleton of a medium-sized dinosaur called Camarasauraus were discovered by 5th grade students from Casper. Most of the original skeleton now resides in a Casper museum. Today a BLM trail runs through the sandstone ledges of the Morrison formation. Present along the ½ -mile trail are many vertabrate, invertabrate and plant fossils. The slopes of the trail can be quite steep, and hikers should be in good physical condition before undertaking the walk.

4. County Road 408. A brief side trip off the Backway



on County Road 408 takes travelers through Fremont Canyon between Alcova and Pathfinder reservoirs. Anglers, rock climbers and kayakers seek out this area for sport.

5. County Road 291. The Backway enters Carbon County at County Road 291 after climbing grass- and sage-covered prairie. The paved road turns to gravel at this point.

6. Pedro Mountains. The bare, granite Pedro Mountains dotted with ponderosa pine have no official hiking trails nor roads with legal



Fishermen enjoying an early Spring day on the North Platte River's Miracle Mile (top). View from above Seminoe Reservoir (middle), beach area in Seminoe State Park (bottom right) and a coyote hunts for rodents (left).

Seminoe

Reservoir



Cottonwood Creek Dinosaur Trail Area signage describes the area's prehistoric dinosaurs while the shell of a more recent "dinosaur" bakes under a strong Wyoming sun (inset).

public access. For that reason, they are uncrowded and have great allure to the most adventuresome cross-country hikers and backpackers.

7. Leo/Sage Creek County Road 351. About a half mile south of this spot, a fork in the route takes the Backway traveler west on County Road 351 toward Seminoe Reservoir. A short stretch of pavement begins just past the intersection.

8. Kortes Dam. By heading south at the paved junction, visitors can drive a few miles up river. This road dead-ends, but the trip affords a chance to see Kortes Dam, which marks the southernmost point of the Miracle Mile.

9. Miracle Mile. This seven-and-a-half mile, free-flowing stretch of the North Platte River is a very popular destination for anglers in search of rainbow and brown trout. Campers, picnickers, hikers, photographers and wildlife enthusiasts will find plenty of action, too.

10. Seminoe Mountains. This winding section of the Backway through the Seminoe Mountains is rather steep but presents little challenge for most modern vehicles. Motorhomes and vehicles pulling trailers, however, are not advised to travel this section. The Ferris Mountains, far in the distance, reveal interesting vertical limestone faces. Bighorn sheep find a comfortable home in the rocky cliffs above the Morgan Creek drainage. Vegetation such as chokecherry, aspen, juniper and pine partially obscure the granite.

11. Seminoe Dam Overlook. The Backway continues along County Road 351 as it forks to the west, but a short

detour following the fork to the east reveals a nice view of the reservoir. The concrete arch dam rises 295 feet from the canyon floor and holds more than a million acre-feet of water.

12. Seminoe State Park. Arid mountains to the north and rolling hills and sand dunes to the south frame this recreation area. Sage grouse and prairie dogs in impressive numbers join other members of Wyoming's wildlife community. Walleye and trout are also plentiful. The park is a fee area that includes boat ramps, a picnic area and a beach. Two campgrounds accommodate overnighters, while other areas are for day use only. A boat club sells gas and limited provisions.

13. Haystack Mountains. The Haystack Mountains are west of the road, a few miles past Coal Creek, and mark the north-eastern edge of the Great Divide Basin. The paved Backway travels about 15 miles through mostly open, arid sagebrush country after leaving Seminoe State Park and the reservoir.

14. Fort Steele Breaks. This section of fragmented boulders and rimrocks takes its name from the military fort, the scant remains of which are located on the banks of the North Platte River off I-80 near Rawlins. Fort Fred Steele, while not on the Backway, is easily reached off I-80, either before or after a tour of the Scenic Backway. A rest area off the interstate just a few miles east of Rawlins invites travelers to visit the remains of this U.S. Army frontier post.

15. Dugway Recreation Site. The BLM operates this recreation site that offers camping, fishing and river access. Facilities here include a vault toilet, picnic tables and fire rings.

Studio

16. Sinclair. This home to 500 people was once named Parco, standing for the Producers and Refiners Corporation. That company was the original builder of the large refinery here. Sinclair Oil purchased the business in 1934, and renamed the company town. A highlight of a visit to Sinclair is to drive past the old red-tile-roofed Parco Hotel.

The Parco Hotel in Sinclair and a Civil War era cannon. The cannon was once used by oil field workers to blast holes in the sides of storage tanks when fighting oil rig fires.





The South Big Horn/Red Wall Scenic Backway is a horseshoeshaped, 102-mile route that explores the southern end of the Big Horn Mountain Range. It begins and ends by leaving U.S. 20/26 in central Wyoming west of Casper and east of Shoshone.

Red Wall retraces the original trail cattle and sheep ranchers used to move their livestock into and out of high country grazing lands. Today, the road is still primarily used for ranch activities. There are no towns, stores, gas stations or telephones along the way.

The South Big Horn/Red Wall Scenic Backway is mostly a gravel road, passable for most high-clearance vehicles in the summer and fall. However, if the roads are wet or if rain is threatening, automobiles are not advised because the roads can quickly become muddy and very slick. Camper trailers, fifth-wheelers and motorhomes are not suited for this Backway, especially for visitors unfamiliar with the terrain.

About the area—The South Big Horn/Red Wall Scenic Backway offers some of Wyoming's most appealing features: pio-

> neer history, modern ranching, and restful solitude. Travelers along the Backway may see sheep attended by herders with the same views out their sheep-wagon doorways that the pioneers enjoyed decades ago. They will also seldom see others along the road—with the exception of an occasional rancher or sheepherder. This isolation is inviting for people who want to leave the modern world far behind and explore the area's beauty in solitude.

> Natrona County Road 125—From the east, the Scenic Backway marker is at the turnoff for Buckman Road/County Road 125, about 15 miles west of Casper. At that point the road heads north across the prairie. Sagebrush is the chief food source of the abundant antelope

found in the area. Other prairie residents often seen in the region include coyotes and hawks. Oil field pumps ("cow scratchers") lazily add a bit of motion to the otherwise docile, vast prairie. This sight signifies that there are large oilfields nearby, such as the Salt Creek oilfield, which has greatly contributed to Wyoming's economy. After about 10 miles the pavement ends and a sign marks the head of the 33 Mile Road and the Arminto stock trail.

Traverlers should use caution on these roads: "Open Range" means there are no fences between the road and the grazing area and livestock may be standing on the road unseen over a hill or round a curve.

1. Natrona County Road 110. This is the start of the stock trail and the Backway. A few miles farther is a sign posted by the BLM describing the Scenic Backway. This route traverses the BLM region named for a 19th century Northern Cheyenne Indian leader, Dull Knife.

2. South Fork of the Powder River. Driving north, cattle, sheep, antelope, sage prairie and even an occasional oil rig can be seen as the



road gradually rises in elevation. Before long, the Big Horn Mountains will come into view. This southern tip of one of Wyoming's major mountain ranges provides good summer grazing for livestock. After a few miles the pavement turns to gravel, and crosses the South Fork of the Powder River. The Powder River Basin is a major feature in the landscape of northeast Wyoming. It is also the setting of significant historic and prehistoric Indian activity, and the site of pioneer and trader gatherings in the 19th century.

3. Fifty-Mile Flat. Across the river the road traverses a feature called Fifty-Mile Flat and again the landscape changes.

The road becomes a bit rougher, and ponderosa pines appear, sprinkled among the sagebrush. Interesting rock formations are noticable in the area where the road first crosses trickling Lone Bear Creek, then Alkali Creek.

4. Red Wall/Roughlock Hill.

The landscape begins to change dramatically as the red mesas begin to rise out of the prairie. The Red Wall is a long northwest-to-southeast escarpment of red sandstone and shale. Not far to the north of



here famous western outlaw Butch Cassidy once hid out with his Holein-the-Wall gang. At the base of the long hill is Buffalo Creek Valley.

Nearby, Rough-

lock Hill is marked and described by a BLM interpretive sign. Pioneers traveling in horse or oxen-pulled wagons descended this slope by locking their wheels and sliding down the hill into the grassy valley below. This spot is well

An unmarked headstone near Grave Springs (left), Roughlock Hill and Red Wall escarpment (top middle), and some of the area's juniper trees showing the long term effects of livestock browsing and rubbing (right).





Red Wall escarpment and rock cairn (above), and historical monument at juncture of Big Horn Mountain Road and County Road 109 (right).

Horse Creek Studio

(D) Arminto

26-20

Waltmar

worth stopping to explore. The view is impressive and the isolation is as complete as any site in the state.

The modern Backway isn't quite as steep as Roughlock Hill, and travelers don't have to lock their wheels to descend, but should proceed slowly through the area both for safety and to better appreciate the photogenic Red Wall.

5. 33-Mile Road. In the Buffalo Creek Valley travelers may have a choice to drive into the high country of the Big Horn Mountains on County Road 110 (also shown as 33-Mile Road on some maps). Or they may take County Road 105 to the southwest, also called Buffalo Creek Road, which cuts several miles off the tip of the horseshoe-shaped route and stays

in the low country. If the road is wet or the weather threatening, travelers in lowclearance vehicles should probably stay on County Road 105. But if the weather is dry,

experienced back-country drivers in high-clearance vehicles should not have difficulty venturing out on County Road 110.

The road becomes a little steep and rocky as it gains elevation rapidly for about six miles. Sagebrush now decreases as lodgepole pine take its place in the timbered mountains. Antelope will become less common, too, and large mammals such as mule deer or elk might be seen. Smaller mammals seen may include chipmunks, red squirrels, bobcats, badgers, martens, voles and shrews. Raptors such as hawks, owls and eagles also inhabit the area. And visitors should watch out for domestic sheep and cattle, herd dogs, or riders on horseback.

South Big Horn/Red Wall Scenic Backway

Hell's Half Acre

6. First Water Draw Reservoir. After the Backway road enters First Water Draw Canyon it passes by a small reservoir of the same name. A nearby ridge offers more spectacular views.

Powder River

7. Junction of County Roads 84 & 81. The Backway enters this county from the south, crosses a broad valley, then turns back to follow Big Horn Mountain Road (also called County Road 81). The route for the Scenic Backway is clearly marked at this junction, and soon re-enters Natrona County as County Road 109. The road has nearly reached its highest

BLM kiosk and sign describing the region and stock trail (below), beaver tail cactus in bloom (bottom left), the South Fork of the Powder River (bottom), and a doe mule deer (bottom right).



Gowin-Kesecker

Lake

Bucknun

BAYORNWANY

To

Casper

Goldeneye

elevation at 8,500 feet as it turns southwest. Forests are thick with pine and aspen and grassy mountain valleys. The peaks of the Big Horn Mountains are visible from here.

8. Grave Springs/Buffalo Creek Campgrounds. The BLM offers two limited-facility campgrounds, Grave Springs and Buffalo Creek, a short distance off the road. The Grave Springs area contains burial markers at the resting places of sheep-herders, perhaps giving the area its name. One marker is enscribed with the name of John Henderlite (or Henderlight), who was born in 1871 and killed by Henry Hudson in June 1904 at sheep camp. A plaque was attached to the marker in 1984 by Richard L. McFarland. Rock cairn memorials to sheepmen and their deeds are numerous in the area.

lyde Douglass

9. County Road 105. South of the campgrounds the road crosses the South Fork of Buffalo Creek and begins to descend. Opportunities abound to photograph, hike, or simply park the car and listen to the silence. On a clear day, the panoramic view is so vast it's almost possible to imagine



the curvature of the Earth. After a few miles of driving past the Red Wall along Buffalo Creek the road again joins County Road 105 back on the lower elevation cutoff.

10. Arminto/Waltman. The western end of the Backway begins where Natrona County Road 104 leaves U.S. 20/26 at Waltman and begins the western access to the Backway via Arminto, a tiny spot on the map. The road is paved for a short distance before becoming gravel as it climbs away from the sagebrush prairies and into the mountains.

Antelope, or perhaps an oil drilling rig, can be seen somewhere

Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway

The Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway is a 32-mile route through a mostly untraveled section of the Big Horn Basin. It traces two routes of historic importance to native and frontier history-the Alkali (County Road 1111) and Red Gulch (BLM Road 1109) Roads.

Depending on weather conditions, driving the Backway is not recommended from November through April. Even light precipitation can cause muddy, impassable conditions. In dry conditions, a high-clearance, two-wheel-drive vehicle can manage the road without much difficulty. The road can be bumpy and rutted in places, so large vehicles, vehicles with trailers in tow, or campers carrying fragile items may want to avoid this route. Road grades do not exceed seven percent.

Travelers should allow at least one hour to make this drive. Frequent stops to enjoy the scenery can extend the trip into a day's adventure or more. There are no towns, stores, gas stations or telephones along the way. Some services are available in Shell and Ten Sleep. All services are available in Greybull.

About the Area—The Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway is rich in history. Travelers on this route will be traversing coun-

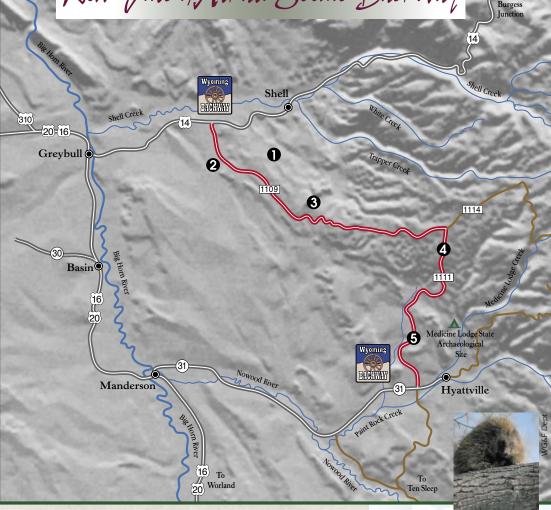
> try that has been inhabited since the Paleo-Indian mammoth hunters lived here 12,000 years ago.

Along the drive travelers will notice rock cairns, or "sheepherder monuments"- piles of rocks built by sheepherders in the late 1800s and the early 1900s. They were built to be landmarks and diversions for herders to occupy their time while watching sheep on the range.

View to the southwest from near the summit of Red Gulch Road (left), and Red Gulch Road as it approaches the striking red rocks of the Chugwater formation (inset above).



-Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway



Shell—This village boasts about 50 residents at its elevation of 4,210 feet (low, by Wyoming standards). Towering above it are the Big Horn Mountains and numerous scenic canyons, waterways and peaks. Shell has a small RV park, a rock shop and a cafe. Beyond the town's borders lie the Shell Creek Valley, sprinkled with cottonwood trees and hayfields.



Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site—The Medicine Lodge is one of this country's major archaeological sites. Fossils and artifacts of early Paleo-Indian family groups were preserved in layers of sediment beneath a red sandstone cliff. Prehistoric petroglyphs and pictographs remain on the cliff as reminders of the past. Interpretive signs and exhibits in the

Geologic formations in the area paint a colorful and varied picture of the history of Wyoming. Along the Red Gulch Road one can see the red hills of the Chugwater Formation. It was formed 230 million years ago when warm seas covered Wyoming. There are rugged, steep canyons, caves and unique table rocks eroded by water and carved by wind. The route passes the 13,000-foot Big Horn Mountains, still in their geologic teens, formed only 60 million years ago by a period of massive uplifting.

Although there are no developed sites along the Backway, visitors may stop along the road to picnic or camp on public lands. Spectacular scenic views offer outstanding photographic opportunities. Area antelope are patient with photographers—to a point.



Sagebrush, juniper in a weathered limestone canyon near the summit of Alkali Road, (top) porcupine in a drywash cottonwod.



Alkali Creek as it runs through an eroded wash (above), and rock cairn trail marker near the juncture of Alkali Road and Red Gulch Road (right).

Visitor Center, which is open during summer months, describe the artifacts and the prehistoric people's way of life.

Medicine Lodge provides an excellent location for camping, a headquarters to fish for brook and rainbow trout, and for star gazing in this area far from any artificial light. Medicine Lodge Creek invites campers to linger in this temperate, fertile valley.

The Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite—This is the largest dinosaur tracksite in Wyoming, and one of only a few worldwide from the Middle Jurassic Period (160 million to 180 million years ago). The discovery, made in 1997, could alter current views about the Sundance Formation and the paleoenvironment of the Middle Jurassic Period.

Until the tracks were found, most scientists thought the whole Big Horn Basin was covered by an ancient ocean called the Sundance Sea. In this 1800-acre area there could be thousands of tracks, which suggests a very large and diverse population of dinosaurs. Middle Jurassic dinosaur skeletons are extremely rare in North America, and there are only a few areas with similar tracks. With few fossils for comparison, the identity of the Red Gulch track-makers remains something of a mystery. Several kinds of dinosaurs may have been present. Scientists think that many of the footprints were made by theropods, meat-eating dinosaurs that walked on their hind leqs. The mud that the dinosaurs were walking in was probably similar to cement just starting to set. The tracks were perfectly preserved when the mud hardened. Then more layers of ooze, followed by fine sand, filled the tracks and preserved their

> shapes. Over the years, layer upon layer of sediment filled in over the top. Much later, erosion went to work and removed those layers, exposing the tracks that had been made all those millions of years ago.

Indian Trails and Stone Markers—According to local legends the Red Gulch Road may have been a spur of the Sioux War Trail, the largest of six trails used by American Indians to traverse the Big Horn Mountains. The trails crossed lowland valleys to reach the forested high country. Rock cairns, or stones stacked on top of each other, were used to mark locations along the route. During later years the same

rock cairns were used by sheepherders, woodcutters and others to mark locations. Circles of rocks may have been used to stabilize large tepees. Today these circles are occasionally seen throughout the area.

Reaching the Backway—The Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway begins at a turnoff 11 miles east of Greybull off U.S.14 or four miles west of Shell. Travelers from the east will find the turnoff approximately 8 miles from the western end of the Big Horn Scenic Byway. A kiosk that describes the attractions along the route is located at the northern end of the Backway.

From the south, on U.S.14/16, travelers should take the turnoff onto Wyoming Highway 31 at the town of Manderson. Just north of Hyattville, Backway signs are posted. Travelers should follow the gravel road, not the paved road, and in about three miles will find the official start of the Backway.

1. Cherry Anticline. An anticline is an arch of stratified rock in which the layers bend downward in opposite directions from the crest. When it erodes, the oldest rocks of the anticline are found in the center. In the late 1950s, geologists believed a successful oil field could be drilled in this formation, so exploratory oil drilling was begun. Consequently, the Red Gulch Road was improved by the passage of heavy machinery traveling to and from well sites. Hopes for a productive field dwindled after twelve wells were drilled and not enough oil was found for commercial production. The wells were then abandoned and dry hole markers were left in their place. **2. The Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite.** A turnoff and parking area mark the site, and colored plastic flags mark the locations of the 165-million-year-old dinosaur tracks. (See Special Attractions section on facing page for details).

3. Chugwater Formation. The red walls of the Chugwater Formation can be seen for miles. The bright color came from iron mixing with oxygen when an inland sea deposited the sediment 220 million years ago. The road steadily gains in elevation through sage-covered plateaus and colorful badlands as it climbs toward its intersection with Alkali Road. Badlands are areas marked by intricate erosional sculpturing and scanty vegetation, and are not suitable for ranching or farming.

4. Alkali Road. Red Gulch Road meets the Alkali Road at this intersection. From this summit the Absaroka Mountains to the west near Cody are visible across the wide and expansive Big Horn Basin.

The Alkali Road, completed in 1897, served as a mail route over the Big Horn Mountains. Mail was transported by wagon, horseback, sled, and snowshoes between the communities of Big Horn and Hyattville. Historic travelers took several long days to make the trip over the mountain.

Panorama from Alkali Road above Alkali Flats (right), and Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite (below).



The Alkali Road is a bit better maintained than the Red Gulch Road, but it still can be a mire when wet. Afternoon thunder showers are not as common on the western slope of the Big Horns as they are on the eastern side, but travelers should beware of late afternoon gray skies and the possibility of rain.

Expansive views of the Big Horn Mountains to the north and east lure travelers to detour from the Scenic Backway and take the Alkali Road north rather than south at the intersection. The route north goes through ever higher pines and deeper canyons and into the Bighorn National Forest.

More than 300 million years ago in this area, wind and sand formed sand dunes that later solidified into white sandstone formations. The striations exposed in the dune formations were created by the strong Wyoming winds.

Historic structures can be found throughout the Big Horn Basin. After crossing the Big Horn Mountains to homestead,

> early residents had to backtrack their route to file their claims in the General Land Office in Buffalo.

5. Southern End of Backway. A kiosk is located at the southern end of the Red Gulch/Alkali Scenic Backway. It describes the historical, archeological, cultural and other attributes of the route. The towns of Hyattville and Manderson are nearby.

Horse Creek Studi

Backway Travel Tips

The BLM offers this advice for travelers using motorized vehicles off the main road on lands it manages-tread lightly!

Travel only where motorized vehicles are permitted, which is usually on existing roads and trails. Respect the rights of campers and other public land users.

Obtain travel maps and regulations from public agencies.

- Comply with signs and barriers, and ask permission to cross private property.
- Avoid streams, muddy roads, steep hillsides, young trees and shrubs, and be careful of wildlife and livestock.
- Drive responsibly to protect the environment.
- If you do camp in a non-designated camping area, practice leave-no-trace camping to preserve the natural setting of the landscape.
- Be sure to bring plenty of fresh drinking water, since water in springs, wells and streams may not be drinkable.
- Bring firewood for campfires and fuel for cookstoves. When building a campfire, keep it small, clear a safety zone around it, don't leave it unattended, and before leaving, put the campfire dead-out.
- Be aware of fire restrictions and current fire dangers on public lands.

Backway Information

Addresses and phone numbers of BLM offices:

Cheyenne (Wyoming State Office) 5353 Yellowstone Road, 82009 307-755-6256 Casper 2987 Prospector Drive, 82604 307-261-7600 Rawlins 1300 N. 3rd Street, 82301 307-328-4200 Worland 101 South 23rd Street, 82401 307-347-5100



Golden eagle.

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