

# Bighorn National Forest

## 2024 Partnership Opportunities

Connecting the Forest Service and partners through  
shared stewardship of the Bighorn National Forest



# About this Partnership Opportunity Guide

---

The Bighorn National Forest is filled with special places. With over 1 million acres of national forest, the Cloud Peak Wilderness area, historic guard stations and fire lookouts, developed campgrounds, 1,200 miles of trails, and spectacular scenery, the Bighorn National Forest has something for everyone.

To steward this unique landscape, the Forest Service engages with partners in the development, implementation, and evaluation of our recreation, restoration, resource enhancement and stewardship activities. Partners offer unique opportunities to build public support and goodwill, accomplish increased work on the ground, and leverage resources. The Bighorn National Forest uses partners to share in the stewardship of the forest, and seeks innovative, meaningful opportunities for collaboration throughout all program areas. We value the ideas and contributions gained from building and strengthening our relationships with communities, tribal organizations, and private and public entities.

This opportunity guide is the result of a joint effort between the Bighorn National Forest, the National Forest Foundation (NFF), and the National Partnership Office (NPO) to understand the strengths, challenges, and opportunities to build meaningful and sustainable partnerships. This process identified communication of forest project priorities as an important opportunity to build partnerships with organizations and agencies that have a connection to the forest. The Partnership Opportunity Guide aims to serve as a communication tool to connect Bighorn NF project priorities with existing capacity.

Thank you for all that you do to steward the Bighorn National Forest and its abundant resources. My staff and I look forward to continuing our partnerships and engaging with our community on a meaningful level.

**Andrew Johnson** Forest Supervisor  
Bighorn National Forest

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# Kids Fishing Day

## Saturday, June 22, 2024

The Bighorn National Forest and Wyoming Game and Fish Department are hosting Kid's Fishing Day Saturday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bear Lodge pond (located in the Bighorn Mountains at the junction of Hwy 14 and Hwy 14A).

- Children aged 13 years and under who are Wyoming residents do not need a Wyoming fishing license. Non-resident children 13 and under must have an adult with a valid Wyoming fishing license on site. State regulations and creel limits apply.
- This event is free. Volunteers from the Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will be there to answer questions and provide instructions on casting techniques, knot tying, angler ethics, and fish conservation and ecology.
- Prepare for mountain weather with rain gear, layered clothing, food, water, sunblock and insect repellent. Please bring your own fishing tackle, and coolers with ice for transporting fish.
- Fishing bait and rods for children who do not own one will be provided.

Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the event.

**Forest Project Contact**  
Casey Barby  
[casey.barby@usda.gov](mailto:casey.barby@usda.gov)



# North Tongue Cleanup and Fishing Access Enhancement

Bighorn National Forest and the Powder River Basin Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting a clean up day to remove trash along the North Tongue and repaint signs. Additional volunteers are welcome to attend.

A Clean-up Day may be coming summer 2024

## Porta-potties needed

The Forest Service, in coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish, need assistance with funding porta potties to be placed along the North Tongue River at key access points during the summer months to reduce human waste impacts. Assistance in cleaning and pumping facilities is also needed.

## Forest Project Contact

Matt Enger  
matthew.enger@usda.gov



# Bighorn Fence Initiative



Fence Pull Project  
June 28 and June 29, 2024

**Location and time TBD**

BFI's mission is "Partnering with willing landowners and land managers, Bighorn Fence Initiative works to ensure fences are functional for livestock management and facilitate wildlife movement on private and public land in the Bighorn Mountains and foothills through public fence removal and modification projects and educational outreach to area communities."

The BFI coordinator is Meghan Kent with Sheridan Community Land Trust.

**Forest Project Contact**

Thad Berrett  
wayne.t.berrett@usda.gov

# Weed Pull Day and Bounty

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Help prevent the spread of invasive species, join us and our partners at Johnson County Weed and Pest for the 2024 Johnson County Weed Pull and Bounty Kick Off Day at 1:00 p.m., June 13, 2024 .

Please meet at the Grouse Mountain Archery Range parking area in Buffalo, WY. The Weed Pull Day will focus on pulling weeds on the archery range and the Mentock Trail. The Bounty will continue through mid-August.

There are apps now available for the public to report weed locations, if you're interested in helping, contact us for details.

## Forest Project Contact

Kerri Lange  
[kerri.lange@usda.gov](mailto:kerri.lange@usda.gov)



# Bighorn Trail Program

## 2024 Events

National Public Lands Day- Saturday, September 9, 2024

National Trails Day- Sunday, June 1, 2024

If you're interested in helping throughout the summer, we are looking for volunteers to report trail conditions, issues or concerns, as well as great experiences.

Montana Conservation Corps is scheduled to work on the Tongue River National Forest System Trail (FST) 002 and Little Horn FST 050.

Wy State Trails is working on Lake Creek FST 100, Bald Ridge FST 402, Middle Paintrock FST 066, Ed Point FST 360, and Swamp FST 134.

## Project Contact

Justin Reimer

[justin.reimer@usda.gov](mailto:justin.reimer@usda.gov)



# Dispersed Camping Management



To protect natural resources and recreational opportunities for all, camping regulations were changed in 2023. Changes include the 14-day stay limit is year-round, the moving requirement is now 5 road miles, and there is a wildlife attractant storage requirement.

Volunteers are needed for monitoring campers, more informational signs need installed, and assistance with education is still needed. Contact us if you're interested in helping.

## **Project Contact**

Andrea Maichak

[andrea.maichak@usda.gov](mailto:andrea.maichak@usda.gov)



# Bighorn Audubon

In 2020, the Bighorn National Forest partnered with Bighorn Audubon, a local branch of the National Audubon Society, to conduct annual raptor surveys in Tensleep Canyon. Community volunteers and trained raptor observers annually survey the Canyon during breeding season to help Forest biologists and managers identify sensitive nesting locations that include Peregrine Falcons and Golden Eagles.

In 2023, the partnership with Bighorn Audubon expanded to include the survey of various sagebrush habitats with a plan to continue monitoring these locations over the next five years.

Another exciting project that has developed out of the partnership, is audio bird monitoring. This new technique is used to identify species by sound in remote areas.

## Forest Project Contact

Bonnie Allison

[bonnie.Allison@usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.Allison@usda.gov)



*Short-eared Owl photo by JoAnne Puckett*

# Community Science Opportunities





# Wilderness User Created Trails and Wilderness Invasive Plant Inventory

Over 190,000-acres of scenic peaks and lush glacial valleys are preserved in Cloud Peak Wilderness. This area houses the highest points in the Forest, drawing thousands of annual visitors who explore the hundreds of miles of trail and popular mountain summits. To better understand use levels and to monitor wilderness character, inventories of user created trails and invasive plants will be conducted with Wyoming Wilderness Association. If you are interested in joining the effort, please let us know.

## **Forest Project Contact**

Silas Davidson

[silas.davidson@usda.gov](mailto:silas.davidson@usda.gov)

## **WWA Project Contact**

Khale Century Reno

Wyoming Wilderness Association

[kcreno@wildwyo.org](mailto:kcreno@wildwyo.org)

# Bighorn Ebird Project

There is still a lot to learn about how some bird species use certain habitat types in the Bighorns (such as aspen, willow, sagebrush, old forest, and cliffs). In 2023, 15 to 50 bird species were observed in each eBird hotspot. Help us learn more. Join Bighorn National Forest staff and submit bird observations through the eBird community science application today!

[www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org)

## Project Contact

Bonnie Allison

[bonnie.Allison@usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.Allison@usda.gov)





# Bighorn iNaturalist Project

Join Bighorn wildlife and botany staff in documenting the biodiversity of the Bighorn National Forest! Through the iNaturalist app you can upload photos of any living thing you see throughout the Forest. These observations are collected in a project that the Forest can track to help with identification and gaining an understanding of where different species occur. In 2023, 7,660 observations were recorded in the Bighorn iNaturalist Project. This includes 1,028 species, 71 of which were birds, and more than half of these observations were plants. Please help us add more information.

[www.iNaturalist.org](http://www.iNaturalist.org)

Under the “community” tab, select projects, then search for:



Bighorn National Forest Biodiversity  
Inventory

## Forest Project Contact

Bonnie Allison  
bonnie.Allison@usda.gov

# Monarch Butterfly Monitoring

The Monarch is currently a Candidate Species under the Endangered Species Act. Monarch caterpillars rely on milkweed as their food source until they pupate and transform into butterflies. There are many species of milkweed in Wyoming, two of which likely occur on the Bighorn NF (showy milkweed and green comet milkweed).

Photos of milkweed, monarch butterflies and caterpillars and their locations can be uploaded at the following website as part of a larger effort to understand their distribution in the western United States.

Monarch and Milkweed Mapper

<https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/>

## Project Contact

Bonnie Allison

[bonnie.allison@usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.allison@usda.gov)

