

# Shoshone Back Country Horsemen welcome you to our 2026 WYOMING STATE RENDEZVOUS

JULY 16th – JULY 19th

Hosted at: **Sunlight Ranger Station - Shoshone National Forest**  
724 Sunlight Rd, 50 miles NW of Cody, WY

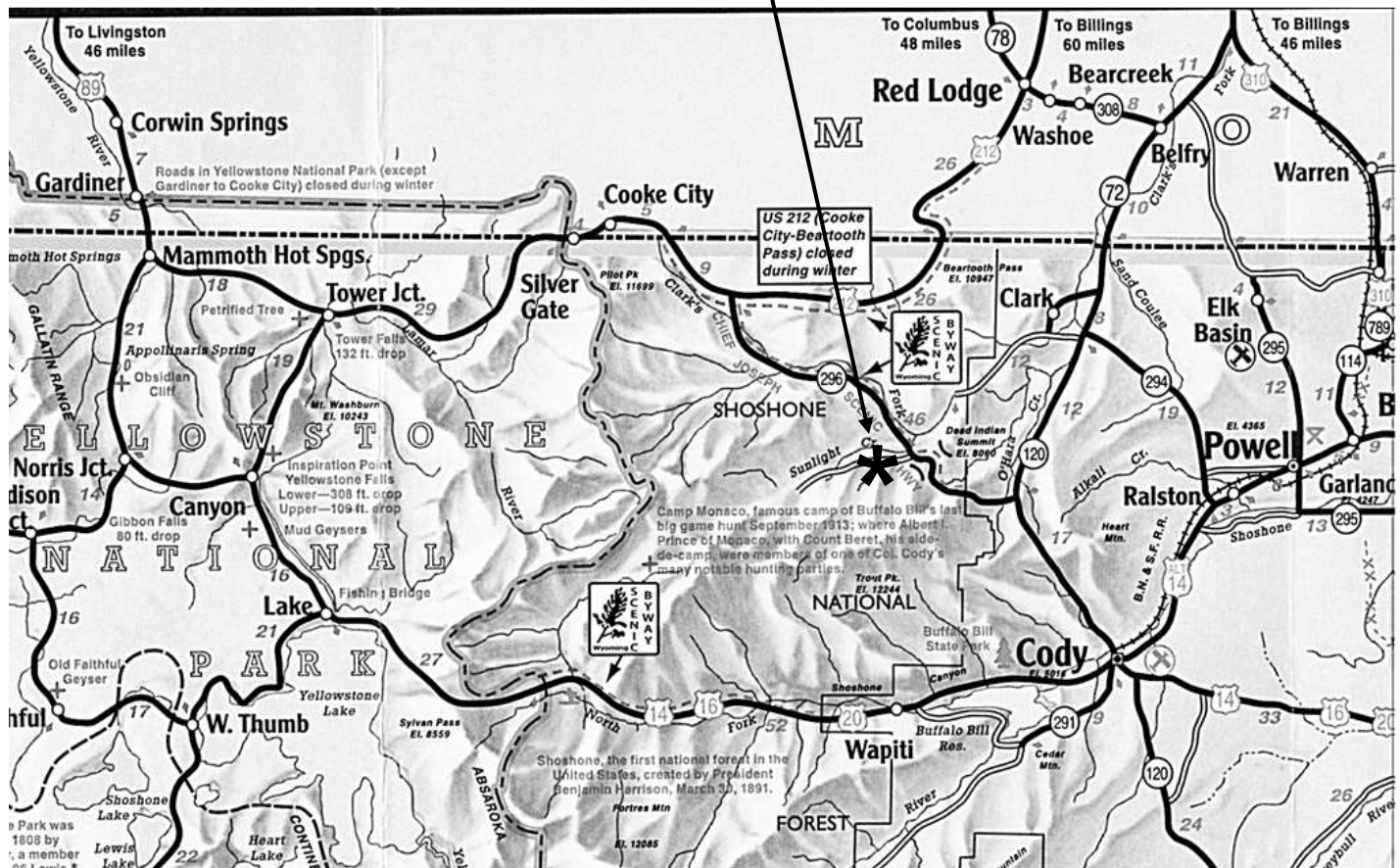
**Register by June 15, 2026**

Our Theme this year is:  
**Shoshone Whispering Wrangler Hideaway Camp**

**Where:** Sunlight Ranger Station is located in the Shoshone National Forest about 50 miles northwest of Cody. Directions from Cody, Wyoming: Take Highway 120 north out of Cody for 16 miles, turn left/west onto the Chief Joseph Highway (Hwy 296) for about 22 miles. At about 14 miles, the summit of Dead Indian Pass (elev. 8,071') offers plenty of parking, wonderful views and a vault toilet. (*Note: It's all downhill from there, use low gear.*) At the bottom of the mountain, continue past the campground at Dead Indian Creek, up and around the hill. Watch for a green Highway sign for Sunlight Road on your left, *before the road curves to the right to the Sunlight Bridge*. You will make an abrupt left turn onto Sunlight Road (Forest Road 101) which is gravel. (*If you cross the Sunlight Bridge, you missed the turn*) Proceed west on Sunlight Road for about 8 miles. The Ranger Station will be on your left.

**NOTE:** If you are coming from the north, and your GPS instructs you to take the Beartooth Highway 212 from Red Lodge toward Cooke City, **please DO NOT USE THIS ROUTE**. That road is extremely narrow with many hairpin curves. It is beautiful high country, but is a difficult road to travel pulling a horse trailer.

\* marks the Rendezvous location



**The Sunlight Ranger Station is a gated facility, and will NOT be open and available to Rendezvous Participants before 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> or after 1:00 pm, Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**However, several other facilities are available for horse camping within Shoshone National Forest (SNF) near the Rendezvous site or Cody, Powell and Meeteetse WY!**

**\* See our Directory and Map Below! \***

***This is active Grizzly Bear Country! Keeping a clean camp is a must!!***

All food, coolers, grills, animal food, garbage, toiletries and other attractants must not be left unattended. Please store them in bear resistant storage units or a hard sided vehicle.

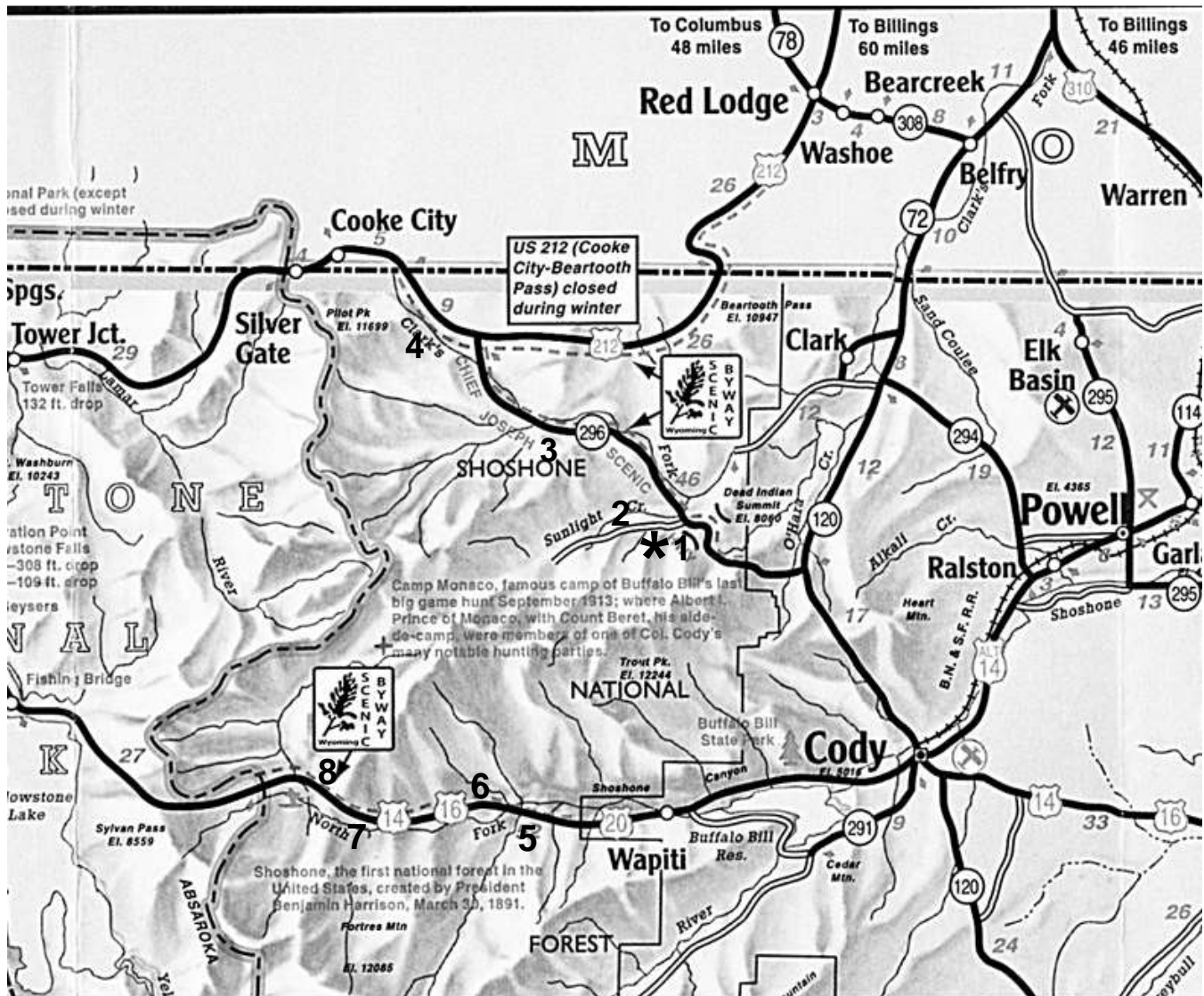
We recommend that you ride with bear spray.

**All Forest Service rules and regulations will be observed and enforced.**

**No open fires will be allowed at campsites.**

**Please follow Leave No Trace Principles**

### SNF Horse Camping Map Trailheads 1-8 SNF Horse Camping



**SNF Horse Camping**

*Beautiful Shoshone National Forest offers many trail riding, camping and fishing opportunities. For BCH members who wish to arrive early or stay late, check out nearby horse camping/riding facilities:*

**Near Sunlight Ranger Station Rendezvous Site (Note: Distances & descriptions are approximate)**

**1. Dead Indian Trailhead:** From Cody, take Highway 120 north 16 miles, then turn left/west on Chief Joseph Highway (Hwy 296) 21 miles. After about 14 miles, the summit of Dead Indian Pass offers plenty of parking, wonderful views and a rest room. At the bottom of the mountain, watch for Dead Indian Campground to the right. **Dead Indian Trailhead** is just past it to the left, before the highway curves right. The trailhead has 3 corrals, several tie stanchions and hitching rails and a vault toilet. Horses can be watered at the creek. Overnight camping is allowed. Multiple scenic trails available.

**Dead Indian Trails:** #600, 602.1A, 602, #600 can get pretty steep but very scenic. The miles are endless on this one. It connects to several others once you're in about 10 miles. You can make a full day loop on 600 to 600.1A to 602 to 602.1A. About 20 miles.

#600 Dead Indian trail follows Dead Indian Creek to Dead Indian Meadow where it joins the Elk Horn Trail Elk Creek trail to form a loop.

#601 Elk Horn Trail starts at the Sunlight Ranger Station going S/SE/E, junctions with #602 and intersects with #600 at the meadow.

#602 Elk Creek trail has switchbacks, steep grades, multiple water crossings (hazardous during high water), some boggy spots in spring; connects to #601 to make a loop with #600 back to the Trailhead.

**2. Little Sunlight Campground/Trailhead:** Follow directions to Sunlight Ranger Station, proceed west past Ranger Station for 2.5 miles. Turn right. Corrals, some parking, primitive camping, fire rings, vault toilet, water at Sunlight creek for horses. Scenic trails, access to Absaroka Wilderness.

**Sunlight Area Trails:** There are several trails in this area, ranging from easy to really steep and scenic. #615 is easy riding, only a few miles long and makes a nice loop from the campground.

**3. North Crandall Trailhead:** From Cody, take Highway 120 north 16 miles, then turn left/west on Chief Joseph Highway (Hwy 296) about 39 miles. Watch for the Crandall Ranger Station, continue 1/4 mile across Crandall Creek Bridge and turn left. Trailhead has two levels, follow driveway down the hill to the lower level and vault toilet. Corrals, tie stanchions and hitching rails with ample parking, primitive camping, and a creek for watering horses. Multiple scenic trails.

From the North and South Crandall Trailheads there are several very nice trails. #609 #607 #603.

#609 goes along the north side of Crandall Creek with views of the East side of Hurricane Mesa. It's a decent trail and not too steep until you get close to the park boundary, about 16 miles in.

#607 has a few variants, 607.1A, 607.2A (Hoodoo Creek), 607.2B, 607.2C. All these trails lead west to Yellowstone. These trails can get very steep in places but you are rewarded by high elevations and very beautiful scenery. Approximately 20 miles to the park boundary.

**South Crandall Trailhead** is west of the Crandall Ranger Station and has parking only.

#603 Lodgepole is a very easy trail off the South Crandall Trailhead. The first part is an old two track road and becomes a trail at the old Wolverine Weather Station. Not steep and a few easy creek crossings.

**4. Pilot Creek Trailhead:** From Cody, Wyoming, take Highway 120 north out of Cody for 16 miles, then turn left/west on the Chief Joseph Highway (Hwy 296). Drive 46 miles on Hwy 296 to Junction with Highway 212. At the junction, turn left (toward Cooke City, MT) and drive 4.7 miles to Pilot Creek Trailhead, on your left. Trailhead has a vault toilet, 2 corrals, ample parking, primitive camping and a creek for watering horses. Multiple scenic trails. Trail # 611 is a nice, easy, very scenic trail that goes west approximately 7 miles to the park boundary. A few easy creek crossings.

**North Fork of the Shoshone River between Cody & Yellowstone National Park (Hwy 14/16/20)**

**5. Elk Fork Campground & Trailhead:** From Cody, travel west on U.S. Highway 14/16/20 for 28 miles to the campground on the left. (This campground is about 25 miles from the East Entrance of Yellowstone National Park) Campground (fee) is along the Shoshone River, has vault toilets, paved spurs (max 22'), fire pits, free trailhead parking and numerous corrals. Multiple scenic trails available.

#760 Elk Fork is an easy trail following Elk Fork Creek with many spur trails of varying difficulty. Very

scenic. Undeveloped trail spurs follow Grace Creek and Cougar Creek.

**6. Fishhawk Trailhead:** From Cody travel west on U.S. Highway 14/16/20 for 42 miles, turn right. (This trailhead is about 11 miles from the East Entrance of Yellowstone National Park) Corrals, primitive camping, vault toilet, corrals and a creek for watering horses. Nearest trails may be difficult.

#757 Fishhawk trail south of the highway leads to Fishhawk Meadows about 12 miles in, but is not highly recommended due to lack of maintenance or use and crosses the Shoshone River many times.

#790, Goff Creek is north of the trailhead, not long and ties into the Libby Creek Trail. This trail is not always on a regular cleaning rotation, and could have large impassible downfall.

#758 Blackwater Memorial trail is east of Fishhawk Trailhead off Hwy 14/16/20 on Forest Service road 435, with parking near the guest ranch. The trail along Blackwater Creek leads to a memorial site for 15 firefighters lost in 1937. Although not long, it is a steady climb, and very scenic.

#775 West Blackwater/Natural Bridge trail spurs off #758 Blackwater Memorial trail to the right. The forested trail has some steep grades and switchbacks with small water crossings and offers views of a natural bridge rock formation.

**7. Eagle Creek Trailhead:** From Cody travel west on U.S. Highway 14/16/20 about 45 miles, turn left. (This trailhead is about 7 miles from the East Entrance of Yellowstone National Park)

Corrals, primitive camping, vault toilet and a creek for watering horses. Scenic trails nearby.

#775 Eagle Creek is well used and maintained, and leads to Eagle Creek Meadows and the Thorofare.

#791 Libby Creek is a short distance west of the TH and north on Forest Service road 450 through Crossed Sabers Guest Ranch. The trail will take you to Sleeping Giant Mountain/Lake. It is a pretty ride and should be open due to the guest ranch's use of the trail.

#756 Kitty Creek is about 1 mile east of the trailhead, then south on Forest Service road 448. A scenic trail leading through Paradise Valley and meadows.

**8. Pahaska Trailhead:** From Cody, travel west on U.S. Highway 14/16/20 for approximately 49 miles, turn right. Corrals, primitive camping, vault toilet. There is no water at the trailhead, but horses can be watered at the river across the highway or creeks along the trail. Multiple scenic trails are available.

The West Grinnell trail leads NE from corrals to Grinnell Meadows and is used by a guest ranch.

#751 Pahaska trail goes west and north to follow the NF of the Shoshone River to Sam Berry Meadows and historic Camp Monaco to the NE.

#752.2A Crow Creek spurs off to the west across the river and leads to Yellowstone National Park.

#751.2B Jones Creek spurs off further north past Sam Berry Meadows to the west across the river.

#753 East Grinnell trail starts from Hwy 14/16/20 about .8 mile east of Pahaska Trailhead at a dirt pullout with limited parking. There is a vehicle bar gate, but no signage.

Many of these trails are listed on our SBCH website [Trails Page](#).

**Yellowstone National Park:** *Check with YNP for regulations.*

***Certified Weed Free Hay is required for all camping within SNF and YNP***

### **Alternate Commercial Horse Boarding & Camping**

*Some facilities that may offer overnight camping and horse boarding are:*

Cody Rodeo Grounds (Cody)

Park County Fairgrounds (Powell)