

A black and white photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of tall grass. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, there are more mountains under a cloudy sky. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the main text.

Bighorn National Forest

2021 Partnership Opportunities

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

A Message on 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



Aquatic and Riparian Restoration

The Bighorn NF and multiple partners have worked together for years to maintain and restore aquatic and riparian habitats. Work has ranged from \$500,000 contracts for stream rerouting, restoration, and bank stabilization to day long group willow planting projects.

Upcoming Needs

- Volunteers to help plant rooted stock willows and willow cuttings along Soldier Creek May 24 & 25
- Volunteers a couple days during the week prior to harvest willows for the plantings

Project Contact

Matt Enger

matthew.enger@usda.gov





Wildlife Friendly Fencing

The Bighorn NF and multiple partners have worked together for years to maintain our fences on the Forest in a wildlife friendly manner. This has included construction, reconstruction, and removal of fences to ensure rangeland fences are as wildlife friendly as possible.

Upcoming Needs

- Help in developing a spreadsheet of fences that need modification or removal
- Workday with volunteers for fence removal or modification
- Adopt a riparian area enclosure fence or aspen enclosure

Project Contact

Thad Berrett

wayne.t.berrett@usda.gov



Aspen Enhancement and Maintenance

The Bighorn NF and multiple partners have worked together for years to maintain and restore aspen. Bighorn NF personnel, and contractors, have cleared competing conifers from within the aspen clones, clear felled aspen, and constructed and maintained fences to protect the aspen sprouts from ungulate browsing.

Upcoming Needs

- Citizen science monitoring in subsequent years

Project Contact

Tracy Pinter

tracy.pinter@usda.gov

Invasive species

Invasive species are an ecological threat to the Bighorn NF. They erode watershed protection values, reduce habitat and food sources provided by native species, and can increase fire risk.

Upcoming Needs

- Encourage citizen science reporting of weed locations through new apps
- Weed pull volunteers needed

Project Contact

Thad Berrett

wayne.t.berrett@usda.gov





Dispersed Camping Management

Dispersed camping on the Bighorn National Forest increases the capacity for camping on the forest outside of designated campgrounds. Due to increased use signage, educational ethics, and restoration of sensitive and high use areas are becoming increasingly important.

Upcoming Needs

- Volunteers for camper patrols and counts
- Volunteers to do restoration work in sensitive and/or highly impacted areas

Project Contact

Andrea Maichak

andrea.maichak@usda.gov



North Tongue Fishing Access

The North Tongue River continues to grow as a popular angling destination. As the numbers of anglers and other recreational users continue to climb, there is a need to reduce human waste along the North Tongue River.

Upcoming Needs

- The Forest Service, in coordination with Wyoming Game and Fish, would like to find assistance in funding a set of porta potties to be staged along the North Tongue River at key parking spots during the summer months to reduce human waste impacts.
- Need help cleaning and pumping the facilities.

Project Contact

Matt Enger,
matthew.enger@usda.gov

Trail Work

The Bighorn National Forest has a large network of trails that allow access into the forest for various user groups. Like most places, increased recreation pressures has led to an increased need for trail restoration and development.

Upcoming Needs

- West Tensleep Trailhead Host
- Volunteers for trail development and maintenance on non-motorized, motorized, and Nordic trails

Project Contact

Justin Reimer

Justin.reamer@usda.gov

Silas Davidson

Silas.Davidson@usda.gov





Wilderness Monitoring

The Cloud Peak Wilderness is 189,039 acres and preserves many sharp summits and towering sheer rock faces standing above glacier-carved, U-shaped valleys. Although rugged in appearance, the Bighorns are actually more gentle than other mountains in Wyoming. The area is visited each year by thousands of backpackers who hike along more than 100 miles of trails. In order to understand the use levels and wilderness character of the area, the Bighorn NF and partners are conducting surveys and campsite assessments.

Upcoming Needs

- Volunteers for Rapid Campsite Assessment
- Volunteers to assist with wilderness education
- Volunteers for weed pull days in Wilderness

Project Contact

Silas Davidson

silas.davidson@usda.gov



Cave Protection, Monitoring, and Restoration

The Bighorn Mountains have many cave resources. They provide unique subterranean ecosystems and provide habitat for certain bat species that are at risk from human disturbance and white-nose syndrome (WNS). Some caves have had significant resource damage from human use in the past, most notably Tongue River Cave.

Upcoming Needs

- Help with education of responsible caving
- Volunteers to help with restoration such as graffiti removal

Project Contact

Tracy Pinter

tracy.pinter@usda.gov

Avian Monitoring

The Bighorn National Forest seeks to fill information gaps about bird species that use certain habitat types (e.g. aspen, willow, sagebrush, old forest, cliffs). We would like to encourage birders to submit bird observations through the eBird community science app or participate in specific survey efforts organized by the Forest.

Upcoming Needs

- Develop a citizen science program
- Connect with bird experts and enthusiasts in communities
- Develop a peregrine falcon monitoring project in Tensleep Canyon

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 12 species of milkweed in Wyoming, two of which likely occur on the Bighorn NF (showy milkweed and green comet milkweed). We would like to encourage butterfly enthusiasts to help us find and document monarchs and milkweed on the Forest by submitting monarch, caterpillar and milkweed locations and pictures to community science apps such as the Monarch and Milkweed Mapper, iNaturalist or Butterflies and Moths of North America.

Upcoming Needs

- Develop a citizen science program - promote community science applications to assist in Monarch butterfly and milkweed monitoring

Project Contact

Bonnie Allison

bonnie.allison@usda.gov

