

# Wyoming's Centennial Scenic Byway



A traveler's guide to the attractions seen along the Centennial Scenic Byway between Dubois, Jackson and Pinedale.



# Exploring the Centennial Scenic Byway

**The 163-miles between Pinedale and Dubois comprise the Centennial Scenic Byway. This horseshoe-shaped combination of highways includes U.S. 26/287 and U.S. 26/89/191. The route crosses diverse landscapes from badlands and ranch land to forests and mountain passes. It traverses Fremont, Teton and Sublette counties in northwestern Wyoming.**

The entire route is open year-round and could be driven straight through in about four hours, but few people do so because of the many attractions and outstanding scenery that make this region of Wyoming one of the top tourist destinations in America.

The northern end of the Scenic Byway begins at Dubois on U.S. 26/287, while the southern end of the tour begins at Pinedale on U.S. 191. This Byway follows a modern, two-lane, paved highway that crosses the Continental Divide and crests at an elevation of 9,658 feet at Togwotee Pass (pronounced Toe-ga-tee). From Dubois, a 39-mile stretch of Scenic Byway meets U.S. 26/89/191 at Moran Junction. From there the Byway takes a mostly southerly route through the town of Jackson, to Hoback Junction and Bondurant before reaching its conclusion at Pinedale. Many side roads to the area's diverse attractions can be accessed from the Scenic Byway.



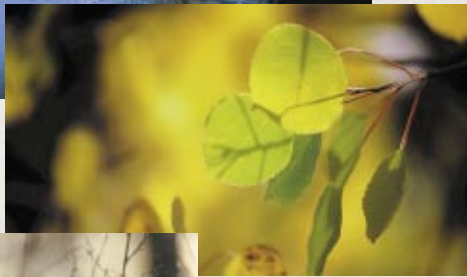
The Indian Paintbrush is Wyoming's state flower. The Wyoming Scenic Byway program adopted the Indian Paintbrush as its logo. As you tour Wyoming's Scenic Byways, the Indian Paintbrush will identify your route.

The Centennial Scenic Byway is a route of contrasts, from the bustle of downtown Jackson (left) to the easily accessed serenity of a buck-rail fence and abundant wild-flowers (cover).





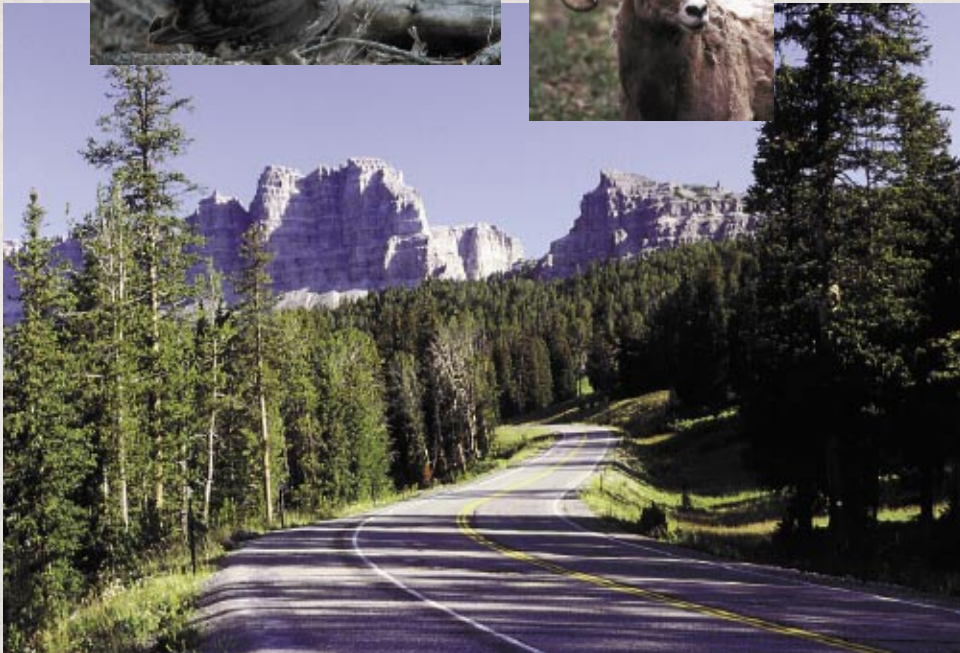
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**Services**—All services are available in Dubois, Jackson and Pinedale, while limited travel services are accessible in Moran Junction, Moose, Hoback Junction, Bondurant and at the Togwotee Lodge.

## *Special Attractions*

This area of northwestern Wyoming abounds with special attractions—the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Shoshone National Forest, Teton Wilderness, Washakie Wilderness, Brooks Lake, Hoback Canyon, the Snake River, Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and the towns of Dubois, Jackson and Pinedale. Along the route, visitors can sample world-class fishing, hiking, magnificent scenery, fall colors and all-season recreation.

The **Shoshone National Forest** on the northern end of the Scenic Byway is the only national forest in Wyoming where all of the following animals are found: elk, moose, mule deer, whitetail deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, antelope, black bear and grizzly bear. Other prevalent wildlife species include bald eagles, golden eagles, coyotes, waterfowl and song birds.

The **National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center** is located in downtown Dubois and includes a world-class wildlife exhibit with an outdoor nature area. Wildlife information and local wildlife viewing tour guides are available. It is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. On U.S. 287 five miles southeast of Dubois is the Whiskey Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area Viewing Site. It hosts a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep viewing site, interpretive signs, and a viewing building with a 20x viewing scope. The Dubois Badlands Interpretive Trail is located two miles north of the town on Horse Creek Road. The walk is about two miles long and features interpretive signs about the area's wildlife habitat.



# Centennial Scenic Byway (Dubois to Jackson)

Beginning the Centennial Scenic Byway at Dubois.

**(Designated by black bullets on the map)**

(For highlights of the Centennial Scenic Byway beginning at Pinedale, see pages toward back of brochure.)

**1. Dubois.** Nestled in the foothills of the Wind River Mountains along the upper Wind River, Dubois is home to about 900 permanent residents. Once the headquarters for old-time cow outfits, tie hack crews and river tie drives, this western town is now the commercial and social center for local livestock and guest ranches.

**2. Union Pass Marker.** In 1811, local Native Americans guided John Jacob Astor's fur expedition through Union Pass over the Continental Divide. The Pass marks the dividing point between the Wind River Range to the southeast, the Absaroka Range on the north and the Gros Ventre Range extending west. It is also near a triple divide where waters flow to the Pacific Ocean via the Columbia River system, to the Gulf of California along the Colorado River system, and to the Gulf of Mexico on the Mississippi River system.

**3. Shoshone National Forest Boundary.** The

2.4-million-acre forest encompasses a vast sweep

of mountains from the Wind Rivers to the Montana border. More than half of the forest is designated as

wilderness, much of it adjoining the east boundary of Yellowstone National Park. More than 1,500 miles of trails penetrate the forest, providing recreation for hikers and access for horseback riders, but not motorized vehicles.

**4. Tie Hack Memorial.** This spot commemorates the tie hacks—men who cut railway ties for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway early in this century. They cut lodgepole pine from the mountains above the Wind River, and sawed them by hand into ties that were seven inches in diameter and eight feet long. The ties were then floated down the river and rounded up at a lower point in the valley. This manual work went on until the 1940s when railroad tie making eventually became mechanized.

**5. Brooks Lake/Brooks Lake Campground.** Forest Service Road 5055 is a gravel road, accessible to passenger cars, that leads about five miles east to Brooks

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(facing page top to bottom)  
Wind River Lake below Sublette  
Peak, golden aspen leaves of  
Fall, blue grouse, bighorn ram  
and U.S. 287 curves gracefully  
below the Breccia Cliffs.  
(above) Brooks Lake and (left)  
late Spring on Togwootee Pass.



Lake. This chilly natural alpine lake is suited for small fishing boats or canoes. Licensed anglers can fish in the lake or surrounding streams for rainbow, brook or cutthroat trout. The Brooks Lake Campground can accommodate RVs and tent camping. Trailheads mark paths into the forest for short day-hikes, or for longer backpacking adventures deep into the Teton and Washakie wilderness areas. A main attraction of the Absaroka range is that it is uncrowded and relatively unexplored. Hikers can travel just a short distance and leave behind any crowd at Brooks Lake. They should use caution, however, and not travel far without a map, especially if leaving designated trails.



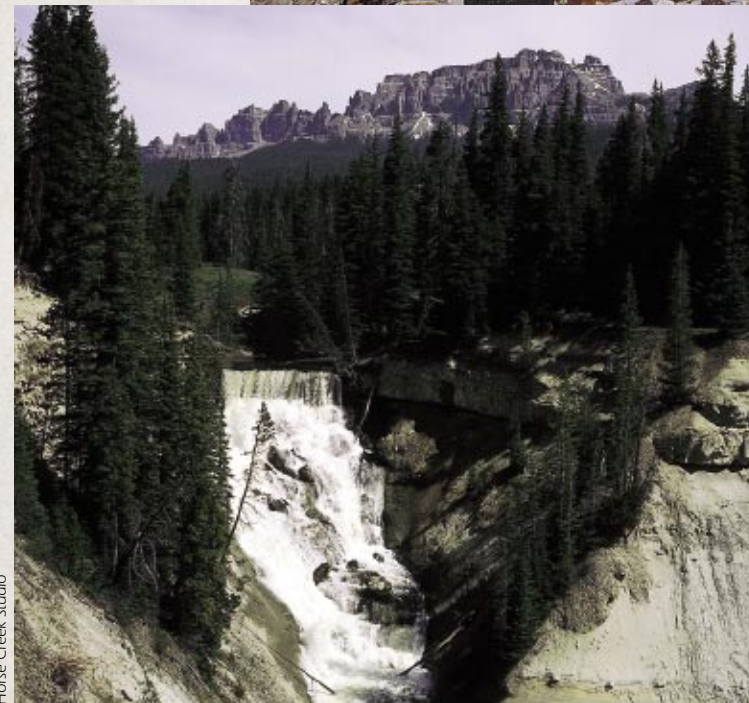
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**6. Falls Campground.** Just beyond the road to Brooks Lake is a turnoff that provides access to a shady campground and Brooks Lake Creek Falls. Local signs name the area Shoshone Falls. A short foot trail leads to a vantage point to view the waterfall. Guardrails protect sightseers from a rather steep drop into a deep canyon.

**7. Wind River Lake.** A stop at this small icy lake can include a fortifying respite along with nice views of the Pinnacle Buttes' craggy peaks. A rough gravel road leads deeper into the forest for a private picnic spot and continues on to Brooks Lake.

**8. Togwotee Pass.** From this pass at 9,658 feet, visitors can observe the ash- and lava-banded cliffs of the Absarokas, which rise 11,000-12,000 feet in elevation. On their plateau-like tops are large, level, above-timber valleys. There are few lakes in this range, but the prevalence of streams creates crumbling rock slopes and narrow canyons through the vertical pinnacles. Views from the road are spectacular, but even better are the views from numerous area hiking trails.

**9. Togwotee Outlook.** This pulloff offers restroom facilities and an information board. More importantly, it offers a place to stop and take in the scenery. To the north and south of the highway are the sheer cliffs and spires of the Absarokas. The exposed rock face of the



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(top left clockwise) The Centennial Scenic Byway offers unlimited photographic opportunities for both professional and amateur; the Teton Range as seen from Togwotee Overlook; beaver enjoys lunch; Shiras moose are numerous in the Bridger-Teton forest; (far right) the popular viewing area Teton Point turnout; and Brooks Lake Creek Falls (Shoshone Falls) below Pinnacle Buttes.

mountains are the Breccia Cliffs (pronounced Brek-yuh). Breccia is cemented fragments of lava imbedded with layers of volcanic ash. These unusual formations make this a favorite location of artists and photographers along the Scenic Byway.



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**10. University of Wyoming Forest Management Demonstration Area.** A turnout to a parking area is provided for those wishing to learn about area forest management practices. A quarter-mile loop trail through the forest offers interpretive signs about forest management. Picnicking, hiking and camping areas are marked along the way.

**11. Grand Teton National Park.** Few places on Earth honestly deserve the description of "awe-inspiring" or "breathtaking." The magnificent skyline of the Grand Teton Mountain Range beckons photographers and sightseers with its majestic, craggy, blue-gray mountains and valley lakes. There's no horizon like it in America for sure! The majestic peaks rise 7,000 feet above the valley floor and Jackson Lake to a height of 13,770 feet above sea level. The absence of foothills gives the visitor a close-up, first-hand view like none other, anywhere. The many convenient turnouts along the way invite travelers to explore its scenic wonders, attractions and historic sites. The fantastic formations are but a stone's throw from the main highway.

**12. Moran Junction.** The junction was named for Thomas Moran, the first person who in the



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1870s mapped, photographed, sketched and painted the Yellowstone Country. A few services are available here as travelers head out to work or play.

**13. Snake River Overlook.** Plenty of parking and easy highway exits make this a popular stopping point along the Centennial Scenic Byway. It affords one of the most spectacular views of the Grand Teton Mountain Range as well as views of river floaters enjoying the sights—up close—on the Snake River below. The chief tributary to the Columbia River, the Snake River is a highly scenic and wild river that flows at nature's pace through Jackson Hole. Seen from several outlooks, the Snake meanders through the flat plain that is literally alive with wildlife and wild flowers.

**John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.**

In 1972 a corridor of national forest land between Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks was transferred to National Parkway status and was proclaimed the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. That was a tribute to a man who assured future generations would be able to see and enjoy these magnificent, unspoiled mountains and lakes.



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**Yellowstone National Park**

Yellowstone National Park is reached by going north at Moran Junction and following U.S. 191/89/287 past Jackson Lake. Yellowstone is perhaps the best know tourist attraction in the world since frontiersman John Colter first visited the area in 1807. Soon thereafter, he began to tell the world about this wonderland blessed with steaming geysers, simmering hot pools and stinking bubbling mud pots. The legend grew, and by 1892 this vast region was recognized for its special qualities and was designated as the world's first national park.



Geyser basin.

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**14. Moose Junction Visitors Center.** Maps, information, park guide books and other materials are available here at the Park headquarters and visitor center. Across the river from the Information Center is the quaint little Chapel of the Transfiguration. The predominant feature of the Chapel is a large altar window framing the Teton Mountain Range—an inspiration unsurpassed by any of the world's great cathedrals. At the village of Moose, the Museum of Fur Trade features dioramas and exhibits.



Kayaks on Jackson Lake.

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**Jackson Hole—the Valley**

Jackson Hole is encompassed on all sides by mountain barriers. The hole—or valley—is 48 miles long and for the most part, six to eight miles wide, embracing an area of approximately 400 square miles. The floor of the valley slopes from an altitude of 7,000 feet at the north end to 6,000 feet at the south. For thousands of years before its discovery by Davy Jackson and its settlement by white trappers and explorers, the temperate valley was prime hunting and camping territory for Native Americans.

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To Rockefeller Memorial Parkway and Yellowstone National Park

To Rock Springs and I-80

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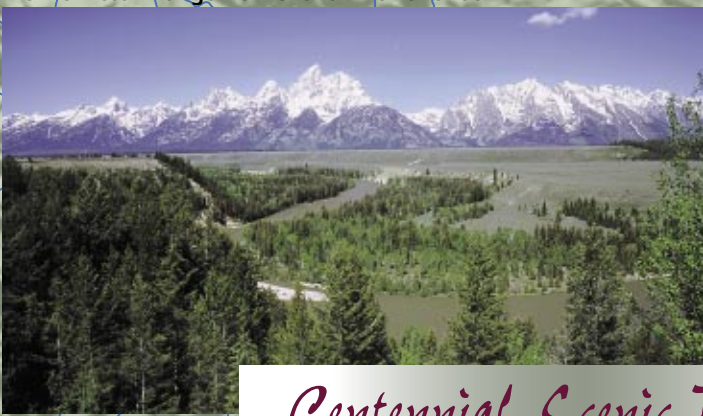
**15. National Elk Refuge.** As many as 10,000 elk and more than 100 buffalo find winter food on this protected Refuge after migrating from the surrounding high mountains where they've spent the summer. The Refuge was founded in 1912 to feed and protect elk threatened by shrinking habitat and forage. The best time to view the huge elk herd and other wildlife on the Refuge is between November and April. Horse-drawn sleigh rides, available during these months, provide visitors a close-up look at the animals.

**16. Jackson National Fish Hatchery.** Aquariums and tanks teem with small fish that will one day be released into the lakes, streams and rivers of Wyoming. The hatchery is open to visitors daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

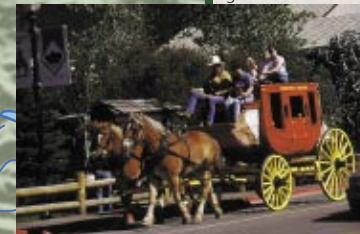
**17. National Wildlife Art Museum.** This outstanding museum displays more than 250 paintings and sculptures of North American wildlife. The building, overlooking the National Elk Refuge, was designed to appear as a natural outcropping from the butte on which it stands.



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(top to bottom) Cycling through Jackson Hole; stagecoach rides are a common sight around downtown Jackson; and an early summer morning in Jackson highlights the town square elk antler arches. (Bronze bucking horse and rider from Jackson town square)

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**18. Jackson Information Center.** Information about the surrounding parks, the Elk Refuge, and other area attractions can be obtained here daily, year-round. Displays interpret wildlife habitat and area history. The adjacent marshes of Flat Creek on the National Elk Refuge are frequently visited by trumpeter swans, Canada geese, a variety of ducks, sandhill cranes (in summer) and bald eagles (in winter). Peregrine falcons are occasionally seen overhead.

**19. Jackson—the Town.** Named for mountain man, trapper and trader Davy Jackson, the town boasts some of the best skiing, golfing, sight-seeing, dining and shopping in Wyoming. In addition to its modern attractions, the Old West is preserved and displayed in local museums.

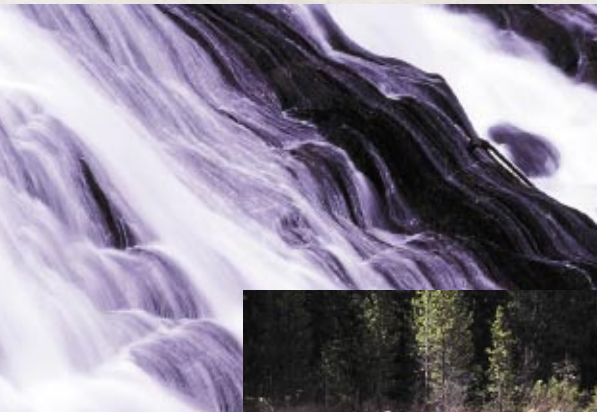


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(above counter-clockwise) The Jackson Information Center; and Flat Creek in the National Elk Refuge from the Center's observation area; rushing mountain water; canoeists on a tranquil lake; the National Wildlife Art Museum; and cow bison and calf.



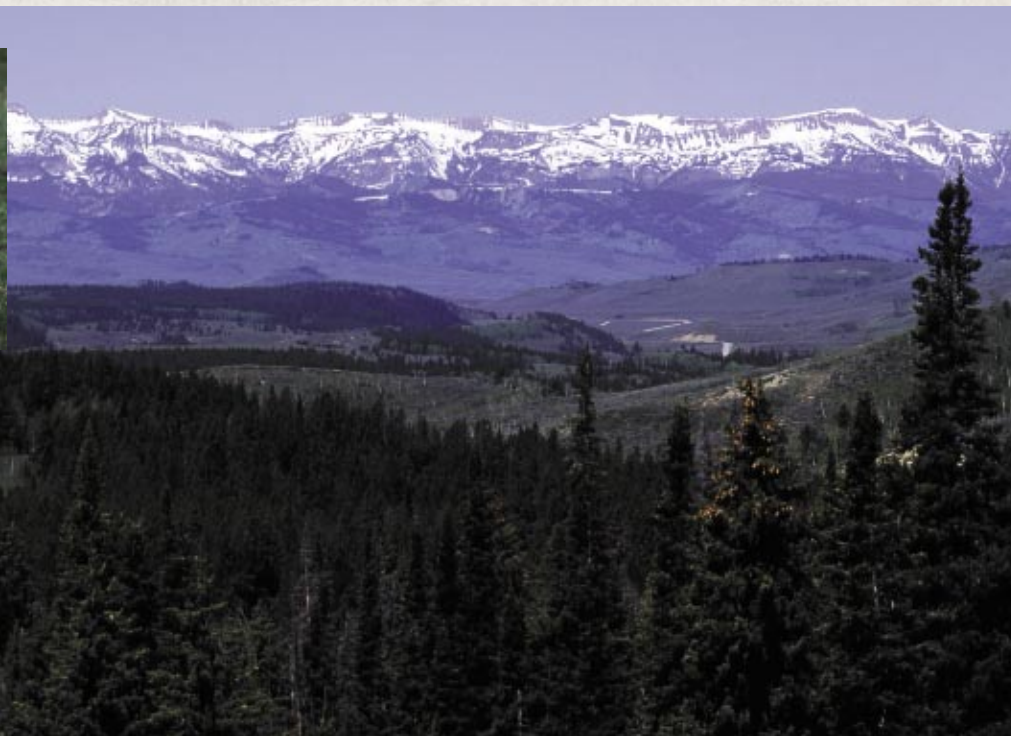
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## Centennial Scenic Byway (Pinedale to Jackson)

Beginning the Centennial Scenic Byway at Pinedale.  
**(Designated by blue bullets on the map)**

**The Centennial Scenic Byway follows U.S. 191 westward from Pinedale along numerous lakes, streams and wetlands which support more Shiras moose, beaver and greater sandhill cranes than any other place in the Rocky Mountains. From spring to fall, coyotes, ravens, badgers, Swainson's hawks and northern harriers are abundant. During the winter, mule deer, ravens, magpies and cottontail rabbits can sometimes be spotted.**

Looking west from The Rim into the Hoback Basin and beyond to the Wyoming Range (above).

## Special Attractions

The Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale features exhibits on the fur trade, western exploration and the Plains Indian. It's a great place to learn about the importance of this area to the settlement of the West and the role wildlife played in that settlement. It is open from May 1 to October 1.

**1. Pinedale.** This settlement of about 1,200 residents is an authentic western town complete with log buildings and false-front frame structures in the downtown area. It is the smallest county seat in Wyoming and has always been a headquarters for local ranchers, outfitters and recreationists. It also serves as a major gateway to the outstanding recreational opportunities in the nearby Wind River Mountains.

**2. Father DeSmet Monument.** This monument was dedicated on July 5, 1925 in memory of Father Pierre (Peter) J. DeSmet. It was here that he held the historic "La Prairie De La Messe" on July 5, 1840, the first Holy Mass offered in Wyoming.

**3. The Daniel Fish Hatchery.** Operated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the hatchery is located off U.S. 191 on Sublette County Road 23/150. Here, brown, cutthroat and rainbow trout and kokanee salmon are raised to be released into Wyoming's waterways. It is open for touring from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**4. Green River.** This mighty river originates with the melting snow of the Wind River Mountains seen in the distance north of the Byway. The Crow Indians called the river Seeds-ka-dee, meaning Sage Hen River. Fur trappers later named it Rio Verde, meaning River Green. It was finally named the Green River in 1823 by Gen. William Ashley, perhaps because of its color and the greenish-tan hue of rocks along its banks. The river flows south into Utah, where it eventually joins the Colorado River.

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#### **5. Astorian Campsite Historic Marker.**

In 1811, the 61 Astorians of the American Fur Company became the first whites to visit Sublette County. The party remained here for five days, where they camped, traded and pow-wowed with the Snake Indians.

**6. Bridger-Teton National Forest Boundary.** In 1973, two national forests merged into one and now cover approximately 3.5 million acres. The forest was named for the Teton Mountains and Jim Bridger—a mountain man, explorer and fur trapper. Englemann spruce, Douglas fir, alpine fir, whitebark, limber pine and lodgepole pine contribute to the aesthetics, habitat and economics of the region. Some of Wyoming's highest peaks are found in the forest, such as 13,804-foot Gannett Peak. Hundreds of species of wildlife and plants abound here.

**7. The Rim.** The Rim is a high ridge of conglomerate rock and sandstone of the Eocene Peak Pass Formation. These stream and flood plain sediments were deposited 55 million years ago, around the time of the final stages of the formation of the Gros Ventre Range to the northeast. The Rim forms a drainage



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divide: the Hoback River flows into the Snake and Columbia rivers, which flow into the Gulf of California.

**8. Bondurant.** A few services are available in this ranching community. A feature of the Byway through this open area is the many mountain streams that flow near the roadway. Beaver build dams on these creeks, creating healthy riparian areas for many creatures.

**9. Hoback Historic Marker.** This marker describes the Astorian Expedition of Wilson Price Hunt across Wyoming in 1811. The party, led by John Hoback and two other guides, was believed to be the first white party to pass through this canyon. From the river confluence, the group traveled on through Jackson Hole, over Teton Pass and into Idaho. Hoback and a small party stayed in this area to trap beaver. Hunt named the river after his former guide.

**10. Hoback River Canyon.** The Hoback River parallels the Byway, crossing under it several times through

(top) U.S. 189/191 in the Hoback River Canyon; (inset) doe mule deer in its favorite sagebrush habitat; and (below) the Hoback River.

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the canyon. During the early 1800s, trails used by travelers were narrow and treacherous. It was not uncommon for horses and pack mules to slide off the trail and fall 200 feet into the river. Bighorn sheep can sometimes be seen on rock inclines across the river.

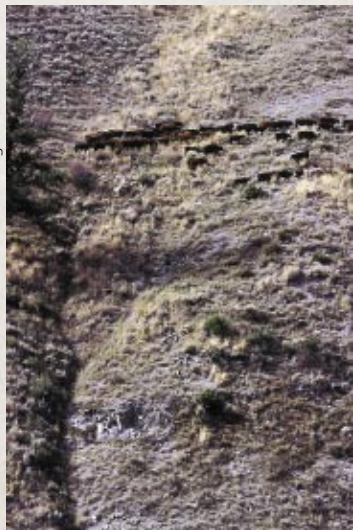
**11. Granite Creek.** Another good spot to fish is along Granite Creek. Forest Service Road 30500 leads to the Granite Recreation Area, which offers a campground, picnic area, waterfalls and hot springs.

**12. Hoback Junction/Snake River.** The intersection of the Hoback and Snake rivers creates white water that attracts river runners all summer long. The Snake River is 1,038 miles long, originates in Yellowstone National Park and flows into Idaho, then Washington, where it joins with the Columbia River.

**13. Snake River Fishing Access.** These public access fishing areas are administered by Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Wyoming fishing licenses may be purchased at most sporting good stores or from Game & Fish offices. Even for non-anglers, these access points offer great viewing of waterfowl and other water-loving wildlife.

**14. Wyoming Highway 22.** This highway leads to the small settlement of Wilson on Fish Creek, then on past Crater Lake and over 9,279-foot Teton Pass to the west.

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## Byway Travel Tips

- ▶ Driving time is approximately four hours for the Centennial Scenic Byway. However it will be the rare traveler who can resist the scenic features, commercial amenities and exciting diversions that this Byway has to offer. Allow additional time to enjoy the various attractions found along the way.
- ▶ All of the Centennial Scenic Byway is open year-round although there may be temporary closures due to snow during the winter months.
- ▶ This route traverses some of Wyoming's most famous mountain ranges and valleys. The steepest grade road grades do not exceed 5-6%.
- ▶ The routes are modern, two-lane paved roads and have a number of turnouts, picnic areas and scenic views.
- ▶ Vehicles tuned for sea level may not perform as well at higher mountain elevations. Be prepared to pull over and allow faster traffic to pass if necessary.
- ▶ While driving in the mountains, use lower gears going uphill to avoid overheating the vehicle engine and use lower gears going downhill to avoid excessive wear on vehicle brakes.

(right) Granite Creek flows out of the Gros Ventre Range and offers hot springs, fishing, waterfalls, and camping along its length; (above) a cattle drive takes place high above the Snake River south of Jackson.



# Byway Information

Bridger-Teton National Forest maps may be obtained at Forest Service and Park Service offices in Jackson, Moran, Pinedale and Dubois.

Additional Wyoming travel and wildlife information may be obtained from:

**Tourism Division—Wyoming Business Council**  
**I-25 at College Drive, Cheyenne, WY 82002**  
**(307) 777-7777 or 1-800-225-5996**

**Jackson Information Center**—Open: daily  
**532 N. Cache St., Jackson, WY 83001**

**Grand Teton National Park**—Open: daily  
**Moose, WY 83012-0170**  
**(307) 739-3399**

**Bridger-Teton National Forest**  
**Pinedale Ranger District**  
**29 E. Fremont Lake Road**  
**Pinedale, WY 82941**  
**(307) 367-4326**

**Jackson Ranger District**  
**340 N. Cache St.**  
**Jackson, WY 83001**  
**(307) 739-5500**

**Wind River Ranger District**  
**209 E. Ramshorn, Dubois, WY 82513**  
**(307) 455-2466**

**Buffalo Ranger District**  
**Highway 287, Moran, WY 83013**  
**(307) 543-2386**



Horse Creek Studio

Indian Paintbrush,  
Wyoming's State  
Flower.

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