

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BIGHORN CANYON NRA, MONTANA & WYOMING

LOCATION: The Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area is located on the border between Montana and Wyoming, roughly halfway between Billings, Montana and Sheridan, Wyoming. The NRA is situated around the reservoir made on the Bighorn River by the Yellowtail Dam. Most of the NRA lies within the Crow Indian Reservation. The NRA stretches along some 55 miles of the river, and covers some 188 square miles. Elevations vary, mostly between three and four thousand feet above sea level. There are two Visitor Centers: one at Yellowtail Dam near Fort Smith in Montana, and the other in Lovell, Wyoming. Visitors should stick to the NRA facilities. Trespassing in the Crow Reservation is illegal.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:16	10:25	11:54	13:27	14:47	15:30	15:12	14:03	12:35	11:02	9:40	8:55
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:42	5:53	7:21	8:13	9:00	10:09	11:27	10:33	8:21	6:42	4:39	4:15
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	31%	31%	31%	35%	43%	57%	56%	50%	43%	33%	34%
LOW FOR MONTH	-17 °	-9 °	-2 °	19 °	31 °	41 °	47 °	46 °	31 °	20 °	2 °	-12 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	10 °	17 °	24 °	34 °	43 °	51 °	56 °	54 °	44 °	35 °	24 °	14 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	34 °	41 °	49 °	60 °	70 °	80 °	89 °	88 °	76 °	63 °	47 °	37 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	58 °	65 °	73 °	80 °	89 °	96 °	102 °	101 °	96 °	84 °	69 °	60 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	90%	88%	79%	46%	8%	0%	0%	0%	8%	43%	78%	90%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	18%	51%	46%	12%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	55%	49%	43%	44%	42%	32%	30%	37%	43%	55%	59%
DRY DAYS	82%	86%	79%	77%	73%	72%	82%	84%	82%	85%	85%	85%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	95%	92%	88%	85%	84%	92%	92%	90%	91%	93%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.24	0.32	0.32	0.17	0.13	0.21	0.17	0.10	0.08
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.5"	3.9"	3.9"	1.9"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	0.5"	2.1"	5.4"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	18%	13%	10%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	5%	15%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	3%	14%	27%	26%	20%	7%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	4%	6%	5%	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 61% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 48% in November and December, to a high of 75% in July and August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -19 on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 104 on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the warmer months, due to the relatively low afternoon humidity. From late November through early March, about one day in three will remain below freezing all day long, and one night in five will drop below zero. Snowfalls are extremely variable from place to place within the NRA and from year to year. July and August bring the area its best weather, with almost half the days being clear and sunny.