

The Bighorn Trail was built in the early 1900s by the Dominion of Canada Forestry Service as a pack trail used by forest rangers to patrol the forested areas along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. It had a telegraph line along it to link the forestry cabins along the route. Old telegraph line insulators can still be seen along the trail. On some old maps this ridge is called the High Divide Ridge but it has now come to be known as the Bighorn Ridge.



The Bighorn Trail offers a rugged hike, mountain bike, or horseback ride through spectacularly beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery.

BIGHORN RECREATION TRAILS



The northeast slopes of Alberta's foothills are rich in economic and recreational opportunities. The economy and communities of the West Yellowhead region are largely dependent upon the wealth created in the forest, mining, energy, and tourism industries. Equally valued by locals and visitors are the outdoor recreational opportunities the area provides. Partners in the association share a strong belief in managing for multiple values. Through the Foothills Recreation Management Association, we will provide quality camping, hiking, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities today and into the future. The Foothills Recreation Management Association's campgrounds and trails are maintained by Fox Creek Development Corporation. Fox Creek Development Corporation is an Aboriginal owned and operated not-for-profit company committed to creating and maintaining jobs for Aboriginals (Treaty, non-Treaty and Métis) in the Hinton area. Be safe and enjoy being outside.

The Foothills Recreation Management Association is a group of companies and organizations committed to providing safe and affordable outdoor recreation opportunities. Our partnership manages 15 campgrounds and eight trail systems in the foothills area near the communities of Hinton, Edson, Robb, Cadomin, and Brule.

FOOTHILLS RECREATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



CONTACT INFO:

For further information about this trail system, or to make a reservation at one of FRMA's campgrounds, please contact:

Fox Creek Development Association at:
780-865-2154

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA
www.tpr.alberta.ca/parks/
310-0000 or 780-723-8552



IMPORTANT NOTE – This trail is only lightly maintained. Once per year (in spring), a crew travels the entire trail and clears the trail of blowdown and danger trees and makes any other minor repairs required. This means one must be prepared to encounter a trail that may be poorly defined in places, blocked by recent blowdown, or missing water crossing structures. If you find significant portions of the trail have need maintenance, please contact our maintenance contractor – Fox Creek Development Association (780 865-2154).

The trail then descends gradually to the Gregg River valley that lies at an elevation of 1292 metres (4200 feet), passing through various ages of cut blocks and mature residual forests along the way. The last two kilometres of the trail follow along the Gregg River, ending at the bridge at kilometre thirty-eight on the Gregg River Road, located about two kilometres northeast of the Gregg Cabin Recreation Area. The horse trail leaves the hiking trail approximately 2.5 kilometres from the end of the trail and fords the Gregg River, rather than following it to the bridge. The Bighorn Trail is approximately 20 kilometres long and can be hiked in one or two days. A strong hiker can finish the trip in eight hours with ample time for viewing, rest stops, photography and lunch. For those hikers wanting an overnight excursion, there is an established campsite at kilometre 8.5, with a picnic table and fire ring. The trail is accessible from both ends by all-weather roads, but it is easier to find from the north end. The trail can also be mountain biked by experienced riders in one day, and is considered a spectacular ride.

From the kiosk at the northern trailhead on the Cold Creek Road, the hike begins at 1169 metres (3800 feet) and quickly rises to 1692 metres (5500 feet) over the first six kilometres while passing through mature forest, mostly spruce and mixed wood. Once the ridge top is reached, the trail is gently undulating, maintaining the same elevation for ten to twelve kilometres. The forest here is mainly mature lodgepole pine. This section is very scenic, offering beautiful views to the west of the Rocky Mountains all along the trail.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION

GETTING THERE

North Trailhead

To get to the north trailhead from the Hinton Visitor Information Centre, travel east on Highway 16 and turn right onto Switzer Drive (first set of traffic lights). Proceed until the next set of lights (Robb Road intersection) and turn right (south). This road is followed for approximately 3.5 kilometres, where the traveller must branch off the Robb Road onto the Cold Creek Road for the remaining 500 meters to the trailhead turnoff (which is on the left).

South Trialhead

To get to the south trailhead from the Hinton Visitor Information Centre, travel west on Highway 16. Approximately 4 km west of Hinton, turn south (left) onto Highway 40. Travel south for 20.5 km. Turn left onto the Gregg River Road and follow it for 7.5 km, where, on the right side of the road will be the Gregg Cabin Day Use Area, where an information kiosk regarding the Bighorn Trail is located. Proceeding 2.5 km further along the Gregg River Road from the Gregg Cabin Recreation Area will bring you to the south trailhead of the Bighorn Recreation Trail.

SAFETY

This is a wilderness trail. Please be prepared and use the trail at your own risk. Remember – YOU are responsible for your own safety. As in all wilderness settings, bears may be encountered at any time. To reduce the chance of a bear encounter, make plenty of noise to alert the bear to your presence. NEVER feed or approach a bear.

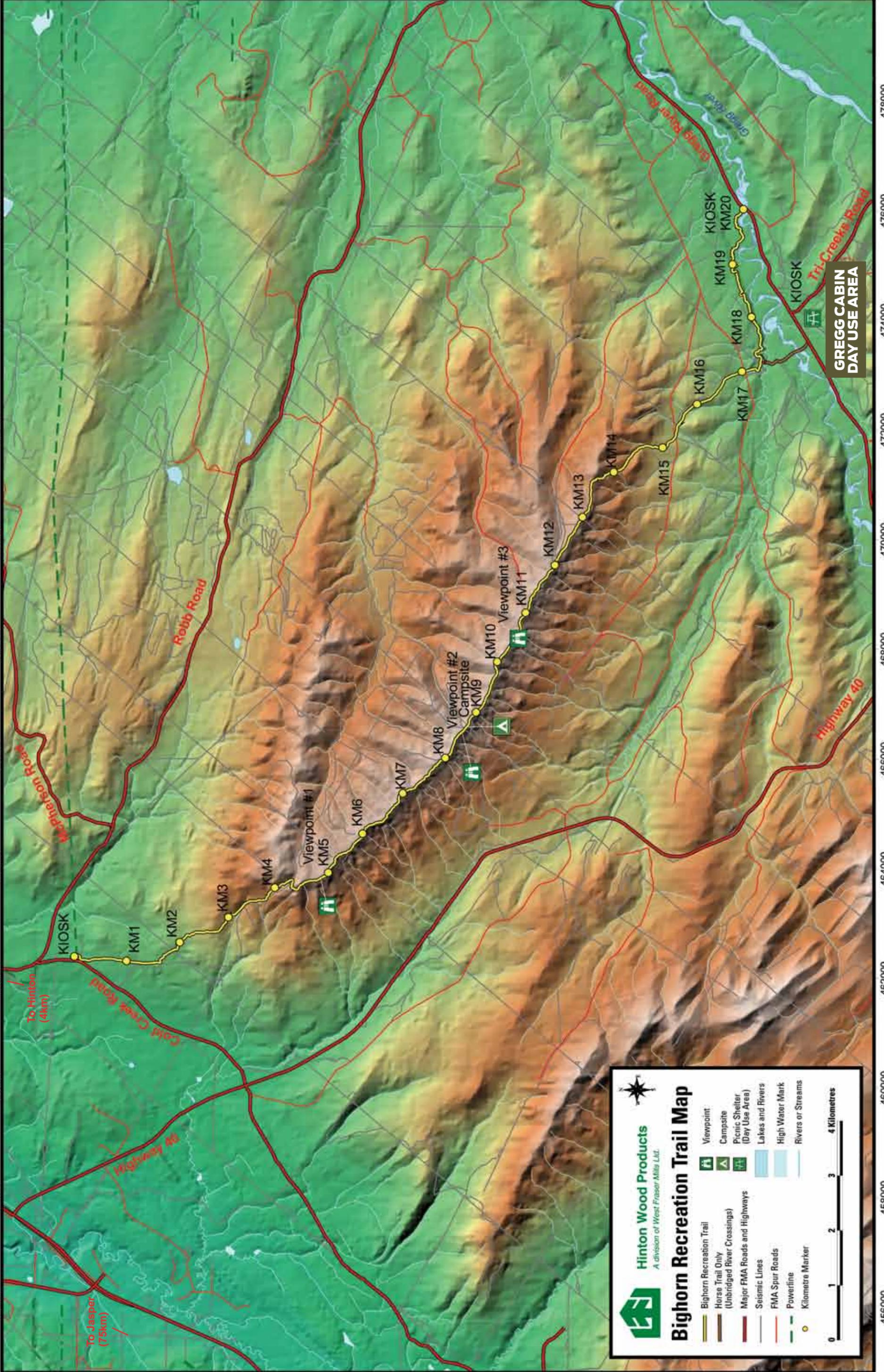
TRAVELLING TIPS

Remember some important tips for travelling on industrial roads:

- It is YOUR responsibility to drive safely (headlights on, seatbelts).
- Observe posted speed limits; slow down for bad weather or road conditions (such as dust). The MAXIMUM speed on most main gravel roads is 80 km/hr.
- Yield to large trucks and slow down when meeting other vehicles.

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GREGG CABIN DAY USE AREA

Hinton Wood Products
A division of West Fraser Mills Ltd.

Bighorn Recreation Trail Map

	Bighorn Recreation Trail		Viewpoint
	Horse Trail Only (Unbridged River Crossings)		Campsite
	Major FMA Roads and Highways		Picnic Shelter (Day Use Area)
	Seismic Lines		Lakes and Rivers
	FMA Spur Roads		High Water Mark
	Powerline		Rivers or Streams
	Kilometre Marker		

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometres

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