

About Yellowtail

Dam

Type..... Concrete arch
 Height above foundation (feet)..... 525
 Crest length (feet)..... 1,480
 Crest width (feet)..... 22
 Crest elevation (feet)..... 3,660
 Base thickness at center (feet)..... about 145
 Volume (cubic yards)..... 1,546,000
 Spillway: A 32 foot diameter tunnel in the left abutment controlled by two radial gates 25 feet wide by 64.4 feet high. The spillway capacity in cubic feet per second (cfs) at elevation 3,660..... 92,000
 River Outlet: Two 84 inch diameter conduits controlled by ring-follower gates with a capacity (in cfs) of..... 5,000
 Power outlets: Four 12 foot diameter penstocks through the dam.

Reservoir (Bighorn Lake)

Capacity (acre-feet at elevation 3,657)..... 1,375,000
 Area (acres at elevation 3,657)..... 17,300
 Length (river miles at elevation 3,657)..... 71
 Water surface elevations (in feet):
 Joint-use storage..... 3,614 to 3,640
 Flood control storage..... 3,640 to 3,657

Powerplant

Four vertical shaft generators connected to Francis type turbines.
 Total nameplate capacity (kilowatts)..... 250,000
 Capacity each generator (kilowatts)..... 62,500
 Capacity each turbine (horsepower)..... 87,500

Afterbay Dam:

Type: Composite concrete gravity with embankment wings
 Height above foundation (feet)..... about 40
 Crest length (feet)..... 1,360
 Crest width (in feet for embankment section)..... 28
 Crest elevation (feet)..... 3,197
 Outlet works: Five radial gates and three sluice gates control flows to the river with a total capacity (in cfs)..... 24,500
 Two sluice gates control flow to the BIA canal with a capacity (cfs)..... 750

Recreation

Bighorn Lake is 71 miles long and is a deep blue-water fishery created by Yellowtail Dam. Over 190 miles of shoreline showcase colorful geology and an area rich in history and tradition. Much of the reservoir's length is within the Bighorn Canyon where wildlife is abundant and the scenery is spectacular.

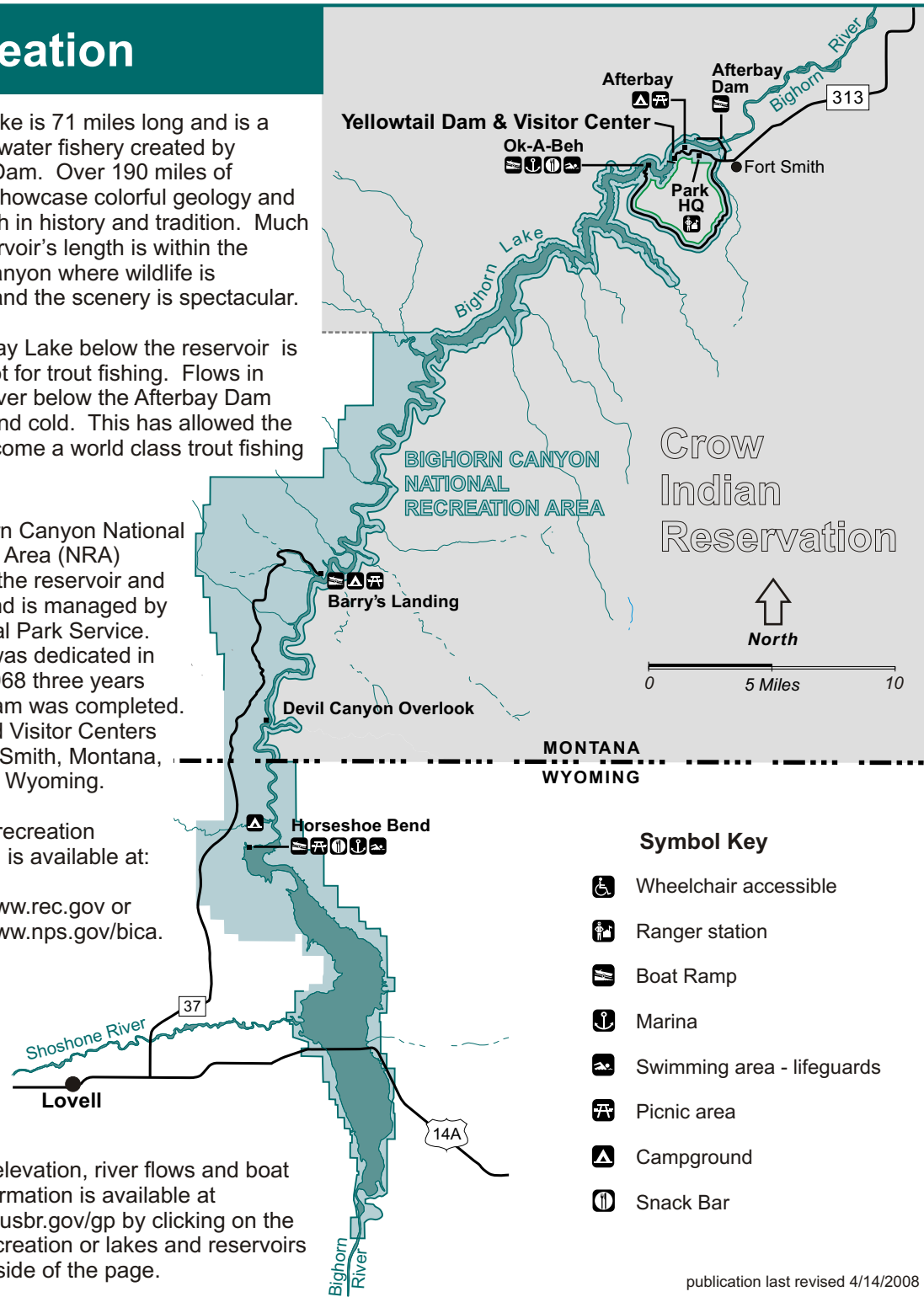
The Afterbay Lake below the reservoir is a good spot for trout fishing. Flows in Bighorn River below the Afterbay Dam are clear and cold. This has allowed the river to become a world class trout fishing area.

The Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) surrounds the reservoir and afterbay and is managed by the National Park Service. The NRA was dedicated in October 1968 three years after the dam was completed. Offices and Visitor Centers are in Fort Smith, Montana, and Lovell, Wyoming.

Additional recreation information is available at:

<http://www.rec.gov> or
<http://www.nps.gov/bica>.

Reservoir elevation, river flows and boat launch information is available at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp> by clicking on the links for recreation or lakes and reservoirs on the left side of the page.



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Yellowtail Dam and Reservoir



Yellowtail Dam is located on the Bighorn River at the mouth of Bighorn Canyon about 43 air miles from Billings, Montana. When full, the reservoir extends 71 miles south into Wyoming. The dam and reservoir provide multiple benefits to the American public including power generation, flood control, irrigation, municipal and industrial water, fish and wildlife benefits and recreation. The facility is operated by:

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