

WILD HORSES



HIGH DESERT SURVIVAL GUIDE

TIP

RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION IS A MUST

№ 21



1.800.46.DUNES 1.800.FL.GORGE
www.TourWyoming.com

Precautions:

When embarking on the Pilot Butte Wild Horse Scenic Loop Tour, keep in mind that the roads are graveled and are maintained only from May through October of each year.

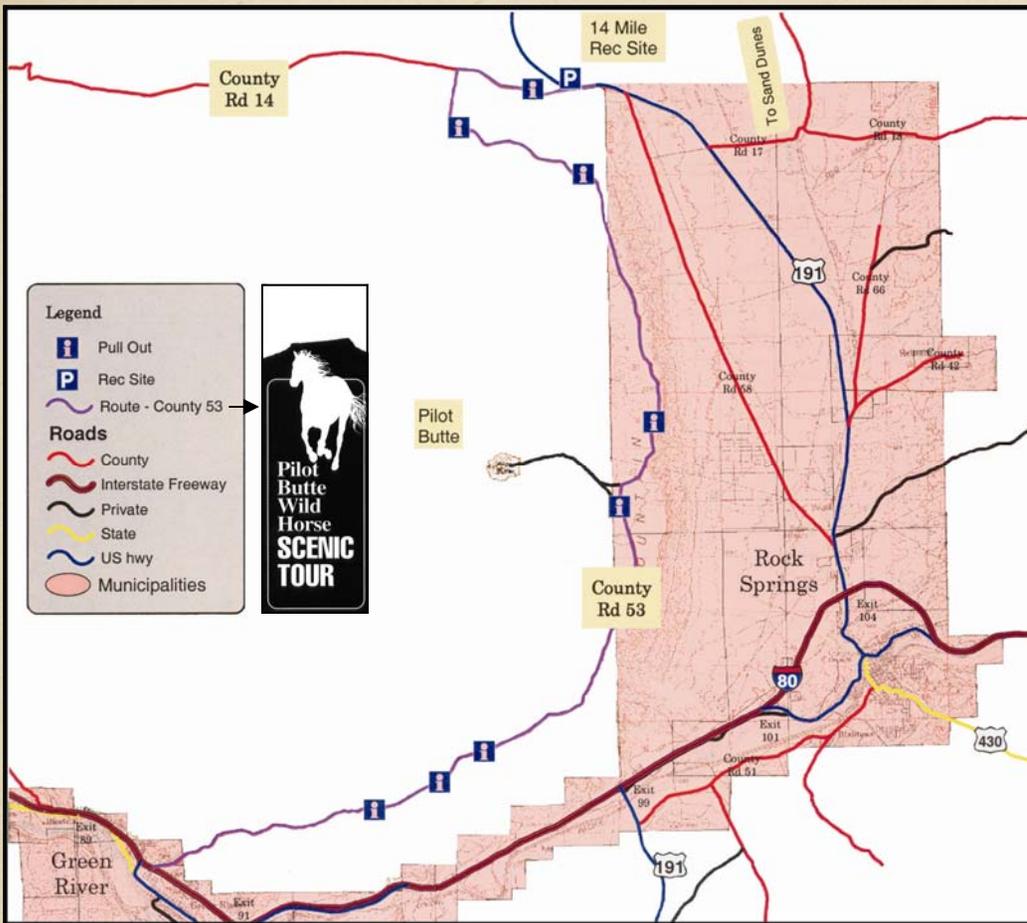
High-clearance vehicles are recommended and weather conditions can and do change very quickly making it imperative to be prepared at all times.

Be certain to begin the tour with:

- Full tank of gas
- Spare tire
- Cell phone
- Binoculars

There are no services along the route and cell phone reception may be limited.

It is always advisable to inform someone of your destination and planned time of return.



Getting There:

From Rock Springs: Take exit 104 off of I-80. Head north on Elk Street/Highway 191. Travel 14 miles north of Rock Springs to County Road 4 -14 (Fourteen-Mile Road). Turn left onto 4 -14 and travel 2.5 miles, then turn left onto County Road 4 -53. Follow 4-53 for 21.5 miles to Green River.

From Green River: Exit I-80 to Flaming Gorge Way. Turn onto Wild Horse Canyon Road.



Did you know that horses were first seen in this country about 10,000 years ago, but for unknown reasons became extinct?

PHOTO CREDITS

COVER: WILD HORSES - MARCO RUBECK
SAGE GROUSE - MARK GOCKE
BOTTOM LEFT: WILD HORSES - BRENT ANDERSEN
MIDDLE TOP: WILD HORSES - SKYLAR HANSEN
VISTAS, CORRALS & TOURISTS ON SCENIC TOUR - JENISSA BARTLETT

WILD HORSES BROCHURE: PRODUCED BY THE SWEETWATER COUNTY JOINT TRAVEL & TOURISM BOARD

How to survive in the high desert of Sweetwater County is easier than it looks. Be sure to adequately prepare yourself for unlimited adventure and breathtaking excitement. Sweetwater County is home to numerous species of wildlife, like the herds of wild horses that thunder across the rugged and beautiful landscape. If you find yourself in an encounter with a wild animal, view with enjoyment from a reasonably safe distance.

Pilot Butte Wild Horse Scenic Tour

The self-guided Pilot Butte Wild Horse Scenic Tour may begin in Green River or Rock Springs and takes approximately 1.5 hours to travel across. The total traveling distance is approximately 24 miles on graveled road. Traveling I-80 is most efficient to return back to your starting point. (See map)



Watch for wild horses between Rock Springs and 14-mile Hill, and all the way across the top of White Mountain. Although this is a relatively dry area with seemingly

little vegetation, it is home to a surprising array of wild creatures. So stay on the lookout for an abundance of wildlife – not just wild horses, but also antelope, desert elk, deer, rabbits, coyotes, hawks, eagles and sage grouse, among others. Wildlife is best visible in the early morning and late afternoon hours.



Most wild horses in Wyoming are located in the southwestern quarter of the state. The Rock Springs BLM is the headquarters for the Wild Horse Program in Wyoming. The appropriate management level for wild horses in Wyoming is approximately 6,000. Some 2,500 of these horses are in the Rock Springs District.

Wild horses have no true natural predators other than an occasional mountain lion, so populations can increase rapidly. This rate of increase is generally about 20% per year, with some years topping 40%. When populations of wildlife, wild horses and domestic livestock exceed the capabilities of their habitat, the environment begins to suffer. If prolonged, it leads to poor rangeland and an overall decline in the health of the wild horses.

To thwart this potential danger, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducts a periodic census of the wild horses to determine how many animals must be removed from the range. As a result, there are fewer cases of injury or death from starvation, dehydration and susceptibility to the elements. The horses are gathered at various times throughout the year.

Federal and private lands form a checkerboard pattern in the Rock Springs District. The existence of the herds of wild horses is a credit to the private landowners of this area who do not fence their land, thus allowing the horses to wander as necessary for food, water, and shelter in the winter as nature provides.

You'll also have a chance to take in some of the best vistas in Wyoming while on the tour. In fact, this route offers several scenic overlooks of the area's prominent features, such as Pilot Butte, Boar's Tusk, Killpecker Sand Dunes, Steamboat Mountain, North and South Table Mountains, Leucite Hills, Aspen Mountain, Wilkins Peak, and the Overland Trail and Union Pacific railroad corridors. The Wyoming, Wind River, and Uinta mountain ranges are in full, glorious view along the way.



Wild Horse Viewing Area

If you are limited by time or weather and cannot travel the wild horse loop tour, you can visit the wild horse viewing area. Located within the city limits of Rock Springs are the Bureau of Land Management wild horse corrals.

This facility is used to hold and process the horses that are gathered from around the area for adoption through the 1972 Wild Horse and Burrow Act. All animals are checked for their health, doctored and freeze branded at the Rock Springs corrals. This shelter is dedicated to educating and informing the public about the Wild Horse Adoption Management Program.



To view the wild horses in these corrals, take the Elk St. exit off of I-80, travel North to Lionkol Road, turn right and travel 1.2 miles to the corral overlook.