



The Tower Columns



Welcome to Devils Tower National Monument



Reporting To Duty

Operational **Reporting** is intended to support the day-to-day activities of the organization.

Duty is a term that conveys a sense of moral commitment or obligation to someone or something. The moral commitment should result in action; it is not a matter of passive feeling or mere recognition. When someone recognizes a duty, that person theoretically commits themselves to its fulfillment without considering their own self-interest. This is not to suggest that living a life of duty entirely precludes a life of leisure; however, its fulfillment generally involves some sacrifice of immediate self-interest. Typically, “the demands of justice, honor, and reputation are deeply bound up” with duty.

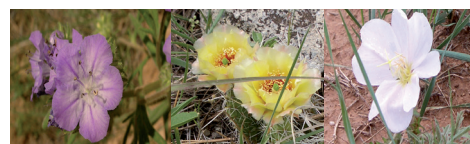
I use these definitions quite simply to best provide a sense of why I chose to become part of the team at Devils Tower (Mato Tipila) and be present in the tower’s presence. The Tower speaks for itself I need not tell or explain why it is our country’s first national Monument, nor why it is considered sacred, nor why the residents of Crook County and State of Wyoming deeply care for the tower, nor either why others nationally and internationally are called to visit the tower.

The Lakota way speaks of “the circle” or hoop as it pertains to existence. I assure each and every one of you my assignment at Devils Tower is a profound and significant responsibility to me and my hoop.

I call upon you to join me as I have already joined you and your journey in whatever Devils Tower means to you. And whatever the “tower” means to you let it be fulfilling. We will move forward together as we approach the National Park Service’s 100 year anniversary and leave Devils Tower NM a better/safer place. This is what was expected by us of our predecessors and what is expected of the dedicated staff that **report to duty** at Devils Tower into perpetuity.

- Superintendent Reed Robinson

Know Before You Go



Here are some useful reminders to help maximize the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors:

When walking the trails, take plenty of water and wear comfortable walking shoes.

All plants, wildlife, and archeological artifacts are protected.

Be respectful of this quiet place. Voices and noise travel long distances here.

Traditional cultural landscapes are protected places. Please do not disturb prayer bundles.



Drawn images of how the prayer bundles may appear along the trail

Things to do at Devils Tower:

Visit Prairie Dog Town

Check out the exhibits and the bookstore in the Visitor Center

Become a Junior Ranger

Hike the trails

- Tower Trail 1.3 miles
- Red Beds Trail 2.8 miles
- Joyner Trail 1.5 miles

Contents

- 2-5.....Shared Resources
- 6.....Shared Visions
- 7.....Park Neighbors
- 8.....Park Map



Shared Resources of the Tower

The Geologic Story

Geologists agree that Devils Tower was formed by an intrusion, the forcible entry of magma into or between other rock formations, of igneous material. What they cannot agree upon is how that process took place and whether or not the magma reached the land surface.

Numerous ideas have evolved since the official discovery of Devils Tower. Geologists Carpenter and Russell studied Devils Tower in the late 1800s and came to the conclusion that the Tower was indeed formed by an igneous intrusion. Later geologists searched for more detailed explanations.

In 1907, scientists Darton and O'Hara decided that Devils Tower must be an eroded remnant of a laccolith. A laccolith is a large, mushroom-shaped mass of igneous rock which intrudes between the layers of sedimentary rocks but does not reach the surface. This produces a rounded bulge in the sedimentary layers above the intrusion. This idea was quite popular in the early 1900s when numerous studies were done on a number of laccoliths in the Southwest.

Other ideas have suggested that Devils Tower is a volcanic plug or that it is the neck of an extinct volcano. Although there is no evidence of volcanic activity - volcanic ash, lava flows, or volcanic debris - anywhere in the surrounding countryside, it is possible that this material may simply have eroded away.

The simplest explanation is that Devils Tower is a stock—a small intrusive body formed by magma which cooled underground and was later exposed by erosion.

The magma which formed Devils Tower cooled and crystallized into a rock type known as phonolite porphyry. It is a light to dark-gray or greenish-gray igneous rock with conspicuous crystals of white feldspar.

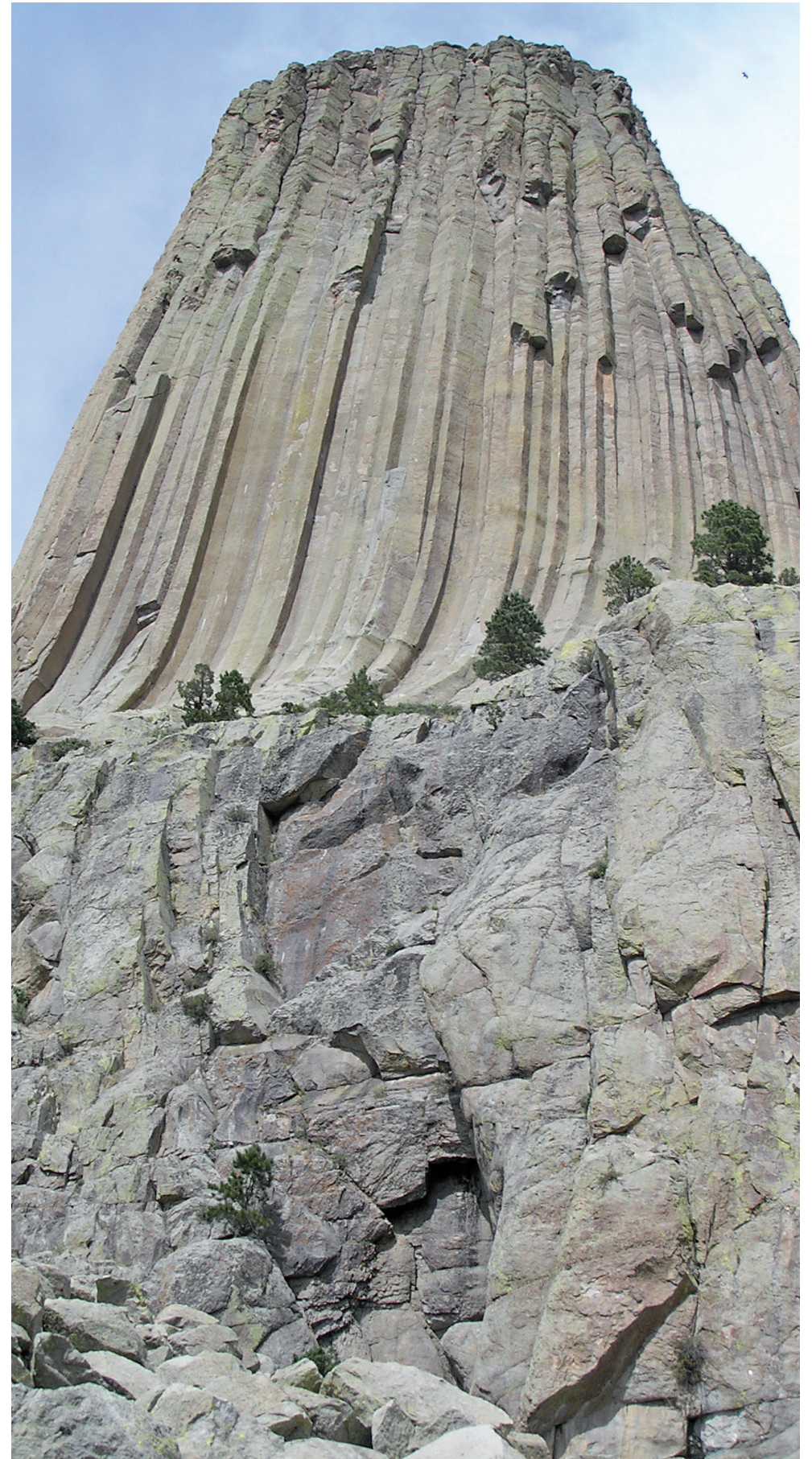
Hot molten magma is less dense and occupies more volume than cool hardened rock. As the rock cooled, it contracted, forming hexagonal (and sometime 4, 5, and 7-sided) columns separated by vertical cracks. These columns are similar to those found at Devil's Postpile National Monument in California but those at Devils Tower are much larger.

Until erosion began its relentless work, Devils Tower was not visible above the overlying sedimentary rocks. But the forces of erosion, particularly that of water, began to wear away the soft sandstones and shales above and around the Tower. The much harder igneous rock of the Tower survived the onslaught of erosional forces, and the gray columns of Devils Tower began to appear above the surrounding landscape.

As rain and snow continue to erode the sedimentary rocks surrounding the Tower's base, and the Belle Fourche River carries away the debris, more of Devils Tower will be exposed. But at the same time, the Tower itself is slowly being eroded. Rocks are continually breaking off and falling from the steep walls. Rarely do entire columns fall, but on remote occasions, they do. Piles of rubble, broken columns, boulders, small rocks, and stones, lie at the base of the Tower, indicating that it was, at some time in the past, larger than it is today.



Eventually, at some time in the future, even Devils Tower itself will erode away!



Shared Resources of the Tower

Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs are social animals that live together in “towns.” The prairie dog town at Devils Tower National Monument is approximately 40 acres in size. Prairie-dog tunnels may extend downward from 3 to 10 feet, and then horizontally for another 10 to 15 feet. Prairie dogs are active only during daylight hours, when they feed and socialize. They have complex vocalizations, and use different calls when they see different predators. When a prairie dog spots a prairie falcon nearby, it will give a different call than when it sees a prowling coyote.



Juvenile Black-Tailed Prairie Dog

The Black-Tailed Prairie Dog *Cynomys ludovicianus*), a type of burrowing rodent, is one of five prairie-dog species found in North America. The other four species are the Gunnison’s (*Cynomys gunnisoni*), Mexican (*Cynomys mexicanus*), Utah (*Cynomys parvidens*), and white-tailed (*Cynomys leucurus*) prairie dogs. Of those five species, the black-tailed prairie dog is the most abundant and widely distributed.

Though black-tailed prairie dogs are protected within the boundary of Devils Tower National Monument, their overall population is about 2% of what Lewis and Clark described as “infinite” 200 years ago, due to habitat loss, extensive eradication programs, and introduced diseases. Prairie dogs are an important component of local ecosystems. In areas throughout their range, prairie-dog burrows and colony sites provide shelter and nesting habitat for myriad other animals, such as tiger salamanders, mountain plovers, burrowing owls, black-footed

ferrets, and hundreds of insect and arachnid species.

Prairie dogs also serve as prey for numerous mammalian and avian predators, such as badgers, black-footed ferrets, bobcats, coyotes, ferruginous hawks, golden and bald eagles, and prairie falcons. Consequently, as the prairie-dog population declines, so do the populations of other species associated with them and their colonies.

Black-tailed prairie dogs have a relatively short life span, averaging only about four years in the wild. Their diet consists primarily of green vegetation. **Do NOT feed the prairie dogs.** Consumption of human food shortens their lives—not only because human food is an improper dietary source, but also because animals that become habituated to human handouts tend to spend more time near and in the road, where they can quickly become roadkill. As such, it is illegal to feed prairie dogs (or any wildlife) in a national park, both for their protection and yours: prairie dogs may bite, and they (and the fleas that live on them) often carry diseases that are potentially harmful to humans, such as bubonic plague. Enjoy them at a distance!

What is Chomping on the Tree Bark?



While strolling on the Tower Trail at Devils Tower National Monument, one is inclined to notice a rather obvious, yet curious, marking at the base of many of the Ponderosa Pine trees.

Conceivably, deer rub their antlers on the bark or, perhaps, busy beavers attempt to claim building materials far from the

Belle Fourche River? Truth be told, waddling about the Ponderosa Pine forest is a nocturnal, spiny rodent dining on the bark.



Adult porcupine on a tree branch

With 20,000 to 30,000 quills covering the animal from head to tail, this chewer-of-tree-bark is none other than the North American Porcupine! The porcupine does not hibernate and thus, is in need of nutritional food options during the harsh winter months. The inner layer of the bark, the cambium, provides a staple food for the animal in the winter. In addition, porcupines may eat twigs, buds, and the needles of evergreens. The inner layer of the bark, the cambium, provides a staple food for the animal in the winter. In addition, porcupines may eat twigs, buds, and the needles of evergreens.

Like all other rodents, the porcupine has impressive incisors that enable it to chew through the bark. Due to the thick bark of the Ponderosa Pine tree, the porcupine feeds in two phases. A first pass of the incisors shaves off the dead outermost cork layers of the bark. On the second pass, the porcupine harvests the inner bark, the sweet cambium layer, grinding it with the cheek teeth and swallowing it.

Porcupines feed only a short distance from their winter dens and due to the geology of Devils Tower, suitable habitat for winter dens is found here. The boulder field, which was created by columns long since fallen, provides many caverns and crevasses for porcupines to hunker down in during the daylight hours where they are able to catch some shut-eye.

So, mystery solved; the lack of bark on

selected trees in our Ponderosa Pine Forest here at Devils Tower National Monument is not due to werewolves or rough UFO landings. It is, rather simply, the prickly porcupine surviving in its habitat.

High Flyers of Devils Tower

On a typical summer day, a brief glance above the summit of Devils Tower will give view to large, dark-colored birds that effortlessly glide in spiraling patterns. The loveable (yes, loveable) turkey vulture. Of the three species of vulture found in the United States, turkey vultures are the most widely spread and therefore very common in the Black Hills. They migrate from as far as Cape Horn in South America, often arriving in Wyoming precisely on the Vernal Equinox (or March 20th).

Turkey vultures have been designed to be clean and hygienic birds, assisting in maintaining a healthy ecology at Devils Tower. A process known as urohydrolysis - or defecation on its legs and feet - utilizes high levels of digestive acid to kill bacteria found after hopping around on a meal. In addition, this corrosive digestive system aids in killing diseases found in dead animals, helping humans maintain a healthy environment.



Turkey Vulture soaring above the tower

Turkey vultures are very social birds; their daily activities are often done in large groups, including eating, flying and roosting. It is a real treat to leave the upper parking area and look to one’s right along the roadway, only to see dozens of turkey vultures roosting in the leafless trees.

(Turkey Vultures - Continued on Page 4)

Shared Resources of the Tower

Turkey Vultures -

Turkey Vultures truly rest overnight; so much so, that their body temperature drops by 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Come morning, turkey vultures must warm their bodies in order to prepare for a day of flying. Groups of warming vultures perched atop nearby fence posts is a daily sight during the summer months, a stance called the “Horaltic Pose”.

Once our feathered friends are prepared for the day, why are they choosing to fly above Devils Tower? Mid-morning brings about a noticeable rise in outside air temperature, and Devils Tower feels this heat more quickly than the surrounding land. As this increasing hot air rises, it creates spirals which are called thermals. The outcome is that turkey vultures use these thermals above Devils Tower to climb high into the sky and smell for food, gain altitude for a long-distance flight or just simply play with their buddies. And, did you know they fly just like airplanes? Their upturned wings and shifting bodies is how they maintain their balance, just like the dihedral shape of an airplane wing helps in air turbulence.

So enjoy the high flyers of Devils Tower National Monument - they're here to enjoy the view just as we are.

Exotic Plant Control Efforts

Exotic plants are species that occur outside their native ranges. Invasive plants are nonnative and able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems. Not all non-native plants are invasive. In fact, when many non-native plants are introduced to new places, they cannot reproduce or spread readily without continued human influence. Exotic plants can be introduced intentionally and accidentally, for example with agricultural crops, landscape ornamentals, international trade, and tourism. Exotic invasive species out-compete native species, leading to individual species loss, endangering natural habitats, causing soil erosion,

creating a monoculture, and reducing the genetic diversity necessary for stable, balanced ecosystems.

At Devils Tower National Monument, more than 60 exotic plant species have been identified. While some spread slowly, others have replaced native plant communities, reducing the biological diversity of the Monument's ecosystems. The Monument's most aggressive, or invasive exotic plants are Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Field Pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*), Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*).



From top left: Common Mullein, Cheatgrass, Houndstongue, and Leafy Spurge

Exotic plant control efforts at Devils Tower National Monument are conducted by Biological Technicians. Starting in 2012, Climbing Biological Technicians have been conducting removal and control efforts of exotic plants on the tower. The purpose of this new program has been to protect the almost pristine and very fragile ecosystem that exists on top of the tower as well removing exotics from the cracks and pockets on the Tower walls. Together, they work in accordance with an exotic plant

management plan that outlines a control strategy for Devils Tower and 12 other national parks. To control the spread of exotic plants and maintain the natural ecosystem, chemical, biological, manual/mechanical, and prescribed-fire methods are used as part of an integrated pest management approach to benefit native wildlife, vegetation, and healthy native ecosystems. Visitors can help play a role in controlling the spread of exotic species by learning to identify exotic species, avoid travelling through infested areas, as well as clean vehicles, pets, clothing, and recreational equipment before leaving an area. To help the park reduce the spread of non-native plants we ask that all park visitors identify and remove seeds from clothing, pets, and shoes into a plastic bag and then into a trash receptacle.



Climbing biotech removing exotic invasive plant species

Keeping the Park “Green”

Devils Tower National Monument has built environmental responsibility into all aspects of park operations. Recycling is a major part of how we fulfill this responsibility. The monument recycles #1 and #2 plastic, glass, aluminum, steel, cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, printer cartridges, copper, batteries, and light bulbs, among other materials.

Plastic is one of the most commonly used consumer products. More than 2.3 billion pounds of plastic bottles were recycled worldwide in 2007. New products, like the benches on the Tower Trail, can be produced from these previously consumed

goods. Devils Tower National Monument is pleased to provide recycling bins at all visitor-use areas. These bins are brightgreen in color and are located at the visitor center parking lot, the beginning of the Tower Trail, the picnic area, and campground.

Devils Tower National Monument is reducing fuel and energy consumption by utilizing new technologies. The park owns a flex-fuel vehicle and has recently acquired a hybrid vehicle, powered by gasoline and gas required by conventional engines. Throughout the monument, park staff have replaced incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). Making this change will help us to use less electricity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Most CFLs use up to 75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than traditional bulbs. The monument has also started to update buildings with more energy-efficient heating systems.

Green Your Ride



Join the National Park Service in our efforts to cut emissions and save fuel.

You can help protect our climate and the air quality in this park by reducing vehicle idling. Remember to turn off your engine while parked, waiting at wildlife crossings, or stopping to take photos.

How Long Ago was that Fire?

As you entered Devils Tower National Monument, you probably noticed signs of a fire along the road: brown needles and charred trunks on the pine trees. Many visitors guess that this fire happened a lot longer ago than it did, and some are surprised to learn that this part of the

Shared Resources of the Tower

forest and grassland was burned intentionally. In the spring of 2013, a prescribed burn took place here. The burn had two major purposes: to reduce the amount of fuel in our forest by burning dead trees and brushy undergrowth, and to help manage invasive non-native plants in the forest and grasslands.

During a low-intensity fire like this most animals are able to run, burrow, or fly away to escape the fire. Most will return after the temporary emergency of the fire ends. The trees and plants here are well-adapted to fire since a ponderosa pine forest like the one surrounding Devils Tower has a natural cycle of fire every 2-17 years. Four days after the fire the grass was already growing back and a few months later new plants and wildflowers were flourishing in the burned area.



Devils Tower National Monument and the National Park Service hope to encourage and preserve the natural process of fire at the monument while minimizing any negative effects on park visitors and the surrounding community. Professional fire management teams ignite and monitor prescribed burns on monument land according to a fire management plan that outlines the benefits and risks of every prescribed fire.

We recognize that fire is an inevitable and

necessary force that will continue to shape our landscape as it has for thousands of years.



American Indians and the Tower

American Indian people have long considered the Tower a place of spiritual and cultural importance. The sacred connection to this place continues today as part of centuries-old ancestral traditions.

Traditionally, indigenous cultures around the world have gathered at places of great natural beauty for ceremonial purposes. These sites, including the Tower, continue to have profound sacred significance to native peoples. Over twenty American Indian tribes have a cultural connection with the Tower.

Northern Plains Indians honor a towering rock formation that they consider sacred. They call the rocky tower Bear's Tipi, Grizzly Bear's Lodge, Bear Lodge Butte, Tree Rock and other related names. In 1875, Colonel Dodge led an expedition into the area. In his book titled, *The Black Hills*, Colonel Dodge explained, "the Indians call this shaft The Bad God's Tower, a name adopted with proper modification, by our surveyors." Dodge "modified the name to a better form of English, calling it Devils Tower." Evidence suggests that the initial translation was incorrect. The Indian words for the Tower should have been translated into "Bear Lodge" and not into "Bad God's Tower."

American Indians use the Tower as a place of worship. Most of the ceremonies that

take place are small groups or individuals, who have gathered for prayer, pipe ceremonies, the tying of prayer cloths, or vision quests. Group rituals also continue here, including sweat lodge and sun dance ceremonies.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt created Devils Tower National Monument, the first national monument. Devils Tower National Monument was established as our nation's first national monument because of its scientific and geological importance. Since that time, there has been a growing awareness of the Tower as a cultural resource.

On your way into Devils Tower National Monument, you may have noticed the large granite sculpture located near the park's picnic area. This site is designed to increase awareness of the sacredness of Devils Tower to the park's more than 20 affiliated American Indian tribes, and also helps place the significance of the Tower into an international context.



Sculptor Junkyu Muto's "Circle of Sacred Smoke" installed in 2008

"Circle of Sacred Smoke," by internationally renowned Japanese sculptor Junkyu Muto, was the third installation in Muto's international peace project, Wind Circle.

The "Circle of Sacred Smoke" represents the first puff of smoke from the pipe used by tribal people to pray. In Lakota tradition, the



World Peace Pole installed 2012

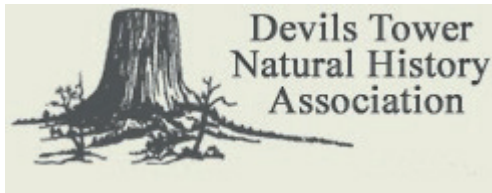
sacred pipe was delivered to the Lakota people by the White Buffalo Calf Woman at the Tower several centuries ago. Upon delivering the pipe to the tribal people, she taught them the seven sacred ceremonies and the colors of the four directions (red, yellow, black, and white). You may see prayer bundles throughout the park made of these four colors, as well as green and blue, which represent Mother Earth and Father Sky.

A peace pole reading in both Lakota and English *Wolakhota Akan Macoke* and "May Peace Prevail on Earth" was also planted at the World Peace "Circle of Smoke" Sculpture site in 2012.

These interpretive sites address improvement of educational and informational programs of the historic uses of the monument as outlined in the 1995 Final Climbing Management Plan. Future plans include the addition of signs and displays to the site, as well as related interpretive programs.

Please take some time to visit these interpretive sites, which are accessible from the picnic area parking lot via the campground road, or by trail from the prairie dog town.

Shared Visions of the Tower



For more information on Devils Tower National Monument's geology, wildlife, climbing history and opportunities, and cultural significance, look to the Devils Tower Natural History Association. The association, established to support the National Park Service with historical, educational, and interpretive programs at Devils Tower, operates the bookstore located in the visitor center at the base of the Tower.

When you make a purchase at the bookstore, profits are returned to the park in the form of donations that support park programs, including the Junior Ranger Program, interpretive exhibits, the Cultural Program Series, and many other services. Membership benefits include a 15% discount in the bookstore, a discount on items purchased at other national park cooperating association bookstores, and the pleasure of knowing that your membership contributes to the support of the park!



RECYCLED TREES MAKE COLORFUL WALKING SITCKS

These unique walking sticks are made of trees where mountain pine beetles have left their mark. As the beetle starts burrowing into the bark, the tree pumps sticky sap toward it trapping the beetle within the sap. The tree will then eject the sap through a small chute called a pitch-out. Sometimes a dead beetle can be found in the pitch-out.

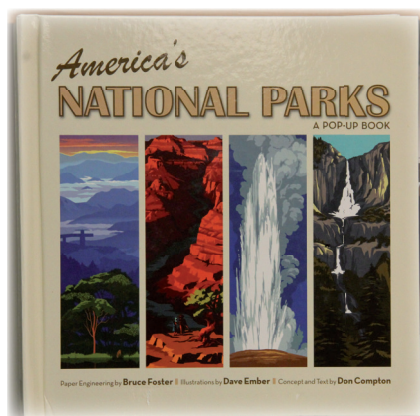
Thank You!

Yes, YOU! By paying the entrance fee, you are partnering with the National Park Service through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act Program at Devils Tower National Monument. Your entrance fees are used to support park projects, including improved signage and building restoration.

Other partners include the Black Hills National Forest, Black Hills Youth Conservation Corps, Black Hills National Forest Tribal Youth Conservation Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, American Conservation Experience, Hulett and Crook County Emergency Response, Christian Motorcycle Association, Crook County Sheriff Department, Access Fund, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Boy Scouts of America, and the many park climbing guides. Thanks for helping us out!

Hey, Kids . . . Become a Ranger!

You and your family can discover Devils Tower through the Junior Ranger program. Stop at the visitor center to pick up a free Junior Ranger booklet. Return with your completed booklet, and the ranger will honor you with a badge and certificate. You can also buy an embroidered patch for \$1.00 at the bookstore. By learning about the plants, animals, geology, and history of this area you can help protect the park's resources and make other people aware of how important these resources are.



JUST LIKE VISITING A NATIONAL PARK

When you turn the pages of a pop-up book, you're never quite sure what awaits around the bend. A beautiful landscape or the colors of an evening sunset may unfold before you. This pop-up book offers many opportunities to inspire future visits to national parks.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS LUNCH BOX.

Take your lunch with you in a national parks box. Bright colorful images of national parks throughout the country.



LEAVE NO TRACE



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Park Neighbors in the Black Hills

NPS Photo - Eric Dodd



Jewel Cave National Monument

Jewel Cave's Visitor Center and cave entrance are 100 miles east of Devils Tower on Highway 16 B-12. With more than 150 miles surveyed, Jewel Cave is recognized as the second longest cave in the world. Cave tours provide opportunities for viewing this pristine cave system and its wide variety of speleotherms. Call (605) 673-2288 to plan your visit. www.nps.gov/jeca



Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is an iconic national park and located 126 miles east of Devils Tower via I-90 E and US -385 S. From the history of the first inhabitants to the diversity of America today, Mount Rushmore brings visitors face to face with the rich heritage we all share. Call (605) 673-2288 to plan your visit. www.nps.gov/moru



Wind Cave National Park

Wind Cave is located 126 miles east of Devils Tower on Hwy US 16 E. It is one of the world's longest and most complex caves. It is famous for its boxwork, an unusual calcite cave formation resembling honeycomb. The park's surface area contains 33,851 acres of mixed-grass prairie, ponderosa pine forest and associated wildlife. Call (605) 745-4600 for additional information. www.nps.gov/wica



Badlands National Park

Badlands is located 190 miles east of Devils Tower. Take I-90 to Wall, S.D. to Exit 110 or 131 to access Hwy 240's Badlands Loop Road. Badlands National Park consists of 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires blended with the largest, protected mixed-grass prairie in the U.S. Call (605) 433-5361 to plan your visit. www.nps.gov/badl



Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

Minuteman Missile NHS is located 182 miles east of Devils Tower on I-90. The site preserves a launch control facility and a nuclear missile silo of the Minuteman II missile system. The park offers tour by reservations only. You can call the site at (605)433-5552 or stop by the Project Office at Exit 131 off of I-90. www.nps.gov/mimi



Custer State Park

Custer State Park is located 115 miles East of Devils Tower via US 16. At 71,000 acres, it is one of the largest, most unique state parks in the nation and is home to a herd of 1,300 bison. Visitors will find many lakes and natural areas. Hiking access to Harney Peak, the tallest peak in South Dakota, is available. Call the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center (605) 255-4464 to plan your visit. www.custerstatepark.info

Devils Tower Park Map



Pets may not be taken on trails or left unattended at any time. They may be walked in parking areas if on a leash.



Collection of rocks, plants, or any other natural material is prohibited by law.



Collection of archeological artifacts is also prohibited by law.



It is illegal and dangerous to feed any park wildlife, including prairie dogs.



Travel above the boulder field can be dangerous and requires a permit.

SPEED LIMIT 25

Posted speed limits are strictly enforced for the safety of visitors, employees, and park wildlife.



If you have any questions about these or any other park regulations, feel free to ask a uniformed employee.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

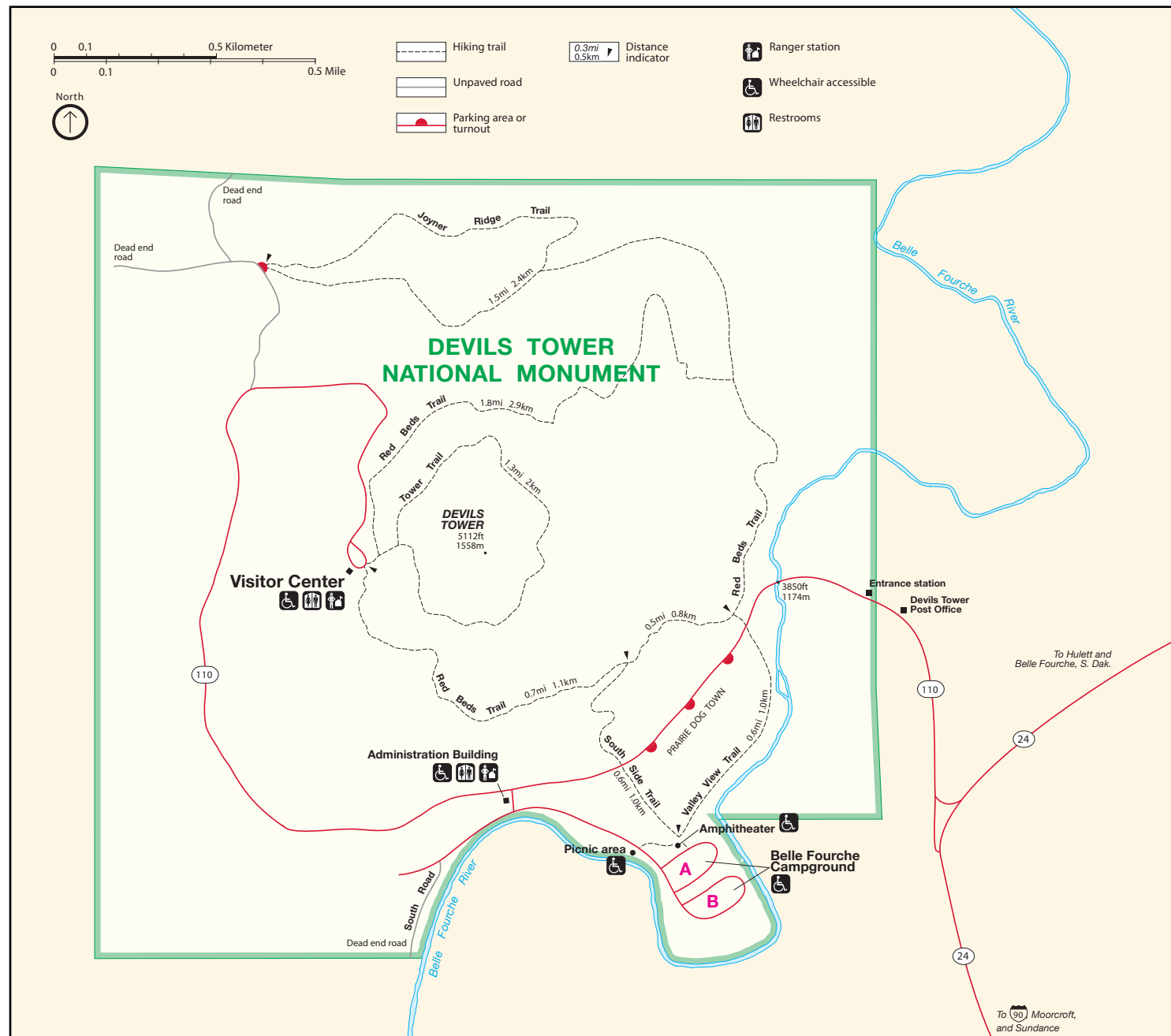
Devils Tower rises 1,267 feet above the Belle Fourche River. Also known as Bear's Lodge, it is a sacred site for many American Indians. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Devils Tower the first national monument in 1906.

Devils Tower National Monument
P.O. Box 10
Devils Tower, WY 82714

Phone
(307) 467-5283

E-mail
deto_interpretation@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people for all to experience our heritage.



Make the Most of Your Visit

If you have an hour or two . . . don't miss the dogs—prairie dogs, that is! Their activities are fun to watch, but remember not to feed them. The visitor center at the base of the Tower contains interpretive exhibits, as well as a bookstore and souvenir shop. The visitor center was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and both its buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Sit on a bench and look up at the 867-foot high columnar monolith. Meander across the parking lot and walk 50 yards along the Tower Trail for another view and another bench. The Tower Trail continues 1.3 miles around the base of the Tower.

If you have a half-day . . . join a park ranger for a guided walk or talk. As you leave the parking lot and drive down the hill, look for a gravel road on the right that leads to the Joyner Ridge trailhead for another incredible view. The low-angle light an hour before sunset makes for beautiful photographic opportunities.

If you have a full day . . . you're lucky! You can experience all of the above plus a hike along Joyner Ridge or the Red Beds Trail, or a picnic at the picnic shelter. No food is sold inside the park, but water is available next to the ranger station at the foot of the Tower. Food can be purchased immediately outside the park entrance.