



Bighorn 52-Mile Trail Run – Course Description

Welcome to the Bighorn 52! This isn't just a trail run—it's a mountain adventure through some of the most stunning terrain Wyoming has to offer. You'll start high at **8,800 ft** at the JAWS Trailhead and travel 52 miles through canyons, ridges, wildflowers, and sweeping vistas before finishing in Dayton at Scott Park.

The course features **steep climbs, flowing descents, technical single-track, four-wheel-drive roads, and a few sections of gravel road**. Aid stations are strategically placed along the route, offering everything from full-service drop bags and outhouses to minimal foot-access stations. Volunteers are legendary, providing support and encouragement every step of the way.

The Adventure Begins (Miles 0–18)

- **Start – JAWS Trailhead (8,800 ft)** – Gear up for your first 8-mile stretch before hitting Spring Marsh. Pack wisely; water is available but self-filtering is required.
 - **Spring Marsh (Mile 8.5, 6,920 ft)** – Minimal aid, hand-packed supplies. Pause, refuel lightly, then continue down the Little Horn Trail #50.
 - The trail flows through **Willow Creek, Duncum Creek, and Wagon Box Drainages**, dropping about **1,000 ft over 8 miles** and offering stunning canyon views and wildflower fields.
 - **Cathedral Rock (Mile 14.5, 5,080 ft)** – Another small, remote aid station. A great spot to pause, soak in the scenery, and prep for the next section.
 - **Sally's Footbridge (Mile 18, 4,590 ft)** – Major aid, drop bags, outhouse, and official timing checkpoint. Dry socks and shoes are highly recommended!
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Mid-Course Challenge (Miles 18–34.5)

- From the footbridge, tackle a **major climb up Dry Fork** to Bear Hunting Camp (Mile 21.5, 6,800 ft), a limited aid station.
- Roll gently along to **Kern's Cow Camp (Mile 28.5, 6,600 ft)**, the junction with the 32-mile course. Moderate aid only.



- Keep climbing to **Dry Fork Aid Station (Mile 34.5, 7,480 ft)** – your second and final drop bag opportunity. This is a major aid station with crew access, outhouse, and medical support. Take your time here: refuel, stretch, and prepare for the next ridge.
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🌲 Ridge, Creek, and Canyon Terrain (Miles 34.5–46.7)

- From Dry Fork, ascend **Freeze Out Road and Camp Creek Ridge (8,100 ft)**, then descend through **Sheep Creek drainage (7,450 ft)**.
 - **Upper Sheep Creek (Mile 39.5, 7,450 ft)** – Minimal aid, no crew. Keep moving; the next climb awaits.
 - Crest **Horse Creek Ridge (8,000 ft)** and enjoy panoramic views before descending into Tongue River Canyon.
 - **Lower Sheep Creek (Mile 44.5, 5,025 ft)** – Perfect spot to refill water bottles before tackling the canyon below.
 - **Tongue River Trailhead (Mile 46.7, 4,240 ft)** – Moderate aid, outhouse, and limited crew support. Official timing checkpoint here.
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🏁 The Final Stretch (Miles 46.7–52)

- Gravel road leads you through the **Home Stretch Aid Station (Mile 49.7, 4,040 ft)** – minimal aid, crew welcome.
 - Cross a rustic footbridge over Tongue River, then follow **Highway 14 into Dayton**, turning onto 3rd Street, then Broadway to the finish.
 - **Scott Park Finish (Mile 52, 3,970 ft)** – Major aid, drop bags allowed, and a post-race picnic gala with food, drinks, and celebration. You've just completed a spectacular mountain adventure! 🎉
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Quick Elevation Highlights

- **Start:** 8,800 ft
- **Highest Point:** Camp Creek Ridge, 8,100 ft
- **Lowest Point:** Finish, Scott Park 3,970 ft
- **Total Gain/Loss:** Roughly 9,000 ft up / 9,000 ft down
- **Longest Climb:** Footbridge → Dry Fork → Camp Creek Ridge (~3,500 ft gain over 16 miles)
- **Longest Descent:** Camp Creek Ridge → Lower Sheep Creek (~3,000 ft loss over 7 miles)

Mile	Elevation (ft)	Aid Level	Cutoff	Notes
8.5	6,920	Minimal	None	Spring Marsh – Hand-packed supplies, water requires self-filtration.
14.5	5,080	Minimal	None	Cathedral Rock – Remote, limited aid.
18	4,590	Major	10:00 AM	Sally’s Footbridge – Full aid, drop bag, outhouse, medical check, official timing. Dry socks/shoes recommended.
21.5	6,800	Minimal	None	Bear Hunting Camp – Remote, limited aid.
28.5	6,600	Moderate	None	Kern’s Cow Camp – Course junction with 32-mile course, moderate aid only.
34.5	7,480	Major	3:00 PM	Dry Fork – Full aid, drop bag, outhouse, crew access, medical check, official timing.
39.5	7,450	Minimal	4:30 PM	Upper Sheep Creek – Minimal aid, no crew.
44.5	5,025	Minimal	None	Lower Sheep Creek – Water refill, minimal aid.
46.7	4,240	Moderate	6:45 PM	Tongue River Trailhead – Aid, outhouse, limited crew (on foot or bike), official timing checkpoint.
49.7	4,040	Minimal	None	Home Stretch – Minimal aid, crew welcome on foot or bike.
52	3,970	Major	8:00 PM	Finish – Scott Park. Drop bags allowed, post-race picnic, awards, food & drinks.