Gateways To Beartooth Country

The Beartooth Highway first opened in 1936, to provide access from Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park. After receiving National Forest Scenic Byway status in 1989, a portion of it was designated an All American Road in 2001, in recognition of its status as a national treasure and destination.

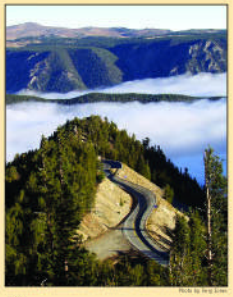
The Beartooth and Chief Joseph Scenic Byways invite visitors to climb into the clouds – and discover a sparkling world of windswept peaks and glaciated plateaus carpeted with flowering tundra and shimmering alpine lakes. Unique historic and recreational treasures abound as you travel through beautiful canyon corridors among towering forests where moose and bear roam free.

1 BEARTOOTH BUTTE & CLAY BUTTE

These unique geologic anomalies, solitary remnants of a 7,500-foot thick layer of sediment that covered the ancient bedrock of the Beartooth Plateau. They are some of the oldest rocks in the world. The fire tower atop Clay Butte provides informational displays and inspirational views.

6 THE BEAR'S TOOTH

The inspiration for the name of this area comes from this striking granitic spike piercing the Montana sky. The difficulty of actually getting to the Bear's Tooth adds to its powerful mystique.



5 VISTA POINT PULLOUT AND THE SWITCHBACKS

The switchbacks are engineered by man, the vista carved by nature – but both can take your breath away.

4 DEAD INDIAN PASS

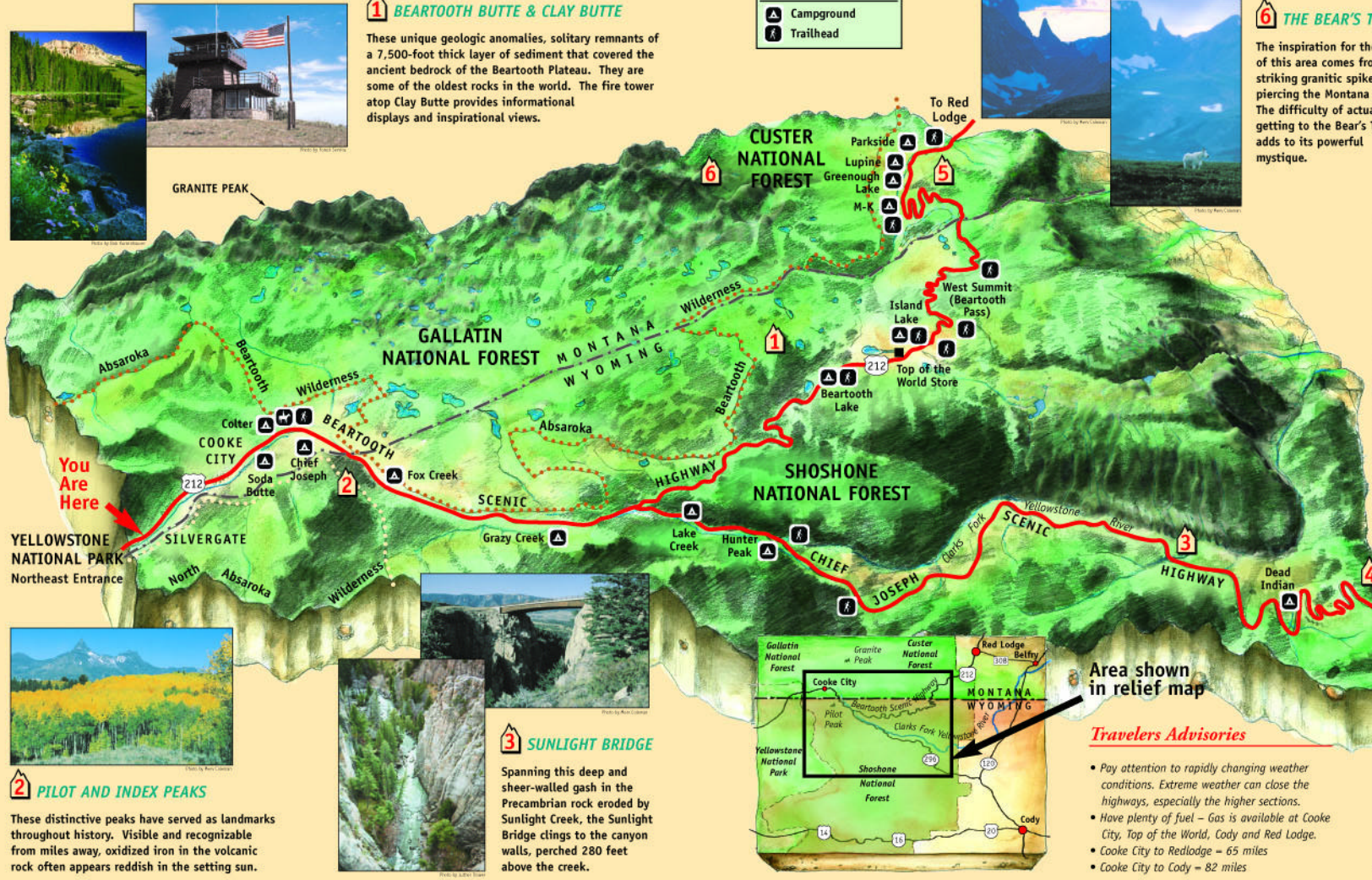
The name of this pass, as well as the name of this Byway, date from the tragic and heroic flight made by bands of Nez Perce Indians through here in 1877. Interpretive panels along both Byways explain the events and their history.

2 PILOT AND INDEX PEAKS

These distinctive peaks have served as landmarks throughout history. Visible from miles away, oxidized iron in the volcanic rock often appears reddish in the setting sun.

3 SUNLIGHT BRIDGE

Spanning this deep and sheer-walled gash in the Precambrian rock eroded by Sunlight Creek, the Sunlight Bridge clings to the canyon walls, perched 280 feet above the creek.



Area shown in relief map

Travelers Advisories

- *Pay attention to rapidly changing weather conditions. Extreme weather can close the highways, especially the higher sections.*
- *Have plenty of fuel – Gas is available at Cooke City, Top of the World, Cody and Red Lodge.*
- *Cooke City to Redlodge = 65 miles*
- *Cooke City to Cody = 82 miles*

THIS IS BEAR COUNTRY!

Bears are WILD ANIMALS. They can smell food from miles away. NEVER feed or approach bears or any other wildlife.

Gateway PANEL
72"W x 48"T