THE BACKGROUND ON THE BACKWAY

The Big Spring Scenic Backway is a 68-mile route between Kemmerer to Cokeville in Wyoming’s southwestern Lincoln County. The Backway is crisscrossed by historic emigrant trails, the scenic Hams Fork River, and plunges deep into the Tump Mountain Range in the Bridger-Teton Forest.

This rugged Wyoming backway is chock-full of local history and beautiful places to visit. It is one of only two Scenic Backways on the State of Wyoming.

Lincoln County is home to the Fossil Butte National Monument, located just west of Kemmerer. This prehistoric lakebed where paleontologists found fossils of the inhabitants of an ancient water ecosystem has a notable visitor center.

Historically, the Backway was part of the Oregon Trail and in some areas you can still see tracks and ruts left from the early pioneer’s wagons.

Good tires are highly recommended when traveling the backway.

The road is seasonal and high clearance vehicles are highly recommended.

Lincoln County, WY
925 Sage Avenue, Kemmerer, WY 83101
Phone (307) 877-9056
www.lcwy.org
See the full plan at
WWW.BIGSPRINGBACKWAY.ORG
SITES TO SEE

1. Lions Club Park & Walking Trail
Location: North of Kemmerer between SR-233 and US-189. One of the most popular spots along the Big Spring Scenic Backway. Amenities include a large pavilion, trails, and a scenic bridge over the Hams Fork River.

2. Dempsey Road
Location: 4 miles north of Kemmerer on the west side of SR-233. Dempsey Road provides backcountry access to public lands for summer recreation and is a popular destination for observing the Oregon Trail, Nancy Hill, Pioneer Graves and Commercial Fossil Quarries.

3. Kemmerer Reservoir
Location: 13 miles north of Kemmerer below Lake Viva Naughton. Popular with anglers, the reservoir offers year-round fishing for rainbow trout with a boat ramp for non-motorized access on the east side of the lake.

4. Lake Viva Naughton Dam
Location: 14 miles north of Kemmerer on SR-233. Provides public access to Lake Viva Naughton.

5. Lake Viva Naughton Marina
Location: approximately 15 miles north of Kemmerer. A popular site, the marina offers public access to the lake with two boat ramps.

6. Upper Viva Naughton
Location: 17 miles north of Kemmerer and 1 mile north of the marina (directly across the lake from Dempsey Point campground).

7. Dempsey Point
Location: 20 miles north of Kemmerer and is accessible from SR-233 along 2.3 miles of dirt road that crosses the Hams Fork River. Amenities include a boat ramp and 6 campsites with fire pits.

8. Snowmobile Area
Location: 22 miles north of Kemmerer and 5 miles past Upper Viva Naughton.

9. Elk Creek Ranger Station
Location: 36 miles north of Kemmerer on USFS Road 1062. Built in 1914, this ranger station is an important historical site along the Backway.

10. Hams Fork Campground
Location: 37 miles north of Kemmerer on USFS Road 1062. This 13-site campground is east of the Hams Fork River, with restrooms and potable water. There is a nightly usage fee for camping.

11. The Big Spring
Location: 44 miles north of Kemmerer on USFS Road 10062. The parking lot and access road are east of West Hams Fork Creek while the spring and picnic area are west of the creek. A trail and bridge connect these two areas.

12. Lake Alice Access
Location: 21 miles from Cokeville on the east side of USFS Road 10062. Lake Alice is the largest natural lake in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. This junction with Hobble Creek Road/FS-10193 provides access to the Lake Alice trailhead as well as the Hobble Creek Campground.

13. Pine Creek Ski Resort Access
Location: approximately 3.5 miles north of Cokeville on the east side of SR-232. Provides access to both the Pine Creek Ski Resort and BLM campgrounds, offering opportunities for both winter and summer recreation.

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