



Dubois, Wyoming

Where real cowboys work and play

Dubois, Wyoming was originally known as Never Sweat due to its warm and dry winds. However, the postal service found the name Never Sweat unacceptable so Dubois was accepted, named after Fred Dubois, an Idaho senator at the time. In protest, the citizens of Dubois rejected the French pronunciation, instead opting for Du with u as in Sue; bois, as oi in voice. The accent is on the first syllable.

Native Sheep Eater Indians

Thousands of years before the arrival of European trappers and settlers, early Indians of unknown origins roamed the Dubois area and left behind stone tools and other evidence of their presence for archaeologists to discover and ponder. But who they were remains a mystery.

The distinctive petroglyphs (rock art) pecked and carved on rocks in the Dinwoody and Torrey basins near Dubois are thought to have been the work of ancestors of the modern-day Sho-

shone tribes who moved up from the Great Basin around three thousand years ago.

Their descendents, the Sheep Eater Indians (Mountain Shoshone), developed a lifestyle perfectly adapted to their rugged mountain homeland that sustained them for hundreds of years. However, the Sheep Eater's harmonious way of life ended when the Yellowstone area became a national park. They were rounded up and moved to other reservations.

The remains of the Sheep Eater's hunting traps and blinds, teepee rings, and vision quest sites are still visible in the mountains around Dubois.

Tie Hacks

Wyoming Tie and Timber Company's railroad tie-cutting operation in the Shoshone National Forest near Dubois profoundly affected the economy of the Upper Wind River Valley for nearly 40 years.

Between 1914 and 1946, Scandinavian loggers known as tie hacks

produced over 10 million hand-hewn ties that were floated 100 miles down the Wind River to Riverton in massive weeks-long drives. A wooden flume constructed to carry the ties from the mountains to the river was considered a marvel of engineering at the time, and large sections of the flume are still visible today.

The Scandinavian tie hacks also brought their culture and traditions to the tiny community growing up along the Wind River. Dubois' annual spring Swedish Smorgasbord is a legacy of the tie hacks.

The exploits of the hard-working tie hacks when they came into Dubois also became local legends. Tie hacks worked all winter in deep snow and bitter cold, and they played as hard as they worked when they came into town.

The river tie drives ended in 1946 as the importance of railroads waned. Ties were trucked down from the mountains to Riverton for a few more years, but a colorful era had come to an end. Today, a memorial west of Dubois plays tribute to the rugged Scandinavian tie hacks.



Tie hacks drive ties down the Wind River.

Native Sheep Eater Indian petroglyphs near Dubois.



There's something for everyone

National Big Horn Sheep Interpretive Center: Learn about wild sheep through hands-on exhibits. Winter tours are available to provide a wonderful opportunity to view wildlife on the winter range of Whisky Mountain Herd.

Dubois Museum & Wind River Historical Center: A living history museum that presents and interprets the history of Wyoming's Upper Wind River Valley including the Sheep Eater Indians.

Galleries: From fine art to carved antlers and custom leather, Dubois is home to numerous galleries which represent the finest artists and artisans

in western Wyoming. The authentic West lives in Wind River Country artists.

Out door Adventure:
Wildlife: Dubois is home to one of the largest native Big Horn Sheep populations in the U.S. Visiting the Whiskey Peak herd is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Not only can you see Big Horn Sheep, but moose, elk, grizzly bear, black bear, wolf, deer and mountain lion are abundant.

Fishing: Fishing in the Wind River Range is an experience like no other. It has been called "one of the last great frontiers of U.S. fly

fishing" by the Angling Report. The Wind River Range cuts a huge diagonal swath across west central Wyoming. Part of the Continental Divide, the Wind River Range boasts the state's highest mountains.

Trails: Dubois, like Lander, offers spectacular outdoor possibilities for the adventurous. A combined 806,349 acres of the most spectacular wilderness area in the lower 48 states stretches from the Cirque of Towers to the Absoraka Range. There are seven trailheads in the upper Wind River (Fitzpatrick and Washakie Wilderness) that allow access nearly 450 miles

of non-motorized trails, ATV trails, 16 miles of x-country trails and 135 miles of snowmobile trails.

Snowmobile: Appealing to many sledders is the variety of riding available on the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail. There's something for everyone in terms of skill level and length of trail. There are hundreds of miles of groomed trails, or ungroomed powder. Plus, exceptional services are available throughout the trail system so you can end each day with a hot meal and comfortable lodging.

Pack horse races held annually at town park

The Don Scheer Memorial Packhorse Race is held in late May at the Dubois Town Park. The race features teams of both men and women competing. Each race consists of teams breaking down their camp, packing up one horse, saddle two other horses and trotting a seven-mile course. At which point they must unpack the horse, have a 15-minute break, trot another seven-mile course and set up camp again. The first team (two people, three horses) to complete the

course wins.

There is a calcutta on Friday evening where spectators meet the teams and in an auction format purchase the team they expect to win. A first, second, and third place will be awarded for each race with 10% given to charity.

The races consist of several divisions including an all women's Powder-Puff race, the Open Division and the Old Timer's division whose teams combined age must be at least 100 years old.



The 2009 winner speeds to the finish line.

Dubois holds annual antler rendezvous

The largest one of a kind gathering of antler buyers, sellers, brokers, builders and crafters from coast to coast met in Dubois. It was the 5th annual Dubois Antler Rendezvous sponsored by the Dubois Lions Club and Boy Scout Troop 56. Woodworker's Supply was a corporate sponsor (<http://woodworker.com>). Located in the Dubois City Park, the Rendezvous was five days long.

The event attracted antler dealers, brokers, wildlife enthusiasts, store owners and antler pickers. The public and dealers alike could choose from thousands of elk, deer, moose, red stag, and caribou antlers, plus heads, hides, horns, antler arts & crafts, furniture, chandeliers and skulls. Anything antler you can think of was on display and for sale at the rendezvous. Great buys for store owners and good prices for antler pickers.

The event is a great place

for buying or selling antler, for decorators and home owners to meet antler builders and see a variety of their work, or for builders and crafters to select first hand the antler they need for their projects during the year. Also just fun browsing for the family.

All things antler were on display. "Sue" a life sized Bull Elk Statue made by Kurt Gordon of Dubois greeted tourists. The statue was on display at the rendezvous and is made entirely from antler including, mule deer, elk, moose and antelope.

Other Rendezvous highlights included a variety of food vendors, children's games and a Budweiser wagon. The 14-inch Woodtek band saw donated by Woodworker's Supply was won by Dan Williams of Dubois. The 50/50 raffle was won by Pam Wyant of Dubois.

Visit the website for more

details:<http://www.duboisantlerrendezvous.com> or contact Joe Brandl, president, Dubois Lions Club, 307 455-2440, email at awd@dteworld.com or <http://www.duboisantlerrendezvous.com>

absarokawesterndesign.com or Kurt Gordon: 307-455-2204 tworiver@mac.com or <http://www.antlergallery.com> push the hot button for "Sue's Story."



"Sue" a life sized Bull Elk Statue made by Kurt Gordon of Dubois.

Swedish Smorgasbord celebrates heritage

Everyone is invited to join the citizens of Dubois at the community's annual Swedish Smorgasbord at the Dubois Headwaters Center on the second Saturday in June. The smorgasbord features traditional Scandinavian food and live entertainment. The buffet-style dinner is served at 5 and 6 p.m. The Swedish Smorgasbord celebrates the Scandinavian heritage

of the tie hacks (loggers) who cut railroad cross-ties in the national forest near Dubois for almost forty years. Each spring a smorgasbord was held to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of a one hundred mile "tie drive" (float) down the Wind River to the railroad terminal in Riverton. For more information, phone the Dubois Museum at 307-455-2284.

Silver Sage Gallery
Dubois, Wyoming

www.silversagegallery.com
307-455-3002