CRAZY MOUNTAINS AND BASIN

East Face of the Crazy Mountains viewed from the Great Plains.
Image: Ellis, M., 2015, East Face of the Crazy Mountains,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crazy_Mountains_January_2015.jpg

Wow Factor *(y axis of z chart)*

★★★★☆

Geologist Factor *(x axis of z chart)*

★★★

TOP CRAZY MOUNTAINS & BASIN PLACES

Attraction

Rising about 7,000 feet above the plains, the Crazy Mountains are an awe-inspiring sight of an island of jagged ice-carved peaks of Tertiary igneous rock.

History of Crazy Mountains and Basin

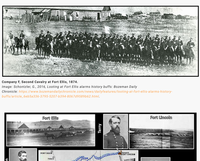
One legend for the name Crazy Mountains is that it is short for "Crazy Woman Mountains." The Crow Indians supposedly called the range the Mountains of Crazy Woman, after a woman who had lost her mind after her husband died. This is appropriate, and the Plains origin is a simple translation error. The Crow called the mountains "Awaxaxpa Pa" (Dimmick Mountains) because they held the area sacred and used the mountains as vision quests where the "little people" (see Pryor Mountains) who would give enlightenment. Early European explorers interpreted "vision quest" and "ominous mountains" as a phrase to go crazy, and hence the name.

The Bozeman trail was a short cut from Fort Laramie to the Montana gold fields at Virginia City. The route crossed Indian territory through the southern Crazy Mountain basin. Bozeman Pass is the highest elevation (5,750 feet MSL) along the trail. The Crow Indians were forced to cede the Bozeman Trail in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. Forts were built and were used by pales Indians since the last ice age. William Clark, guided by Sacajawea, followed the trail on his return rendezvous with Captain Lewis at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in 1806. Nelson Story drove the first cattle herd into Montana along the Bozeman Trail. Paradise Valley in 1866. This was the first major cattle herd into Montana and began the states cattle industry.

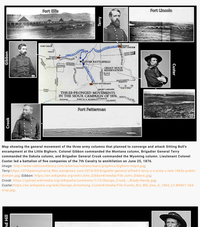
Fort Ellis was built in 1867 about 4 miles east of Bozeman (Rosebud 1864). The Fort was named after Colonel Augustus Van Horn Ellis who died at the Battle of Gettysburg defending Little Round Top. The forts mission was to protect settlers and miners in Bozeman and the Gallatin valley region, serve as an operations post during the Indian wars, a base camp for military expeditions, and a supply depot. Fort Ellis was the headquarters for the Yellowstone Expedition of the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1870, Lt. Gustavus Doane(escort the Washburn Expedition from the fort into the Yellowstone region). Colonel John Gibbon led infantry and cavalry eastward along the Yellowstone River from Fort Ellis on the Bozeman Trail to Fort Pease (Glendive) and Fort Lincoln (Bismarck). Gibbon's Battle of the Big Hole against the "Nez Perce Indians" arrived at the Little Bighorn battle ground two days after Custer's 7th Cavalry defeat. Troops also participated in the Nez Perce war of 1877 again under the leadership of Colonel Gibbon. The Northern Pacific Railroad reached Fort Ellis and Bozeman in 1883 and the town of Bozeman was platted. Fort Ellis was abandoned in 1886 and completed 1891. Livingston became an important hub in NPR's service towns before crossing Bozeman Pass. Originally the line used switchbacks to climb over the pass until 1884 when the first tunnel was completed 256 feet below the pass. Bozeman Pass was the highest point on the Northern Pacific Railroad. Bozeman Tunnel was built through the Crazy Mountain area in 1907 as part of moving the best railroad route between the 49th and 47th parallels. Fort Ellis was decommissioned and abandoned in 1886.

Top: South view of Fort Ellis in 1871. Mt. Ellis in the background. Bottom: North view of Fort Ellis (outside Historical Marker 2.50 Frontage Rd) in 2010. Snow topped Bolly and Sacajawea Peaks, Bridger Range in the background.
Top: Fort Ellis, Montana, 1871, Fort Ellis Montana, Flickr,
https://flickr.com/photos/ksc1/3577541/in/photostream/
Bottom: http://www.flickr.com/photos/53377541@N05/4 ...4_Fortresses.jpg

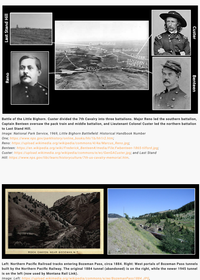
Hand drawn map of Fort Ellis, 1884. Location codes: A. Officer Quarters, B. Bachelor Officer Quarters, C. Company Barracks, D. G. M. Hopkins & Friends, E. Post Headquarters, F. Hospital, G. Commissary, H. Grocery, I. Guard House, J. Sawmill, K. Laundry Shop, L. Fort Gardens, M. Carpenter's Shop, N. Fort Bakery, O. Magazine, and P. Blacksmith Shop.
Image: Fire Forest, B., 2016, Bozeman/Fort Ellis, Illegal Dry Kitchen Fort Ellis pioneer archaeological complex, Billings Gazette,
https://www.billingsgazette.com/news/local/bozeman/bozeman-fort-ellis-pioneer-archaeological-complex-illegal-dry-kitchen/article_c9b4c7b1-a9b2-5f1f-b1a0-e6d7ef74d2f3.html



Company F, Second Cavalry at Fort Ellis, 1874.
Image: Schontzler, C., 2016, Loading at Fort Ellis alarms history buffs, Bozeman Daily Chronicle,
http://www.bozdailychronicle.com/news/local/loading-at-fort-ellis-alarms-history-buffs/article_a0d1d0f0-d9ed-11e6-a7ad-0ba0f7ed7b0d.html

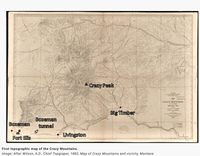


Map showing the general movement of the three army columns that planned to converge and attack Sitting Bull's Hostile Sioux Indians. Colonel John Gibbon commanded the Montana column from Fort Ellis, Colonel Custer commanded the Dakota column, and Brigadier General Crook commanded the Wyoming column. General Custer led a battalion of five companies of the 7th Cavalry to annihilation on June 25, 1876.
Image: Unknown, 1876, Map of the Sioux Campaign,
http://www.loc.gov/pnp/cwar/maps/sioux1.html
Text: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sioux_Campaign_Map_of_the_army_of_the_Indian_pacification_1876.jpg; Gibbon: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gibbon#Indian%20_wars_.28Sioux.29; Custer: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle%20_of%20_the%20_Little%20_Bighorn#Custer%20_Battalion.2C%20_June%20_25.2C%20_1876
Caption: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Armstrong,%20Custer%20Fight%20_Little%20_Big%20_Horn,%20_1876,%20_Battle%20_Scene.jpg

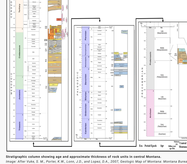


Battle of the Little Bighorn. Custer divided the 7th Cavalry into three battalions. Major Reno led the southern battalion, Captain Benteen oversaw the pack train and middle battalion, and commanded Colonel Custer led the northern battalion to Last Stand Hill.
Image: Northern Pacific Service, 1969, Little Bighorn Battlefield: Historical Handbook Number 26,
http://www.nps.gov/parallel/publications/26/index.htm
Reno: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/4/Marcus_Reno.jpg
Custer: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0/Custer.jpg/220px-Custer.jpg
Caption: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5/Last_Stand_map.jpg/300px-Last_Stand_map.jpg, *and Last Stand*
Hill: https://www.nps.gov/libi/learn/historyculture/The-Last-Stand-Hill.htm

Left: Northern Pacific Railroad tracks entering Bozeman Pass, circa 1884. Right: Blast projects of Bozeman Pass tunnel built by the Northern Pacific Railway. The original 1884 tunnel (abandoned) is on the right, while the newer 1907 tunnel is on the left (now used by Montana Rail Link).
Image: Unknown, 1884, Bozeman Pass,
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bozeman_Pass_tunnel_2.JPG
Right: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bozeman_Pass_tunnel_2.JPG



A portion of the 1902 Northern Pacific Railroad Company map and area images. Red line = Northern Pacific line. Green = Bozeman Tunnel. Yellow line = Bozeman Pass. Green dashed line = line to be concreted. Shaded region is the best grazing area. Yellow star is Crazy Mountains.
Image: After: Rand McNally and Company, and Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Northern Pacific Railroad Co. - completed 1883 - September 6th. Chicago, 1883,
http://www.loc.gov/pnp/pop/pop0000/pop0000.html#pop0000.pop0000.0.0.0


Ma
Tertiary
Cretaceous
Jurassic
Triassic
Permian
Pennsylvanian
Mississippian
Devonian
Silurian
Ordovician
Cambrian
Precambrian
Sr Isotope
0.700
0.710
0.720
0.730
0.740
0.750
0.760
0.770
0.780
0.790
0.800
0.810
0.820
0.830
0.840
0.850
0.860
0.870
0.880
0.890
0.900
0.910
0.920
0.930
0.940
0.950
0.960
0.970
0.980
0.990
1.000
1.010
1.020
1.030
1.040
1.050
1.060
1.070
1.080
1.090

Natural Bridge Falls scarp face at high (left) and low (right) water flow of the Boulder River. A = main cataract, B = upper solution cave; C = lower solution cave.
Image: https://geochristian.com/2014/07/03/natural-bridge-falls/.

Northeast aerial view of Boulder River disappearance (red arrow) and emergence (blue arrow) points at Natural Bridge Falls Park. Erosion has produced solution cavities that allow the river to flow underground.
Image: Google Earth.

© The material on this page is copyrighted

Proudly powered by Weebly