

*Meanwhile, back at...*



*...All the news that fits*

# THE RANCH

SPRING 2017

**W**e can live our entire lives and, though some of us might try, still not see all this world has to offer us. We cannot possibly explore all of its reaches. But, if we are lucky, we find pieces of it that we come to call home. Little corners of this world that hold within them this awe-inspiring fusion of people and place and that will forever captivate those who are fortunate enough to find it. The 7D Ranch is, for many, such a place.

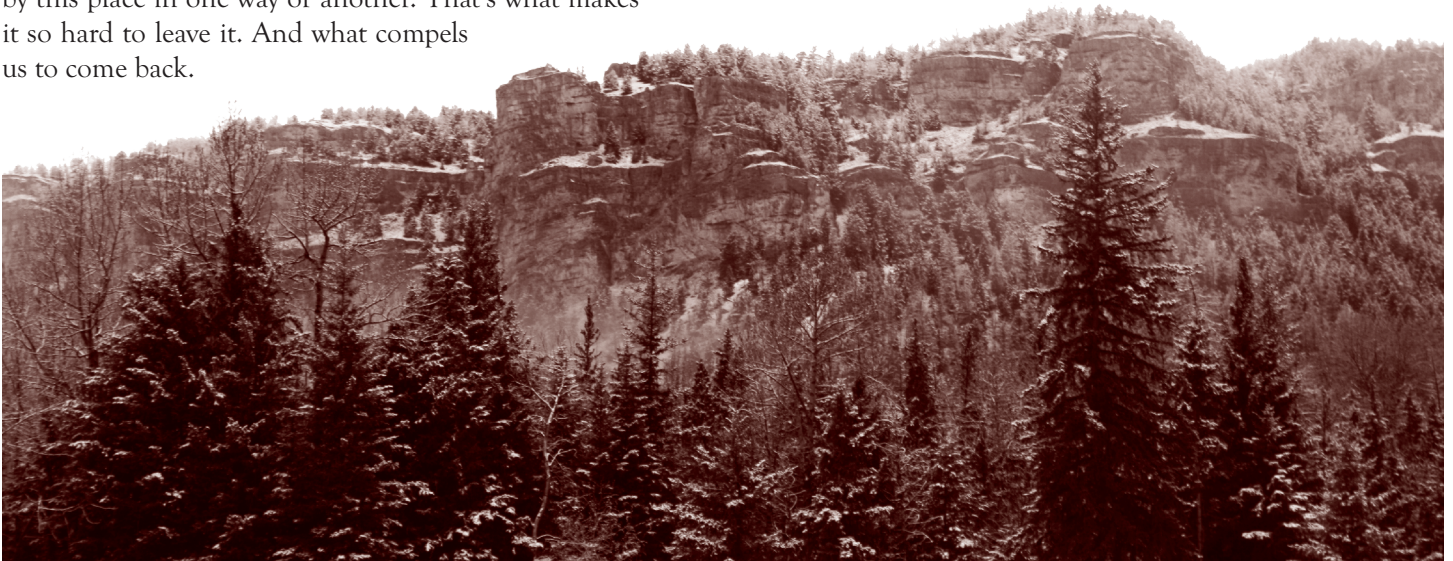
As May approaches, I find myself dreaming of early chilled mornings, walking across the damp lawn to breakfast and looking up to see Elkhorn against the clear, cold morning sky. Then going into the staff room and drinking that first cup of hot coffee while the rest of the staff fills in around the tables. This dream ends with all of us exchanging good mornings, while laughter fills the room and we wait to see what the new day has to bring.

I'm sure that many of you, like myself, pause throughout your days in the "real world" and think about time spent here. Maybe you try to imagine yourself looking out over Gates of Sunlight, or simply sitting in one of the wooden chairs on the patio. Maybe you hunger for rushing waters, the pulse of a beautiful trout on the other end of the line. Or maybe you hear the Boot Scootin' Boogie and wonder why no one else is dancing. Whatever the case, I think we've all been captivated by this place in one way or another. That's what makes it so hard to leave it. And what compels us to come back.

My soul has been longing for Sunlight Basin since that snow-covered morning in September when I left it. I think about my time there everyday, reflecting on conversations had with guests, the incredible people I came to know, missing the other staff members and the Dominick family with all my heart. I count down the days until I see many of those same faces again, and all the new ones that will be new lights to the 7D. Though last season was only my first at the ranch, I imagine that every summer is different in its own special way. Last season's constellation of people and moments will never repeat themselves in the same way again. But I think that's what makes places like the 7D so special. Those stories and people keep collecting over time and the land holds them there in its memory. Watching people discover the gifts of the land and the stories of what has passed there day after day, whether it's for the first time or all over again; that is what brings me back here.

So until that next time you find yourself driving down Sunlight Road, keep sunlight in your heart, wherever you are.

*— Hannah Jacobsma (staff)*







## *This winter in Cody has been quite the season*

with lots of snow, wind and sun. It's been a great few weeks as I have settled into the office at the 7D, and it's been such fun preparing for our coming season.

We have a large portion of our staff returning from last and other previous seasons which we couldn't be more excited about - it continues to be such a wonderful sign that our staff come back year after year! The upcoming season has really started to kick off as our guest packets were sent out last week. We have already started to get our guest questionnaires back and are starting to figure out the details for each of our guest weeks - everything from airport pickups to horse preferences!

For those of you on social media, I've been making a push to make the 7D Ranch more visible - this includes everything from daily Facebook postings to weekly blog entries to starting the ranch's Instagram account (@7DRanch) several weeks ago - it's been a fun adventure and we encourage you to follow along! You're also welcome to send us your favorite photos from the 7D, and we would be happy to feature them.

Seeing the Ranch for the first time in the winter continues to amaze me - the snow, the wildlife, the peaceful serenity of the place is so beautiful. The moose, elk and deer that hang out on both Sunlight Road and the 7D driveway are truly incredible - I never fail to stop and take pictures whenever I'm up there.

Looking forward to meeting and seeing everyone again for what I know will be another wonderful season at the 7D!

*—Emily Swett (staff)*





**F**or those of you who don't know, we embarked on a major update at the 7D Ranch starting last fall! We are nearly done building our brand new Big Buffalo cabin! We can't wait for this year's guests to break it in.

We started the demolition of the former Big Buff at the beginning of October, and it was quite a shock to see the lawn without that notable cabin standing front and center. Our builders / winter caretakers: Byron Kinkade and Jesse Tillotson have done an outstanding job. They have remained ahead of schedule with the whole project and they were able to use almost all of the old cabin logs in the new structure. The two of them milled all of these logs into boards and timbers which are now accenting the new cabin.

For those of you who are wondering, the new Big Buff will have 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a large, beautiful sitting room and can comfortably accommodate up to 8 guests. It was constructed in the same spot – just a newer version with the same feel of the existing cabins. We feel very fortunate to have the ability to take on a project of this magnitude. Thanks to all of you for your support in making it possible for this to happen. We can't wait to unveil it for the upcoming 2017 season.

The most remarkable thing about this project and our builders is that they have accomplished all of this and looked after the ranch in one of the most severe winters Sunlight Basin has experienced in the last 100 years. Byron and Jesse are two remarkable men and carpenters who truly have made the 7D a better place.



---

*Who's coming back?* That's a question that both staff and guest frequently inquire about for the upcoming summer staff. Of the 23 staff hired, 19 are returning from a previous summer. Nineteen! That means that you will be in good hands with some experienced, reliable, hardworking individuals. As our day revolves around the delicious ranch food, we start off with Jeff Horanski as our returning head cook. He will be returning from the last two summers and will humor us with his creative kitchen delights. In the corrals, we will have Sam Kesler as corral boss, with Adam Bross, Jacqueline Roodbeen, Julianna Franklin, Kyle Buck (year 8 for this guy, been around as long as we have!), Tyler Minden and Wyatt Dominick as supporting wranglers. Emily Swett will be taking over the ranch office, act as hostess, and fill in where needed. She has been helping most of the winter,

working hard getting the office in order and helping us with daily ranch operations that occur in the off season. Anthony Zinsmaster or commonly referred to as "The Zinsmaster" and Dominick Vanderlip or "Dom" will be again helping guests master the art of fly-fishing. We welcome Kristen Nussel back as our head housekeeper with an experienced staff to round out the crew, Emma Byers, Hannah Jacobsma, Lily Pickering, and Nina Mazza. Bryon Kinkade will be staying on as our maintenance man after working tirelessly all winter on the new Big Buffalo. Tristan Richardson will continue on as irrigator/ranch hand along with Jack Eisner. As for new staff, we are welcoming in a bunch of friends, past guests, and experienced individuals to fill in the gaps.

*—Andrea Dominick*

# BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY!

OUR SCHEDULE IS FILLING UP • HERE ARE THE AVAILABLE DATES

**JUNE 18 - 25** (three multi-room cabins) | **JUNE 25 - JULY 2** (two one-bedroom cabins)

**JULY 2 - 9** (two one-bedroom cabins) | **JULY 16 - 23** (two one-bedroom cabins)

**JULY 30 - AUGUST 6** (two multi-room cabins) | **AUGUST 20 - 27** (two cabins), and

**SEPTEMBER 10 - 17** (eight cabins)

*Call us soon. We don't want to miss you this summer!*



THE 7D IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM, FIND US @7DRANCH



tripadvisor®

*Can you help us?*

We have 196 TripAdvisor.com reviews. Can we make it to 200 by the start of the 2017 season? Help us stay on top. If you haven't done so please fill out a review for your 7D Ranch stay.



Our mailing list has been growing significantly every year and we want to make sure it is up to date. If your address or contact information has changed, please email us at **ranch7d@wyoming.com**. We would be happy to update it for you, so that you continue to receive our newsletter and Christmas card!

7Dranch.com

888.587.9885

Cody, WY 82414

P.O. Box 100

