

Brewster Ranch

Jim & William Brewster built a cabin and corrals East of the Bighorn Campground along the Red Deer River in or before 1904. Look carefully as you ride the horse trail from Bighorn campground towards Eagle Creek Campground and you can still see faint remains of the large round corral on the North side of the trail and very close to the trail. In the Historic Exhibit at the ranch are photos of one of the Brewster's or perhaps one of their staff riding a bronc in this corral.

Near this old corral site is a trail that heads towards the river. Along the East side of the trail an old cellar can be seen. Perhaps the location of their cabin.

In 1907 the Brewster's obtained a lease to ranch the valley and established their ranch on a site East of Scalp Creek where the Cascade Fire Road joins the ranch road. If you look carefully, you will find stone walk ways, stone foundations and a cellar located on the North side of the Cascade Fire Road under the spruce trees that have grown up over the years. Also, on the South side of the Cascade Fire Road in the bush along Scalp Creek is the remains of an old water chute and fenced area. This water chute may have been built in later years as outfitters used this site as a campground for many years after the Brewster's Lease expired. There is also a cellar like hole located on the South side of the Cascade Fire Road at the Brewster Ranch site.

At one time (up to the late 1960s) there was a carving in a large tree at this ranch site. This carving was likely done by Jack Fuller when he worked for the Brewster's in about 1916-17 and later he worked at the Ya Ha Tinda in the 1920's. Unfortunately, the carving disappeared many years ago.

In 1915 the Brewster Ranch experienced the Scalp Creek flood that washed away several of their buildings and corrals.

The remains of an old round log corral is visible adjacent to the ranch road South of the current hay stackyard. This old corral is fast deteriorating. When we lived there the gate could still plainly be seen, however, it is not noticeable any longer. This corral can be dated back to perhaps 1915-16 as it was likely built by the Brewster's on high ground after the devastating flood of 1915 which washed away the corrals on the creek level.



This is all that remains of the old Brewster round log corral on the ranch road above Scalp Creek.

The current bunk house at the Ya Ha Tinda was built in 1917 at the Brewster Ranch site on Scalp Creek by Park Wardens Jack Bevan, Jack Warren and Scotty Wright. It was moved to its present location in about 1918 or 1919 after the Brewster's lease expired.

©Marie Nylund
July, 2011