

**BIGHORN LAKE**  
 Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area  
 Lovell, Wyoming

**Recreational Guide**  
**ML Ramp**  
**Map 6**

Provided by Friends of Bighorn Lake  
 www.bighornlake.com  
 Designed by Ashley Decker.  
 In cooperation with  
 Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area  
 Northwest College, and Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.  
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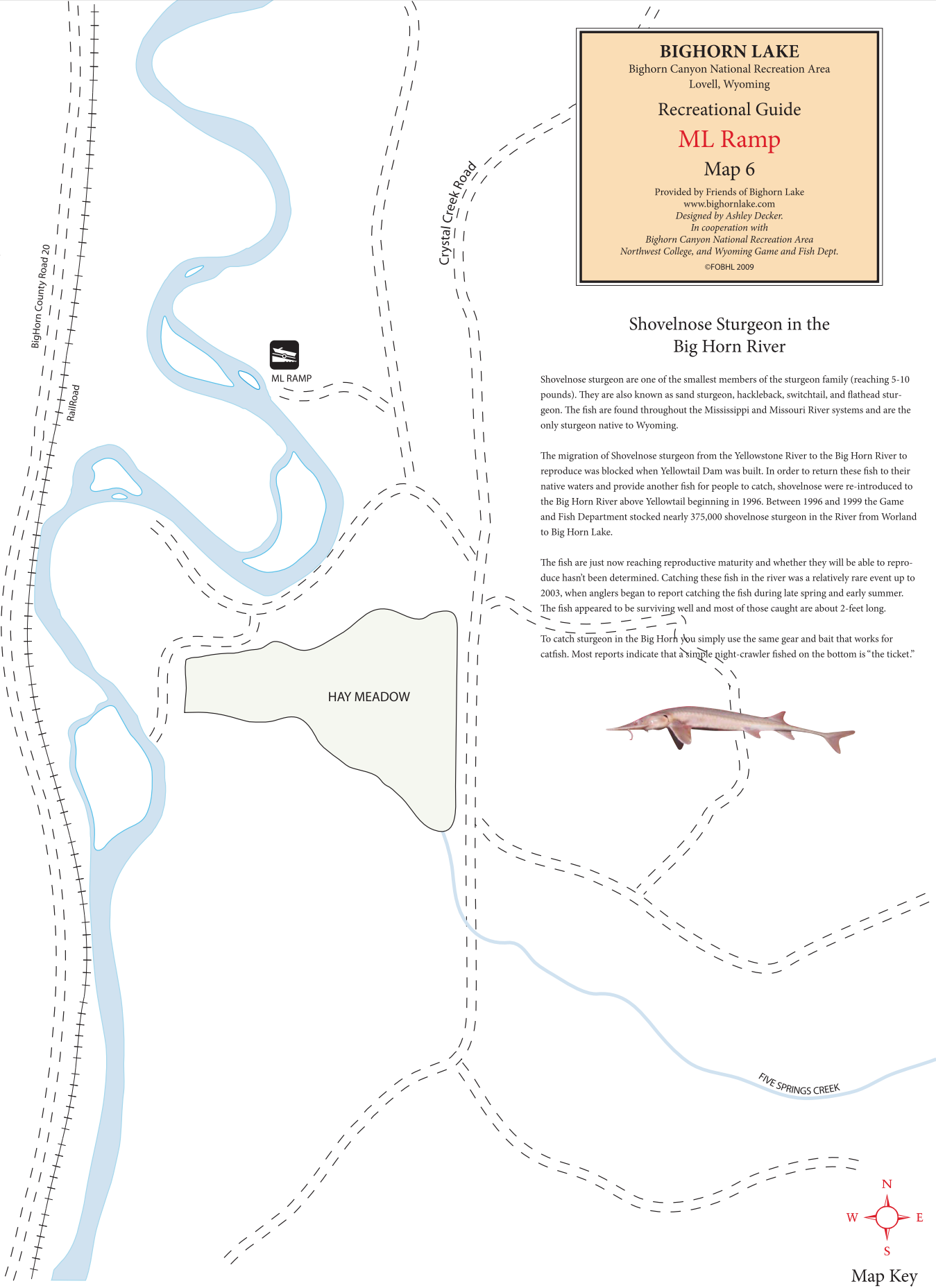
**Shovelnose Sturgeon in the  
 Big Horn River**

Shovelnose sturgeon are one of the smallest members of the sturgeon family (reaching 5-10 pounds). They are also known as sand sturgeon, hackleback, switchtail, and flathead sturgeon. The fish are found throughout the Mississippi and Missouri River systems and are the only sturgeon native to Wyoming.

The migration of Shovelnose sturgeon from the Yellowstone River to the Big Horn River to reproduce was blocked when Yellowtail Dam was built. In order to return these fish to their native waters and provide another fish for people to catch, shovelnose were re-introduced to the Big Horn River above Yellowtail beginning in 1996. Between 1996 and 1999 the Game and Fish Department stocked nearly 375,000 shovelnose sturgeon in the River from Worland to Big Horn Lake.

The fish are just now reaching reproductive maturity and whether they will be able to reproduce hasn't been determined. Catching these fish in the river was a relatively rare event up to 2003, when anglers began to report catching the fish during late spring and early summer. The fish appeared to be surviving well and most of those caught are about 2-feet long.

To catch sturgeon in the Big Horn you simply use the same gear and bait that works for catfish. Most reports indicate that a simple night-crawler fished on the bottom is "the ticket."



Map Key

Roads    - - - - - gravel/dirt  
           ▬▬▬▬▬ paved

