

# **ELK CREEK RANCH**

**Western Ranch & Wilderness  
Experiences for Young People**





# Elk Creek Ranch

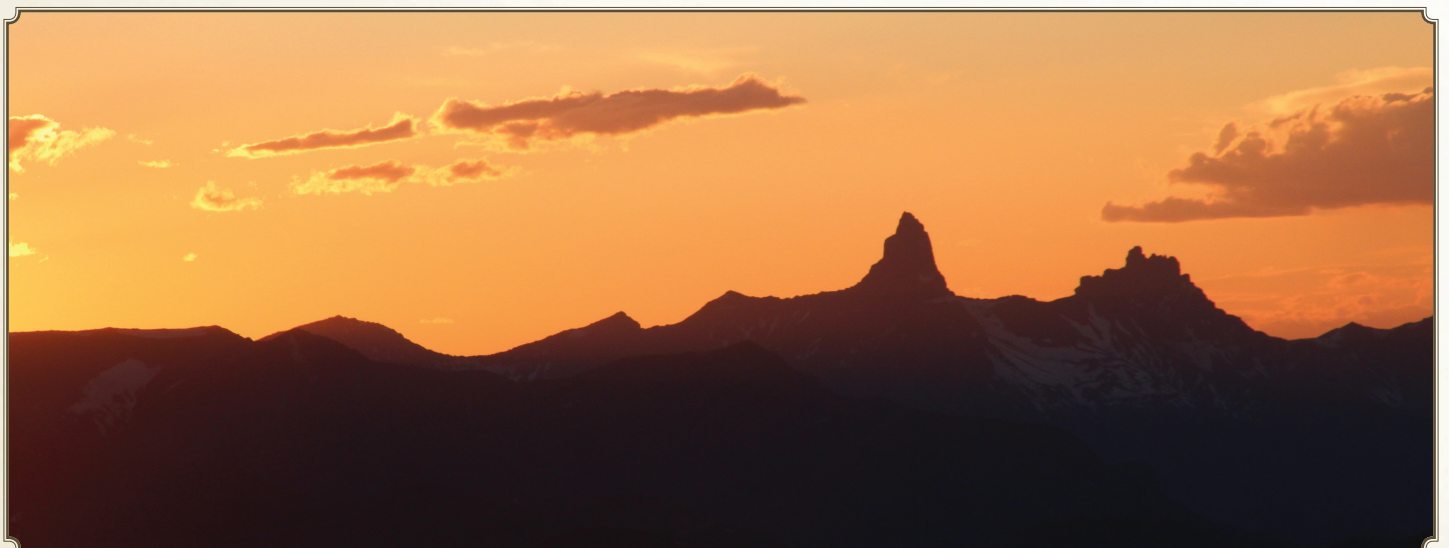
is located in Sunlight Valley, Wyoming. It is surrounded by the Northern Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, each reaching up 13,000 feet, and protected by National Wilderness areas. To see Sunlight Valley now is to see it much the way it has always been.

The ranch itself started as a homestead in the early 1900's. The buildings are all log structures and many have been built over the years by the ranchers. We have two bunkhouses for boys and two for girls as well as a rec hall and cook (or dining) house. Hardy as we may be or hope to be, we are also fond of some



“creature comforts”; all bunkhouses have full bathrooms with hot and cold running water.

Elk Creek has always been a small community numbering no more than 60 people, which includes all staff and family. This unusual smallness creates a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Each child is only briefly a stranger. Soon all ranchers fit together in a rich mosaic of varied backgrounds, interests, and talents. In fact, in such a small community, each child is vital to all of our endeavors. The smallness also allows us to be mobile and flexible in planning activities.







**We are a uniquely small community sharing many different adventures.**







*“Lucas arrived home over the moon happy and so full of wonderful stories. We can’t thank you enough for offering him ‘the best experience of my life’. We are so grateful for all the care, nurturing and ADVENTURE you provided him for 4 weeks. The stories keep coming and we will never tire of listening. Lucas will forever cherish his time and something tells me that you have not seen the last of him..... Thank you all for everything.”*



# We are Family

Founded by family in 1957 and defined by our uniquely small community for the last half century, Elk Creek Ranch offers 12-to-17 year olds an authentic ranch and Rocky Mountain wilderness experience. Family members, many of whom have wedded their summer involvement in the ranch to professions in education, continue to be committed to that mission.



-  HISTORY
-  PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS
-  SMALL, TIGHT KNIT COMMUNITY
-  FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED





# We are a Horse Ranch

 TRAIL RIDES

 FOAL TRAINING

 BARREL RACING

 4 DAY PACK TRIPS



The central activity at Elk Creek Ranch is western horseback riding. We assign horses according to the riding backgrounds of the ranchers to ensure that each person has a challenging yet safe riding experience. Our daily afternoon rides cover over 100 square miles of the Rocky Mountains. One day will find us riding to a favorite swimming hole; the next we will have lunch at 9,000 feet. Near the end of each session we have a gymkhana, or small rodeo, to celebrate and to show the progress in riding skills. The climax of the riding comes at the end of each session when we take out a four-day packtrip. We travel into the most remote portions of the Northern Absaroka Wilderness Area with everything we need for a backcountry experience.










# We are Work

The second central ranch activity is the work program. A ranch experience without ranch work is as artificial as it is unrewarding. All ranchers tackle the chores and projects that keep the ranch going, each morning before lunch. One of the most gratifying parts of the Elk Creek Ranch experience is seeing the ranchers' positive reactions and dedication to the tangible work. The work includes normal ranch chores, from fixing corrals and fences to irrigating the pastures, and major building projects. We try in all ways possible to be self-reliant, providing our own materials for projects.









-  LOG CABIN CONSTRUCTION
-  HORSE TRAINING
-  FENCE BUILDING
-  RAISING HAY
-  WRANGLING





# We are Play



-  WHITEWATER RAFTING
-  SKIING & GLISSADING
-  TARGET SHOOTING
-  BACKPACKING
-  SWIMMING
-  FISHING



Elk Creek Ranch also offers a large number of activities. The 12,000 foot Beartooth mountains provide glaciers for skiers, boarders, sledgers, and glissaders. Lakes in the Beartooths and nearby rivers and streams provide trout fishing. Yellowstone and Teton National Parks provide spectacular country for our three-day caravan and white water for our rafting trip on the Snake River. A professional mountain guide service offers classes in technical rock climbing. Cody provides town experiences ranging from the Fourth of July parade to the rodeo to the Whitney Gallery of Western Art. Backpacking has become more and more popular, and we offer overnight and end-of-session four-day trips into the most remote areas of Sunlight Valley.



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