



Christ...

changing **Character...**

affecting **Culture.**

Bighorn's Vision of Responsible and Transformational Discipleship

Introduction

Bighorn Ministries takes discipleship to new levels of experience by powerfully combining God's word with adventure based camping. Set in the "big sky" of Montana, guided by an incredible team of adventure guides, Bighorn Ministries takes people to the next level in their relationship with God.

Bighorn Beginnings

Bighorn Ministries combines God's truth; the Montana outdoors and adventure based camping, to create life-changing experiences with God.

This vision was formally launched on April 13, 1985 with a unanimous vote of the Columbia Conference board of Trustees to buy the "Jack Lane" Ranch in the big sky country of Montana.

In the past 10 years Bighorn Ministries have impacted over 10,000 people through a beautiful ranch setting, outdoor adventure, and intentional community in the context of the clear teaching of God's word. Bighorn Ministries continues to build on a strong foundation as it combines the history of a Ranch with the dynamics of adventure-based discipleship.

The program centers on discipleship, which promotes process and perspective; small groups, which invite identity and intimacy; and changed environments, which allow a measure of adequacy and adventure.

Bighorn Ministries' core values are an individual's biblical response and responsibility to God and to others. [an individual, biblical response, biblical responsibility, community]

Bighorn Ministries was first envisioned as an outdoor recreational camp with activities such as hunting and fishing to be included in a more rustic environment than that of a traditional Christian camp. Whitewater rafting was an obvious and early activity to be offered.

The adventure format was soon chosen and teaching responsibility within discipleship became the ministry foundation for the camp. Rock climbing, ropes course, backpacking, mountain biking, rafting, canoeing, problem-solving initiatives, kayaking, mountain climbing, backcountry skiing, winter survival and snowshoeing were developed as activities highlighting a scriptural context in which to teach the responsibility within discipleship. Once the adventure format matured, staffing settled in at a minimum ratio of one staff for every four participants. This ratio is twice that of most Christian camping ministries and is often enhanced to a one-to-two ratio.

Bighorn Bearing Fruit

Lone Ram Ranch was launched in 2006 with the dream of continuing the discipleship process with equestrian activities and a dream to create an alternative boys school. The equestrian facet is a discipleship program utilizing horses. The impact on participant's lives is in the area of relationships and stewardship.

At The Lone Ram Ranch we see the family unit as a powerful witness for Christ. The family's love for each other, ability to forgive, and above average conflict resolution skills are observed by the community. Lone Ram Ranch improves that witness to the world. Whether participants come to the Ranch with their family or alone, each person will grow closer to the Lord. It is the mission to assist people in living peaceably with each other, which will in turn prepare them to go into the world and be true disciples for Christ. Successful horsemanship requires relational skills and care. These lessons are then transferred to family relationships.

The boys' school called "Sons of Timothy" will disciple boys needing special help. "Sons of Timothy" fulfills early dreams of using horses and the ranch setting for purposeful Christian discipleship. This boys school will help the students build relationships with horses, each other, and finally rebuild relationships with their families. Restored relationships impact not only the kingdom, but also our northwest communities. Sons of Timothy is at the start-up phase and requires start up capital.

Bighorn Ministries has come to be known as "overflow" ministries. This means that the staff is spiritually enriched in both knowledge and experience and then given opportunity to pour into participants. Many stories illustrate the results; stories of strengthened marriages, restored parent child relationships, life commitments, salvations, and spiritual growth. One story in particular is of a family participating in the challenge course. Their challenge was to work their way through a maze blindfolded. Just as they entered the maze the youngest child's blindfold was removed. As the staff announced this change in status, the family immediately began to depend upon this young boy to help them interpret and decide how to continue. At the completion of the maze the family was asked to review their experience and share spiritual insights. As the dad was telling how proud he was of his son, the staff shifted eye contact from dad to son. Even though their son was too young to process the concepts, he understood clearly his dad's compliment. The dad responded by bringing his son into a strong embrace. As the young man swelled with pride, the connection to our heavenly Father was not only recognized but also celebrated.

For 12 years now, Bighorn Ministries has worked with college programs challenging and changing young men and women through appropriate adventure, intense community, and real responsibility.

At the conclusion of twenty-five years of ministry, academic research has measured and verified the effectiveness of the environment that has been created. Adventure, responsibility, and God's word have been combined in a unique way. This combination still creates environments conducive to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Bighorn's Purpose

The vision of Bighorn Ministries is to see godly character developed in participants and staff who then become leaders serving churches and reaching communities. The mission of Bighorn Ministries is to create environments that are conducive to the work of the Holy Spirit by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and developing kingdom leaders. In accomplishing its purpose, mission, and vision, it is the philosophy of Bighorn Ministries to emphasize relationships. Therefore, the program is designed and staffed to emphasize: grace over law, discretion over rules, education over entertainment, involvement over observation, practical over theoretical, process over product, hospitality over efficiency, challenge over complacency, and excellence over adequacy.

The strategy is summarized in the Scripture: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15).

Bighorn Ministries understands that environments with unknown outcomes invite questions to surface. These questions are opportunities to share the hope of Jesus Christ.

Leadership

Bighorn Ministries consists currently of two ministries, Camp Bighorn and Lone Ram ranch. These two ministries each have their own directors. Lone Ram is being lead by the first directors

of that program and Camp Bighorn is now enjoying the third generation of leadership. A CEO and Board of Overseers supervise both of these ministries.

Programs

- Summer adventure programs for youth and families
- College programs using the wilderness as a classroom: Explore, Discover, Journey
- Equestrian programs, both trail and arena
- Specialty offerings such as challenge course, wilderness first aid, and at risk support
- Resident boys school (soon to be offered)

Guests

Retreat facilities hosting various groups: quilting, church, medical groups, musical, defensive shooting, and schools.

Proposed Projects

Project	Price	Desired Timeframe
Property for Lone Ram Ranch	\$750,000-\$1,000,000	Purchase with down payment by fall of 2011
Building a Shop	\$ 60,000	Finished by spring 2011
Building Four Dorm Units	\$ 40,000 each; 160,000 total	Finish 2 in 2011 and 2 in 2012
Renovation of Five Cabins	\$ 10,000 per cabin; \$50,000 total	One cabin each year over the next 5 years
Building of Permanent Staff Housing	\$ 200,000	Begin building in 2012 and finish the project in 2013
Building the 6 th Cabin	\$ 40,000	Finish in Spring of 2014

➤ **Land and Buildings for Lone Ram Ranch**

Property that is suitable for maintaining both an equestrian program and a boy’s school is needed. We desire land and facilities adequate to contain corrals, barn, and arena. The classrooms and housing should be able to handle up to six children. Housing needs for two full time staff families as well as living facilities for the students and resident assistants are required. There are also plans for recreational centers like a basketball court.

➤ **Shop**

The shop building will serve as an area for our operations team to service vehicles, store tools, and work on projects. We have decided to make it a two story unit in order to utilize the second floor as office space for our Program team. There will also be three different bays off the side of the shop used to store program equipment such as rafts, kayaks, and pfd’s. Building this shop will give our operations team an opportunity to fulfill their responsibilities in a more organized and efficient manner. It will also assist us in being able to steward the tools and equipment that have been donated by giving it a safe and organized storage area.

➤ **Dorm Units**

Our partnerships with colleges are continually growing and with the startup of our Journey Program in 2011 we are in need of more dorm type housing. These buildings will be built

in an environmentally and energy efficient way. Built in the shape of a hexagon with earth up against the side for insulation they provide a smaller but efficient use of our land and space. The plans will fulfill our desire of community living for those within our college programs. With bunks lining the walls, a lounge area in the middle, and attached bathrooms these buildings will fulfill our need for space to house students and fit our desire for community living.

➤ **Renovation of Five Cabins**

We are blessed to already have five cabins built. Each cabin consists of two halves with each side able to house 8 people. Our desire in renovating the cabins is to improve their energy efficiency, update their looks, and create an atmosphere more conducive to weekend and couples retreats. The renovation will include an installation of a heat/air-conditioning pump unit for energy efficiency, a change from our current sleeping options to include a queen bed in each unit, installation of laminate flooring to assist in cleaning and other cosmetic changes. Our desire is to provide accommodations that are both enticing and functional for retreat attendees, youth groups, and summer campers.

➤ **Permanent Staff Housing**

With our programs continuing to grow our staff is continually growing as well. We will have a greater need for onsite staff housing in the next couple years. Our desire is to build a building that will accommodate single staff as well as couples and families. The structure will be a duplex each unit consisting of two bedrooms, kitchen and living area.

➤ **Building 6th Cabin**

We desire to build a sixth cabin to expand our housing options. The cabin would hold with the architectural structure of camp but be built originally with what we are renovating the other cabins to look like.

Challenge

The greater Christian culture has changed dramatically during the twenty-five-year period of Bighorn Ministries' existence. Many now perceive the Christian culture as apathetic and clinging to consumption. This culture shift has dire implications toward teaching responsibility for discipleship. Accepting spiritual responsibility is a key function in fulfilling the Great Commission; apathy and consumption are detrimental. The adventure environment requires invested focus and responsible participation. The challenge is to support these dynamic ministries with land and buildings that will continue to assist in creating environments conducive to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Future

In addition to the challenge projects listed above, Bighorn Ministries intends to create a Rural Ministers Training center to support and train rural pastoral and lay ministry leaders. This dream will be accomplished as the Lord allows.

Ask

Bighorn Ministries is seeking ministry partners to share in the joy and responsibility of experiencing the gospel and developing kingdom leaders. We invite you to join this vibrant ministry where God is at work. Your input and feedback is very important to our future. Thank you for participating.