

History  
**AMES MONUMENT**  
 UP RAILROAD HISTORY

That's WY

Instead of turning north from I-80 at Vedauwoo (exit #329) turn south and take a short drive to the Ames Monument, a unique roadside attraction. An unusual 60 ft. pyramid shaped monument, this haunting limestone mass stands alone on the prairie and towers over the remains of the one-time railroad town of Sherman. This monument was built in 1881 to honor the Ames brothers, Oliver and Oakes, who were influential leaders in the construction of the transcontinental railroad. The Union Pacific built the monument despite a scandal about the brothers' mismanagement of railroad funds. (July 2017 The Ames Monument became a National Historic Landmark.)



OLIVER AMES

The pyramidal monument, designed by architect Henry Hobson Richardson, was built for the Union Pacific Railroad at the highest point on the line (Sherman Summit, Wyoming).



OAKES AMES



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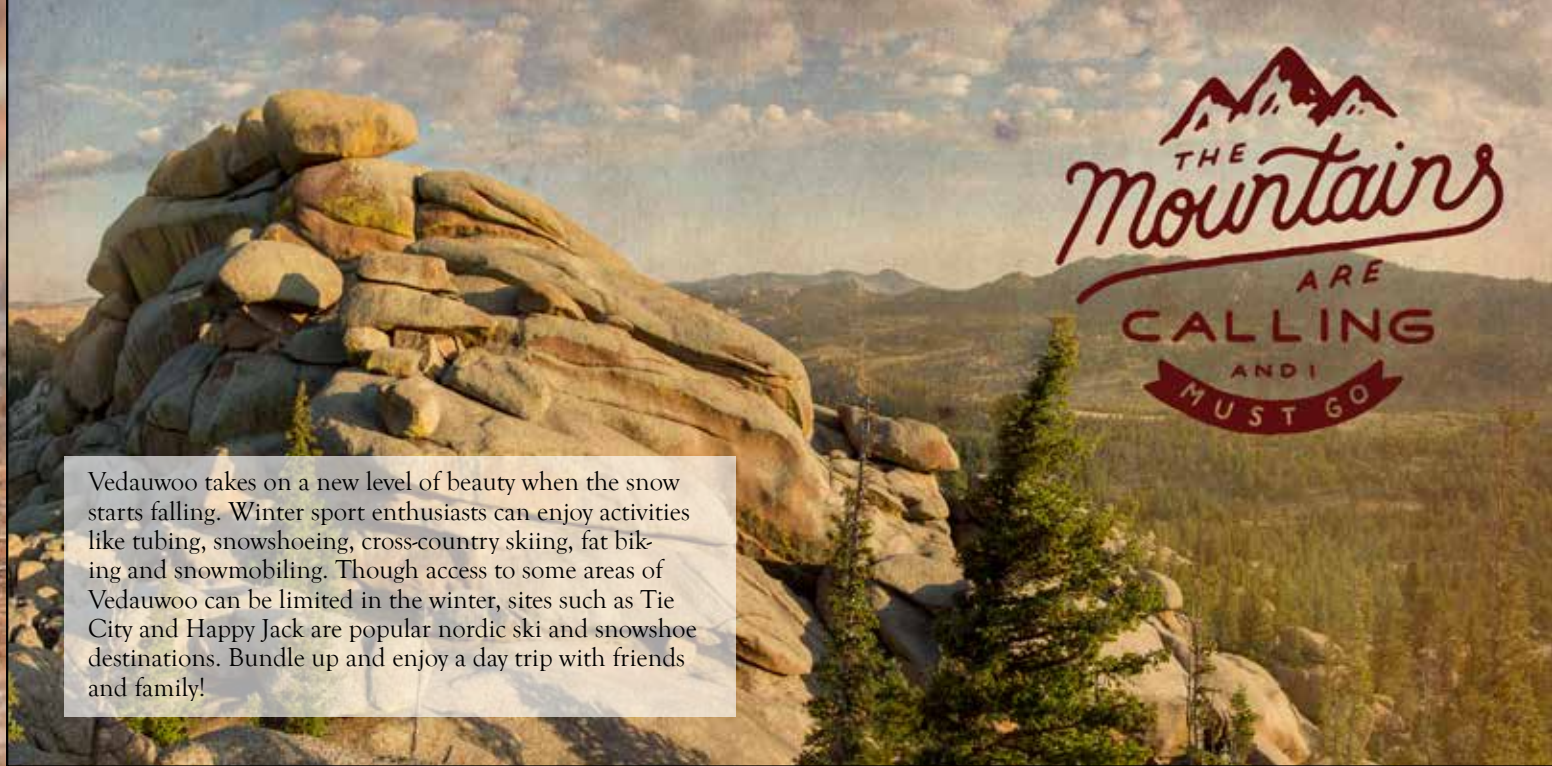
VEDAUWOO



**ADVENTURE GUIDE TO VEDAUWOO AND HAPPY JACK AREA**

That's WY

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Vedauwoo takes on a new level of beauty when the snow starts falling. Winter sport enthusiasts can enjoy activities like tubing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fat biking and snowmobiling. Though access to some areas of Vedauwoo can be limited in the winter, sites such as Tie City and Happy Jack are popular nordic ski and snowshoe destinations. Bundle up and enjoy a day trip with friends and family!

**EXPLORING THE VEDAUWOO AND HAPPY JACK AREAS**

**VEDAUWOO INFO:**

From Laramie, take Interstate-80 East for 16 miles to exit 329. Turn left onto Vedauwoo Glen Road and follow it for just over a mile, where another left on Road 720 will take you to the campground.

**FEES AND CAMPING INFORMATION:**

Entrance Fee: There is a \$5 per day parking fee for the paved lot in the main climbing area. Camping: The two Forest Service campgrounds near the main climbing area cost \$10 per night. There is also free at-large camping on Forest Service Land in the Vedauwoo area.

**HISTORY OF THE ROCKS:**

Vedauwoo is derived from the Arapaho word "bito'o'wu" meaning "earth-born." The characteristic hoodoos and outcrops of this region are made of 1.4 billion year old Sherman Granite, some of the oldest rock in Wyoming, still a billion years younger than the Tetons. The fabulous formations are due to an uplift of the Laramie Mountains that began about 70 million years ago, along with the erosion of younger layers of rock and sediment, which continues to this day.

**HAPPY JACK INFO:**

From Laramie, take Interstate-80 East for 9 miles to exit 323. Take the off ramp and go over the interstate heading east. Then turn on Happy Jack Rd. Highway 210, the Tie City Parking lot is about 1 mile on the right.

**FEES AND CAMPING INFORMATION:**

Entrance Fee: There is a \$5 per day parking fee for the paved lot in the main parking area. Camping: The Forest Service campgrounds near the parking area cost \$10 per night.

**HISTORY OF HAPPY JACK:**

In 1868 a man named 'Jack' Hollingsworth took up a ranch in the edge of the foothills near the present site of the Bowen ranch, and built a 'dobie' where he pitched his tent. He discovered a shorter route on the Denver to Deadwood stage line. In a short time after he had located there a saloon was also built and opened. Everybody called Hollingsworth 'Happy Jack' from the fact that he was always happy and smiling." (Democratic Leader, no. 37. May 15, 1884, page 2)

# SUMMER ADVENTURES

## TIE CITY/HAPPY JACK

The campground is comprised of 15 campsites in a single tear-drop loop. Some sites are nestled into a dense grove of aspen, fir, and spruce, while others appear amidst a grassy meadow. The interior road can be narrow and rough in places. The campground is convenient to a network of challenging trails that are ideal for mountain biking in the warmer months and cross-country skiing in the snow. Tie City was named for the Union Pacific Railroad men who once cut ties from trees in this very forest.

## PICNIC AT VEDAUWOO

If you are interested in a picnic at Vedaauwoo, there are several picnic sites with tables, grills, and designated parking areas. Remember to keep Vedaauwoo "Clean, Green and Pristine." While you are enjoying your picnic, take time to explore the natural wonders that surround you. A variety of trails are conveniently located nearby.

## HIKING

This easy 3.2-mile loop circles Turtle Rock in the Medicine Bow National Forest. From the gravel parking strip just above the main trailhead area, walk downhill to the paved area at the base of the weathered formation. Head northwest on the easy trail as it winds beneath aspen and squeezes between Turtle Rock's boulder-strewn base and a marshy wetland to the south. This first section

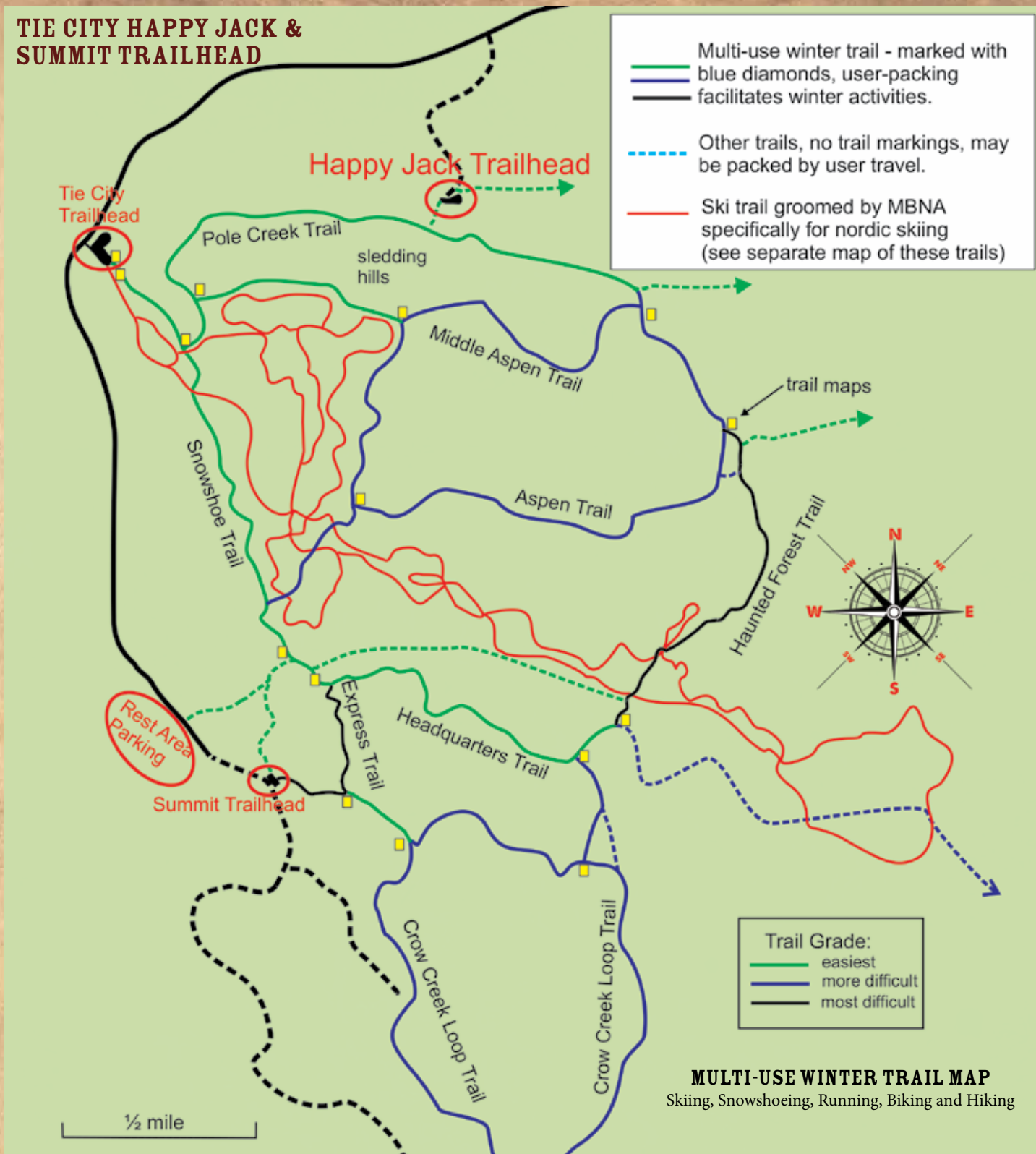
of trail affords up-close views of the piled, cracked rocks—and climbers making their way up the face—before gaining some distance from the formation as it turns east. Scattered fir and pine line the trail as it rolls over several small hills past the rock's sloped backside..

## CAMPING AT VEDAUWOO

Vedaauwoo also offers 28 camp sites that allow units up to 32 feet long. Campsites offer tables, fire rings, and trash pickup and vault toilets. All the tent sites are walk-ins. Some sites are so secluded, travelers can experience the "outlaw's spirit" in gusts of restless wind. (See map below)



## TIE CITY HAPPY JACK & SUMMIT TRAILHEAD



Hiking at Vedaauwoo (See Maps) - Photo by Brian Guice

Resources: <http://www.justtrails.com/trails/tie-city-happy-jack/>

# WINTER ADVENTURES

## NORDIC SKIING

The Tie City Trailhead is a major hub for both skate and classic Nordic skiers. Just a fifteen minute drive from Laramie, this trailhead is one of the most popular places to cross-country ski in the area. The Summit Loop is furthest out so it gets less use than other trails. The trail climbs steadily at first, topping out at 9,000 feet with fantastic views well worth the effort! Completing the loop allows you to enjoy sliding and gliding down all that elevation you earned. To get to the Tie City Trailhead, take exit 323 off of I-80 and head north on Happy Jack Road for about a mile.

The Meadow, Ridge, and Adler Trails are all accessed from the Tie City Trailhead. They can be combined to make a relaxing loop. Much of the surrounding ski terrain features rolling hills and occasional steep sections, but these trails are relatively flat, making for a great ski for beginners. Advanced skiers may enjoy the fast ride and cardio work out, or extend the loop to include Phil's Pholly or the slightly more challenging Blackjack Loop. The National Forest charges \$5 per day for parking.

The Medicine Bow Nordic Association (MBNA) is a non-profit group responsible for grooming and maintaining most of the trails in the Medicine Bow National Forest. The group also maintains a blog which provides the most current information about trail conditions. The MBNA does not charge for use of the trails and grooming is funded by annual membership fees and donations. Consider joining to show your support and enthusiasm for Nordic skiing! Membership fees are \$35 a year and donations of any amount are gladly accepted.



Nortic skiing at Tie City (See map) Photo by BHP Images



## FAT TIRE BIKING

Fat bikes are a relatively new phenomenon in the world of cycling. Early versions have been available commercially for about a decade, but only in the past few years have they become a common sight around on public lands. For those who frequent the Happy Jack recreational area near Laramie Wyoming, they are becoming a common sight. The Happy Jack recreational area is located in the Medicine Bow-Routt district of the National Forest between Cheyenne and Laramie, at the junction of I-80 and Happy Jack Road (WY-210). Those who mountain bike the area in the warmer months are already familiar with the great mountain biking nearby.

In winter months Happy Jack becomes a popular destination for skiers, hikers and snowshoers for good reason. Most of the area is within the protection of timber, offering a shield against the harsh and cold Wyoming wind. The area also has a groomed network of cross-country ski trails maintained by the Medicine Bow Nordic Association.

About 5 years ago fat bikes started to show up at Happy Jack. Soon after that it was apparent that a plan to accommodate the growing popularity of fat bikes was needed so that all local user groups could enjoy Happy Jack with as little conflict as possible.

## RECOMMENDED CLIMBS:

**Beginner**  
Rip Chords 5.6  
Back to Bucket Country 5.6  
Ed's Crack 5.7  
Captain Nemo 5.7  
Mother #1 5.8

**Intermediate**  
MRC 5.9  
Lower Progressive 5.9  
Friday the 13th 5.10

**Advanced**  
The Wing 5.12  
Lucille 5.13  
Christie's Ultimatum 5.12b

# ROCK CLIMBING

## ROCK CLIMBING:

Vedauwoo is considered a rock climbing mecca. At Vedauwoo you will find some of the best climbing in the state, ranging from 5.0 to 5.14 with many places to practice crack climbing. Rock climbing at Vedauwoo can take on many forms: climbing, belaying, or repelling. Some of the challenges for climbers are the faces that they climb. There are cracks with openings just wide enough for finger or foot holds and others large enough to chimney up your whole body. Local climbers enjoy the challenges they find at Vedauwoo year-round, while others will travel great distances to experience the wonders of these breathtaking formations. Conveniently located just a short drive from Interstate-80, Vedauwoo Recreation Area is known for challenging wide cracks and pleasant summer temperatures. With Devils Tower to the north, Rocky Mountain National Park to the south and the Grand Tetons to the northeast, it's easy to understand why some call this area the climber's crossroads.

## HISTORY OF THE ROCKS

Vedauwoo was created approximately 1.4 billion years ago from magma under the earth and weathered overtime by wind, water, snow and ice. The rocks are primarily Sherman Granite, made of pink feldspar and other minerals. The rock formations rise up to 500 feet and stretch for 10 square miles. Vedauwoo stands at 8,200.

Vedauwoo rocks offer easy access to some of the best wide crack climbing in the world. There are also crimp face climbs, abundant boulder problems and bomb-proof anchors for setting up top ropes. The sharp coarse-grained rock inspires tape and durable clothing in all but the most masochistic climbers.

The best climbers in the world flock here to test their skills, and their aerial antics and grunting provide entertainment for the casual spectator. Despite hosting some of the most difficult wide crack climbing in the world, this area offers great granite routes for every level of climber.

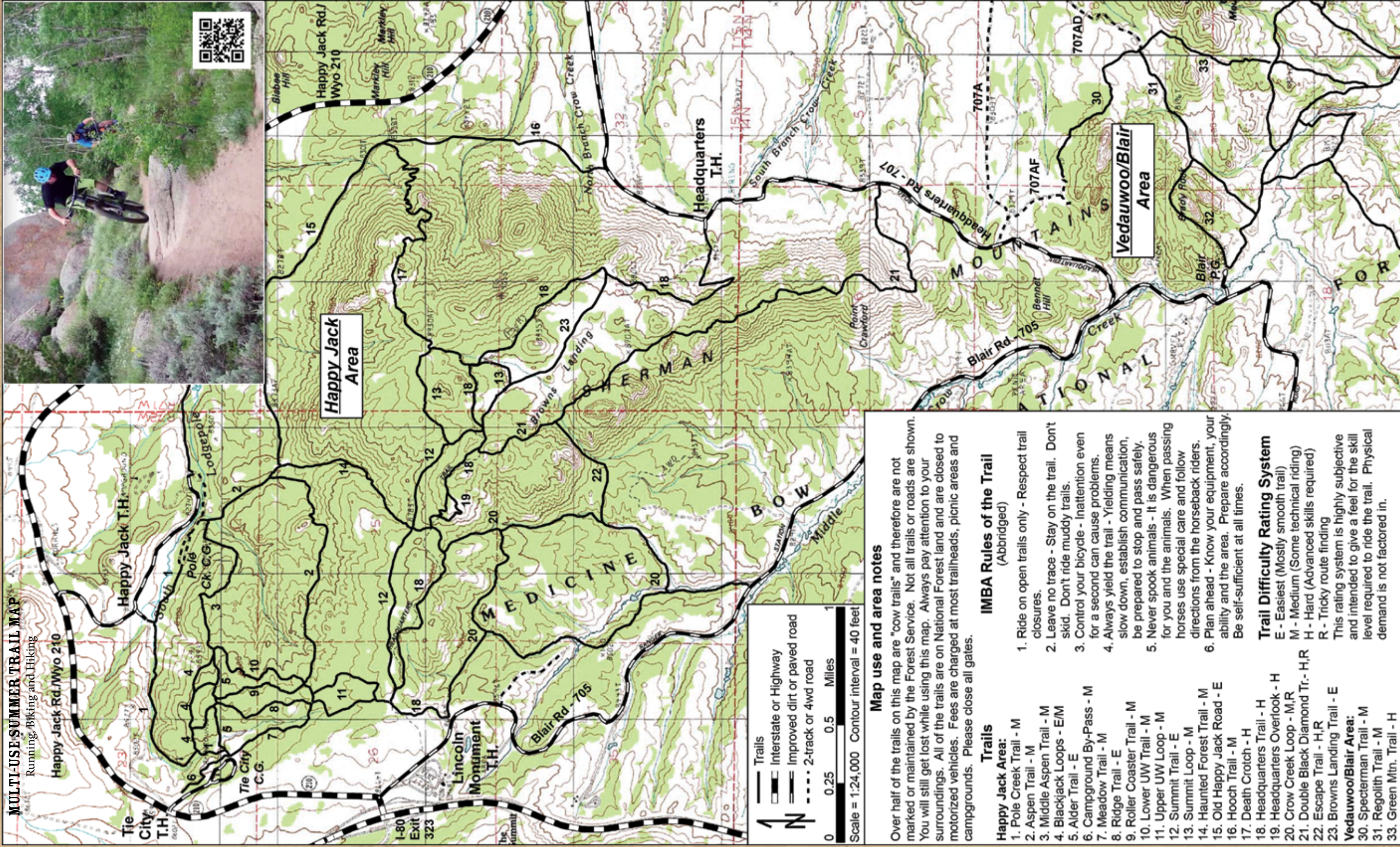
## CLIMBING HISTORY:

Wandering nomadic hunters may have scrambled on the striking formations of Vedauwoo, but modern climbing arrived here post-WWII, courtesy of former 10th Mountain Division soldiers. The first guidebook came out in 1966 and described 33 climbs; there are now over 900 established routes in Vedauwoo with new areas constantly evolving.

## MULTI-USE SUMMER TRAIL MAP

Running, Biking and Hiking

Happy Jack Rd./Wyo 210



## MOUNTAIN BIKING

With over a hundred mountain biking trails to choose from, the area around Laramie is a paradise for exploration on two wheels. Choose your level of challenge, from easy scenic trails suitable for families to technical single tracks that will challenge the most experienced riders. Laramie's bike shops are staffed with knowledgeable locals who can assist in your planning your biking adventure.

## OUTDOOR GEAR

ACME Bicycles (Fat Tire and Mountain Bikes)

All Terrain Sports (307) 721-8036 (Fat Tire and Mountain Bike Rentals)

Atmosphere Mountainworks (307) 742-1191 (Outdoor, Camping Gear)

Cross Country Connection (307) 721-2851 (Nordic Ski, Snowshoe Rentals)

Pedal House (307) 742-5533 (Fat Tire and Mountain Bike Rentals)