

A VISIT TO BNSF HAVRE MONTANA YARD

by

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In our drive across Montana, one of the places we wanted to stay overnight at was Havre, Montana. Havre is home to a major BN-SF Yard, locomotive service center, and locomotive repair shop. In the past when we visited Havre, we had stayed at the Best Western Motel at 1345 First Street, as this motel is located trackside and offers an excellent view back into the BN-SF Yard. However, I had seen on a railfan web site a plug for a Best Western Plus Inn located on the west side of Havre at 1425 Highway 2 NW. This Inn became our place to stay when we saw the view it provided of the total BN-SF Yard. The room Mary Ann got us looked directly down upon the west end of the Yard. The Inn also had some benches in its parking lot to allow one to sit and view the railyard. Located next to the Inn was an Irish Pub where we got to help a newly married couple celebrate their marriage by drinking with them and their bridal party a shot of Fireball Cinnamon Liquor. Yuck!! The bride and groom were dressed in jeans and boots and wore shirts that had either “Bride” or “Groom” written on them. Below are some photos of our stay at Havre.



A view from our motel parking lot into the BN-SF Havre Railyard. Two grain trains wait to head west. A public road runs west from the trailer court, crosses the railroad track at the west end of the Yard, and then hugs the north side of the Yard to its east end. Great for taking photos! BNSF 6865 and Canadian National heritage unit CN 4614 head up a westbound grain train while BNSF 6887 provides pusher service on an eastbound grain train.



A stack train powered by BNSF 6714, a GE ES44C4; BNSF 6004, a GE ES44AC; 5074, a GE C44-9W; and 6907, a GE ES44C4, are seen pulling into the Havre Yard for a crew change.



The view from our motel room at the west end of the Havre Yard. Heading into the Yard is a coal train powered by BNSF 5383, a GE C44-9W; CSXT 449, a GE AC4400CW; BNSF 7341, a GE ES44DC; and NS 8059, a GE ES44AC.



This is the view from our motel room window of BNSF 6865, a GE ES444C4, and BCOL 4614, a GE DASH8-40CM, seen leaving the Yard west bound. They are blowing for the grade crossing that crosses the west throat of the Yard. The public dirt road can be seen to this side and above the locomotives.



This is a picture of BNSF 3987, a GE ET44C4, and BNSF 6887, a GE ES44C4, waiting to head west, as seen from the road running on the north side of the Yard.



BNSF 2185, an END GP 38, was doing flat switching in the Yard during our visit.



ADMX 2234, a SW1500, was sitting at a grain elevator at the east end of the Havre Yard.



BNSF 6907, a GE ES44AC; BNSF 5074, a GE C44-9W; BNSF 6004, a GE ES44AC; and BNSF 6714, a GE ES44C4, are seen eastbound with a stack train passing ADMX 2234.



BNSF 605, a GE C44-9W, is seen here tied to the rear of a grain train waiting to head east.



The sign read “BNSF EMPLOYEE PARKING ONLY.” I thus parked on the street and walked into the lot for the above and below photos of the locomotive service area. Above are BNSF 4916, a GE C44-9W; BNSF 4367, a GE C44-9W; and BNSF 7052 a GE ES44C4. Below are BNSF 5110, a GE C44-9W; BNSF 6685, a GE ES44C4; and BNSF 7052, a GE ES44C4.





Some more shots from the employee parking lot with a telephoto lens. Above CSXT 449, a GE CW44C/H, and BNSF 5351, a GE C44-9W, are sitting shut down in pocket tracks. Below BNSF 4916, a GE C44-9W, and two sister BNSF locomotives sit with engines idling waiting a train assignment.





BNSF 2083, a GM GP38-2, has cut off four cars from the rear of a stack train and are moving them elsewhere in the Yard. Since I saw no equipment in the Yard for unloading a stack car, I assume they were being made ready to journey onward over another route.



A view from the back of a grain elevator service road of the locomotive service area. In the photo are BNSF 5306, BNSF 4310, and BNSF 4214, all GE C44-9W.



The BN-SF Locomotive Repair Shop at Havre. I took these photos on my way to the office to see if I could get permission to take some photos. The answer of course was “NO!” Above, BNSF 5110, a GE C44-9W, sits on the ready track beyond the Shop. Below BNSF, 8104, a GM SD60M, and BNSF 7491, a GE ES44DC, are undergoing repairs in the Havre Locomotive Repair Shop.





BN-SF Montana Division Headquarters Building with a statue of James Hill

