



Figure 16. Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in the geologic past. Paleogeographic maps are presented for a variety of geologic units mapped within the park. For hundreds of millions of years, the Bighorn Canyon area was submerged beneath shallow seas. The carbonate rocks that make up much of the canyon's walls attest to this watery past. Red line represents the equator; North America was much closer to the equator during the Paleozoic Era. Red star represents the approximate location of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Fm. = formation. Graphic compiled and annotated by Jason Kenworthy (NPS Geologic Resources Division). Paleogeographic maps by Ron Blakey (Colorado Plateau Geosystems, Inc.) are available online: <http://cpgeosystems.com/paleomaps.html>.