

Stack Facts

-The Anaconda Smelter Stack is the tallest free-standing masonry structure in the world at 585 feet and 1 1/2 inch tall. For reference the Washington Monument is just over 555 feet tall.

-The Washington Monument could actually fit snugly, but completely inside of the Anaconda Stack

-To build the stack wood scaffolding was placed inside for the construction using the wood of approximately 10,000 trees.

-Inside Diameter at the bottom of the Stack is 75 feet 4 inches, at the top of the Stack it is 60 feet

-The walls range from 5 feet 4 inches thick at the base to 22 1/8 inches at the top of the Stack.

-Total weight of the Stack is 33,060 tons!

-The top of the stack had 20 lightning rods spaced around the 60 foot diameter opening.

-First brick was laid on May 23, 1918. Final brick laid on November 30, 1918.

-First smoke through the Stack on May 5, 1919.

Anacondans to

Preserve the Stack

With its significance to the community of Anaconda and surrounding Deer Lodge County, "The Stack" holds strong support from the people of this region. Anacondans to Preserve the Stack was created as a way for the local community to work together to find solutions to continue to preserve this symbolic historical feature. There are continuing challenges standing in the way of protecting and enjoying this awe inspiring historical landmark.

The Stack sits atop a massive superfund site that is still managed by ARCO despite the responsibility for The Stack itself lying with the State of Montana. ARCO does not wish to allow access to occur until the cleanup of the site has reached completion.

A stipulation placed on Montana State Parks upon taking over management of the site, was **no access** to The Stack itself.

As a tall structure there are FAA regulations in place to light the stack which comes with an annual bill of \$5000.

These and other challenges are why we need to band together to preserve and protect this symbol of our community.

To get involved Contact the Anaconda Chamber of Commerce: **406-563-2400** or email: **info@discoveranaconda.com**



Anaconda Smoke Stack State Park



About the Park

Presently the Anaconda Smoke Stack (The Stack) itself is the largest standing masonry structure in the world. The base is concrete, but the portion that is brick-work is still larger than any other true masonry building on earth. It is part of a large superfund site under the stewardship of Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). ARCO is now working to rehabilitate the land that became inundated with heavy metals during the copper boom of the early 1900s. In the mid 1980s ARCO determined that this giant smoke stack was a giant liability that they had no interest in managing. With the possibility of The Stack being demolished the State of Montana stepped up in 1985 to preserve this significant historical structure. The land still belongs to ARCO with no public access to The Stack but Montana State Parks has managed the site since 1986 and has a small viewing area as the actual State Park site. This small monument is found on the southeast end of Anaconda on Anaconda Smelter Road just off Jackson Street.



The present park includes a “short stack” to help interpret the site. Engraved bricks line this little monument with the names of those who have helped support and grow the community, as well as the names of many lives lost working the old smelter.

History of the Stack

In the early 1900s in Montana, and across much of the world, “copper was king”. The massive need for conduction of electrical power changed the world and led to a grand age in copper mining. Just up the road Butte, MT held the largest copper mine on the planet. Marcus Daly, who founded Anaconda, created the the Anaconda Company and the smelter network that gave rise to the town. There had been several smaller renditions of one or more smoke stacks that copper production continually outpaced. Finally the largest stack was built in 1918 by the Custodis Company. It was created to lower emissions of toxins and spew them out higher than the original Washoe stack that stood about 300 feet tall. It was thought that toxins would disperse more instead of falling directly onto the farms and ranches of the upper Clark Fork Valley where lawsuits were being threatened against the Anaconda Company for this toxic fallout.



(above: The big stack being built in the foreground with the original Washoe stack in the background)

The newer, bigger smoke stack also contained over 100 miles of electrified chain to attract and attempt to contain these toxic particles. These chains were set in what are known as Cottrell Treaters and today the large rectangular openings near the base of the stack show the access to this system.



In 1977 the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) aquired the Anaconda Minerals Company and 3 years later they shut down all the smelting operations in Montana, including the Washoe Smelter works at Anaconda. In early 1983 ARCO declared their intention to remove all of the smelter works from the site and to demolish the stack. The people of Anaconda rose up in protest to protect and preserve the symbol of their community and formed The Anacondans to Preserve The Stack Committee to work with ARCO and the Parks division of Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks to preserve and protect this impressive historic landmark.

Photos courtesy of the Copper Village Museum and Montana State Parks