

What's There to Do in Noxon?

The tree-lined road between Thompson Falls and Noxon is one of the prettiest and most peaceful I've seen in Montana.

A mere glance tells you that the area is just right for camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. A Noxon resident told me: "This is a big hunting area – lots of elk."

Noxon was jokingly described to me as "two bars and a grocery store," but in fact you have a choice of two motels if you are spending the night.

And be sure to stop in at least one of those bars. Toby's Tavern, nicknamed the Susan B. Anthony Bar, is more of a museum than a place to drink. You'll be there a long time if you try to count the Susan B. Anthony dollars everywhere. Instead, spend your time admiring the Western memorabilia, carved wooden mug holders, and other odds and ends collected by former owner Toby, whose daughter now runs the establishment.

I was told the town's Fourth of July fireworks show is spectacular.

While you are at the farmers market, browse through the thrift store, which uses any profits beyond store expenses to help needy people in the community. The area food bank is also located in the building. A community garden, a greenhouse, and an orchard are planned for the garden area around the building, and produce from these will be sold at the market or given to the food bank.

Pretty impressive for a town with 500 registered voters.

If you feel you want to see more of the world, the Idaho border is 15 miles west of Noxon, and 35 miles farther – with a beautiful drive along Lake Pend Oreille – is Sandpoint, Idaho, with its own farmers market on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. For more information, go online to sandpointfarmersmarket.com.