

# GEOLOGY OF WYOMING (/)

## GEOWYO TOP SPOTS

Wyoming has everything that excites a geologist!

For over 100 years, Wyoming has attracted geologists in search of oil, gas and mineral wealth as well as research geologists challenged by complex geology. It has the full spectrum of why a person would pick a career in geology: fossils to minerals, mountains to basins, folds and faults, igneous to sedimentary rocks, mines to oil fields, geothermal features to glacial features and best of all plentiful outcrops. Access is superb with roughly half of the state owned by the federal government. Add in western hospitality, spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, low humidity and over 200 total days with sun and you will realize why we love Wyoming. It is heaven on earth for a geologist and we hope that you can experience a little of that heaven too!



*Chugwater outcrop and Pat O'Hara Mountain, picture taken along Chief Joseph Highway, northwest Wyoming*

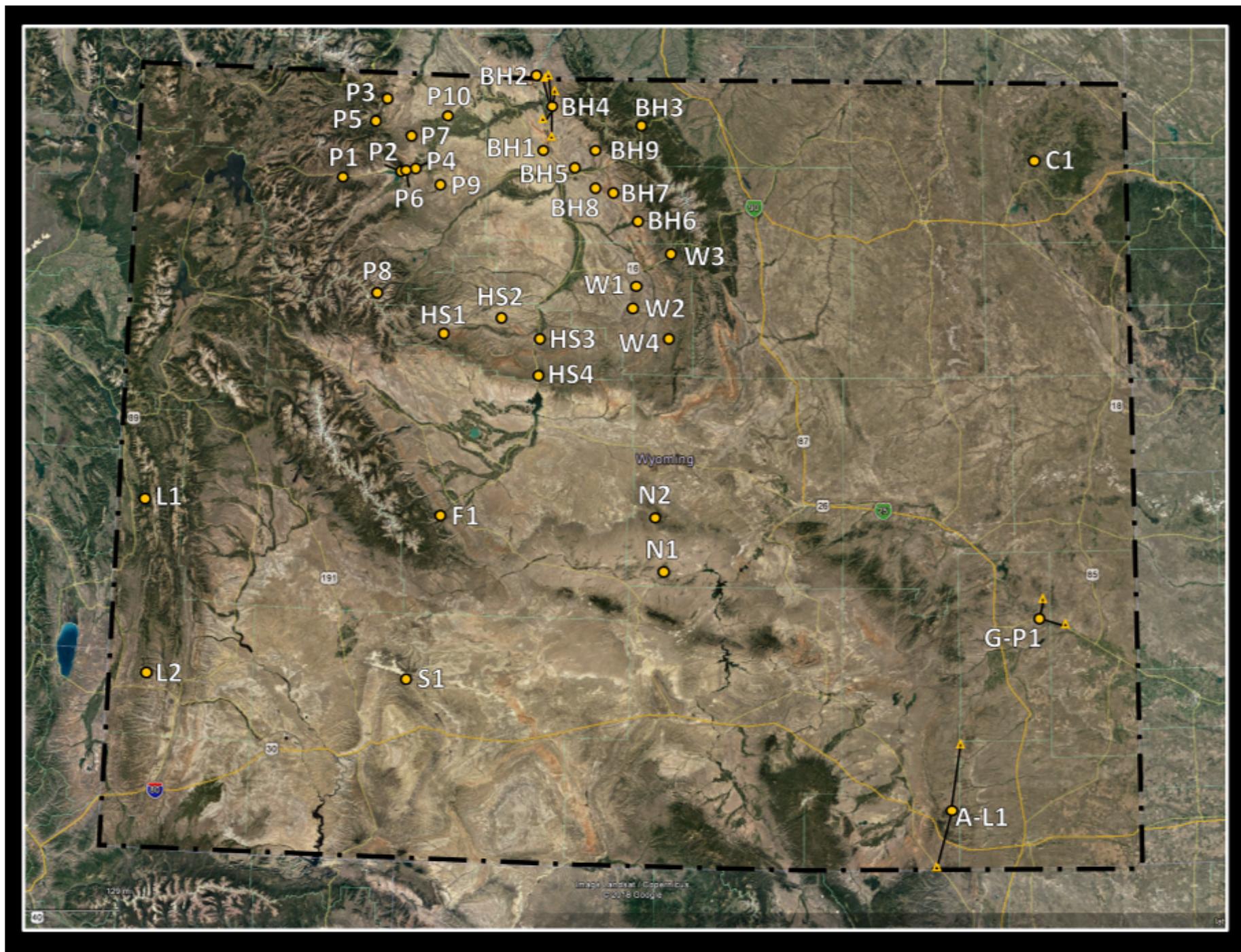
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## **The Locations...**

When we travel, we consult guidebooks and websites that lead us to the best experiences. We spend hours driving between highly publicized and sometimes crowded spots, knowing we are undoubtedly passing world-class spots and geological wonders that only locals enjoy.

Wyoming has more than its fair share of special geological places if you just knew where to go and what makes them special.

The maps below show the location of our Geology Top Spots in Wyoming and specifically the Bighorn Basin. We have a webpage for each spot and the list below has a link to each page.



### Albany-Laramie Counties

**A-L1 Wyoming Diamonds (<https://www.geowyo.com/wyoming-diamonds.html>)**

### Bighorn County

**BH 1 Ancient River Channel & Sheep Mountain (<https://www.geowyo.com/ancient-river-channel--sheep-mountain.html>)**

**BH2 Bighorn Canyon (<https://www.geowyo.com/bighorn-canyon.html>)**

**BH3 Bighorn Mountain Byways (<https://www.geowyo.com/bighorn-mountain-byways.html>)**

**BH4 Bighorn River Area Caves (<https://www.geowyo.com/bighorn-river-area-caves.html>)**

**BH 5 Devil's Kitchen (<https://www.geowyo.com/devils-kitchen.html>)**

**BH6 Medicine Lodge Tensleep Sandstone (<https://www.geowyo.com/medicine-lodge-tensleep-sandstone.html>)**

**BH7 Red Gulch Alkali Backcountry Byway (<https://www.geowyo.com/red-gulch-alkali-backcountry-byway.html>)**

**BH8 Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite & Sundance Seaway (<https://www.geowyo.com/red-gulch-dinosaur-tracksite--sundance-seaway.html>)**

**BH9 Shell Dinosaur Bone Beds (<https://www.geowyo.com/shell-dinosaur-bone-beds.html>)**

**Crook County**

**C1 Devils Tower & Black Hills (<https://www.geowyo.com/devils-tower--black-hills.html>)**

**Fremont County**

**F1 Sinks Canyon (<https://www.geowyo.com/sinks-canyon.html>)**

**Goshen-Platte Counties**

**G-P1 Fort Laramie & Hartville Uplift (<https://www.geowyo.com/fort-laramie--hartville-uplift.html>)**

**Hot Springs County**

**HS1 Anchor Dam (<https://www.geowyo.com/anchor-dam.html>)**

**HS2 Dinosaur Marbles (<https://www.geowyo.com/dinosaur-marbles.html>)**

**HS3 Thermopolis Hot Springs (<https://www.geowyo.com/thermopolis-hot-springs.html>)**

**HS4 Wind River Canyon Part I (<https://www.geowyo.com/wind-river-canyon-part-1.html>)**

**HS4 Wind River Canyon Part II (<https://www.geowyo.com/wind-river-canyon-part-2.html>)**

**Lincoln County**

**L1 Periodic Spring (<https://www.geowyo.com/periodic-spring.html>)**

**L2 Fossil Butte (<https://www.geowyo.com/fossil-butte.html>)**

## Natrona County

**N1 Granite Mountains (<https://www.geowyo.com/the-granite-mountains.html>)**

**N2 Rattlesnake Hills**

## Park County

**P1 Absaroka Volcanic Province (<https://www.geowyo.com/absaroka-volcanic-province.html>)**

**P2 Buffalo Bill Dam & Rattlesnake Mountain (<https://www.geowyo.com/buffalo-bill-dam--rattlesnake-mtn.html>)**

**P3 Clarks Fork Canyon (<https://www.geowyo.com/clarks-fork-canyon.html>)**

**P4 Cody Hydrothermal System (<https://www.geowyo.com/cody-hydrothermal-system.html>)**

**P5 Dead Indian Hill (<https://www.geowyo.com/dead-indian-hill.html>)**

**P6 The Great Unconformity (<https://www.geowyo.com/the-great-unconformity.html>)**

**P7 Heart Mountain (<https://www.geowyo.com/heart-mountain.html>)**

**P8 Kirwin (<https://www.geowyo.com/kirwin.html>)**

**P9 Oregon Basin Field (<https://www.geowyo.com/oregon-basin-oil-field.html>)**

**P10 Polecat Bench & PETM (<https://www.geowyo.com/polecat-bench--petm.html>)**

## Sweetwater County

**S1 Leucite Hills (<https://www.geowyo.com/leucite-hills.html>)**

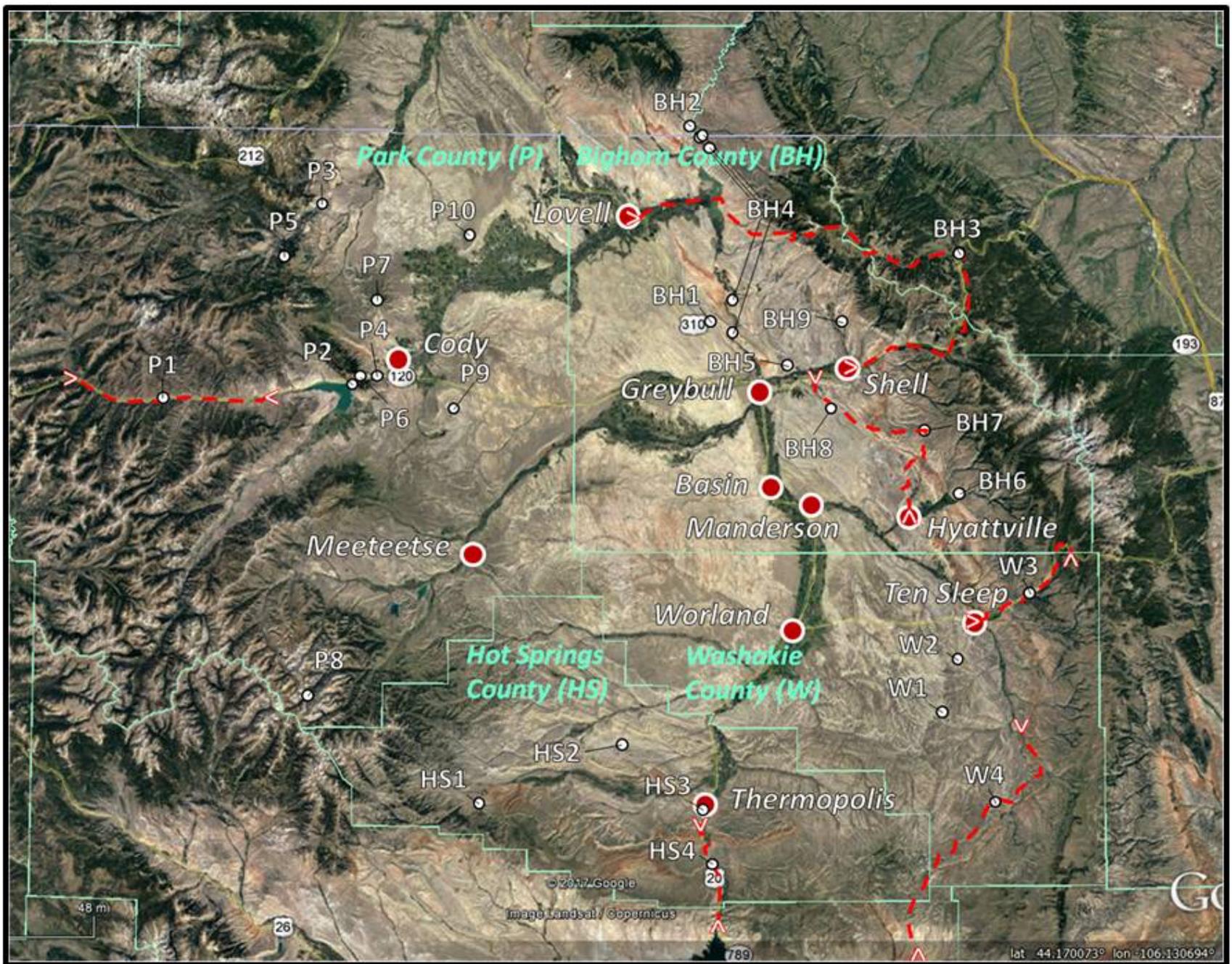
## Washakie County

**W1 Big Cedar Ridge (<https://www.geowyo.com/big-cedar-ridge.html>)**

**W2 Castle Gardens (<https://www.geowyo.com/castle-gardens.html>)**

**W3 Tensleep Canyon & Sweet 16 (<https://www.geowyo.com/tensleep-canyon--sweet-16.html>)**

**W4 Upper Nowood River Valley (<https://www.geowyo.com/upper-nowood-river-valley.html>)**



## Ratings...

We built this website so you can select special geological spots that match your interests and then see and learn about the geology. For each spot we provide a wow rating, a geological factor rating, an attraction summary, a detailed geology description with maps, diagrams, pictures and history, what you will see, driving directions, and for most spots a recommended hike.

### **Wow Factor** --

Will I be impressed? Is it magical? This is a one to five star rating scale with one star being pleasant and five stars having the potential for a special moment and lasting memory.

### **Geological Factor** --

Will it put goose bumps on a geologist's arm? Only emotions stirred by geological or

intellectual stimuli are rated in this category from one to five stars.



*Avalanche Peak, Yellowstone National Park.*



## **Geologic Stratigraphic Column...**

A geologic stratigraphic column is basic reference material for a geologist. Below is one for the Bighorn Basin with formation names, ages, rock type, major extinctions and the tectonic setting. Note that thickness on this stratigraphic chart has no resemblance to rock thickness. The relatively young Cenozoic sediments are the thickest formations and filled the central part of the basin.



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