The area surrounding Lusk, Wyoming, was once a vibrant region of activity, marked by the presence of silver mining and stagecoach travel. The Silver Cliff Hill mine, located south of Lusk and Zve miles north of Rawhide Butte station, is the source of a significant silver discovery. This discovery played a pivotal role in the area's history and development.

The silver mining operations at Silver Cliff Hill are of particular interest, as they were part of a larger silver mining boom that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The mining operations were intensive and required significant investment, as evidenced by the presence of radioactive ore. The mining operations ended in 1884 and remained closed for 34 years when a uranium deposit was found. The uranium deposit was mined for four years for radium research and again, after World War II, from 1951 to 1953. The mining operations have left a lasting legacy in the area, influencing the local geography and economy.

In addition to the mining industry, the area was also a hub for stagecoach travel. The Great Western Cattle Trail, which passed the future Lusk area, was an established route to Fort Laramie and played a crucial role in the development of the region. The node ranch in 1880 about 15 miles east of present-day Lusk was one of the first cattle ranches in the area, and it helped establish the region as an important cattle ranching area.

The area also had a number of roadhouses and brothels, including one run by Madam Dell Burk. The roadhouse was located on West Gripth Boulevard and was one block from the Main Street of Lusk for 60 years (1919-1979). Dell arrived in Casper Wyoming in 1917, and her roadhouse became a popular destination for travelers along the stage route.

The area's population was an assortment of miners, soldiers, prostitutes, shop keepers, road agents, cattle ranchers, cowboys, and railroad workers. The area's history is rich with stories of adventure, danger, and excitement, and it continues to be a fascinating place to explore the past.

In summary, the Lusk area's history is a testament to the area's role in the development of the American West. The silver mining operations and stagecoach travel were integral to the area's growth and played a significant role in shaping the region's identity.
Dinosaurs of the Lance Formation in the Lusk area. Only three Tyrannosaurs have been discovered in Wyoming. The most recently found fossil is named "Lee the T-rex."
Composed of Tertiary sedimentary rocks of Oligocene and Miocene age, the Wyoming High Plains is dominated by three formations on the surface. From oldest to youngest, these are the White River, Arikaree and the Ogallala Formations. Together they form the High Plains aquifer system in southeast Wyoming which is the main groundwater source in this area. Almost flat lying, these formations slope gradually from the Laramie Mountains eastward to the Great Plains.

The northern margin of the Wyoming High Plains region is defined by Hat Creek Breaks-Pine Ridge, a continuous escarpment that rises 300 feet above the low land of the Missouri Plateau to the north. The Southern margin is formed by the Chalk Bluffs of northernmost Colorado. This 300-foot escarpment was carved by headward erosion by tributaries of the South Platte River.

High Plains region of the Middle Rocky Mountain Province.

Wyoming High Plains geology map and potentiometric surface map of the High Plains aquifer system. A potentiometric map is a subsurface contour map showing the elevation of the top of the water table. Abbreviations on the map: Ogallala Formation To, Arikaree Formation Ta, White River Formation Two, Brule Formation Twrb, and Chadron Formation Twrc.

The Late Eocene to Early Oligocene White River Formation outcrops on the Wyoming High Plains or underlies younger Arikaree and Ogallala Formations. It is dominantly bentonitic mudstones that easily erodes. The bentonite comes from ash fall from volcanos to the southwest in Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada. The depositional environment is an aggradational river system (ancestral North Platte) that deposited sediment over much of the Central Great Plains.

The Late Oligocene to Early Miocene Arikaree Formation are eolian, fluviatile deposits in stream valleys. They consist predominantly massive very fine to fine-grained sandstone with localized beds of volcanic ash. Arikaree sandstones armor the Hat Creek Breaks, creating the escarpment.

The Mid to Upper Miocene Ogallala Formation is the youngest formation on the Wyoming High Plains. It consists of weakly to firmly cemented conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone deposited by streams in a complex sequence of cut and fills.

Things-To-Do
1. Paleo Park
2. Stagecoach Museum
3. C & H Oil Refinery historical district complex
4. Hat Creek Station & Fort
5. Hat Creek Breaks
6. Mother Featherlegs Cemetery

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