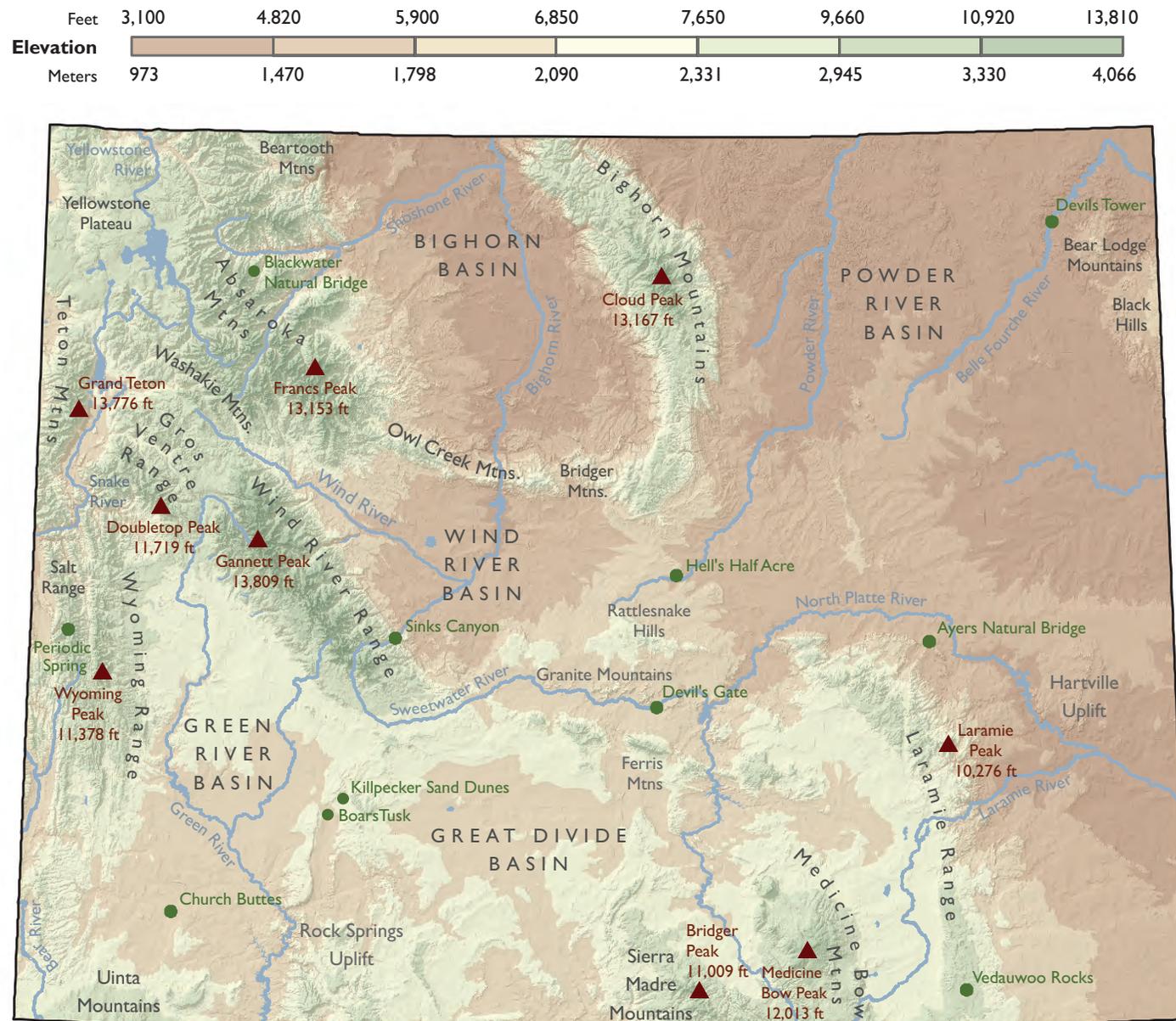


The state of Wyoming is located in the central part of the North American continent, bounded between 104 and 111 degrees west longitude and 41 and 45 degrees north latitude.

Wyoming straddles the Continental Divide and the Rocky Mountains, with the Great Plains to the east and the Intermountain Basin region to the west. Wyoming shares a border with six surrounding states.





- ▲ Highest peak in each mountain range
- Other natural landmarks

The highest point in Wyoming is Gannett Peak at 13,809 feet (4,209 meters), in the Wind River Range. There are more than 40 other named peaks taller than 13,000 feet in the Wind River Range, including many near Titcomb Basin, pictured below.



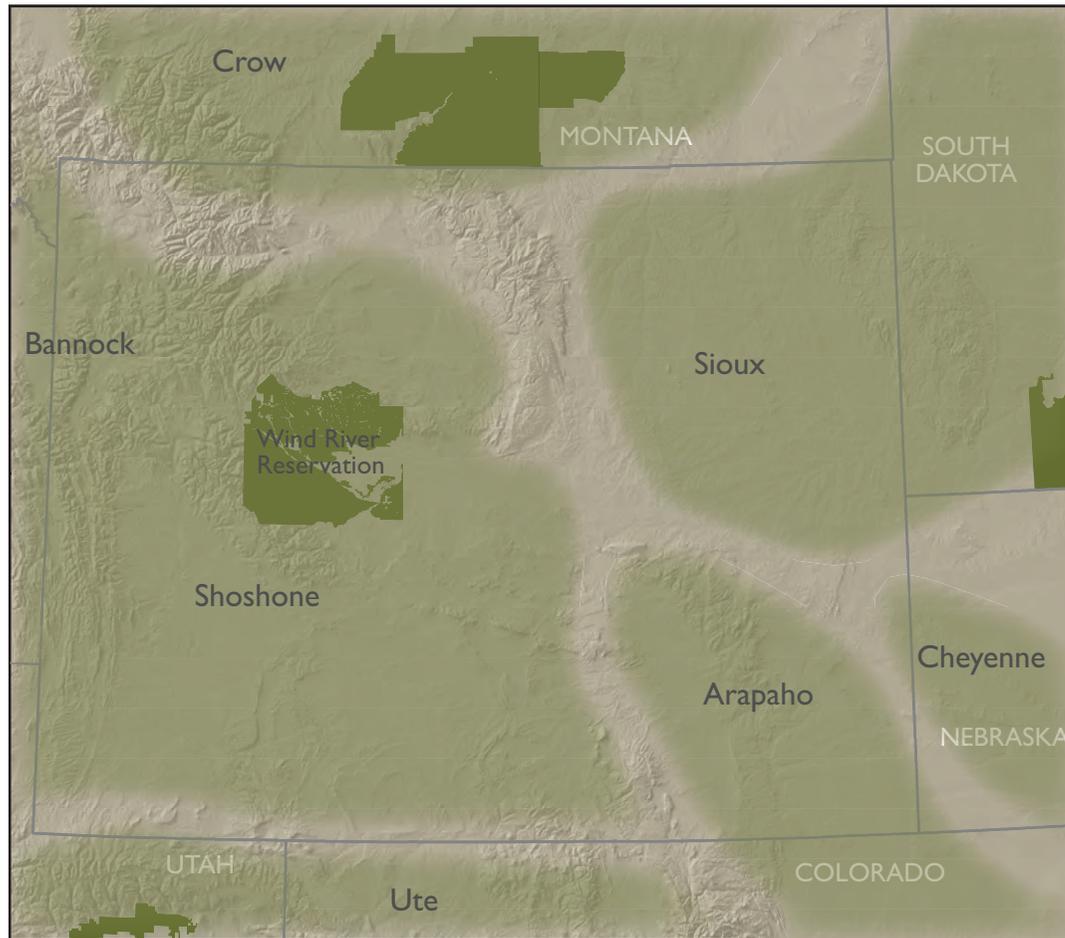
The lowest point in the state is where the Belle Fourche River flows out of Wyoming into South Dakota, at 3,099 feet (945 meters).



The eastern part of Wyoming is dominated by high plains. The middle and western parts of the state have several distinct ranges of the Rocky Mountains, divided by large basins. Even the basins have relatively high elevations, averaging 6,200 feet (1,890 meters). Wyoming's basins include many remarkable natural features such as the Killpecker Sand Dunes, one of the largest active dune systems in North America.

Approximate territories of Native American tribes in 1850

 Present day native lands

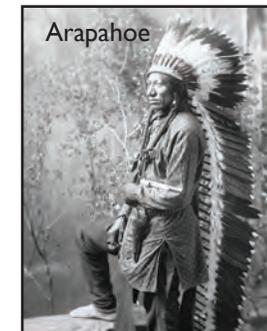


The arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s brought the domesticated horse into North America. By the 1700s, the horse became an integral part of some Native American cultures and allowed them to migrate deeper into the Great Plains, expand their hunting ranges, and to focus their hunting on bison. Before the arrival of Europeans the dominant Native American groups inhabiting Wyoming were the Shoshone, Crow, Cheyenne, and Arapaho. The Sioux Nation joined this list in the 1830s when they were invited to trade at Fort William (later Fort Laramie).

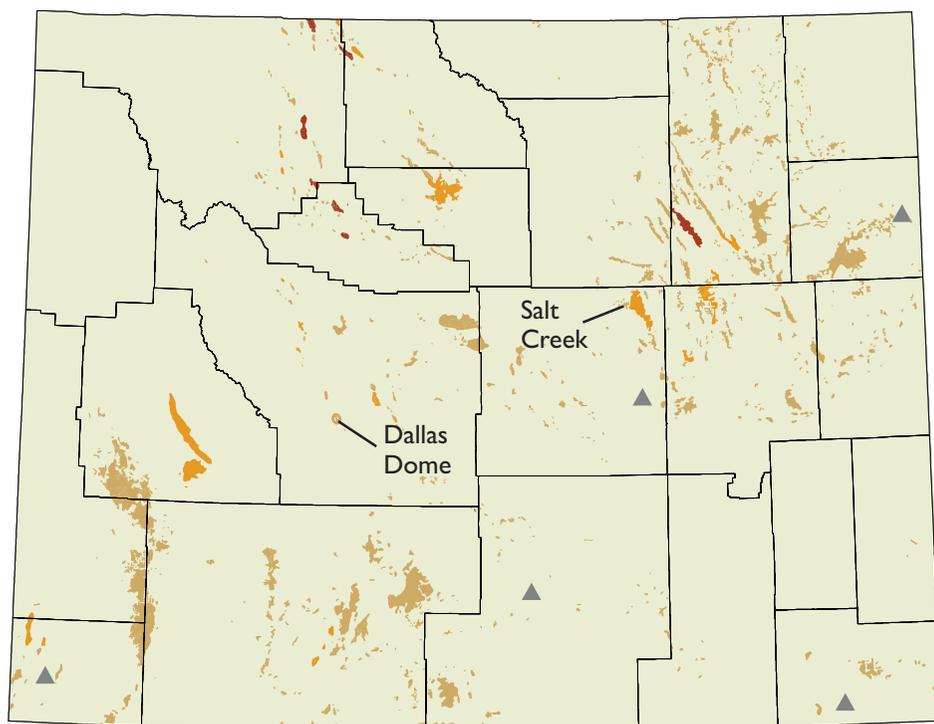
By the mid-1800s, established emigration routes like the Oregon and Bozeman trails brought increasing numbers of European Americans to settle in Wyoming. As a result, hostilities between the local tribes and settlers often escalated into open disputes where the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho defended their territories. These disputes led to a number of treaties between the Native Americans and the U.S. government to protect European settlers on what had been tribal lands.

Initially the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868) promised the Cheyenne, Crow, Arapaho, and Sioux all lands of the Powder River area and the Black Hills. The Shoshone were allotted the lands in the Wind River Valley by the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868. By 1877, the U.S. government had seized the lands of northeastern Wyoming from the Sioux and the Crow, and relocated the Arapaho to the Wind River Reservation (1878) to live with the Shoshone, their traditional enemy.

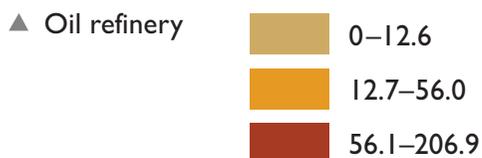
Today, many Shoshone and Arapaho live on the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming; the Crow and Northern Cheyenne are on reservations in southeastern Montana; and the Sioux Nation is split between reservations in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska.



Oil production



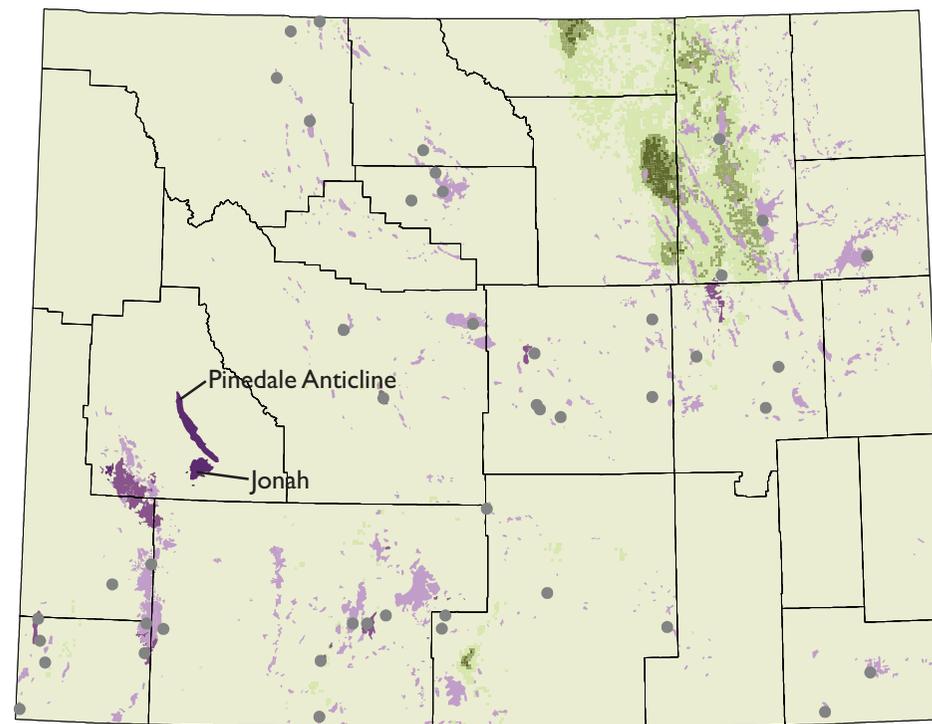
Total production in millions of barrels 1978–2013. Production is mapped by “fields,” areas which have a high density of wells.



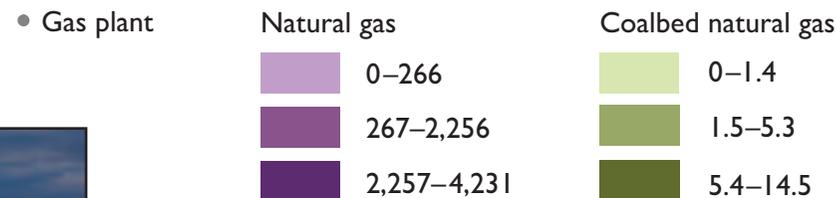
The first oil well drilled in Wyoming was at Dallas Dome in 1883, followed by Salt Creek. Salt Creek is the most productive field in Wyoming’s history, producing over 696 million barrels since 1889. Wyoming’s oil boom peaked in 1970, but production has been increasing again since 2009, in part due to enhanced oil recovery. Wyoming ranks ninth in production of crude oil in the nation.



Natural gas production



Total production in millions of cubic feet 1978–2013. Natural gas is mapped by field, coalbed natural gas is mapped by section.



Wyoming ranks fifth in the nation in the production of natural gas. Recent advancement in drilling technology may mean significant numbers of new wells in Wyoming’s Green River and Wind River basins, in addition to the large Pinedale Anticline (pictured) and Jonah fields. Coalbed natural gas production in the Powder River Basin has declined since 2009 after a decade-long boom.

