

Distant Views

This vast scene holds many intriguing stories. If the land could speak, it would tell of pioneers and wagons crossing the wide Raft River Valley from Strevell Pass to Emigrant Canyon bound for California in 1849-1882. The land would speak of stage coaches, racing from the transcontinental railroad station of Kelton, Utah to the City of Rocks stage station a few miles south of here. They carried supplies and payroll for gold miners in the Boise Basin, still a 15-day ride from here.

The land would also tell of a century past when the pinyon-juniper foothills below were more open, and the herbs and grasses sustained the livestock of emigrants, stage runners, cattle and sheep drives, and settlers. The sagebrush expanse before you was also dry-land farmed through the 1920s.

The hills speak of a northern pinyon pine forest invasion 2,700 years ago into present-day Idaho. Older still are the ancient Albion Mountains on which you stand, uplifted to expose a granite pluton from the most ancient of days. This story is best revealed along the ¼-mile self-guided geology trail that begins at the trailhead behind you. Come, let the land reveal its secrets to you.

Greene Mountain

Jim Sage Mountains

Black Pine Mountains

Lower Narrows

Strevell Pass

Bear River Mountains of the Wasatch Range (100 miles away)

Raft River Mountains

Smoky Mountain

Upper Raft River Valley

Granite Peak

Steinfells Dome



Pinyon Pine