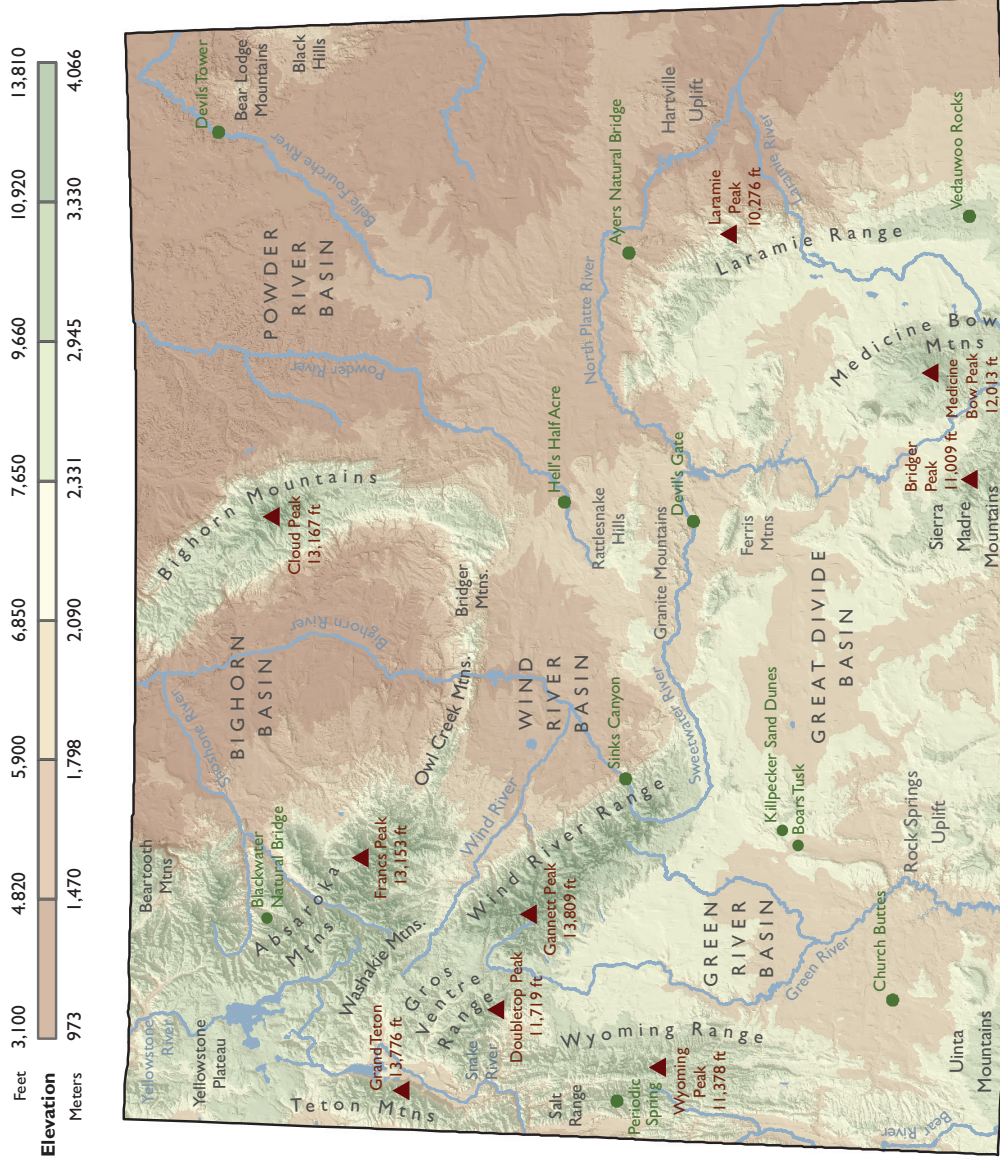


# Physiographic features

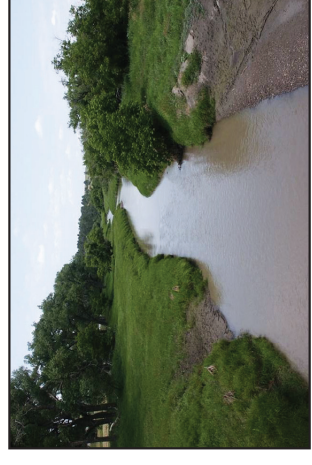


- ▲ Highest peak in each mountain range
- Other natural landmarks

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 the 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).

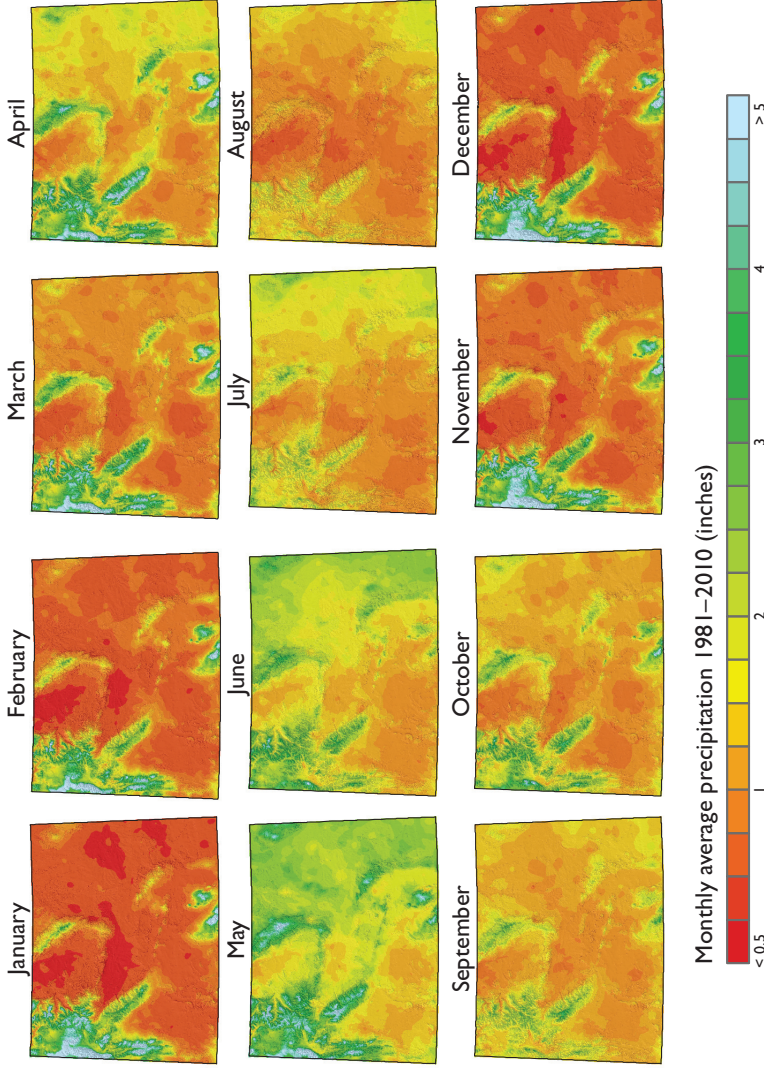


The eastern part of Wyoming is dominated by high plains. The middle and western parts of the state have several distinct ranges of the Rocky Mountains, divided by large basins. Even the basins have relatively high elevations, averaging 6,200 feet (1,890 meters). Wyoming's basins include many remarkable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

\*reprinted from the Wyoming Student Atlas





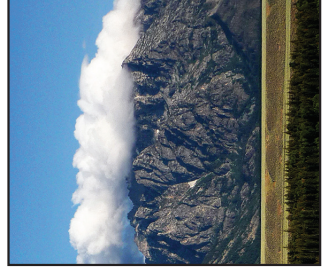


Monthly average precipitation 1981–2010 (inches)



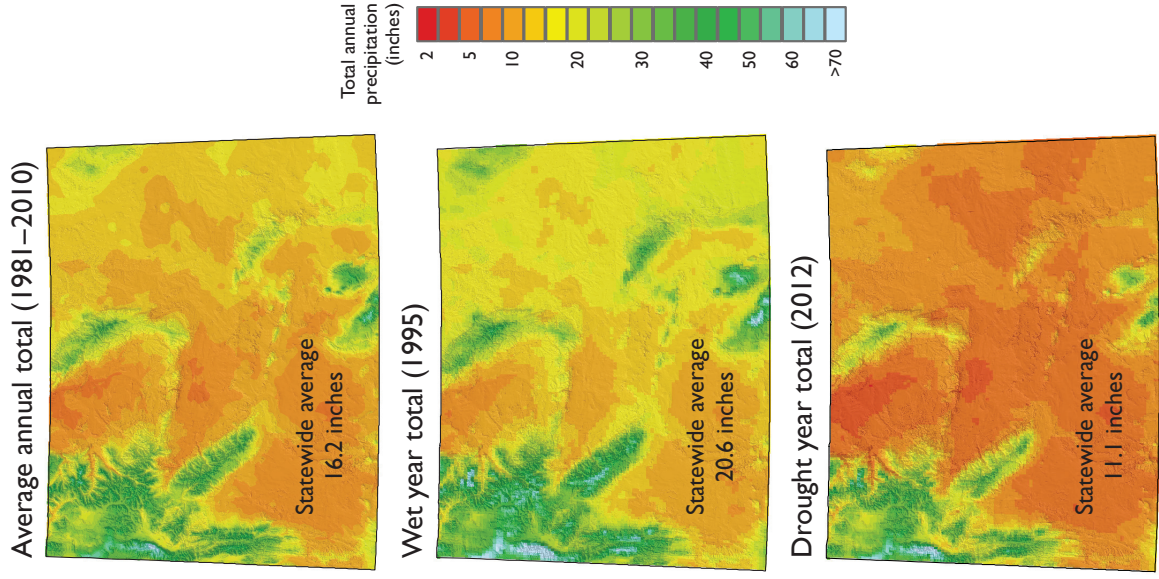
### Wyoming's mountains: Islands of moisture

When air masses encounter barriers like mountain ranges the air is forced up and over them in a process known as orographic lift. As air rises it cools and cannot hold as much water, so precipitation falls. This explains why Wyoming's lowlands are dominated by shrubs and grasses, but its mountain environment supports trees such as conifers and aspens.



### Annual precipitation

The threshold for growing most non-irrigated crops is 20 inches of precipitation per year. Most western states, including Wyoming, fall well below this average even during wet years. Droughts in Wyoming occur with some regularity. In 2012, Wyoming experienced its driest year on record with an increase in wildfires and economic hardship for the state's ranchers and hay producers.



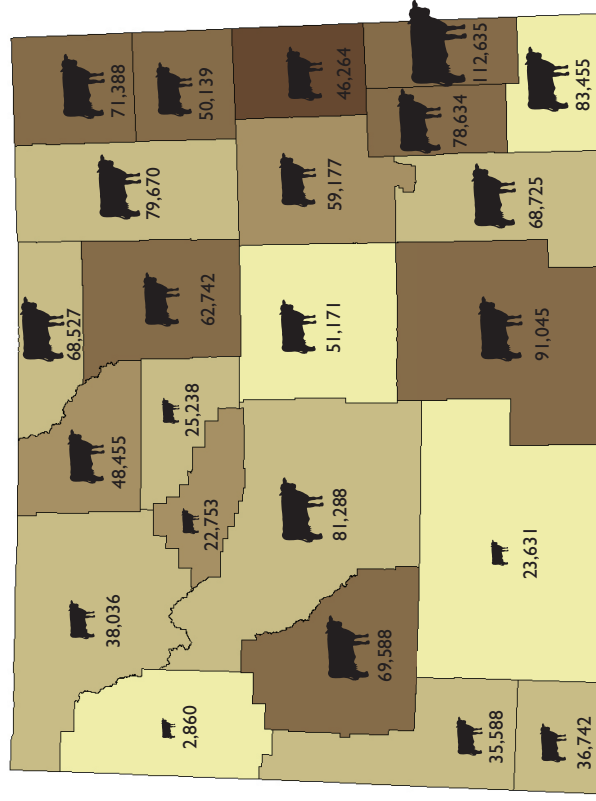
Total annual precipitation (inches)



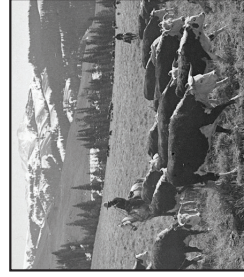
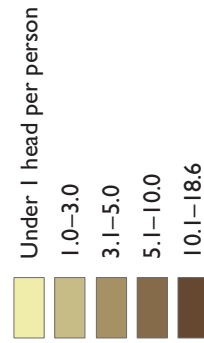
\*reprinted from the Wyoming Student Atlas



### Number of cattle (2012)

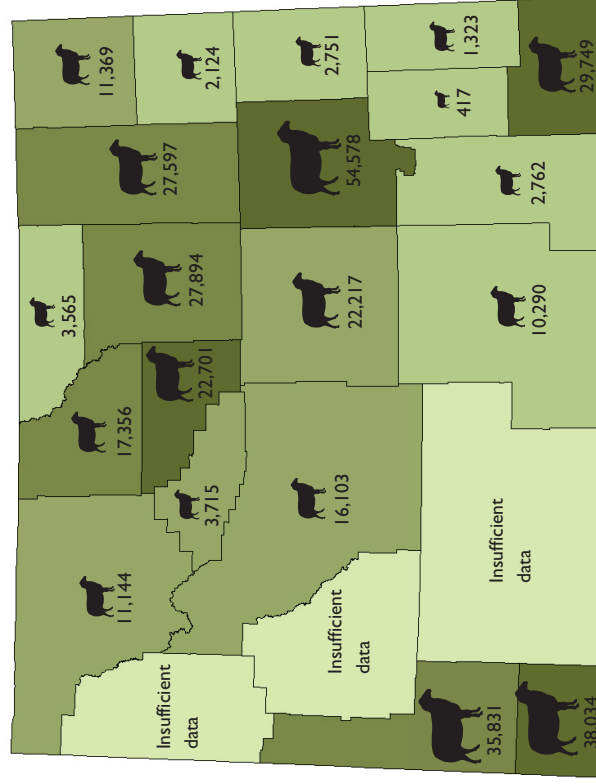


### Cattle-to-human ratio

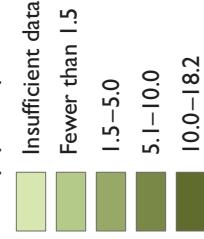


Much of Wyoming's agricultural land is too dry and cold for crop production but can support grazing animals. The expansion of the railroad to western states in the 1860s allowed cattle to be produced in Wyoming and shipped back east. Today the total cattle population in Wyoming is over 1.3 million, outnumbering people by more than two to one.

### Number of sheep (2012)



### Sheep per square mile



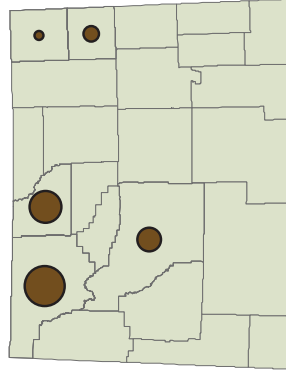
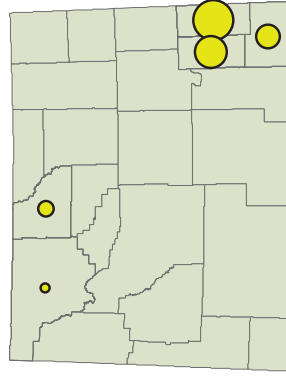
Though Wyoming's sheep totaled only 350,000 in 2012, the state has a long history of wool and meat production. During the mid-to-late 1800s, several ranchers purchased cheap land and struck it rich by raising sheep. As late as World War II, the state was home to four million sheep. Historically, sheep herders lived in horse-drawn wagons like the one pictured.

\*reprinted from the Wyoming Student Atlas

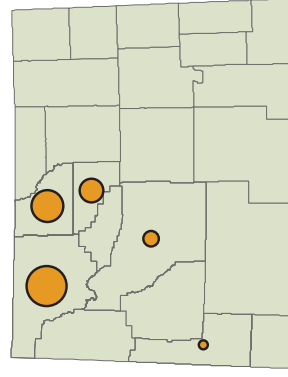
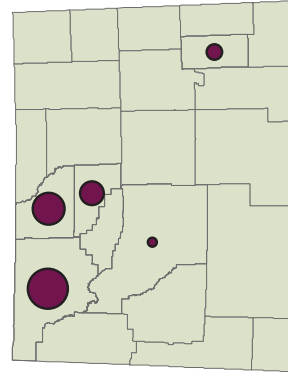


## Crop production (2012)

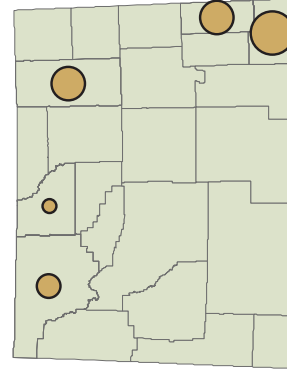
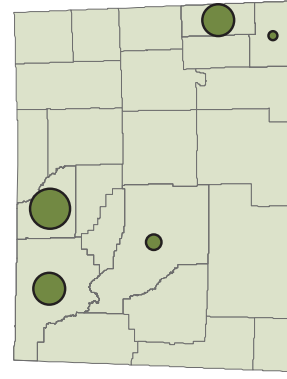
Top five producing counties for each major Wyoming crop



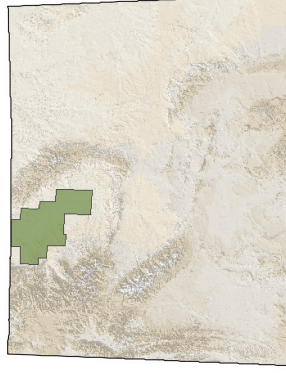
County	(bushels)
Park	74,638
Big Horn	61,587
Fremont	36,692
Weston	22,700
Crook	21,889



County	(bushels)
Park	1,892,657
Big Horn	1,194,746
Washakie	1,170,672
Fremont	413,290
Lincoln	373,967



County	(bushels)
Laramie	2,223,584
Goshen	607,785
Campbell	184,676
Park	152,209
Big Horn	136,500



Twenty-seven percent of the state's crops are grown in the Bighorn Basin, which includes sections of Big Horn, Washakie and Park counties. This area is relatively low in elevation and receives fewer days of frost, resulting in a longer growing season. It is also heavily irrigated with water from Buffalo Bill Reservoir.



Though Wyoming produces a diverse variety of row crops, the most common "crops" are animal forages such as hay and alfalfa. These forages are suited to the dry, cool climate of Wyoming and are produced in every county of the state.

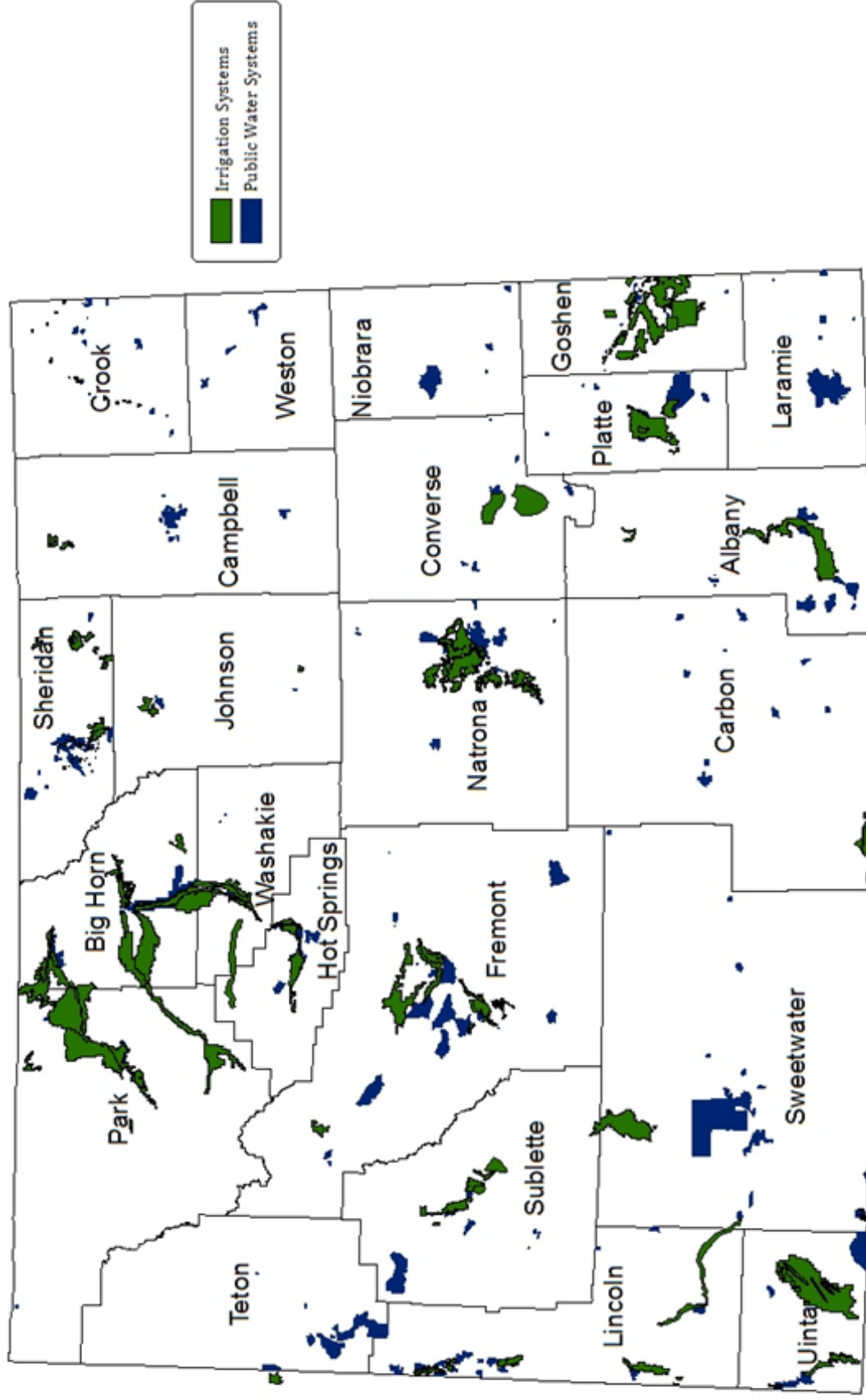
\*reprinted from the Wyoming Student Atlas





# Irrigation Map

## Wyoming public water and irrigation systems



Produced by the Water Resources Data System (<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>), April 2017

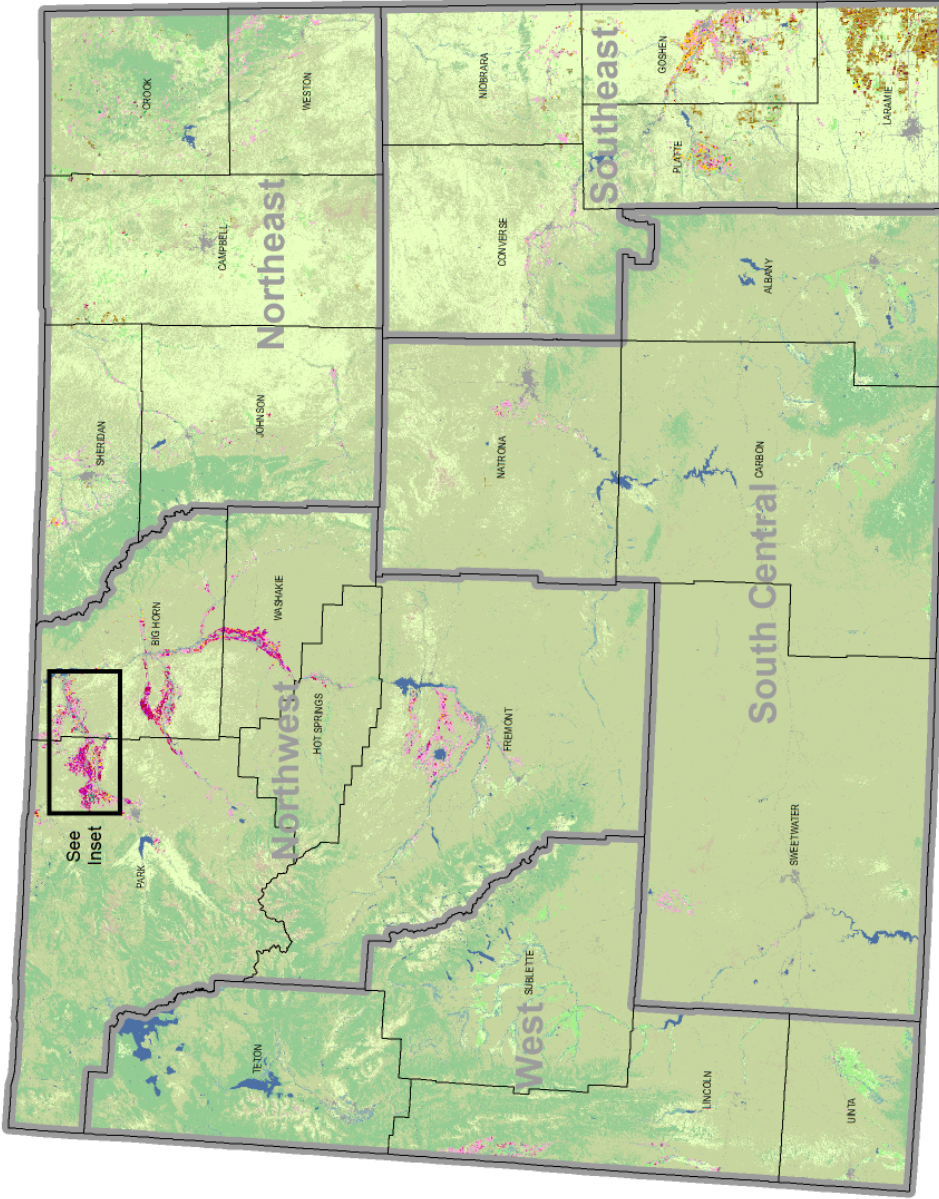
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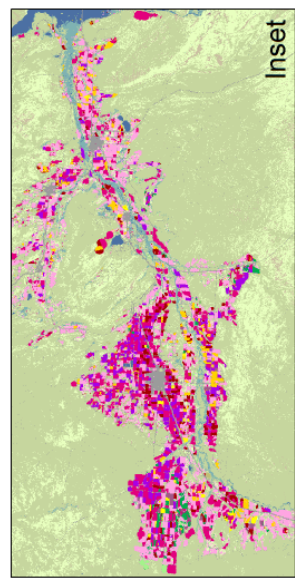




# 2015 Wyoming Cropland Data Layer



Produced by: U. S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Research and Development Division, Spatial Analysis Research Section  
 Cropland Data Layer CropScape Website: <http://nassproddata.ams.usda.gov/CropScape/>  
 Data Sources: Landsat 6OLI/TIRS, Dimos-1\*, UK-DMC2\* (Courtesy of USDA Foreign Agricultural Service)  
 Image Processing: Rulequest See5 and ERDAS Imagine  
 Ground Truth: The Farm Service Agency Common Land Unit for crops classes; 2011 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) for non-agricultural classes  
 Ancillary Data: NLCD Impervious Surface, NLCD Forest Canopy, National Elevation Dataset, NASS Crop Mask  
 Disclaimer: Small area crops may be less accurate, see CropScape metadata  
 Cartographic Generalization: Smaller categories combined with larger categories.  
 Projection: UTM zone 13, WGS84 datum.  
 Map Production: ESRI/ArcGIS 10.3.



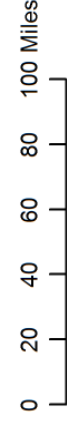
## Land Cover Categories (by decreasing acreage)

### AGRICULTURE

- Grassland/Pasture
- Other Hay/Non Alfalfa
- Alfalfa
- Fallow/Idle Cropland
- Winter Wheat
- Barley
- Corn
- Sugarbeets
- Dry Beans
- Other Crops
- Millet
- Oats
- Sunflower

### NON-AGRICULTURE

- Shrubland
- Forest
- Wetlands
- Barren
- Developed
- Water
- Perennial Ice/Snow
- County Boundary
- ASB Boundary



\*reprinted from Wyoming Agriculture Statistics 2016



## 3-2-1 Exit Ticket

List three factors that impact where crops are grown.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List two facts about which livestock are the most common in Wyoming.

- 1.
- 2.

Write a one sentence summary about how the topography of Wyoming effects where livestock and crops are raised.

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