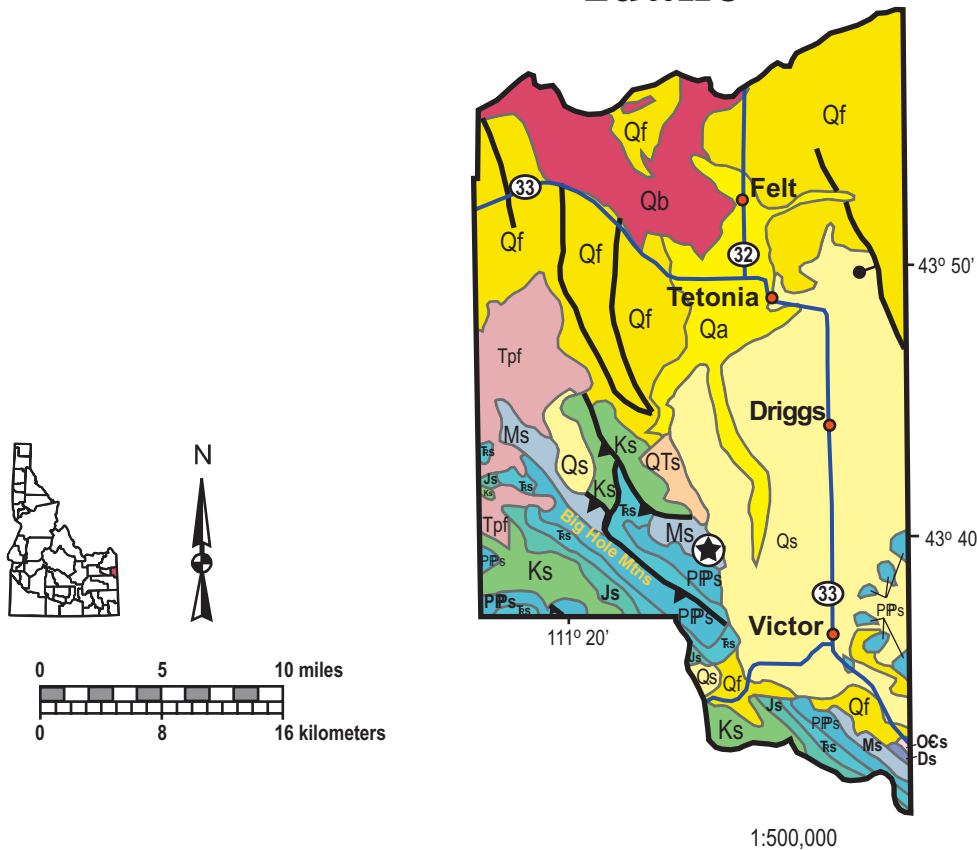


Teton County, Idaho



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<http://www.isu.edu/departments/geology/>

Teton County

Much of Teton County occupies Pierre's Hole, or the Teton Valley, which lies west of the Teton Mountains and northeast of the Big Hole Mountains. The bulk of the county is underlain by Quaternary sediment, and is thus eminently suited for agriculture, which has dominated the economy until the last 20 years when vacation homes and tourism have become increasingly important.

The Big Hole Mountains, in the southwestern part of the county, contain folded and thrust faulted sedimentary rocks, which in Teton County are mostly of Mesozoic age. Coal is found in Cretaceous strata in the Horseshoe basin west of Driggs. In the 1980s wells were drilled for oil in these mountains.

Teton Pass, at the southeast corner of the county, exposes very complex geology where the north dipping Cache Creek reverse fault, that formed in the Paleocene Laramide orogeny, impinged on rocks carried northeastward by the south-dipping Jackson thrust fault of the Idaho-Wyoming thrust belt















Miocene rhyolite of the Heise and Yellowstone volcanic fields occupies the north end of the Big Hole Mountains, and is incised deeply by the Teton River as it tracks westward toward the Snake.

The eastern border of the county, and the state of Idaho, is in the agricultural area west of the Teton Mountains. The Tetons rise dramatically on dip slopes formed from west-dipping Paleozoic carbonate strata. At the top of the Targhee ski area, the rocks are Mississippian. On Table Mountain they are the Cambrian-Archean unconformity, and on the Grand Teton the rocks are Archean gneiss.

Description of Units for Idaho County Geologic Maps

- Qa Quaternary alluvial deposits
- Qf Pleistocene silicic volcanic rocks; rhyolite lava and ash-flow tuff (includes Yellowstone Group).
- Qb Pleistocene basalt lava, 2 million to 12,000 years old, flows have some vegetation and surface weathering.
- QTs Pleistocene and Pliocene stream and lake deposits; sand, gravel and mud; Lake Idaho sediments; Glens Ferry Formation; Idaho Group.
- Tpf Pliocene and Upper Miocene felsic volcanic rocks, rhyolite flows, tuffs, ignimbrites. (in Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills, this should be Tmf).
- Ks Cretaceous sedimentary rocks.
- Js Jurassic sedimentary rocks.
- Rs Triassic sedimentary rocks.
- PPs Permian and Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks.
- Ms Mississippian sedimentary rocks.
- Ds Devonian sedimentary rocks.
- OCs Ordovician and Cambrian sedimentary rocks.

Symbols

 <p>Geologic unit contacts with unit designation.</p>  <p>Normal fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.</p>  <p>Thrust fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.</p>  <p>Detachment fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.</p>  <p>Anticline: trace of axial plane: large arrow indicates direction of plunge.</p>  <p>Syncline: trace of axial plane: large arrow indicates direction of plunge.</p>	 <p>Overtured anticline: trace of axial plane.</p>  <p>Overtured syncline: trace of axial plane.</p>  <p>Location of ISU Rockwalk rock from each county.</p>  <p>Cities</p>  <p>Feature location</p> <p>Roads</p>  <p>Interstate Route</p>  <p>U.S. Route</p>  <p>State route</p>
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