

## WYOMING'S NORTHERN RED DESERT IS A REMOTE AND RUGGED LANDSCAPE.

- Use a high-clearance, 4WD or AWD vehicle and be ready to fix a flat tire (or two).
- Do not rely on cell service. Consider carrying a personal locator device and let someone know of your travel plans.
- Bring extra water and food, a first aid kit, and cold-weather gear, regardless of time of year.
- Check the weather before heading into the desert and do not travel on wet roads.
- Take appropriate maps and know how to use them.

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Whitehorse Creek, Oregon Buttes, and Honeycomb Buttes are wilderness study areas managed to preserve their wilderness character. Most of their boundaries are two-track routes that can be driven, but cars are prohibited inside the boundary. Pack out trash, do not park in undisturbed areas, and do not drive off-road.

**Help keep the Northern Red Desert wild by practicing Leave No Trace principles.**



Want to learn more about the Northern Red Desert? Check out:

[www.wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org/  
NorthernRedDesert](http://www.wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org/NorthernRedDesert)

## MAPS

Four Bureau of Land Management BLM 1:100,000 scale topographic maps, available at field offices in Lander and Rock Springs, are recommended:

- South Pass
- Red Desert Basin
- Farson
- Rock Springs

## FOR MORE INFORMATION,

**contact the Wyoming Outdoor Council, or the Bureau of Land Management offices in Rock Springs or Lander.**

### Wyoming Outdoor Council

262 Lincoln Street  
Lander, WY 82520  
307-332-7031  
8am–5pm Monday through Friday

### BLM Rock Springs Field Office

80 Highway 191 North  
Rock Springs, WY 82901  
307-352-0256  
7:45am–4:30pm Monday through Friday

### BLM Lander Field Office

1335 Main Street  
Lander, WY 82520  
307-332-8400  
7:45am–4:30pm Monday through Friday

# EXPLORE WYOMING'S NORTHERN RED DESERT!

Wind River Country's  
Northern Red Desert is a wild  
and awe-inspiring landscape.

Nicolaus Wegner/LightAlive Photography, courtesy of Wyoming Wilderness Association

Kathy Lichtendahl





# ADVENTURES ABOUND IN WIND RIVER COUNTRY

After a day hiking, or a weekend camping, in the Northern Red Desert, be sure to check out:

- South Pass City State Historic Site
- Red Canyon Overlook
- Sinks Canyon and the Loop Road

**More information on these driving tours is available at [windriver.org](http://windriver.org)**



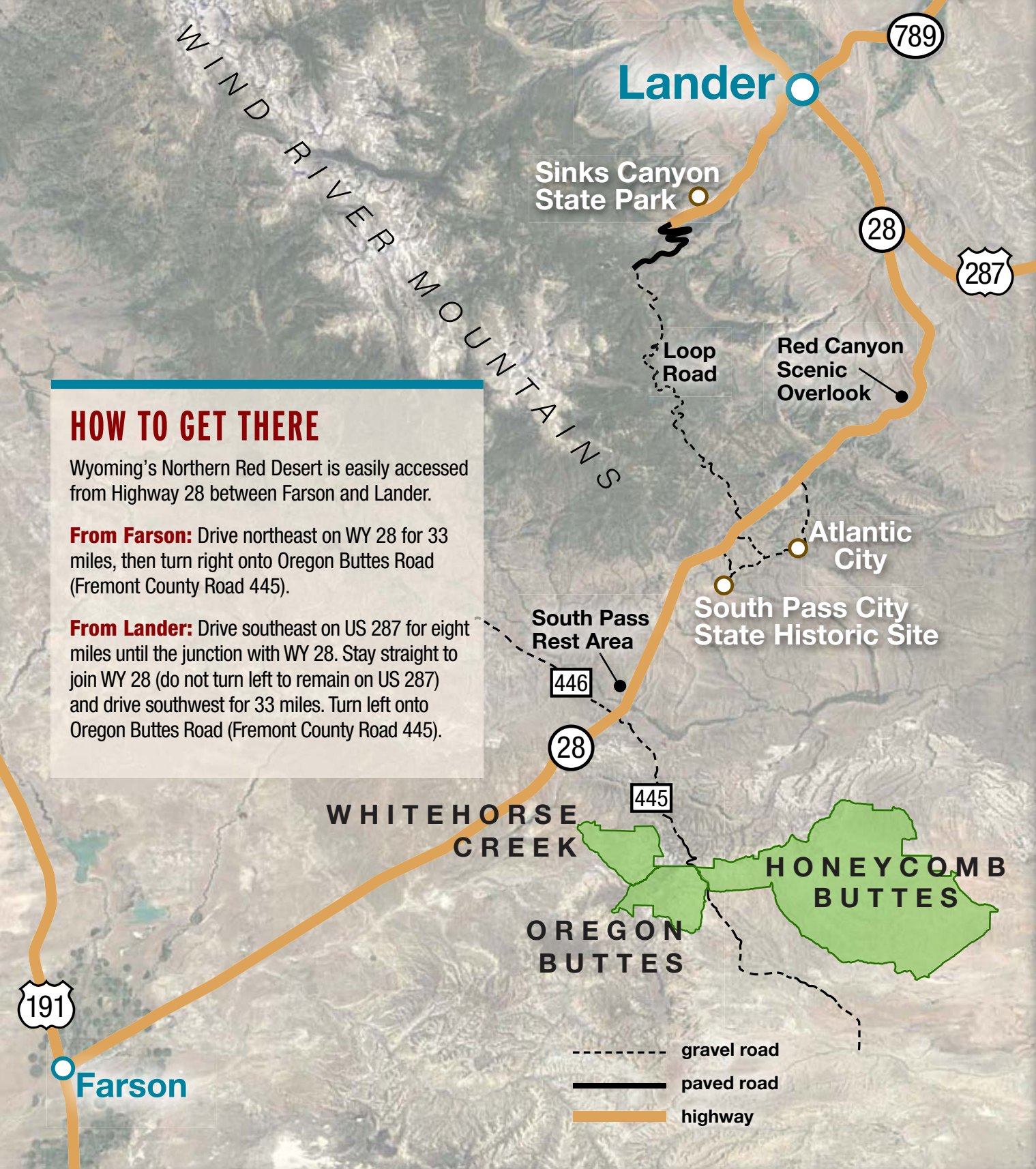
South Pass City State Historic Site



Red Canyon Scenic Overlook



Sinks Canyon's Disappearing River



Lander

Sinks Canyon State Park

Loop Road

Red Canyon Scenic Overlook

Atlantic City

South Pass City State Historic Site

South Pass Rest Area

WHITEHORSE CREEK

OREGON BUTTES

HONEYCOMB BUTTES

## HOW TO GET THERE

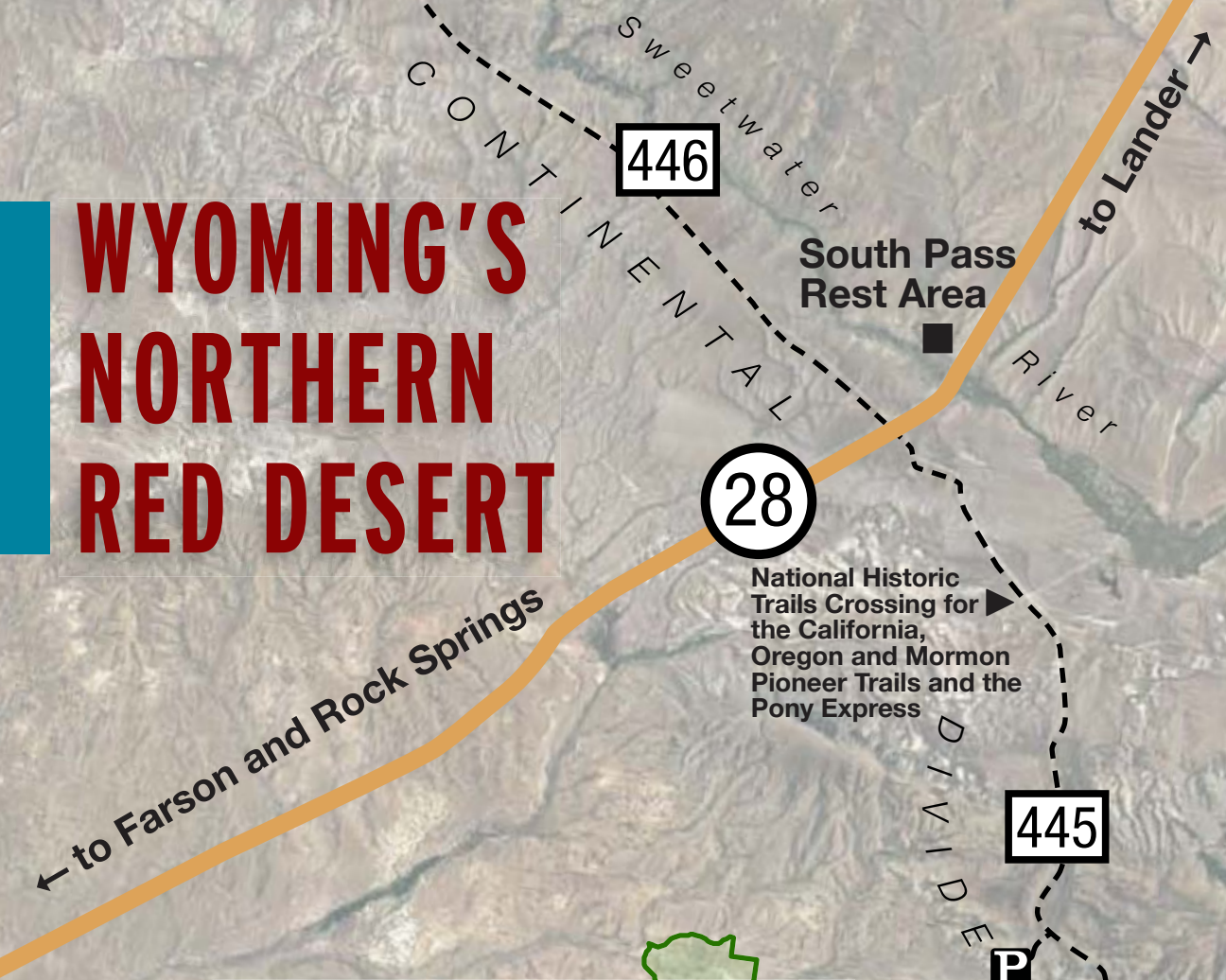
Wyoming's Northern Red Desert is easily accessed from Highway 28 between Farson and Lander.

**From Farson:** Drive northeast on WY 28 for 33 miles, then turn right onto Oregon Buttes Road (Fremont County Road 445).

**From Lander:** Drive southeast on US 287 for eight miles until the junction with WY 28. Stay straight to join WY 28 (do not turn left to remain on US 287) and drive southwest for 33 miles. Turn left onto Oregon Buttes Road (Fremont County Road 445).



# WYOMING'S NORTHERN RED DESERT



## OREGON BUTTES

**Sentinels to the heart of the Northern Red Desert**

The Oregon Buttes were an important landmark along the Oregon, California, and Mormon emigrant trails. Once travelers heading west crossed nearby South Pass, they entered Oregon Territory, earning these iconic buttes their name. The Oregon Buttes are most often accessed from the north, but please respect private land and use a map to find the routes through public land. There are various ways to climb through the cliff bands to the top of the northernmost butte. From there, you can travel south through an aged and twisted forest, and then traverse to the other buttes. Be sure to search for mountain lion sign and golden eagles, and bring a windbreaker. The wind scours the tops of these high-altitude treasures.



Kyle Duba, Courtesy Wyoming Outdoor Council

► To get to Oregon Buttes, take County Road 445 southeast for 11.5 miles and park on the side of the road. Head due west to climb the North and South Butte.

## WHITEHORSE CREEK

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**Rich with wildlife, easy to access**

Whitehorse Creek is one of the most family-friendly landscapes in the Northern Red Desert. There are excellent car camping sites along the rim, and visitors can look out over the magnificent badlands in the foreground and enjoy an expansive view that extends all the way to the far-off Wyoming Range. The pitted sandstone outcrops along the rim, along with twisted juniper trees and dense sagebrush, attract mule deer and resident desert elk. Hikers can remain along the rim or drop down into the basin—keep an eye out for fossils, raptors, and bobcat tracks.



Nicole Hays Wegener/HighLife Photography, courtesy of Wyoming Wilderness Association

► To get to Whitehorse Creek, take County Road 445 southeast for 6 miles and then turn right onto a two-track route. Travel that route southwest for .5 mile to an unsigned parking area along the overlook.



## OREGON BUTTES

▲ Continental Peak

## HONEYCOMB BUTTES

### HONEYCOMB BUTTES

**Remnants of an ancient sea**

The Honeycomb Buttes are not easy to access, but these maze-like badlands are well worth the effort. This remarkable place offers some of the West's best desert hiking, camping, and star-gazing. The Honeycombs are remnants of an ancient sea. More than 50 million years ago, the waves of this sea lapped against a boggy swamp and tangled tropical forest. Massive turtles, crocodiles, fish, and small mammals all called this coastal environment home. Today, the colorfully banded sediments of this long-ago sea can be explored on foot or horseback. Under the big Wyoming sky, these artistic badlands are great for photography—bring a camera to capture the colors at sunrise and sunset.



Ken Driese

► To access the western side of the Honeycomb Buttes, take County Road 445 southeast for 11.5 miles and park on the side of the road. Head east along the two-track route that makes up the southern boundary of the Honeycomb Buttes WSA.