

NATURAL WORLD

You can stand on the edge of the highway above Red Canyon and see for miles and miles and miles. Waves of hogback ridges rise up toward the craggy, snow-capped peaks of the Wind River Mountains. Buff-colored cliffs and red-rock slabs glow in the evening sun, contrasting sharply with the emerald green of irrigated pastures. This is the natural world that surrounds Lander.

On any given day in Lander, you can travel a relatively short period of time from wide-open sage brush steppe where spring wildflowers blanket the plains in a brief explosion of color to a sub-alpine forest of whitebark pine where the temperatures are cool regardless of how hot it is in the valleys below. Sinks Canyon provides a little bit of the mountains just minutes from town.

Wildlife flourish in these open spaces. There are more antelope than people in Fremont County and most days you'll see a raptor—be it a golden eagle or a red-tailed hawk—soaring overhead. The interface between the plains and the mountains, and the riparian habitat provided by the Popo Agie River, mean that the Lander area supports a wide diversity of animals, birds and plants. It's not uncommon to find deer roaming the streets of town, particularly in the winter months, as much of Lander's surrounding natural habitat remains relatively unspoiled.

