

**Miller Butte Field Trip – Geologists of Jackson Hole  
Members Only**

**13 June, 2026**

**7:00 am at the Fairgrounds parking lot (SW corner)**

Local geologist John Heberger will lead a Geologists of Jackson Hole field trip for Members high up on Miller Butte, with access provided courtesy of the National Elk Refuge staff. **This will be an off-trail hike of >1 mile and 500' vertical. It will also be weather dependent (see below).**



**Miller Butte Panorama (photo: John Heberger Jr.)**

Atop Miller Butte a panoramic view of Jackson Hole and the geologic processes and features that caused it to be are readily seen. It is the geology that makes Jackson Hole the spectacular place that millions travel to visit every year. From high on Miller Butte we will see evidence of and discuss:

1. The ~2.7 billion year old crystalline, igneous rocks that underly everything.
2. The break up of the super continent Rodinia, some 765 million years ago.
3. Sedimentary rocks that were deposited when North America was at the equator, and when Wyoming was at or near to tropical sea level.
4. The structural event that formed nearly all of the mountains and intervening basins seen across the State of Wyoming, some 70-50 million years ago.
5. Why the Wyoming we know today looked dramatically different about 6-8 million years ago.
6. Volcanism in and near to Jackson Hole.

7. The late and ongoing structural event that recently (geologically speaking) formed the valley of Jackson Hole, within the past ~4.5 million years.
8. Glacial features formed within the glacial events that have occurred repeatedly during the past 2.5 million years.

This trip involves a walk where there is **no trail**, and requires the ability to readily climb **500' vertical feet**. The climb distance will be **.6 miles each way**. This will NOT be a trip suitable for anyone who might have trouble with such a climb, and / or who would require more than ~30 minutes for a 500' climb. Please do NOT ask to participate if you have any doubt about your ability to readily do this walk. Because of the off-trail nature of this trip, **it will be weather dependent**. Significant rainfall just before, or the day of, will mean we need to cancel it due to muddy, slippery conditions.

We will begin the field trip by meeting at the Teton County Fairgrounds (SW corner) at 7 a.m., for a brief introduction, and to consolidate into carpools. We anticipate being back at the Fairgrounds by noon, but much depends on participants' pace, and the length of the discussion. So be sure to bring drink and probably a snack.

#### **Photos from the field trip by Jennifer Truman:**

