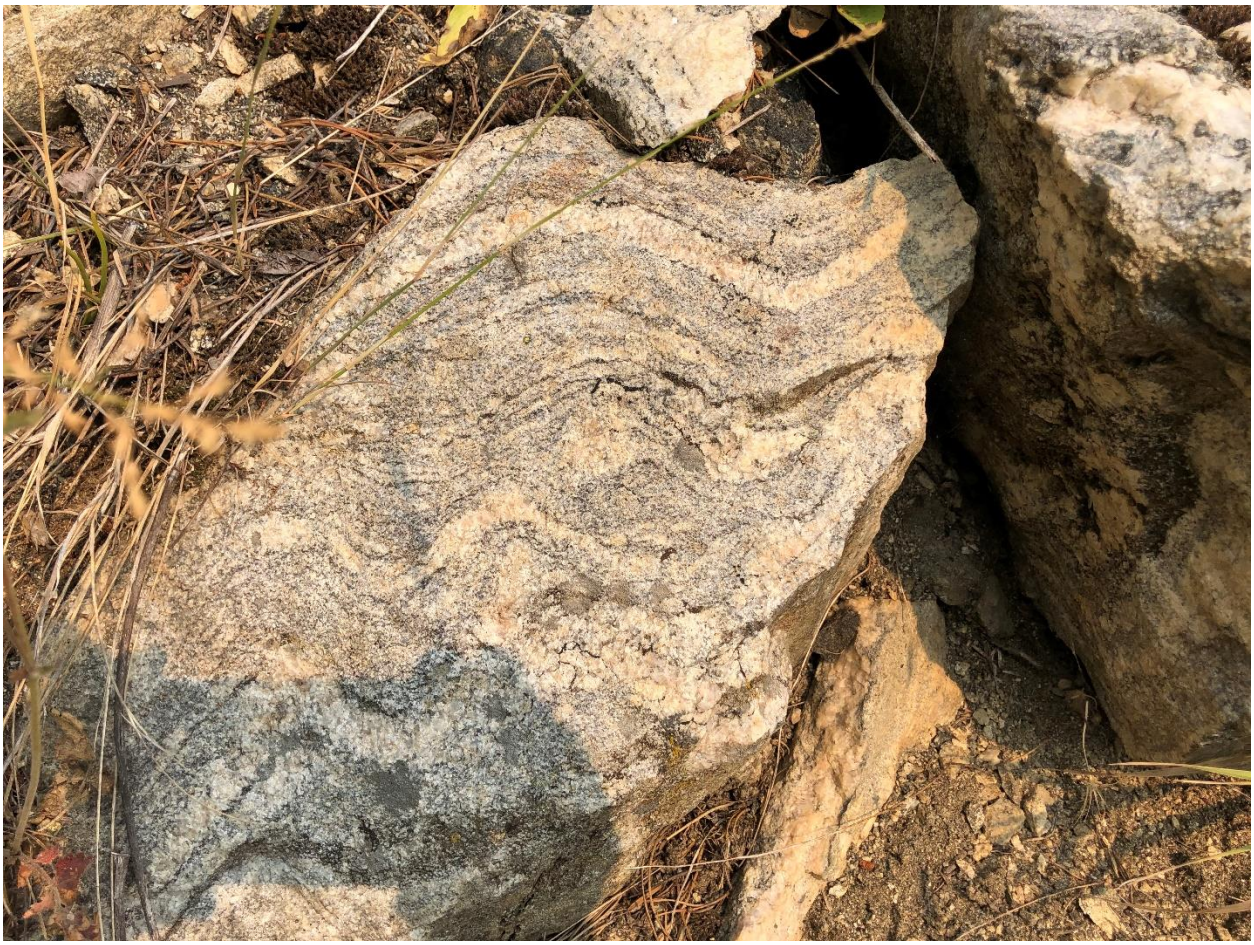
Rocks of Hyalite Canyon

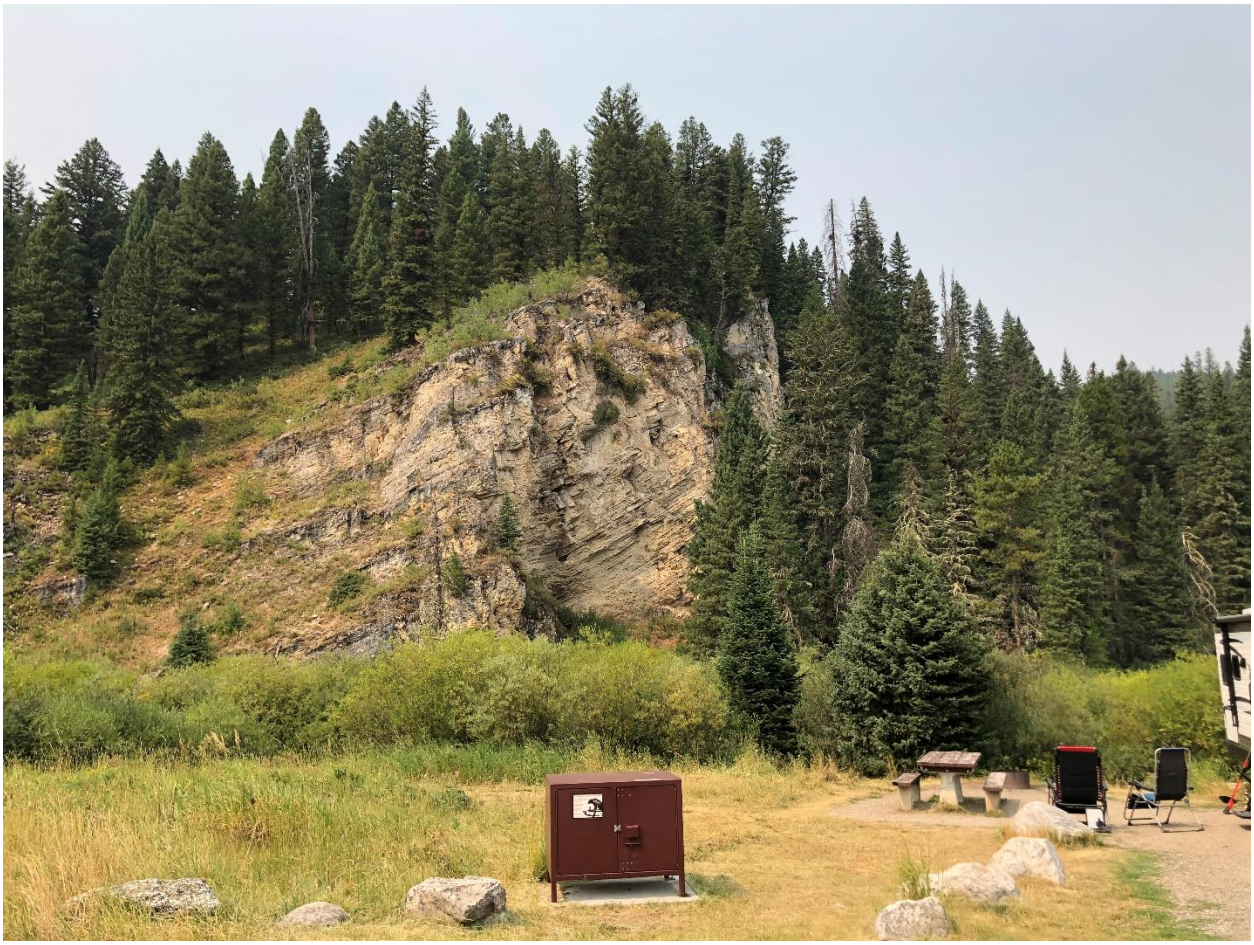
Metamorphic rocks are found in the lower part of Hyalite Canyon. Practice Rock is composed of the metamorphic rock Gneiss.

Slabs of Gneiss in the lower canyon.

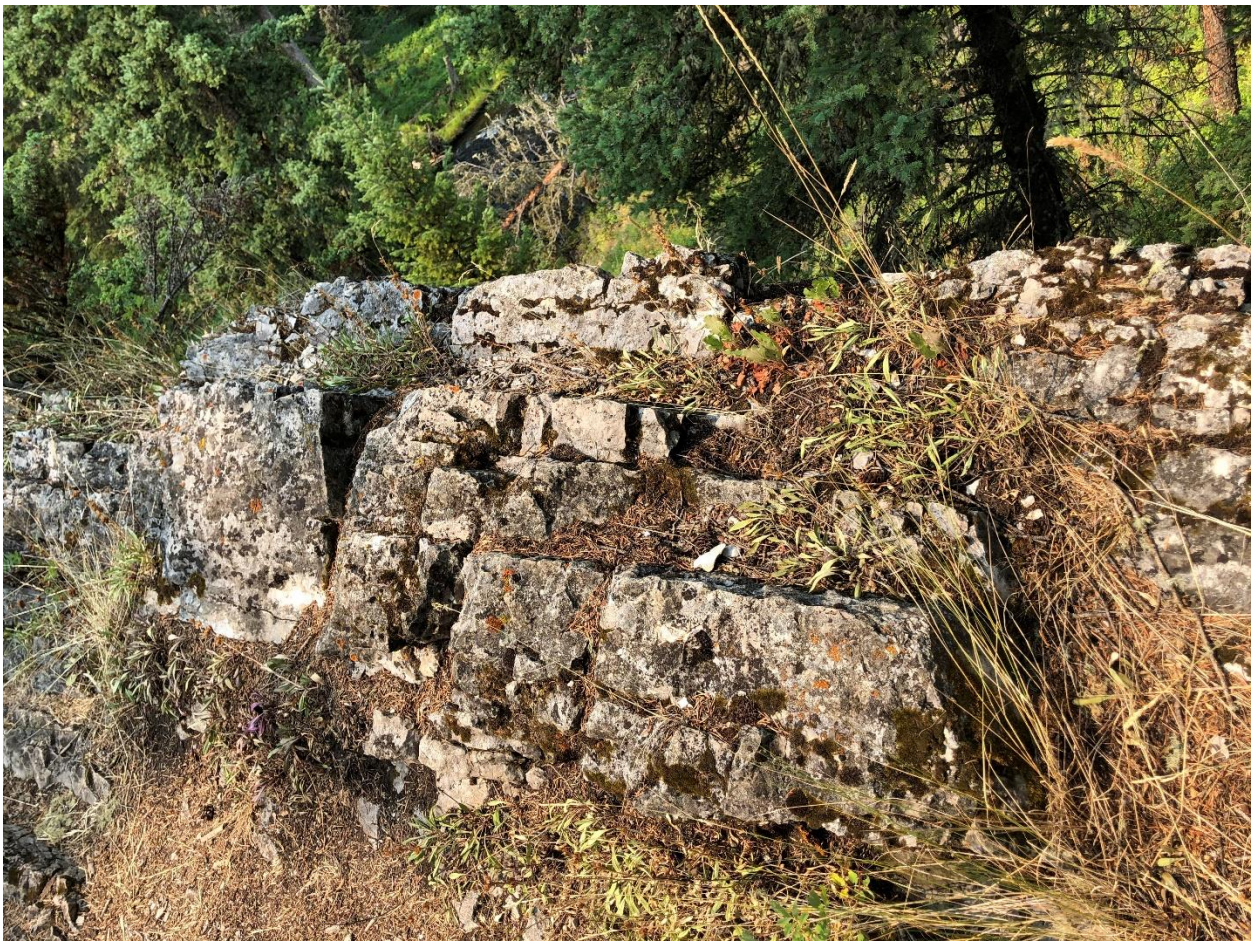


Gneiss is formed deep in the earth under tremendous heat and pressure. Notice how deformed the layers of mineral are in this rock.

Sedimentary rocks are formed by minerals settling on the bottom of a sea and then buried deep enough to solidify into rock.

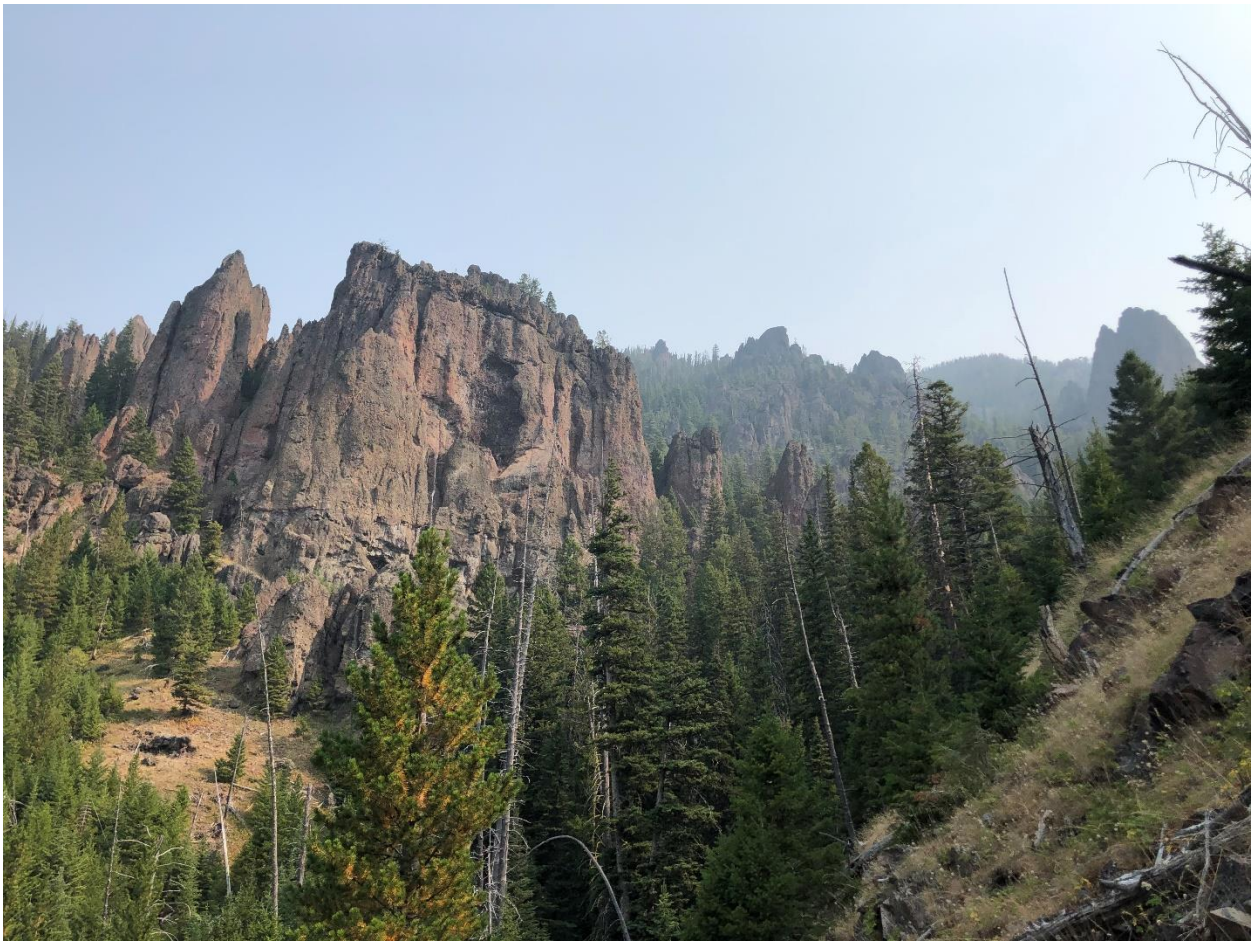


Sedimentary rocks at the Langhor campground. Notice the layers of sediment in this outcropping.

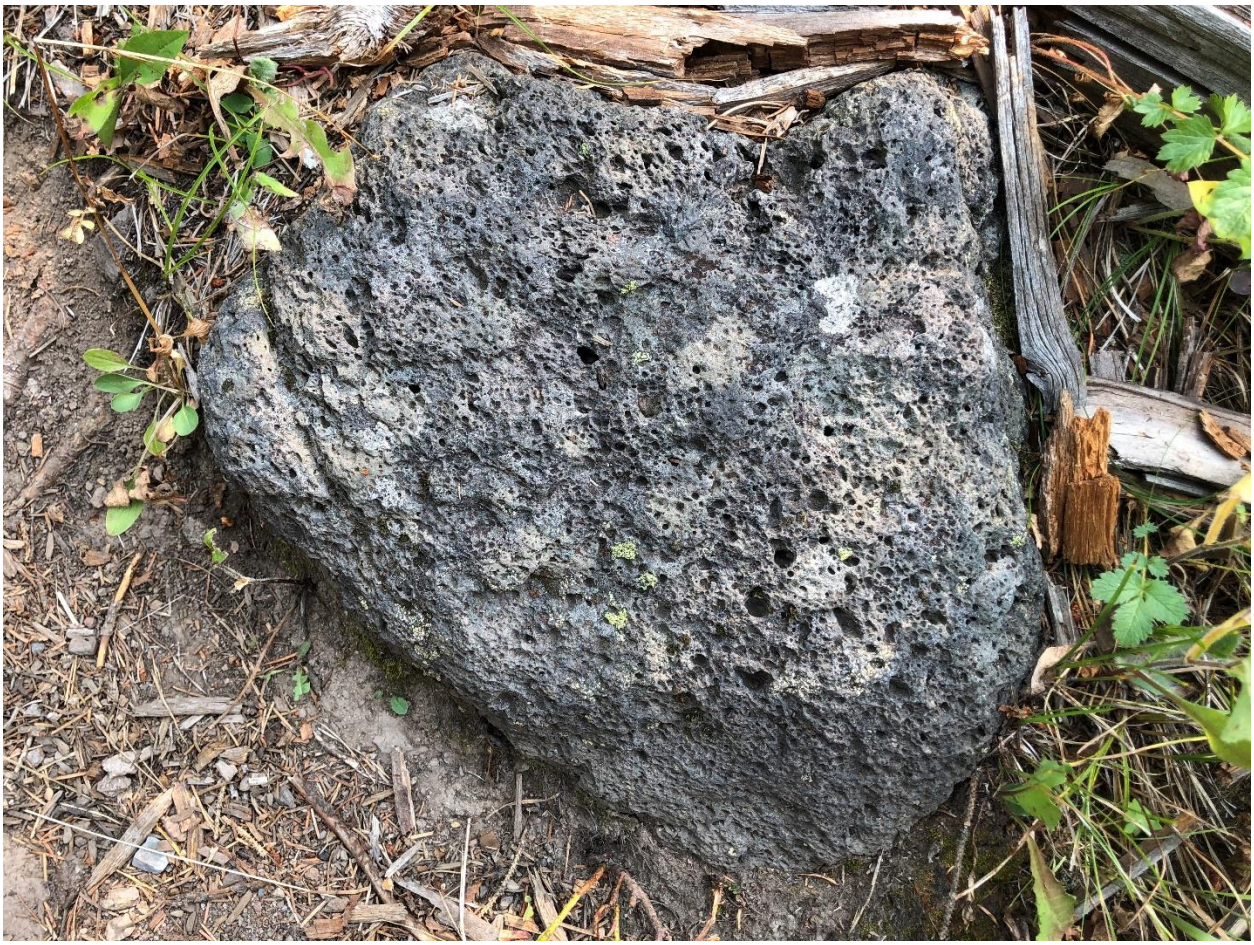


Limestone is a sedimentary rock that forms in layers.

Volcanic rocks are common in the upper part of Hyalite Canyon. The high ridges and peaks are mostly the volcanic rock Basalt. These rocks were formed by lava flows that came out of the Yellowstone caldera.



The Palisades up the East Fork of Hyalite Creek are volcanic basalt.



Closeup of a Basalt rock. Notice the “Swiss Cheese” texture to this rock.

Hyalite Canyon gets its name from Hyalite Opal. Hyalite Opal is a clear glassy mineral that looks like a skin of bubbly glass on the rocks. It is found in the high ridges and peaks of Hyalite.

Some pieces of Hyalite Opal are fluorescent under Ultra-Violet black light.