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A Large Plasma-Vortex Discharge to the Colorado Plateau

a presentation by

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11/26/12

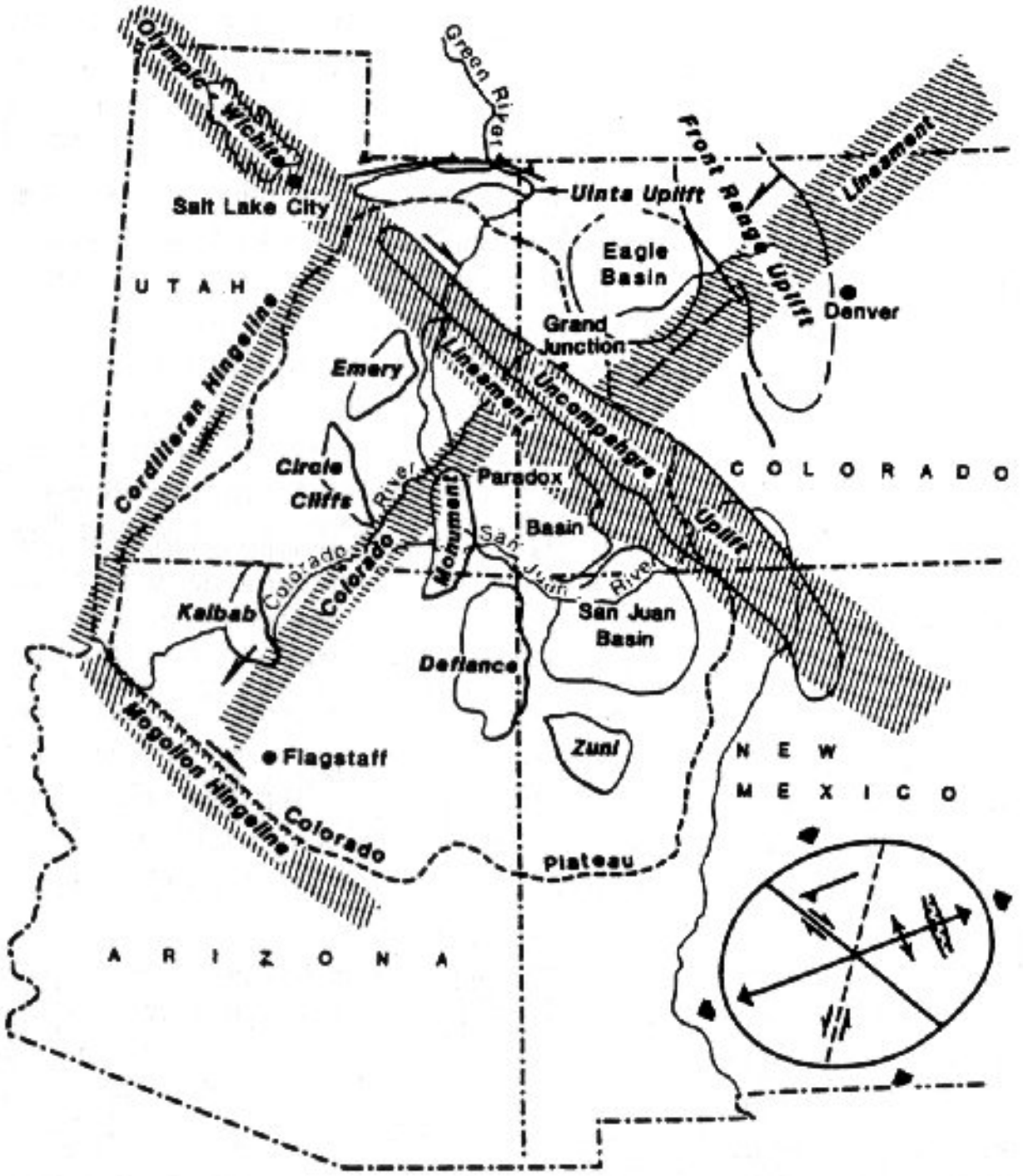
Colorado Plateau – Location

The western boundary of the Colorado Plateau Province is marked by the Grand Wash Cliffs and High Plateaus in central Utah and by the Wasatch Mountains near Salt Lake City.

The northern boundary usually is considered to be the Uinta Mountains.

The Mogollon Rim in central Arizona marks the western portion of the southern boundary of the province.

The eastern limit is seen west of the San Juan Mountains and Uncompahgre Plateau of western Colorado.


Olympic-Wichita Lineament
Green River
Salt Lake City
Uinta Uplift
Front Range Uplift
Lineament
Eagle Basin
Denver
UTAH
Grand Junction
Cordilleran Hingeline
Emery
Lineament
Uncompahgre
Uplift
COLORADO
Circle Cliffs
Colorado River
Monument
Paradox Basin
San Juan River
Kaibab
Colorado
Colorado River
San Juan Basin
Defiance
Mogollon Hingeline
Flagstaff
Zuni
NEW MEXICO
Colorado Plateau
ARIZONA

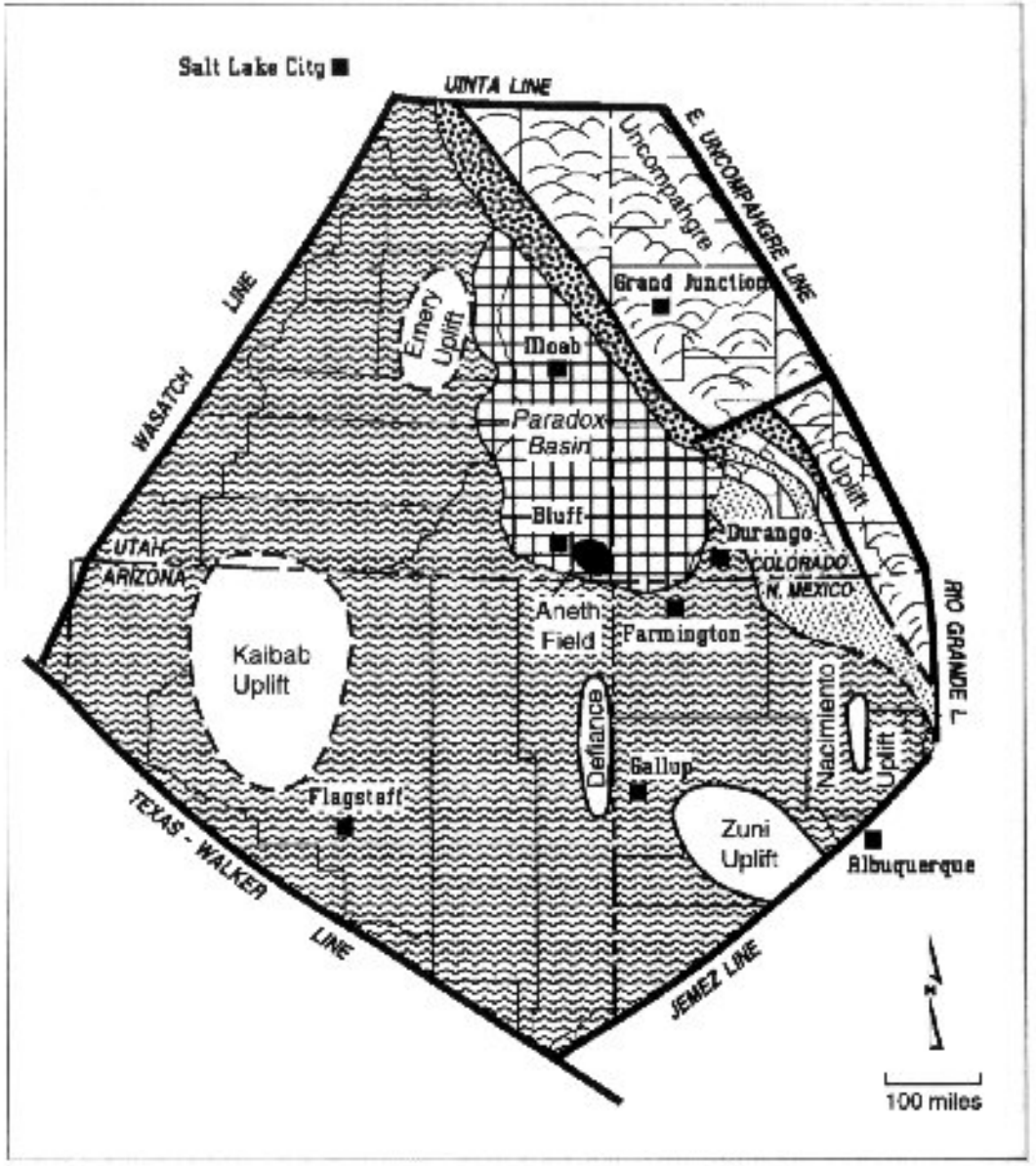
Setup in the Standard View

The Colorado Plateau is a relatively high block of the continent that has acted independently of surrounding regions.

It is set apart by large fault systems (long trends of earth fractures, sometimes called "lineaments" that are major breaks in a continental-scale structural fabric.

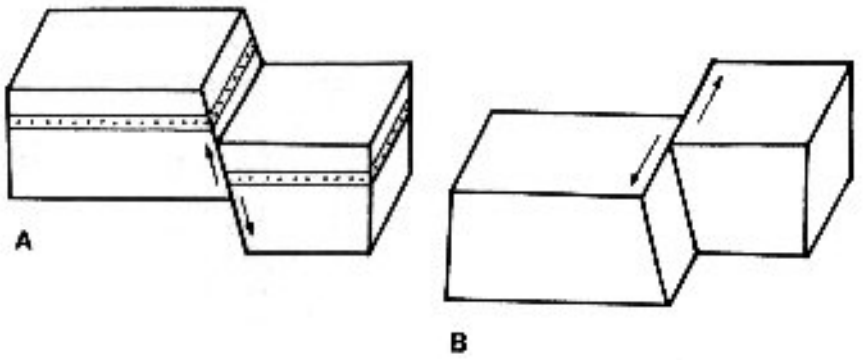
Hundreds of lesser deep-seated faults (fractures along which there has been some movement) have contributed to the formation of large uplifts and intervening downfolded basins in the rocks.

Colorado Plateau lineaments



Colorado Plateau lineaments

- The Rio Grande line and the Uncompahgre line cut deeply into the area that is considered to be the Colorado Plateau.
- The San Juan Mountains are included because the geology in that alpine region has close affinities to the Plateau geology.



Utah
Colorado
Arizona
New Mexico
Tooele
Sandy
Provo
Fort Collins
Greeley
Boulder
Westminster
Lakewood
Denver
Centennial
Glenwood Springs
Grand Junction
Colorado Springs
Pueblo
Alamosa
Durango
Trinidad
Farmington
Grand Canyon National Park
Los Alamos
Santa Fe
Las Vegas
Gallup
Flagstaff
Kingman
Albuquerque
Belen
Prescott
Phoenix
Mesa
Chandler
Roswell
Sterling

What else can be seen here?

Fort Collins
Greeley
Boulder
Westminster
Lakewood
Denver
Centennial
Colorado
Colorado Springs
Pueblo
Glenwood Springs
Grand Junction
Provo
Tooele
Sandy
Price
Utah
Capitol Reef National Park
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Durango
Alamosa
Trinidad
Farmington
Grand Canyon National Park
Los Alamos
Santa Fe
Las Vegas
Gallup
Albuquerque
South Valley
Belen
Flagstaff
Prescott
Arizona
New Mexico
Peoria
Phoenix
Mesa
Chandler
Roswell
Tucumcari
Portales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Arizona
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Gallup
Albuquerque
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Prescott
Phoenix
Mesa
Chandler
Roswell
Tucumcari
Grand Canyon National Park
Capitol Reef National Park

What could those rings be?

Where could they come from?

Fort Collins
Boulder
Westminster
Denver
Centennial
Colorado
Colorado Springs
Pueblo
Grand Junction
Provo
Utah
Durango
Alamosa
Santa Fe
Las Vegas
Albuquerque
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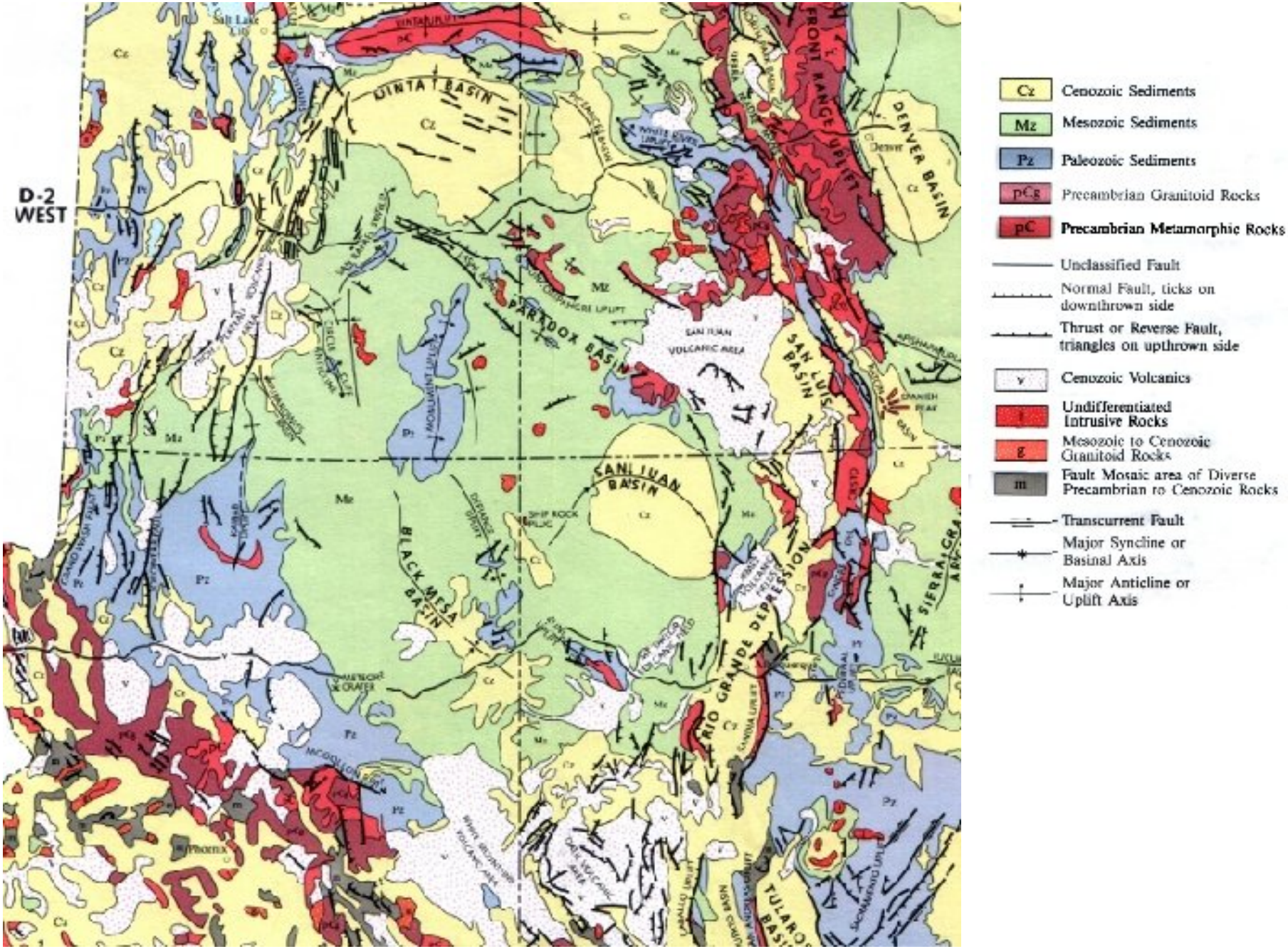
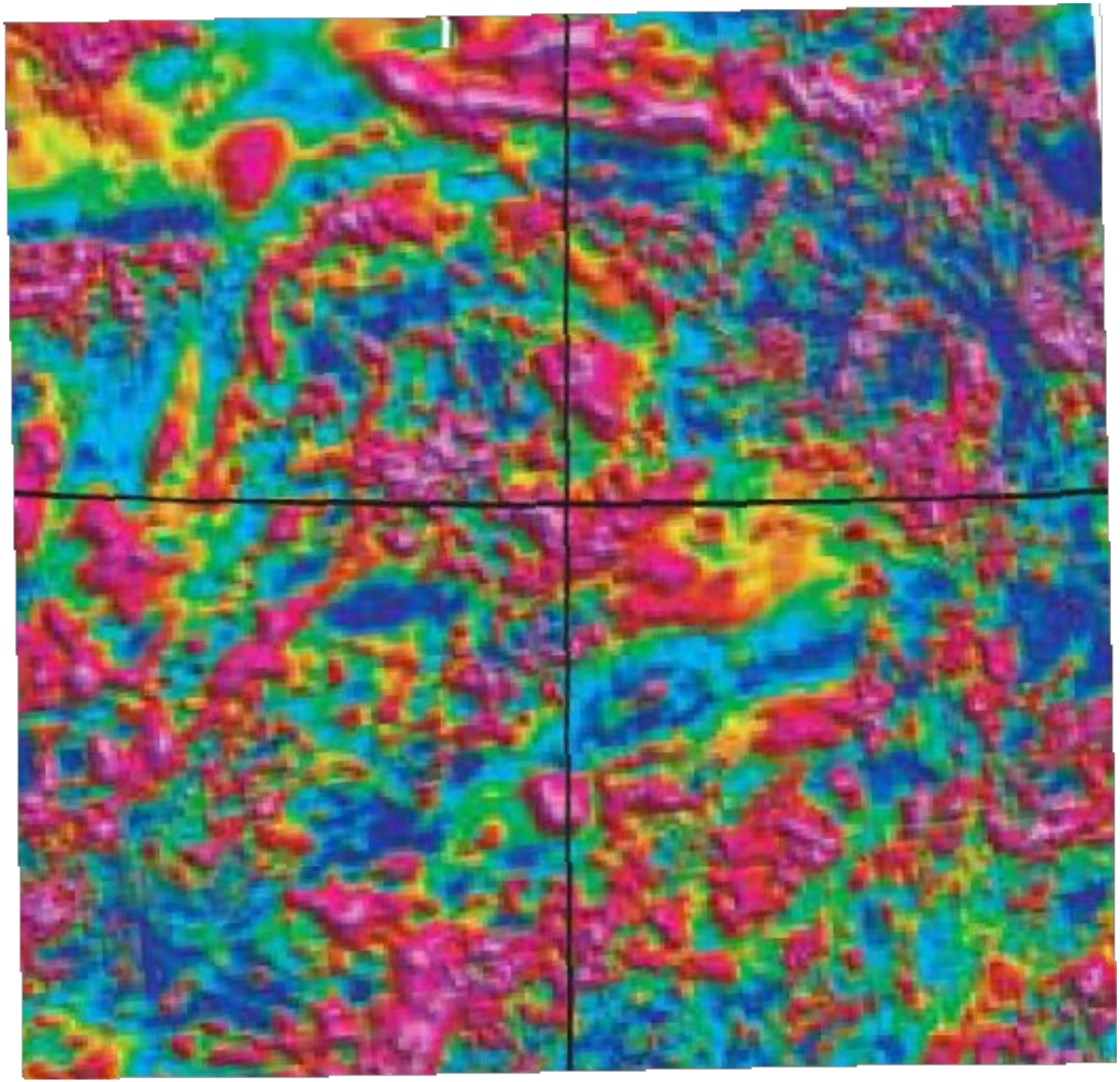
Roswell


D-2
WEST
UINTA BASIN
PARADOX BASIN
SAN JUAN BASIN
BLACK MESA BASIN
RIO GRANDE DEPRESSION
FRONT RANGE UPLIFT
DENVER BASIN
SAN LUIS BASIN
SAN JUAN VOLCANIC AREA
Cz Cenozoic Sediments
Mz Mesozoic Sediments
Pz Paleozoic Sediments
pCg Precambrian Granitoid Rocks
pC Precambrian Metamorphic Rocks
Unclassified Fault
Normal Fault, ticks on downthrown side
Thrust or Reverse Fault, triangles on upthrown side
v Cenozoic Volcanics
i Undifferentiated Intrusive Rocks
g Mesozoic to Cenozoic Granitoid Rocks
m Fault Mosaic area of Diverse Precambrian to Cenozoic Rocks
Transcurrent Fault
Major Syncline or Basinal Axis
Major Anticline or Uplift Axis



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Roswell

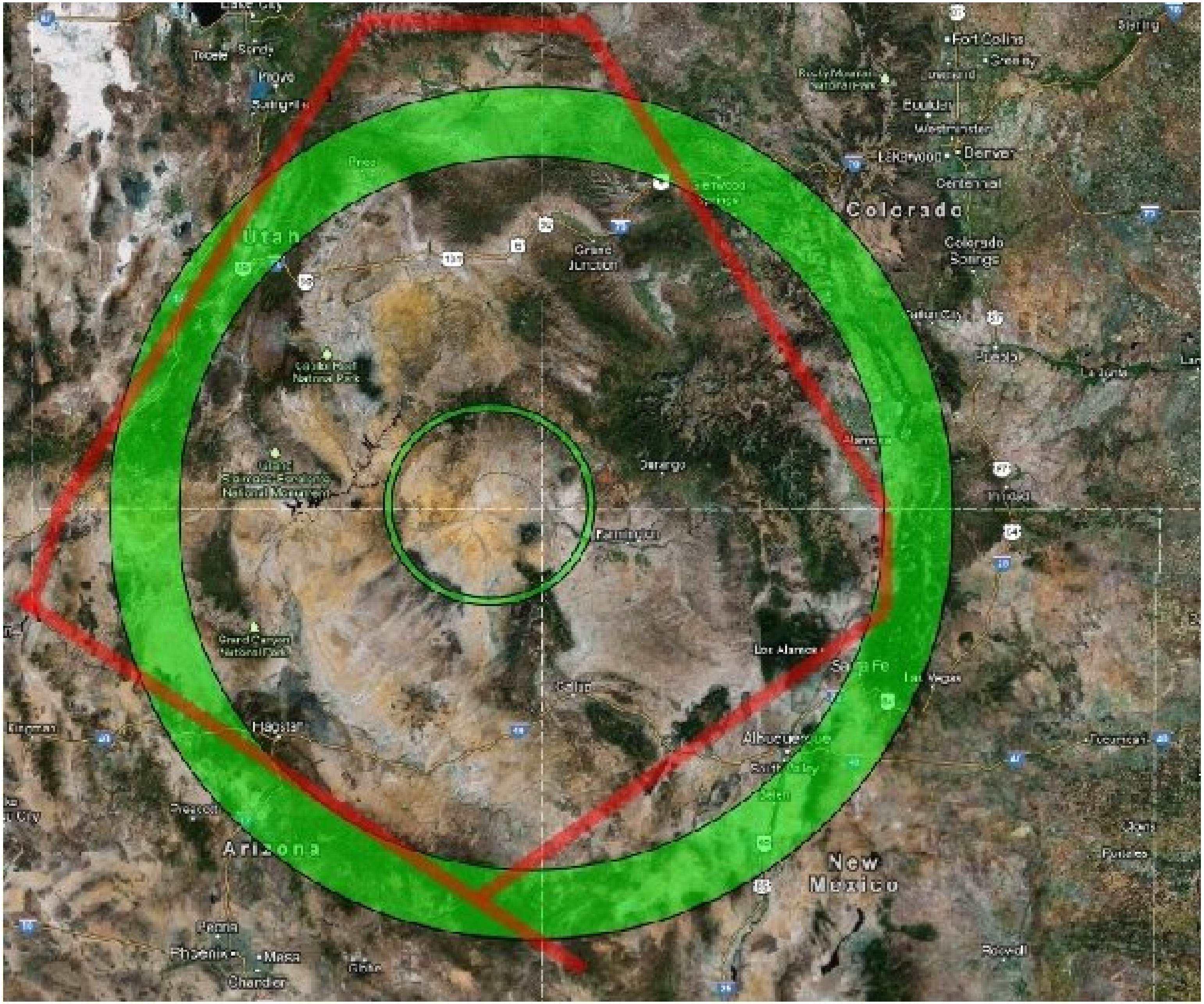
A Large Plasma-Vortex Discharge?

- Close to the center of the big circle we find Shiprock


Shiprock

A Large Plasma-Vortex Discharge?

- Close to the center of the big circle we find Shiprock
- The most interesting feature of the big circle is: Volcanic rock!
  - But is the rock really from faults and volcanos?
  - The known main fault lines do not really match up
- But there is other stuff too … let's travel the circle ...



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Roswell

The Rio Grande

- Why did the Rio Grande cut into this valley through layers of volcanic rock?

The Rio Grande Gorge

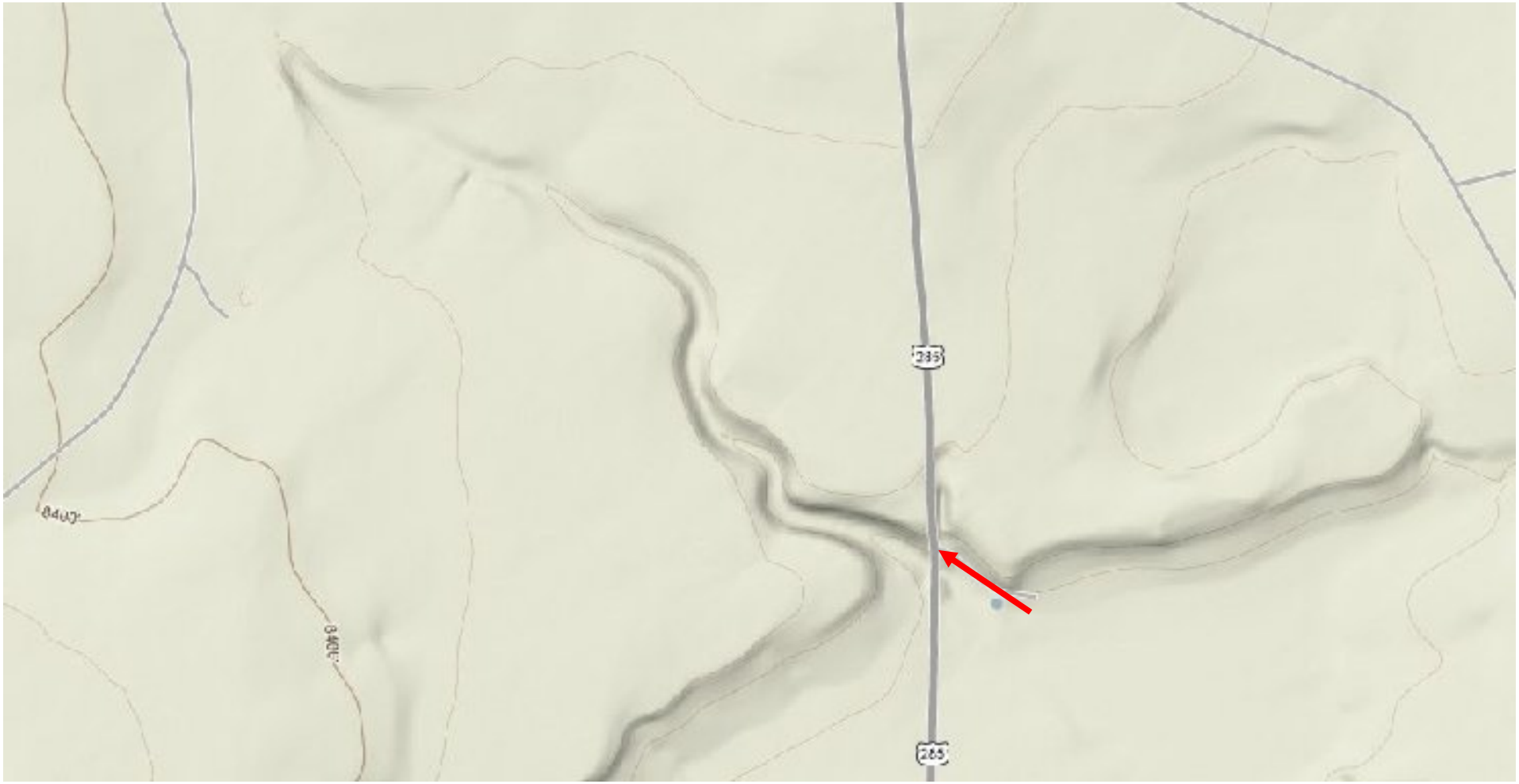
The Rio Grande Gorge

- As seen before, the rock seems to transition seamlessly into dirt.
- The position of the volcanic rock would not allow it to be the result of broken down pieces from above.
- Could the volcanic rock instead have been created externally while the river was already in place, having cut through fresh sediment – creating the gorge very fast?

Defying Gravity?

North of No Aqua Peak

Defying Gravity?



Defying Gravity?

- Why did the basalt not flow down at this slope?
- Was there a hill where now the basin is. Did the hill completely erode away?
- If basalt is external, the lower parts could have been under water, while the upper parts were exposed to electric current and converted *in situ* into basalt.

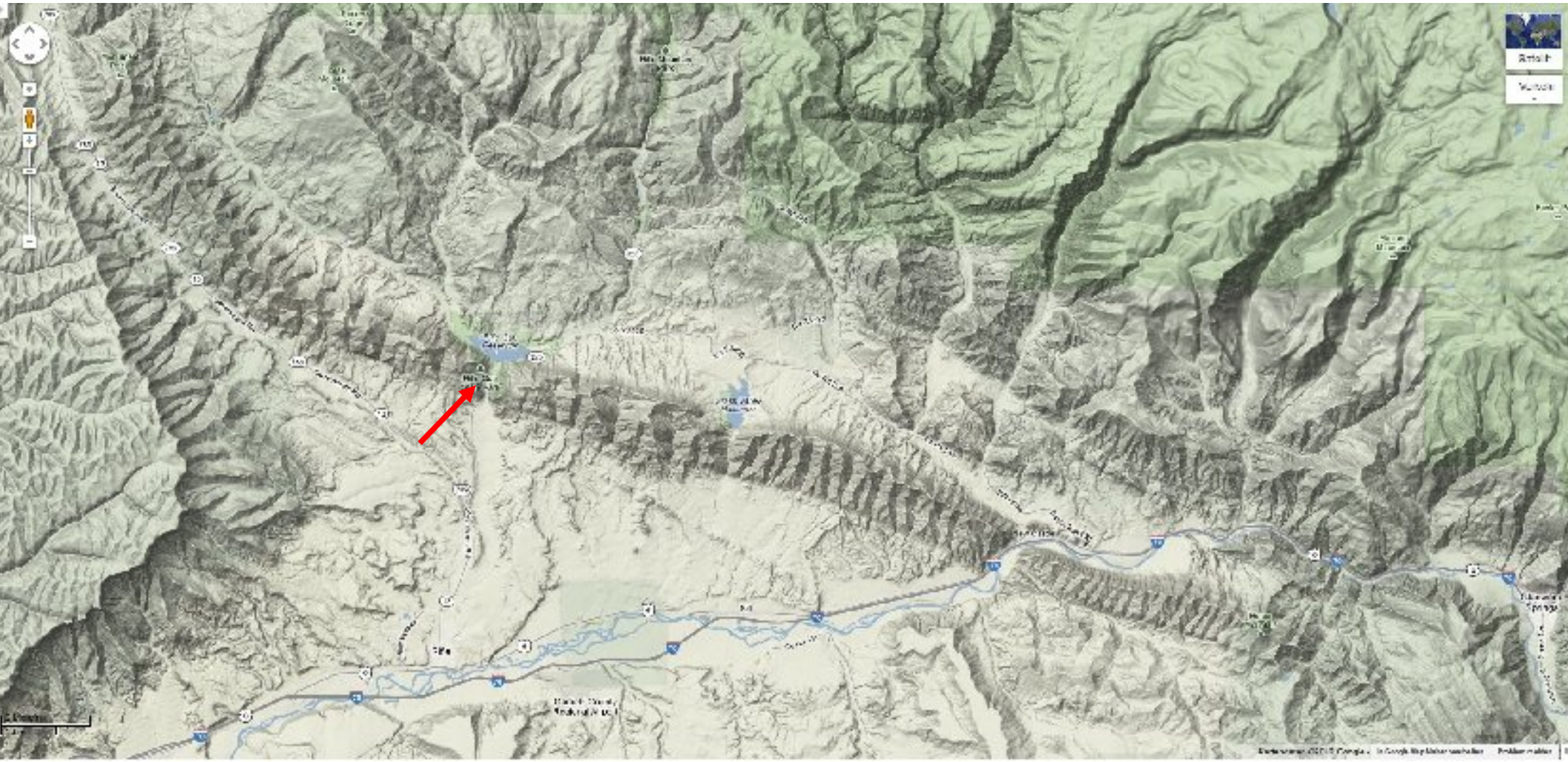
Dune in front of mountains capped with volcanic rock ...


A roadcut nearby ...

Dune up high?

Basalt dunes at Hot Sulphur Springs

A Hogback



Hogbacks can be found in front of mountains, where the beach would be.

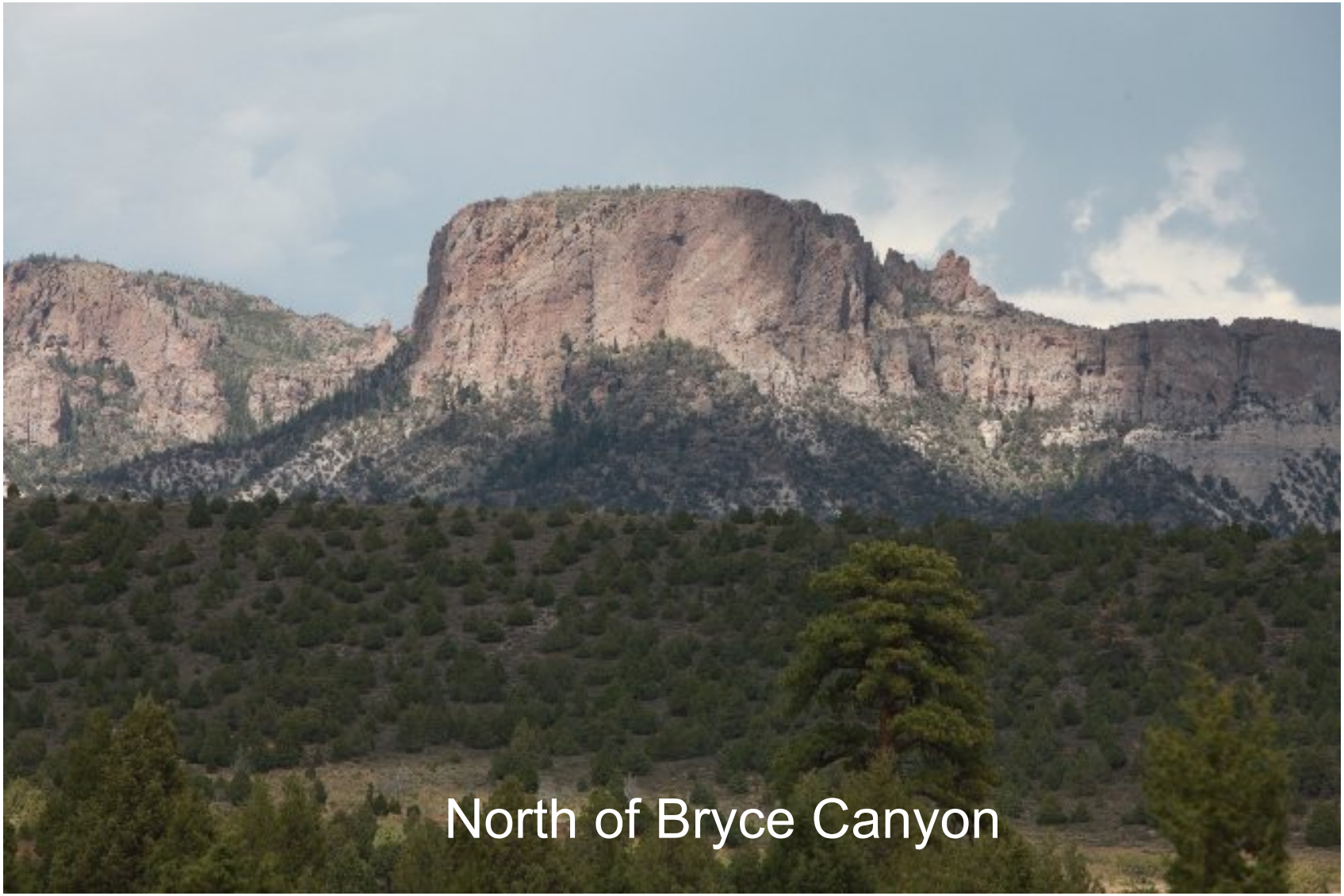

Router action at the Hogback ...

San Rafael Swell from the west

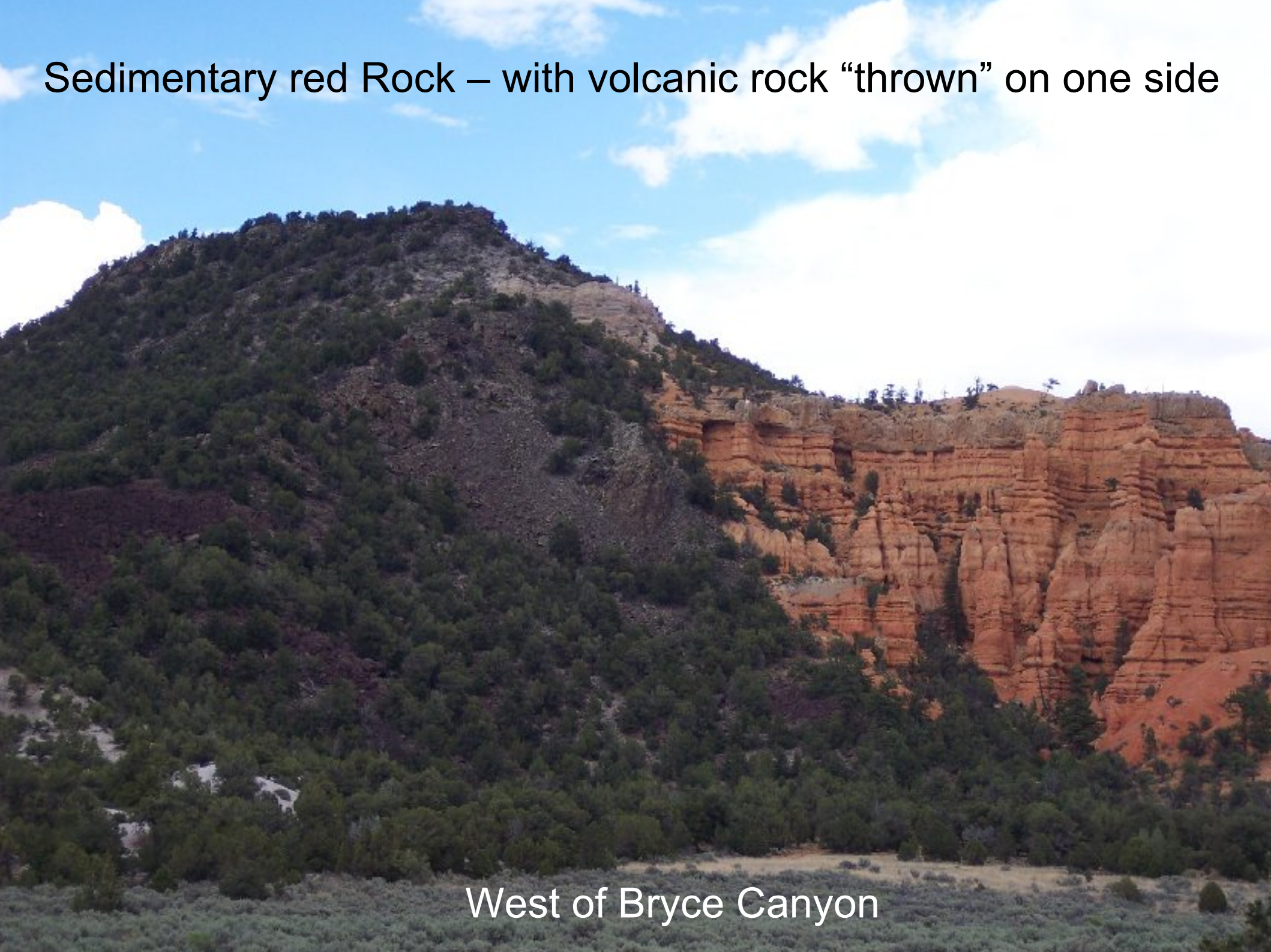

… and the east ..

Scorched wall with blue-green material at the back

More volcanic rock – but no volcano

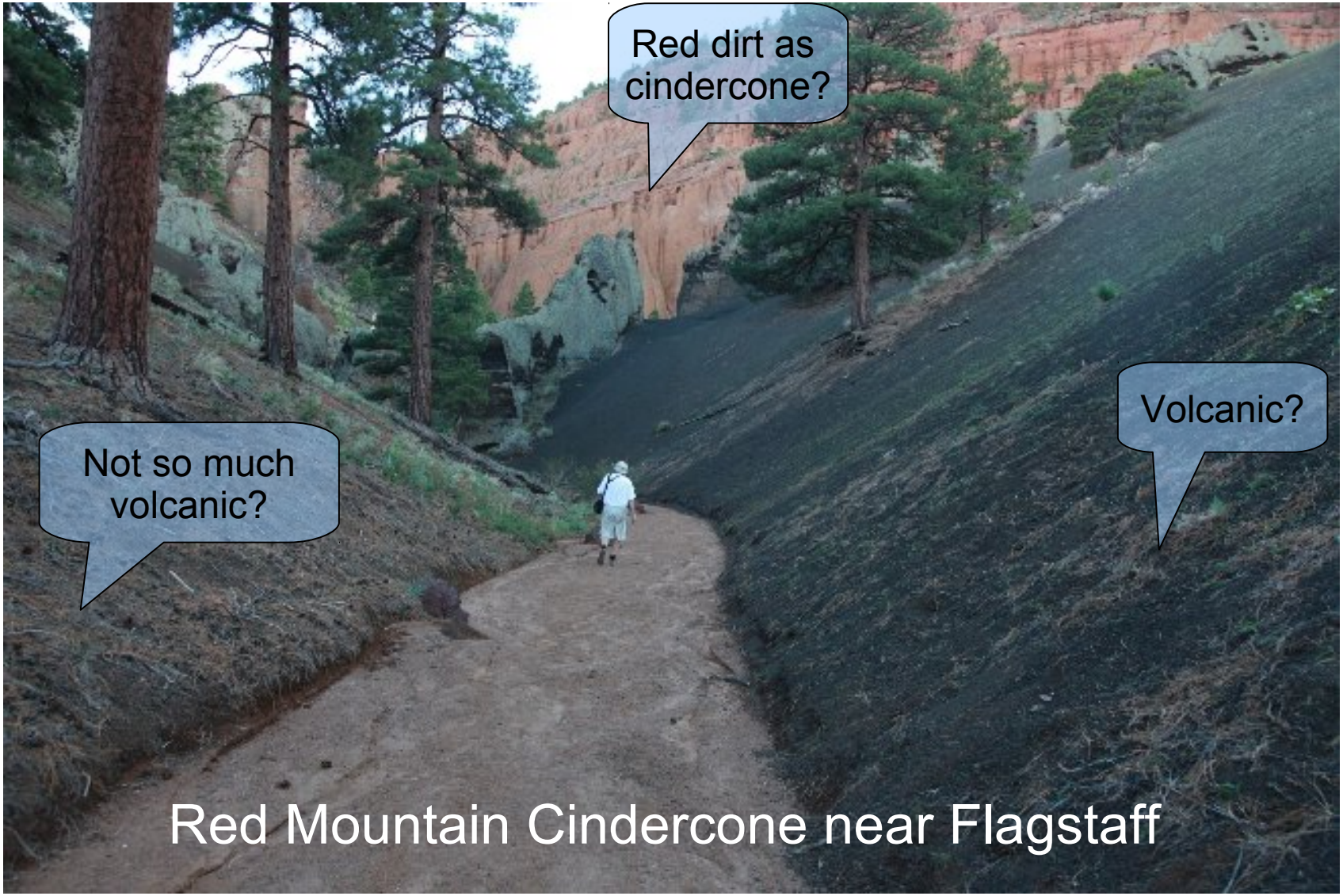


Sedimentary red Rock – with volcanic rock “thrown” on one side



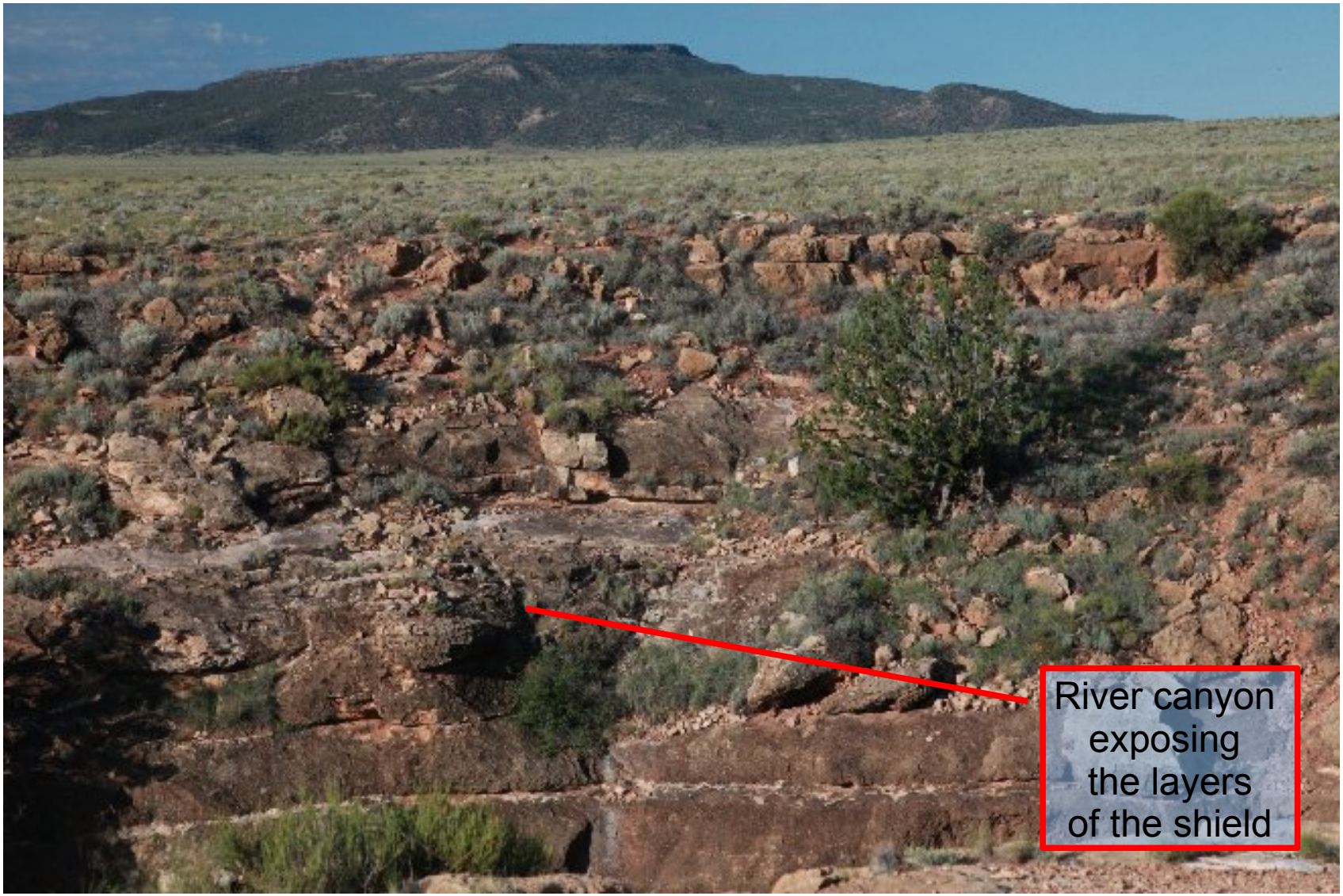
West of Bryce Canyon

A look inside a cinder cone – not what you would expect ...



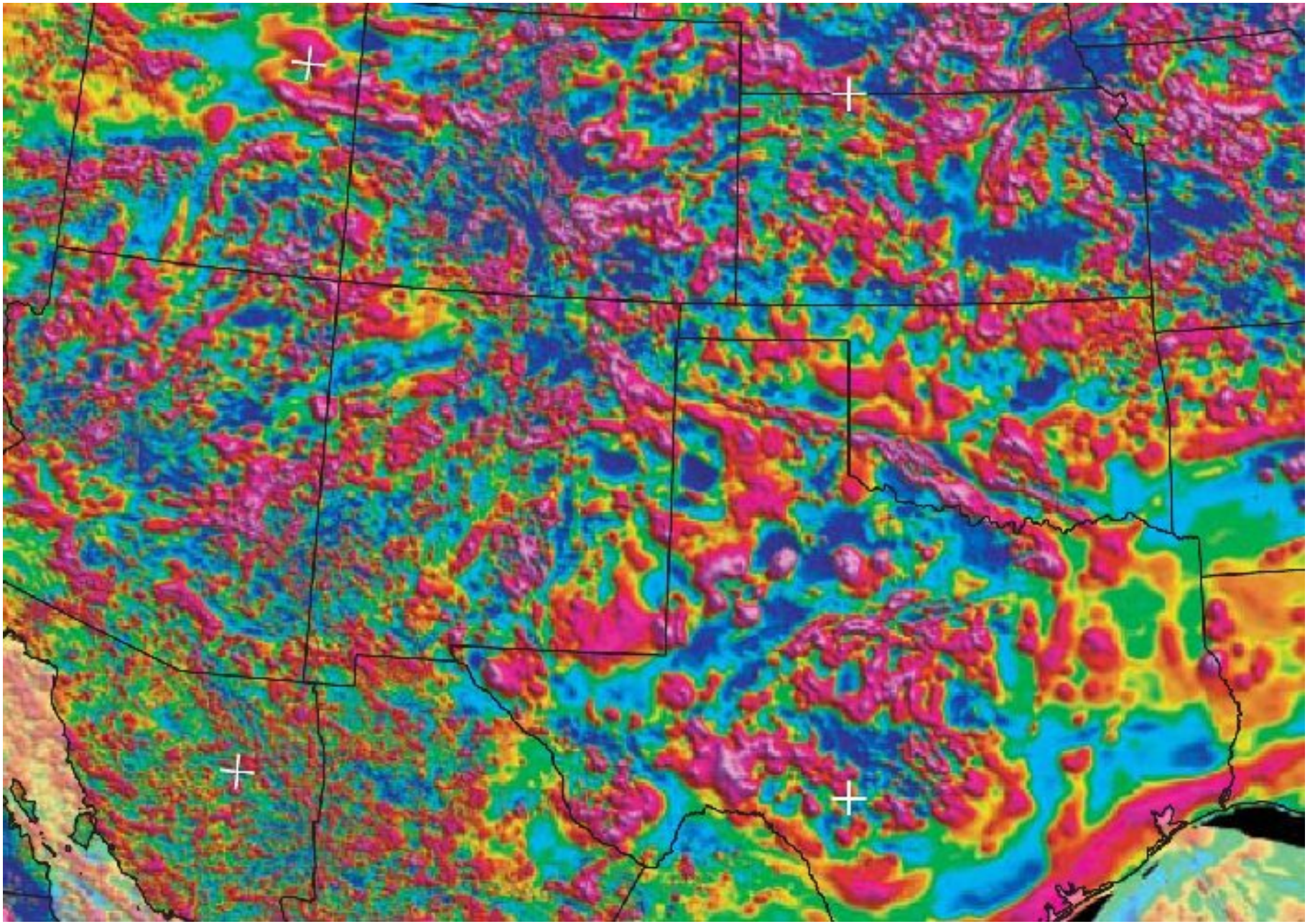
Red Mountain Cindercone near Flagstaff

A shield volcano – or what else is it?



What happened here?

Was it something like this?



Questions?