



The Elkhorn and Greenhorn Mtns. were created by granite batholiths that lifted older, overlying terranes.



These ranges were then carved by glacial ice into steep and colorful scarps, as at Twin Lakes...



...and sculpted into dramatic glacial cirques and bowls, as at Baldy Lake's all-granite basin.



Other glaciated country is more rounded, such as Greenhorn Ridge and South Fork Desolation Creek.





Mid-elevations in the Southern Blue Mtns. are rolling and forested, such as the La Grande Watershed...



...and often contain extensive grass meadows, as at Moon and Desolation Meadows.



At lower elevations, the most striking features are the stream canyons, such as Granite Creek...



...and the primary drainage of the Southern Blue Mountains, the North Fork John Day River.