

# Hell's Half Acre!

When I first saw this cover I wondered why anyone would name their town "Hell's Half Acre". Well, it turns out there never was a town...just a restaurant and motel, and even that doesn't exist anymore.

Hell's Half Acre is a large scarp located about 40 miles west of Casper, Wyoming on US 20/26. Encompassing 320, this geologic oddity is composed of deep ravines, caves, rock formations and hard-packed eroded earth. Hell's Half Acre was used as the location for the fictional planet of Klendathu in the movie *Starship Troopers*. [I have that movie!]

The location was known as "The Devil's Kitchen", "The Pits of Hades", and "The Baby Grand Canyon" until a cowhand appeared and thought he was at Hell's Half Acre, an area full of alkali and bogs. Native American tribes used the ravines to drive bison to their death during their hunts.

As of December 2005, the roadside restaurant and motel/campground sitting atop the ravine were closed. The motel and the abandoned restaurant have since been torn down. The area is fenced off and there is no public access to the cliff edge nor the valley itself, but there is an interpretive sign west of the former restaurant. As of late July, 2018, the fencing was still in place, but two gates in the fence were open, allowing vehicular access to a large gravel lot (with potholes) and a closer view of the topography.

