Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

PRELIMINARY GEOLOGIC MAP OF PARADISE VALLEY

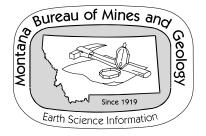
SOUTH-CENTRAL MONTANA

by

David A. Lopez and Jon C. Reiten

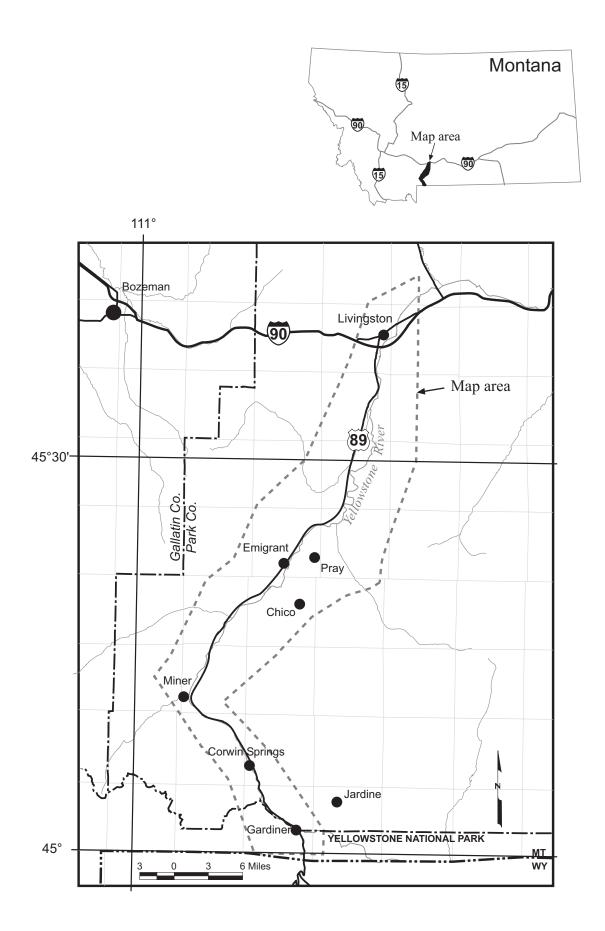
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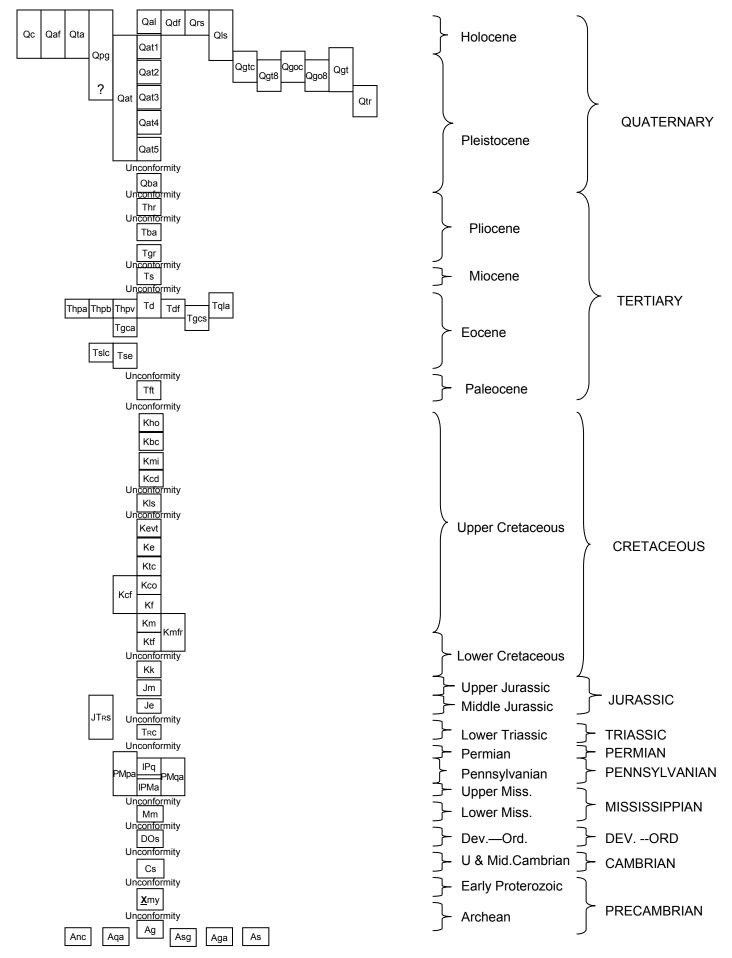
This report has been reviewed for conformity with Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's technical and editorial standards.

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Location of the Paradise Valley map area.

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS



DESCRIPTIONS OF MAP UNITS

- **Qal Alluvium of modern channels and flood plains (Holocene)** Younger alluvium generally confined to the present flood plain developed along active rivers and streams.
- **Qc Colluvium (Holocene and Pleistocene)** -- Locally derived slope-wash deposits mainly of sand, silt, and clay. Typically a thin veneer concealing bedrock, but locally as thick as 30 ft. Commonly grades into Qal. Locally contains cobbles derived from alluvial terrace gravel and glacial deposits.
- **Qaf** Alluvial fan deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene) -- Gravel, sand, silt, and clay deposited in fans being formed by modern streams along major valley margins. Display characteristic fan-shaped map pattern and convex upward profile. Typically grade upstream into Qal. Near the north end of the map area, in the Suce Creek and Deep Creek drainages, Qaf includes glacial outwash fans that merge with other alluvial fan deposits and are incised by the modern stream channels. Thickness ranges from very thin at toe to as much as 50 ft.
- QIs Landslide deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene) -- Unconsolidated mixture of soil and blocks of bedrock transported down steep slopes by mass wasting.
 Characteristic hummocky surface with concentric swales and ridges near down-slope limits. Common along steep slopes beneath resistant rocks but can occur wherever slope and moisture content produce unstable conditions.

- Qdf Debris flow deposits (Holocene) -- Unconsolidated mixture of soil and blocks of bedrock, and vegetation transported in highly fluid, water-saturated debris flows.
 Have a tongue-like outcrop pattern with a very rough upper surface.
- **Qrs Rockslide deposits (Holocene)** -- Mass of bedrock that has been transported down slope along a surface of weakness. Typically broken up by numerous fractures and small faults within the mass. Mapped in the Gardiner area where the rockslide is composed of basalt (Qba).
- **Qta Talus deposit (Holocene and Pleistocene?)** -- Angular and subangular cobbles and boulders at base of steep valley walls or cliffs.
- **Qpg Pediment gravel deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene?)** -- Angular and subangular coarse gravel derived from local bedrock; gravel deposits beneath smooth pediment surfaces sloping away from mountainous areas. About 10 to 30 ft thick.
- **Qgtc Glacial till, Chico advance (Pleistocene)** -- Dominantly unsorted and unstratified sediment ranging from clay fragments to boulders of glacial moraines associated with the Pinedale Chico advance (Horberg, 1940) of the piedmont glacier out of the Yellowstone Park region and other associated glacial and glaciofluvial deposits. Land surface overlying these deposits is typically hummocky and covered with glacial erratic boulders. May locally include subordinate alluvium, colluvium, talus, and landslide deposits.
- **Qgt8 Glacial till, Eightmile advance (Pleistocene)** -- Dominantly unsorted and unstratified sediment ranging from clay fragments to boulders of glacial moraines associated with the Eightmile advance (Pierce, 1979) of the piedmont glacier out

of the Yellowstone Park region. Land surface overlying these deposits is typically hummocky and covered with glacial erratic boulders. May locally include subordinate alluvium, colluvium, talus, and landslide deposits.

- **Qgoc Glacial outwash, Chico advance (Pleistocene)** -- Dominantly poorly sorted and stratified gravels of glaciofluvial deposits associated with the Pinedale Chico advance of the piedmont glacier out of the Yellowstone Park region. May locally include subordinate alluvium, glacial till, colluvium, talus, and landslide deposits.
- **Qgo8 Glacial outwash, Eightmile advance (Pleistocene)** -- Dominantly poorly sorted and stratified gravels of glaciofluvial deposits associated with the Eight Mile advance of the piedmont glacier out of the Yellowstone. May locally include subordinate alluvium, glacial till, colluvium, talus, and landslide deposits.
- **Qgt Glacial deposits, undivided (Holocene and Pleistocene)** -- Dominantly unsorted and unstratified till of Holocene and Pleistocene glacial moraines and other associated glacial and glaciofluvial deposits. May locally include subordinate alluvium, colluvium, talus, and landslide deposits.
- Qtr Travertine deposit (Pleistocene) -- Deposits of travertine on the east side of the Yellowstone Valley above Gardiner; quarried for many years for decorative stone. Two distinct U-Th ages have been reported for this travertine deposit:
 19.57 + 0.12 ka and 22.64 +- 0.17 ka (Pierce and others, 1991).
- **Qat** Alluvial gravel undivided (Holocene and Pleistocene?) -- Gravel, sand, silt, and clay underlying terraces about 20 to 600 ft above present altitude of modern streams and rivers. Equivalent to Qat1 through Qat5.
- Qat1 Alluvial gravel, terrace level 1 (Holocene and Pleistocene) -- Gravel

underlying terraces about 10 to 20 ft above altitude of Qal (present altitude of rivers). Mostly cobbles and pebbles with minor amounts of sand and silt. Clasts are mainly granitic igneous rocks, granitic gneiss, schist, volcanic rocks, and quartzite, with lesser amounts of limestone and sandstone. About 10 to 40 ft thick.

- Qat2 Alluvial gravel, terrace level 2 (Pleistocene)—Gravel underlying terraces about 20 to 40 ft above Qal. Mostly cobbles and pebbles with minor amounts of sand and silt. Clasts are mainly granitic igneous rocks, granitic gneiss, schist, volcanic rocks, and quartzite, with lesser amounts of limestone and sandstone. About 10 to 40 ft thick.
- **Qat3** Alluvial gravel, terrace level 3 (Pleistocene) -- Gravel underlying terraces about 50 to 90 ft above present altitude of rivers. Mostly cobbles and pebbles and minor amounts of sand and silt. Clasts are mainly granitic igneous rocks, granitic gneiss, schist, volcanic rocks, and quartzite, with lesser amounts of limestone and sandstone. About 10 to 30 ft thick.
- **Qat4 Alluvial gravel, terrace level 4 (Pleistocene)** -- Gravel underlying terraces about 200 to 300 ft above present altitude of rivers. These terraces locally exhibit a relatively steep gradient toward the Yellowstone River Valley and may actually include several levels of terraces that are difficult to distinguish. Cobbleand pebble-size clasts are mainly granite, granitic gneiss, schist, volcanic rocks, and quartzite. Thickness as much as 20 ft.
- **Qat5** Alluvial gravel, terrace level 5 (Pleistocene) -- Gravel underlying terraces about 400 to 600 ft above present altitude of rivers. Occurs mainly as small

discontinuous erosional remnants. Cobble- and pebble-size clasts are mainly granite, granitic gneiss, schist, volcanic rocks, and quartzite. Calcite cement locally present, especially at base. Thickness ranges from a very thin remnant to about 20 ft.

- **Qba Basalt (Pleistocene)** -- Basalt flows in the Gardiner area. Mainly nonporphyritic, except for rare olivine phenocrysts, only slightly vesicular. Flowed in a paleovalley of the Yellowstone River (Fraser and others, 1969). Much of the exposure of basalt occurs in a highly faulted slump block north of Gardiner.
- Thr Huckleberry Ridge Tuff of Yellowstone Group (Pliocene) -- Welded rhyolite ash-flow tuff, light-brown to pale-purple-gray. Age from ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar date of 2 Ma (Christiansen, 2001, p. G22).
- **Tba Basalt (Pliocene)** -- Basalt exposed on Hepburn's Mesa and west of Emigrant. Basalt is dark gray and generally contains scattered plagioclase and olivine phenocrysts and is apparently zoned because it locally also contains augite phenocrysts (Bush, 1967). Bush (1967) described two basalt units separated by gravel. There is actually only one basalt unit but it is faulted on the southeast side of Hepburn's Mesa. The basalt and underlying gravel, repeated by faulting, was mistaken for an upper flow and intervening gravel bed. A K-Ar date on the upper flow yields a date of 8.4 Ma (Bush, 1967). However, Locke and others (1995) suggest that the basalt on Hepburn's Mesa is correlative with basalt west of Emigrant that has a 2.2 Ma date. The proximity, continuity, and stratigraphic relationship with the underlying gravel in both the Emigrant area and Hepburn's Mesa indicate these basalts are correlative, in spite of the

7

indicated radiometric age difference.

- Tgr Gravel (Pliocene ?) -- Unconsolidated gravel underlying basalt at Hepburn's Mesa and west of Emigrant. Mostly well-rounded, cobble-size clasts composed mainly of andesitic volcanic rocks, and lesser amounts of metamorphic and igneous rocks.
- Ts Sediment or sedimentary rocks, undivided (Miocene) -- Middle Miocene age (Barstovian) Hepburn's Mesa Formation of Barnosky and Labar (1989), exposed at Hepburn's Mesa and a few miles north along east side of the Yellowstone River. Rocks are very light gray, pale pinkish-gray, and pale green tuffaceous claystone, siltstone, and sandstone.
- Td Dacite and dacite porphyry (Eocene) -- Pink to light-gray, fine-grained dacite, and feldspar-hornblende dacite porphyry. Small hornblende phenocrysts much more abundant than feldspar phenocrysts. Stock, laccoliths, sills, and dikes; may include some andesitic and rhyolitic rocks.
- TdfDacite flows (Eocene) -- Reddish to gray, altered, hornblende porphyry with
sparse feldspar laths. Some flow breccia. Shown in area west of the
Yellowstone River.
- **Tqla Quartz latite and andesite (Eocene)** -- Medium-gray to pinkish-gray porphyritic intrusive rocks, varying in composition from quartz latite to andesite.
- Thpb Andesite breccia of Hyalite Peak Volcanics (Eocene) Poorly to wellstratified. This unit is thought to be correlative with the Sepulcher Formation of the Washburn Group as mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey near the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park (1972), after Chadwick, 1982.

Thpa Andesite flows of Hyalite Peak Volcanics (Eocene) -- Commonly autobrecciated; includes some epiclastic lenses (Chadwick, 1982).

- Thpv Vent facies of Hyalite Peak Volcanics (Eocene) Dark-gray and reddish-gray breccias and vesicular vent breccias interbedded with autobrecciated lava lenses and sheets, intruded by numerous andesite dikes and sills (Chadwick, 1982).
- **Tgcs** Andesite sills of Golmeyer Creek Volcanics (Eocene) -- Gray hornblendeaugite andesite porphyry (Chadwick, 1982).
- Tgca Andesite flows and breccia of Golmeyer Creek Volcanics (Eocene) --Pyroxene and horneblende-pyroxene andesite flows, dark gray to pinkish- or reddish-gray (Chadwick, 1982).
- **Tse Sepulcher Formation (Eocene)** -- Dominantly light-colored andesitic volcanic rocks.
- Tsic Lost Creek Tuff Member of Sepulcher Formation (Eocene) -- Light-colored rhyodacite ash-flow tuff.
- Tft Tullock Member, Fort Union Formation (Paleocene) --Yellowish-gray, fine- to medium-grained, ledge-forming sandstone, cross-bedded in part. Interbedded with gray to greenish-gray claystone, siltstone, and minor carbonaceous shale.
 Supports growths of pine trees. About 400 to 600 ft thick.

Livingston Group (Upper Cretaceous

Kho Hoppers Formation (Upper Cretaceous) -- Andesitic sandstone with

interbedded claystone and siltstone; massive cross-bedded yellowishgray sandstone member at the base.

- **Kbc Billman Creek Formation (Upper Cretaceous)** -- Olive-gray, brownishgray, and grayish-red claystone with interbedded sandstone, siltstone, and conglomerate; contains fresh-water mollusks and dinosaur bones.
- Kmi Miner Creek Formation (Upper Cretaceous) -- Andesitic siltstone and sandstone with beds of tuff and bentonite in lower part; contains fossil spores, plants, wood, and dinosaur bones.
- Kcd Cokedale Formation (Upper Cretaceous) -- Andesitic siltstone and sandstone with claystone, tuff, bentonite, and coal; lower part carbonaceous with some thin coal beds; sandstone locally conglomeratic; contains fossil spores, plants, wood, dinosaur bones, and fresh-water mollusks.
- KIs Landslide Creek Formation (Upper Cretaceous) -- Gray, greenish-gray, brown-weathering, fine-grained to conglomeratic sandstone and interbedded claystone and mudstone. Conglomeratic beds in the lower 450 ft are mainly chert and quartzite; above that they are andesitic. Interbedded mudstones and claystones are variegated and highly bentonitic. Dinosaur bones and fossil plants are common. Total thickness about 2000 ft (after Fraser and others, 1969).

- **Kevt Everts Formation (Upper Cretaceous)** -- Interbedded light-colored, fine- to medium-grained, lenticular sandstone and medium- to light-gray mudstone, locally greenish-, yellowish-, or brownish-gray. About 1250 ft thick.
- Ke Eagle Sandstone (Upper Cretaceous) -- Lower quarter of the formation is light brownish gray to very pale gray, very fine to fine grained, cross-bedded sandstone, burrowed to bioturbated in part. The upper part is interbedded lenticular sandstone and shale and contains coal beds that have been mined in the area southwest of Corwin Springs. Total thickness is about 750 ft.
- Ktc Telegraph Creek Formation (Upper Cretaceous) -- Shale and sandy shale, brownish-gray to medium-dark-gray, with thin interbedded sandstone. Dusky-red concretions common near base. Sandstone beds thicker and more abundant upward, grading into Eagle Sandstone. Contact with Eagle is placed at the base of the first cliff-forming sandstone. Maximum thickness about 150 ft.
- Kcf Cody Shale and Frontier Formation, undivided (Upper Cretaceous) --<u>Cody Shale:</u> Gray shale and mudstone interbedded with grayish-green and olivegray sandstone and siltstone and minor brown-weathering nodular limestone and yellowish-gray bentonite. Entire formation is locally fossiliferous and contains fish scales, starfish, ammonites and other mollusks. <u>Frontier Formation:</u> Lightbrownish-gray, fine-grained, thick-bedded to massive sandstone. Interbedded with dark-gray, fissile shale.
- Kmfr
 Mowry Shale through Fall River Sandstone, undivided (Upper and Lower

 Cretaceous) -- Mowry Shale:
 Interbedded, siliceous, very fine- to fine-grained

sandstone, siltstone, and shale. Contains several prominent bentonite beds. Sandstones and siltstones mostly light-gray to medium-gray, with a silvery sheen. Fish scales on bedding planes of sandstones and siltstones are characteristic of this formation. <u>Thermopolis Shale</u>: Dominantly dark-gray fissile shale, bentonitic shale, and several beds of bentonite. Has hematitic concretionary zone near base. <u>Fall River Sandstone</u>: Brownish-gray, thin-bedded, argillaceous, finegrained, quartz sandstone. Generally poorly exposed in map area, mostly covered by glacial deposits. Total thickness is approximately 1300 ft.

- Kk Kootenai Formation (Lower Cretaceous) -- Mostly reddish-brown, olivegray, and dusky-purple mudstones with interbedded, lenticular, fine- to coarsegrained sandstones. Locally thick, lenticular, fluvial, fine-grained sandstone (Greybull Sandstone) is present at the top in the Livingston area (Roberts, 1972). The basal member, the Pryor Conglomerate, is brown conglomerate and pebbly coarse-grained sandstone, 20 to 60 ft thick. The total thickness is 300 to 500 ft.
- Jm Morrison Formation (Upper Jurassic) -- Variegated, mainly greenishgray and pale-reddish-brown mudstone. Very fine to fine-grained, quartzose, calcareous, cross-bedded sandstones are commonly present at about midsection. Five to 10 ft thick, but locally as much as 30 ft thick. Fossil dinosaur remains locally present. Upper contact placed at the base of the Pryor Conglomerate. The basal contact is placed at the top of fossiliferous, calcareous sandstone and coquina of the underlying Swift Formation. Thickness is about 200 ft.

12

- Je Ellis Group, undivided (Middle and Upper Jurassic) -- Individual formations are not mapped separately; includes the Swift, Rierdon, and Piper Formations. <u>Swift</u>: interbedded medium-gray shale, limestone, and calcareous sandstone, fossiliferous. Brownish-gray, fossiliferous, very sandy limestone occurs at the top of the formation, and commonly has brownish-gray coquina at the top. <u>Rierdon</u>: mostly pale-greenish-gray, very fossiliferous shale with minor interbedded, brownish-gray limestone. Typically poorly exposed, forming smooth slopes littered with fossils, including oysters (*Gryphaea and Ostrea*), belemnites (*Pachyteuthis*), and crinoids fragments (*Pentacrinus*). <u>Piper:</u> interbedded medium-gray and pale-reddish-gray, thin-bedded limestone and medium-gray shale. Includes thin interbeds of gypsum. Forms ledge below smooth slopes of the Rierdon shales. Thickness of the Ellis Group is about 500 ft.
- TRC Chugwater Formation (Lower Triassic) -- Interbedded moderate reddish-brown fine-grained sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone. Maximum thickness is about 100 ft.
- **JTRs** Sedimentary rocks, undivided (Jurassic and Triassic) -- Includes the Chugwater Formation and the Ellis Group.

PMpa Phosphoria through Amsden Formations, Undivided (Permian through Upper Mississippian -- Formations not mapped separately because of narrow outcrop width. <u>Phosphoria Formation</u>: poorly exposed and includes yellowishgray shale, light-gray sandstone and quartzite, and light-gray to grayish pink, cherty limestone; thickness is 50 to 75 ft. <u>Quadrant Sandstone</u>: light-brown to very pale orange sandstone, fine-grained, well-sorted, well-rounded, crossbedded. Locally contains thin limestone beds, locally cherty near the top, and is locally silicified to form quartzite; about 250 ft thick. <u>Amsden Formation:</u> interbedded grayish-pink to light-red mudstone, limestone, and siltstone. Limestones are commonly cherty. Unconformably overlies karst surface developed on limestone of the Madison Group. Characteristically produces pink stain on underlying cliffs of Madison Group; thickness about 200 ft but locally tectonically thinned to only a few feet along the mountain front. Total thickness about 500 to 600 ft.

IPq Quadrant Sandstone (Pennsylvanian) -- Quartzite, well-sorted quartzose sandstone, and dolomite.

IPMa Amsden Formation (Lower Pennsylvanian and Upper Mississippian) --Dolomite, calcareous sandstone, and siltstone in upper part; argillaceous limestone in middle part; massive sandstone and red calcareous siltstone and limestone in lower part; mostly concealed.

IPMqa Quadrant Sandstone and Amsden Formation, undivided (Upper Mississippian and Pennsylvanian)

Mm Madison Group, undivided (Middle Mississippian) -- Limestone and dolomitic limestone, light-gray to light-brownish-gray. Thick-bedded to massive in the upper part (Mission Canyon Limestone) and thin-bedded to thick-bedded in the lower part (Lodgepole Limestone). Also contains thin, interbedded gray shales. Fossiliferous and cherty beds are present throughout. Collapse features and caves are common at the upper karst surface. Thickness of the Madison is 800 to 1,000 ft.

- DOs Sedimentary rocks, undivided (Upper Devonian and Ordovician) -- <u>Three</u> <u>Forks Formation (Devonian):</u> Mainly yellowish-weathering, argillaceous limestone and medium-gray shale, very poorly exposed. <u>Jefferson Formation (Devonian):</u> Dolomitic limestone, light-brownish-gray, fetid, poorly exposed, typically occurs as float. <u>Big Horn Dolomite (Ordovician)</u>: Cliff-forming dolomite and dolomitic limestone, very light gray to very pale orange, lower part massive, thin- to thickbedded in upper part. Has characteristic pock-marked surface due to differential weathering. Total thickness of DOs unit is about 600 ft.
- Cambrian sedimentary rocks, undivided (Middle and Upper Cambrian) --Light-reddish sandstone and quartzite, greenish-gray shale and sandy shale, gray, thin-bedded limestone, and greenish-gray, flat-pebble limestone conglomerate. Includes the Flathead, Wolsey, Meagher, Park, and Pilgrim Formations in ascending order. Thickness is 600 to 800 ft.
- Xmy Mylonite (Early Proterozoic) -- Madison Mylonite Zone along the southeast flank of Paradise Valley (Erslev, 1982). Dark-gray, fine-grained, biotite-rich mylonite. Derived from older metasedimentary rocks. Some rocks are retrograde chloritic schist and mylonite, and serpentinite.
- Ag Granite gneiss (Archean) -- Includes stocks and irregular-shaped bodies of granite gneiss in the Gardiner area, coarse-grained, gray to pinkish-gray.
 Probably intruded into metasedimentary rocks in the area.

- Asg Schist and gneiss (Archean) -- Metasedimentary rocks, including dark-gray biotite schist and fine- to medium-grained quartzo-feldspathic gneiss. Minor quartzite beds. Highly deformed and are progressively more deformed as they grade into mylonitized rocks along Madison Mylonite zone (Xmy).
- Aga Amphibolite and gneiss (Archean) -- Includes trondhjemitic gneissamphibolite paragneiss, and heterogeneous gneiss sequences; trondhjemitic gneiss, tonalitic gneiss, amphibolite; minor schist, quartzite, and iron formation (after Van Gosen and others, 1993).
- Anc Nappe core complex (Archean) -- Includes Barney Creek amphibolite, George Lake marble, and Jewel quartzite. Lithologies present include amphibolite, marble, dolomitic marble, quartzite, and minor amounts of schist and iron formation (after Van Gosen and others, 1993).
- Aqa Quartzite and amphibolite (Archean) -- Interlayered quartzite and orthoamphibolite; minor schist (after Van Gosen and others, 1993).
- As Biotite schist (Archean) -- Includes minor quartzite, iron formation, and amphibolite (after Van Gosen and others, 1993).

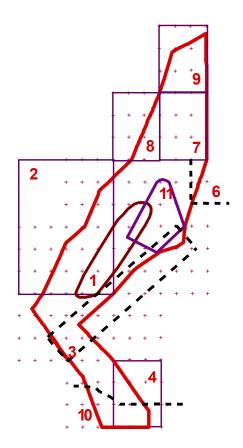
MAP SYMBOLS

130	Strike and dip of bedding or flow layering in volcanic rocks.
75	Strike and dip of foliation or schistosity in metamorphic rocks.
	Contact - Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.
	Fault - Sense of movement unknown. Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.
	Normal fault - Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed. Ball and bar on downthrown side.
	Thrust fault or reverse fault - Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed. Sawteeth on upper plate (upthrown side).
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	Tertiary intermediate and felsic dikes

Glacial melt-water channels

Sources of Geologic Mapping

See numbered references on next page



Sources of Geologic Mapping in Quadrangle

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Additional Sources of Geologic Information

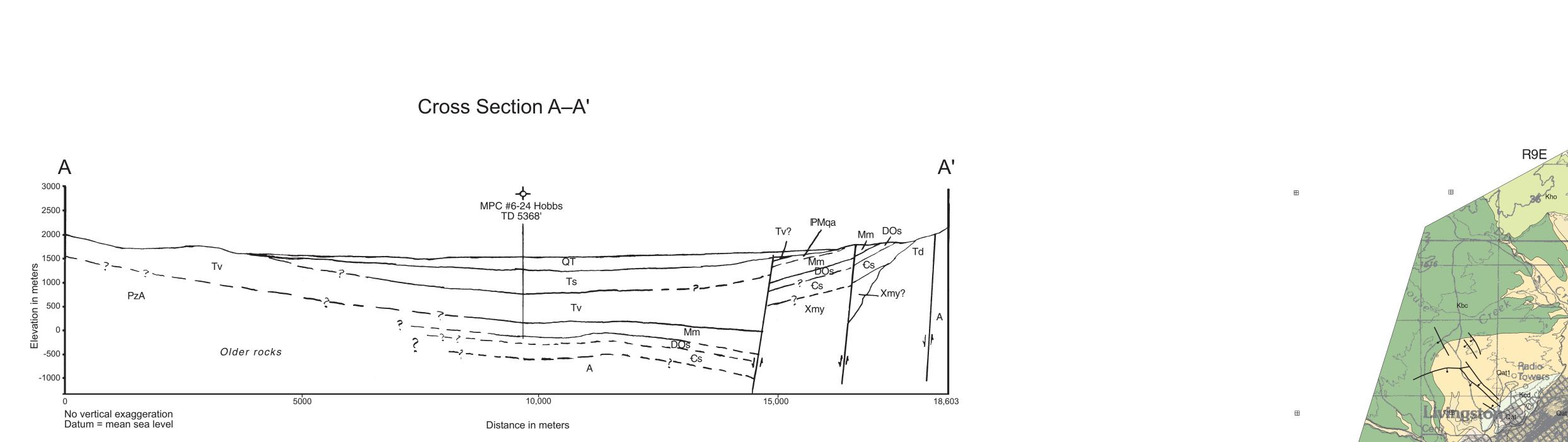
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