

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey, 1958; minor revisions 1975. Transverse Mercator projection. 1927 North American Datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone 3. 1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 6.

**Table 1. New U-Pb SHRIMP ages for samples from the Big Delta B-2 quadrangle, east-central Alaska**

Map No.	Sample No.	Latitude	Longitude	Unit	Mineral	Core/rim	Age (Ma)	Rock type
1	02AD332	64.2885°	-144.6477°	Ddg	Zircon	Core	369±6	Dioritic orthogneiss
2	AG-3	64.3492°	-144.3317°	Dag	Zircon	Core	385±4	Augen gneiss
3	01AD-269	64.3640°	-144.8929°	Pg	Zircon	Rim	~2,186±1,020	Biotite gneiss
3	01AD-269	64.3640°	-144.8929°	Pg	Zircon	Rim	116±4	Biotope gneiss
2	01AD-213	64.4272°	-144.5701°	Pggn	Zircon	Core	~1,150-970	Biotite-sillimanite gneiss
3	01AD-213	64.4272°	-144.5701°	Pggn	Zircon	Rim	116±2	Biotite-sillimanite gneiss
3	01AD-213	64.4272°	-144.5701°	Pgn	Monazite	Core	112±2	Biotite-sillimanite gneiss
4	02AD339	64.4352°	-144.6534°	Dog	Zircon	Core	1,184-367	Granodioritic orthogneiss
4	02AD339	64.4352°	-144.6534°	Dog	Zircon	Rim (2 pop. ultraviolet)	1142±12; 109±2	Granodioritic orthogneiss
5	01AD-257	64.4170°	-144.5355°	Kgpd	Zircon	Core	445-315	Granodiorite dike
5	01AD-257	64.4170°	-144.5355°	Kgpd	Zircon	Core	113±5	Granodiorite dike
5	01AD-257	64.4170°	-144.5355°	Kgpd	Zircon	Rim	106±3	Granodiorite dike

\*Sample No. AG-3 lies within the adjacent Big Delta B-1 quadrangle to the east.  
 Note: All isotopic analyses were done using the U-Pb SHRIMP at Stanford University. The primary oxygen ion beam operated at about 8 nA and excavated a pit about 25 μm in diameter and 1 μm deep. The magnet was cycled between 10 and 15 times per analysis. Elemental analysis of known age standard R25 (1870-myr-old biotite) was done at the University of Toronto. The age of all samples was determined by calculating the weighted average of <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U ages, which occurs for the analytical errors. Raw data were reduced and plotted using the Squid and Isoplot4 programs of Ludwig (1999, 2001); age errors were calculated at the 95 percent confidence limit.

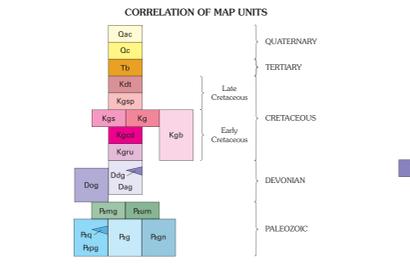
**INDEX TO GEOLOGIC MAPPING**  
 1 P. Roberts, M. Smith, and other Teck Cominco Geologists, 1998-2000.  
 2 W.C. Day, B.M. Gamble, M.W. Henning, and L.P. Gough, July 1999, June 2000, June 2002.



Figure 1. Mylonitic base of mafic gneiss klippe south of Shawnee Peak.



Figure 2. Mylonitic zone in quartz vein (Lise vein 1.5) within ore zone of Pogo gold deposit.



**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

**QUATERNARY SURFICIAL DEPOSITS**

**Alluvial alluvial deposits (Quaternary)**—Boulder to silt size, unconsolidated alluvial and colluvial deposits. Unit includes material deposited in stream channels, flood plains, abandoned river and stream channels, swamps, and wetlands.

**Colluvial deposits (Quaternary)**—Boulder to cobble size, unconsolidated talus, slope-failure deposits, colluvium, and minor alluvial deposits. Unit includes alluvial deposits within small, narrow active stream channels.

**CRETACEOUS IGNEOUS ROCKS**

**Basalt (Tertiary)**—Dark gray to black, nonfoliated basalt dike containing small, randomly oriented plagioclase phenocrysts in a crystalline aphanitic groundmass. Age uncertain, but may be correlative with a 50 Ma basaltic dike swarm occurring throughout Yukon-Tanana Upland. Crops out poorly in sec. 15, R. 15 E., T. 6 S. in upper part of Sonora Creek drainage.

**Diorite and tonalite (Late Cretaceous)**—Medium-grained, dark-gray, hornblende-biotite diorite to tonalite. In Lisee Creek, outcrops of unit exhibit weak to moderate quartz-chlorite schistosity and overlie the Pogo gold deposit. Smith and others (1999) reported a 49.4 Ma U-Pb zircon age for the diorite of Lisee Creek. Sericitic alteration of the diorite of Lisee Creek ranges in age from 91.2 to 91.7 Ma using <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar technique (Smith and others, 1999) and postdates the main gold mineralization event at the Pogo gold deposit at 104.3±0.3 Ma (Selby and others, 2002).

**Shawnee Peak intrusion (Late Cretaceous)**—Coarse-grained, nonfoliated, equigranular hornblende-biotite diorite to tonalite; felsic western flank of Shawnee Peak. Lacks evidence for intergranular recrystallization as seen in the granite of Swede Peak (unit Kgp). Implies intrusion occurred at a higher structural level relative to the granite of Swede Peak and emplacement postdated regional Early Cretaceous tectonism.

**Granite of Swede Peak (Early Cretaceous)**—Coarse-grained, light-gray to white, biotite-garnet-muscovite leucogranite. In this section, quartz and feldspar exhibit moderate to high-angle foliation and quartz shows undulatory extinction indicating post-emplacement strain and interstitial recrystallization possibly due to relatively deeper level of initial emplacement or emplacement during late stages of Early Cretaceous (~116 Ma) regional tectonism. Western margin of unit is intrusive into overlying unit Ppgr. Contact with thrust fault on northeast margin of intrusion is beneath valley fill alluvium, southwest-trending thrust fault does not appear to cut the intrusion. Eastern margin of unit on high-angle fault.

**Granite stock (Early Cretaceous)**—Small, medium- to coarse-grained, nonfoliated to weakly foliated stocks and plugs of leucocratic biotite granodiorite to granite composition, locally contains muscovite. Matrix texture between quartz and feldspar phenocrysts, combined with weak foliation in mesoscopic scale, indicates unit was at least partially recrystallized. Age uncertain, but predominantly recrystallized texture indicates unit emplaced after Early Cretaceous regional tectonism.

**Goodpastor batholith (Early Cretaceous)**—Composite batholith made up of nonfoliated to weakly foliated, coarse-grained, equigranular biotite granodiorite, granite, and pegmatite. Southern part of batholith is a mafic to medium-grained, hypidiomorphic, equigranular, moderately foliated biotite granodiorite, distinguished from adjacent biotite-sillimanite gneiss (unit Pgn) which unit Kgp intrudes, by lack of recrystallization and lower degree of intense sericitic alteration. Foliated southern margin of batholith probably represents an earlier (late-kinematic) phase of plutonism, whereas the weakly foliated to nonfoliated central part of batholith along the Goodpastor River probably represents a later (post-kinematic) phase of plutonism. Dailor and others (2002) reported a U-Pb zircon age range of 107-109 Ma for late-kinematic plutonism and as young as ~104 Ma for post-kinematic plutonism of rocks included in the Goodpastor batholith. Unit forms relatively low, rounded hills along crest of Goodpastor River basin, crops out poorly.

**Granitoid dike (Early Cretaceous)**—Composite granitoid dikes; highly variable compositions include light-gray, fine-grained, equigranular, nonfoliated biotite granodiorite, coarse-grained leucogranite, and simple biotite quartz alkali feldspar pegmatite. Late-stage quartz veins cut earlier dike rock. Plagioclase phenocrysts exhibit characteristic strong compositional zonation. Potassium- and silica-rich gneisses commonly developed in adjacent country rock. Zones of anomalous gold and silicate mineral (pyrite, arsenopyrite, sphalerite) concentrations occur in both quartz veins and pegmatitic zones in country rock near dike margins. U-Pb sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe-reverse geometry (SHRIMP) or SHRIMP dating of zircon overgrowths on Paleozoic xenocrystic cores indicates a crystallization age of 106±3 Ma. U-Pb SHRIMP dating of monazite yields an age of 113±5 Ma (sample 01AD-257; table 1). The 113±5 Ma U-Pb SHRIMP age represents a maximum crystallization age for the dike inasmuch as the sample may contain excess <sup>206</sup>Pb, which would yield an older apparent crystallization age. Lack of penetrative tectonic fabric indicates unit is post-kinematic, emplaced after Early Cretaceous regional tectonism, which is recorded in metamorphic zircon overgrowths in units Pgn and Pg.

**Granodiorite to granite, unfoliated (Early Cretaceous)**—Medium- to coarse-grained, equigranular, nonfoliated biotite granodiorite to granite. Composed of as much as 5 percent biotite; locally contains accessory amounts of garnet, ilmenite, chlorite, and apatite. Biotite is altered to muscovite. Smith and others (1999) reported U-Pb monazite ages of 107.1-107.9 Ma.

**PALEOZOIC AND OLDER METAMORPHIC UNITS**

**Augen gneiss (Late Devonian)**—Inhomogeneous orthogneiss dominated by light-gray, medium- to coarse-grained, strongly foliated biotite-muscovite-sillimanite quartzofeldspathic augen gneiss with zones of relatively augen-free biotite of granodiorite to granite composition. Unit is characterized by lensoidal-shaped augen made up of alkali feldspar porphyroblasts (as much as 5 cm in diameter) and quartz, feldspar, mica, and garnet mineral aggregates set in a medium-grained, foliated to granoblastic matrix of granodiorite composition. Anomalous mica-rich shear bands separate zones of both equigranular matrix and augen into sigmoid-shaped zones (nonfoliated). Muscovite commonly has asymmetric tails forming oriented "fish" bounded by micaceous shear bands that display S-C mylonitic fabrics formed during ductile regional metamorphism. Dusel-Bacon and Aleinikoff (1985) described the regional geologic context for the unit and suggested a plutonic protolith.

**Geologic Overview**

Crystalline rocks of the Yukon-Tanana Upland east-central Alaska (Fig. 2) underlie the Big Delta B-2 quadrangle. Gold exploration has remained active throughout the region in response to the discovery of the Pogo gold deposit, which lies within the quadrangle near the Goodpastor River. Geologic mapping and associated geochronological and geochemical studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining and Water Management, provide baseline data to help understand the regional geologic framework.

The oldest geologic units within the map area are an interlayered series of interbedded biotite gneiss, quartzite, and metapelite. Three separate biotite gneiss units were identified: (1) medium- to dark-gray, medium-grained, foliated, equigranular biotite-sillimanite gneiss that crops out south and east of Shawnee Peak (unit Ppgr); (2) medium- to fine-grained, coarse-grained, strongly foliated biotite quartzofeldspathic gneiss present south of Central Creek in the western part of the quadrangle (unit Pgn); and (3) medium- to fine-grained, medium- to coarse-grained, strongly foliated biotite quartzofeldspathic gneiss present south of Central Creek in the western part of the quadrangle (unit Pgn). The biotite-sillimanite gneiss (unit Ppgr) which is interbedded with quartzite and metapelite (unit Pgn) north of Central Creek and west of Sonora Creek. These units represent metamorphosed equivalents of pelitic sediments containing strata with detrital coxes that range in age from about 1,020 to 2,585 Ma. The augen gneiss (unit Dag) and dioritic orthogneiss (unit Ddg) intruded the quartzofeldspathic biotite gneiss (unit Pgn) and the granodioritic orthogneiss (unit Dog) intruded the biotite-sillimanite gneiss (unit Ppgr) during an early, albeit poorly understood, Middle to Late Devonian plutonic event. The augen gneiss is in fault contact with the biotite-sillimanite gneiss (unit Ppgr) on its northern margin (local east of Shawnee Peak), the paragneiss (unit Ppgr) on its western margin in the Sonora Creek area, and the mafic gneiss (unit Pmg).

The rocks in the Big Delta B-2 quadrangle have experienced several episodes of tectonism that span from the Devonian to the Tertiary. The first episode (D<sub>1</sub>), described in the preceding paragraph, accompanied the initial emplacement of the protolith intrusion for the augen gneiss (unit Dag), dioritic orthogneiss (unit Ddg), and granodioritic orthogneiss (unit Dog). The felsic plutonism and concomitant mafic magmatism were widespread throughout the Yukon-Tanana Upland (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2001; Hansen and Dusel-Bacon, 1998), and were thought to be the result of regional Paleozoic plutonism along the margin of the North American craton (Dusel-Bacon and Aleinikoff, 1985; Dusel-Bacon and others, 1995). The evidence for paragneiss (D<sub>1</sub>) fabrics indicates, potentially associated with the Paleozoic plutonism, was obtained during the subsequent intense Mesozoic tectonic and metamorphic events (Dusel-Bacon and Hansen, 1992; Dusel-Bacon and others, 1995; Day and others, 2002).

Kinematic and isotopic evidence indicates that the rocks in the Big Delta B-2 quadrangle underwent at least two ductile deformation events (D<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>3</sub>) as part of the regional Mesozoic deformation that affected the Yukon-Tanana tectonic province. These two Mesozoic events, during the Jurassic and Cretaceous, respectively, variably affected the bedrock throughout the map area. The areal variation in Mesozoic deformation is revealed by kinematic analysis of the rocks, which shows that there are two broad structural "domains" containing unique structural fabrics that point to differing tectonic histories (Fig. 3).

Structural domain I is underlain by predominantly augen gneiss and biotite gneiss (units Dag and Pgn, respectively) and occurs in the southeastern part of the quadrangle. Structural domain II is made up of biotite gneiss, orthogneiss, paragneiss, and quartzite (units Ppgr, Dog, Pmg, and Pg, respectively) and lies to the north and west of the quadrangle. These two structural domains are separated by a series of thrust and high-angle faults that extend from the southern margin of the quadrangle, through the Goodpastor River, along the ridge between Central Creek and the Goodpastor River, and project southward along the north-trending high-angle fault east of the Swede Peak intrusion. We interpret that the rocks of domain II structurally overlie those of domain I (fingering well along the south- and southeast-dipping master thrust fault that originally separated the two domains. Subsequent high-angle, brittle faulting has disrupted the original Mesozoic structural relationships.

The ductile structural fabric elements in domain I (Fig. 3) include a strong schistosity, S-C mylonitic fabrics, stretching lineations, and asymmetric alignment of sigmoidal foliations and augen. Biotite, muscovite, and the flattened, lath-shaped augen define the schistosity (S<sub>1</sub>), which is commonly cut by later micaceous shear bands (S<sub>2</sub>), formed by S-C mylonitic fabrics. The D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation has produced sigmoidal foliations, forming D<sub>2</sub> upper schistosity (S<sub>2</sub>) and shear bands, as well as developed recrystallized "fish" of the original foliation along the south- and southeast-dipping master thrust fault that originally separated the two domains. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics also have sigmoidal shapes whose asymmetry is similar to that of the augen. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics consistently define a west-northwest sense of tectonic transport. The regional structural grain defined by the planar elements (schistosity and S-C mylonitic fabrics) varies around from a westerly strike in the eastern part of the domain to a northerly strike in the southwestern part of the domain, forming a southeast-plunging system. The axis of the regional system is consistently with the present southeast-plunging of the stretching lineations. The earlier D<sub>1</sub> fabrics in domain I were overprinted and reoriented during the later intense tectonic D<sub>2</sub> deformation, which thrust rocks of domain I west-northwestward over rocks of domain II (Fig. 3).

The ductile structural fabric elements in the gneissic rocks of domain II (Fig. 3) include an S<sub>1</sub> schistosity parallel to the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folding of the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), as well as L<sub>2</sub> mineral and intersection (S<sub>2</sub> and S<sub>1</sub>) lineations. The S<sub>1</sub> schistosity, as well as the general trend of the unit contacts, imparts a west-northwest-trending structural grain to the area. The subsequent D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation redefined the compositional layering and S<sub>1</sub> schistosity into tight to isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folds that plunge shallowly to the west and are controlled locally by an axial planar S<sub>2</sub> schistosity. The strong stretching lineations common in domain I are only present locally in domain II along the original foliation zone of the accompanying thrust fault that separates the two domains (for example, west of Sonora Creek).

The absolute age of the Mesozoic ductile deformational events is difficult to ascertain. The age of the D<sub>2</sub> event is thought to be preserved in the Jurassic-188 Ma K-Ar (Wilson and others, 1985) and 181±7 Ma and 186±6 Ma <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages recorded in metamorphic hornblende (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2002) in dioritic orthogneiss (unit Ddg) located in domain I of this study. These ages represent cooling ages inasmuch as they record the blocking temperature of hornblende (500°C) thought to have formed during the D<sub>2</sub> deformation. Outcrops of the dioritic orthogneiss, however, Cretaceous <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar and K-Ar dates from the late-stage dikes (unit Kgp) yields a crystallization age of 106±3 Ma. A 113±5 Ma U-Pb SHRIMP age on monazite (sample 01AD-257; table 1) represents a maximum crystallization age for the dike; the sample may contain excess <sup>206</sup>Pb, the effect of which would be to yield an apparent old crystallization age. These data indicate that the regional ductile extension ceased at about 116 Ma and that the region was uplifted and cooled, and then underwent brittle extensional deformation at about 106 Ma.

**Geologic Overview (continued)**

The ductile structural fabric elements in domain I (Fig. 3) include a strong schistosity, S-C mylonitic fabrics, stretching lineations, and asymmetric alignment of sigmoidal foliations and augen. Biotite, muscovite, and the flattened, lath-shaped augen define the schistosity (S<sub>1</sub>), which is commonly cut by later micaceous shear bands (S<sub>2</sub>), formed by S-C mylonitic fabrics. The D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation has produced sigmoidal foliations, forming D<sub>2</sub> upper schistosity (S<sub>2</sub>) and shear bands, as well as developed recrystallized "fish" of the original foliation along the south- and southeast-dipping master thrust fault that originally separated the two domains. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics also have sigmoidal shapes whose asymmetry is similar to that of the augen. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics consistently define a west-northwest sense of tectonic transport. The regional structural grain defined by the planar elements (schistosity and S-C mylonitic fabrics) varies around from a westerly strike in the eastern part of the domain to a northerly strike in the southwestern part of the domain, forming a southeast-plunging system. The axis of the regional system is consistently with the present southeast-plunging of the stretching lineations. The earlier D<sub>1</sub> fabrics in domain I were overprinted and reoriented during the later intense tectonic D<sub>2</sub> deformation, which thrust rocks of domain I west-northwestward over rocks of domain II (Fig. 3).

The ductile structural fabric elements in the gneissic rocks of domain II (Fig. 3) include an S<sub>1</sub> schistosity parallel to the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folding of the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), as well as L<sub>2</sub> mineral and intersection (S<sub>2</sub> and S<sub>1</sub>) lineations. The S<sub>1</sub> schistosity, as well as the general trend of the unit contacts, imparts a west-northwest-trending structural grain to the area. The subsequent D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation redefined the compositional layering and S<sub>1</sub> schistosity into tight to isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folds that plunge shallowly to the west and are controlled locally by an axial planar S<sub>2</sub> schistosity. The strong stretching lineations common in domain I are only present locally in domain II along the original foliation zone of the accompanying thrust fault that separates the two domains (for example, west of Sonora Creek).

The absolute age of the Mesozoic ductile deformational events is difficult to ascertain. The age of the D<sub>2</sub> event is thought to be preserved in the Jurassic-188 Ma K-Ar (Wilson and others, 1985) and 181±7 Ma and 186±6 Ma <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages recorded in metamorphic hornblende (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2002) in dioritic orthogneiss (unit Ddg) located in domain I of this study. These ages represent cooling ages inasmuch as they record the blocking temperature of hornblende (500°C) thought to have formed during the D<sub>2</sub> deformation. Outcrops of the dioritic orthogneiss, however, Cretaceous <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar and K-Ar dates from the late-stage dikes (unit Kgp) yields a crystallization age of 106±3 Ma. A 113±5 Ma U-Pb SHRIMP age on monazite (sample 01AD-257; table 1) represents a maximum crystallization age for the dike; the sample may contain excess <sup>206</sup>Pb, the effect of which would be to yield an apparent old crystallization age. These data indicate that the regional ductile extension ceased at about 116 Ma and that the region was uplifted and cooled, and then underwent brittle extensional deformation at about 106 Ma.

**Geologic Overview (continued)**

The ductile structural fabric elements in domain I (Fig. 3) include a strong schistosity, S-C mylonitic fabrics, stretching lineations, and asymmetric alignment of sigmoidal foliations and augen. Biotite, muscovite, and the flattened, lath-shaped augen define the schistosity (S<sub>1</sub>), which is commonly cut by later micaceous shear bands (S<sub>2</sub>), formed by S-C mylonitic fabrics. The D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation has produced sigmoidal foliations, forming D<sub>2</sub> upper schistosity (S<sub>2</sub>) and shear bands, as well as developed recrystallized "fish" of the original foliation along the south- and southeast-dipping master thrust fault that originally separated the two domains. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics also have sigmoidal shapes whose asymmetry is similar to that of the augen. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics consistently define a west-northwest sense of tectonic transport. The regional structural grain defined by the planar elements (schistosity and S-C mylonitic fabrics) varies around from a westerly strike in the eastern part of the domain to a northerly strike in the southwestern part of the domain, forming a southeast-plunging system. The axis of the regional system is consistently with the present southeast-plunging of the stretching lineations. The earlier D<sub>1</sub> fabrics in domain I were overprinted and reoriented during the later intense tectonic D<sub>2</sub> deformation, which thrust rocks of domain I west-northwestward over rocks of domain II (Fig. 3).

The ductile structural fabric elements in the gneissic rocks of domain II (Fig. 3) include an S<sub>1</sub> schistosity parallel to the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folding of the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), as well as L<sub>2</sub> mineral and intersection (S<sub>2</sub> and S<sub>1</sub>) lineations. The S<sub>1</sub> schistosity, as well as the general trend of the unit contacts, imparts a west-northwest-trending structural grain to the area. The subsequent D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation redefined the compositional layering and S<sub>1</sub> schistosity into tight to isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folds that plunge shallowly to the west and are controlled locally by an axial planar S<sub>2</sub> schistosity. The strong stretching lineations common in domain I are only present locally in domain II along the original foliation zone of the accompanying thrust fault that separates the two domains (for example, west of Sonora Creek).

The absolute age of the Mesozoic ductile deformational events is difficult to ascertain. The age of the D<sub>2</sub> event is thought to be preserved in the Jurassic-188 Ma K-Ar (Wilson and others, 1985) and 181±7 Ma and 186±6 Ma <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages recorded in metamorphic hornblende (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2002) in dioritic orthogneiss (unit Ddg) located in domain I of this study. These ages represent cooling ages inasmuch as they record the blocking temperature of hornblende (500°C) thought to have formed during the D<sub>2</sub> deformation. Outcrops of the dioritic orthogneiss, however, Cretaceous <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar and K-Ar dates from the late-stage dikes (unit Kgp) yields a crystallization age of 106±3 Ma. A 113±5 Ma U-Pb SHRIMP age on monazite (sample 01AD-257; table 1) represents a maximum crystallization age for the dike; the sample may contain excess <sup>206</sup>Pb, the effect of which would be to yield an apparent old crystallization age. These data indicate that the regional ductile extension ceased at about 116 Ma and that the region was uplifted and cooled, and then underwent brittle extensional deformation at about 106 Ma.

**Geologic Overview (continued)**

The ductile structural fabric elements in domain I (Fig. 3) include a strong schistosity, S-C mylonitic fabrics, stretching lineations, and asymmetric alignment of sigmoidal foliations and augen. Biotite, muscovite, and the flattened, lath-shaped augen define the schistosity (S<sub>1</sub>), which is commonly cut by later micaceous shear bands (S<sub>2</sub>), formed by S-C mylonitic fabrics. The D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation has produced sigmoidal foliations, forming D<sub>2</sub> upper schistosity (S<sub>2</sub>) and shear bands, as well as developed recrystallized "fish" of the original foliation along the south- and southeast-dipping master thrust fault that originally separated the two domains. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics also have sigmoidal shapes whose asymmetry is similar to that of the augen. The D<sub>2</sub> fabrics consistently define a west-northwest sense of tectonic transport. The regional structural grain defined by the planar elements (schistosity and S-C mylonitic fabrics) varies around from a westerly strike in the eastern part of the domain to a northerly strike in the southwestern part of the domain, forming a southeast-plunging system. The axis of the regional system is consistently with the present southeast-plunging of the stretching lineations. The earlier D<sub>1</sub> fabrics in domain I were overprinted and reoriented during the later intense tectonic D<sub>2</sub> deformation, which thrust rocks of domain I west-northwestward over rocks of domain II (Fig. 3).

The ductile structural fabric elements in the gneissic rocks of domain II (Fig. 3) include an S<sub>1</sub> schistosity parallel to the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folding of the original compositional layering (S<sub>1</sub>), as well as L<sub>2</sub> mineral and intersection (S<sub>2</sub> and S<sub>1</sub>) lineations. The S<sub>1</sub> schistosity, as well as the general trend of the unit contacts, imparts a west-northwest-trending structural grain to the area. The subsequent D<sub>2</sub> ductile deformation redefined the compositional layering and S<sub>1</sub> schistosity into tight to isoclinal F<sub>2</sub> folds that plunge shallowly to the west and are controlled locally by an axial planar S<sub>2</sub> schistosity. The strong stretching lineations common in domain I are only present locally in domain II along the original foliation zone of the accompanying thrust fault that separates the two domains (for example, west of Sonora Creek).

The absolute age of the Mesozoic ductile deformational events is difficult to ascertain. The age of the D<sub>2</sub> event is thought to be preserved in the Jurassic-188 Ma K-Ar (Wilson and others, 1985) and 181±7 Ma and 186±6 Ma <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages recorded in metamorphic hornblende (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2002) in dioritic orthogneiss (unit Ddg) located in domain I of this study. These ages represent cooling ages inasmuch as they record the blocking temperature of hornblende (500°C) thought to have formed during the D<sub>2</sub> deformation. Outcrops of the dioritic orthogneiss, however, Cretaceous <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar and K-Ar dates from the late-stage dikes (unit Kgp) yields a crystallization age of 106±3 Ma. A 113±5 Ma U-Pb SHRIMP age on monazite (sample 01AD-257; table 1) represents a maximum crystallization age for the dike; the sample may contain excess <sup>206</sup>Pb, the effect of which would be to yield an apparent old crystallization age. These data indicate that the regional ductile extension ceased at about 116 Ma and that the region was uplifted and cooled, and then underwent brittle extensional deformation at about 106 Ma.

**REFERENCES CITED**

Aleinikoff, J.N., Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, and Foster, H.L., 1986, Geochronology of augen gneiss and related rocks, Yukon-Tanana terrane, east-central Alaska. Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 97, p. 626-637.

Aleinikoff, J.N., Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, Foster, H.L., and Fata, Koyoto, 1981, Protomylonitic zircon from augen gneiss, Yukon-Tanana Upland, east-central Alaska. Geology, v. 9, p. 469-473.

Day, W.C., Aleinikoff, J.N., and Gamble, B.M., 2002, Geochemistry and age constraints on metamorphism and deformation in the Fairbanks River area, eastern Yukon-Tanana Upland, Alaska, in Wilson, F.H., and Galoway, J., eds., Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Professional Paper 1602, p. 5-18.

Dailor, Herbert, Ebert, Sharon, Mortenson, J.K., Rombach, Cameron, and Tisdall, R.M., 2002, Reduced granites and gold veins in the Pogo area, east-central Alaska. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 34, no. 6, p. 114.

Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, and Aleinikoff, J.N., 1985, Petrology and tectonic significance of augen gneiss from a belt of Mississippian granitoids in the Yukon-Tanana terrane, east-central Alaska. Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 96, p. 411-425.

Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia and Hansen, V.L., 1992, High-pressure amphibolite facies metamorphism and deformation within the Yukon-Tanana and Taylor Mountain terranes, eastern Alaska, in Bradley, D.C., and Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, eds., Geological studies in Alaska by the U.S. Geological Survey, 1991. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 2041, p. 140-159.

Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, Hansen, V.L., and Scala, J.A., 1995, High-pressure amphibolite facies dynamic metamorphism and the Mesozoic tectonic evolution of an ancient continental margin, east-central Alaska. Journal of Metamorphic Geology, v. 13, p. 9-24.

Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, Langhorne, M.A., Sherr, W.D., Laver, P.W., and Hansen, V.L., 2002, Mesozoic thermal history and timing of structural events for the Yukon-Tanana Upland, east-central Alaska—<sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar data from metamorphic and plutonic rocks. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, v. 39, p. 1013-1035.

Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, Woodsworth, J.L., and Bessler, J.R., 2001, New U-Pb zircon and geochronological evidence for limited mid-Paleozoic magmatism and syntectonic basic metal mineralization in the Yukon-Tanana terrane, Alaska. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, 2001, p. A-185.

Hansen, V.L., and Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, 1998, Structural and kinematic evolution of the Yukon-Tanana Upland tectonic province, east-central Alaska—A record of late Paleozoic to Mesozoic crustal assembly. Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 110, p. 211-230.

Ludwig, K.R., 1999, User's manual for Isoplot/Ex version 2.00, a geochronological toolkit for Microsoft Excel. Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley Geochronology Center Special Publication No. 2, 21 p.

—, 2003, Isoplot 3.0 user's manual. Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley Geochronology Center Special Publication No. 2, 21 p.

Selby, David, Creaser, R.A., Hart, C.R.J., Rombach, C.S., Thompson, J.F.H., Smith, M.T., Biddle, A.A., and Gidley, R.J., 2002, Absolute timing of uplift and gold mineralization—A comparison of Rb-K/Ar, muscovite, and Ar-Ar mica methods from the Tintina gold belt, Alaska. Geology, v. 30, no. 9, p. 791-794.

Smith, Moira, 2000, The Tintina gold belt—An emerging gold district in Alaska and Yukon, in Tucker, T., and Smith, M.T., eds., The Tintina gold belt—Concepts, exploration, and discoveries. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Corlissan Review 2000, Special Publication 2, p. 1-3.

Smith, Moira, Thompson, J.F.H., Bessler, Jason, Laver, Paul, Mortenson, J.K., and Hidenko, Takouka, J.A., 1999, Geology of the Lisee Zone, Pogo Property, east-central Alaska. Society of Economic Geologists, Newsletter, no. 38, p. 1-21.

Weber, F.F., Foster, H.L., Keith, T.E.C., and Dusel-Bacon, Cynthia, 1978, Preliminary geologic map of the Big Delta quadrangle, Alaska. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 78-529-A, scale 1:250,000.

Wilson, F.H., Smith, J.G., and Shaw, N.R., 1985, Review of radiometric data from the Yukon-Creston Terrane, Alaska and Yukon Territory. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, v. 22, p. 1653-1677.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The U.S. Geological Survey's Mineral Resources Program Baselines and Background Project provided funding for this research. Additional funding from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining and Water Management, was critical for supporting our fieldwork. Logistical support, as well as unpublished geologic mapping from Teck Cominco Limited, was also critical for the success of this effort and is gratefully acknowledged. Discussions with Cynthia Dusel-Bacon, Rainer Newberry, David Sranigalski, Melvyn Woodsworth, and Jack D'Amico were valuable and intriguing. Technical services by J. Michael O'Neill and Douglas B. Yager were extremely helpful and thoughtful.

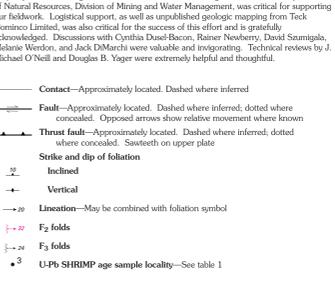


Figure 3. Generalized structural element map showing the traces of the thrust and normal faults and the locations of folds and schistosity in the Big Delta B-2 quadrangle, Alaska.

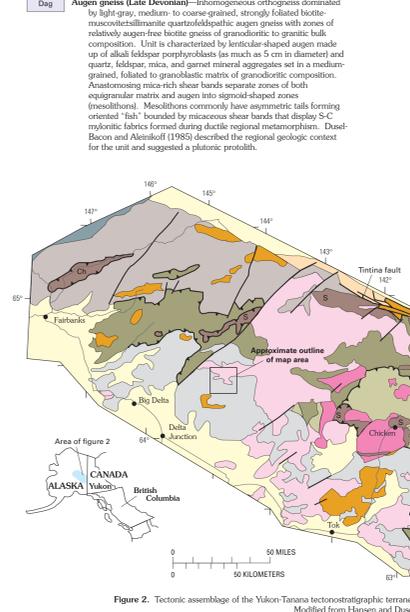


Figure 2. Tectonic assemblage of the Yukon-Tanana tectonostratigraphic terrane of east-central Alaska showing approximate outline of map area. Modified from Hansen and Dusel-Bacon (1998).

**GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE BIG DELTA B-2 QUADRANGLE, EAST-CENTRAL ALASKA**

By Warren C. Day<sup>1</sup>, John N. Aleinikoff<sup>1</sup>, Paul Roberts<sup>2</sup>, Moira Smith<sup>2</sup>, Bruce M. Gamble<sup>1</sup>, Mitchell W. Henning<sup>3</sup>, Larry P. Gough<sup>1</sup>, and Laurie C. Morath<sup>1</sup> 2003

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, Teck Cominco Limited, #600-200 Burnard Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6C 3L9  
<sup>2</sup>Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining and Water Management, Anchorage, AK 99501