

**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

**QUATERNARY AND TERTIARY DEPOSITS**

- Qd** Alluvial deposits (Holocene)—Stream deposits of unconsolidated, poorly sorted, bouldery, sandy gravel. Mainly reworked till and outwash deposits.
- Qa** Landslide and rockslide deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene)—Angular rock fragments in a matrix of weathered rock and soil. Occurs only in drainage of Daly Creek near north edge of map.
- Qs** Till (Pleistocene)—Poorly sorted, bouldery, sandy to clayey gravel. Stratification poorly developed.
- Qw** Outwash deposits (Pleistocene)—Dominantly glaciofluvial deposits that consist of poorly sorted, bouldery gravel and well-sorted sand. Some outwash deposits retain a braided-stream pattern. Includes alluvial deposits of present streams in most areas.
- Tg** Alluvial fan and gravel deposits (Tertiary)—Poorly sorted boulders and gravel in a sandy to clayey matrix. Coarse clasts locally show moderate stratification. Contains some unconsolidated beds of sand. Mainly gravel on pediment surfaces in north part of mapped area.

**INTRUSIVE ROCKS**

- Idaho Batholith**
- Rhyolite (Tertiary)**—Porphyritic, hyaloplitic, hypocrystalline(?) dikes and irregular bodies. Consist of fine-grained phenocrysts (2-5 percent) of plagioclase, quartz, biotite, and hornblende. Groundmass primarily lab-shaped plagioclase with interstitial glass. Plagioclase phenocrysts are slightly zoned and have an average composition of An<sub>57</sub>. Biotite oxidized and chloritized. Hornblende present in trace amounts and commonly altered to chlorite. Forms small isolated bodies that intrude the biotite-hornblende granodiorite (Kg1).
- Dacite (Tertiary)**—Porphyritic, hypocrystalline, hyaloplitic, hypabyssal(?) rock. Fine to medium-grained phenocrysts (20 percent) consist of plagioclase, quartz, hypersthene, biotite, and hornblende. Groundmass is mainly composed of lab-shaped plagioclase and minor hypersthene and apatite granules all enclosed in glass. Plagioclase phenocrysts are slightly zoned and have an average composition of An<sub>57</sub>. Hornblende is ophionebic and is commonly altered to biotite and granular magnetite. Biotite is altered to granular magnetite. Forms a single isolated body that intrudes the biotite-hornblende granodiorite (Kg1) near the southern edge of the map area.
- Biotite-hornblende granodiorite (Late Cretaceous)**—Slightly porphyritic, medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (42 percent), quartz (27 percent), microcline (18 percent), and orthoclase (5 percent) and variol green and brown biotite (7 percent) and green hornblende (2 percent). Accessory minerals are epidote, sphene, apatite, zircon, and clinoclase. Average plagioclase composition ranges from An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and perthite are common. Hornblende commonly altered to intergrowths of granular epidote, fibrous chlorite, and zircon. Secondary crystallization of biotite on pre-existing biotite crystals is especially prominent where biotite is adjacent to rhyolite. Porphyritic border is a strongly porphyritic near its western border. Kg1 is distinguished from Kg2 by a lack of pink alkali feldspar, by a more equigranular texture, and by a subtle decrease in the amount of biotite. Kg3 is distinguished from Kg2 by a slightly lower total mafic content and a lower ratio of hornblende to biotite.

**BIOTITE-HORNLENDE GRANODIORITE ONE (Late Cretaceous)**—Porphyritic, medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (45 percent), quartz (29 percent), orthoclase (8 percent), and microcline (5 percent) and variol brown biotite (9 percent) and green hornblende (2 percent). Accessory minerals are sphene, epidote, apatite, zircon, and allanite. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and pink perthite are prominent. In northwest part of map area includes prominent border porphyry in gradational contact with leucocratic granite (Klm). Distinguished from biotite granodiorite (Kg1) by having at least 2 percent hornblende, much more biotite, and trace amounts of allanite. Biotite-hornblende granodiorite (Kg1) and biotite granodiorite (Kg2) both contain phenocrysts of pink alkali feldspar.

**BIOTITE-HORNLENDE GRANODIORITE TWO (Late Cretaceous)**—Slightly porphyritic, medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (43 percent), quartz (31 percent), microcline (13 percent), and orthoclase (4 percent) and variol green and brown biotite (8 percent) and green hornblende (3 percent). Accessory minerals are sphene, epidote, apatite, zircon, and allanite. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and perthite are present, but not as common as in Kg1. Contains porphyritic border zones and has a prominent western porphyry border that is in gradational contact with leucocratic granite (Klm). Kg2 is distinguished from Kg1 by a lack of pink alkali feldspar, by a more equigranular texture, and by a subtle decrease in the amount of biotite. Kg3 is distinguished from Kg2 by a slightly lower total mafic content and a lower ratio of hornblende to biotite.

**BIOTITE-HORNLENDE GRANODIORITE THREE (Late Cretaceous)**—Porphyritic, medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (42 percent), quartz (27 percent), microcline (18 percent), and orthoclase (5 percent) and variol green and brown biotite (7 percent) and green hornblende (2 percent). Accessory minerals are sphene, epidote, apatite, zircon, and allanite. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and perthite are common. Hornblende commonly altered to intergrowths of granular epidote, fibrous chlorite, and zircon. Secondary crystallization of biotite on pre-existing biotite crystals is especially prominent where biotite is adjacent to rhyolite. Porphyritic border is a strongly porphyritic near its western border. Kg3 is distinguished from Kg1 by a lack of pink alkali feldspar, by a more equigranular texture, and by a subtle decrease in the amount of biotite. Kg3 is distinguished from Kg2 by a slightly lower total mafic content and a lower ratio of hornblende to biotite.

**SEDIMENTARY AND METAMORPHIC ROCKS**

**McNamara Formation (Middle Proterozoic)**—Upper part is mainly reddish-purple, cherty, argillaceous rock containing minor greenish argillite that forms a bed (60 ft) thick interbedded with quartzite zones 20 m (60 ft) thick. Lower 215-250 m (700-800 ft) is greenish-gray, fine- and medium-grained, massive-weathered foliaceous quartzite, which contains (1) lenticular beds of intraformational conglomerate composed of mud chips and small chert nodules and (2) thin, lenticular, purple argillite beds. Channelled basal contacts, cross-bedding, and ripple cross-lamination common in quartzite. Contact metamorphism visible in intensity. Approximate thickness as much as 760 m (2,500 ft) north of study area.

**Bonneau Quartzite (Middle Proterozoic)**—Foliated, buff, fine to coarse-grained, thick bedded, massive-weathering subarkose, quartzite, and minor argillite. Generally finer grained here than at its type locality (Nelson and Dool, 1961), because conglomerate beds are rare. Planar and festoon cross-bedding present; ripple cross-lamination abundant in fine-grained upper part. Contact metamorphism minor. Approximate thickness 610 m (2,000 ft).

**Mount Shields Formation (Middle Proterozoic)**

- Member three**—Rhythmically interbedded reddish-black or greenish-black argillite and greenish-gray, foliaceous, fine-grained quartzite and siltite. Most bedding units grade from medium- to fine-grained quartzite at base to argillite at top. Some quartzite has argillaceous matrix. Mud cracks, small-scale crossbeds, ripple cross-lamination, and shallow channels common. Contact metamorphism present. Minimum thickness 520 m (1,700 ft).
- Member two**—Greenish-gray to pale gray arkose, subarkose, and argillite. Dominantly gray to pale gray arkose, subarkose, and argillite. Weathers in composite bedding units 0.5-1.0 m (1.5-3.0 ft) thick. Dispersed pebble conglomerate common on bedding planes in upper part. Very small amounts of argillite present. Medium-scale crossbeds, ripple cross-lamination, planar lamination, parting lamination, and shallow channels common. Contact metamorphism prevalent. Minimum thickness about 2,290 m (7,500 ft).
- Member one**—Thick argillaceous zones alternate with thick quartzitic zones. Argillaceous zones are composed of rhythmically interbedded red argillite and tan-weathering siltite, fine-sand-sized arkose, sub-arkose, and quartzite. Quartzite zones are composed of composite sets of tan-weathering, well-sorted, fine, medium-, and coarse-grained arkose, subarkose, and quartzite. Quartzite zones increase in thickness upward and range between 1 and 100 m (3 and 300 ft) in thickness. In southeastern part of area the uppermost part of member one contains carbonate-rich beds interbedded with zones of argillaceous rocks and zones of quartzitic rocks. Carbonate-bearing rocks consist of zones of limestone, limy argillite and siltite, dolomite, sandy dolomite, sandy limestone, and dolomitic argillite and siltite. Zones of quartzite in the carbonate-rich sequence contain siltite or carbonate-concreted rocks. Mud cracks, water-expulsion structures, ripple cross-lamination, and small-scale crossbeds common in argillaceous zones and in fine-grained parts of quartzite zones. Medium-scale crossbeds, ripple cross-lamination, lenticular pebble conglomerate beds, and planar lamination common in medium- and coarse-grained parts of quartzite zones. In carbonate-rich thin, wavy lamination, ripple cross-lamination, small-scale crossbedding, edge-wise conglomerate, and oncolite common. Muscovite generally absent in eastern exposures, except near Senate Mine. Minimum thickness about 915 m (3,000 ft).

**Muscovite-biotite-quartz schist (Middle Proterozoic)**—Lepidolitic schistose rock in which dark colored bands containing abundant muscovite and biotite alternate with light-colored bands containing less mica and more quartz, plagioclase, and microcline. Porphyroblastic garnet and chlorite occur in fractures. Original bedding is preserved by differences in the amount of mica. Probably metamorphosed Mount Shields Formation. Locally bedded in three or five-foot thickness. Locally bedding is locally folded. Contact metamorphism prevalent. Thickness and green argillite and muscovite and biotite alternate with light-colored bands containing less mica and more quartz, plagioclase, and microcline. Porphyroblastic garnet and chlorite occur in fractures. Original bedding is preserved by differences in the amount of mica. Probably metamorphosed Mount Shields Formation. Locally bedded in three or five-foot thickness. Locally bedding is locally folded. Contact metamorphism prevalent. Thickness not known.

**Snowflake Formation (Middle Proterozoic)**—Foliated, buff, fine- to medium-grained argillite, lenticular beds of very well sorted, medium- and coarse-grained orthoquartzite, argillaceous quartzite, calcite quartzite, and glauconitic beds present in basal part. Red and green beds contain uneven laminations, mud cracks, water-expulsion structures, ripple marks, festoon bedding, and small-scale crossbedding. Minimum thickness about 460 m (1,500 ft).

**Wallace Formation, middle member (Middle Proterozoic)**—Tan-weathering dolomitic siltite, dolomitic sandstone, and siltite, dark-gray-weathering argillaceous limestone, and minor, dark-gray-weathering quartzite common in some zones. Calcite forms pod structures and vertical-rib structures. Medium-scale crossbedding, ripple cross-lamination, planar lamination, small-scale crossbedding, and water-expulsion structures common. Sedimentary breccia common in western part of mapped area. Beds locally slightly folded. Contact metamorphism present. Minimum thickness 1,050 m (3,500 ft).

**Helenia Formation (Middle Proterozoic)**—Normally thinly laminated beds of black limy argillite, tan limy siltite, and dark-gray argillaceous or siltite limestone. Contains some dolomitic clastic beds. Calcite nodules form vertical-rib structures. Rippled cross-laminations, mud cracks, and water-expulsion structures common. Present only in east part of the mapped area near Middle Fork Rock Creek, where bedding is commonly folded and sheared. Contact metamorphism minor. Thickness not known.

**Dikes and sills**

- Leucocratic dike (Tertiary or Late Cretaceous)**—Fine to medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular dike consisting of plagioclase, alkali feldspar, and quartz, with trace amounts of biotite, hornblende, and unidentified accessory minerals. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). A single dike cuts the Wallace Formation (Ywm) at western edge of the map area.
- Hornblende-apatite dikes (Tertiary or Late Cretaceous)**—Medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular dikes consisting of green hornblende (60 percent), plagioclase (30 percent), and brown biotite (10 percent) and accessory sphene (trace). Compositionally zoned plagioclase, with an average composition of An<sub>57</sub>, is poorly developed. Cuts the Mount Shields Formation (Ym2) in southwestern part of map area.
- Angite-apatite dikes and sills (Tertiary or Late Cretaceous)**—Fine-grained, subophitic dikes and sills containing plagioclase (55 percent), augite (35 percent), green hornblende (15 percent), and brown biotite (5 percent). Plagioclase normally zoned, with an average composition of An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Hornblende and biotite are secondary alteration products of augite. Cuts the Mount Shields Formation (Ym2) in southeastern part of map area and the Wallace Formation (Ywm) in northwestern part of map area.

**Sapphire batholith**

- Porphyritic leucocratic granodiorite (Late Cretaceous)**—Fine-grained, leucocratic, porphyritic dikes and pods with a xenomorphic groundmass. Phenocrysts (2-10 percent) are plagioclase (average composition An<sub>57</sub>), microcline, and quartz. Groundmass consists of a microgranular intergrowth of plagioclase, microcline, orthoclase, quartz, and muscovite. Commonly greenish as phenocrysts and as granules in groundmass. Forms pods, dikes, and veins that cut other rocks of the Sapphire batholith (Kq, Kkm, Km, Kg1) and middle member of Wallace Formation (Ywm) in Sklabaho Creek.
- Leucocratic dike (Tertiary or Late Cretaceous)**—Fine to medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular dike consisting of plagioclase (53 percent), microcline (10 percent), quartz (30 percent), and orthoclase (6 percent), and traces of brown biotite and green hornblende. Accessory minerals are zircon, sphene, and epidote. Phenocrysts are plagioclase and alkali feldspar. Alkali feldspar is mainly anhedral and interstitial but occurs locally as subhedral phenocrysts. Plagioclase generally slightly zoned, with an average composition of An<sub>57</sub>, commonly contains quartz inclusions. Present at western border zone to the biotite-hornblende granodiorites (Kg1 and Kg2).

- Biotite-muscovite monzonite (Late Cretaceous)**—Medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (35 percent), quartz (30 percent), orthoclase (14 percent), and microcline (11 percent) and variol brown biotite (5 percent) and muscovite (3 percent). Accessory minerals are epidote, clinoclase, apatite, and zircon. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and perthite common.
- Biotite-muscovite granodiorite (Late Cretaceous)**—Slightly porphyritic, medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (43 percent), quartz (33 percent), microcline (10 percent), and orthoclase (7 percent). Variol minerals are brown biotite (5 percent) and muscovite (1 percent). Accessory minerals are epidote, apatite, zircon, sphene, and biotite. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and perthite common.
- Biotite granodiorite (Late Cretaceous)**—Porphyritic, medium-grained, hypidomorphic-granular pluton consisting of essential plagioclase (50 percent), quartz (35 percent), orthoclase (14 percent), and microcline (5 percent) and variol brown biotite (5 percent) and green hornblende (trace). Common accessory minerals are epidote, apatite, zircon, and sphene. Average plagioclase compositions are An<sub>57</sub> (core) to An<sub>52</sub> (rim). Myrmekite and pink perthite common. Hornblende may be altered to intergrowths of biotite and chlorite. Distinguished from texturally similar biotite-muscovite granodiorite (Kmg) by lack of muscovite, presence of trace amounts of hornblende, and phenocrysts of pinkish alkali feldspar.

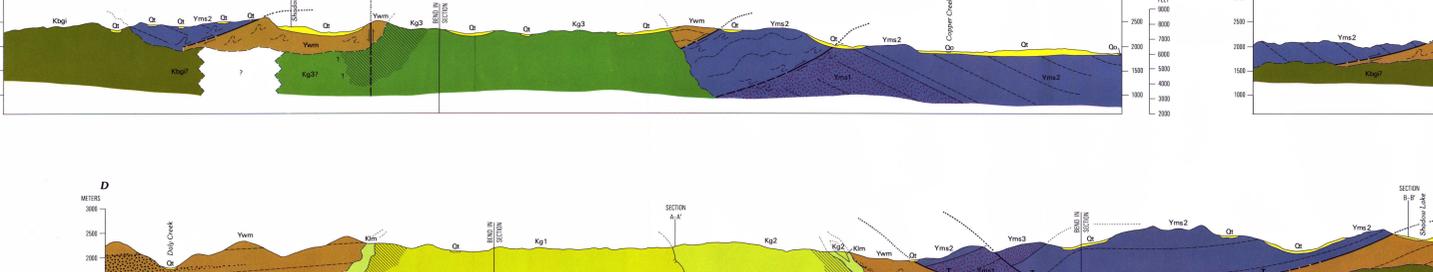
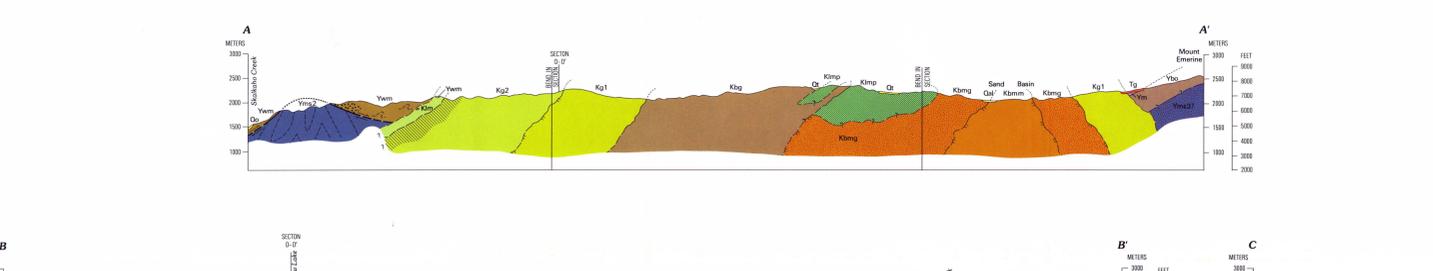
**CONTACTS**

- Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed by younger deposits.
- Dotted where approximately located; dotted where concealed by younger deposits. Contact is commonly gradational over a distance of 4-6 m (20-200 ft).
- Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed by younger deposits. Ball and bar on downstream side.
- Three bars—Dashed where approximately located; dotted with open southwest where concealed by younger deposits. Southwest on upper plate A and used only in cross-section D-D to show placement away from (A) or toward (T) the reader.
- Shear zone—Zone of shear or brecciation; displacement direction uncertain.
- Anticline—Showing trace of axial surface and direction of plunging dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed by younger deposits.
- Syncline—Showing trace of axial surface and direction of plunging dashed where approximately located. Limbs of anticline dip in direction of small angles.
- Overturned anticline—Showing trace of axial surface and direction of plunging dashed where approximately located. Limbs of anticline dip in direction of small angles.
- Overturned syncline—Showing trace of axial surface and direction of plunging dashed where approximately located. Limbs of syncline dip in direction of small angles.

**GENERALIZED BEDDING TRENDS**—Shown only on cross sections

- Strike and dip of beds
- Inclined
- Overturned
- Vertical
- Horizontal
- Foliation
- Vertical
- Sedimentary breccia within middle member of the Wallace Formation
- Porphyry zones—Approximate extent of the porphyry borders in granodiorite bodies (Kg1, Kg2 and Kg3)
- Area of glacial bedrock

**79-CV-40** Sample locality for major-element analysis or isotopic age determination, showing field number—Data in tables 2 and 3, respectively.



GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE SOUTHERN SAPPHIRE MOUNTAINS, GRANITE AND RAVALLI COUNTIES, WESTERN MONTANA