

Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1956  
10,000-foot grid based on  
coordinate system, west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator  
grid ticks, zone 12, shown in blue

SCALE 1:62,500

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.—1973-72314  
Geology mapped in 1966, 1970,  
and 1971. Assisted in 1966 by  
K. L. Pierce, R. G. Baker, and  
W. M. Thomas

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

**NEOGLACIATION**  
**ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS**  
fa Fine-grained humic alluvium—Dark-gray to gray-brown silt, sand, and clay; underlies older parts of flood plains and glacial depressions; commonly marshy; mostly 5-10 feet thick; overlies stream gravel (sg) along flood plains and till (pt) in glacial depressions.  
sg Stream gravel—Gravel, cobbles, and boulders in coarse sand matrix. Underlies bed of Snake River, its adjacent low terraces, and flood plains of other streams. Clasts are mainly 1-6 inches across but locally exceed 1 foot. Deposits are buff to gray, well sorted, poorly bedded, and include some beds of sand and silty sand.  
fg Fan gravel—Alluvial fans which consist predominantly of subrounded to subangular gravel but which contain sandy and silty beds, especially toward their lower margin. Gravel is buff to gray, moderately to poorly sorted; channel-and-fill crossbedding.  
ds Diatomaceous sediment—Light-gray to white, fine-grained sediment deposited in cool marshy areas downslope from thermal springs. Composed predominantly of tests of diatoms which live in the cool but highly silicious thermal waters. Particularly widespread in drainages of Polecat, Crawfish, and Spirea Creeks.  
**COLLUVIAL DEPOSITS**  
ta Talus deposit—Angular to subangular rock fragments that form cone or sheet of rubble at base of cliff. Interstices void near upper part, but commonly filled with sandy material. Forest or grass covered. Not now accumulating.  
pt Talus flow deposit—Single large deposit of coarse blocky tuff fragments of Yellowstone Group that forms lobate mass extending downslope from foot of talus along north and east sides of Huckleberry Mountain. Deposits are stable and bear a soil about 1 foot thick. Overlies shaly Cretaceous bedrock.  
pco Colluvium—Rock rubble that locally mantles slopes beyond limit of the Pinedale icecap. In southeast part of area, consists mostly of sandstone fragments, or of quartzite cobbles in a silty matrix. In high mountain basins, commonly includes small unmapped and locally active solifluction and nivation deposits. In northwest part of quadrangle, material consists of subangular to subrounded fragments of rhyolite, obsidian, and pumice in a sandy pumiceous matrix. These materials are derived by weathering, solifluction, and creep from underlying pumice and rock of Pichstone Plateau rhyolite flow. Deposits bear weakly oxidized soil as much as 3 feet thick that locally grades down into underlying pumice.  
**BULL LAKE GLACIATION**  
**GLACIAL DEPOSITS**  
bt Till—Gray to brown stony sandy silt; nonbedded, unsorted, compact. Stones are subangular to well rounded; locally striated; most are of locally derived sandstone and quartzite cobbles but some are erratics of tuff of Yellowstone Group. Deposits are in southern part of quadrangle where they form a continuous ground moraine east of Bailey Creek and small patches along steeply dissected slopes of tributaries of Pilgrim Creek in southwest part. They lie beyond upper limit of Pinedale Till (pt) and locally above Pinedale gravel deposits (pg) on valley floor. In places they bear partly stripped well-oxidized soil 1-2 feet thick.  
br Glacial rubble—Thin mantle of rock debris in sandy to silty clay matrix. In drainage of Pilgrim Creek material composed mostly of fractured and whole quartzite cobbles and pebbles, and sparse erratic stones of Eocene andesite. East of Bailey Creek, material composed mostly of angular to subangular sandstone fragments and local erratics of Eocene andesite, quartzite and rhyolite tuff of Yellowstone Group. Deposits on Huckleberry Mountain, mostly of local rhyolite tuff of Yellowstone Group but contain a few erratics of Eocene andesite. Deposits lie above or beyond upper limit of the Pinedale icecap and are mostly less than 5 feet thick.  
**LACUSTRINE DEPOSITS**  
bk Ice-dammed lake silt—Gray to blue-gray laminated silt and sand that contains white pumiceous sand layers and, in its lower part, scattered pebbles and cobbles of tuff of the Yellowstone Group, quartzite cobbles from a Paleocene conglomerate, and Eocene andesite. Deposits are along Coulter Creek near east boundary of quadrangle, are about 20 feet thick, and occur 20-40 feet above the stream. They are overlain by Pinedale Till (pt) that contains fragments from the pumice flow.  
**ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS**  
bg Gravel—Gray to tan outwash gravel composed mostly of quartzite cobbles and boulders derived from a Paleocene conglomerate. Underlies terrace about 40 feet above Pilgrim Creek along south boundary of quadrangle. Material is well rounded, obscuresly bedded, at least 40 feet thick.  
**BEDROCK**  
Rp Pichstone Plateau rhyolite flow—Obsidian rhyolite dated by K/Ar method at about 70,000 years old; forms the Pichstone Plateau. (see index map).  
R Undifferentiated rock—The quadrangle is underlain by a variety of bedrock types. Paleocene limestone, sandstone, and shale occur south of Snake River and east of the park entrance, south of Red Mountains, and west of Jackson Lake. Soft Mesozoic and Paleocene shale, sandstone, and conglomerate underlie the entire southeast part of the quadrangle, the area south of Glade Creek, and the southeast slope of the Red Mountains. Andesitic mudflows of the Absaroka Volcanic Supergroup of Eocene age occur between Snake River and Harebell Trail. Tuff of the Yellowstone Group underlies most of the Red Mountains and the region east and west of Lewis River. In these areas, it consists of two units, one 2.0 million years old, the other 0.6 million years old. The bedrock has been mapped by R. L. Christiansen, J. D. Love and W. R. Keifer. (U.S. Geological Survey, 1972). Potassium-argon (K/Ar) dates are by J. D. Obradovich (written commun., 1972).

INTRODUCTION

The north half of the Huckleberry Mountain quadrangle lies in the southern part of Yellowstone National Park, the south half in Teton National Forest and northern Teton National Park. Most of the area is drained southwest by the deep valley of the Snake River and its tributaries to Jackson Lake. The southeast part is drained to the south by Arizona Creek, Bailey Creek, and the headwaters of Pilgrim Creek. The drainage divides the quadrangle into five upland units. Huckleberry Ridge (culminating in Huckleberry Mountain, elev. 9,615 ft.) occupies the central part; the Red Mountains lie to the northeast, the Pichstone Plateau to the northwest, the flank of the Teton Range to the southwest, and the dissected masses of Wildcat Ridge and Wildcat Peak (elev. 9,693 ft.) to the southeast. Local relief is as much as 2,000 feet between major valley floors and upland summits.

**PLISTOCENE GLACIATIONS**  
Although great icecap covered most of Yellowstone Park and adjacent areas during several different glaciations in Pleistocene time, deposits of only two of these glaciations (from oldest to youngest, the Bull Lake and Pinedale) occur in the quadrangle. During each, an icecap flowed southwest across the quadrangle into Jackson Hole from sources in the mountain headwaters of the Yellowstone River and the basin of Yellowstone Lake.

**BULL LAKE GLACIATION**  
During the Bull Lake Glaciation two successive icecaps, separated by a nonglacial interval, are known to have occupied the basin of Yellowstone Lake and other areas. But in the Huckleberry Mountain quadrangle their deposits cannot be separated. Small areas of ground moraine and segments of end moraine in the southeast part of the quadrangle indicate that ice of Bull Lake age flowed through low divides in Wildcat Ridge and its extension east of Wildcat Peak, but did not cover the summit areas. The upper limit of glacially shaped landforms and sparse erratics suggest that the general surface of the ice at its maximum descended from altitudes between 8,000 and 9,400 feet in the divide to about 8,200 feet in the basin of Pilgrim Creek at the south boundary of the quadrangle. West of Wildcat Ridge, the upper limit of the deposits suggests that the maximum height of the ice was at an altitude of about 8,600 feet at the south boundary of the quadrangle, and the presence of erratics of tuff of the Yellowstone Group derived from the Red Mountains shows that the ice flowed southward into the basin of Jackson Lake. Gravel of Bull Lake age forms a small terrace along Pilgrim Creek, and Bull Lake ice waters were probably in part responsible for the deep incision of the headwaters of Pilgrim Creek and its tributaries.

Gradual downwasting and stagnation of the ice in the drainage of the Snake River is indicated by the presence of pumiceous ice-dammed lake sediments of Bull Lake age (bk), overlain by Pinedale Till (pt), at the confluence of Coulter Creek and Rodent Creek.

Following Bull Lake Glaciation the Pichstone Plateau rhyolite flow erupted from a source to the northwest into the northwest corner of the quadrangle (see index map). Its age, as dated by the K-Ar method, is about 70,000 years (J. D. Obradovich, written commun., 1972). Flow ridges at its surface are unusually fresh as compared to those of older flows, and both its outer obsidian crust and an overlying blanket of pumice are extensively preserved, even where subsequently glaciated in Pinedale time.

**PINEDALE GLACIATION**  
Much more is known about Pinedale Glaciation than about older glaciations. Glaciers, formed in the drainage of the upper Yellowstone River, entered the basin of Yellowstone Lake at sometime after 29,000 years ago and gradually filled and overflowed the basin divides in all directions. To the southwest, the ice flowed into the northeastern part of the Huckleberry Mountain quadrangle around the east and west flanks of the Red Mountains. Ultimately it thickened and spread over the landscape to join with local glaciers in the Red Mountains, on Huckleberry Ridge, and on the north side of Wildcat Ridge, as well as with glaciers from the Teton Range in the Jackson Lake area. At its maximum extent, the cap covered all of the quadrangle except the southeast corner. It abated Huckleberry Mountain and the north slope of Wildcat Ridge, where it flowed through low cols to form local end moraines a short distance to the south. To the west, it extended southward beyond the south end of Jackson Lake. At that time the ice was at least 2,500 feet thick over Basin Creek and the west-trending course of the Snake River, more than 1,000 feet thick over the bottom of the canyon of the Snake River, and at least 1,500 feet thick over Jackson Lake at the south border of the quadrangle. It failed to join with the east edge of a local icecap on the Pichstone Plateau, but melt water from that local cap cut ice-marginal channels along its western margin at an altitude of about 8,400 feet.

The general flow direction of the icecap at its maximum stand, as indicated by ice-molded topography, (shown by arrows) was southwest across the uplands in the northeast part of the quadrangle and west-southwest over the valley of the Snake River. In the southwest part of the quadrangle, the flow lines show that the ice not only flowed south into the Jackson Lake area, but also west around the north end of the Teton Range. Abundant erratics of quartzite (Qc) occur westward from source areas in the Red Mountains past South Entrance and along the Park boundary to points far beyond the west boundary of the quadrangle. Ice-molded features are poorly developed or absent in the drainage of Rodent Creek, where the ice was confined by Huckleberry Mountain to the west and Wildcat Ridge to the south.

Following its maximum advance in early Pinedale time, the ice receded an unknown distance and then readvanced one or more times during middle Pinedale time. The extents of these middle Pinedale readvances are not well known in this quadrangle. West of Lewis Canyon, on the flank of the Pichstone Plateau, a stand about 100 feet lower than the early Pinedale maximum is indicated by low moraines, by embankments of thick till in valley reentrants, and by ice-marginal channels in bedrock. Another stand, probably younger, is marked by an end moraine on Arizona Creek at the south border of the quadrangle and by lateral moraine segments and intervening kame terraces along the east side of Jackson Lake and the valley of the Snake River to the north. Along the east side of Jackson Lake these deposits contain erratics of granite and gneiss (G) derived from the Teton Range, as far north as 2 miles north of Lizard Point. These erratics indicate a northward extension of ice from the Teton Range at the same time as the secondary readvance of ice which is marked by the lateral moraine in the valley of the Snake River.

SURFICIAL GEOLOGIC HISTORY

**Final stagnation of the ice in the valley of the Snake River is indicated by kame terraces and outwash terraces underlain by gravel (pg, pg) that contains ice block depressions near Flag Ranch, South Entrance, and northeast of the confluence of Coulter Creek. Kame terraces (k) along the Basin Creek and Crawfish Creek and also indicate that stagnant ice was present in these areas. Along Crawfish Creek, gravel deposition was localized in depressions melted in the ice by underlying hot springs.**

**LATE PINEDALE AND NEOGLACIAL CLACIATION**  
Small glaciers may have existed in cirques in the Red Mountains and on Wildcat Peak in late Pinedale time, but no deposits of such glaciers were found. No glaciers existed in the quadrangle in Neoglacial time.

**Post-glacial frost rivving and solifluction.**—During waning of the Pinedale icecap and in late Pinedale time, frost-rivving of freshly exposed cliffs of hard rock formed deposits of talus (pta) at their base. Such deposits are widespread in cirques in the Red Mountains and below cliffs that border the valley of the Snake River, the canyon of Lewis River, and the north and east sides of Huckleberry Mountain and its extension to the south. These deposits are now stable and mostly forested. Actively accumulating talus occurs only locally in cirques in the Red Mountains, in the canyon of Lewis River, and as minor deposits (not mapped) beneath cliffs at the heads of some landslides.

**Solifluction**, also, was widespread during recession of the Pinedale ice and in late Pinedale time. Many deposits mapped as till (pt) have, in fact, flowed downslope after original deposition by the ice. Mapped solifluction deposits are mainly those that have flowed out over terrace gravels (pg) of Pinedale age as lobate sheets with steep fronts 5-15 feet high. Others, such as those in the high southwest-facing basins on Wildcat Ridge, are hummocky nivation deposits. On the north and east sides of Huckleberry Mountain and its extension to the south, solifluction of the shaly bedrock under saturated conditions in late glacial time has carried talus accumulations downslope from the cliff base to form an extensive but relatively thin blocky lobate sheet mapped as talus flow deposit (ptf). All these solifluction deposits are now stable and forested, but minor movements continue along the steep fronts of some deposits at the base of north-facing steep valley walls.

**Post-glacial alluviation and erosion.**—Post-glacial alluviation and erosion along the Snake River at and northeast of South Entrance has formed as many as four stream-gravel terraces from 5 to about 20 feet above the present stream. Farther downstream, toward Jackson Lake, there appears to have been rather continuous but gradual alluviation toward a delta, now covered by the lake whose level has been raised by the dam at its outlet. Most other active alluvial gravel accumulations form small alluvial fans (fg) where tributary streams enter main valleys. Extensive fine-grained humic alluvium (fa) occurs as overbank flood deposits on flood plains, and as accumulations in ice-scored depressions and kettles on the uplands. In some areas, especially in the basin of Crawfish and Spirea Creeks, diatomaceous sediments (ds) have accumulated downstream from silica-rich thermal springs.

**Erosion of Lewis Canyon** may have begun in Bull Lake time and continued during the Bull Lake-Pinedale interglacial interval. Following this, the canyon was buried beneath Pinedale ice and may have been partly filled with Pinedale Till. Further downcutting probably took place as Pinedale ice downwasted and melt waters flowed southward from ice-marginal lake in the basin of Yellowstone Lake across the Continental Divide and across stagnant ice in the basin of Lewis Lake immediately north of the quadrangle. Since Pinedale deglaciation, erosion has continued to the present. The canyon of Rodent Creek above its confluence with Snake River probably had a similar history. However, an original southward course of Basin Creek into Red Creek was blocked by a landslide during recession of the Pinedale ice and Basin Creek was diverted eastward to its present course. The very deep gullies in the southeast part of the quadrangle were also probably cut by pre-Pinedale, as well as by Pinedale streams.

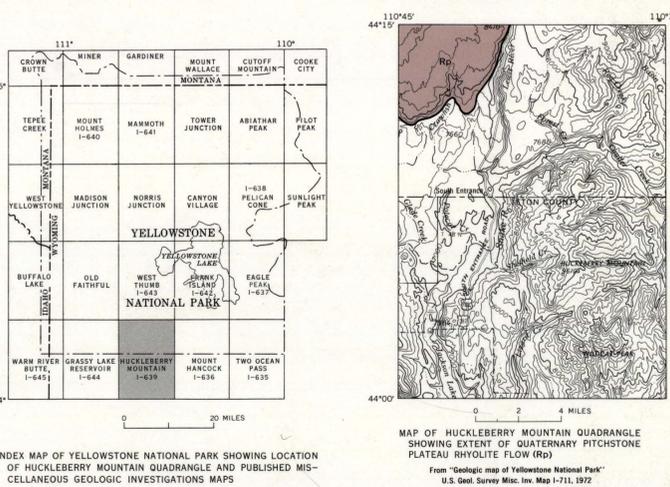
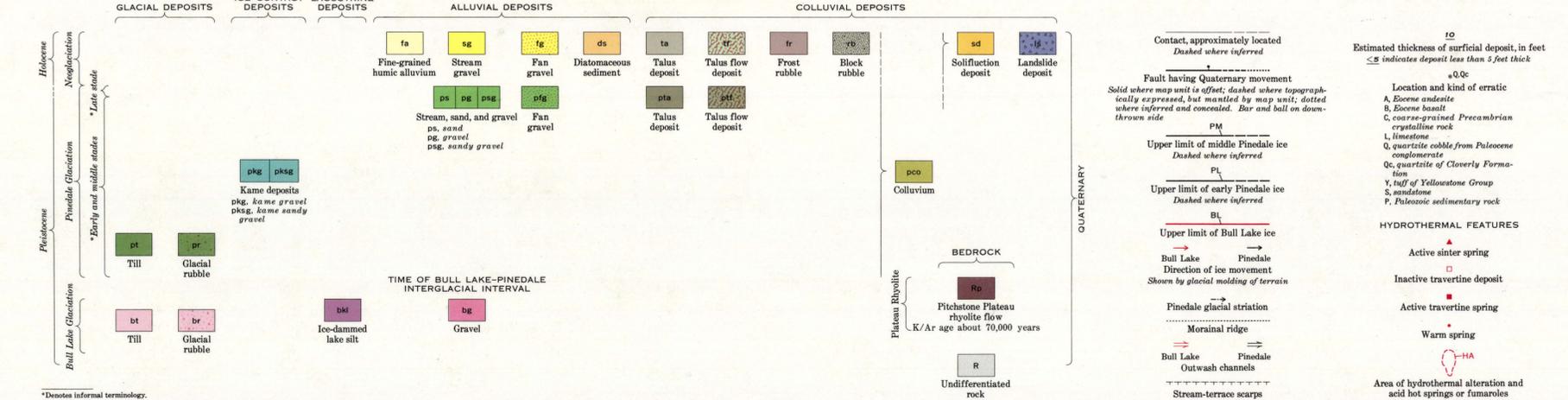
**Post-glacial stream erosion** has cut gullies 10-50 feet deep in the soft rocks of Huckleberry Ridge in the central part of the quadrangle, but along most other streams postglacial erosion amounts to only a few feet.

**LANDSLIDES**  
Many large landslide deposits (ls) occur in the quadrangle, a result of oversteepening of slopes by glacial scour in Pinedale time and of widespread stratification of bentic shale bedrock and shale-derived till mantle during and after Pinedale deglaciation. The lower parts of the large landslides along the Snake River south of Flag Ranch contain bedded gravel, suggesting that these and other landslides in the quadrangle may have slumped against or over stagnant ice. Others appear to be of postglacial origin, some in relatively recent time. Most of the landslides appear to have originated as coherent masses along single arcuate planes of failure. However, the masses broke up to form north flows as movement progressed. Large blocks and multiple arcuate scarps likely indicate some headward proglacial or lateral extension by successive failures. Internal slump scars, enclosed depressions, and lobate surface forms are evidence of secondary movements, and parts of nearly all of the landslides still move slowly, at least seasonally.

**QUATERNARY NORMAL FAULTS**  
The normal faults shown were mapped in large part by R. L. Christiansen, J. D. Love, and W. R. Keifer (U. S. Geological Survey, 1972). Their distribution is incompletely shown in the southeast part of the quadrangle. Quaternary movements along a belt of faults that extend southwest from the northeast part of the quadrangle and south of the valley of the Snake River were associated with collapse of the wall of a caldera following eruption of the 0.6 m.y.-old tuff of the Yellowstone Group. Displacements are mostly only a few tens of feet. Movement along faults that trend northward through the west half of the quadrangle was probably associated with Quaternary uplift of the Teton Range and coincident subsidence of Jackson Hole to the south. The Quaternary tectonic history of the region has been discussed by Love (1961).

**REFERENCES**  
Love, J. D., 1961, Reconnaissance study of Quaternary faults in and south of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming: Geol. Soc. America Bull., v. 72, no. 12, p. 1749-1764.  
U.S. Geological Survey, 1972, Geologic map of Yellowstone National Park: U.S. Geol. Survey Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-711.

EXPLANATION



SURFICIAL GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN QUADRANGLE, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK AND ADJOINING AREA, WYOMING

By  
Gerald M. Richmond  
1973

Wyoming (Huckleberry Mountain quad). Surficial. 1:62,500. 1973.  
cap. 1

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
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