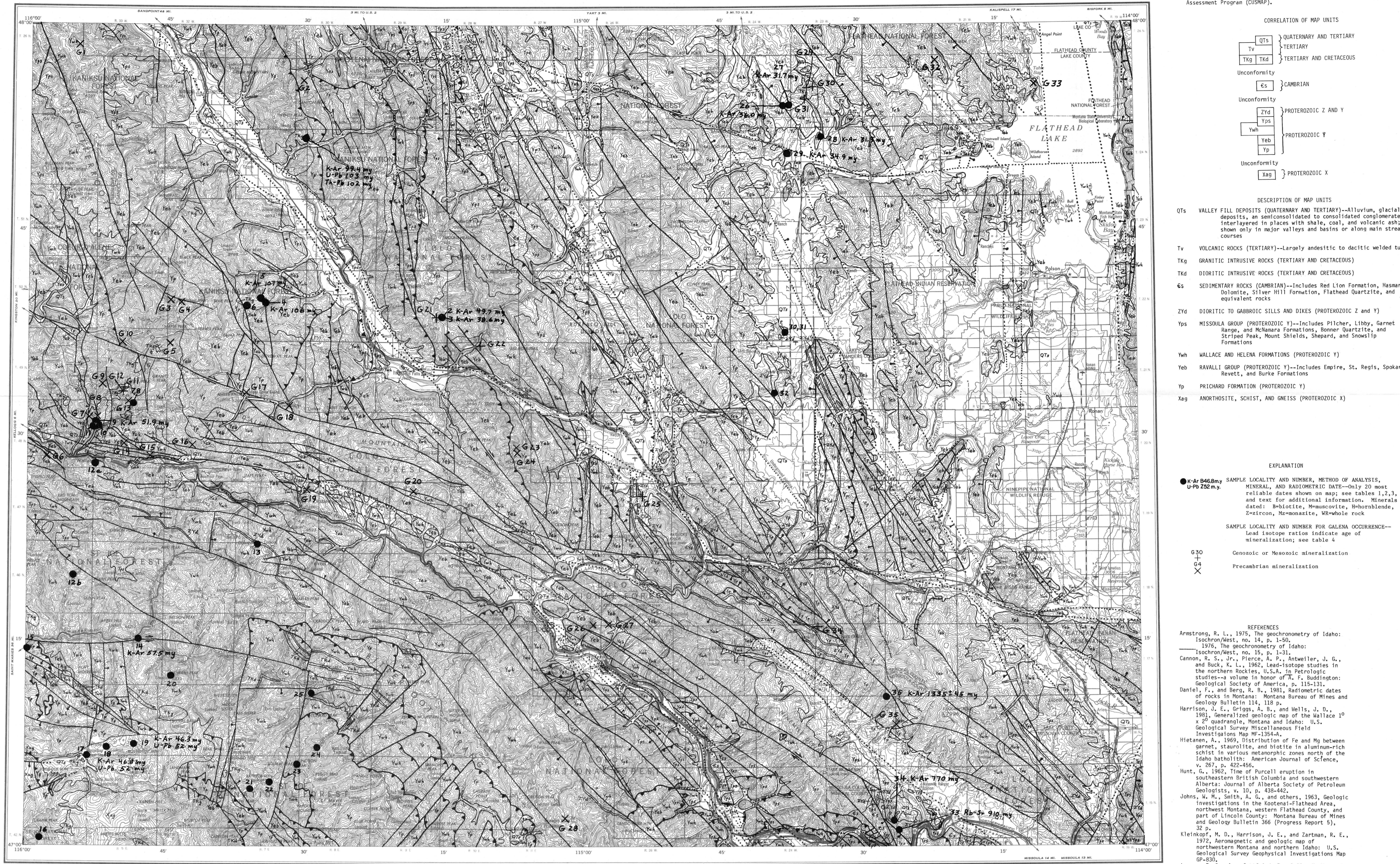


This map is part of a folio of maps of the Wallace 1° x 2° quadrangle, Montana-Idaho, prepared under the Continuous United States Mineral Assessment Program (CUSMAP).



Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1956

INTRODUCTION

Most of the bedrock in the Wallace quadrangle belongs to the Belt Supergroup, a thick (about 18,000 ft) sequence of generally fine-grained clastic and carbonate rocks of Middle Proterozoic age. Regional metamorphism prior to Cambrian time prograded the belt rocks to greenschist facies, and some metal-bearing veins were emplaced in fractures. The belt rocks were folded in Late Proterozoic time by basic dikes and sills.

Basic to felsic dikes and plutons were intruded during the Cretaceous (about 100 m.y. ago) and Tertiary (about 50 m.y. ago), and a small volcanic field formed 35-30 m.y. ago in the northeast corner of the quadrangle. A variety of metal-bearing veins or stockwork systems formed in association with the intrusions. Belt rocks were prograded to amphibolite facies in contact zones around the intrusions. A wide metamorphic aureole that reaches into the southwestern part of the quadrangle was formed by the Idaho batholith, whose northern edge is about 40 km south of the quadrangle.

Fifty radiometric dates have been determined for rocks and minerals from the quadrangle. These dates are listed in table 1; the 20 most reliable dates are shown on the map. Analytical data for new dates presented in this paper are given in tables 2 and 3. All known dates are listed even though many serve only to constrain geologic interpretations or to illustrate problems in interpreting hybrid ages. (A hybrid age does not date a definite geologic event but is given by an isotopic system that has lost a variable amount of radiogenic isotopes to thermal or chemical conditions external to the isotopic system.) Hybrid ages are quite common in the study area because Mesozoic-Tertiary thermal events have partially modified the argon, and possibly the potassium, isotopic system of the dated materials. Hybrid U-Pb zircon ages are common for Phanerozoic intrusions in this region because the zircons commonly have cores that were inherited from Precambrian source-rocks of the megacrysts.

Sample locations for galena are shown on the map, and unpublished lead isotopic ratios are given in table 4. As interpreted by Zartman and Stacey (1971), the lead isotopic ratios fall into two broad groups: one group indicates a Precambrian affinity, the other group a Mesozoic-Tertiary affinity.

DISCUSSION

The emplacement ages for the granodiorite east of Trout Creek, Mont., and for the granodiorite near the southwest corner of the quadrangle were determined from a concordia diagram (figure 1) of the isotopic U-Pb data obtained by analyses of various size-fractions of zircon. The collisional patterns of data points on the diagram were derived from 4 size-fractions of zircon from a hornblende granodiorite (sample 1) and 2 size-fractions each from two occurrences of a biotite granodiorite (samples 18 and 19). The array of data points are best explained as mixing lines between inherited and newly crystallizing components of zircon. According to such an interpretation, the upper concordia intercept (not shown in figure 1, but calculated as early Proterozoic or late Archean) reflects the age of the source rock from which the magma was derived, and the lower concordia intercept yields the emplacement age of the pluton. For the hornblende granodiorite (sample 1), the determined emplacement age of 102 ± 8 m.y. is in excellent agreement with an essentially concordant U-Pb monazite analysis of 102-106 m.y. The biotite granodiorite (samples 18 and 19) is shown to be distinctly younger and has an emplacement age of 52 ± 7 m.y. Complementary K-Ar mineral ages for both plutons further strengthen these assignments and attest to the validity of the interpretation.

For sample 2 (LP-4), from the pluton that lies buried beneath Liver Peak, the zircon concentrate was sufficient for only one analysis, and only one point could be plotted. A dotted line is drawn through that point (figure 1), parallel to the line determined for samples 18 (W-84-5) and 19 (W-86-5). The ages, thus extrapolated, of 42 m.y. is based on the untested assumption that additional U-Pb analyses from this pluton would plot parallel to the line for samples W-98-4 and W-98-5. Agreement between the extrapolated ages and the biotite K-Ar age is not very satisfactory. Also, the K-feldspar date for sample 2 is too young when compared to the date for coexisting biotite. Some K-feldspars allow the gradual escape of radiogenic argon formed during the radiometric date of 40-decaying; thus, the calculated date, in such cases, will be spurious (too young).

As previously stated, the dates for 15 sample localities shown on the map are probably primary ages. The remaining dates (listed in table 1) cannot be taken at face value; the following discussion explains why some dates are questionable. Dates given by samples 8, 9 (hornblende), 22, and 25 are considerably older than the dates for comparable samples and minerals. For example, two of the dates given by the hornblende from sample 9 are decidedly older than the date given by coexisting biotite. The older hornblende dates are probably the result of argon being incorporated by the hornblende as it crystallized. The presence of extra or excess argon is especially deleterious to determining a valid age for a rock when a constituent mineral of low potassium content such as an amphibole or plagioclase is dated.

The date given by the hornblende from sample 6 is older than the biotite dates for samples 4 and 5, all from the Haines Point pluton. This pluton is a syenite complex that shows fertilized (K-enriched) phases. The age of fertilization (about 107 m.y.) is probably reflected by samples 4 and 5, whereas the older age (171 m.y.) for hornblende may reflect either the primary age of the syenite complex or excess argon in the hornblende.

Excess argon appears to be the cause of the old dates given by samples 22 and 25. A pre-Belt date was given by sample 22, but the dated rock is part of the Wallace Formation of the Belt Supergroup. Plagioclase of sample 25 gave a date older than the calculated age of the earth. The dates given by samples 7, 8, 10, 11, 12a-b, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 22 are questionable. The primary mineralization in the Hercules mine is apparently Precambrian, on the basis of the isotopic lead ratios for galenas. But biotite from samples 4 and 6, biotite believed to have formed during mineralization, gave Cretaceous dates. These dates may indicate a remobilization of ores during intrusion of the nearby Gem stocks. Modification of the argon isotopic system in the biotites by the thermal event accompanying the intrusion of the Gem stocks. The K-Ar and Pb-Pb dates from samples 10 and 11, respectively, for the Gem stocks are Cretaceous (possibly Late Jurassic) but are somewhat older than the dates for other plutons in the area. The Rb-Sr isochron date for sample 12a-b is clearly anomalous for the Belt age of the Wallace Formation. The Rb-Sr isochron date for sample 15 may be the actual age of the pegmatite but, again, the date is at variance with other dated Tertiary or Cretaceous plutonic bodies in this region. The U-Pb zircon dates for sample 16, a high-grade pelitic schist, suggest that the schist is pre-Belt. As the schist does not match any of the Belt stratigraphic sections, this inference is probably correct. The dates obtained from two hornblendes and a margarite concentrate from samples 30, 32, and 31, respectively, may be very close to the actual age of intrusion. The dates are similar to the 740-800 m.y. ages commonly obtained from similar dated dikes and sills in other areas of Belt terrain. However, until corroborative data are obtained by the Rb-Sr or U-Pb age method for these dikes and sills, some doubt remains as to their actual age.

Hybrid dates were obtained for samples 21, 23 and 24. The radiometric dates listed in table 1 for these samples do not denote the age of some geologic event, but rather show the effect of thermal heating from the emplacement of the Late Cretaceous Idaho batholith. The heat from the batholith caused the loss of varying amounts of argon from the minerals of the schists; so that the apparent ages now determined vary from 194-1045 m.y. The calculated date is thus not a true age, but instead shows some complex relationship to the maximum temperature to which the schist was heated and to the length of time it remained at that temperature.

Table 1.—Geochronometric data					
Map location number	Rock type	Material analyzed	Type of analysis	Age (m.y.)	Reference
1	hornblende granodiorite	hornblende—K-Ar zircon—U-Pb monazite—U-Th-Pb	Do.	99,423.4 103 ± 16 104 ± 22	This paper
2	quartz monzonite (drill core)	biotite—K-Ar K-feldspar—K-Ar zircon—U-Pb	Do.	49,741.7 40,011.4 36,611.1	Do.
3	selvage around mineralized veinlet (drill core)	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	107 ± 14	Do.
4	muscovite syenite	muscovite—K-Ar	Do.	106 ± 13	Do.
5	biotite syenite	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	171 ± 14	Do.
6	hornblende-biotite syenite	hornblende—K-Ar	Do.	137 ± 14	Do.
7	vein, Hercules Mine	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	122 ± 16	Armstrong, 1975
8	do.	do.	Do.	104 ± 25	Do.
9	lamprophyre dike in stock	biotite—K-Ar do.—K-Ar do.—K-Ar do.—K-Ar do.—K-Ar	Do.	51,911.5 60,810.8 60,810.8 50,921.5 50,811.5	McDowell, 1971
10	quartz monzonite	hornblende—K-Ar	Do.	131 ± 14	Do.
11	granodiorite	zircon—Pb-a	Do.	94 ± 10	Larsen and others, 1958
12a-b	argillite(?) (Wallace fm.)	isochron of 5 whole-rocks	Rb-Sr	860 ± 150	Armstrong, 1976
13	diorite (Wishards sill)	whole-rock—K-Ar	Do.	575 ± 14	Do.
14	lamprophyre dike	hornblende—K-Ar	Do.	57,522.0	Marvin and Dobson, 1979
15	pegmatite	plagioclase isochron	Rb-Sr	68,821.2	Armstrong, 1975
16	pelitic schist	zircon—207Pb-206Pb	Do.	1665 ± 1404	Reid and others, 1973
17	biotite granodiorite	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	241 ± 121.6	Reid and others, 1968
18	do.	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	46,821.7	This paper
19	do.	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	46,321.7	Do.
20	schist	whole-rock—K-Ar	Do.	335 ± 14	Armstrong, 1976
21	do.	do.—K-Ar	Do.	520 ± 18	Do.
22	do.	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	1780 ± 50	Hietanen, 1969
23	schist	whole-rock—K-Ar	Do.	194 ± 12	Armstrong, 1976
24	do.	do.—K-Ar	Do.	1045 ± 12	Do.
25	gabbro dike	plagioclase—K-Ar	Do.	5190 ± 940	Marvin and Dobson, 1979
26	andestite porphyry	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	35,540.8	This paper
27	latite	do.—K-Ar	Do.	31,722.4	Do.
28	andestite tuff	do.—K-Ar	Do.	31,340.6	Do.
29	do.	do.—K-Ar	Do.	803 ± 16	Do.
30	diorite sill	hornblende—K-Ar	Do.	803 ± 16	Do.
31	hornfels	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	775 ± 16	Do.
32	diorite sill	hornblende—K-Ar	Do.	854 ± 20	Do.
33	argillite	isochron of 10 whole rocks	Rb-Sr	910	Obradovich and Peterman, 1968
34	diorite sill	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	770 ± 50	Do.
35	hornfels	biotite—K-Ar	Do.	1335 ± 45	Do.

Table 2.—Analytical data for new K-Ar ages					
Map location number	Sample No. Mineral dated	K ₂ O (%)	⁴⁰ Ar (10 ⁻¹⁰ mol/g)	⁴⁰ Ar/Ar ₀	Age (m.y.) ± 2σ
1	W-20-3 hornblende	1.41, 1.41	2,059	85	99,423.4
2	LP-4 biotite	8.00, 8.03	5,818	86	49,741.7
3	LP-2 K-feldspar	6.40, 6.38	3,714	79	40,021.4
4	W-98-1 biotite	6.408	3,655	81	38,611.1
5	W-98-1 muscovite	10.98, 10.94	17.24	86	106 ± 3
6	W-98-2 biotite	9.14, 9.12	14.52	94	107 ± 4
7	W-98-2 hornblende	0.24, 0.25	0.6862	78	171 ± 14
8	W-98-4 biotite	8.88, 8.89	6,060	87	46,821.7
18	W-98-5 biotite	7.56, 7.49	5,078	82	46,321.7
26	W-11-4 biotite	8.19	4,228	85	35,540.8
27	AD-1 biotite	7.42	4,292	83	36,020.8
28	AD-1 biotite	8.31	3,778	85	31,340.6
29	AD-2 biotite	7.42	3,764	73	34,920.6
30	AD-4 hornblende	0.392	5,698	98	803 ± 16
31	AD-3 biotite	0.507	7,060	96	775 ± 16
32	W-98-15 hornblende	0.396	6,230	92	854 ± 20

Table 3.—Analytical data for U-Th-Pb ages for zircon concentrates and one monazite concentrate					
Isotopic composition of lead					
Age, in millions of years					
Mesh size	Concentration (ppm)	U	Th	Pb	Age (m.y.)
50-100	367.7	200.9	16.44	0.0383	77.87
150-200	469.6	279.4	18.67	0.0222	76.07
250-324	527.7	365.5	19.43	0.0184	77.20
400	558.9	413.0	19.26	0.0241	77.45
monazite	5207	27880	205.4	0.0112	36.35

STRONTIUM AND LEAD ISOTOPE DATA ON SAMPLES

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For data on Cenozoic mineralization see table 5.

These isotopic lead ratios indicate that mineralization occurred during the Cenozoic; analyzed minerals were obtained from drill cores. Analyzed K-feldspar concentrate had 46 ppm Pb, 0.27 ppm U, and 0.21 ppm Th. Analytical work done by Loretta Kwak.

Core No. p226 p227 p228 p229 p230 p231 p232 p233 p234 p235 p236 p237 p238 p239 p240 p241 p242 p243 p244 p245 p246 p247 p248 p249 p250 p251 p252 p253 p254 p255 p256 p257 p258 p259 p260 p261 p262 p263 p264 p265 p266 p267 p268 p269 p270 p271 p272 p273 p274 p275 p276 p277 p278 p279 p280 p281 p282 p283 p284 p285 p286 p287 p288 p289 p290 p291 p292 p293 p294 p295 p296 p297 p298 p299 p300 p301 p302 p303 p304 p305 p306 p307 p308 p309 p310 p311 p312 p313 p314 p315 p316 p317 p318 p319 p320 p321 p322 p323 p324 p325 p326 p327 p328 p329 p330 p331 p332 p333 p334 p335 p336 p337 p338 p339 p340 p341 p342 p343 p344 p345 p346 p347 p348 p349 p350 p351 p352 p353 p354 p355 p356 p357 p358 p359 p360 p361 p362 p363 p364 p365 p366 p367 p368 p369 p370 p371 p372 p373 p374 p375 p376 p377 p378 p379 p380 p381 p382 p383 p384 p385 p386 p387 p388 p389 p390 p391 p392 p393 p394 p395 p396 p397 p398 p399 p400 p401 p402 p403 p404 p405 p406 p407 p408 p409 p410 p411 p412 p413 p414 p415 p416 p417 p418 p419 p420 p421 p422 p423 p424 p425 p426 p427 p428 p429 p430 p431 p432 p433 p434 p435 p436 p437 p438 p439 p440 p441 p442 p443 p444 p445 p446 p447 p448 p449 p450 p451 p452 p453 p454 p455 p456 p457 p458 p459 p460 p461 p462 p463 p464 p465 p466 p467 p468 p469 p470 p471 p472 p473 p474 p475 p476 p477 p478 p479 p480 p481 p482 p483 p484 p485 p486 p487 p488 p489 p490 p491 p492 p493 p494 p495 p496 p497 p498 p499 p500 p501 p502 p503 p504 p505 p506 p507 p508 p509 p510 p511 p512 p513 p514 p515 p516 p517 p518 p519 p520 p521 p522 p523 p524 p525 p526 p527 p528 p529 p530 p531 p532 p533 p534 p535 p536 p537 p538 p539 p540 p541 p542 p543 p544 p545 p546 p547 p548 p549 p550 p551 p552 p553 p554 p555 p556 p557 p558 p559 p560 p561 p562 p563 p564 p565 p566 p567 p568 p569 p570 p571 p572 p573 p574 p575 p576 p577 p578 p579 p580 p581 p582 p583 p584 p585 p586 p587 p588 p589 p590 p591 p592 p593 p594 p595 p596 p597 p598 p599 p600 p601 p602 p603 p604 p605 p606 p607 p608 p609 p610 p611 p612 p613 p614 p615 p616 p617 p618 p619 p620 p621 p622 p623 p624 p625 p626 p627 p628 p629 p630 p631 p632 p633 p634 p635 p636 p637 p638 p639 p640 p641 p642 p643 p644 p645 p646 p647 p648 p649 p650 p651 p652 p653 p654 p655 p656 p657 p658 p659 p660 p661 p662 p663 p664 p665 p666 p667 p668 p669 p670 p671 p672 p673 p674 p675 p676 p677 p678 p679 p680 p681 p682 p683 p684 p685 p686 p687 p688 p689 p690 p691 p692 p693 p694 p695 p696 p697 p698 p699 p700 p701 p702 p703 p704 p705 p706 p707 p708 p709 p710 p711 p712 p713 p714 p715 p716 p717 p718 p719 p720 p721 p722 p723 p724 p725 p726 p727 p728 p729 p730 p731 p732 p733 p734 p735 p736 p737 p738 p739 p740 p741 p742 p743 p744 p745 p746 p747 p748 p749 p750 p751 p752 p753 p754 p755 p756 p757 p758 p759 p760 p761 p762 p763 p764 p765 p766 p767 p768 p769 p770 p771 p772 p773 p774 p775 p776 p777 p778 p779 p780 p781 p782 p783 p784 p785 p786 p787 p788 p789 p790 p791 p792 p793 p794 p795 p796 p797 p798 p799 p800 p801 p802 p803 p804 p805 p806 p807 p808 p809 p810 p811 p812 p813 p814 p815 p816 p817 p818 p819 p820 p821 p822 p823 p824 p825 p826 p827 p828 p829 p830 p831 p832 p833 p834 p835 p836 p837 p838 p839 p840 p841 p842 p843 p844 p845 p846 p847 p848 p849 p850 p851 p852 p853 p854 p855 p856 p857 p858 p859 p860 p861 p862 p863 p864 p865 p866 p867 p868 p869 p870 p871 p872 p873 p874 p875 p876 p877 p878 p879 p880 p881 p882 p883 p884 p885 p886 p887 p888 p889 p890 p891 p892 p893 p894 p895 p896 p897 p898 p899 p900 p901 p902 p903 p904 p905 p906 p907 p908 p909 p910 p911 p912 p913 p914 p915 p916 p917 p918 p919 p920 p921 p922 p923 p924 p925 p926 p927 p928 p929 p930 p931 p932 p933 p934 p935 p936 p937 p938 p939 p940 p941 p942 p943 p944 p945 p946 p947 p948 p949 p950 p951 p952 p953 p954 p955 p956 p957 p958 p959 p960 p961 p962 p963 p964 p965 p966 p967 p968 p969 p970 p971 p972 p973 p974 p975 p976 p977 p978 p979 p980 p981 p982 p983 p984 p985 p986 p987 p988 p989 p990 p991 p992 p993 p994 p995 p996 p997 p998 p999 p1000 p1001 p1002 p1003 p1004 p1005 p1006 p1007 p1008 p1009 p1010 p1011 p1012 p1013 p1014 p1015 p1016 p1017 p1018 p1019 p1020 p1021 p1022 p1023 p1024 p1025 p1026 p1027 p1028 p1029 p1030 p1031 p1032 p1033 p1034 p1035 p1036 p1037 p1038 p1039 p1040 p1041 p1042 p1043 p1044 p1045 p1046 p1047 p1048 p1049 p1050 p1051 p1052 p1053 p1054 p1055 p1056 p1057 p1058 p1059 p1060 p1061 p1062 p1063 p1064 p1065 p1066 p1067 p1068 p1069 p1070 p1071 p1072 p1073 p1074 p1075 p1076 p1077 p1078 p1079 p1080 p1081 p1082 p1083 p1084 p1085 p1086 p1087 p1088 p1089 p1090 p1091 p1092 p1093 p1094 p1095 p1096 p1097 p1098 p1099 p1100 p1101 p1102 p1103 p1104 p1105 p1106 p1107 p1108 p1109 p1110 p1111 p1112 p1113 p1114 p1115 p1116 p1117 p1118 p1119 p1120 p1121 p1122 p1123 p1124 p1125 p1126 p1127 p11