

EXPLANATION OF RESOURCE POTENTIAL

ZONE A--Area of moderate potential for tungsten-bearing skarn deposits

ZONE B--Area of moderate potential for precious-metal vein deposits

ZONE C--Area of moderate potential for porphyry vein, or replacement deposits of copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, silver, tin, and zinc

EXPLANATION FOR GEOLOGIC BASE
(Note: The following correlation and description are for the geologic base map shown in gray)

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS

Quaternary: Qc, Qd, Qe, Qf, Qg, Qh, Qi, Qj, Qk, Ql, Qm, Qn, Qo, Qp, Qq, Qr, Qs, Qt, Qu, Qv, Qw, Qx, Qy, Qz

Tertiary: Tt, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10, T11, T12, T13, T14, T15, T16, T17, T18, T19, T20, T21, T22, T23, T24, T25, T26, T27, T28, T29, T30, T31, T32, T33, T34, T35, T36, T37, T38, T39, T40, T41, T42, T43, T44, T45, T46, T47, T48, T49, T50, T51, T52, T53, T54, T55, T56, T57, T58, T59, T60, T61, T62, T63, T64, T65, T66, T67, T68, T69, T70, T71, T72, T73, T74, T75, T76, T77, T78, T79, T80, T81, T82, T83, T84, T85, T86, T87, T88, T89, T90, T91, T92, T93, T94, T95, T96, T97, T98, T99, T100

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Qs SURFICIAL DEPOSITS, UNDIVIDED HOLOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE--Chiefly floodplain and terrace deposits of gravel, sand, silt, and clay along principal streams, but locally includes some alluvial fan deposits. Many small scattered landslides and debris flows deposited on the moraines after ice withdrawal.

Qt TALUS (HOLOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE)--Mapped separately only in southwest part of map area.

Q1 LANDSLIDE AND RELATED DEPOSITS (HOLOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE)--Unconsolidated debris that has been moved downslope by gravity present in the area.

Qg GLACIAL DEPOSITS (PLEISTOCENE)--Chiefly moraines deposited by small valley glaciers, but locally also includes landslides and debris flows deposited on the moraines after ice withdrawal.

Ta POTASSIUM-RICH ANDESITE AND LATITE (Eocene)--Brown- and reddish-brown weathering greenish-gray, gray, and black lavas, and intercalated reddish-brown and red pyroclastic deposits that contain sparse phenocrysts of clinopyroxene. Phenocrysts of orthopyroxene, olivine, or plagioclase also present in some samples. Locally includes gray to olive-brown, bedded pyroclastic rocks. Reversed magnetic polarity.

Tb VOLCANIClastic ROCKS (Eocene)--Massive pyroclastic flows and associated bedded, sorted deposits that are greenish gray and contain as much as 35 percent crystals as large as 3 mm of plagioclase, biotite, and amphibole. Quartz locally present.

Ti MAFIC INTRUSIVE ROCKS (Eocene)--Dikes of brown-weathering, nearly nonporphyritic rocks that contain phenocrysts less than 1 mm in size of clinopyroxene in a fine-grained matrix that contains plagioclase, clinopyroxene, biotite, apatite(?), and opaque oxide minerals. Carbonate occurs as interstitial patches in some samples and pervasively replaces matrices and phenocrysts in others. The dikes on the spur 1.8 mi southwest of Bowers Peak contain abundant matrix sandstone and well-crystallized biotite in addition to the other minerals. Lack of propylitic alteration of these dikes suggests they postdate the alteration. Also included are a few dikes that have olivine phenocrysts as large as 5 mm.

Tpi PORPHYRITIC INTRUSIVE ROCKS (Eocene)--Dark-gray and dark-greenish-gray dikes and irregular intrusive masses that contain conspicuous phenocrysts of plagioclase and biotite as large as 1 cm. Less conspicuous are phenocrysts of clinopyroxene or clinopyroxene pseudomorphs after clinopyroxene. Rarely, amphibole is present instead of clinopyroxene. Minor quartz also present in a few outcrops in the northern part of the area. Most outcrops are altered to chlorite, albite, and carbonate. Biotite from an unaltered dike immediately north of the roadless area boundary, in E1 sec. 7, T. 9 N., R. 18 E. has a potassium-argon age of 50.01±0.8 m.y. (R. F. Narvin, written comm., 1982).

Tap INTRUSIVE QUARTZ PORPHYRY (Eocene)--Green and gray, crystal-rich, porphyritic rocks that contain phenocrysts as much as 3 mm in size of plagioclase, quartz, sandstone, and biotite in a granophyric matrix. Occurs as dikes and plugs that intrude Paleozoic sedimentary rocks near southern boundary of roadless area.

Tpl PORPHYRITIC INTERMEDIATE LAVA AND BRECCIA (Eocene)--Crystal-rich, massive lavas and associated breccia that contain phenocrysts of plagioclase, biotite, and amphibole as large as 1 cm. Reversed magnetic polarity.

MAP A--MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL AND GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE WHITE CLOUD-BOULDER ROADLESS AREA

STUDIES RELATED TO WILDERNESS

The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577, September 3, 1964) and related acts require the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines to survey certain areas on Federal lands to determine their mineral resources. Results must be made available to the public and be submitted to the President and the Congress. This report presents the results of a geologic, geochemical, and mineral survey of the White Cloud-Boulder Roadless Area, in the Challis National Forest, Custer County, Idaho. The White Cloud-Boulder Roadless Area was classified as a further planning area during the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) by the U.S. Forest Service, January 1979.

MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL SUMMARY STATEMENT

Geological and geochemical investigations were conducted to evaluate the mineral resource potential of the White Cloud-Boulder Roadless Area, Custer County, Idaho. The area is on the eastern and southern sides of the White Cloud-Boulder Mountains and is within the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests. Complexly folded and faulted Paleozoic sedimentary rocks underlie the area. These rocks were uplifted and eroded to form a rugged terrain and then were buried by a thick sequence of Tertiary volcanic rocks. Both the sedimentary and volcanic rocks have been intruded by plutons of intermediate and felsic composition. Hydrothermal activity and contact metamorphism associated with the emplacement of the intrusive bodies formed vein and skarn deposits in the area.

A moderate resource potential for tungsten is assigned to the southern part of the area where metalliferous calc-silicate skarns have formed in carbonate-rich sedimentary rocks adjacent to intrusive rocks. A moderate resource potential for gold is assigned to an area northwest of Sheep Mountain in the northern part of the study area where anomalous concentrations of gold occur in quartz-carbonate veins. A moderate resource potential for arsenic, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, silver, tin, and zinc is assigned to the Sheep Mountain-Bowers Peak area because of the widespread geochemical anomalies in that area and the inferred presence of a large buried intrusive body. The entire study area has a low resource potential for sand, gravel, stone, oil, and gas.

INTRODUCTION

The White Cloud-Boulder Roadless area is located approximately 32 mi south of Challis, Idaho (fig. 1). Access is via U.S. Highway 93 and by county roads along East Fork of the Salmon River. The study area comprises 50,324 acres in the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests, Custer County, Idaho. The study area is on the eastern and southern sides of the White Cloud-Boulder Mountains and is characterized by very rugged topography with relief in excess of 4,000 ft. Major drainages are the Big Lost River, the East Fork of the Salmon River, East Pass Creek, and West Pass Creek.

GEOLOGY

Two principal groups of rocks crop out in the White Cloud-Boulder Roadless Area: sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic age and volcanic rocks, together with associated intrusive rocks, of Eocene age. The Paleozoic sedimentary rocks were folded, chiefly along low-angle thrust faults, complexly folded, and eroded to form a rugged terrain prior to deposition of the volcanic rocks. Locally, especially in the southern part of the roadless area, the sedimentary rocks were metamorphosed near the contacts of intrusive masses that were emplaced during volcanism; skarns were produced where carbonate rocks were intruded. The volcanic rocks include silicic pyroclastic rocks, intermediate-composition lavas and breccias that crop out on and

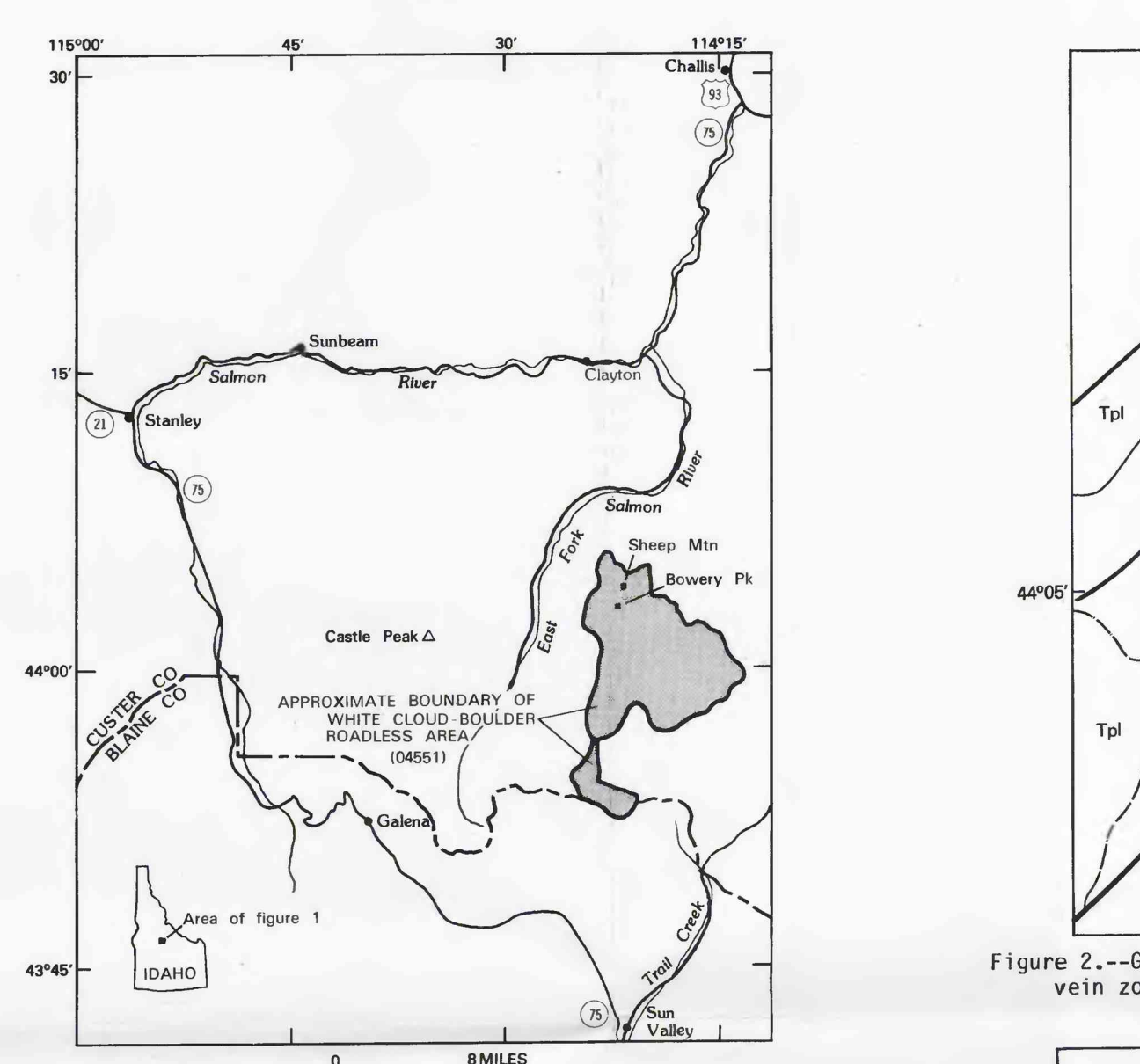


Figure 1.--Index map showing location of the White Cloud-Boulder Roadless Area, Custer County, Idaho.

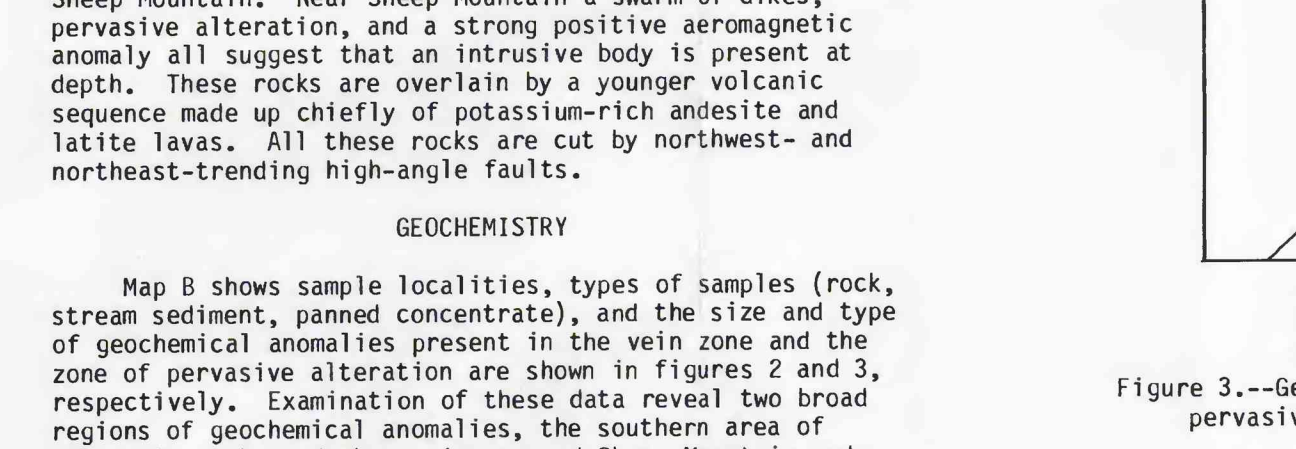


Figure 2.--Geologic and sample locality map of Pine Creek vein zone.

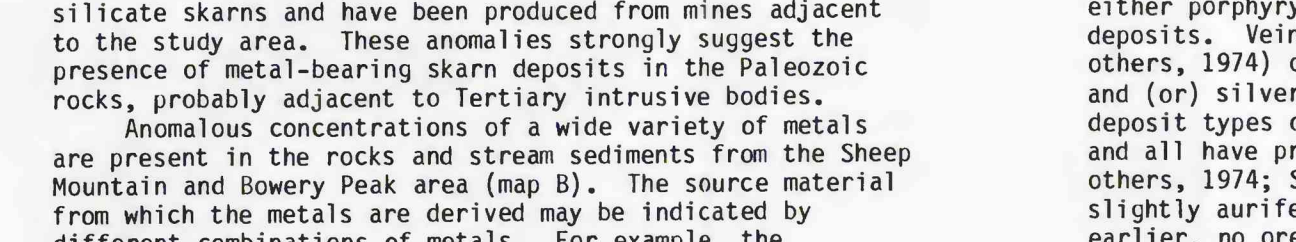


Figure 3.--Geologic and sample locality map of zone of pervasive alteration.

EXPLANATION (FOR FIGURES 2 AND 3)

Qs SURFICIAL DEPOSITS (QUATERNARY)--Chiefly floodplain and terrace deposits of gravel, sand, silt, and clay along principal streams, but locally includes some alluvial fan deposits.

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Tpl PORPHYRITIC INTERMEDIATE LAVA AND BRECCIA (Eocene)--Crystal-rich, massive lavas and associated breccia that contain phenocrysts of plagioclase, biotite, and amphibole as large as 1 cm. Reversed magnetic polarity.

MINING DISTRICTS AND MINERALIZED AREAS

Types of mineral deposits

In the northern part of the study area, ore minerals and metals occur in quartz-carbonate fissure veins and in a poorly defined area of hydrothermally altered rock. In the southern part of the area, the Paleozoic sedimentary rocks are extensively altered and iron-stained adjacent to their contacts with the Tertiary plutons; these skarn zones locally are metalliferous.

Other types of mineral deposits occur in the Sheep Mountain-Bowers Peak area. The source material for these deposits occurs to the west and south of the study area, and all have produced ore in the recent past (Simons and others, 1974; Simons, 1981). With the exception of the slightly auriferous quartz-carbonate veins described earlier, no ore occurrences were recognized in the Sheep Mountain-Bowers Peak area. The best explanation for the widespread geochemical anomalies in this region is the presence of a buried intrusive mass as suggested above. All of the above mentioned ore deposit types can be associated with such an intrusive, and the geochemical anomalies would be caused by the hydrothermal events associated with the emplacement of the intrusive. If this is the case, then several types of ore deposits may be present, but not exposed, in the Sheep Mountain-Bowers Peak area.

PYROCLASTIC ROCKS (Eocene)--In exposures on and south of Bowers Peak, unit is chiefly brownish-gray-weathering, light-greenish-gray, massive, crystal-poor pyroclastic rocks that contain conspicuous dark-green, altered, uncollapsed pumice fragments several centimeters in size and variable amounts of lithic fragments. The pyroclastic rocks contain less than 10 percent crystals less than 1 mm in size of plagioclase and sanidine. Carbonate pseudomorphs after mafic minerals commonly present in lithic fragments include porphyritic volcanic rocks, quartzite, limestone, and granitic rocks. Volcanic lithic fragments contain plagioclase and altered clinopyroxene(?). Granitic rocks contain quartz, pink alkali feldspar, and orthopyroxene. Toward the north, especially near Sheep Mountain, blocks of pyroclastic lava containing plagioclase and biotite phenocrysts predominate. A few thin, altered lava flows that have amygdaloidal borders also are present on and near Sheep Mountain. Bombs as much as 5 ft in diameter are present on the ridge 2 mi north of Sheep Mountain. Minor amounts of plant debris locally present.

INTERMEDIATE LAVA AND BRECCIA (Eocene)--Brown- and reddish-brown-weathering brownish-gray lavas and interbedded pyroclastic rocks that are crystal poor; containing phenocrysts smaller than 1 mm of clinopyroxene, biotite, orthopyroxene, and plagioclase. Some tuff layers also contain a few crystals of sanidine.

WOOD RIVER FORMATION (LOWER PERMIAN TO PENNSYLVANIAN)--Chiefly limy sandstone, sandy limestone, and quartzite.

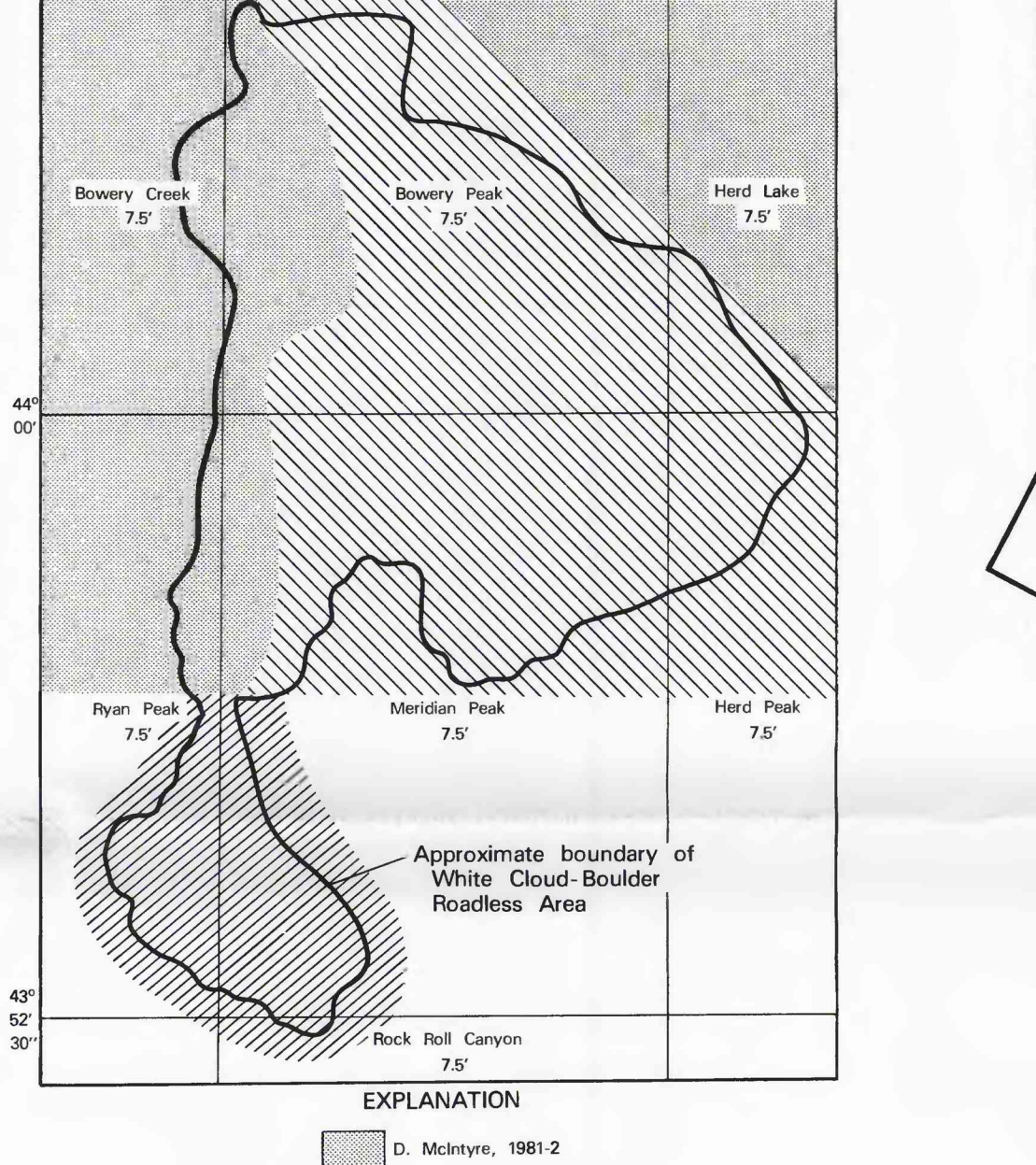
SALMON RIVER SEQUENCE (MISSISSIPPIAN)--Interbedded black carbonaceous siltite, argillite, fine-grained quartzite, and dark-gray siltstone. Limestone and granule to pebble conglomerate.

COPPER BASIN FORMATION (MISSISSIPPIAN)--Chiefly dark, impure quartzite, grit, argillite, and granule to pebble conglomerate.

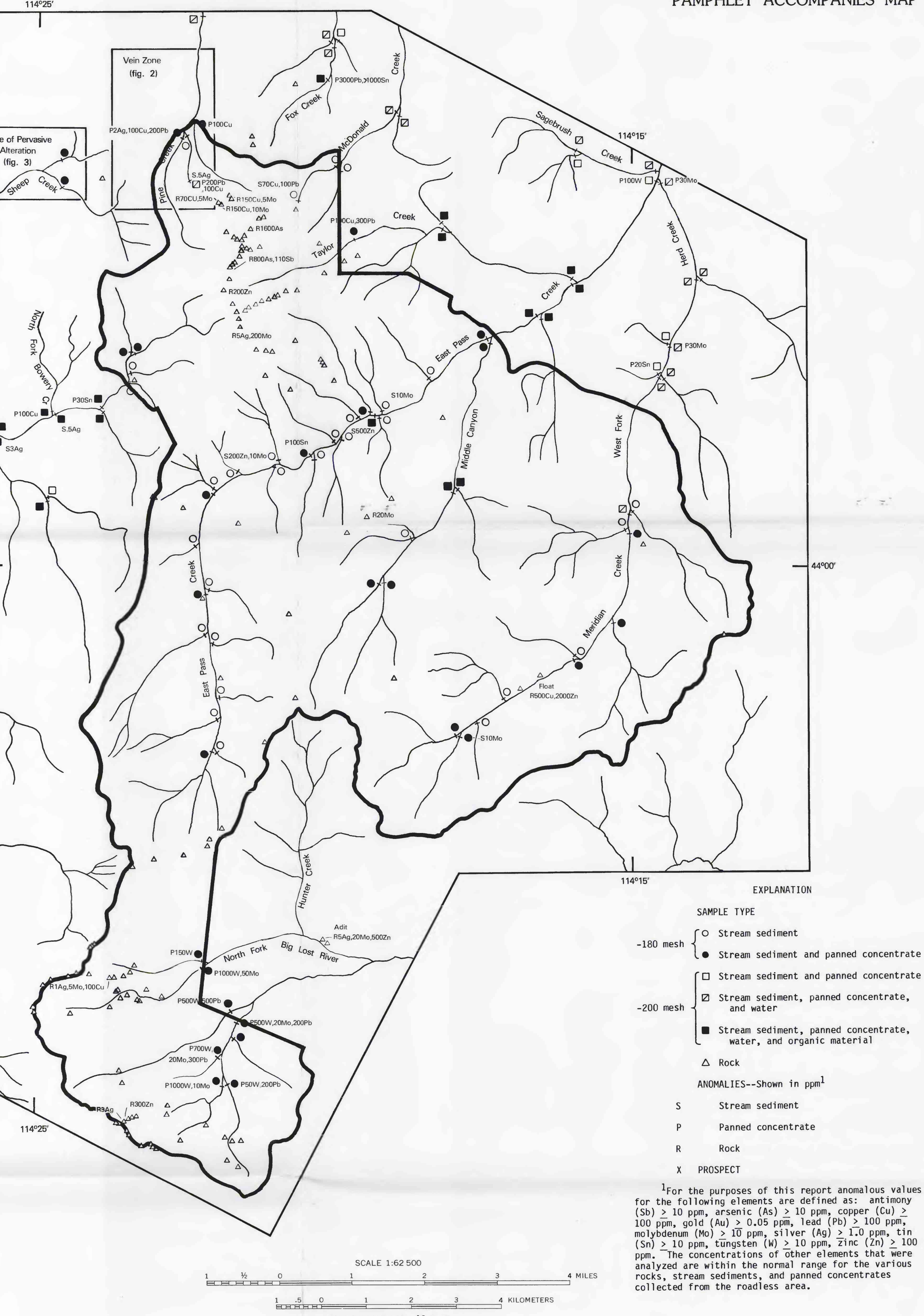
QUARTZITE UNIT--Quartzite and subordinate chert-pebble conglomerate.

MILLIGER FORMATION (DEVONIAN)--Chiefly dark-colored argillite and black carbonaceous, cherty argillite with subordinate interbeds of fine-grained quartzite, dolomitic siltstone, limestone, and granule to pebble conglomerate.

ARGILLITE (DEVONIAN AND SILURIAN)--Black, carbonaceous to siliceous argillite with interbeds of lime quartzite and conglomerate containing granules and pebbles of chert and quartzite, and rare beds of limestone.



INDEX TO GEOLOGIC MAPPING



MAP B--SAMPLE LOCALITY AND GEOCHEMICAL ANOMALY MAP OF THE WHITE CLOUD-BOULDER ROADLESS AREA

AREAS OF LOW RESOURCE POTENTIAL

Sand, gravel, and stone could be produced from numerous localities within the study area. However, a low resource potential is assigned to these commodities because of the lack of good transportation and routes and the distance to markets. Marine sedimentary rocks are present in the study area, but have been severely folded, faulted, metamorphosed, and intruded by igneous plutons. Thus, the resource potential for oil and gas is low in the study area.

REFERENCES

Johnson, F. L., 1983, Mineral investigation of the White Cloud-Boulder RARE II Area (No. 453), Custer and Blaine Counties, Idaho: U.S. Bureau of Mines Open-File Report 59-83, 15 p.

Simons, F. S., 1981, A geological and geochemical evaluation of the mineral resources of the Boulder-Pioneer Wilderness Study Area, Blaine and Custer Counties, Idaho: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1497-C, p. 85-100.

Tschanz, C. M., Killisgaard, T. H., and Sealand, D. A., 1974, Mineral resources of the eastern part of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Custer and Blaine Counties, Idaho: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 74-110, 314 p.

Tuchek, E. T., and Ridenour, J., 1981, Economic appraisal of the Boulder-Pioneer Wilderness Study Area, Blaine and Custer Counties, Idaho: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1497-D, p. 181-292.

AREAS OF MODERATE RESOURCE POTENTIAL

A moderate potential for tungsten resources is assigned to the southern part of the White Cloud-Boulder Roadless Area where Paleozoic sedimentary rocks have been intruded by Tertiary plutons (map A, zone C). These rocks contain:

- Highly anomalous concentrations of tungsten being in panned concentrates from all of the streams draining the area.
- Sheelite has been observed both in the panned concentrates and within skarn zones.
- Geological relationships favorable for the formation of skarn deposits occur in the area.
- A moderate potential for gold resources is assigned to the vein zone northwest of Sheep Mountain (map A, zone B) because:

ASSESSMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL

AREAS OF MODERATE RESOURCE POTENTIAL

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Table 1.--Geochemistry of selected rock samples from vein zone northwest of Sheep Mountain [Values in parts per million. Analyses by semiquantitative spectrographic methods except where indicated by an asterisk which were analyzed by atomic absorption methods; < indicates less than the lower limit of detection; L indicates limit of detection; leaders (---) indicate no data. Sample localities identified in figure 3. All analyses done by the U.S. Geological Survey laboratories.]

Sample No.	Description	Zn	As	Sb	Au	Ag	Mo	Cu	Pb
13	Quartz-kaolinite vein-----	15	40	11	0.1	20	5	10	20
14	Quartz-biotite porphyry (qb) argillitically altered.	---	---	---	---	<.05	<.5	<.5	30
15	Breccia; abundant carbonate	25	400	13	<.05	1.5	<.5	<.5	20
16	Silicified breccia; 1 percent disseminated pyrite.	30	140	5	<.05	1.5	<.5	<.5	20
17	Silicified breccia-----	60	20	6	<.05	1.5	<.5	<.5	20
18	Qb porphyry; bleached numerous quartz veins.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	20
19	Qb porphyry; argillitically altered; limonite casts; 2 percent disseminated pyrite.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	20
21	Do.	40	15	<.1	<.05	<.5	<.5	<.5	100
22	Breccia; bleached; quartz veins.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	10
23	Qb porphyry; pyrolytized---	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	20
24	Breccia; silicified-----	15	20	1	1.5	2	10	15	10
25	Do.	15	20	2	1.5	<.5	<.5	5	10
26	Volcanic breccia; quartz veins.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	30
27	Volcanic breccia; quartz veins with sulfide boneworks.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	10
28	Qb porphyry; bleached-----	10	30	3	<.05	1.5	<.5	<.5	20
29	Do.	50	40	<.1	<.05	1.5	<.5	<.5	20
30	Qb porphyry; bleached; quartz veins.	35	60	3	<.05	3	50	10	20
31	Breccia; silicified; vugs with sulfide boneworks.	420	20	3	L(.05)	3	50	10	10
32	Breccia; silicified-----	5	10	2	L(.05)	1.5	<.5	<.5	<.10
33	Qb porphyry; silicified; quartz veins.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	10
34	Qb porphyry; pyrolytized; quartz veins.	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	10
35	Qb porphyry; argillitically altered; 2 percent disseminated pyrite; limonite stained.	10	150	2	1.0	<.5	<.5	<.5	20
82-146	Bowers Peak area (map A, zone C) arsenic, copper, gold, lead, molybdenum, silver, tin, and zinc because:	---	---	---	---	<.5	<.5	<.5	15

MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL, GEOLOGIC, AND GEOCHEMICAL MAPS OF PART OF THE WHITE CLOUD-BOULDER ROADLESS AREA, CUSTER COUNTY, IDAHO

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1983