

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Steens Basalt (Miocene)--Light- to dark-gray porphyritic to aphyric lava flows of olivine basalt and basaltic andesite. Flows average about 5 m thick and commonly form resistant, laterally continuous cliffs; less competent flow tops and bottoms typically very vesicular and locally autobrecciated. Composed of 40-70 percent plagioclase, 20-30 percent clinopyroxene, 7-10 percent olivine, 3-15 percent Fe-Ti oxide, and as much as 15 percent glass. Conspicuous platy, zoned plagioclase phenocrysts (An₆₀ 7₀) as long as 4 cm that constitute as much as 50 percent of some flows; distribution and abundance of plagioclase phenocrysts variable within individual flows, between adjacent flows, and (or) between groups of flows; phenocrysts conspicuously white on weathered surfaces. Less-abundant olivine phenocrysts generally associated with plagioclase as glomerocrysts. Sequences of aphyric, platy to blocky, commonly coarse-grained flows present throughout unit. Other textures include diktytaxitic, ophitic, subophitic, intergranular, and intersertal. Vesicles locally filled with calcite, zeolites, and (or) clays. Unit includes very rare interbeds less than 2 m thick of tuff and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks. Unit has maximum exposed thickness of about 450 m. Unit correlated on basis of similar lithology and magnetostratigraphy (Minor, 1986; Mankinen and others, 1987) with the Steens Basalt. Type section of Steens Basalt, about 60 km to the north, has a

recalculated age (Dalrymple, 1979) of 15.5 Ma, based on an

original mean age of 15.1 Ma determined by Baksi and others

(1967), but unit is now considered to have age of about 15.9 Ma because of ages of overlying dated tuffs (Tto, Ttt, and Ttl)

arrows (cross sections only) show apparent relative sense of vertical movement. Single arrow

shows dip direction and amount as inferred from

Contact--Dashed where approximately located; queried where uncertain; dotted where concealed Fault--Dashed where approximately located; queried where uncertain; dotted where concealed. Bar and ball on apparent downthrown side. Opposing

geometry of fault trace Syncline--Trace of hinge surface, showing plunge direction. Long-dashed where approximately located; short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed

Formline--Trace of arbitrary flow surface or bedding plane in Steens Basalt (Ts) and conglomerate unit (Tc). Shown in cross sections only Strike and dip of bed and flow surface Directly measured

REFERENCES CITED

Approximately determined Strike and dip of compaction foliation in welded tuff

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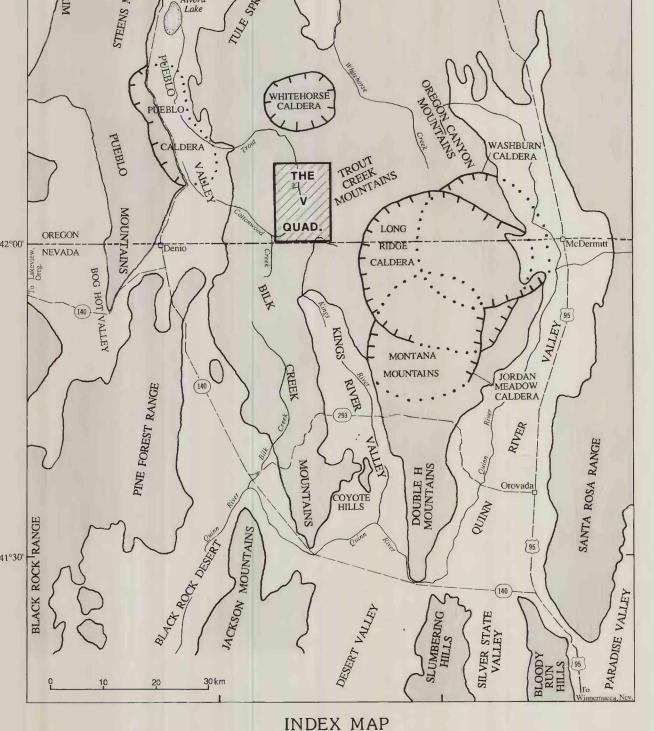
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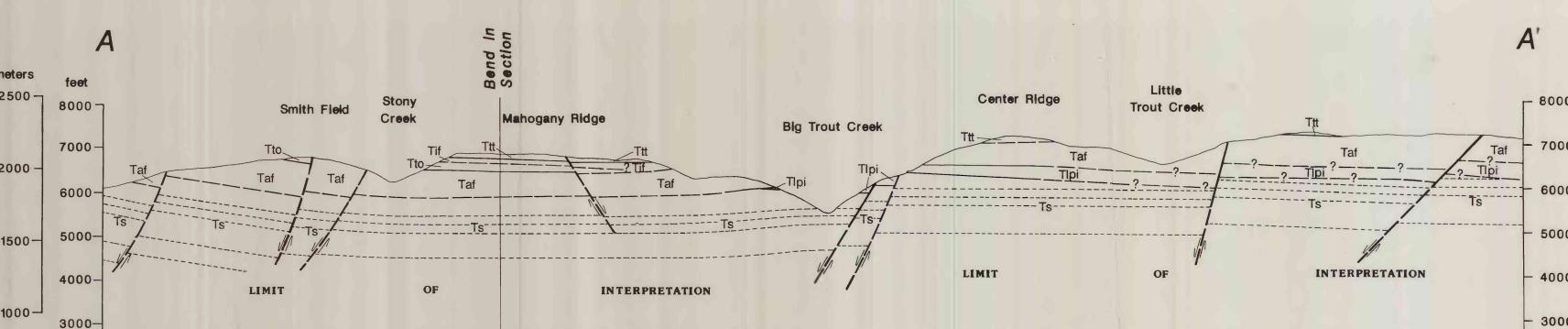
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