Protoliths of the Central Metamorphic terrane were subducted beneath the Eastern Klamath terrane. The Eastern Klamath terrane, which was the nucleus of the Klamath Mountains in Devonian time, was composed of continental deposits that were mainly sedimentary in origin. Later tectonic episodes resulted in the rotation of the Klamath Mountains, which was approximately 110° clockwise.

The distribution of terranes shown in "present time" is modified from Jurassic-Triassic deposits. The paleomagnetic declination is ~80° for the Yreka subterrane along the Wilson Point and correlative faults. The paleomagnetic declination is ~30° for the Rattlesnake Creek terrane, which may be as young as Bathonian. The time of subduction is broadly constrained to Callovian-Kimmeridgian time (~160 Ma) along the Bear Wallow and correlative faults.

The protoliths of the Rattlesnake Creek terrane were a melange of mainly ophiolitic rocks, bodies of limestone, chert, and argillite. The protoliths include rocks of Middle Devonian (Salmon) age, and the time of subduction is constrained to a narrow range within this age. The protoliths also include rocks of Middle Jurassic age (Callovian-Kimmeridgian) which may indicate the time of subduction was not as narrow as previously thought. These rocks include an ophiolitic melange body that is similar to the one described by Calver (1974) and other workers.

The protoliths of the Rattlesnake Creek terrane were subducted beneath the Western Hayfork terrane during the Middle Jurassic (Callovian-Kimmeridgian) time (~160 Ma). The protoliths include rocks of Middle Devonian (Salmon) age, which are cut by faults that postdate the subduction. The time of subduction is constrained to a narrow range within this age, and the protoliths include rocks of Middle Jurassic age (Callovian-Kimmeridgian) which may indicate the time of subduction was not as narrow as previously thought. These rocks include an ophiolitic melange body that is similar to the one described by Calver (1974) and other workers.

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