

**GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE WIBAUX 30' x 60' QUADRANGLE
EASTERN MONTANA AND ADJACENT NORTH DAKOTA**

Compiled and mapped by Susan M. Vuke, Edith M. Wilde,
Roger B. Colton, and Michael S. Stickney

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Open File Report MBMG 465

2003

This report has had preliminary reviews for conformity with Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's technical and editorial standards.

Partial support has been provided by the STATEMAP component of the National Cooperative Geology Mapping Program of the U.S. Geological Survey under contract Number 02HQAG0038.

GEOLOGIC MAP SOURCES AND INDEX OF 7.5' QUADRANGLES
WIBAUX 30' x 60' QUADRANGLE

103°									104°
47°	Marsh 2, 6, 7	Hoyt 1, 2, 6, 7	Upper Magpie Reser- voir 1, 2	Twin Forks Reser- voir 2	Hodges 2	Freeman Creek 3, 4	Wibaux 2, 4, 5	Beach West 2, 4, 5	
	Marsh SW 2, 3	Simons Butte 2, 3	Grave- yard Hill SW 1, 2, 3	Grave- Yard Hill 1, 2, 3	Hodges SW 2, 3	Hodges SE 2, 3	Red Top Butte 2, 3, 5	Duck Creek 2, 3, 5	
	Mildred 3	Mildred NE 3	Dorothy Draw 3	Ayer Spring NE 1, 3	Rocking Chair Butte 1, 3	Cap Rock 3	Carlyle NW 3	Carlyle 3	
46°30'	Loony Hollow 3	Ismay North 3	Ayer Spring 3	Law- rence West 3	Law- rence East 1, 3	Rush Hall Reser- voir 1, 3	Shell Butte 3	Ollie 3	

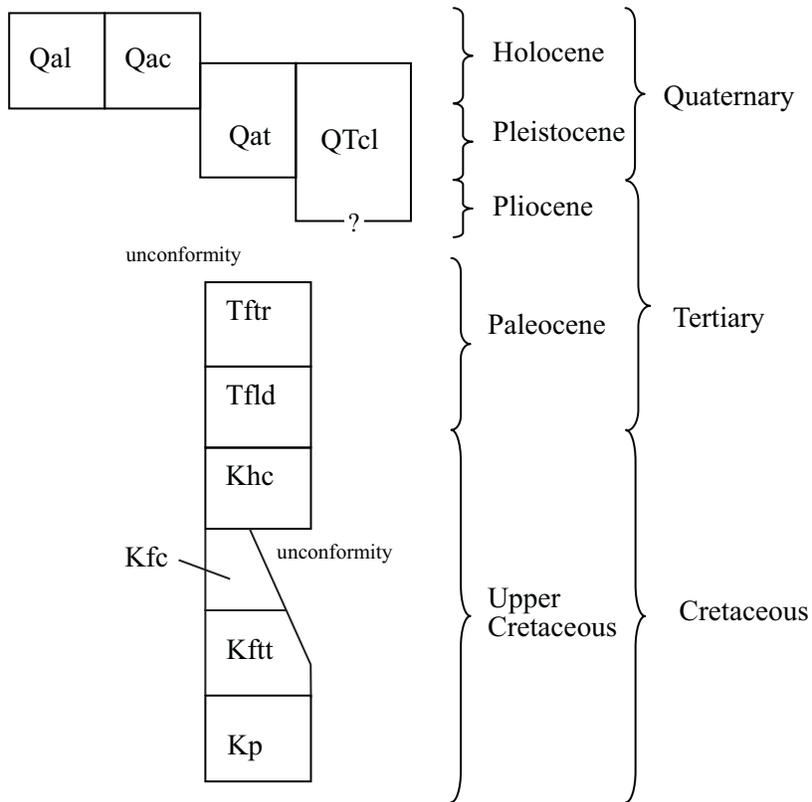
Numbers above correspond with reference list below.

1. Erdmann, C.E., and Larsen, R.M., 1934, scale 1:63,360.
2. Hance, C.J., 1912, scale 1:125,000.
3. Herald, F.A., 1912, scale 1:125,000.
4. Leonard, A.G., and Smith, C.D., 1909, Plate II, scale 1:253,440.
5. May, P.R., 1954, Plate 39, scale 1:40,000; Plate 40, scale 1:40,000; Plate 43, scale 1:60,000.
6. Moulder, E.A., and Kohout, F.A., 1958, Plate 2, scale 1:125,000.
7. Torrey, A.E., and Swenson, F.A. 1951, Plate 1, scale 1:125,000.

Entire quadrangle

- Bergantino, R.N., 1977, scale 1:250,000.
 Calvert, W.R., 1912, scale 1:1,013,760.
 Stoner, J.D., and Lewis, B.D., 1980, scale 1:500,000.
 Taylor, O.J., 1965, Pl. 1, scale 1:176,306 (excludes North Dakota).
 Vuke, S.M., 1989, scale 1:100,000.
 Vuke-Foster, S.M., Colton, R.B., Stickney, M.C., Wilde, E.M., Robocker, J.E., and Christensen, K.C., 1986, scale 1:100,000.

CORRELATION DIAGRAM
WIBAUX 30' x 60' QUADRANGLE



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS
WIBAUX 30' x 60' QUADRANGLE

- Qal** **Alluvium (Holocene)**—Light-brown, reddish-brown, yellowish-brown, grayish-brown, brown, olive, gray, and light-gray gravel, sand, silt, and clay deposited in stream and river channels and on flood plains. Gravel clasts poorly to well sorted and as much as 2 ft in diameter. Deposits poorly to well stratified. Thickness generally less than 20 ft, but locally as much as 40 ft.
- Qac** **Sheetwash alluvium and colluvium (Holocene)**—Yellowish-brown, olive-brown, grayish-brown, olive-gray, and brownish-black, poorly to moderately well sorted pebbles, sand, silt, and clay. Deposits poorly to well stratified. Thickness generally 1 to 20 ft.
- Qat** **Alluvial terrace deposit (Holocene and Pleistocene)**—Light-brown, grayish-brown, and light-gray gravel, sand, and silt in terrace remnants at elevations ranging from 2 to 360 ft above rivers and streams. Gravel clasts generally well sorted, and dominantly well rounded. Deposits poorly to well stratified. Thickness generally less than 10 ft, but as much as 130 ft along the Yellowstone River.
- QTcl** **Clinker (Holocene, Pleistocene, and Pliocene?)**—Red, pink, orange, black, and yellow, very resistant metamorphosed shale, siltstone, and sandstone of Fort Union and Hell Creek Formations. Bedrock was baked by natural burning of underlying coal, and collapsed into voids created by burning. Locally, baked rock was melted and fused to form buchite, a black, glassy, vesicular or scoriaceous rock. Age reflects time of metamorphism. Thickness generally 20 ft, but locally as much as 75 ft.
- Tftr** **Fort Union Formation (Paleocene)**
Tongue River Member—Dominantly yellow, orange, or tan fine-grained sandstone and thinner interbeds of yellowish-brown, orange, or tan siltstone, and light-colored mudstone and clay that is dominantly non-swelling. Contains thick to thin, poorly cemented, fluvial sandstone beds that locally weather to cavernous cliffs. Member generally poorly cemented and weathers to badlands topography. Locally contains plant and small vertebrate fossils, and several prominent lignite beds. In part of the map area (shown with green hachure pattern on map), the lower part of the unit contains orange silty limestone beds associated with light-colored intervals that may contain white or light-gray silcrete and other paleosol beds. Silcrete beds characteristically contain molds of plant stems and roots, range from 1 inch to 1.5 ft thick, and locally

weather to rubbly clasts ranging from boulder to pebble size. The relatively resistant orange silty limestone beds form flat-topped caprocks, producing a characteristic topography. Orange or yellow, trough-crossbedded fluvial sandstones dominate in some areas. Upper part of member removed by erosion in map area. Exposed thickness 460 ft.

Tfld

Ludlow Member (Paleocene)—Dominantly gray and grayish-brown sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone interbedded with thinner, yellow or orange, fine-grained sandstone beds as much as 100 ft thick. In some areas, the gray and grayish-brown sandstone, siltstone and mudstone are interbedded in planar beds. In other areas gray, crossbedded, lenticular, fine-grained, clay-rich sandstone that contains abundant calcium carbonate-cemented concretions is abundant. Member generally poorly cemented and weathers to badlands topography. In contrast to the dominantly non-swelling clays in the Tongue River Member, abundant smectite in fine-grained units produces characteristic “popcorn” weathering. Distinguished from similar beds in the underlying Hell Creek Formation by presence of more yellow and orange sandstone beds; more tabular and persistent bedding; more numerous, thicker, and more persistent lignite beds; and by the lack of dinosaur bones that are found in the Hell Creek Formation. A yellowish-orange or brownish-orange sandstone bed generally less than 30 ft thick typically overlies a lignite bed or beds at the base of the member. Thickness of member 80 to 245 ft.

Khc

Hell Creek Formation (Upper Cretaceous)—Dominantly gray and grayish-brown sandstone; smectitic, silty shale and mudstone; and a few thin beds of lignite or carbonaceous shale. Sandstone is fine- or medium-grained, and may contain abundant calcium carbonate-cemented concretions. Generally poorly cemented, weathering to badlands topography. Swelling clays produce characteristic “popcorn” weathering. Contains dinosaur fossils locally. Top of formation is at base of a lignite bed or lignitic shale that persists throughout exposures in the map area. In the Cedar Creek Anticline area, the base of the formation is a brownish-orange, medium- to coarse-grained sandstone with a scour base, including rip-up clasts. It rests unconformably on progressively lower parts of the Fox Hills Formation toward the axis of the anticline, down to lower Trail City Member. Away from the axis of the anticline, the base of the Hell Creek Formation rests with apparent conformity on the Colgate Member of the Fox Hills Formation. Thickness of the Hell Creek Formation is 250 to 400 ft.

- Kfh***
Kfhc **Fox Hills Formation (Upper Cretaceous)**
Colgate Member—White or light-gray, micaceous, fine- to medium-grained sandstone, and dark gray, locally lignitic, carbonaceous shale as much as 2 ft thick in upper part. Sandstone composed of angular quartz, feldspar, and volcanic rock fragments, and scattered flakes of muscovite; cemented by white sericite and illite that impart a light color. Tabular and trough crossbeds well developed. Channel bases in the sandstone display well developed scour features including large rip-up clasts composed of carbonaceous shale or mudstone. Characteristically weathers into high-angle, fluted surfaces. Thickness ranges from 0 to 130 ft.
- Kftt** **Timber Lake and Trail City Members, undivided**
Timber Lake Member—Brownish-gray siltstone and fine-grained sandstone that weathers medium brown. Hummocky bedding and trough crossbedding are characteristic of the member, and locally it contains *Ophiomorpha* burrows. Thickness of member ranges from 0 to 70 ft.
Trail City Member—Interbedded light-gray siltstone and dark-gray shale. Member is a transition interval between the underlying Pierre Shale and the sandy Timber Lake Member. Thickness of member ranges from 15 to 35 ft.
- Kp** **Pierre Shale (Upper Cretaceous)**—Dark-gray and black bentonitic mudstone and shale with thin jarosite layers, and fossiliferous limestone concretions that contain marine ammonites and pelecypods. Base not exposed in map area. Exposed thickness 165 ft.

**Kfh* used only on cross section

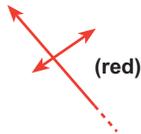
MAP SYMBOLS
WIBAUX 30' x 60' QUADRANGLE



Contact—Dotted where concealed.



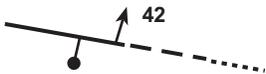
Strike and dip of bedding—Indicating strike direction, direction and amount of dip.



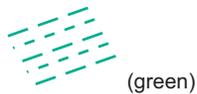
Asymmetric anticline—Showing trace of axial plane and direction of plunge. Shorter arrow on more steeply dipping limb. Dotted where concealed.



Synclinal flexure—Showing trace of axial plane. Dotted where concealed.



Fault—Dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed. Ball and bar on down-thrown side. Arrow and number indicate direction and amount of fault plane dip where measured.



Paleosol unit—Zone of thin orange limestone beds, light-colored beds, and paleosol beds, including silcrete. Unit occurs within the lower Tongue River Member in the map area.



Silcrete bed—Siliceous paleosol bed within paleosol interval.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF GEOLOGIC MAPPING
WIBAUX 30' x 60' QUADRANGLE

- Bergantino, R.N., 1977, Preliminary geologic map of the Miles City 1⁰ x 2⁰ quadrangle: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Open File Report MBMG 49, scale 1:250,000.
- Calvert, W.R., 1912, Geology of certain lignite fields in eastern Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 471-D, p. 5–19.
- Carlson, C.G., 1983, Geology of Billings, Golden Valley and Slope Counties, North Dakota: North Dakota Geological Survey Bulletin 76, Part I, 40 p.
- Cherven, V.B., and Jacob, A.F., 1985, Evolution of Paleogene depositional systems, Williston Basin, in response to global sea level changes, *in* Flores, R.M., and Kaplan, S.S., eds., *Cenozoic paleogeography of the west-central United States*: Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, Rocky Mountain Section, Denver, Colorado, p. 127–170.
- Clayton, Lee, Carlson, C.G., Moore, W.L., Groenewold, Gerald, Holland, F.D., Jr., and Moran, S.R., 1977, The Slope (Paleocene) and Bullion Creek (Paleocene) Formations of North Dakota: North Dakota Geological Survey Report of Investigation no. 59, 14 p.
- Clement, J.H., 1987, Cedar Creek: A significant paleotectonic feature of the Williston Basin, *in* Peterson, J.A., ed., *Williston Basin: Anatomy of a cratonic oil province*: Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, p. 232–336. Also: 1986, *in* Peterson, J.A., ed., *Paleotectonics and Sedimentation*: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Memoir 41, p. 213–240.
- Daly, D., 1984, The stratigraphy and depositional environments of the Fox Hills Formation (Upper Cretaceous), Bowman County, North Dakota: Grand Forks, University of North Dakota, M.S. thesis, 288 p.
- Davis, W.E., and Hunt, R.E., 1956, Geology and oil production on the northern portion of the Cedar Creek Anticline, Dawson County, Montana: First International Williston Basin Symposium, North Dakota Geological Society, p. 121–129.
- Diemer, J.A., and Belt, E.S., 1991, Sedimentology and paleohydraulics of the meandering river systems of the Fort Union Formation, southeastern Montana: *Sedimentary Geology*, v. 75, p. 85–108. Also: 1992, *in* Sholes, M.A., ed., *Coal Geology of Montana*: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Special Publication 102, p. 61–81.
- Ellis, M.S., and Colton, R.B., 1994, Geologic map of the Powder River Basin and surrounding area, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, and

- Nebraska: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Map I-2298, scale 1:500,000.
- Erdmann, C.E., and Larsen, R.M., 1934, Geologic and structure contour map of the northern half of the Cedar Creek Anticline, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, and Fallon Counties, Montana: U.S. Geological Survey General Mineral Resource Map, scale 1:63,360.
- Gilles, V.A., 1952, Notes on the early investigations of the Glendive-Baker or Cedar Creek Anticline *in* Sonnenberg, F.P., ed., Black Hills—Williston Basin: Billings Geological Society Third Annual Field Conference Guidebook, p. 17-28.
- Gwynn, T.A., 1964, The Cedar Creek Anticline: 43 years of history and development, 1921-1964: Third International Williston Basin Symposium, Saskatchewan Geological Survey, p. 192–199.
- Hance, C.J., 1912, The Glendive lignite field, Dawson County, Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 471-D, p. 89–101.
- Hares, C.J., 1928, Geology and lignite resources of the Marmarth field, southwestern North Dakota: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 775, 110 p.
- Hartman, J.H., and Kihm, A.J., 1992, Chronostratigraphy of Paleocene strata in the Williston Basin, *in* Finkelman, R.B., Daly, D.J., and Tewalt, S.J., eds., Geology and Utilization of Fort Union lignites: Environmental and Coal Associates, Reston, VA, p. 52–75.
- Hartman, J.H., 1989, The T Cross coal bed (Paleocene, North Dakota): The importance of reevaluating historic data in geologic research: North Dakota Academy of Science, proceedings, 81st Meeting, v. 43, 49 p.
- Herald, F.A., 1912, The Terry lignite field: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 471-D, p. 45–88.
- Hoglund, R.V., 1975, Cedar Creek, *in* Doroshenko, J., Miller, W.R., and Thompson, E.E., Jr., eds., Energy resources of Montana: Montana Geological Society Field Conference Guidebook, p. 55–59.
- Hols, A., and Bethel, F.T., 1957, Discussion of reservoir characteristics, Cedar Creek Anticline Field, Montana: Field case history: Journal of Petroleum Technology, p. 23–30.
- Jacob, A.F., 1976, Geology of the upper part of the Fort Union Group (Paleocene), Williston Basin, with reference to uranium: North Dakota Geological Survey Report of Investigation no. 58, 49 p.

- Jacob, A.F., 1973, Depositional environments of Paleocene Tongue River Formation, western North Dakota: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 57, p. 1038–1052.
- Leonard, A.G., and Smith, C.D., 1909, The Sentinel Butte lignite field, North Dakota and Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 341, p. 15–35.
- May, P.R., 1954, Strippable lignite deposits, Wibaux area, Montana and North Dakota: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 995-G, p. 255–292.
- McCaslin, J.C., 1976, Early recognition keys Cedar Creek success: Oil and Gas Journal, v. 74, p. 113.
- Moore, W.L., 1976, The stratigraphy and environments of deposition of the Cretaceous Hell Creek Formation (reconnaissance) and the Paleocene Ludlow Formation (detailed), southwestern North Dakota: North Dakota Geological Survey Report of Investigations 56, 40 p.
- Moulder, E.A., and Kohout, F.A., 1958, Ground-water factors affecting drainage in the First Division, Buffalo Rapids irrigation project, Prairie and Dawson Counties, Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1424, 198 p.
- Moulder, E.A., Torrey, A.E., and Koopman, F.C., 1953, Ground-water factors affecting the drainage of Area IV, First Division, Buffalo Rapids irrigation project, Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 198, 46 p.
- Moulton, G.F., 1928, The Baker, Montana, Gas Field: The Black Hills Engineer, v. 16, p. 254–259.
- Seager, O. A., 1942, Test on Cedar Creek Anticline, southeastern Montana: American Association of Petroleum Geologists, v. 26, p. 861–864.
- Strickland, J.W., 1954, Cedar Creek Anticline, eastern Montana: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 38, no. 5, p. 947–948.
- Stoner, J.D., and Lewis, B.D., 1980, Hydrogeology of the Fort Union coal region, eastern Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map I-1236, scale 1:500,000.
- Taylor, O.J., 1965, Groundwater resources along Cedar Creek Anticline in eastern Montana: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Memoir 40, 99 p.
- Torrey, A.E., and Swenson, F.A., 1951, Groundwater resources of the Yellowstone River Valley between Miles City and Glendive, Montana: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 93, 23 p.

Vuke, S.M., 1989, Preliminary geologic map of the Wibaux 30 x 60-minute quadrangle: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Open File Report MBMG 283, scale 1:100,000 (superseded by this map).

Vuke-Foster, S.M., Colton, R.B., Stickney, M.C., Wilde, E.M., Robocker, J.E., and Christensen, K.C., 1986, Geology of the Baker and Wibaux 30x60-minute quadrangles, eastern Montana and adjacent North Dakota: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Geologic Map GM-41, scale 1:100,000 (superseded by this map and by Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Open File Report MBMG 427).

Wehrfritz, B.D., 1978, The Rhame bed (Slope Formation, Paleocene), a silcrete and deep-weathering profile in southwestern North Dakota: Grand Forks, University of North Dakota M.S. thesis, 158 p.

Wilde, E.M., 1984, Stratigraphy and petrography of the Fox Hills Formation in the Cedar Creek anticline area of eastern Montana, Butte: Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, M.S. thesis, 259 p.