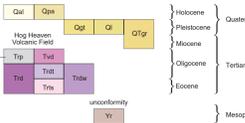
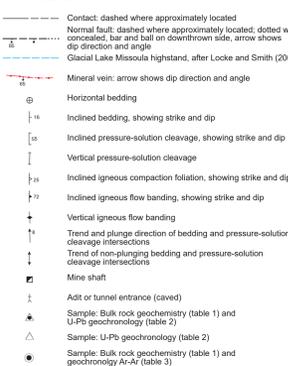


**CORRELATION DIAGRAM**



**MAP SYMBOLS**



**INTRODUCTION**

The Kofford Ridge 7.5' quadrangle is located in northwestern Montana, about 16 km (10 mi) west of Flathead Lake. The southernmost part of the quadrangle lies within the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary. Browns Meadow road connects the town of Narda to the south, with Kila to the north, and Bissonette. Dense forest covers most of the quadrangle, but a large network of mining and logging roads allows access to most of the terrain. Elevation ranges from about 910 m (3,000 ft) along Sullivan Creek in the south-central part of the quadrangle, to about 1,680 m (5,500 ft) in the unnamed hills of Flathead National Forest in the north-central part of the quadrangle. The Hog Heaven Mine (formerly the Flathead Mine) was a historic producer of silver and remains a target of pre-1933- and critical-commodity exploration. The Anaconda Copper Company sunk the first shaft at the property in 1913.

**Previous Mapping**

Sears (1991) mapped the Flathead Indian Reservation at 1:100,000 scale (unpublished). Harrison and others (1964), and Johns (1970) published regional geologic maps encompassing the Kofford Ridge 7.5' quadrangle at scales of 1:250,000, and 1:126,720, respectively. Lange and Zehner (1992) mapped the Hog Heaven Volcanic Field (HHVF; fig. 1) at 1:24,000 scale. Surficial geologic maps of the upper Flathead Valley (Smith, 2004) and 1:24,000-scale mapping of parts of the McGregor Peak, Murr Peak, Marion, and Hubbard Reservoir 7.5' quadrangles (Montjoy, 2021) guided mapping of the Quaternary deposits.

**Geologic Summary**

Mesoproterozoic Belt Supergroup rocks (figs. 2A, 2B) are the primary lithology exposed in the quadrangle. The metasedimentary rock sequence consists of thin-bedded argillite, siltite, and minor quartzite of the Revett Formation, which belongs to the Belt Ravalli Group (Sears, 1991; Harrison and others, 1986; Johns, 1970). Harrison and others (1964) mapped Mesoproterozoic and Hurke Formation rocks in the east part of the quadrangle, but these rocks appear the same as the Revett Formation in the west part of the quadrangle. On this basis, we assign all Belt rocks in the quadrangle to the Revett Formation.

**Oligocene to Late Eocene HHVF**

The Oligocene to Late Eocene HHVF covers an area of about 50 km<sup>2</sup> (20 mi<sup>2</sup>) in northwestern Montana (fig. 1). The HHVF consists of three northeast-trending dacite lava and dome complexes, and related pyroclastic rocks emplaced during Late Eocene to Oligocene extension between about 36 and 30 Ma (Lange and others, 1994). The volcanic field consists mostly of high-K, K-felsic rocks that have a restricted range in SiO<sub>2</sub> (65.2–72.9 wt. percent) (Lange and others, 1994). HHVF magmatism correlates in time with voluminous calc-alkaline, dacitic to rhyolitic ash-flow tuff volcanism that is recognized throughout the Great Basin and elsewhere in Montana (e.g., Best and others, 1989; Christiansen and Years, 1992). This episode of Great Basin magmatism is associated with the development of isolated volcanics-hosted precious metal deposits, and mostly predates the onset of significant Basin and Range extension (Scobey, 1991).

**Gravels (QTgr)**

The gravels (QTgr) in the southeastern corner of the quadrangle form pediment surfaces over HHVF tuff (Ttd), indicating that the gravels are younger than the HHVF. Quaternary units include alluvium in streambeds, marshes (Qpa), and glacial deposits primarily restricted to the northern end of the quadrangle. Glacial Lake Missoula flooded the region, including the Kofford Ridge 7.5' quadrangle, during the northward retreat of the Pleistocene Cordilleran Ice Sheet between about 15,000 and 13,000 years ago (Pardee, 1942; Locke and Smith, 2004). Shorelines are conspicuous in the hills at elevations above about 1,097 m (3,600 ft) south of the quadrangle. Glacial lake shorelines were not mapped during the present study, but a reasonable high stand is shown on the map (after Locke and Smith, 2004).

**Structure**

The Belt Basin forms a northeastward-thinning clastic wedge that may represent a large alluvial fan complex (Winston, 1986; Ryan and Buckley, 1998) that fed a subsiding, northeast-elongate intracratonic rift basin near the continental margin of Laurentia between 1,470 Ma and 1,380 Ma (Sears and Price, 2003; Evans and others, 2000). East-west-trending strike-slip faults formed in the region during Mesoproterozoic rifting and sedimentation, and the Revett Formation hosts stratabond Cu-Ag deposits throughout the Belt Basin (Ryan and Buckley, 1998; Lyden, 2007). The Big Draw Fault (fig. 1), located about 40 km (25 mi) south of the quadrangle, has right-lateral shear sense and down-to-the-south dip slip offset of 55 m (180 ft; Harrison and others, 1980; Ryan and Buckley, 1998). An east-west-trending high-angle fault zone cuts mineral deposits at the Hog Heaven Mine in the central portion of the quadrangle (see map) and may have served as important structural control for hydrothermal ore deposits at the HHVF. The east-west structures may have complex slip histories, with reactivation during both Mesozoic folding and younger Miocene extension.

**Mesozoic folding and thrusting**

Mesozoic folding and thrusting produced a series of broad north-northwest-trending folds in the Belt metasediments (e.g., Harrison and others, 1980). Folded Belt rocks occur near the crest of the Purcell Anticline north (fig. 1; Mudge, 1952), a regional scale fold that formed by buckling over a ramp in the fold-thrust wedge along the edge of thickened continental crust during the Late Cretaceous to Paleocene (Lange and others, 1994). In the Kofford Ridge 7.5' quadrangle, gently folded Belt rocks have limbs that generally dip less than 25°. The argillite beds usually have a strong pressure-solution cleavage (fig. 3A) that strikes north-northwest and dips steeply to the west (average of 70°; Lange and Zehner, 1992).

**The Hog Heaven Fault forms the southwestern boundary**

between the East Dome Complex and Crossover Dome in the southern corner of the quadrangle. Lange and others (1994) proposed that north-northwest-trending grabens in the HHVF formed by pull-apart between overlapping east-west-trending right-lateral, right-stepping, strike-slip faults (e.g., Big Draw Fault; fig. 1). A north-northwest-trending normal fault is overlain by gravels (QTgr) in the southern part of the map, indicating that fault slip pre-dates the gravels at this location. The north-northwest-trending faults may be related to Miocene Basin and Range faulting since the quadrangle lies within the Intermontane Seismic Belt, which has been shaped by mid-Miocene to recent Basin and Range extensional block faulting (Reynolds, 1979; Stickney and others, 2000).

**Economic Geology**

Oligocene-epithermal high-sulfidation mineralization at the Hog Heaven Mine produced rich zones of Ag-Au-Pb-Cu-Zn-Ar-Ar-Ar ore during the waning stages of magmatic activity (Lange and others, 1994). The ore deposits are distinctly polymetallic, with high base metals (Pb-, Zn-, Cu) and Ag, but relatively low Au (Ag:Cu ratio > 2000:1; Lange and others, 1994). The ore deposits are also enriched in Ba, As, Sb, and Te. In many ways the deposits are similar to volcanics-hosted, high-sulfidation, epithermal gold deposits as they have advanced argillite alteration zones that extend to significant depths, contain abundant high-temperature alunite, kaolinite, pyrophyllite, and "suggy silica" alteration facies, and a sulfide mineral assemblage that includes enargite as the dominant copper mineral. A 66 to 131 ft (20 to 40 m) sapropegne zone at Ole Hill (fig. 3B) caps the ore deposits west of the West Flathead Mine (see map). Revett Metals (Vancouver, B.C.) owns the mineral rights and has completed 722 drill holes with a total of around 57 km (35 mi) of drill core. Ivaohoe Electric Inc. is the current operator at the mine.

Basinal dewatering during the rift-fill stage of the Mesoproterozoic Belt Basin (fig. 2A) produced world-class Zn-Pb-Ag-SiDEX and Ag-Pb vein deposits in the Canadian and northern U.S. Rockies (Lyden, 2007). Synorogenic east-west-trending Mesoproterozoic structures, like the Big Draw Fault (fig. 1), controlled stratabond Cu-Ag mineralization in the immediate region (Ryan and Buckley, 1998). Therefore, the east-west-trending fault in the vicinity of the mineralized diatreme (Tvd) at the Hog Heaven Mine (see map and cross-section) may have been a pre-existing source of metal that was later recycled during HHVF hydrothermal activity and ore formation.

**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

- Sediments**
  - Modified (Holocene)**—Modified by modern human activities.
  - Qal Alluvium (Holocene)**—Unconsolidated, stratified sand, silt, and clay deposited in modern streambeds and flood plains. The unit is typically less than 10 m (33 ft) thick.
  - Qpa Paludal deposit (Holocene)**—Sand, silt, and organic matter deposited in swamp, marsh, or pond. Thickness probably less than 10 m (33 ft).
  - QTgr Gravel (Quaternary-Tertiary)**—Poorly sorted, predominantly cobble-sized conglomerates composed of subangular to subrounded Belt Supergroup rocks, primarily quartzite. The unit is poorly indurated and is unstratified where exposed. The gravel deposits are recognized as a semi-continuous veneer of multicolored quartzite cobbles that overlie tuff and tuffaceous sediments (Ttd) in the southeastern corner of the map. Estimated thickness up to 65 ft (20 m) thick.
- The Hog Heaven Volcanic Field**
  - Rhyodacite lavas and domes (Trd)** and pyroclastic rocks of similar composition (Ttdw, Ttdt, and Ttr) formed between about 31 and 35 Ma (table 2, 3). Volcanic activity initiated with at least one ignimbrite-forming caldera eruption that produced a crater, that partially filled with sediment and vegetation, including trees (Lange and others, 1994). Rhyodacite lavas and dome complexes later intruded the crater, likely along ring fractures of the caldera wall. Rhyodacite domes are coarsely crystalline and exhibit steep contacts with the Revett Formation (Yr), whereas lavas are medium-grained, autochthonous, and have shallowly dipping igneous foliations where in contact with Yr. Late-stage hydrothermal activity, alteration, and ore deposits likely accompanied emplacement of a porphyry rhyolite plug at Tdr (Trr; see cross-section and correlation diagram, Lange and others, 1994).
  - Tvd Volcanic rock, vent diatreme (Holocene)**—Volcanic breccia deposits are associated with acid-sulfate, or vuggy-silica, alteration zones, and high sulfidation mineral deposits. The ore-bearing parts of the diatreme contain angular Belt felsic clasts that are 4–5 cm (1.57–1.96 m) long on average, and range to 50 cm (19.6 in) long. Flathead block-and-charge gossan at Ole Hill (fig. 3B) near the West Flathead Mine. Bleached and silicified coarse dacitic porphyries occur near most historic mine workings. The gossan at Ole Hill displays botryoidal and drusy textures, suggesting open space during its formation. Barite veins cut 5 m (16.4 ft) wide out the gossan and small, semi-venteritic, booby barite crystals are common at the surface of vent diatremes.
  - Rhyodacite domes (Trd)** are cut by hydrothermal ore deposits at the Hog Heaven Mine (Lange and others, 1994). Logs up to 1 m wide are encased in rhyodacite porphyry lavas, which were later completely replaced by barite. Alunite that formed along massive rhyolite and enargite in the diatreme has a K-Ar age of 29.8 ± 0.8 Ma (Lange and others, 1994).
- Rhyodacite (Oligocene and Late Eocene)**—Rhyodacite (66.7–67.6 wt. percent SiO<sub>2</sub>; table 1) lavas and dome complexes are light tan in outcrop and coarsely porphyritic in fresh hand samples. Phenocrysts typically include euhedral, up to 2-mm (0.39–0.78 in) long biotite, altered plagioclase, and growth-zoned sanidine crystals up to 6 cm (2.36 in) long. Lange and others (1994) recognized five rock varieties in the East Dome Complex (oldest to youngest): (1) fine-grained rhyodacite porphyry; (2) coarse-grained sanidine-bearing rhyodacite porphyry; (3) Barite-Biotite lower lavas; (4) Barite-Biotite lower lavas; (5) post-mineralization rhyodacite porphyry lavas that have since been eroded off the pile. Most of the ore deposits occur either within or immediately adjacent to the large-grained sanidine-bearing porphyry rhyodacite dome complexes. Cryptocrystalline quartz and hydrothermal veins occur along the east side of the main dome that hosts the Hog Heaven Mine, suggesting that the domes intruded a depression that contained water. Lange and others (1994) reported a K-Ar age of 30.8 ± 2.4 Ma from biotite from the lower Barite-Biotite flows. Rhyodacite dome rocks collected in the quadrangle yielded U-Pb zircon ages that range from about 31 to 35 Ma (see table 2). A rhyodacite sample from the western edge of the Crossover Dome yielded a "Ar-Ar" age on biotite of around 34.8 Ma (sample KCS-18-30; table 3), indicating that the Crossover Dome is older than the East Dome Complex. The thickness of rhyodacite deposits is variable and up to 120 m (400 ft).
- Rhyodacite tuff (Oligocene and Late Eocene)**—Primarily non-welded, crystal- and lithic-rich, rhyodacite tuff. The tuff sequence is tan to cream-colored and resembles mud flows in most locations. The moderately welded base of the tuff sequence consists of up to 10 m (33 ft) of moderately welded tuff breccia characterized by a light pink oxidized matrix and abundant angular Belt Supergroup clasts (fig. 4A) that are up to 10 cm (4 in) long. This unit comprises the majority of the HHVF in the Kofford Ridge 7.5' quadrangle but is also the most massive unit, and has likely been subjected to significant reworking and erosion. The unit is up to 180 m (600 ft) thick.
- Rhyodacite, welded (Oligocene and Late Eocene)**—Moderately welded, crystal- and lithic-rich, rhyodacite (67.3 wt. percent SiO<sub>2</sub>; table 1) tuff and tuff breccia. The tuff is yellow to brown in weathered outcrops, and white to gray on fresh surfaces. Compacted pumice with length to width ratios of about 12:1 record the orientation of tuff sections, which are tilted about 10° to 20° throughout the quadrangle. Breccia zones in the tuff are poorly welded and contain angular igneous rip-up clasts up to 10 cm (4 in) long. Welded zones are crystal-rich and contain growth-zoned sanidine megacrysts that are up to 2 cm (0.74 in) wide. Marvin and others (1984) reported K-Ar ages of 31.3 ± 0.6 Ma and 34.9 ± 0.6 Ma for biotite from non-welded tuff in the region. A welded tuff sample collected near the Hog Heaven Mine yielded a U-Pb zircon age of about 31.1 ± 0.2 Ma (sample KCS-18-51; table 2), which is the same age as the youngest rhyodacite (Trd) rock dated in the quadrangle and considerably younger than the 35.5 Ma welded tuff in the west adjacent Hubbard Reservoir 7.5' quadrangle (Scarberry, 2023). A sample of welded tuff collected 1.6 km (1 mi) northwest of the Hog Heaven mine has a "Ar-Ar" age for biotite of 31.7 ± 0.5 Ma (sample KCS-18-45; table 3). The welded tuff is up to 110 m (360 ft) thick.
- Tuff and tuffaceous sedimentary rock (Oligocene and Late Eocene)**—Poorly welded, light gray to tan lithic tuff. Lithic rip-ups are typically Belt rock fragments. The unit grades from sand-size equigranular deposits to coarse, 30–40 percent lithic fragments in an igneous matrix on the base, to non-welded crystal- and lithic-rich rhyodacite tuff (Ttd). The contact between tuffaceous sediments and the overlying rhyodacite tuff (Ttd) is well exposed in drainages in the southeastern part of the quadrangle. The lithic tuff is up to 50 m (160 ft) thick.

**Belt Supergroup**

- Yr Revett Formation (Mesoproterozoic)**—Grayish green, grayish red, and grayish blue, laminated to very finely bedded argillite, siltite, and quartzite (fig. 4C). The siltite is characterized by elongate ripple cross-beds, seaward beds, cut-and-fill structures, troughs, mega-ripples, and lenticular quartzite beds; the argillite exhibits a conspicuous steeply oriented pressure-solution cleavage (fig. 3A), mudcracks, and ripples (Ryan and Buckley, 1998). The quartzite beds are flat laminated to cross-bedded and often sericite. Although not subdivided here, Revett deposits in the quadrangle most resemble the middle and upper part of the formation as described by Ryan and Buckley (1998) at Revere Creek, located about 80 km (50 mi) south of the quadrangle. Liesegang banding is observed in Yr siltite (fig. 4B) adjacent to the overprinting oxide gossan (facies of Tvd) at Ole Hill (fig. 3B). Liesegang oxide bands record iron diffusion through the siltite and may have formed synchronously with the hydrothermal events that produced the gossan at Ole Hill. Thickness as much as 900 m (3,000 ft) in the quadrangle.

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**Table 1. Raw bulk rock geochemical data.**

Sample ID	KCS-18-30	KCS-18-29	KCS-18-51	KCS-18-41	KCS-18-45
Map Unit	Ttd	Ttd	Ttd	Ttd	Ttd
Latitude	47.92020	47.91991	47.92028	47.92036	47.92038
Longitude	-114.60748	-114.62011	-114.93028	-114.51314	-114.95054
<b>Major elements (wt. % oxide)</b>					
SiO <sub>2</sub>	67.51	67.02	67.31	66.73	67.32
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.54	0.64	0.38	0.39	0.36
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	15.84	16.60	18.85	16.76	16.82
FeO	2.97	2.64	2.03	2.08	2.38
MgO	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02
MnO	0.60	0.62	0.28	0.29	0.24
CaO	2.65	2.87	1.53	1.92	1.83
Na <sub>2</sub> O	4.29	4.35	5.47	5.45	5.63
K <sub>2</sub> O	3.11	3.08	4.26	3.72	4.31
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.22	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.19
Total	97.76	97.75	98.32	98.16	98.71
LOI	1.65	1.71	1.10	1.12	0.71
<b>Trace elements (ppm/PPM)</b>					
Ni	6	5	6	8	6
Cr	57	6	5	11	5
V	52	49	34	46	33
Ga	18	18	20	20	20
Co	3	7	7	7	7
Zn	57	39	82	153	64
<b>Trace elements (ppm/PPM MS)</b>					
La	35.6	39.4	93.4	46.3	53.8
Ce	84.4	79.2	86.3	79.0	86.6
Pr	7.4	7.6	9.0	8.7	8.8
Nd	26.4	26.8	29.1	30.0	29.0
Eu	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.2
Gd	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2
Tb	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.7
Dy	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Ho	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Er	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Tm	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Lu	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Ba	1656.2	1842.8	1792.4	1975.8	1787.1
Th	6.6	7.1	16.8	13.3	16.6
U	25.3	25.3	65.5	47.9	63.6
Y	13.4	9.1	10.6	9.8	11.1
Hf	3.9	3.8	5.5	4.5	5.4
Ta	1.7	1.6	3.8	2.9	3.8
U	3.2	2.6	6.0	5.2	6.0
Pb	20.9	19.5	20.0	16.6	19.5
Bi	60.7	60.6	123.3	100.1	127.6
Mo	3.1	2.9	4.9	5.1	4.1
Br	849.4	848.7	904.5	1075.5	932.4
Sr	5.0	4.6	2.5	3.3	2.3
Zr	150.8	145.3	243.0	196.5	241.0

**Table 2. U-Pb zircon geochronology.**

Sample ID	Map Unit	Latitude	Longitude	Age (Ma)	2σ MSWD
KCS-18-51	Ttd	47.92038	-114.93028	31.11	0.21
KCS-18-35	Ttd	47.91981	-114.59032	31.11	0.18
KCS-18-41	Ttd	47.92036	-114.58134	31.48	0.24
KCS-18-18	Ttd	47.92150	-114.98914	33.01	0.17
KCS-18-29	Ttd	47.91934	-114.62011	35.03	0.34

Note: Reported ages are the weighted mean of <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U ages obtained for each sample. Zircon separates were prepared by Elmer Copley in the rock laboratory at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, and analyzed by James Meoof at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

**Table 3. "Ar-Ar" geochronology.**

Sample ID	Mineral	Map Unit	Latitude	Longitude	Age (Ma)	2σ MSWD
KCS-18-30	biotite	Ttd	47.92030	-114.61748	34.78	0.85
KCS-18-45	biotite	Ttd	47.92078	-114.95954	31.68	0.25

Note: Reported ages are the weighted mean plateau ages from mineral separates. Mineral separates were prepared and analyzed at the Maxco Tech.

