

GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE STILLWATER COMPLEX WITHIN THE  
BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS FRONT LARAMIDE TRIANGLE ZONE  
SOUTH-CENTRAL MONTANA

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

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Ennis Geraghty  
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# GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE STILLWATER COMPLEX WITHIN THE BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS FRONT LARAMIDE TRIANGLE ZONE SOUTH-CENTRAL MONTANA

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the geologic map is to:

- (1) publically present on a topographic base the Johns-Manville stratigraphic nomenclature (Todd and others, 1982) for the entire Stillwater mafic to ultramafic layered igneous intrusive;
- (2) present results and structural interpretations from detailed (1:12,000 and 1:6,000) outcrop mapping by the author (2005 to 2012) along the Stillwater Complex portion of the Beartooth Mountains front that stresses the importance of triangle-zone features (Jones, 1996) (forethrusts, backthrusts, lateral ramps) in a Laramide, basement-involved terrain (Sterne, 2006); and
- (3) extend these triangle-zone interpretations along the front and outside of areas mapped by the author to provide just one possible structural interpretation, stressing the importance of Laramide thrusting and ramping, of rock-unit map patterns presented previously by a number of geologists in both the crystalline rocks and sedimentary strata.

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## DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

### CENOZOIC DEPOSITS

- Qal Alluvium (Holocene)**—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay in channels of modern rivers and streams. Clasts generally subrounded to well rounded, resistant rocks. Thickness is generally less than 10 m (33 ft).
- Qc Colluvium (Holocene and Pleistocene?)**—Unconsolidated, locally derived slope deposit that contains angular, poorly size-sorted clasts, generally with clasts that are pebble size and larger. Thickness is generally less than 10 m (33 ft).
- Qta Talus deposit (Holocene and Pleistocene)**—Unconsolidated, very locally derived apron-like deposits with angular clasts on and below relatively steep slopes. Includes some rock-slide deposits. Thickness is variable, generally less than 10 m (33 ft).
- Qls Landslide deposit (Holocene and Pleistocene)**—Mass-wasting deposit that consists of stable to unstable, unsorted mixtures of clay- to boulder-size sediment. Includes rotated or slumped blocks of bedrock and surficial sediment, earthflow deposits, and mudflow deposits. Color and lithology reflect that of parent rocks and transported surficial materials. Thickness is variable, probably less than 30 m (100 ft).
- Qg Glacial deposits, undivided (Holocene and Pleistocene)**—Unsorted and unstratified deposits of locally derived silt, sand, pebbles, cobbles, and boulders of Pleistocene glacial moraines and other associated glacial and glaciofluvial deposits. May also include Holocene glacial deposits, rock glacier deposits, and subordinate alluvium, colluvium, talus, landslide deposits, and boulder fields.

**MESOZOIC AND PALEOZOIC ROCKS**—Unit descriptions modified from Berg and others (1999), Berg and others (2000), Lopez (2000), and Lopez (2001) for the geologic maps of the Gardiner, Livingston, Big Timber, and Red Lodge 30' x 60' quadrangles, respectively; and Vhay (1934), Vail (1955), Garbarini (1957), and Richards (1957).

- Kdi Diorite and diorite porphyry (Upper Cretaceous)**—Dark gray to medium gray, fine-grained diorite and diorite porphyry, phenocrysts of plagioclase, hornblende, pyroxene, and locally biotite. Unit occurs as stocks north of the Beartooth Mountains front. It also occurs as small plugs, dikes, and sills of diorite, diorite porphyry, and andesite porphyry. Some of the sills intrude Stillwater Complex layers. Xenoliths of Stillwater Complex rocks occur in the Lodgepole, Enos Mountain, and Susie Peak stocks (Brozdowski, 1983, 1985) and in the Iron Mountain (Sliderock Mountain) stock (Lopez, 2000). Radiometric age is 75-78 Ma for Iron Mountain and Lodgepole stocks based on  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$  data (du Bray and Harlan, 1998).
- Klsr Sliderock Mountain formation of Livingston Group (Upper Cretaceous)**—Unit includes all volcanic rocks erupted from the Sliderock Mountain stratovolcano (du Bray and others, 1994). Mostly andesite breccia (lahars), gray, pale purple gray, pale greenish gray. Andesite in clasts is porphyritic with phenocrysts of chalky plagioclase, hornblende, and

pyroxene; matrix is similar but lighter in color and slightly finer grained. Very resistant, forming cliffs and very rugged topography near the vent zone in Sliderock Mountain area. In distal areas, such as near the town of Fishtail, unit contains interbeds of andesitic conglomerate and coarse-grained sandstone, and the clasts are less angular. Locally the unit contains minor flows of porphyritic andesite and basaltic andesite, with phenocrysts of plagioclase, hornblende and pyroxene. Thickness is at least 300 m (1,000 ft) (du Bray and others, 1994).

- Kjre Judith River through Eagle Formations, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**
- Kjr Judith River Formation (Upper Cretaceous)**—Interbedded brownish gray sandy shale and light brown to pale yellowish brown, argillaceous, very fine- to fine-grained lenticular sandstone in beds as much as 3 m (10 ft) thick. A basal, massive cliff-forming sandstone is commonly referred to as the Parkman Sandstone and resembles sandstone in the Eagle Sandstone. Sandstones are friable to moderately well indurated, crossbedded, burrowed to bioturbated, and support growths of pine trees. Greenish gray and pale maroon gray mudstone, poor quality coal, and easily eroded sandstone occur near the top of the formation. Thickness is 215-305 m (700-1,000 ft).
- Kcl Claggett Shale (Upper Cretaceous)**—Brownish gray, fissile shale with minor interbeds of light brownish gray, very argillaceous sandstone. Light brownish gray to light brown, calcareous concretions common; commonly fossiliferous. The upper contact is gradational, conformable, and is placed at the change to ledge-forming sandstone of Judith River Formation. Thickness is 30-90 m (100-300 ft), decreasing westward.
- Ke Eagle Sandstone (Upper Cretaceous)**—Light brownish gray to pale orange, very fine to fine-grained, crossbedded sandstone; burrowed to bioturbated in part. Locally contains calcareous, light brown sandstone concretions as much as 5 m (15 ft) in diameter. Usually two or more sandstone intervals with interbedded shale. Contains at least one coal bed north of Nye. Thickness is about 45 m (150 ft).
- Ktn Telegraph Creek and Niobrara Formations, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**
- Ktco Telegraph Creek and Cody Formations, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**
- Ktc Telegraph Creek Formation (Upper Cretaceous)**—Shale and sandy shale, brownish gray to medium dark gray with thin, interbedded sandstone. Dusky red concretions common near base. Sandstone beds thicker and more abundant upward, grading into Eagle Sandstone. Maximum thickness is about 45-76 m (150-250 ft).
- Kn Niobrara Formation (Upper Cretaceous)**—Shale, olive gray and dark brownish gray, fissile, that contains abundant thin bentonite beds. Upper half calcareous, containing a few very thin bentonite beds, and near top contains thin beds of very calcareous laminated sandstone, siltstone, and sandy limestone. Concretions medium light gray to pale yellowish brown and from 5 cm (2 in) to less than 0.5 m (1-2 ft) in diameter are commonly present. *Inoceramus* prisms common. Upper contact placed at change from

calcareous shale to non-calcareous shale of Telegraph Creek. Zone of dusky red concretions in the Telegraph Creek just above the contact also helps establish its position. Estimated thickness is about 400 m (1,300 ft).

- Kco** **Cody Shale (Upper Cretaceous)**—Gray shale and mudstone interbedded with grayish green and olive gray sandstone and siltstone and minor brown-weathering nodular limestone and yellowish gray bentonite. Entire formation is locally fossiliferous and contains fish scales, starfish, ammonites and other mollusks. Thickness is about 370-400 m (1,200-1,300 ft).
- Knbf** **Niobrara through Belle Fourche Formations, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**
- Kf** **Frontier Formation (Upper Cretaceous)**—Light brownish gray, fine-grained, thick-bedded to massive, “salt and pepper” sandstone. Contains three sandstone intervals interbedded with dark gray, fissile shale. The Frontier Formation is missing in the eastern part of the map area. Thickness is up to 190 m (630 ft).
- Kmfr** **Mowry through Fall River Formations, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**
- Km** **Mowry Shale (Upper Cretaceous)**—Interbedded, siliceous, very fine to fine-grained sandstone, siltstone, and shale. Contains several prominent bentonite beds. Sandstones and siltstones mostly light gray to medium gray, with a silvery sheen. Fish scales on bedding planes of sandstones and siltstones are characteristic. Thickness is about 90 m (300 ft).
- Ktf** **Thermopolis and Fall River Formations, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**—  
Thermopolis Shale: Predominantly dark gray, fissile shale containing several beds of bentonite. Hematitic concretionary zone near base.  
Fall River Sandstone: Brownish gray, thin-bedded, argillaceous, fine-grained, quartz sandstone. Generally poorly exposed in map area; mostly covered by glacial deposits. Thickness of both formations combined is about 200-305 m (650-1,000 ft).
- Kk** **Kootenai Formation (Lower Cretaceous)**—Mostly reddish brown, olive gray, and dusky purple mudstone with interbedded, lenticular, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone. Locally thick, lenticular, fine-grained fluvial sandstone at top. At the base is the distinctive Pryor Conglomerate Member, a brown chert-pebble conglomerate and pebbly coarse-grained sandstone 6-18 m (20-60 ft) thick that is an excellent mapping marker unit. Thickness is about 90-150 m (300-500 ft).
- Jme** **Morrison Formation and Ellis Group, undivided (Upper and Middle Jurassic)**
- Jm** **Morrison Formation (Upper Jurassic)**—Variegated, mainly greenish gray and pale reddish brown mudstone. Very fine to fine-grained, quartzose, calcareous, crossbedded, tan sandstones is commonly present at about mid-section, 1.5-3 m (5-10 ft) thick, but locally can be as much as 9 m (30 ft) thick. Fossil dinosaur remains locally present. Thickness is about 60-120 m (200-400 ft).

- Je**     **Ellis Group (Upper and Middle Jurassic)**—Includes the Swift, Rierdon, and Piper Formations.
- Jsw**     **Swift Formation (Upper and Middle Jurassic)**—Interbedded medium gray shale, limestone, and calcareous sandstone; fossiliferous. Brownish gray, fossiliferous, very sandy limestone occurs at the top of the formation, and commonly has brownish gray coquina at the top. The Swift Formation is a reliable marker mapping unit that forms mini-palisades where bedding is vertical. Thickness is 30 m (100 ft).
- Jrp**     **Rierdon and Piper Formations, undivided (Middle Jurassic)**
- Jr**     **Rierdon Formation (Middle Jurassic)**—Mostly pale greenish gray, very fossiliferous shale with minor, interbedded, brownish gray limestone. Typically poorly exposed, forming smooth slopes littered with fossils, including oysters (*Gryphaea* and *Ostrea*), belemnites (*Pachyteuthis*), and crinoid fragments (*Pentacrinus*). Thickness is 30 to 50 m (90-160 ft).
- Jp**     **Piper Formation (Middle and Upper Jurassic)**—Interbedded medium gray, and pale reddish gray, thin-bedded limestone and medium gray shale. Includes thin, interbedded gypsum. Forms ledge below smooth slopes of the Rierdon Formation. Outcrops of Rierdon and Piper Formations are rare, and the contact between these units is dashed and placed using average total formational thickness between the Swift and Chugwater Formation marker units. Thickness is 70-105 m (240-350 ft).
- Rc**     **Chugwater Formation (Lower Triassic)**—Interbedded, bright reddish brown, fine-grained sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone. In spite of not forming many outcrops, the Chugwater is a reliable marker mapping unit because of its bright red color in soils. Maximum thickness is about 75 m (250 ft), thinning westward and pinching out in the Picket Pin Mountain and Enos Mountain 7.5' quadrangles. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 76 m true thickness (249 feet) of Chugwater.
- PPpq**    **Phosphoria and Quadrant Formations, undivided (Permian and Pennsylvanian)**
- PPMpa**   **Phosphoria, Quadrant, and Amsden Formations, undivided (Permian, Pennsylvanian, and Mississippian)**
- Phosphoria Formation (Permian)**—Poorly exposed yellowish gray shale, light gray limestone, sandstone, and quartzite, commonly grayish pink, cherty; thickness is 0-25 m (0-85 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 17 m true thickness (56 feet) of Phosphoria.
- Pq**     **Quadrant Formation (Pennsylvanian)**—Quartzite, white, buff, light yellowish, to reddish gray, well-sorted, fine-grained sandstone, locally crossbedded. Thickness is 30 m (100 ft).
- Pt**     **Tensleep Sandstone (Pennsylvanian)**—Light brown to very pale orange sandstone, fine-grained, well sorted, well rounded, crossbedded. Locally contains thin limestone beds, locally cherty near the top, and locally silicified to form quartzite. Thickness is about 45-75 m (150-250 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 30 m true thickness (100 feet) of Tensleep.

- PMa**      **Amsden Formation (Pennsylvanian and Mississippian)**—Interbedded dolomite and siltstone in upper part; yellowish tan dolomite and red and green shale in lower part; mostly concealed. Unconformably overlies karst surface developed on limestone of the Madison Group. Thickness is about 25-60 m (80-200 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 59 m true thickness (193 feet) of Amsden.
- Mm**      **Madison Group, undivided (Mississippian)**—Limestone and dolomitic limestone, light gray to light brownish gray. Madison Group is a prominent marker mapping horizon. Thick-bedded to massive in the upper part, the upper Mission Canyon Limestone forms prominent palisades along the mountain front. The lower Lodgepole Limestone, is thin to thick-bedded and also contains thin, interbedded gray shale. Fossils are present throughout the group. Chert beds are most prominent in the lower part of the Lodgepole Limestone, where the rock may be a dolostone locally. A 1 m-thick (3 ft) black shale occurs at the base of the Lodgepole Limestone in the access tunnels to East Boulder palladium/platinum mine and locally on surface. This black shale is either the Little Chief Mountain Member of the Lodgepole or the upper shale unit of the Bakken Shale. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 4 m true thickness (14 feet) of Bakken Shale (upper shale, sandstone, lower shale) at the base of the Madison Group. Thickness of the Madison Group is about 260-305 m (860-1,100 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, intersected 280 m true thickness (915 feet true) of Madison Group, about 180 m (595 feet) of Mission Canyon Limestone, and 100 m (319 feet) of Lodgepole Limestone.
- MDtj**      **Three Forks and Jefferson Formations, undivided (Mississippian and Late Devonian)**
- MDt**      **Three Forks Formation (Mississippian and Late Devonian)**—Yellowish-weathering, light gray, pyritiferous, argillaceous dolomite that is very poorly exposed. Thickness is 12-38 m (40-125 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 38 m true thickness (126 feet) of Three Forks. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #98-0001, drilled at East Boulder mine as a geotechnical hole for Tunnel #1, intersected 35 m (115 feet true thickness) of Three Forks.
- Dj**      **Jefferson Limestone (Late Devonian)**—Dominantly limestone, some dolostone, light brownish gray, poorly exposed; typically occurs as float. Much of the Jefferson Limestone exhibits a strong petroleum smell on freshly broken surfaces. Thickness is 75-120 m (240-390 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 100 m true thickness (324 feet) of Jefferson. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #98-0001, drilled at East Boulder mine as a geotechnical hole for Tunnel #1, intersected 75 m true thickness (252 feet) of Jefferson.
- Ob**      **Bighorn Dolomite (Middle Ordovician)**—The upper unit, the Leigh Member, is a distinctively chalky white, fine-grained, thin-bedded dolomite, about 20 m (65 ft) thick. The lower unit is a coarse-grained, poorly bedded, massive dolomite that forms palisades

and exhibits a distinctive pitted weathered surface. Both units are reliable marker mapping horizons. Total formation thickness is 60 m (200 ft). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 70 m true thickness (222 feet) of Bighorn, including 11 m (36 feet) of Leigh. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #98-0001, drilled at East Boulder mine as a geotechnical hole for Tunnel # 1, intersected 70 m true thickness (232 feet) of Bighorn, including 17 m (48 feet) of Leigh.

- €s **Sedimentary rock, undivided (Upper and Middle Cambrian)**—Includes Snowy Range, Pilgrim, Park, Meagher, Wolsey, and Flathead Formations.
- €sr **Snowy Range Formation (Upper Cambrian)**—Green shale and gray limestone that is dominantly a flat-pebble conglomerate; bed of columnar fractured limestone locally present in lower part of Snowy Range Formation; mostly concealed. Formation is subdivided into 3 members that were readily mapped in the access tunnels at East Boulder mine and in drill hole #98-0001. From top to bottom these are: 1) Grove Creek Member – light-gray limestone-pebble conglomerate with distinctively round pebbles. Thickness is 12 m (40 feet); 2) Sage-Pebble Conglomerate – interbedded, gray limestone-pebble conglomerate (flat pebbles) and greenish-gray shale. Thickness is 45 m (140 feet); 3) Dry Creek Shale – green to maroon shale. Thickness is 15 m (50 feet). Total thickness of Snowy Range Formation is 70 to 90 m (230 to 300 feet). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 70 m true thickness (238 feet) of Snowy Range, including 11 m (37 feet) of Grove Creek; 48 m (159 feet) of Sage Pebble; and 13 m (42 feet) of Dry Creek. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #98-0001, drilled at East Boulder mine as a geotechnical hole for Tunnel #1, intersected 70 m true thickness (230 feet) of Snowy Range, including 12 m (40 feet) of Grove Creek; 43 m (140 feet) of Sage Pebble; and 15 m (50 feet) of Dry Creek.
- €pi **Pilgrim Limestone (Upper Cambrian)**—Massive, cliff-forming oölitic, mottled, magnesian and dolomitic limestone with edgewise intraformational limestone-pebble conglomerate, interbedded shale and siltstone, and glauconitic limestone. Thickness is about 40 m (140 feet). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 35 m true thickness (119 feet) of Pilgrim. Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #98-0001, drilled at East Boulder mine as a geotechnical hole for Tunnel #1, intersected 45 m true thickness (152 feet) of Pilgrim.
- €pw **Park, Meagher, and Wolsey Formations, undivided (Upper and Middle Cambrian)**
- €pf **Park, Meagher, Wolsey, and Flathead Formations, undivided (Upper and Middle Cambrian)**
- €p **Park Shale (Upper Cambrian)**—Multicolored shale with thin beds of argillaceous limestone, siltstone, and sandstone; mostly concealed. Thickness 45–115 m (150–380 feet). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 35 m true thickness (254 feet) of Park.

- €mw** Meagher and Wolsey Formations, undivided (Middle Cambrian)
- €mf** Meagher, Wolsey, and Flathead Formations, undivided (Middle Cambrian)
- €m** Meagher Limestone (Middle Cambrian)—Thin-bedded, silty, medium gray limestone and yellowish gray dolomite; locally oölitic. Thickness 20 m (65 feet). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 40 m (140 feet true thickness) of Meagher.
- €wf** Wolsey and Flathead Formations, undivided (Middle Cambrian)
- €w** Wolsey Shale (Middle Cambrian)—Greenish gray, micaceous, calcareous shale, mudstone, and siltstone with thin beds of limestone; mostly concealed. Thickness 30 m (100 feet). Stillwater Mining Company drill hole #36172, collared near the inactive Benbow chrome mill site, intersected 40 m (130 feet true thickness) of Wolsey.
- €f** Flathead Quartzite (Middle Cambrian)—Gray to red quartzose sandstone and quartzite; locally conglomeratic in lower part. Thickness 0-23 m (0-75 feet).

**STILLWATER LAYERED COMPLEX**—The Stillwater Complex, a layered ultramafic to mafic suite of intrusive rocks, can be subdivided into three main Series, from top to bottom: 1) Banded (Layered) Series, 2) Ultramafic Series, and 3) Basal Series (Todd and others, 1982). Each Series is associated with a dominant metal zone or zones: 1) Banded – Palladium and Platinum (J-M Reef, Picket Pin zone); 2) Ultramafic – Chrome (13 horizons); and 3) Basal – Nickel and Copper deposits. The subdivision of the Complex presented below is based on the Johns-Manville model of Todd and others (1982).

Rock names are based on modal proportions of cumulate minerals.

Anorthosite – >95% plagioclase feldspar

Norite – plagioclase feldspar and orthopyroxene

Gabbro – plagioclase feldspar and clinopyroxene

Gabbronorite – plagioclase feldspar, clinopyroxene, and orthopyroxene

Troctolite – plagioclase feldspar and olivine

Bronzite – Orthopyroxene

Harzburgite – Orthopyroxene and olivine;

Dunite – Olivine.

### **Banded (Layered) Series**

- Aaz7** **Anorthosite Zone 7 (Archean)**—Strictly anorthosite; observed in the subsurface only in the access tunnels for the East Boulder mine (Sam Corson, 1999, written communication). Thickness of Aaz7 is > 75 m (240 feet).
- Apgz6** **Pigeonite Gabbro Zone 6 (Archean)**—Topmost zone of the Stillwater Complex on surface. Gabbro dominant with cumulus pigeonite (McCallum and others, 1980; Todd and others, 1982). Modal composition: 59% plagioclase feldspar (bytownite to labradorite, An<sub>75</sub> to An<sub>62</sub>), 21% clinopyroxene (augite), 7% orthopyroxene (bronzite to hypersthene, En<sub>75</sub> to

En<sub>67</sub>), 14% pigeonite (McCallum and others, 1980; Radeke, 1982). Thickness is about 585 m (1,920 feet) in the East Boulder mine access tunnels #1 and 2.

- Agz6 Gabbro Zone 6 (Archean)**—Strictly gabbro, thickness is about 375 m (1,225 feet). Thickness in the East Boulder mine access tunnels is 340 m (1,120 feet) .
- Atgz5 Troctolite-Gabbro Zone 5 (Archean)**—Troctolite at base, gabbro at top; the basal troctolite is a distinctive, reliable stratigraphic and structural mapping marker horizon (Segerstrom and Carlson, 1982). Thickness is about 115 m (385 feet). Thickness is about 120 m (400 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Aaz5 Anorthosite Zone 5 (Archean)**—Strictly anorthosite; host to the Picket-Pin platinum-palladium mineralized zone near the top of unit. The Picket Pin sulfide zone can be traced for about 22 km (14 miles). Rock is 100% plagioclase feldspar (bytownite, An<sub>73-79</sub>) (McCallum, 1996, p. 462) based on modal % of cumulus minerals. Thickness varies from 200 m (650 feet) to 600 m (1,970 feet) (McCallum, 1996). Thickness is about 350 m (1,140 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Atgz4 Troctolite-Gabbro Zone 4 (Archean)**—Succession of three olivine-bearing gabbros separated by anorthosite layers with gabbro at the top of unit. Locally unit has rare layers of the distinctive “4-phase cumulate”, a rock with cumulus plagioclase feldspar, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, and olivine (McCallum, 1996, p. 463). Thickness is about 200 m (660 feet) (Todd and others, 1982). Thickness is about 110 m (360 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Aatz4 Anorthosite-Troctolite Zone 4 (Archean)**—Anorthosite at base (about 75 m (250 feet) thick), leucotroctolite to troctolite at top. Thickness is about 225 m (740 feet) (Todd and others, 1982). Thickness is about 200 m (670 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Atgz3 Troctolite-Gabbro Zone 3 (Archean)**—Laminated olivine gabbro in the upper 115 m (385 feet) of this zone; olivine gabbro in the middle part; leucotroctolite dominant at base. The upper olivine gabbro is a unique and reliable stratigraphic and structural marker unit referred to as the “4-phase cumulate” (cumulus plagioclase feldspar, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, and olivine in one rock unit). This is the only occurrence in the Stillwater Complex stratigraphic column where these 4 cumulate minerals are observed together in a mappable unit. Thickness of Atgz3 is about 400 m (1,300 feet) (Todd and others, 1982). Thickness is about 365 m (1,200 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Aaz3 Anorthosite Zone 3 (Archean)**—Strictly anorthosite, 100% plagioclase feldspar (average composition bytownite, An<sub>77</sub> (McCallum, 1996, p. 462) based on modal % of cumulus minerals. Thickness is about 320 m (1,050 feet) (Todd and others, 1982). Thickness is about 300 m (1,000 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.

- Ataz2 Troctolite-Anorthosite Zone 2 (Archean)**—A thin zone, average thickness is 50 m (160 feet) (Todd and others, 1982). Not everywhere observed. Thickness of Ataz2 is about 35 m (110 feet) in the East Boulder mine access tunnel #1.
- Agz2 Gabbro Zone 2 (Archean)**—The thickest zone in the Banded Series. Dominantly a laminated gabbro (modal composition: 59% plagioclase feldspar, 21% augite, 20% orthopyroxene (McCallum and others, 1980). It is host to a number of anorthosite subzones, some of which are distinctive, reliable mapping horizons. The 2400 plagioclase cumulate (pC) is 8 to 15 m (25 to 50 feet) thick. “2400” is based on this anorthosite’s location 2,400 feet (730 m) above the Aubz/Anz1 contact, considered to be the “zero” mark point in Stillwater Complex stratigraphy. The 2400 plagioclase cumulate is located about 15 m (50 feet) above the base of Gabbro Zone 2 (Agz2) and can be traced on surface for 30 km (19 miles). A distinctive zone of “inch-scale” layering near the top of Gabbro Zone 2 can be traced on surface for about 16 km (10 miles) (Seegerstrom and Carlson, 1982). Thickness of Agz2 is about 760 m (2,500 feet), thinning to about 300 m (1,000 feet) at the west end of the Complex. Thickness is about 580 m (1,900 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1. Radiometric age is 2707 Ma based on U-Pb data from zircon-baddeleyite from the 2400 pC (Premo and others, 1990).
- Aa<sub>3</sub>sz Anorthosite 3 Subzone of Gabbro Zone 2 (Archean)**—The thickest of the mappable subzones within Gabbro Zone 2, this subzone, dominated by anorthosite, and containing interlayered troctolite, leucotroctolite, norite and gabbro, is located in the middle of Agz2 and can be mapped on surface for about 37 km (23 miles). Johns-Manville geologists referred to this mappable unit as the mid-Gabbro Zone 2 layered sequence. Thickness is about 30 m (100 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Anz2 Norite Zone 2 (Archean)**—Dominantly norite and leuconorite, the basal contact of this unit with underlying Ataz1 is marked by an up to 2 m (6 feet) zone of inch-scale layering. Thickness of Anz2 is about 235 m (765 feet) (Todd and others, 1982). Thickness is about 200 m (650 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.
- Ataz1 Troctolite-Anorthosite Zone 1 (Archean)**—Zone hosts the J-M Reef palladium-platinum deposit. The J-M Reef can be traced on surface for about 45 km (28 miles). Johns-Manville geologists further subdivided Ataz1 into 4 subzones: at the base, 1) Gabbro Subzone – interlayered gabbro, norite, anorthosite, and troctolite, about 60 m (200 feet) thick; 2) Anorthosite 1 Subzone (host to the J-M Reef) – dominantly anorthosite, troctolite, and leucotroctolite, about 35 m (115 feet) thick; 3) Norite Subzone – often referred to as the ragged-textured norite, about 10 m (33 feet) thick; and 4) Anorthosite 2 Subzone – dominantly anorthosite and leuconorite, about 15 m (50 feet) thick. Total thickness of Ataz1 typically is about 100 to 120 m (350 to 400 feet) (Todd and others, 1982; LeRoy, 1985). Thickness is about 145 m (475 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1. Radiometric age is 2701 Ma to 2704 Ma based on U-Pb data from zircon-baddeleyite (Premo and others, 1990).
- Agz1 Gabbro Zone 1 (Archean)**—Gabbro dominant. Modal composition: 58% plagioclase feldspar (bytownite An<sub>78-83</sub>), 24% orthopyroxene (bronzite En<sub>75-83</sub>), 18% clinopyroxene

(augite) (McCallum and others, 1980; McCallum, 1996). Thickness of Agz1 is typically about 125 m (415 feet) but pinches out at two locations (Todd and others, 1982). Thickness is about 55 m (185 feet) in the East Boulder mine access Tunnel #1.

**Anz1** **Norite Zone 1 (Archean)**—Norite and leuconorite. A mappable anorthosite marker layer, the All-American Anorthosite, is 3 m (10 feet) thick (Todd and others, 1982, p. 1462) and occurs in the middle of Anz1. Thickness is about 265 m (865 feet) (Todd and others, 1982).

### **Ultramafic Series**

**Aubz** **Upper Bronzitite Zone (Archean)**—A thick zone of bronzitite (En<sub>85</sub>) (McCallum, 1996), the thickness of Aubz is about 600 m (2,000 feet) on average, but thins to 335 m (1,100 feet) at the west end of the Complex east of the main Boulder River. The maximum thickness is 1,065 m (3,500 feet) (Page and Nockleberg, 1974). The contact between Aubz (top of the Ultramafic Series) and Anz1 (base of the Banded Series), a readily recognizable marker, is considered a zero point for measuring to other marker horizons (for example, the 2400 plagioclase cumulate of Agz2).

**Apz** **Peridotite Zone (Archean)**—Interlayered dunite, harzburgite, and bronzitite; host to 13 chromite horizons (designated A through K plus G' and H'), two of which have been historically mined. One of the mined zones, G, has a surface trace of 29 km (18 miles). Representative average cumulus modal compositions (Cooper, 1997) are: 1) Dunite – 97% olivine, 3% chromite; 2) Harzburgite – 26 to 73% olivine, 25 to 73% orthopyroxene; 1 to 2% chromite; 3) Orthopyroxenite – 98% bronzite, 1% olivine, 1% chromite. Representative mineral compositions at Chrome Mountain are: olivine – Fo<sub>80-84</sub>, chrysolite; orthopyroxene – En<sub>83-85</sub>, bronzite (McCallum, 1996). Average thickness of Apz is 915 to 1,065 m (3,000 to 3,500 feet), thinning to 400 m (1,300 feet) east of the main Boulder River.

### **Basal Series**

**Abbz** **Basal Bronzitite Cumulate Zone (Archean)**—This unit is the lowermost cumulate layer in the Stillwater Complex. Thickness ranges from 30 to 200 m (100 to 700 feet) (Page and Nockleberg, 1974), averaging around 120 m (400 feet).

**Asd** **Sill-dike member (Zientek, 1983) (Archean)**—Discontinuous sills and dikes of diabase, mafic norite, gabbronorite and massive sulfides that intruded metasedimentary rocks at the base of the Stillwater Complex. The sill-dike member and closely adjacent hornfels host the nickel-copper deposits. Thickness of this member is 0 to 120 m (0 to 400 feet). Radiometric age is 2703 to 2713 Ma based on U-Pb data from zircon-baddeleyite, Pb-Pb internal isochron, and Sm-Nd internal isochron (Premo and others, 1990).

**BEARTOOTH FRONT METAMORPHIC AND IGNEOUS ROCKS**—Unit descriptions are from Butler (1966), Page and others (1973a, 1973b), Page and Nockleberg (1974), Reid and others (1975), McCallum and others (1980), Segerstrom and Carlson (1982), Todd and others (1982),

Zientek (1983), Mogk and others (1988), McCallum (1996), and Cooper (1997). In some instances they are modified.

- p€m** **Mafic intrusive rock (Proterozoic and Archean)**—Dominantly narrow, straight-walled dikes, commonly diabase, that cut Archean metamorphic and igneous rocks. Four age groups, based on K-Ar and Rb-Sr determinations, have been reported for mafic dikes in the Beartooth Mountains: (1) 2800 to 2500 Ma, with diverse sets of strikes and dips; (2) 2100 to 2000 Ma, generally oriented north-south; (3) 1300 Ma, typically with strikes of around 120/300 degrees; and (4) 740 Ma, consistently with strikes of 105/285 degrees (Mueller and Wooden, 1988, p. 138-139).
- p€my** **Mylonite (Proterozoic or Archean)**—Fine-grained, laminated, and schistose, metamorphosed to the lower greenschist facies. Not radiometrically dated and may be Proterozoic in age based on comparison with similar rocks in the western Beartooths (Erslev, 1992) that are the northern extension of the Madison mylonite zone (Erslev and Sutter, 1990).
- p€fcg** **Falls Creek Gneiss (Proterozoic and/or Archean)** (Reid and others, 1975)—Gray to pink, sheet-form unit, generally strongly foliated. The gray layers are trondhjemitic (tonalitic) and the pink layers are granodioritic. Metamorphosed to lower amphibolites facies. Reid and others (1975) reported a Proterozoic age of 2200 Ma (K-Ar biotite date).
- Aqmf** **Biotite quartz monzonite, fine grained (Archean)**—Grain size < 1 mm. Modal composition: 29-34% quartz, 30-40% alkali feldspar, 22-35% plagioclase feldspar (An<sub>5-32</sub>), 7-10% biotite (Page and Nockleberg, 1974).
- Aqmm** **Biotite quartz monzonite, medium-grained (Archean)**—Grain size 1-5 mm; modal composition: quartz - 27-32% , alkali feldspar - 28-33%, plagioclase feldspar (An<sub>17-25</sub>) - 24-38%, biotite - 4-11% (Page and Nockleberg, 1974).
- Aqmc** **Biotite quartz monzonite, coarse-grained (Archean)**—Grain size > 5 mm. Modal composition: 27-31% quartz, 22-29% alkali feldspar, 34-39% plagioclase feldspar (An<sub>25-30</sub>), 3-7% biotite (Page and Nockleberg, 1974). Radiometric age is 2700 Ma based on U-Pb data from zircons (Nunes and Tilton, 1971; Page and others, 1988, p. 126).
- Agnm** **Quarzofeldspathic gneiss (Archean)**—Fine-grained, mylonitic.
- Ah** **Contact metamorphic rock (Archean)**—Metamorphosed by the intrusion of the Stillwater Complex at about 2705 Ma (Premo and others, 1990); pyroxene hornfels close to the Complex (orthopyroxene isograd within 0.3 to 1.6 km (0.2 to 1 mile) of the southern boundary of the Complex), amphibole hornfels farther away (cummingtonite + cordierite isograd 1.2 to 3.4 km (0.7 to 2 miles) south of the Complex) (Labotka and Kath, 2001). Protoliths for these hornfels have been dated at about 3140 Ma based on U-Pb zircon data (Nunes and Tilton, 1971).

- Amca** **Mount Cowen Gneiss (Archean)** (Reid and others, 1975; Mogk and others, 1988)—Coarse-grained, gray, granodioritic, augen (mostly alkali feldspar) gneiss. Near its contact with the Davis Creek Schist (see below), the gneiss is an ultramylonite (Reid and others, 1975) based on grain-size reduction and marked laminated texture. The Mount Cowen Gneiss has a Rb-Sr whole-rock age of about 2737 Ma and is considered by Mogk and others (1988) to be the westernmost extent of the Late Archean metamorphic and igneous rocks characteristic of the eastern and central Beartooth Mountains.
- Aggn** **Granitic gneiss (Archean)** (Butler, 1966; Page and others, 1973a, b)—Alternating layers of felsic and mafic rocks; medium- to coarse-grained, feldspar porphyroblasts common. Locally grades into a plagioclase gneiss (tonalite) containing less than 5% alkali feldspar. Modal composition of the gneiss: quartz – 24-48%, alkali feldspar – 8-34%, plagioclase feldspar – 27-54%, biotite – 1-15% (Page and Nockleberg, 1974). Metamorphosed to amphibolites facies. Unit also contains large volumes of igneous rocks that belong to the distinctively Archean TTG (trondhjemite, tonalite, granodiorite) suite (Mueller and others, 1985). Radiometric ages on the tonalities range from 2900 to 2800 Ma (U-Pb zircon) (Mueller and others, 2008). A biotite quartz monzonitic gneiss at Hawley Mountain is dated at about 2750 Ma (Lafrenz and others, 1986), and a pink granite at Hawley Mountain yields a **Proterozoic** age, 2090 Ma (whole rock Rb-Sr isochron) (Lafrenz and others, 1986).
- Apgn** **Plagioclase gneiss (Archean)** (Page and Nockleberg, 1974)—Tonalitic gneiss similar to Aggn but contains less than 5% alkali feldspar. This unit also contains large volumes of igneous rocks that belong to the TTG (trondhjemite, tonalite, granodiorite) suite (Mueller and others, 1985). Radiometric ages on the tonalites range from 2900 to 2800 Ma (U-Pb zircon) (Mueller and others, 2008).
- Adcs** **Davis Creek Schist (Archean)** (Reid and others, 1975)—Fine- to medium-grained, brown-weathering mica schist with scattered plagioclase porphyroblasts. Subordinate layers of quartzite, amphibolite, and rarely marble occur locally. Metamorphosed to greenschist facies (Mogk and others, 1988).
- Apag** **Paragneiss (Archean)** (Mogk and others, 1988)—Dominant lithologies are quartzofeldspathic gneisses, psammitic schists, amphibolites, and banded iron formation. These rocks were included in Mount Delano Gneiss of Reid and others (1975). Metamorphosed to upper-amphibolite facies.
- Abs** **Biotite schist (Archean)** (Page and others, 1973 a,b; Butler, 1966)—Well-developed foliation. Modal composition: biotite – 25-48%, quartz – 20-50%, plagioclase feldspar – 0-10%, staurolite – 0-10%, garnet – 1-5%, cordierite – trace. Metamorphosed to upper-amphibolite facies.
- Abg** **Biotite quartzofeldspathic gneiss (Archean)** (Page and others, 1973a).
- Aif** **Banded (layered) iron formation (Archean)**—Interlayered rocks rich in magnetite, quartz, orthopyroxene, and fayalite (Page and Nockleberg, 1974). Usually associated with

adjacent layers of a distinctive blue metaquartzite. The iron formation was the exploration target for U.S. Steel Corporation in the 1950's but no mining has been undertaken on these deposits (Page and others, 1985).

- Aagn**     **Amphibolite gneiss (Archean)** (Page and others, 1973 a, b; Butler, 1966)—Well-developed layering and foliation. Modal composition: hornblende – 19-70%, plagioclase feldspar – 10-40%; biotite – 4-18%; quartz, garnet, and staurolite – 9-30%. Metamorphosed to upper-amphibolite facies.
- Adg**     **Mount Delano Gneiss (Archean)** (Reid and others, 1975)—Typically a medium to coarse-grained, gray, tonalitic gneiss with abundant amphibolite layers and inclusions. Layers of schist occur locally. The gneiss is composed of plagioclase feldspar, quartz, and biotite and is devoid of alkali feldspar. Mogk and others (1988) stressed the mylonitic character of parts (Mogk's Trondhjemitic Gneiss-Amphibolite Complex) of the Mount Delano Gneiss just to the south of this map and reported a modal composition for their trondhjemitic gneiss of: plagioclase feldspar (sodic oligoclase) – 45-50%, quartz – 40-45%, biotite - <10%. Just to the south of this map, zircons from what Reid and others (1975) called Mount Delano Gneiss have yielded a U-Pb age of 3500 Ma, establishing the trondhjemitic mylonite as the oldest rock yet documented in the Wyoming Archean province (Mueller and others, 1996).

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Numbers indicate sources of previous geologic mapping shown on map.

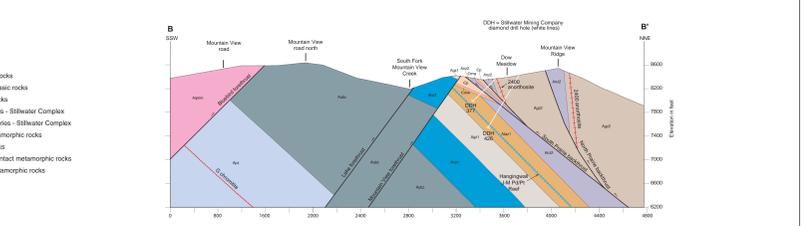
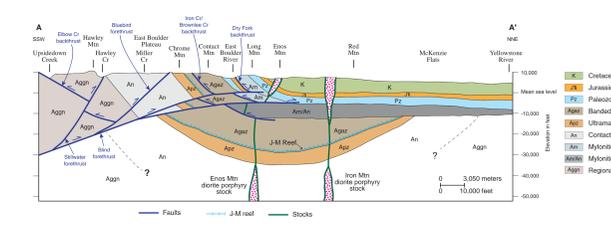
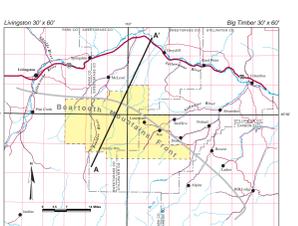
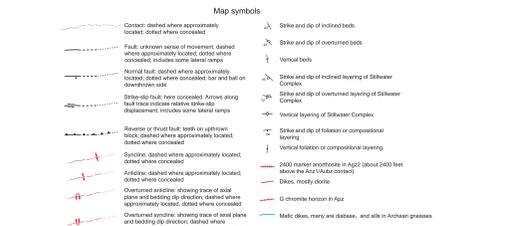
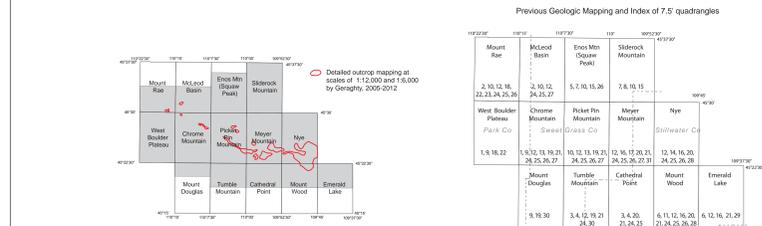
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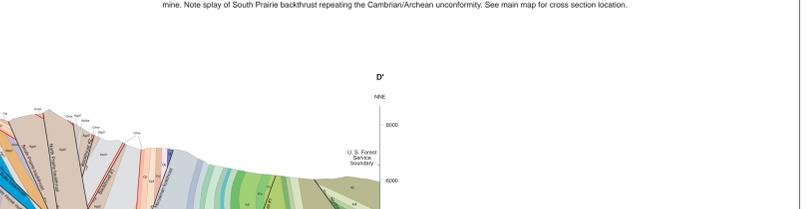
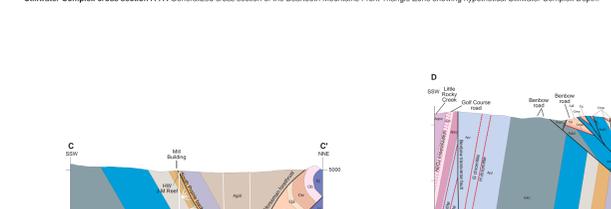
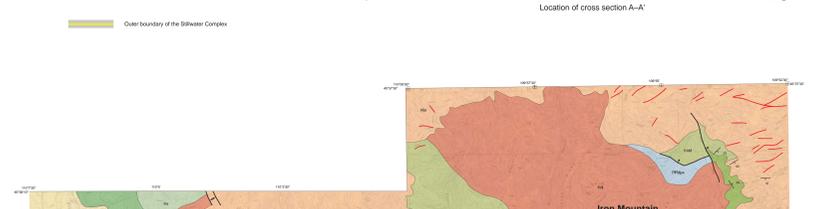
Bases from U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' (1:24,000 scale) topographic quadrangles:

7.5' Quadrangle	Date	Projection	UTM Zone	Contour Interval	UTM	Declination	Vertical Datum	Horizontal Datum
Mount Rae	1981	Polynorm	12	20	Q29E	1981 19T	1929	1927
Meadow Basin	1981	Polynorm	12	20	Q21E	1981 19T	1929	1927
Square Peak**	1951	Polynorm	12	40	Q26E	1951 19T	1929	1927
Sidlock Mtn	1982	Polynorm	12	40	Q21E	1982 15.5E	1929	1927
W Boulder Plateau	1982	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q29E	1982 15.5E	1929	1927
Chromite Mtn	1982	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q21E	1982 15E	1929	1927
Pickin Mtn	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q29E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Meyer Mtn	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q21E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Nye	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q26E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Mount Douglas	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q21E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Tumble Mt	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q26E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Carbide Point	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q21E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Mount Wood	1986	Lambert Conformal Conic	12	40	Q21E	1986 15E	1929	1927
Emerald Lake	1986	Polynorm	12	40	Q26E	1986 15E	1929	1927

Numbers in the quadrangles above correspond to the numbers below.

1. Berg and others (1959)	19. Page and others (1973a)
2. Berg and others (2000)	20. Page and others (1973b)
3. Butler (1962)	21. Page and Nolden (1994)
4. Butler (1966)	22. Reid and others (1975)
5. Brodzinski (1983)	23. Richards (1957)
6. Cooper (1983)	24. Segerstrom and Carlson (1982)
7. de Bray and others (1994)	25. Todd and others (1982)
8. de Bray and Harlan (1998)	26. Todd and others (unpublished)
9. Elliott and others (1983)	27. geologic maps with permission*
10. Garbert (1957)	27. Vail (1925)
11. Jackson and others (1955)	28. Why (1954)
12. Jones and others (1960)	29. Washburn (1985)
13. Labotka and Koth (2001)	30. Wilson (1936)
14. Langston (1980)	31. Zerkow (1983)
15. Lopez (2003)	
16. Lynn (2000)	
17. Mann and others (1985)	
18. Mogk and others (1988)	

\*Maps from 1957, Photorevised in 1985.  
 \*Maps from 1980-87 are provisional maps.  
 \*\*1:24,000 Square Peak was revised Mining Top Peak USGS published a new map of the area named Enos Mountain in 2003. We used the Square Peak version because that is what we had available as a digital file.  
 \*Appreciation is expressed to Stillwater Mining Company for permission to incorporate selected unpublished company data into this map.



Correlation of Map Units

Map Unit	Symbol	Age
Quaternary	Qa	Quaternary
Proterozoic	Ar	Proterozoic
Archean	Ag	Archean

