

INTRODUCTION

The Windy Rock 7.5' quadrangle covers part of the eastern Garnett Range in west-central Montana, near the towns of Avon and Garrison in Powell County (fig. 2). The general geologic setting is complex at the junction of several tectonic elements including the Lewis and Clark Line, the Great Falls tectonic zone, and the Helena Salient of the Sevier fold-and-thrust belt (McDonald and others, 2015). The quadrangle is also located northeast of the Anaconda Metamorphic Core Complex (AMCC; O'Neill and others, 2004; Foster and others, 2010) and within the regionally extensive Cenozoic Challis-Kamloops volcanic belt (Mosolf, 2015).

GEOLOGIC SUMMARY

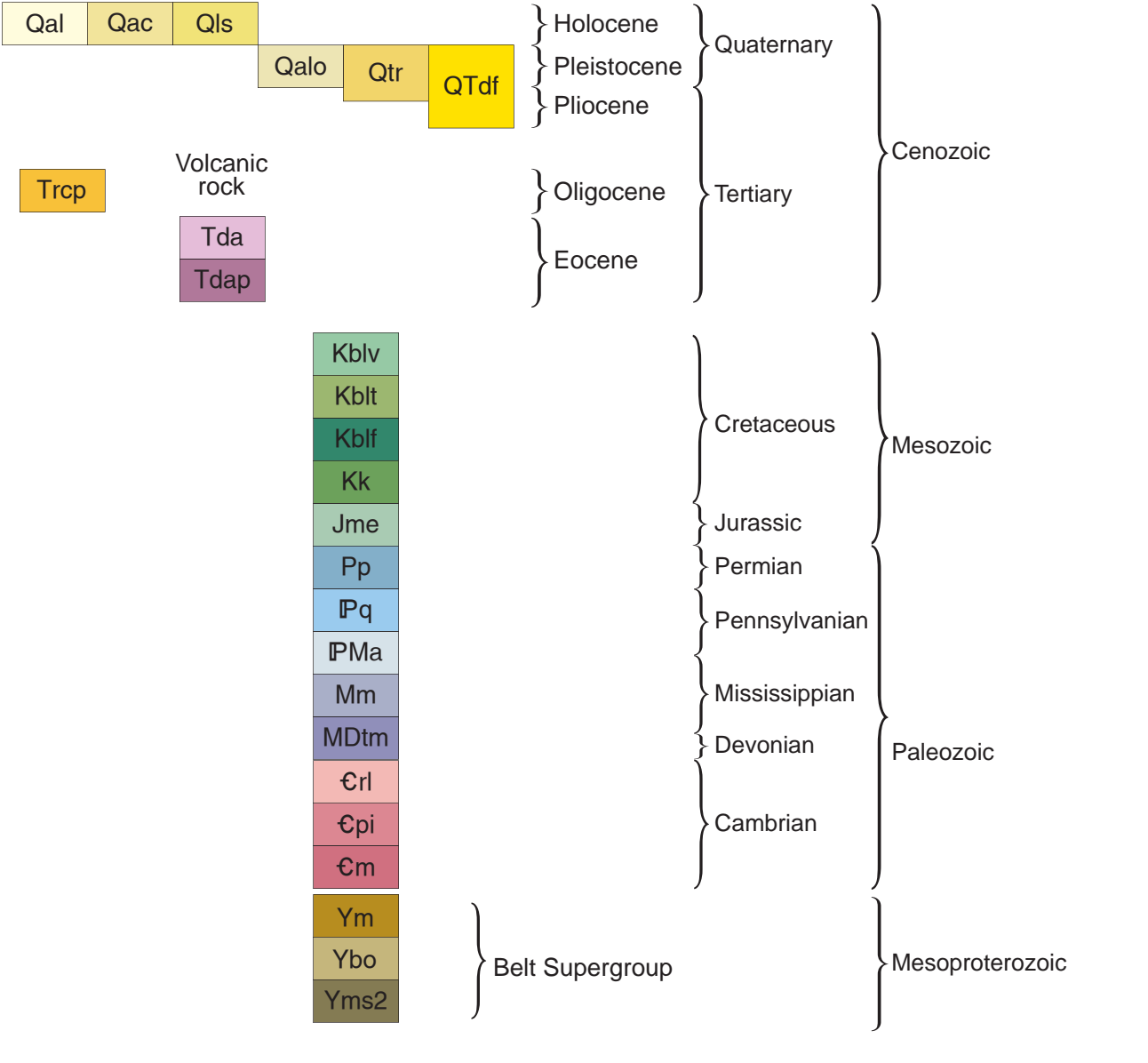
The Windy Rock quadrangle is underlain by Tertiary volcanic rocks resting on an unconformity that truncates folded and faulted Mesoproterozoic through Late Cretaceous sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of the Belt Supergroup as the oldest units and occur as isolated and faulted outcrops in the northern part of the map area. A thick succession of Cambrian through Cretaceous continental and marine strata underlies the southern part of the map area and is generally tilted to the southwest (fig. 2). Several axial and abandoned phosphate mines, including the Anderson and Relyea mines, are located along the Permian-Pennsylvanian boundary (map units Pp and Pm). Eocene volcanic deposits unconformably overlie Mesoproterozoic-Cretaceous strata and appear to thicken eastward. Volcanic deposits are mostly effusive andesitic and porphyritic dacite and trachyandesite lava flows (table 1, fig. 3) with minor amounts of intercalated volcanic ash. The porphyritic lavas (Tdp) yielded six U-Pb zircon ages spanning 46.25 ± 0.27 to 47.51 ± 0.21 Ma (table 2). The youngest map units in the quadrangle are Quaternary and Tertiary surficial deposits.

Mesoproterozoic through Late Cretaceous strata are tilted and deformed in upright folds (an outcrop-to-map scale) that plunge gently to the south-southeast (fig. 2). The Late Cretaceous Vaughn Member of the Blackfoot Formation is the youngest unit folded in the map area. Fold structures are displaced by northwest- and northeast-striking, high-angle, oblique-slip faults interpreted to be kinematically linked transverse structures. The Windy Rock Fault is the most prominent northwest-striking fault in the quadrangle, and exhibits right-lateral, oblique-slip displacement of Devonian through Eocene rocks. The fault has a minimum of 360 m (1,180 ft) of normal dip separation in the Windy Rock quadrangle (A-A'), and approximately 2.6 km (1.6 mi) of right-lateral strike separation in the adjacent Lake Mountain 7.5' quadrangle (McDonald and others, 2015). Northeast-striking faults have a minimum of 365 m (1,200 ft) of vertical displacement and an undetermined but minimal amount of strike separation. These northeast-striking faults guided the development of hydrothermal systems and related Quaternary (?) travertine deposits near the headwaters of Warm Springs Creek (fig. 1). Major extensional faults in the quadrangle are interpreted to be parallel with and reactivate transverse faults formed during Late Cretaceous crustal shortening within the Lewis and Clark Line (Sears and Hendrix, 2004). Transverse deformation and the eastward thickening of the Eocene volcanic units suggest volcanism was contemporaneous with the onset of local crustal extension and rapid exhumation (55–39 Ma) of the nearby AMCC.

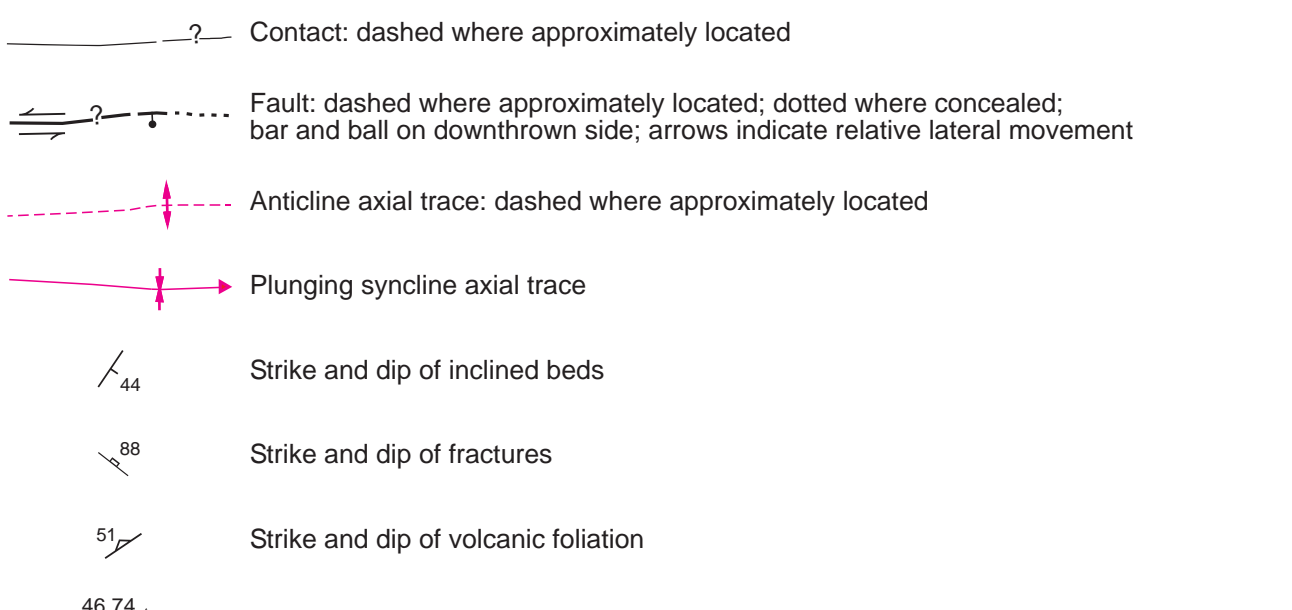
PREVIOUS MAPPING

Parts of the Windy Rock quadrangle were included on geologic maps by Callmeyer (1984, scale 1:41,700), French (1979, scale 1:62,500), and Lewis (1998, scale 1:250,000). Several of the unit descriptions and thicknesses of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic stratigraphy were based upon Gwinn (1961), Kauffman and Earll (1963), and Sears and others (2000).

CORRELATION DIAGRAM



MAP SYMBOLS



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

- Qal** Alluvium (Quaternary; Holocene)—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay along streams and their tributaries. Clasts are generally cobble size and smaller, and are rounded to subrounded.
- Qac** Alluvium and colluvium (Quaternary; Holocene)—Silt, sand, granules, and pebbles deposited on slopes by sheetwash alluvium incorporated with locally derived fine-grained colluvium. Thickness generally exceeds 8 m (20 ft).
- Qcs** Landslide deposit (Quaternary; Holocene or Pleistocene)—Mass-wasting deposits of rotated or chaotic strata and angular rock fragments. Landslide deposits were only observed in the southwest part of the map area.
- Qlo** Alluvium older than Qal (Quaternary; Pleistocene)—Unconsolidated clastic deposits beneath floodplains; assumed to be similar to Qal but generally covered with fine-grained floodplain deposits.
- Qtr** Travertine (Quaternary)—Coarsely crystalline calcium carbonate block 3–50 cm thick that is commonly disturbed. Deposits form a large, conspicuous mound near upper Warm Springs Creek, overlie Eocene volcanics and Mississippian through Devonian strata, and conceal a northeast-trending fault. Carbonate deposition is no longer active and a karst topography covered by soil has developed on the surface.
- Qtdf** Debris-flow deposit (Quaternary or Tertiary)—Matrix-supported deposits that include many angular and subangular boulders and smaller clasts derived from volcanic deposits uplope. Mapped primarily in the northeast part of the map area on the basis of boulder lag on a topographically irregular surface.
- Trop** Cabbage Patch member of the Renova Formation (Tertiary; Oligocene and/or Eocene)—A complex of gastropod-bearing marlstone, thinly bedded limestone, tuff, travertine, and local gastropod coquina that in many places overlie a coarse-grained sandstone with plant impressions, perforated wood, and associated shale. Exposed thickness of the adjacent Gravelly Mountain 7.5' quadrangle (Mosolf and Vake, in review) is approximately 90 m (300 ft).
- Tds** Andesitic dacite lava flows (Tertiary; Eocene)—Gray and dark gray weathering andesitic to slightly porphyritic dacite to trachyandesite lava flows (table 1, fig. 3) with autoclastic flow bottoms overlain by massive, coherent tuff interiors, zones of vesiculation are rarely preserved. Individual flows commonly exhibit distinctive flow banding and angular tuffs, and with red iron staining on parting surfaces. Andesitic lavas exhibit a strong trachytic texture consisting mainly of plagioclase microlites, but also include pyroxene, magnetite, and volcanic glass. Slightly porphyritic flows have a similar trachytic texture and groundmass mineralogy, but contain subhedral to euhedral phenocrysts of plagioclase, hornblende, and some biotite. Significant exposures occur in the northwest part of the map area where they overlie the dominantly mafic lavas (Tdp) and are truncated through Proterozoic units. Thickness is approximately 0–500 m (0–1,640 ft).
- Tdtp** Porphyritic dacite lava flows (Tertiary; Eocene)—Gray, green, and red weathering dacite to trachyandesite lava flows (table 1, fig. 3) with a distinct coarse, porphyritic texture. Lava flows contain subhedral to euhedral phenocrysts of plagioclase (up to 5 mm) and minor amounts of amphibole, biotite, and quartz. The andesitic groundmass commonly has a trachytic texture and consists mainly of aligned needles of plagioclase, but also includes amphibole, biotite, and magnetite. Crystals of actinolite several meters thick commonly enclose coherent interiors of andesite lava flows. This unit weathers into blocks or plates, with some outcrops forming hoodoos and spires. U-Pb zircon ages obtained from six samples range from 46.25 ± 0.27 to 47.51 ± 0.21 Ma (table 2). Thickness of this unit is approximately 0–720 m (0–2,400 ft).
- Kobv** Vaughn Member of the Blackfoot Formation (Upper and Lower Cretaceous)—Siliceous, volcanic-rich deposits of gray-green, gray, and dark gray volcanic mudstone, siltstone, chert, and lithic-rich (ash-and-pepper) sandstone with several interbeds of pebble conglomerate and volcanic tuff. Chert-pebble conglomerate beds mark the base of the Vaughn Member, whereas the upper stratigraphy consists mainly of multi-colored siltstones and shales. Originally mapped as the Dunkelberg Formation by Gwinn (1961), this unit is poorly exposed with a few scattered outcrops occurring in the southwest corner of the map area. Stratigraphic thickness is approximately 460–520 m (1,510–1,706 ft).
- Kblt** Taft Hill Member of the Blackfoot Formation (Lower Cretaceous)—Tan to light gray, calcareous, cross-bedded sandstone interbedded with gray to green siltstone and mudstone. Distinct lenticular volcanic-rich deposits occur in the upper ~60 m (197 ft). Resistant outcrops of calcareous sandstone are best observed above the road in the Brook Creek drainage in the southwest part of the map area. Total stratigraphic thickness is approximately 275–305 m (902–1,000 ft).
- Kk** Flood Member of the Blackfoot Formation (Lower Cretaceous)—The upper 140–150 m (460–492 ft) consists of poorly exposed, dark gray to black, non-calcareous, fissile shale with minor thin beds of carbonaceous siltstone and fine-grained, calcareous, ripple-bedded sandstone. The lower 70–80 m (230–262 ft) consists of tan, gray, and yellow-brown, often iron-oxide stained, sandy siltstone, siltstone, fine-grained sandstone, and resistant quartzite; the lower clastic interval commonly forms a prominent ridge and dip along the southwest part of the map area. Excellent roadcuts in and outcrops of the Flood Member occur in the upper Brook Creek drainage.
- Kx** Kootenai Formation, undivided (Lower Cretaceous)—Alternating beds of mudstone, siltstone, limestone, salt-and-pepper sandstone, and conglomerate that compose four informal members including (from top to bottom) the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- Jme** Morrison Formation and Ellis Group, undivided (Late to Middle Jurassic)—Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
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- ES-47** Ellis Group (Late to Middle Jurassic)—Swift Formation: The upper part is brown to yellowish brown, often calcareous and glauconitic, salt-and-pepper sandstone with interbedded siltstone and micaceous shale. Basal sandstone contains lenses of black chert-pebble conglomerate. Minor fossils include oyster, bryozoan, and wood fragments. Thickness is approximately 35–75 m (115–246 ft).
- ES-48** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
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- ES-60** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- ES-61** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- ES-62** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- ES-63** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- ES-64** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
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- ES-67** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- ES-68** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbedded with minor shale and siltstone. The base of the Kootenai Formation is typically marked by lenticular beds of red-brown to gray conglomerate with pebbles and cobbles of black chert and white quartz or hard, silica-cemented vitreous sandstone with distinct red Jasper grains. The Kootenai Formation is generally well exposed in the map area and forms prominent, alternating ridges and saddles. Total thickness is approximately 330 m (1,083 ft).
- ES-69** Morrison Formation (Late Jurassic)—Poorly exposed olive green, and gray to grayish green mudstone, shale, siltstone, and minor sandstone. Siltstone near base is calcareous and lagsgy bedded. Underlies the upper calcareous, upper elastic, lower calcareous, and lower elastic members. The upper calcareous member is gray, fine- to medium-crystalline limestone with minor interbedded shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The top is marked by a gray, coarsely crystalline limestone composed almost entirely of gastropod shells. The upper elastic member consists of green, gray, and maroon siltstone and shale with a few thin calcareous salt-and-pepper sandstone and limestone beds, including a distinctive flat-plate limestone conglomerate. The lower calcareous member consists of interbedded dark gray to black, very fine-grained limestone, maroon, green, and gray shale and siltstone, and occasional beds of calcareous concretions. The lower elastic member is maroon and gray sandstone interbed