

Data for Water Wells Visited during the Upper Clark Fork River Area Ground-Water Characterization Study:
Deer Lodge, Granite, Powell, and Silver Bow Counties

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Author's Note: This map is part of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) Ground-Water Assessment Atlas for the Upper Clark Fork River area ground-water characterization. It is intended to stand alone and describe a single hydrogeologic aspect of the study area, although many of the area's hydrogeologic features are interrelated. For an integrated view of the hydrogeology of the Upper Clark Fork River area the reader is referred to Part A (Geological Overview) and other Part B maps of the Montana Ground-Water Assessment Atlas No. 5.

INTRODUCTION

Visits to 904 water wells, 1 spring, and 11 stream sites were completed during the Upper Clark Fork River area study. The study area includes Deer Lodge, Granite, Powell, and Silver Bow Counties. Most wells were visited between February 2000 and November 2001. The wells were chosen from about 7,000 wells within the study area and were selected so that a useful distribution of new data could be obtained for significant aquifers. Most wells visited were located in the developed areas in the intermontane valleys, outside of public lands. The study area contains several short, narrow valleys (Avon, Drummond, Nevada, Ovation, and Philipburg) and long, narrow valleys along the Big Hole River, Divide Creek, and Rock Creek. Two large intermontane valleys (Butte and Deer Lodge basins) contain multiple aquifers and are where most wells are drilled.

GEOLOGIC UNITS

Geologic units (table 1, fig. 1) were assigned to visited-well records by comparing the driller's lithologic logs and reported completion depths to a geological framework based on recent geologic mapping, interpretation of selected well logs, and previous work (Smides 1962, 1967a, b, c, and d; Coe 1963; Wilkink and Weber, 1982; Hammen and Wileman, 1991; Derkey, and others, 1993; Ruppel and others, 1993; Wilkink, 1995; Voelker and Warren, 1997; Lewis, 1998; Kaufmann, 1999; Warren and Roberts, 1999; Sears and others, 2001a, b).

The general sequence of geologic units from younger and shallower to older and deeper is portrayed in table 1 and figure 1. The rock units that frame the valleys and contain the basin-fill deposits change across the study area. In the Butte and Deer Lodge basins, thin sequences of recent alluvial and colluvial deposits are overlain by semi-consolidated Tertiary-age sedimentary rocks that compose most of the basin-fill material. In the southern Deer Lodge basin along the Flint Creek Range these rocks are estimated to be 5,000 feet thick (Coe, 1963), and in the south-central part of the valley they are 5,000 feet thick (Kontzakis and others, 1968). In the Butte basin, Bort (1969) estimated the thickness of basin-fill material to be in the range of 800-900 feet, based on gravity and seismic refraction surveys. In a few of the smaller valleys, alluvial and glacial deposits compose most of the basin-fill material (Kleinschmidt Flat and Nevada and Philipburg Valleys). These areas accumulated glacial deposits during one or more glacial-advance and -retreat cycles.

SITE VISITS

Coordinates for visited wells were determined using hand-held global positioning system receivers and USGS 1:24,000 topographic maps. Where possible, data collected included the static water-level, temperature, pH, and specific conductance of the water. The final parameters reported represent stabilized readings obtained after an average 30-minute pumping duration. Some wells could either not be pumped to measure water parameters, or not accessed to measure the level. Selected data for the inventoried wells are included in table 2; well locations and their Ground-Water Information Center (GWIC) identification numbers are shown on the map. Parameters were sampled as indicated in table 2. Samples were collected after field parameters stabilized and/or three well volumes of water were discharged. Results for full water-analyses (major ions and trace metals) and nitrate analyses are available from GWIC.

BUTTE MINE FLOODING STUDY AREA

Some sites visited in the Upper Clark Fork River area are within MBMG's Butte Mine Flooding project areas. Hydrogeologic investigations began in this area during the 1980s and are associated with Superfund status and monitoring projects. These studies are historical as well as ongoing and encompass the areas near the Berkeley Pit and Silver Bow Creek, as well as surrounding parts of the Butte basin. This large data set is housed in the GWIC database.

DATA SOURCES

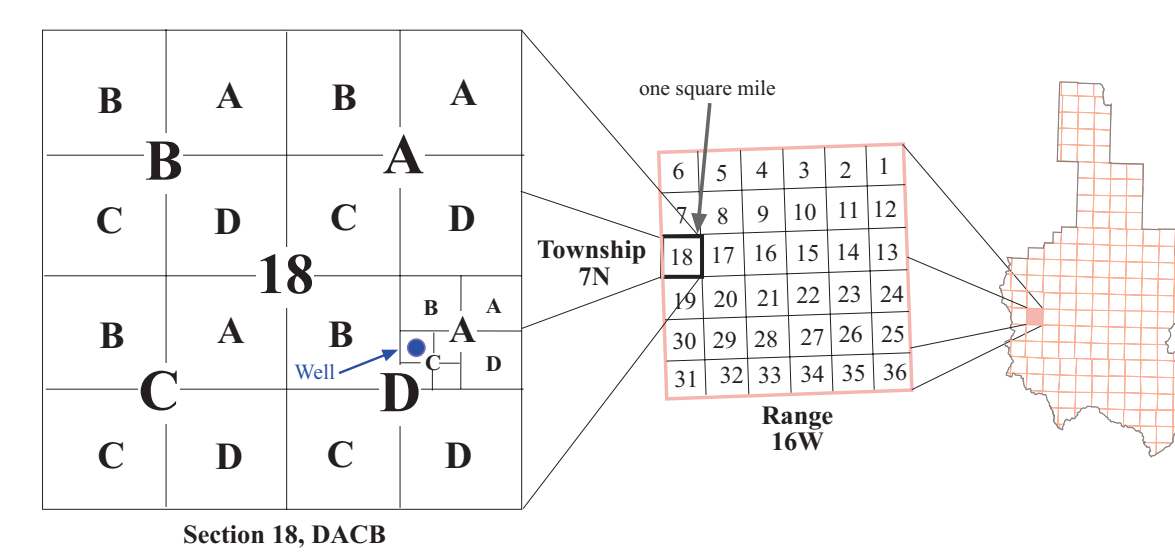
All data are available from the GWIC database at the MBMG (<http://mbmg.mtech.edu>). Land ownership, hydrogeology, public land survey, and road data were obtained from the Natural Resources Information System, Helena (<http://nris.mtu.ut.ac>).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Well location system: The location description begins with the township and range, followed by the section. The location of a well in a section is found by using a counter-clockwise progression from largest to smallest squares (quarters) within a section, designated by A, B, C, and D. This well is located in Township 7 N, Range 16 W, section 18, tract DACB.

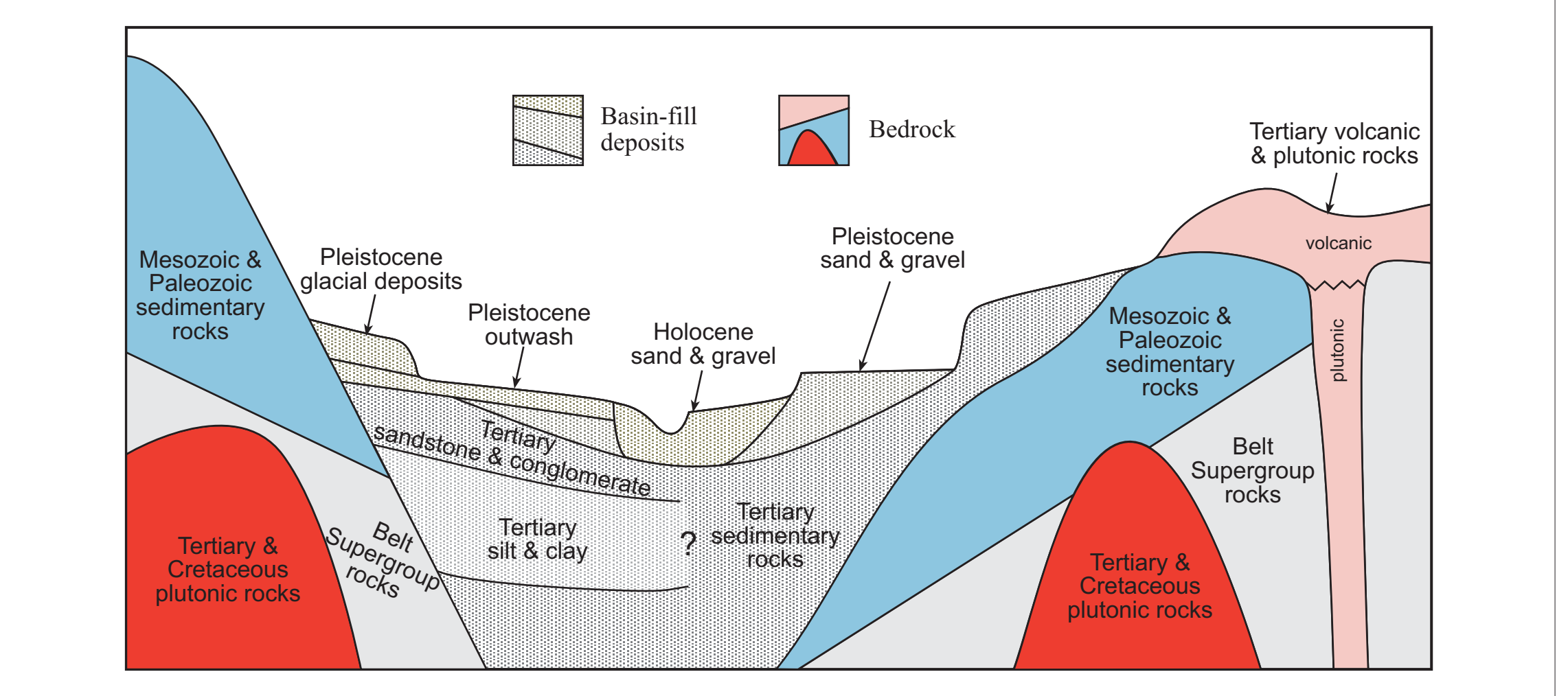
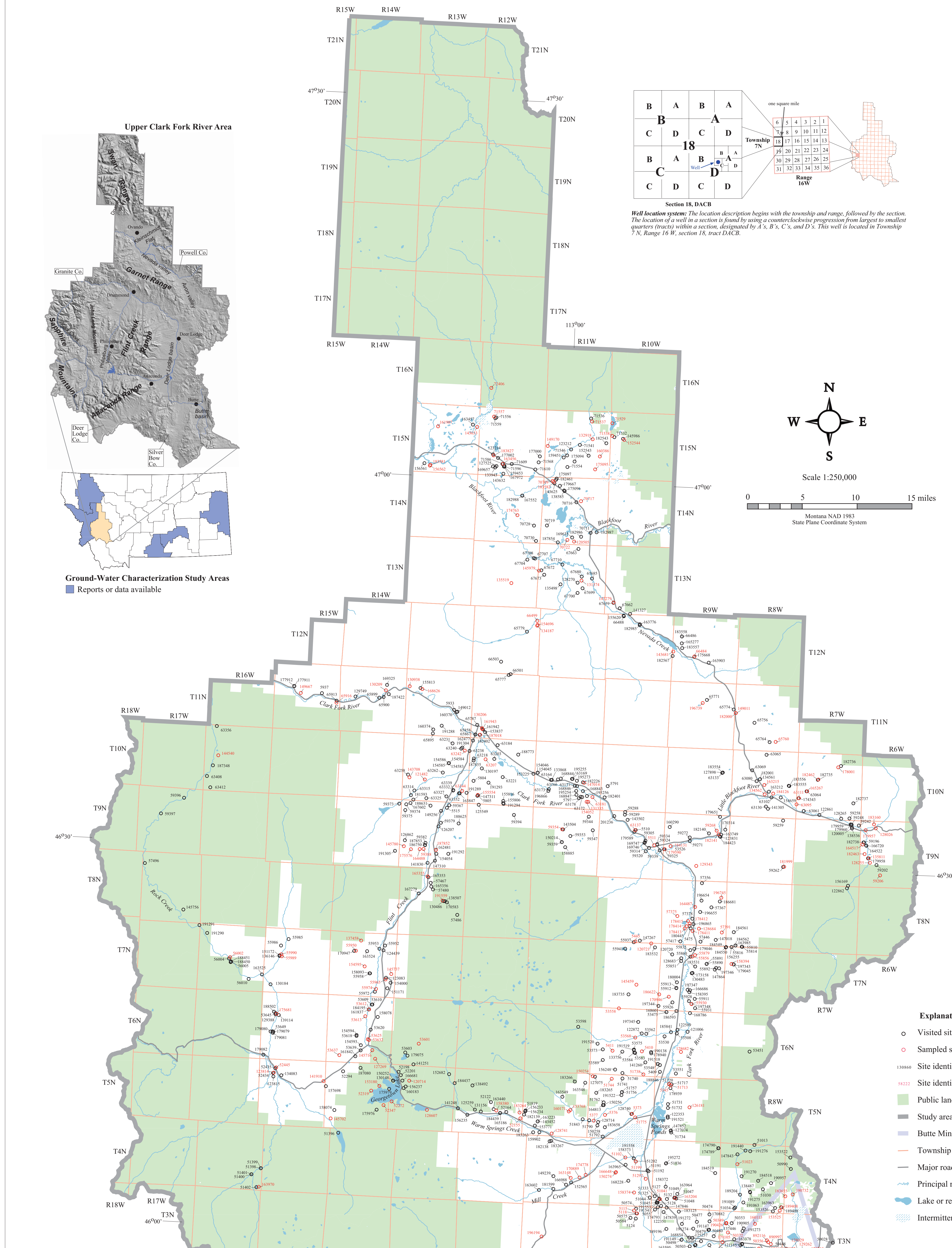


Figure 1. Diagrammatic cross section illustrating stratigraphic relationships between bedrock and basin fill.

Table 1. Descriptions of geologic units in which wells were completed.

Holocene sand and gravel (H11SNGR)—Sandy and gravely alluvium in recent river valleys.

Pleistocene outwash (I12OTSH)—Mostly gravel and some sand at or near the land surface, deposited by glacial meltwater streams; deposits are most notable in the Ovation area and beneath the Kleinschmidt Flat where they are estimated to be between 100-500 feet thick (Wilkink, 1995).

Pleistocene glacial deposits and till (I12SICL, I12TILL)—Poorly sorted mixture of gravel, sand, silt, and clay deposited directly by glacial ice in other ice-marginal environments (I12TILL); some deposits of stratified drift are encased in till; till forms prominent mounds in locations along the western side of the Deer Lodge basin in the Ovation area and underlying glacial till and glacial-lake deposits near Kleinschmidt Flat (Wilkink, 1995); local clay-rich deposits (with varied sand and silt content) are of probable glacial-lake origin (S2SCL).

Pleistocene sand and gravel (H12SNGR)—Sand and gravel containing minor silt; includes fluvial, glacial, and glacial sand, gravel, and locally bouldery deposits; includes sand and gravel deposits on abandoned floodplains approximately 15 to 60 feet above the modern floodplain and alluvial fan deposits of moderately to poorly sorted mixture of boulders, cobbles, gravel, sand, and mud; mostly buried by other conforming units of fill and glacial lake silt and clay (as in the Ovation area) or lithologically similar Holocene sand and gravel (as along some major drainages).

Tertiary sedimentary rocks (I20SDMS, I20SICL, I20SNGR)—Poorly to well-consolidated; lithologies are sandstones and conglomerates (I20SNGR), or claystones, coal beds, and shales (I20SICL); some sedimentary lithologies are mixed or indeterminate (I20SDMS); makes up much of the fill in the Deer Lodge basin and the Drummond valley.

Tertiary volcanic and plutonic rocks (I20VLCR, I20ALDCK)—Volcanic rocks, tuffs, welded tuffs, and some shallow intrusive rocks (common throughout the study area and largely unmetamorphosed); includes andesitic and basaltic flows (mostly unmetamorphosed except for the Lowland Creek Volcanics, I20ALDCK).

Cratonic intrusive and volcanic rocks (I21IBDPT, I21ELK, I21PLNC)—Intrusive igneous rocks of compositions ranging from monzonite to granodiorite, diorite and gabbro (Lewis, 1999); includes the Boulder Batholith (I21IBDPT) and the Anaconda and Flint Creek batholiths (I21PLNC); the Elk Mountain Volcanics consist of andesitic and basaltic tuffs, breccias, and flows (I21ELK); some of the intrusive rocks may be of Tertiary age.

Mesozoic sedimentary and metamorphic rocks (I21CLR, I21GSPK, I21TRCK, I21TRKOT, I21SDMS)—Structurally deformed Paleozoic sandstones, mudstones, shales, and minor limestones in mountain areas, around valleys, and underlain by basin-fill deposits; metamorphosed where they contact the intrusive bodies; as in the western margin of the Deer Lodge basin, includes the Upper Cretaceous Colorado Group (I21CLR) and Golden Spike Formation (I21GSPK), and the Lower Cretaceous Blackfoot Formation (I21TRCK), Carter Creek Formation (I21TRCK), the Kootenai Formation (I21TRKOT), and undifferentiated sedimentary rocks (I21SDMS).

Tertiary sedimentary and metamorphic rocks (I20SDMS, I20GSPK, I20SDMSN, I20TRCK, I20TRKOT, I20SDMS)—Structurally deformed Paleozoic limestones, dolomites, sandstones, shales, and mudstones in mountain areas, around valleys, and underlain by basin-fill deposits; includes the Permian Phosphoria Formation (I20GSPK), Mississippian Madison Group (I20SDMSN), Devonian Jefferson Formation (I20TRCK), and the Cambrian Hamilton Formation (I20TRKOT), and undifferentiated Paleozoic (I20SDMS) and Cambrian (I20TRKOT) sedimentary rocks.

Belt Supergroup rocks (I40MLCR, I40MCRB, I40MSU, I40SPRD)—Metamorphosed limestone, dolomite, siltstone, and sandstone; rocks of the middle Belt carbonate (I40MLCR), Missoula (I40MSU), and Shepard (I40SPRD) units; undifferentiated units of the supergroup (I40MLCR); these rocks have been folded, faulted, and fractured; prominent in the Sapphire Range, Flint Creek Range, Philipburg Valley, Rock Creek area, and in the Big Hole River area, and underlying those valleys adjacent to these areas.

Table 2. Well inventory data. Data are arranged in ascending township, range, and section order. Blank lines separate township and range lines. Symbols: GWIC ID = Ground-Water Information Center identification number (T = spring, S = stream); Twp = township; Rng = range; Sec = section; Elev = surface altitude (ft); TD = total depth (ft); SWL = static water-level altitude (ft); Temp °C = water temperature (centigrade); SC = specific conductivity at 25°C (micro mhos); pH = acidity of water; Geologic Unit = geologic-unit code for well completion; Water Quality: complete = major ions and trace metals analysis, nitrate only; or blank = sample not collected.

Table 2 - continued. Multiple columns of well data including GWIC ID, Twp, Rng, Sec, Elev, TD, SWL, Temp, SC, pH, Geologic Unit, and Water Quality.

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