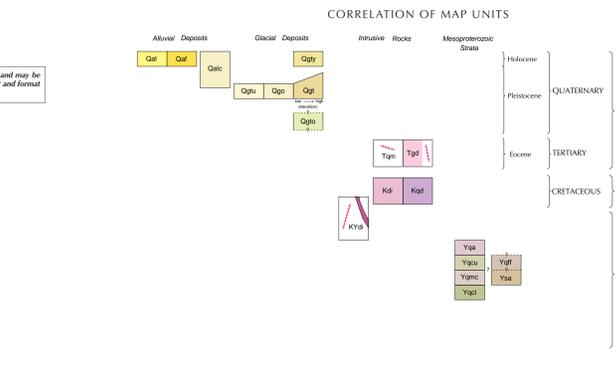
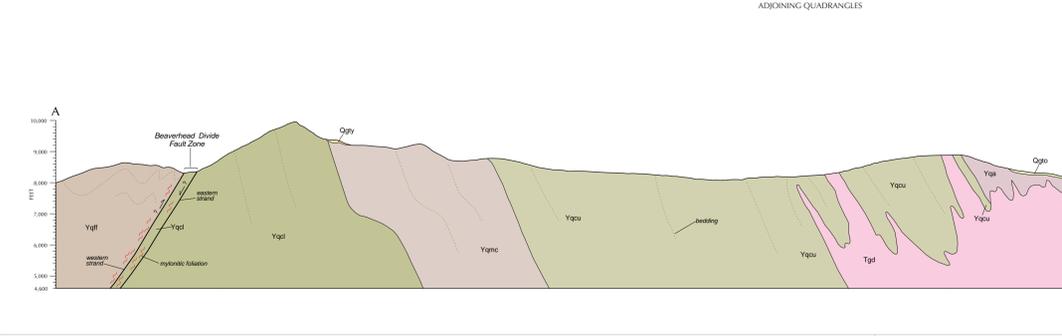
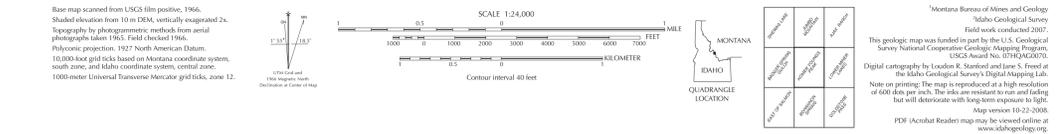
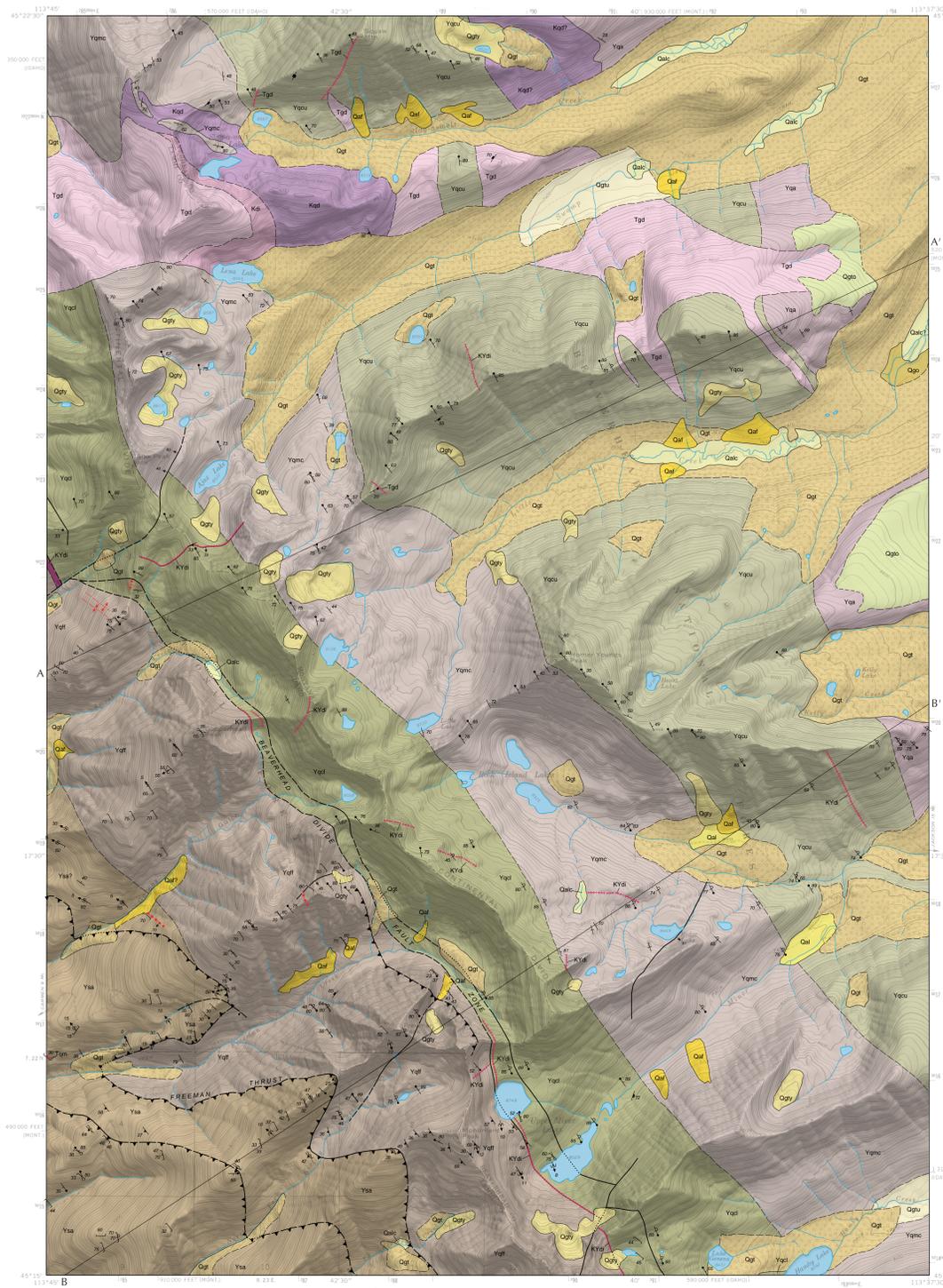


# GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE HOMER YOUNGS PEAK QUADRANGLE, LEMHI COUNTY, IDAHO AND BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

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### INTRODUCTION

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (BMAG) and the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) selected the Homer Youngs Peak 7.5' quadrangle in the northern Beaverhead Mountains along the Montana-Idaho border for a 1:24,000-scale collaborative mapping project because of its excellent exposures of two different Mesoproterozoic sedimentary rock packages. To the east and northeast, in the West Pioneer and Pindler Mountains (Figure 1), are exposures of known Belt Supergroup rocks (Ruppel and others, 1993; Lonn and McDonald, 2004a, 2008b), whereas to the southwest in the Lemhi Range and Salmon River Mountains are the reference sections of the Lemhi Group: Sawager Formation, and Yellowjacket Formation (Ross, 1934; Ruppel, 1975). In the intervening Beaverhead Mountains, both the stratigraphic and structural interpretations have been controversial among previous workers (MacKenzie, 1949; Tucker, 1975; Ruppel and others, 1993; Winston and others, 1994; Evans and Green, 2003; O'Neill, 2005; Tisdall and others, 2005). The BMAG/IGS collaborative team plans to continue 1:24,000-scale mapping southward to Lemhi Pass in an attempt to resolve some of the long-standing controversies.

### DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Intrusive rocks are classified according to International Union of Geological Sciences nomenclature using mineralized values of modal quartz (Q), alkali feldspar (A), and plagioclase (P) on a ternary diagram (Streckeisen, 1976). Mineral modalities are listed in order of increasing abundance. Grain size classification of unmetamorphosed and consolidated sediment is based on the Wentworth scale (Inns, 1947). Bedding thickness and laminar type are after McKee (1953), and Winston (1986). Distances and bed thicknesses are given in abbreviations of metric units (e.g., dm=decimeter). Formation thickness is listed in both meters and feet. Multiple lithologies within a rock unit description are listed in order of decreasing abundance.

### ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS

**Qal Modern stream alluvium (Holocene)**—Rounded to subrounded cobble to boulder gravel and sand. Mostly derived from reworked till and outwash gravels. Thickness 1-3 m (3-10 ft).

**Qaf Alluvial fan and debris flow fan gravels (Holocene)**—Angular to subangular to subrounded boulder gravels and sand. Found on steep valley walls. Thickness 1-10 m (3-30 ft).

### GLACIAL DEPOSITS

**Qgy Young glacial and periglacial deposits (Holocene)**—Poorly sorted angular to subangular boulder gravel and sand. Includes proglacial ramparts, inactive rock glaciers, and moraines. Includes proglacial ramparts, inactive rock glaciers, and moraines of the Little Ice Age and older deposits in cirques and north-facing protected areas above 2500 to 4000 ft. Includes common on all but youngest (uppermost) deposits. The largest of these moraines is 720 to 12,400 ft from head to toe, located in a cirque at the headwaters of Little Lake Creek (45.319N, 113.717W). MacKenzie (1949) classified these deposits as rock glaciers, but well developed and ice covered lateral moraines indicate that an earlier glacial advance and a rock glacier at the climate changed. Lateral deposits appear inactive and debris-covered ice is found only in protected areas above youngest ramparts or moraines at or above 2800 m (9350 ft).

### INTRUSIVE ROCKS

**Tmz Quartz monzonite sill (Eocene)**—Fine-grained biotite quartz monzonite in thin sill north of Freeman Creek in west edge of map.

**Tgtz Granodiorite (Eocene)**—Hornblende-biotite granodiorite. Part of the granodiorite unit of Kiloy (1981) that is more extensively exposed to the west of the quadrangle where it has also been described by MacKenzie (1949) and Anderson (1959). Complexly zoned oligoclase (An<sub>25</sub>), quartz, microcline, hornblende, and biotite are the major constituents. Eocene age based on <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dating of biotite (47.2 ± 0.6 Ma) and hornblende (50.5 ± 1.8 Ma) from a sample collected 0.2 km west of Lena Lake, immediately west of the quadrangle boundary, and biotite (49.4 ± 0.8 Ma) from a sample collected 0.7 km north of Lena Lake (Lonn et al., 1981). A hornblende age of 48.2 ± 1.7 Ma from the second sample is interpreted to be the result of excess argon inherited from the nearby quartz diorite unit (Kiloy, 1981).

**Qzd Quartz diorite (Cretaceous)**—Biotite-hornblende quartz diorite. Part of the quartz diorite unit of Kiloy (1981), composed of 45-55 percent andesine (An<sub>45</sub>) along with hornblende, biotite, quartz, and orthoclase. Cretaceous age based on <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar dating of hornblende from samples collected about 2.2 km due east of Squaw Mountain (81.5 ± 1.6 Ma) and from the cirque at the head of Slag-a-melt Creek near the contact with the Kd unit (80.1 ± 2.2 Ma) (Kiloy, 1981). These hornblende ages of about 81 Ma are considered the minimum age for this unit. Younger <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar ages of biotite from these two samples (51.1 ± 2.4 Ma and 70.0 ± 1.5 Ma; respectively; Kiloy, 1981) may reflect slow uplift and cooling, and re-heating during the Eocene.

**Kd Diorite (Cretaceous)**—Hornblende diorite equivalent to the hornblende-microcline unit of Kiloy (1981). Composed of 50-75 percent hornblende along with plagioclase, hypserrhene, actinolite, quartz, and opaque minerals (Kiloy, 1981). Composition is reversely zoned andesine (An<sub>45</sub>). Contains small hornblende pyroxene xenoliths, the least altered of which contain plagioclase enclosing hypserrhene and hornblende.

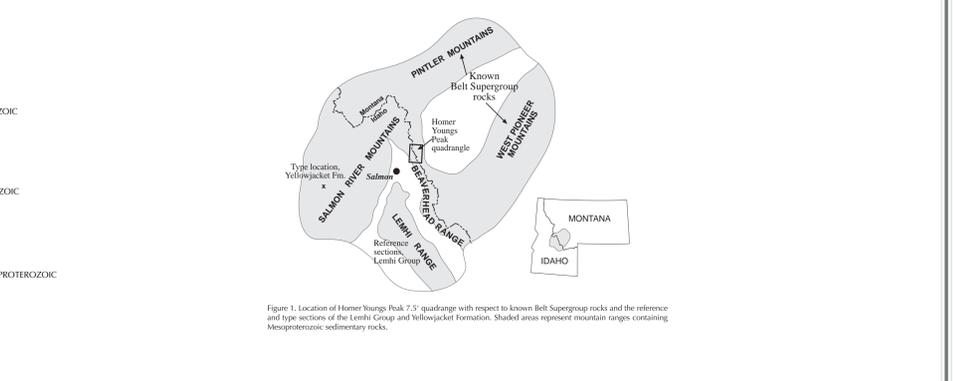


Figure 1. Location of Homer Youngs Peak 7.5' quadrangle with respect to known Belt Supergroup rocks and the reference and type sections of the Lemhi Group and Yellowjacket Formation. Shaded areas represent mountain ranges containing Mesoproterozoic sedimentary rocks.

### STRUCTURE

The two major structures, the Beaverhead Divide and the Freeman thrust, separate the map area into the three major structural packages, termed here the coarse quartzite, fine quartzite, and siltite and argillite domains after their dominant rock types. These domains and depictions of bedding and mylonitic foliation are shown in cross sections A-A' and B-B'. Poles above B-B' are lower hemisphere equal-area projections of poles to bedding and cleavage planes. Downward poles to bedding are shown in blue, upward poles to overturned beds in red. These poles include best-fit great circles (green) and their poles (black dot). Shown separately are means of bedding (blue) and cleavage (orange) poles with 95 percent confidence regions. Poles were constructed using FORTRAN programs modified from Tauxe (1990) and plume from Parker and Schanz (2000). The three structural domains and their bounding structures are discussed below, from east to west, followed by a description of late cross-cutting structures.

### COARSE QUARTZITE DOMAIN

Northeast of the Beaverhead Divide fault is a thick (6000 m, 19,000 ft) east-facing panel of steeply overturned (70° average dip east) strata (Ysa, Ygu, Ygc, Ygf, tentatively assigned to the Missoula Group). It is interpreted as the west limb of a giant east-verging syncline similar to the gigantic folds mapped by Tisdall (2002) in the Lemhi Range southwest of the map area. Poles to bedding of these rocks define a weak girdle with a pole about 147° 11' trend and plunge. The weakly developed syncline striking-sinking cleavage in this domain has an average dip of 60° southwest and defines a girdle with a pole 157° 28'.

### BEAVERHEAD DIVIDE FAULT ZONE

The Beaverhead Divide fault was first described by MacKenzie (1949) who referred to the structure as the Miner Lakes fault. Anderson (1959) mapped its extension northeast and Tucker (1975) extended it southeast. Ruppel and others (1993) interpreted it as a major structure separating the Missoula Group to the northeast from the Mesoproterozoic Yellowjacket Formation and Lemhi Group to the southwest. Evans and Green (2003) mapped it as a thrust reactivated as a normal fault separating the Missoula Group from Lemhi Group. More recently, O'Neill (2005) interpreted it as a low-angle normal fault that has been reactivated to vertical, with unmetamorphosed upper plate rocks now to the northeast and unmetamorphosed lower plate rocks to the southwest.

Our mapping suggests that the Beaverhead Divide fault is a steeply southwest-dipping zone of both ductile and brittle deformation whose activity may span a long time (Proterozoic to Eocene). We mapped two strands of the Beaverhead Divide fault on the southwest, characterized by chloritic breccia, is within conglomeratic quartzite (Ygf), and separates widely foliated, east-facing vertical strata on the northeast from strongly foliated and tightly folded rocks on the southwest. The breccia contains randomly oriented clasts of strongly foliated quartzite. Chloritic folds that occur in the zone between the eastern and western strands may be death folds.

The western strand of the Beaverhead Divide fault is a zone of 15-45° southwest-dipping mylonite. Foliation that approximately parallels the 142° trend of the zone. It separates the phyllosilicate units (Ygf and Ygl) from a thin section from this zone showed mylonitic foliation defined by ribbons of recrystallized quartz separated by phyllosilicate foliation. Shear sense indicators were not obvious, and mineral inclusions could not be seen in outcrop or hand sample. This ductile shear zone contains small dikes (A01) that exhibit foliation parallel to that of the shear zone. This zone is folded both at the outcrop and in thin section scale.

### FINE QUARTZITE DOMAIN

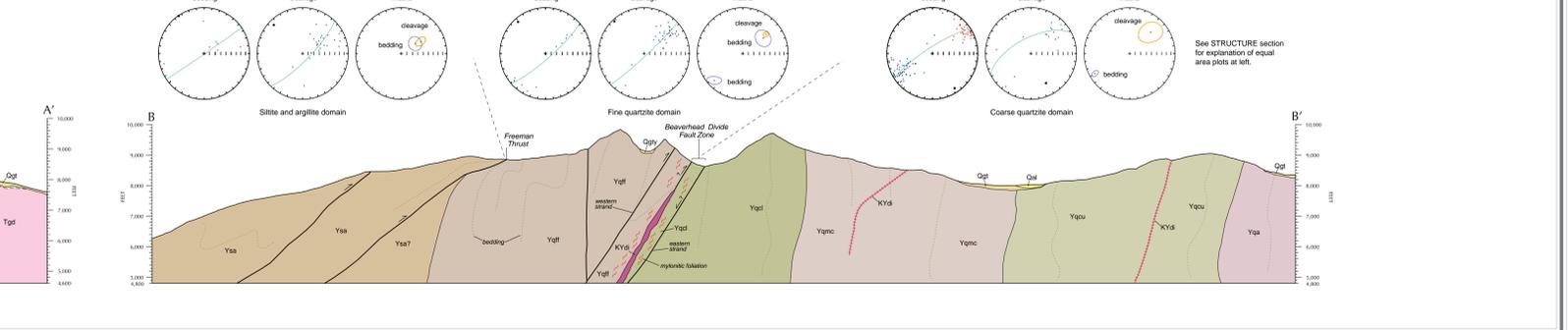
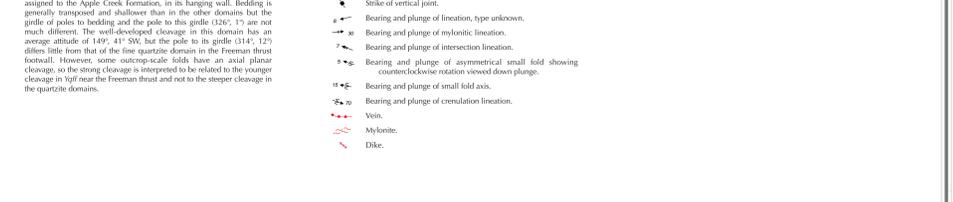
West of the ductile strand of Beaverhead Divide fault is strongly foliated, fine quartzite (Ygf) that is tentatively correlated with the Gainsight Formation of the Lemhi Group. In the southern part of the map area mostly east-dipping beds with a thickness of 1500 m (5000 ft) parallel the coarse quartzite panel northeast of the Beaverhead Divide fault. Poles to bedding have a bimodal distribution that reflects their west-ward tilting within the units and form a well-defined girdle whose pole and inferred fold axis plunges gently northeast (119° 9'). Poles to cleavage with average attitude of 140° 56' SW form a less well-defined girdle that has a similar pole (117° 5'). This similarity can be explained by folding of both fabrics together; the cleavage is not axial planar to the small folds but bears a consistent angular relationship to bedding.

### FREEMAN THRUST

The Freeman thrust, named herein, bounds the southwest side of the fine quartzite domain. It appears on the Salmon National Forest geologic map (Evans and Green, 2003), although in a slightly different location. It strikes approximately 135°, dips moderately to gently southwest, and is mylonitic. Lineations are poorly developed but one locality north of Freeman Creek they plunge 20° west, and definitive shear sense indicators could not be found in outcrop in this section. However, in the Freeman Creek and North Fork Kirtley Creek areas, steep beds in the footwall quartzite appear dragged into parallel with the fault zone cross section B-B' suggesting reverse movement. Locally in Ygf some outcrop-scale, asymmetric, east-verging folds that may be related to the Freeman thrust are interpreted to have an axial planar cleavage that is later than the regional cleavage. A few thumbnailed or type porphyroclasts overlain within the mylonitic fabric show the same shear sense. This fault also appears to have been deformed by later folding.

### SILTITE AND ARGILLITE DOMAIN

The Freeman thrust carries the siltite and argillite unit (Ysa), tentatively assigned to the Apple Creek Formation, in its hanging wall. Bedding is generally truncated and shallower than in the other domains but the girdle of poles to bedding and the pole to this girdle (126° 17') are not much different. The well-developed cleavage in this domain has an average attitude of 149° 41' SW, but the pole to its girdle (314° 12') differs little from that of the fine quartzite domain in the Freeman thrust footwall. However, some outcrop-scale folds have an axial planar cleavage, so the strong cleavage is interpreted to be related to the younger cleavage in Ygf near the Freeman thrust and not to the steeper cleavage in the quartzite domains.



See STRUCTURE section for explanation of equal area plots at left.