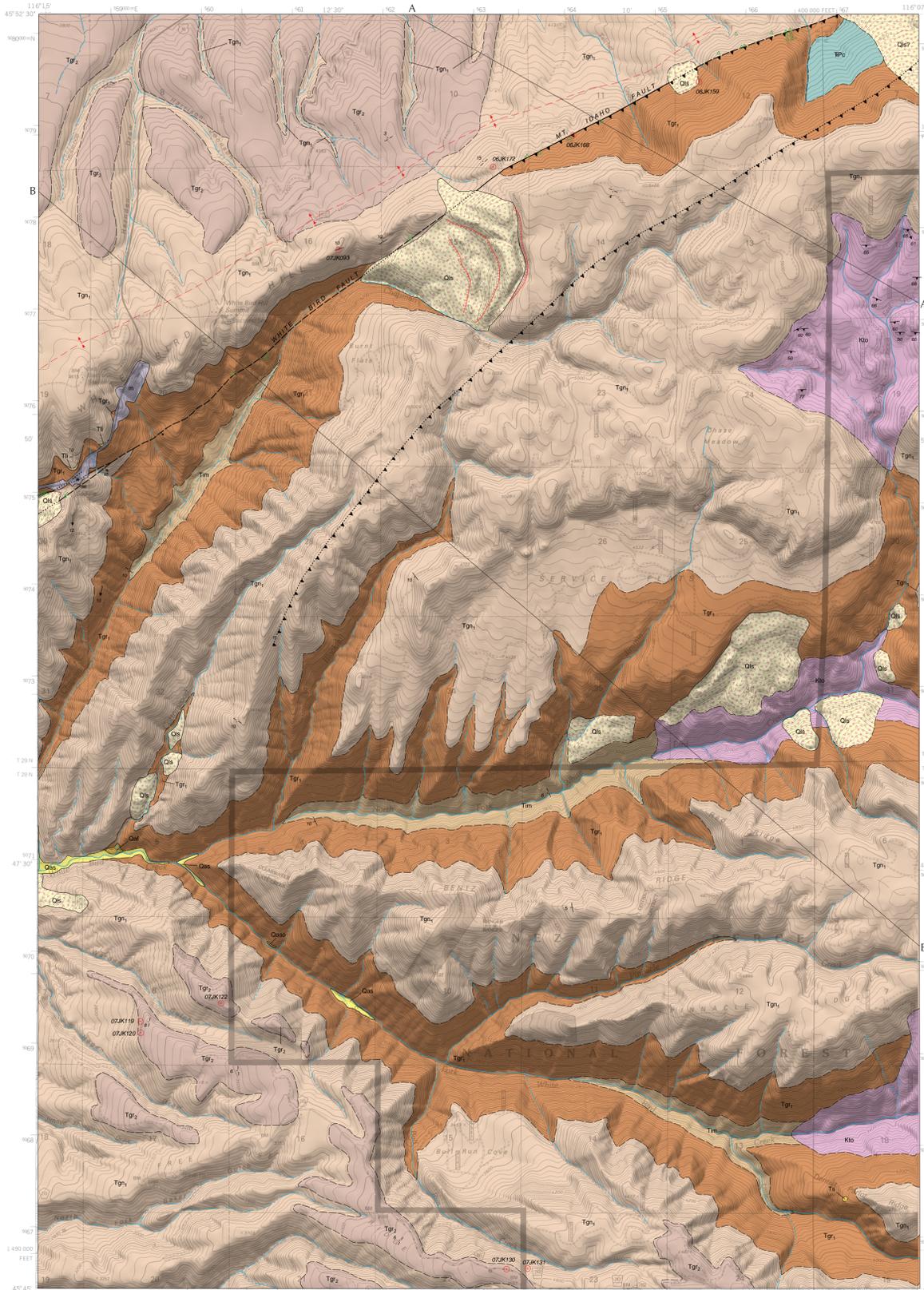


# GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE WHITE BIRD HILL QUADRANGLE, IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

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2008

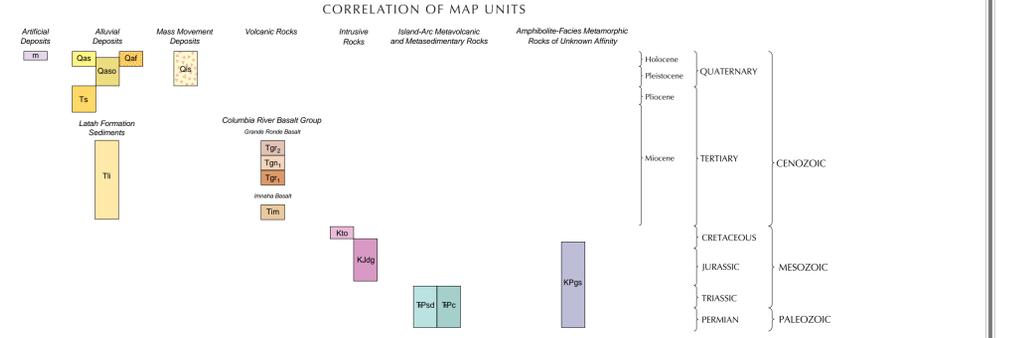
Disclaimer: This Digital Web Map is an informal report and may be revised and formally published at a later time. Its content and format may not conform to agency standards.



Base map scanned from USGS film positive, 1981. Shaded elevation from 10 m DEM, vertically exaggerated 2x. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1963. Photorevised 1981. Polyconic projection, 1927 North American Datum. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Idaho coordinate system, west zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 11.

Field work conducted 2006 and 2007. This geologic map was funded in part by the U.S. Geological Survey National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, USGS Award No. 07HQAC0079. Digital cartography by Theresa A. Taylor, Louisa R. Stanford, and Jane S. Freed at the Idaho Geological Survey's Digital Mapping Lab. Note on printing: The map is reproduced at a high resolution of 600 dots per inch. The links are resistant to run and fading but will deteriorate with long-term exposure to light. Map version 8-28-2008. PDF (Acrobat Reader) map may be viewed online at [www.idahogeology.org](http://www.idahogeology.org).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**  
We thank the landowners in the area, and especially the Heckman family, for access to their property. VE Camp provided copies of his field notes and maps of the area.



## INTRODUCTION

The geologic map of the White Bird Hill quadrangle depicts rock units exposed at the surface or underlying the surficial cover of soil and colluvium. Thicker surficial deposits of alluvium and landslides are also depicted where they mask or modify the underlying rock or form significant mappable units. The map is the result of field work conducted in 2006 and 2007 by the authors. Previous work includes that of Bond (1963) and reconnaissance mapping and sampling in the area from 1978 to 1980 (Camp, 1981; Swanson and others, 1981).

Most of the quadrangle is underlain by Miocene basalt flows of the Columbia River Basalt Group. Cretaceous intrusive biotite tonalite is present in several drainages along the eastern edge of the quadrangle. Permian to Triassic chlorite schist occurs in a window through the basalt in the northeast corner of the map. The basalt flows invaded ancestral drainages and flooded the paleotopography. Structural warping of the basalt occurred both during and after emplacement, in part controlling the distribution of younger basalt flows and stream development. Landslides are associated with the contact between basalt and basement rocks or with steep canyon slopes. Alluvial deposits are found within the canyons of the White Bird Creek drainage system. A high gravel deposit at an elevation of about 4,300 feet in the southeast corner of the map is of unknown origin, but may be a small alluvial remnant of an early stage of the South Fork White Bird Creek and Little White Bird Creek.

## DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Throughout the following descriptions and later discussion of structure, we use the metric system for sizes of mineral or clast constituents of rock units. However, we use English system for thickness and distance measurements because that system is used on the base map.

### ARTIFICIAL DEPOSITS

**m Made ground (Holocene)**—Artificial fills composed of excavated, transported, and emplaced construction materials of highly varying composition, but typically derived from local sources. Fill related to construction of White Bird grade of Highway 95.

### SEDIMENTARY AND MASS MOVEMENT DEPOSITS

#### Alluvial Deposits

**Qas Alluvial deposits in drainages and tributaries to White Bird Creek (Holocene)**—Stratified silt, sand, and clay with minor intercalated subrounded to subangular pebbles and cobbles. Gravel clasts predominantly basalt. Thickness <20 feet.

**Qns Older alluvial deposits (Pleistocene or Holocene)**—One small gravel deposit along South Fork White Bird Creek, located about 50 feet above present creek level. Consists of subrounded to well-rounded mostly basalt cobbles and gravels.

**Qaf Alluvial fan deposits (Holocene)**—One small alluvial fan mapped at the mouth of Cottonwood Creek, a tributary to White Bird Creek. Consists of subangular to subrounded poorly sorted basalt clasts in fine-grained matrix.

**Ta Sediment, undivided (late Miocene or Pliocene?)**—One small gravel deposit remnant at about 4,300 feet elevation mapped on the north slope of Little White Bird Creek in the southeast corner of the map. Mostly basalt pebbles and cobbles, but contains a low small quartz pebbles. Probably represents an ancestral White Bird Creek drainage deposit.

#### Latah Formation Sediments

Sediments of the Latah Formation within the basalt sequence are stratigraphically equivalent to the Ellensburg Formation (Swanson and others, 1979) in Washington.

**TI Latah Formation, sedimentary interbed (Miocene)**—Mostly clay, silt, and sand deposits interbedded between basalt flows just above the Grande Ronde R<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub> contact near the top of the White Bird grade. Probably more extensive than mapped, but typically poorly exposed because of colluvial cover.

#### Mass Movement Deposits

**Qs Landslide deposits (Pleistocene and Holocene)**—Poorly sorted and poorly stratified angular rock debris mixed with silt and clay. Some consist of large, nearly intact basalt blocks that moved downslope. Deposited by slumps, slides, and debris flows. In addition to the landslide deposit, the unit may include the landslide scarp and the headwall scarp area adjacent to and below the landslide scarp from which material broke away (see Symbols). Location is commonly controlled by the presence of sedimentary deposits at the interface between basalt units and underlying basement rocks. Landslides range in age from ancient, relatively stable features, to those formed more recently, which may be less stable.

### VOLCANIC ROCKS

#### Columbia River Basalt Group

The stratigraphic nomenclature for the Columbia River Basalt Group follows that of Swanson and others (1979). In Idaho, the group is divided into four formations. From oldest to youngest, these are Imnaha Basalt, Grande Ronde Basalt, Wanapum Basalt, and Saddle Mountains Basalt. Imnaha Basalt is exposed in the drainages of Cottonwood Creek, North Fork White Bird Creek, and South Fork White Bird Creek. Grande Ronde Basalt, from oldest to youngest, has been subdivided into the informal R<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub> magnetostratigraphic units (Swanson and others, 1979). Of these units, flows of the R<sub>1</sub>, N<sub>1</sub>, and R<sub>2</sub> are exposed and cover most of the quadrangle. Wanapum Basalt and Saddle Mountains Basalt units are absent. Representative samples of basalt were collected for chemical analysis. Sample locations are identified on the map and analytical results are listed in Table 1. Samples were analyzed at Washington State University's Geoanalytical Laboratory.

#### Grande Ronde Basalt

**Tgr<sub>2</sub> Grande Ronde Basalt, R<sub>1</sub> magnetostratigraphic unit (Miocene)**—Medium to dark gray, fine-grained basalt, commonly with a sugary texture. Uncommon to common 1-2 mm plagioclase phenocrysts. Reverse magnetic polarity, although field magnetometer commonly gives weak normal or conflicting results, particularly near the top of the R<sub>1</sub> section. Consists of one or two flows that pinch out on the north flank of White Bird Hill and one or two thin flows at the south edge of the quadrangle along Free Use Road. Maximum thickness less than 100 feet.

**Tgr<sub>1</sub> Grande Ronde Basalt, N<sub>1</sub> magnetostratigraphic unit (Miocene)**—Dark gray, fine-grained generally aphyric to plagioclase-megaphyric basalt. Normal magnetic polarity. Consists of 5 or 6 flows. Flows near the top of the sequence are commonly 50-70 feet thick and typically sugary textured with scarce small plagioclase phenocrysts 1-3 mm in length. Flows lower in the sequence are typically thicker, generally 100-200 feet, and have thick entablatures. Colonades of thin flows and entablatures of thick flows tend to form tiered cliffs on steep canyon slopes. Thickness of the unit ranges from 400 to 600 feet. Probably thinned over developing Mount Idaho structure.

**Tgr<sub>3</sub> Grande Ronde Basalt, R<sub>2</sub> magnetostratigraphic unit (Miocene)**—Mostly dark gray, fine-grained aphyric to megaphyric basalt. Uncommon plagioclase phenocrysts 2-4 mm in length in one or more flows. Reverse

magnetic polarity, although flows near the R<sub>1</sub>-N<sub>1</sub> boundary commonly have inconsistent and weak field magnetometer polarity readings; therefore the mapped contact is poorly constrained. Outcrop characteristics of flows are similar to those in the Grande Ronde N<sub>1</sub> unit. Flow just below the R<sub>1</sub>-N<sub>1</sub> contact and flow just above the R<sub>2</sub>-Imnaha contact are thick, have well-developed entablatures, and are probably equivalent to the Center Creek and Gravel Creek units, respectively, of Bond (1963). Unit thickness is about 700-800 feet.

**Tim Imnaha Basalt (Miocene)**—Medium- to coarse-grained, sparsely to abundantly plagioclase-phyric basalt; olivine common; plagioclase phenocrysts generally 0.5-2 cm, but some are as large as 3 cm. Flows examined in the field have normal polarity. Typically weathered to sooty brown granular detritus and poorly exposed. Exposed thickness is about 400 feet; base is not exposed except where it forms erosional contact with Kio unit.

### INTRUSIVE ROCKS

**Kio Tonalite (Cretaceous)**—Light gray biotite- and hornblende-biotite tonalite. Locally characterized by a distinctive mottling due to the presence of large biotite plates; weathers to micaceous light tan gray. Generally medium grained, with plagioclase comprising approximately 65-70 percent and quartz 18-25 percent of the rock. Biotite plates, locally are as large as 2 cm, comprise from 5-10 percent and define a foliation in the northernmost exposures. Garnet is common. Epidote is locally conspicuous in hand specimens and interpreted to be primary on the basis of textural relations with other minerals. In the South Fork Clearwater River area to the northeast, similar rock (and a possible extension of the same intrusive body) is referred to as tonalite with the Blacktail pluton by Myers (1982). However, normative values plot in the tonalite field on an Ab-An-Or diagram (after Barker, 1979). Unit belongs to a suite of tonalite and tonalite plutons that occur along and west of (outboard) the Salmon River fault and which contain primary epidote indicative of high pressure (a8 kb) crystallization (Zen and Hammetstrom, 1984). U-Pb zircon dating of a tonalite sample collected northeast of the map along the South Fork Clearwater River yielded a 111.0 ± 1.6 Ma age (McClelland and Oldow, 2007). U-Pb zircon dating has yielded 116-119 Ma ages in tonalite and tonalite of the Summit Creek pluton to the north near Orofino (Lee, 2004) and an age of about 118 Ma in tonalite in the Hazard Creek complex to the south near McCall (Manduca and others, 1993).

**KsDg Diorite complex (Jurassic to Cretaceous)**—Shown only in cross-sections. Described from exposures in adjacent White Bird quadrangle (Garwood and others, 2008). Composite intrusive body primarily of textural variations of diorite, but also includes small bodies of gabbro, quartz diorite, and felsic dikes. The diorite is dark gray with light-colored plagioclase 1-3 mm in length and black hornblende 2-5 mm in length, giving the rock a mottled appearance. Samples typically contain a few percent quartz. Texture ranges from mostly medium grained to, in places, very fine grained. Weathers readily to a fine, dark brown soil.

### ISLAND-ARC METAVOLCANIC AND METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS

These metamorphosed volcanic, volcanioclastic, and sedimentary rocks are interpreted to belong to the Wallawa accreted terrane assemblage (Silberling and others, 1984; Vallier, 1995). In this quadrangle, the RFC unit occurs as fragments in soil in the northeast corner of the map and the other units are interpreted to occur at depth as shown in the cross sections.

### Seven Devils Group

**TPsd Seven Devils Group, undivided (Permian to Triassic)**—Mostly metavolcanic rocks that are equivalent to the Seven Devils Group of Vallier (1977). Shown only in cross-section B-B'. Presence at depth interpreted from exposures in adjacent quadrangles to the northeast and west.

### Seven Devils Group(?)

**TPc Chlorite-epidote-actinolite schist and gneiss (Permian to Triassic)**—Medium to dark green chlorite-epidote-actinolite schist and gneiss with subordinate intrusive rocks. Light to medium green on weathered surfaces; weathers easily to fine, dark gray to brownish gray soil. Found only as float fragments on the north flank of Mount Idaho in a window through the basalt. Interpreted to be primarily igneous in origin and equivalent to the Seven Devils Group of Vallier (1977).

### AMPHIBOLITE-FACIES METAMORPHIC ROCKS OF UNKNOWN AFFINITY

Amphibolite-facies metamorphic (and metavolcanic?) rocks that are east of and structurally above the Wallawa accreted terrane assemblage, but are west of continental North American rocks (Myers, 1982; Hoover, 1986). May be equivalent to the Orofino zone exposed 76 miles to the northwest (Anderson, 1938; Hietanen, 1962) or to the Riggins Group of Hamilton (1963) exposed 40 miles to the south. Shown only in cross-section, in the subsurface interpreted from exposures in adjacent quadrangles. The following description is from exposures east of the quadrangle.

**KPgs Gneiss and schist (Permian to Cretaceous)**—Fine- to medium-grained hornblende gneiss that grades into hornblende-biotite chlorite schist and muscovite-plagioclase schist. Biotite a epidote schist, and epidote-plagioclase quartzite. Light gray or green to black, weathering to a fine gray brown soil. Texture is fine to medium grained. Hornblende gneiss contains subordinate epidote, zircon, chlorite, quartz, and plagioclase. Garnet is common. Locally tightly folded to centimeter-scale isoclinal and chevron folds with no consistent fold axes.

### STRUCTURE

#### MOUNT IDAHO-WHITE BIRD FAULT

The southwest-northeast-trending Mount Idaho-White Bird fault extends across the northern part of the map. The structure is part of a wide zone of information that has a poorly understood, complex, and probably lengthy history of development (Schmidt and Lewis, 2007). Columbia River Basalt units are faulted and tilted and nearly vertical outcrops of brecciated basalt occur along the structure, indicating a fault with a relatively steep dip. The Mount Idaho fault, which extends from the north-central part of the map to northeast of Grangerville, has relative movement of down-to-the-northeast (cross-section A-A'). Southwest from the north-central part of the map, the relative displacement along the fault changes to down-to-the-southeast (cross-section B-B'). And, we identify that segment of the structure as the White Bird fault. At Pve Saddle near the west edge of the quadrangle, the fault bifurcates into two nearly parallel splays. One splay, the subsidiary White Bird Hill fault, closely follows Highway 95 into the adjacent White Bird quadrangle, where maximum displacement is about 300 feet. The main splay, the White Bird fault, is inferred to continue beneath landslide deposits in the White Bird quadrangle, where maximum displacement is as much as 1000 feet. These two splays appear to merge again at the town of White Bird (Garwood and others, 2008). At two locations near Pve Saddle, exposed small faults along this structure strike about N. 45-50° E. and dip 65-80 degrees southward.

From recent mapping on nearby quadrangles (Schmidt and others, 2007;

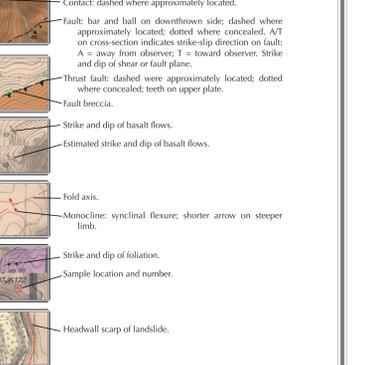
Garwood and others, 2008), we infer that the Neogene Mount Idaho and White Bird faults merge at depth with the Cretaceous or Paleogene Hammer Creek Thrust (cross-section B-B'), which has older strike-slip and thrust components. North-south contraction during the Miocene may have caused initial folding and later faulting of the Columbia River basalt units on the Mount Idaho segment of the fault, possibly as a result of renewed activity on the Hammer Creek Thrust. Later east-west extension, probably related to the northern limits of Basin and Range extension, may be responsible for the normal displacement on the White Bird and associated White Bird Hill faults.

Alternatively, the entire fault system may have experienced complex deformation that included normal faulting along north-northeast-striking White Bird fault systems simultaneously with reverse faulting along the east-northeast-striking Mount Idaho fault system. This implies that the Mount Idaho segment forms an accommodation zone along the northern limit of Basin and Range extension in the Salmon River corridor.

### FOLDING IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT

Most of the folding in the basalt is probably related to Miocene reactivation of movement on the Hammer Creek thrust and displacement along the Mount Idaho-White Bird fault, and to the associated development of the White Bird basin west of the quadrangle. North of the Mount Idaho-White Bird fault, Grande Ronde Basalt units are tilted to the north, decreasing in dip from 10-15 degrees near the structure to <3 degrees at the northwest edge of the map. Tilted Grande Ronde R<sub>1</sub> pinches out on the north flank of the structure, indicating uplift had begun to develop prior to extension of that unit. South of the Mount Idaho structure and north of the North Fork White Bird Creek, the basalt flows dip to the southwest, increasing from about 5 degrees at the east edge of the quadrangle to 10 degrees or more at the west edge. Farther south, dips are westward and increase from 4 or 5 degrees in the east to 6 or 7 degrees in the west. At the south edge of the quadrangle, dips are to the northwest at about 2 degrees. This acute change in strike represents a broad open synclinal warp that plunges to the west to the White Bird basin.

### SYMBOLS



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