

Geology - Interpreting the past - providing for the future





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- Kn Niobrara Formation (Upper Cretaceous)—152 m (500 ft) of highly fossiliferous, predominantly gray, calcareous shale, interbedded with cream to yellow and orange weathered silty limestone (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969) Frontier Formation (Upper Cretaceous), Mowry Shale (Upper Cretaceous), Muddy
 - Sandstone (Lower Cretaceous), and Thermopolis Shale (Lower Cretaceous) undivided-No outcrops mapped; shown in cross section only. Frontier Formation -3 m-(10 ft)-thick "salt and pepper" Wall Creek Sandstone with chert pebbles on top of 137 m (450 ft) of gray to black shale that hosts septarian concretions in the basal shale. Mowry Shale–46 m (150 ft) of siliceous, silver-gray weathering shale with common fish scales; numerous bentonite layers. Muddy Sandstone-6 m (20 ft) of clean, medium-grained sandstone. Thermopolis Shale-34 m (110 ft) of black to dark-brown marine shale with olive-green sandstone layers (Blackstone,

PRELIMINARY GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE CENTENNIAL QUADRANGLE, ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING

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EXPLANATION



OPEN FILE REPORT 13-5 Centennial 1:24,000 - scale **Bedrock Geologic Map**

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Kev Cloverly Formation (Lower Cretaceous)—Distinct white, crossbedded, conglomeratic sandstone at its base overlain by a pink siltstone in the middle, overlain by a rusty to yellow sandstone at the top; total thickness 46 m (150 ft) (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969) Jm Morrison Formation (Upper Jurassic)—White sandstone beds near the top underlain by variegated, purple, green, and maroon claystone and shale with abundant green chert; locally hosts fragments of dinosaur bones and calcareous nodules; total thickness 91 m (300 ft) (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969) Sundance Formation (Jurassic)—About 15 m (50 ft) of white to pale-yellow, crossbedded and Js ripple-marked calcareous glauconitic sandstone with gray and green shale in the lower part; abundant fossil Pachyteuthis densus (thick-walled belemnite rostrum) found in the upper part (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969; Houston and Orback, 1976)
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 Jelm Formation (Upper Triassic)—40 to 76 m (130 to 250 ft) of orange and red siltstone and
sandstone overlying a distinctive clay-pebble conglomerate, which may include fragments of vertebrate bones and crocodile teeth (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969; Love and others, 1993)

Mesozoic and Paleozoic

- **R**c **Chugwater Formation (Triassic and Permian)**—168 m (550 ft) of thinly bedded calcareous red shales, siltstones, and local thin sandstones with some thin beds of limestone and gypsum; lower beds are Permian (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969; Houston and Orback, 1976)
- Triassic and Permian Formations undivided—Jelm, Chugwater, Forelle Limestone, and Satanka Shale, undivided, in small outcrops in the northeast corner of the quadrangle Paleozoic

Pfs Forelle Limestone and Satanka Shale (Permian), undivided—The Forelle Limestone, at the top of the Satanka Shale, is a distinct, resistant 3 to 6 m-(10 to 20 ft)-thick lavender to gray and white, crenulated limestone that often contains thin red to gray shale or siltstone in the middle; the Satanka Shale comprises orange to red siltstones and shales that contain thin lenticular beds of gypsum, limestone, and ferruginous sandstone; total thickness of the Satanka ranges from 37 to 67 m (120 to 220 ft) (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969; Houston and Orback, 1976)

- PPc Casper Formation (Permian and Pennsylvanian)—63 m (208 ft) thick; made up of an upper yellowish to pink, calcareous, fine- to medium-grained, crossbedded sandstone, a middle hard red and gray siltstone with some thin limestone beds, and a lower white and red crossbedded sandstone (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969; Houston and Orback, 1976)
- ₽f Fountain Formation (Pennsylvanian)—122 to more than 152 m (400 to more than 500 ft) of predominantly pink to maroon calcareous arkosic sandstone; contains beds of light-purple arkose, gray sandstone, red siltstone, red shale, and white limestone, with a few interbedded conglomerates (Houston and others, 1968; Blackstone, 1969; Houston and Orback, 1976)

Precambrian

Terminology and unit designations are based on those used by Houston and others (1992) for the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Mountains, with details added from numerous other sources listed in the references.

Mesoproterozoic

- Ys Sherman Granite 1415-1435 Ma—Pink, coarse-grained to pegmatitic microcline granite, dated as 1415-1435 Ma by Aleinikoff (1983) by uranium-lead zircon method (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Paleoproterozoic rocks within or south of the Cheyenne Belt
- Xg Granite and quartz monzonite and related intrusive rocks 1600-1800 Ma—Includes Houston and Karlstrom's (1992) quartz monzonite gneiss (medium- to coarse-grained, pink to buff to gray gneiss consisting of equal amounts of quartz, potash feldspar, and plagioclase), alaskite, and pink gneissic granite, which forms a gradational contact with migmatitic biotite schist
- Mafic intrusive rocks ~1800 Ma-Dark-gray to dark-green and black, medium- to coarsegrained, generally sill-like and conformable intrusives having occasional gradational contacts with adjacent rock types; cross-cutting relationships occur locally; complete conversion to amphibolite dominates these rocks, which show moderate to strong northeast-trending gneissic foliation developed by cataclasis in association with the Cheyenne Belt (McCallum, 1968; Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Xv Metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks—Encompasses a wide variety of metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks dominated by mylonitic quartz-feldspar gneiss within the Cheyenne Belt (mapped by Houston and Karlstrom, 1992); mylonitic quartz-feldspar gneiss varies from fine- to medium-grained, sharply defined alternating layers of white to gray quartz-microcline and dark-gray biotite-plagioclase-epidote gneiss, to medium- to coarse-grained, strongly foliated to massive, biotite-quartz-feldspar gneiss, to pink to leucocratic, fine- to mediumgrained quartz-feldspar gneiss resembling a weakly metamorphosed alkali-feldspar granite; evidence of mylonitization is present throughout the mylonitic quartz-feldspar gneiss, but interpretation by Duebendorfer(1986) proposes that widespread recrystallization has destroyed much of the mylonitized fabric (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Xva Mylonitic biotite augen gneiss-Dark-gray to black, medium-grained, variably mylonitized, moderately to strongly foliated, hornblende-bearing biotite augen gneiss; locally migmatitic with 10-50 percent masses of pegmatite and coarse-grained granitic gneiss that are both concordant and discordant (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Xvb Migmatitic biotite schist and gneiss—Encompasses coarse-grained, migmatitic sillimanitegarnet-biotite schist and gneiss and weakly foliated biotite augen gneiss interpreted to be pelitic schist (Xvp) engulfed or intruded by granitic and granodioritic components that comprise 30-70 percent of the unit (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Xvs Mafic schist and gneiss—A succession of volcanogenic rocks dominated by moderately to strongly foliated, dark-gray to purple, fine- to medium-grained hornblende-biotite-plagioclase schist and gneiss interlayered with marble, calcite-garnet-diopside-epidote schist, and diopside-hornblende-chlorite-calcite gneiss; also contains conformable amphibolite and felsic gneiss (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Xvsa Amphibolitized meta-igneous rocks—Green to black, fine-to coarse-grained rocks dominated by metadiorite and composed chiefly of amphibole and plagioclase (McCallum and Orback,
- Xvsc Lime-silicate rocks—Metasedimentary, coarse-grained, weakly to moderately foliated, green to greenish-black, pyroxene-rich, diopside-hornblende-chlorite-calcite gneiss (McCallum and Orback, 1968)
- **Lime-silicate marble**—Gray to buff, medium- to coarse-grained, strongly layered impure marble containing layers that are calcite-and/or quartz-microcline-rich alternating with layers that are hornblende-plagioclase-quartz-rich; layers vary from less than 1 mm to more than 8 cm (0.04 to more than 3.15 in), and are occasionally enriched in epidote, diopside, and sphene (McCallum and Orback, 1968).
- Xvq Quartz-plagioclase gneiss—Fine- to medium-grained, pink to gray gneiss with plagioclase, quartz, epidote, and biotite; diverse in composition and is locally mylonitic (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- Xvp Pelitic schist—Weakly foliated, medium- to coarse-grained, dark-gray to black, biotite-quartzfeldspar schist and gneiss with lesser amounts of fine-grained quartz-biotite schist and gneiss (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)

Paleoproterozoic rocks north of the Cheyenne Belt

- Xn Mafic intrusive rocks ~1700-2300 Ma—Dark-gray to black to purple mafic dikes and sills metamorphosed to varying degrees, but with many preserved gabbroic and diabasic textures; smaller dikes and sills are predominantly basalt and diabase; large intrusions tend to be quartz gabbro and norite; Houston and Karlstrom (1992) interpreted many of these mafic intrusions to be emplaced in faults; age range cited is from Houston and others (1992)
- Paleoproterozoic Snowy Pass Supergroup
- Libby Creek Group upper part
- Xf French Slate—610 m (2000 ft) of gray to black slate and phyllite containing beds of hematitic quartzite; alternating layers rich in muscovite, chlorite, and opaque mineral, with layers rich in quartz define laminae that probably represent original bedding; probable marine origin; truncated at top by a major fault (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
- **Xt Towner Greenstone**—488 m (1600 ft) of massive to schistose, green to purple amphibolite of basaltic composition with local thin beds of quartzite and very fine grained quartzite or metachert; considered to be of marine origin (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)
 - Nash Fork Formation—1981 m (6500 ft) of tan siliceous metadolomite accompanied by thick intercalated lenses of black phyllite, and less common thin interlayered beds of quartzite, chert, flat-pebble conglomerate, and iron formation; stromatolitic bioherms characterize the metadolomite and suggest shallow-water marine deposition; the black phyllite is locally graphitic, and in some locations is pyrite- and graphite-rich (Houston and Karlstrom, 1992)