

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS and glass. An exception is the elongate cinder cone in sec. 22, T. 8 N., R. 7 E., which is composed of augite-hypersthene andesite and may be a rift vent related to Capital Mountain volcanism

> Basalt or andesite flows (Pleistocene)—Flows exposed in high west valley wall of Sheep and Boulder Creeks and on east side of Boulder Creek near north edge of quadrangle. Flows may be from two large cinder cones (Qbc) in sec. 15, T. 7 N., R. 6 E., and sec. 13, T. 8 N., R. 6 E. Rocks are porphyritic and contain phenocrysts of calcic plagioclase (trace to 10 percent, 1-3 mm) and olivine (trace to 5 percent, 0.2-2 mm) and sparse crystals of hypersthene in a pilotaxitic groundmass. Contact shown between underlying undifferentiated fine-grained andesite flows (Qfu) is mostly conjectural

Dikes (Pleistocene)—Chiefly dark-colored andesitic or basaltic dikes probably mostly related to the north Sanford eruptive center. Known olivine basalt dikes labeled "ob." Not all dikes shown on map have been visited on ground. The name north Sanford eruptive center, as used here and throughout the "Description of Map Units," informally refers to an area of dikes, small plutons, domes, and vent deposits on the north flank of Mount Sanford, a large volcanic structure whose summit is 4 km south of the quadrangle in the contiguous Gulkana A-1

Intrusive andesite (Pleistocene)—Light- to medium-gray, porphyritic rock containing phenocrysts of plagioclase (4 percent, 1-3 mm in clots), augite (2 percent, 0.4 mm), and hypersthene (1 percent, 0.4 mm) rimmed by clinopyroxene, in an intergranular to felty goundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene, and opaque minerals. Forms a small massive pluton related to north Sanford eruptive center

Olivine basalt and basaltic andesite "ribbon flows" (Pleistocene)-Very thin to medium (<1 m-3 m) flows exhibiting conspicuous reddish-brown scoriaceous tops and bottoms that were erupted from rift vents on the flank of the north Sanford eruptive center. Rock is medium- to dark-gray, sparsely porphyritic lava containing phenocrysts of calcic plagioclase (2-5 percent, 2-4 mm) and olivine (1-5 percent, 0.5-2 mm) in an intersertal to locally intergranular or pilotaxitic groundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene, opaque minerals, and glass. Some flows southeast of Drop Glacier contain as much as a few percent phenocrystic hypersthene. Flows west of Drop Glacier were erupted from a linear zone at least 1 km long in sec. 4, T. 6 N., R. 7 E. (probably extends southwest into sec. 9) that is marked by an olivine basalt dike, scattered patches of olivine basalt pumice and cinder, and copperstained fractures in the flows. Flows southeast of Drop Glacier apparently were erupted from a rift zone now occupied by a dike in secs. 25 and 26, T. 6 N., R. 7 E. Major-element chemistry for samples BCM-7 and BCM-8 (map localities 1 and 2) is shown in table 1. A potassium-argon date on flows from unit southeast of Drop Glacier in contiguous Nabesna B-6 quadrangle yielded age of 0.32±0.09 Ma

(M. A. Lanphere and G. B. Dalrymple, unpub. data, 1973). Aggregate

maximum thickness approximately 300 m Rhyodacite flow (Pleistocene)-Massive, possibly single flow, about 20 km long, 10 km wide, and as much as 360 m thick occurs chiefly in the contiguous Nabesna B-6 quadrangle. Crystalline rock is light to medium-light gray and porphyritic containing phenocrysts of sodic plagioclase (4-7 percent, 2-5 mm), green clinopyroxene (trace to 2 percent, as much as 2 mm), and zero to traces of potassium feldspar and hornblende in a groundmass of microcrystalline to cryptocrystalline felty aggregates dusted with opaque minerals. Dark-gray to brownishblack massive vitrophyre occurs at top and base of flow. Flow apparently erupted from a vent in secs. 15 and 16, T. 6 N., R. 7 E. along the west side of north Sanford eruptive center; vent is marked by a massive rhyodacite dome(?) (stippled) that contains lenses and bands of phenocryst-rich pyroxene andesite(?) and which is cut by a series of northeast-trending olivine basalt dikes. In the Nabesna B-6 quadrangle, chemical analyses and potassium-argon dates indicate a composition of 69-70 percent SiO₂ (D. H. Richter and J. G. Smith, unpub. data, 1981) and an age of 0.53±0.06 Ma (M. A. Lanphere and G. B. Dalrymple, unpub. data, 1973)

Porphyritic dacite flows Porphyritic olivine dacite or andesite (Pleistocene)—Medium-thick, locally glassy, light- to dark-gray, conspicuously porphyritic rocks containing phenocrysts of plagioclase (1-6 percent, 0.5-4 mm), olivine (1-3 percent, 0.2-3 mm), clinopyroxene (0-2 percent, 0.2-3 mm), and hypersthene (0-1 percent, 0.5-1 mm) in a trachytic to intersertal groundmass. Source vent marked by dike and irregular accumulations of cinder, bombs, and palagonitic ash and lapilli in NE1/4 sec. 11, T. 6 N.,

Porphyritic dacite (Pleistocene)-Extensive single flow, as much as 210 m thick, which underlies less silicic(?) flows of unit Opod.

andesite, is shown in table 1

Undifferentiated volcanic rocks-Chiefly exposed in inaccessible outcrops in cirques at heads of glaciers above about 7,000 ft in elevation. Apparently largely from north Sanford eruptive center Flat-lying flows (Pleistocene)—Thin to thick (1–15 m) flows probably equivalent in part to units Qfu, Qpd, Qpod, and possibly Qob

Vent deposits (?) (Pleistocene)—Gray, steeply dipping, layered Scoria (Pleistocene)-Reddish-brown scoria, cinder, and breccia

intruded by numerous dikes than compositionally equivalent flows from younger north Sanford

eruptive center (fig. 1)

Rhyolite dikes and laccoliths (Pleistocene)—Crystalline rock is very ght gray and sparsely porphyritic containing phenocrysts of sodic plagioclase (trace to 2 percent, as much as 4 mm), biotite (trace to 1 percent, as much as 4 mm), and locally traces of potassium feldspar, hornblende, clinopyroxene, and olivine (rounded) in a cryptocrystalline groundmass dusted with fine opaque minerals. Vitrophyre is medium gray to very dark gray and generally forms margins of dikes and tops and floors of laccoliths. Probably represent last activity of Capital Mountain volcano. Largest dike, averaging 4 m wide, extends discontinuously about 8 km from the laccolithic bodies on southeast flank of shield northwesterly across the central part of the volcano. Major-element chemistry for sample 73-ARh-105 (map locality 6) is shown in table 1. Potassium-argon date on plagioclase from same sample yielded age of 1.09±0.17 Ma (table 2)

Radial dike swarm (Pleistocene)-Chiefly dark-colored dikes of mafic to intermediate composition, generally less than 4 m thick and a few kilometers long, that radiate from a summit area containing many plugs, and intrude both shield and caldera lavas. Not all dikes are shown on geologic map.

ba, basaltic andesite and andesite dikes. Probably constitute more than 90 percent of dike swarm but are not readily distinguishable in field. Basaltic andesite varieties are medium to dark gray and variably porphyritic containing phenocrysts (5-40 percent, 1-7 mm) of andesine to slightly more calcic plagioclase, less fresh olivine, and minor to rare clinopyroxene, opaque minerals, and hypersthene in an intergranular to intersertal, locally hyalopilitic, groundmass of plagioclase, olivine, pyroxene, opaque minerals, and sparse glass. Plagioclase and plagioclase-olivine glomerocrysts as much as 1 cm in diameter are common, and in a few dikes the larger plagioclase phenocrysts appear to be more sodic than smaller plagioclase phenocrysts or groundmass plagioclase. Andesite dikes tend to be less porphyritic containing smaller phenocrysts (2-20 percent, 1-5 mm in diameter) consisting chiefly of andesine and slightly more sodic plagioclase, less hypersthene, and sparse clinopyroxene and opaque minerals in an intersertal to hyalopilitic groundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene, opaque minerals, and glass. Glomerocrystic clots of plagioclase+hypersthene±clinopyroxene are common. Major-element chemistry for sample BCM-1 (map locality 7), a basaltic andesite dike, is shown in table 1. a, coarsely porphyritic andesite dikes. Resemble porphyritic andesite plugs (unit Qcp) and consist of large, complexly zoned plagioclase phenocrysts (30-40 percent, as much as 1 cm) and smaller (1-5 mm) clinopyroxene and hypersthene, all variably intergrown, in an intersertal

locality 8) is shown in table 1. Potassium-argon whole-rock date on same sample yielded age of 1.03±0.06 Ma (table 2). line to felty groundmass of feldspar and minor opaque minerals

Fine-grained to porphyritic andesite and basaltic andesite flows, undifferentiated (Pleistocene)-Unit probably includes some of the older extrusive rocks from the north Sanford eruptive center but may also include flows from other sources. Chiefly medium-light-gray to dark-gray and brownish-gray, medium to thick flows, generally platy and locally vitrophyric containing occasional interlayered tephra lenses (t). Dominant are fine-grained equigranular to microporphyritic and locally sparsely porphyritic flows containing microphenocrysts and phenocrysts of plagioclase (trace to 15 percent) in a microtrachytic to pilotaxitic groundmass. Microphenocrysts of clinopyroxene, hypersthene, olivine, and opaque minerals may be sparingly (less than 2 percent) present and in widely varying proportions. Less common are coarsely porphyritic flows containing phenocrysts of plagioclase (10-30 percent, 3-5 mm), hypersthene (2-6 percent, 0.5-3 mm), and traces of clinopyroxene and olivine in an intergranular to intersertal groundmass consisting generally of fine (0.05-0.1 mm) plagioclase, pyroxene, opaque minerals, and locally glass. Porphyritic flows are exposed underlying fine-grained flows in sec. 30, T. 7 N., R. 7 E., and overlying fine-grained flows in secs. 14, 15, 16, T. 6 N., R. 7 E. Major-element chemistry for sample BCM-12 (map locality 5), a fine-grained basaltic

Capital Mountain volcano—Andesitic shield volcano of Pleistocene age that may have covered an area as much as 200 km² and has a roughly circular summit caldera 4 km in diameter. The shield consists chiefly of lava flows that dip 3°-25° away from the summit caldera. The caldera, whose walls dip 55°-80° inward, is filled with massive, flat-lying flows. Talus, flow breccias, and pillow-lavas occur locally between the caldera wall and caldera-fill flows. A prominent plug, 100 m high, marks the general center of an area of post-caldera-fill activity and is the locus of a spectacular radial dike swarm. Shield and caldera lavas are chiefly hypersthene andesites, but shield lavas tend to be more diverse and range in composition from basalt to dacite (table 1, fig. 1). The basalt and andesite of Capital Mountain volcano appear to be lower in K2O

groundmass of plagioclase laths (1-2 mm), two pyroxenes, opaque minerals, and glass. Major-element chemistry for sample BCM-4 (map

d, dacite dikes. Light- to medium-gray, sparsely porphyritic containing phenocrysts of sodic plagioclase (3-4 percent, 3-5 mm), hornblende with black oxide rims (trace to 2 percent, 1 to 3 mm), minor opaque minerals, and locally traces of hypersthene and biotite in a cryptocrystal-Andesite plugs (Pleistocene)—Concentrated chiefly in an area 1.5 km in diameter near the center of the caldera. Two types are recognized: principal type, which forms a prominent 100 m high spire, is a gray, medium-grained (1-2 mm), subhedral, granular rock containing about 80 percent plagioclase, 15 percent hypersthene, a few percent opaque minerals, and locally some cryptocrystalline interstitial material. The other type (stippled) occurs in smaller plugs and is dark gray to dark

Table 2.—K-Ar determinations and analytical data on volcanic rocks from the Gulkana B–1 quadrangle, Alaska Potassium analyses by P. R. Klock, S. T. Neil, and D. V. Vivit. Argon analyses by J. E. Conrad, L.B.G. Pickthorn, J. C. Von Essen, and J. G. Smith. Ages calculated using the following constants: $\lambda_c = 0.581 \times 10^{-10} \text{yr}^{-1}$, $\lambda_g = 4.962 \times 10^{-10} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, and ${}^{40} \text{K/K} = 1.167 \times 10^{-1} \text{ atom percent}$]

62°24.1′ 144°01.1′ Plag 62°25.8′ 144°07.4′ Wr, nit

62°27.3′ 144°08.0′

Wr=whole rock, nit=nitric acid treated, Plag=plagioclase.

BCM-4

Crystalline rock is medium to dark gray and coarsely porphyritic containing phenocrysts of andesine (2-5 percent, 1-5 mm), clinopyroxene (1-2 percent, 0.5-2 mm) locally having reaction rims, and traces of hypersthene and opaque minerals in a trachytic groundmass of aligned plagioclase microlites in a glassy to cryptocrystalline matrix. Base of flow characterized by dark-gray to black vitrophyre, as much as 60 m thick, that locally exhibits exceptionally well developed columnar joints. Upper, more crystal-rich part of flow is generally platy and locally ramped. Source probably from vents higher on flank of north Sanford eruptive center than vent for unit Qpod. Major-element chemistry for samples BCM-10 and BCM-11 (map localities 3 and 4) is shown in

> 0.5-5 mm), hypersthene (2-10 percent, 0.2-1.5 mm), and an occasional crystal of clinopyroxene and rounded olivine in a matrix of cryptocrystalline material, locally glassy, containing scattered opaque minerals. Crystal-rich varieties are almost equigranular and contain subophitic hypersthene and very minor interstitial glass. Stippling indicates area of intense brecciation and hydrothermal alteration containing numerous dikes, plugs, and irregular small intrusive bodies. Major-element chemistry for sample BCM-3 (map locality 9) is shown in table 1. Maximum thickness greater than 450 m Shield lavas and pyroclastic deposits (Pleistocene) Thin to thick (2–10 m) flows—Contains sparse thin (less than 2 m) interbeds of palagonitic lapilli tuff and pyroclastic breccia. Flows are chiefly gray to dark-gray, porphyritic hypersthene andesite but include hypersthene-augite andesite and basaltic andesite, hyperstheneolivine andesite and basaltic andesite, and olivine basaltic andesite and basalt. Typical hypersthene andesite contains phenocrysts of plagioclase (5–15 percent, 0.5–1 mm) and hypersthene (1–5 percent, 0.1–1 mm) in an intersertal to pilotaxitic groundmass of plagioclase microlites,

pyroxene, and opaque minerals

GEOLOGIC QUADRANGLE MAP

GULKANA B-1 QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

brownish gray, diabasic in texture, and contains phenocrysts of large,

complexly zoned andesine (25-30 percent, as much as 2 cm),

clinopyroxene (5 percent, 1 mm), and opaque minerals (2-4 percent, up to 1 mm) in an intergranular groundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene,

opaque minerals, and locally glass. Andesine phenocrysts are typically

intergrown with each other and with the smaller clinopyroxene and

opaque-mineral phenocrysts. A few plugs have been mapped outside main vent area. The largest, in sec. 27, T. 8 N., R. 7 E., is massive, light-

gray andesite composed of a felty aggregate of plagioclase (0.2 mm),

Caldera lavas (Pleistocene)—Flat-lying flows 10–90 m thick generally have scoriaceous tops but no observable pyroclastic or epiclastic interbeds. Flows are almost entirely gray, highly porphyritic hypersthene

andesite containing phenocrysts of plagioclase (5-50 percent,

and BCM-6 (map localities 11, 12, and 13, respectively) is shown in table 1. Potassium-argon whole-rock dates on samples BCM-5 and BCM-6 (localities 12 and 13) yielded ages of 1.04±0.11 Ma and 1.02±0.08 Ma, respectively (table 2) Massive dacite flow or flows-As much as 100 m thick, which probably erupted late in the shield-building sequence. Rock is medium gray, porphyritic, and locally glassy containing phenocrysts of plagioclase (3-10 percent, 1-2 mm), augite (1 percent, 0.5 mm), hypersthene (1-2 percent, 0.1-0.5 mm), and opaque minerals (1 percent) in a microtrachytic to cryptocrystalline groundmass. Major-element chem-

pyroxene, opaque minerals, and cryptocrystalline material. Flows of

this unit are less porphyritic and tend to be more mafic than caldera

flows (Qcc). Major-element chemistry for samples BCM-2, BCM-5,

istry for sample BCM-9 (map locality 10) is shown in table 1 Larger deposits of pyroclastic breccia—Mapped separately from unit Qcs. Breccia deposits are chiefly explosive vent deposits and consist of crudely layered beds of angular blocks (as much as 1 m in diameter) of andesite in a brownish-gray, fine-grained tuffaceous matrix interlayered with sparse, short, rubbly flows. Unit may include some mudflow deposits Basaltic scoria and tuff (Pleistocene and Pliocene)—Reddish-brown basaltic scoria containing abundant ribbon and breadcrust bombs

overlain by about 5 m of indurated, yellowish-brown, palagonitic, basaltic lapilli tuff. Exposed in small area in secs. 16 and 21, T. 7 N., R. 7 E. where unit is unconformably overlain by shield lavas of Capital Mountain volcano (unit Qcs) Old andesite flows (Pleistocene and Pliocene)—Chiefly medium- to dark-gray, fine-grained to sparsely porphyritic augite andesite containing 1-2 percent small (<1 mm) phenocrysts of plagioclase and augite in a

pilotaxitic groundmass. Exposed in northeast corner of quadrangle; apparently older than deposits of Capital Mountain volcano

Caldera wall, showing dip-Dotted where concealed. Hachures on

caldera collapse side Area of alteration and brecciation—Intense hydrothermal alteration and extreme brecciation within Capital Mountain caldera Glacial boundaries—Generalized upper limits of glacial deposits related

to the following lateral moraines - CL - Cobb Lakes-Youngest and lowest

— BC — Boulder Creek

— SC — Sanford-Copper—Oldest and highest Attitude of bedding and flow layering

Horizontal

Attitude of flow banding in rhyolite

Vertical

Sample locality—Locality numbers correspond to numbers in tables 1 Petrographic sample

Petrographic sample that was also chemically analyzed

Petrographic sample that was also chemically analyzed and dated by potassium-argon methods

Copper-stained fracture

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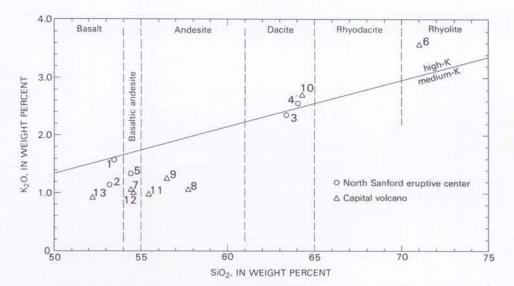


Figure 1.-K2O-SiO2 variation diagram of Wrangell Lava samples from the Gulkana B-1 quadrangle, Alaska, showing arbitrary rock nomenclature used in this report and high-K-medium-K discriminant line after Peccerillo and Taylor (1976) and Ewart (1979). Numbers refer to samples in table 1.

GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE GULKANA B-1 QUADRANGLE, SOUTH-CENTRAL ALASKA

53.2

Alluvial deposits (Holocene)

gravel, and boulders

and Yehle, 1961)

local gravel and sand

Valley-glacier deposit

local gravel

Wrangell Lava

1 and 2, T. 6 N., R. 7 E.

Gulkana A-1 quadrangle

and gravel, local cobbles and boulders

Colluvial deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene)

streams and some minor streams. Includes outwash in channels and

Alluvium in fans—Includes large broad fans in low-lying areas and some

fans and cones on steep mountain slopes mainly along major streams.

Also includes some fans, containing mostly fine-grained material,

along minor streams on gentle slopes of Mount Sanford. Chiefly sand,

Colluvium, undifferentiated—Chiefly talus but includes deposits of

small landslides, rock glaciers, and other mass-wastage processes,

generally includes alluvium in numerous small fans and cones. May

also include remnants of valley-glacier moraines. Occurs mainly on

steep valley walls in bedrock. Chiefly unsorted silt, sand, gravel, and

Landslide deposits—Includes large slump and block-glide deposits and

some large debris avalanches in both bedrock and glacial deposits

active rock glaciers, which have well-defined lobate and tongue-

shaped forms, small coalescing rock glaciers, which form linear ridges

conical landforms that may have originated by reworking of glacial

deposits through mineral-spring activity; only more northerly of

landforms contains a summit lake. Deposits may be similar to those in

larger and better formed cones several kilometers southwest (Nichols

Drift of Alaskan glaciation (Holocene)-Includes end and lateral

moraines of the younger (Tunnel) phase of Alaskan glaciation,

deposited after recession of existing glaciers, and end moraines of

older (Tustamena?) phase of Alaskan glaciation. Diamicton and rubble,

moraines and local outwash of younger and older phases of Drop

Creek moraines (Schmoll, 1984). Locally modified by mass slumping

and other colluvial and alluvial processes. Diamicton and boulders,

Lakes, Boulder Creek, and Sanford-Copper lateral moraines (Schmoll,

1984), the boundaries of which are shown by line symbol. Also

includes ground-moraine, esker, kame, channel, valley-fill, and

outwash deposits related to these moraines as well as older ground

moraine. Occurs mainly on broad slopes of Mount Sanford and Capital

Mountain. Deposits locally extensively modified by colluvial processes,

including downslope movement, debris flow, solifluction, and creep,

and by stream action. Chiefly diamicton and rubble, local sand and

shore areas of glacial Lake Atna. Chiefly interbedded clay, silt, and fine

Olivine andesite flow (Pleistocene)—Medium-gray, sparsely porphyritic

lava containing small (0.5 mm) phenocrysts of olivine in a trachytic

groundmass of plagioclase, hypersthene, and opaque minerals. Thick (100 m) single flow, exhibiting intricately contorted columnar joints,

that may have flowed down valley beneath ice. Exposed only in secs.

Young Sanford flows (Pleistocene)—Exposed only high in the cirque

wall at the head of Drop Glacier. Flows appear to drape over older flat-

lying flows (unit Quf) and are probably young lavas from the main cone

Olivine basalt cinder cones (Pleistocene)—Small cinder cones, some

of Mount Sanford volcano, whose summit is about 6 km south in

with small-volume vesicular and scoriaceous flows, appear to be

restricted to zone encircling Capital Mountain volcano. Cones consist

of reddish-brown cinder, bombs, and irregular masses of spatter; a few

still exhibit their original topographic form. Nonoxidized rocks are

dark-gray, porphyritic and microporphyritic lava containing phenocrysts

of calcic plagioclase (1-20 percent, 0.4-1.5 mm), olivine (1-10

percent, 0.2-1 mm), and opaque minerals (trace to 1 percent) in a

pilotaxitic to intersertal groundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene, olivine(?),

Table 1.—Chemical analyses of samples of Wrangell Lava from the Gulkana B-1 Quadrangle, Alaska

BCM-7 BCM-8 BCM-10 BCM-11 BCM-12 73-ARh-105 BCM-1 BCM-4 BCM-3 BCM-9 BCM-2 BCM-5 BCM-6

54.4 57.8 56.5 64.2 55.5 54.7 52.2

sand, locally pebbly. Exposed only in extreme northwest corner of

Glaciolacustrine deposits (Pleistocene)—Deposits on floor and sloping

quadrangle, below elevation of 2,500 ft

Drift of Wisconsin glaciation (Pleistocene)—End, lateral, and ground

along bases of steep slopes, and inactive rock glaciers, which have

Rock-glacier deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene)—Includes deposits in

smooth forms. Chiefly angular blocks and diamicton

aprons related to older phase of the Alaskan glaciation. Chiefly sand