CHAPTER B: NORTHEAST TANACROSS GEOLOGIC MAP AND MAP UNITS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Alicja Wypych[1], Trent D. Hubbard[1], Travis J. Naibert[1], Jennifer E. Athey[1], Rainer J. Newberry[2], Karri R. Sicard[1], Evan Twelker[1], Melanie B. Werdon[1], Amanda L. Willingham[1], W. Chris Wyatt[1], and Alec C. Lockett[3]

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Quaternary Unconsolidated Deposits

This map includes unconsolidated surficial deposits in the Tanacross D-1 Quadrangle, the eastern one-third of the Tanacross D-2 Quadrangle, the northern half of the Tanacross B-2 Quadrangle and the northeastern one-third of the Tanacross B-2 Quadrangle (sheet 1). To create this map we incorporated (1) geologic information from previous geologic mapping and published literature, (2) new interpretations using remotely sensed imagery, and (3) information gathered from limited field investigations. Previous geologic mapping of the unconsolidated deposits in the Tanacross Quadrangle includes work by Foster (1970) at a scale of 1:250,000, which provided a framework for our mapping and was instrumental in understanding the regional distribution and character of Quaternary deposits. Weber (1986) described the glacial history of the Yukon Tanana Upland and gave detailed descriptions of the extent and character of these deposits. Her work along with glacial limits mapped by Péwé and others (1967) helped us identify and map glacial deposits in the map area. Work by Pinney (2001) and Stevens and Burns (2010) in the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles enabled us to understand the distribution and character of deposits in adjoining areas to the north and enhanced our understanding of the morphology and distribution of alluvial terraces, many of which are gold bearing and extend southward into this map area. Mapping at a scale of 1:50,000 in the adjoining Borden Creek and Crag Mountain quadrangles by Jackson (2005a, 2005b) allowed comparisons with the distribution and character of deposits in Canada.

Remotely Sensed Imagery

Surficial geology was mapped by interpreting 2.5-m-resolution SPOT 5 color-infrared and natural color red-green-blue (RGB) imagery (©2013, Distribution SpotImage S.A., SICORP, USA, all rights reserved) collected in 2009 and 2010 and stereoscopic pairs of approximately 1:65,000-scale, false-color, infrared aerial photographs taken in 1978 and 1981. SPOT 5 imagery was interpreted in ArcGIS Pro by overlaying it on hillshade and slopeshade images derived from Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (IFSAR) bare-earth digital-elevation models (DEMs) created using data collected in 2010. By using the pseudo-3-D functionality of ArcGIS Pro and adjusting the transparency of the SPOT 5 imagery and the transparency and color of hillshade and slopeshade images, we were able to visualize subtle differences in features and identify geologic landforms. We used aerial photographs to identify geologic features and check our interpretations. Geospatial polygon features that represent geologic units were drawn using onscreen digitizing techniques in ArcGIS Pro.

Field Work

We conducted helicopter-supported surficial geology field work June 20–23, 2017, and July 3–4, 2018. During the field campaign we visited exposures and dug soil pits to examine material and gather information for unit descriptions and to check geologic mapping. We also measured the thickness of the active layer at several locations.

[1]Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, 3354 College Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3707.
[2]Department of Geosciences, University of Alaska, P.O. Box 755780, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5780
[3]Colorado College, Department of Geology, 14 East Cachel la Poudre St., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Man-made deposits

Qh

PLACER-MINE TAILINGS AND ARTIFICIAL FILLS (QUATERNARY)—Pebble-cobble gravel with trace to some sand and silt forming tailings piles. Well to poorly sorted. Surface smooth to irregular.

Alluvial deposits

Qa

ALLUVIUM OF MODERN STREAM CHANNELS (QUATERNARY)—Stratified, well-sorted to locally poorly sorted, rounded to subangular, polymictic pebble-cobble gravel, sand, and silt. Includes sediments deposited in active stream channels, floodplains, and associated low terraces that cannot be differentiated at the scale of mapping. Frequency and timing of deposition is uncertain. In areas where inundation is infrequent, deposits may be locally overlain by ice-rich organic silt. Vegetation includes alders, willows, and scattered spruce that are more dense along (but not in) active stream channels where stream inundation is more frequent and the active layer is thicker.

Qaf

ALLUVIAL-FAN DEPOSITS (QUATERNARY)—Fan-shaped deposits of stratified, well- to poorly sorted gravel, sand, and silt with scattered pebbles and cobbles. Debris-flow deposits are common in upper (proximal) zones of fans. Clast size decreases and degree of sorting increases distally from the head of the fan. Deposits are found along the margins of larger valleys at the mouths of tributary streams and gullies, where they are often associated with complex colluvial and alluvial valley-fill deposits (Qca), and older terrace alluvium (Qat1 and Qat2).

Qfp

FLOODPLAIN ALLUVIUM (QUATERNARY)—Elongate deposits of well-sorted to locally poorly sorted, rounded to subangular, polymictic, pebble-cobble gravel, sand, and silt in floodplains and associated low terraces. Lower surfaces may be flooded during times of maximum stream discharge.

Qat3

YOUNG TERRACE ALLUVIUM (QUATERNARY)—Elongate deposits of well-sorted to locally poorly sorted, rounded to subangular, polymictic pebble-cobble gravel and sand with trace to some silt overlain by ice-rich organic silt and overbank deposits. Deposits form low terraces approximately 10–15 m above modern streams.

Qat2

OLD TERRACE ALLUVIUM (QUATERNARY)—Elongate deposits of well-sorted to locally poorly sorted, rounded to subangular, polymictic pebble-cobble gravel, sand, and silt capped by variable thicknesses of ice-rich primary and reworked eolian silt. Vegetation generally consists of tussock tundra with scattered to sparse and often stunted black spruce.

Most deposits are present as benched surfaces along valley margins that are 30–40 m above modern stream channels. Surfaces are moderate to gently sloping parallel to stream channels and have typically been extensively modified by slope processes, such as gelifluction and solifluction. Based on their mapping in the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles directly north of the map area, Stevens and Burns (2010) and Pinney (2001) suggested these terrace deposits are not related to modern drainage and may be Pleistocene in age as current streams do not appear to be capable of depositing such material. Based on our observations including the degree of surface modification from slope processes, we agree with this assertion although we were unable to date these surfaces.

Qat1

OLDEST TERRACE ALLUVIUM (QUATERNARY)—Elongate deposits of well-sorted to locally poorly sorted, rounded to subangular, polymictic, pebble-cobble gravel, sand, and silt.

Vegetation generally consists of tussock tundra with scattered to sparse and often stunted black spruce that are often tilted as a result of complex, frost-action processes.

Deposits occur on benched surfaces along valley margins that are up to approximately 125 m above the modern stream channels. Surfaces are moderately sloping parallel to stream channels and have been extensively modified by slope processes that include gelifluction and solifluction. Primary morphology has generally been destroyed and deposits are often discontinuous. Oldest terrace surfaces are often adjoined by colluvium (Qc) and mixed colluvial and alluvial valley fill deposits (Qca) that are present on steeper slopes and valley sidewalls. Open-system pingos are often found at these unit boundaries.

The oldest terrace surfaces are most common along valley side slopes in larger stream valleys within the map area. The proximity of the oldest terrace deposits to older cirques with subdued morphology in high-elevation source areas indicates that these deposits are of glaciofluvial origin.

Colluvial deposits

Qc

UNDIFFERENTIATED COLLUVIUM (QUATERNARY)—Blankets, aprons, cones, and fans of heterogeneous, angular to subangular rock fragments, gravel, sand, and silt formed by residual weathering and complex, gravity-driven mass movements involving rolling, sliding, flowing, solifluction (or gelifluction where frozen), and frost action on weathered bedrock and unconsolidated deposits. Deposits are generally unsorted to poorly sorted. Thickness is highly variable, often reflecting the configuration of bedrock where thin and forming thick deposits at the base of slopes.

Unit includes Quaternary deposits whose origins are uncertain or whose primary depositional morphology was modified or destroyed by weathering and slope processes. May be complexly mixed with terrace deposits (Qat1, Qat2, and Qat3), glacial drift (Qgd), and complex colluvial and alluvial deposits (Qca).

Qcf

FINE-GRAINED COLLUVIUM AND SILT (QUATERNARY)—Deposits of fine-grained colluvium and silt. Silt is largely retransported from original hillside sites to lower slopes by a variety of complex slope processes. Deposits are commonly perennially frozen and ice rich.

Qcl

COLLUVIAL LANDSLIDE DEPOSITS (QUATERNARY)—Elongate to lobate mixtures of bedrock blocks, angular to subangular rock fragments, and polymictic gravel, sand, and silt deposited on steep slopes by sliding of failed bedrock and unconsolidated surface deposits. Surfaces modified by creep and flow.

Qcr

RUBBLE DEPOSITS (QUATERNARY)—Heterogeneous mixtures of frost-rived, angular, blocky rock fragments with trace to some gravel, sand, and silt deposited by free fall, tumbling, rolling, and sliding. Most commonly found on steep bedrock slopes and downslope of bedrock outcrops, and undifferentiated colluvium (Qc).

Complex deposits

Qca

COLLUVIAL AND ALLUVIAL VALLEY-FILL (QUATERNARY)—Massive to poorly stratified sand and silt mixed with subangular to rounded pebble-cobble gravel and locally derived bedrock clasts deposited in upper stream courses and on lower slopes along the margins of stream valleys by complex mass-movement processes (including rolling, sliding, flowing, gelifluction, and frost action). Locally may include debris flow deposits. Deposits are locally overlain by variable thickness of ice-rich organic silt that, when exposed, undergoes active thermokarst degradation. Surface commonly has numerous trees that are leaning as a result of frost action. Complexly mixed with colluvium (Qc), older alluvial deposits (Qat1, Qat2), and glacial drift (Qgd).

These types of deposits are present where (1) streams are not able to remove material faster than it is transported by downslope by colluvial processes, or (2) where material originally deposited by stream processes has been reworked by complex slope processes destroying the original morphology.

Glacial deposits

Qgd

UNDIFFERENTIATED GLACIAL DRIFT (QUATERNARY)—Heterogeneous mixtures of poorly to moderately sorted, subangular to rounded boulders, gravel, sand, and silt deposited by ancient alpine glaciers and then extensively modified by slope processes. Preserved as irregular patches of thin drift within colluvial deposits (Qc). Structure of underlying bedrock typically visible.

Associated valley headwalls in the highest elevations exhibit subdued, cirque-like morphology. Valley cross-profiles are highly modified by the accumulation of colluvium on valley walls and by stream erosion. Streams are markedly underfit for the valleys they occupy.

Based on characteristics such as subdued morphology, elevation of source areas, and apparent extreme age, the mapped deposits could correlate with early Pleistocene glacial deposits of the Charley River glaciation described by Weber (1986) in the Yukon Tanana Upland, Weber and Wilson (2012) in the Eagle Quadrangle, and cirques of the pre-Reid glaciation mapped by Jackson (2005a, 2005b) in Canada just east of the map area.

BEDROCK GEOLOGIC UNITS

Sedimentary rocks

Kc

CONGLOMERATE AND SANDSTONE (LATE CRETACEOUS)—Lithified conglomerate, sandstone, claystone, and poorly lithified gravel, sand, silt, and clay. Beds are rarely graded. Sandstones are typically medium grained. Conglomerates are clast-supported to matrix-supported, are poorly- to well-sorted, and include pebbles, cobbles, and rare boulders up to 50 cm in diameter. Subangular to rounded clasts of semischist, augen gneiss, volcanic rocks, vein quartz, chert, paragneiss, greenschist, and graphitic quartzite are hosted in either a pale-green clay-rich matrix or quartz-rich matrix. The field relationship between this conglomerate and the volcanic rocks (unit Kv) in the vicinity of VABM Lode suggests the conglomerate was deposited before the volcanic rocks, requiring this unit to be Late Cretaceous or older. The unit is up to 150 m thick. No direct contact was observed. Two samples, a sandstone and a conglomerate, yielded youngest detrital zircon age populations of 106.1 ± 0.9 Ma and 105.5 ± 5.6 Ma, respectively, indicating a Cretaceous depositional age (on 4 grains; Wypych and others, 2020). Foster and Igarashi (1990) found pollen assemblages indicating that both Late Cretaceous and Miocene or younger sedimentary rocks comprise a belt extending westward from the westernmost exposure of unit Kc in the map area. Similar conglomerate in the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles (Szumigala and others, 2002; Werdon and others, 2001), elsewhere in the northern Tanacross Quadrangle, and to the east in Canada (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019) were likely deposited in Late Cretaceous, Miocene or later based on pollen ages (Foster and Igarashi, 1990).

Igneous rocks

Qb

PRINDLE VOLCANO BASANITE (QUATERNARY)—Cinder cone deposits, flows, and dikes of basanite, trachyandesite, and alkali-basalt. The cinder cone at Prindle Volcano in the Tanacross

C-2 Quadrangle consists of interlayered spatter and flow deposits. A composite lava flow extends 8 miles (12.9 km) to the southeast from the vent site. Spatially limited flows and dikes of the same composition are locally present throughout the map area. Dark-gray, brown-weathering, vesicular flows contain abundant xenoliths of peridotite, tonalite, and metamorphic rocks. Mafic lavas are composed of aphanitic, weathered volcanic glass with about 7 percent phenocrysts, which include subhedral to anhedral olivine, and 3 percent subhedral to euhedral pigeonite. Olivine phenocrysts form two distinct populations: one larger fraction (up to 2 mm in diameter), which is often resorbed on the rims, and a smaller (about 0.3 mm in diameter) anhedral fraction. Pigeonite crystals are up to 0.2 mm in diameter, with rare augite lamellae. Unit is magnetic, with magnetic susceptibility ranging from 1.7 to 18.4 x 10^{-3} Système International (SI). Cinder cone basanite yielded whole rock $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ plateau age of 200,000 ± 60,000 years and an age of 176,000 ± 16,000 years using the (U-Th)/He method on zircon (Andronikov and Mukasa, 2010; Blondes and others, 2007).

Kv

VOLCANIC FLOWS, DIKES, AND PLUGS (LATE CRETACEOUS)—Basaltic andesite and andesite with rare dacite to rhyolite flows; gray, pale green, to dark maroon or gray, weathers orange, tan, or brown. Flows are porphyritic, with aphanitic groundmass, and are autobrecciated at flow edges. Phenocryst size ranges from 0.01 to 7 mm. Mineralogy includes 10– 30 percent plagioclase laths, 5 percent hornblende, 1 percent quartz, less than 1 percent biotite, some disseminated magnetite, and rare pyrite. Large hornblende phenocrysts (up to 8 mm in length) and partially clay-altered plagioclase laths (up to 2 cm in length) occur in a gray groundmass. Plagioclase phenocrysts are subhedral, with polysynthetic twinning, some sericitization, and rounded and altered rims. Euhedral hornblende phenocrysts are smaller, 1 mm long on average, but up to 8 mm, with inclusions of opaque minerals and quartz(?). Quartz phenocrysts are rare, subhedral, 2 mm long, and rounded and resorbed on the edges. Rare, medium-grained, subhedral biotite phenocrysts are elongate and often have resorbed edges. The groundmass is recrystallized to a mixture of fine-grained feldspar ± quartz and opaque minerals, with spheroidal chlorite. Weathering is fracture controlled. The volcanic flows are generally thin; however, in the central Tanacross D-1 Quadrangle they reach a thickness of around 150 m. Base on the presence of andesite in drill hole BL11-004 and magnetic properties of the rock underlying the East Fork of the Dennison River, we infer about 38 km^2 of the volcanic flow to be present there. Magnetic susceptibility varies with alteration. In altered rocks it is as low as 0.1 x 10^{-3} SI, and in unaltered outcrops the magnetic susceptibility reaches 55 x 10^{-3} SI and averages 18–20 x 10^{-3} SI. A dacite whole rock analysis yielded an $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ plateau age of 65.5 ± 0.4 Ma (Naibert and others, 2018) and two samples of andesites yielded U-Pb zircon crystallization ages of 67.7 ± 0.9 Ma and 71.5 ± 3.0 Ma (Todd and others, 2019).

Kpd

PIKA DIORITE (LATE CRETACEOUS)—Dikes, plugs, and intrusions of diorite to granodiorite in general vicinity of the Pika and Fishhook prospects. Gray, tan, green-gray, or light brown, and weathers orange-tan. Texture is massive, porphyritic, seriate, or equigranular. Porphyritic phases consist of 5–30 percent plagioclase, 1–15 percent hornblende, and 2–10 percent biotite phenocrysts in a gray aphanitic groundmass. Hornblende phenocrysts are up to 8 mm long, and partially clay-altered plagioclase laths are up to 2 cm in length. Rare euhedral biotite is medium grained. Equigranular to seriate phases consist of up to 85 percent plagioclase crystals between 0.5 and 5 mm in length, up to 20 percent quartz, up to 15 percent pyroxene, 5–14 percent biotite, about 2 percent hornblende, up to 5 percent magnetite, and rare epidote. Some propylitic alteration and chloritization is present. This unit is very magnetic— the average magnetic susceptibility is 20 x 10^{-3} SI, but it ranges between 2 and 45 x 10^{-3} SI. Biotite from diorite yielded $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ plateau age of 66.3 ± 0.7 Ma (diorite; Naibert and others, 2018) and a zircon U-Pb age of 70.3 ± 0.5 (diorite porphyry; Todd and others, 2019).

Ktgd

TAURUS GRANODIORITE (LATE CRETACEOUS)—Dikes and intrusions of granodiorite with lesser quartz monzonite and porphyries of andesitic to dacitic composition located in the Taurus prospect area. Gray, pinkish gray, pink-green, or pale green; weathers orange or pale brown. Outcrops are massive and jointed. Porphyritic phases have a grain size between 0.01 and 10 mm. Contains up to 75 percent feldspar, 15 percent hornblende phenocrysts, and up to 7 percent clinopyroxene in fine-grained or aphanitic matrix. Minor biotite and quartz are sometimes present but generally do not exceed 1 percent. Feldspar and quartz look fresh and are between 2 and 5 mm. Hornblende is chloritized, often has biotite cores, and ranges from 3 to 7 mm in length. Sulfides can be disseminated through the rock. In the porphyry end-member, groundmass forms up to 94 percent of the rock. This porphyry is locally altered to a sericite-tourmaline assemblage carrying elevated silver values (Wypych and others, 2017, 2018). Unaltered samples have high magnetic susceptibility values ranging from 0 to 52 x 10^{-3} SI, averaging 8 x 10^{-3} SI. The granodiorite has been dated using U-Pb to be 71.0 ± 1.1 Ma (Wypych and others, 2020).

Kqp

QUARTZ-FELDSPAR PORPHYRY (LATE CRETACEOUS)—Dikes and small intrusive bodies of porphyry with trachyandesite to monzodiorite composition, located in the Taurus and Bluff prospects. Tan, pale gray to pale green, pale pink, jointed, porphyritic to equigranular, with grain sizes between 0.01 and 8 mm. The porphyritic rocks are more common, and an aphanitic matrix. Equigranular phases have up to 30 percent quartz, 20 percent biotite, up to 3 percent hornblende, and 75 percent feldspar. Both phases are highly altered with potassic as well as quartz-sericite-pyrite alteration and are cut by molybdenite-pyrite veins. Altered rocks have elevated gold and molybdenum (Wypych and others, 2017; Wypych and others, 2018) and low magnetic susceptibility averaging about 1 x 10^{-3} SI. The porphyry phase has a U-Pb age of 70.6 ± 0.9 Ma (Todd and others, 2019).

Kfg

FRED GRANITE (CRETACEOUS?)—Medium-grained, biotite-bearing granite to quartz-syenite occurring as small stocks in the vicinity of VABM Fred. Pink to gray, jointed, porphyritic to equigranular, and hypidiomorphic; grain size ranges from 1 to 6 mm. Mineralogy includes up to 45 percent euhedral potassium feldspar, up to 25 percent subhedral quartz, 20–25 percent plagioclase, and up to 15 percent biotite. Potassium feldspar phenocrysts are up to 6 mm in length and are hosted in a finer-grained matrix of plagioclase, quartz, and biotite. In the outcrop scale, the granite locally contains inclusions of metamorphic material and has similar trace-element lithogeochemistry as the intrusive rocks in the map area (unit Kg); therefore, it is most likely of mid-Cretaceous age. The magnetic susceptibility is very low, ranging from 0.05 to 0.21 x 10^{-3} SI.

Kg

GRANITE (CRETACEOUS)—Garnet-bearing granite and biotite-bearing granite stocks and intrusions, with aplite and pegmatite dikes of similar composition. Granite is tan, cream, or light gray to pale pink, seriate to equigranular, hypidiomorphic, with grain size between 0.1 and 35 mm. Typically the granite has up to up to 40 percent potassium feldspar, 30 percent plagioclase, 30 percent quartz, 3 percent white mica, 3 percent biotite, and locally 1 percent garnet. Locally altered to clay and chlorite, but is generally fresh with rare veins of pyrite. Weak foliation is locally observed, generally near intrusion edges.

Pegmatite dikes are similar in composition to the granite, with up to 50 mm long euhedral orthoclase and microcline crystals in a matrix of about 10 mm diameter quartz and plagioclase. Thin books of biotite between 50 and 70 mm long are found irregularly throughout the rock. Biotite is slightly chloritized on margins, and forms up to 5 percent of the rock.

Aplite dikes are light gray and equigranular, with grain sizes between 0.5 and 2 mm. Mineralogy is similar to larger granitic intrusions, and includes rare metamorphic xenoliths. Locally altered with up to 1 percent disseminated pyrite, sparse quartz veinlets, sericite, and local tourmaline clots (up to 0.1 percent).

The granites, pegmatites, and aplites are characterized by low magnetic susceptibility, ranging between 0 and 1.5 and averaging 0.3 x 10^{-3} SI. Granite and pegmatite $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ ages in the map area range from ca. 105 to 110 Ma (Naibert and others, 2018), and a granite zircon U-Pb age is 114.1 ± 1.4 Ma (Wypych and others, 2020). On the eastern edge of the Tanacross D-1 Quadrangle, the granite extends into Yukon, Canada, where it is mapped as the ca. 110–109 Ma Crag Mountain pluton, which is part of the Whitehorse Plutonic Suite (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019). The granite has similar age and composition to other granites in the Yukon such as the Dawson Range batholith, the Coffee Creek granite, and the Moosehorn Range granitoids (Allan and others, 2013).

Ktp

TIMBER GRANITE (CRETACEOUS)—Biotite-bearing granite intrusion forming the bulk of Timber Mountain in the Tanacross C-1 Quadrangle. Gray to dark gray and weathers tan, pink or gray. Massive, equigranular to porphyritic, and hypidiomorphic; grain size ranges from 0.2 to 15 mm. Composed of 45–70 percent feldspar, 20–40 percent quartz, up to 15 percent biotite, and up to 10 percent muscovite. Fine-grained equigranular phases are found on the edges of the intrusion whereas porphyritic and medium-grained equigranular phases are typically observed towards the center. Porphyritic phases have up to 10 percent, 15-mm-long feldspar phenocrysts in a fine-grained quartz-feldspar-biotite matrix. The fine-grained equigranular phase is composed of near equal amounts of quartz, potassium feldspar, and plagioclase, with 2 percent biotite and 1 percent muscovite. The intrusion is weathered, chloritized, and partially replaced by opaque minerals, biotite, and slightly sericitized plagioclase. The medium-grained equigranular phases generally are unaltered. In both equigranular phases, quartz is anhedral, interstitial, and generally inclusion free. Potassium feldspar is anhedral to euhedral, with no twinning or microcline twinning, faint zonation, and rare perthitic exsolution textures. Plagioclase is subhedral to euhedral, with clear polysynthetic twinning, slight sericitization, and myrmekite exsolution textures. The pluton is non-magnetic, with magnetic susceptibility ranging from 0.006 to 0.564 x 10^{-3} SI. Biotite from this pluton yielded a K-Ar age of ca. 108 Ma (Foster and others, 1976) and zircon yielded a U-Pb age of 110.3 ±1.4 Ma (Wypych and others, 2020).

T̄Rwp

WITHERSPOON FELDSPAR PORPHYRY (LATE TRIASSIC)—Granite to diorite dikes, plugs, sills, and intrusions. Green, dark green, dark gray, or pink-gray, and weathers to maroon. Typically, porphyritic, with phenocrysts ranging from 0.1 to 15 mm. Composed of up to 72 percent feldspar, about 30 percent amphibole, 20 percent quartz, and 10–25 percent biotite with disseminated iron oxides. Abundant feldspar phenocrysts, up to 15 mm long, occur in a dark green groundmass with extensive secondary chlorite and some epidote replacement of plagioclase. Possible weak magmatic or metamorphic fabric and chloritic alteration were observed locally. The unit is non-magnetic to weakly magnetic, with magnetic susceptibility ranging from

0.089 to 0.528 x 10^{-3} SI. Two samples, a porphyry and a granite, yielded zircon U-Pb ages of 203.7 ± 1.6 and 206.2 ± 2.6 Ma (Wypych and others, 2020). Based on the ages and mineral composition and textures observed in the field, this pluton can be assigned to Taylor Mountain Batholith suite (Werdon and others, 2001).

METAMORPHIC ROCKS (GREENSCHIST TO EPIDOTE-AMPHIBOLITE FACIES)

Meta-mafic rocks

TRPzum

SERPENTINIZED ULTRAMAFIC ROCKS (TRIASSIC TO PALEOZOIC)—Fine-grained serpentinite with local relict olivine. Occurs along the thrust fault between Nasina and Fortymile River assemblages. As described by Flynn (2003), unit is typically green to dark gray, unfoliated, and weathers orange-brown. Typically consists of a matrix of fine-grained serpentine, up to 20 percent relict olivine, and 5–10 percent disseminated magnetite and magnetite veins. Serpentine is antigorite, with scarce chrysotile near contacts. Locally altered to coarse-grained chlorite rock. Ultramafic rocks appear to be serpentinized dunite metamorphosed to greenschist facies. Magnetic susceptibility of the serpentinized ultramafic rocks generally is very high; typically, 10–60 x 10^{-3} SI. Waxy massive serpentinite with relatively low magnetic susceptibility, between 0.1 and 1 x 10^{-3} SI, is present near some contacts. This unit is a continuation of the greenschist-facies serpentinite (unit MzPzs) mapped in the southeastern Eagle A-1 Quadrangle (Szumigala and others, 2002) and across the border in Yukon (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019); both maps correlate these rocks to the Seventymile terrane (Slide Mountain terrane of the Yukon). At Clinton Creek, Yukon, these mafic and ultramafic rocks are interlayered with sedimentary rocks that yielded a Triassic conodont age (Abbott, 1983), likely the minimum age for this unit. The maximum age may be constrained by the opening of the Seventymile/Slide Mountain ocean in the Devonian to Mississippian (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2006).

Allochthonous rocks of Klondike assemblage

The Klondike assemblage is suspected to be present in the southeastern corner the map area adjacent to the Alaska-Yukon border. The contact of the Klondike assemblage units with other allochthonous Yukon Tanana terrane units is interpreted as one or more low-angle. The Klondike units are also in low-angle fault contact with the parautochthonous Lake George assemblage. The assemblage is mapped across the border in Yukon, where it rests unconformably over Snowcap assemblage metasediments and is intruded by coeval Permian orthogneisses of the Sulphur Creek plutonic suite. Unit description for the Klondike assemblage schist is from Twelker and others (2021).

Pks?

SCHIST (PERMIAN)— A unit consisting primarily of chlorite schist, muscovite schist, and semischist with mixed sedimentary and felsic volcanic protoliths. The unit also contains minor quartzite and porphyroclastic orthogneiss and rare conglomerate. Outcrops are generally pale green to dark green to gray and grain size ranges from 0.1 to 10 mm. Rare conglomerates have clasts up to 60 mm. The unit is schistose and the dominant foliation is often folded at the decimeter to meter scale and also crenulated on the sub-cm scale. Schistose texture and mineralogy indicate the unit reached greenschist-facies metamorphic conditions. Mineralogy includes 30–60 percent quartz, up to 40 percent actinolite, up to 40 percent plagioclase feldspar, up to 15 percent muscovite, up to 15 percent biotite, up to 10 percent chlorite, up to 5 percent epidote, and traces of pyrite. Schists are locally iron stained and contain traces of pyrite along fracture surfaces and veinlets. Magnetic susceptibility ranges from a minimum of 0.04 x 10^{-3} SI units to a maximum of 2.91 x 10^{-3} SI units, with an average of 0.89 x 10^{-3} SI units and a median of 0.23 x 10^{-3} SI units. U-Pb ages between 257 and 267 Ma (Jones, personal commun., 2020) were recorded from four metavolcanic schist samples in the map area and support correlation to the mapped Klondike Schist units in Yukon.

Allochthonous rocks of Nasina assemblage

The Nasina assemblage is a greenschist- to amphibolite-facies metasedimentary package that is generally interpreted to be in thrust contact with the Fortymile River assemblage. The two assemblages are broadly interpreted to be different facies of the same overall lithotectonic assemblage—the Finlayson assemblage—in the Yukon (Colpron and others, 2006). Szumigala and others (2002) report local biotite, kyanite, and pyrophyllite, implying the rocks have been metamorphosed to upper greenschist facies. Felsic lithologies interlayered within this unit have yielded zircon U-Pb ages from ca. 349 to 359 Ma (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2006), and ca. 348 Ma (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019). Mapping and unit descriptions for the Nasina assemblage in the northeastern portion of this map are adapted from Flynn (2003).

MDsqc

CARBONACEOUS SCHIST AND QUARTZITE (DEVONIAN TO MISSISSIPPIAN)—Fine-grained, carbonaceous metasedimentary rocks. Predominantly dark-gray, carbonaceous, white mica-quartz schist and quartzite, graphite-quartz schist, and banded gray and massive light gray quartzite. Thin layers of white mica-quartz schist are locally interlayered on a scale of millimeters to centimeters in the carbonaceous schist and quartzite. Carbonaceous quartz schist and quartzite grades into biotite-quartz schist ± carbonaceous material and quartzite ± white mica in numerous areas. Biotite-feldspar-quartz schist ± actinolite ± white mica and white mica-feldspar-quartz metafelsite ± biotite are present in a few locations. The carbonaceous quartz schist is locally calcareous, with rare small areas of marble rubble. Foliation is locally crenulated and mylonitic textures are present in some areas. Magnetic susceptibility of the unit is low; ranging from 0.01 to 0.15 x 10^{-3} SI. Unit is interpreted to be part of the Nasina assemblage and is correlative with carbonaceous units to the north (MDq and MDkq) in the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles (Szumigala and others, 2002; Werdon and others, 2001) and with carbonaceous metasediments in the Finlayson assemblage (DMf3) in the Yukon (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019).

Pzgs

GNEISS AND SCHIST (PALEOZOIC?)—Heterogeneous unit characterized by fine- to medium-grained gneiss and schist. Lithologies include biotite-muscovite-quartz schist ± feldspar, quartz-albite-epidote-hornblende gneiss ± biotite ± feldspar ± chlorite, biotite-quartz-epidote-hornblende schist, biotite-quartz-feldspar gneiss ± muscovite ± garnet, and muscovite-feldspar-quartz gneiss ± biotite ± sparse garnet. Some outcrops of gneiss and schist are intensely deformed, with complex folding. Magnetic susceptibility of felsic lithologies is low, ranging between 0.05 and 0.2 x 10^{-3} SI. Magnetic susceptibility of lithologies with a substantial mafic component typically is moderate; ranging between 0.15 and 0.7 x 10^{-3} SI, with sporadic higher values.

METAMORPHIC ROCKS (AMPHIBOLITE FACIES)

Allochthonous rocks of Fortymile River assemblage

The Fortymile River assemblage comprises a heterogeneous group of amphibolite-grade metamorphic lithologies composed mainly of metasedimentary rocks (quartzite, semischist, schist, and paragneiss), which are interlayered with amphibolite and lesser orthogneiss. Regionally, the age of this assemblage is constrained by datable interlayered lithologies. Orthogneiss, interpreted as having a volcanic protolith, yielded zircon U-Pb ages of ca. 355 to 341 Ma (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2006). Other felsic orthogneiss layers yielded Permian zircon U-Pb ages and apparently represent later intrusions (Jones and others, 2017a). The thick marble layer located west of the map area at the headwaters of Alder Creek in the Tanacross D-2 Quadrangle yielded a mid-Mississippian to early Permian conodont age (Dusel-Bacon and Harris, 2003). This assemblage is a part of the Yukon-Tanana terrane as defined by Dusel-Bacon and others (2006) and is correlative to Finlayson assemblage of Colpron and others (2006) in Canada. The boundary between the allochthonous Fortymile River assemblage and the parautochthonous Lake George assemblage is a regionally significant low-angle structure accommodating both contractional and subsequent extensional displacements (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2015). The Fortymile River assemblage is characterized by Triassic to Jurassic $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ cooling ages, whereas all the cooling ages from Lake George are late Aptian to Albian (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2002; Jones and others, 2017a, 2017b; Naibert and others, 2018).

MDfa

AMPHIBOLITE (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Amphibolite and amphibole gneiss interlayed with subordinate amphibole-bearing gneiss, orthogneiss, quartz schist, and dark-gray quartzite on decimeter to multi-meter scales. The amphibolite is pale- to dark-green to gray-green, commonly with light peach-white bands, weathering brown, with foliated or gneissic texture. Foliation is defined by aligned amphibole, biotite, and/or chlorite. Amphibole and garnet locally form porphyroblasts. Grain size ranges from 0.05 to 40 mm. Layers contain up to 98 percent amphibole, 15 percent feldspar, up to 10 percent biotite, 5 percent garnet, up to 88 percent chlorite, 3 percent quartz, 3 percent sericite, up to 5 percent magnetite, 0.05–2 percent sulfides, and 1–5 percent epidote. Amphibolites are interlayered with subordinate amphibole-bearing gneiss, orthogneiss, quartz schist, and dark-gray quartzite on decimeter to multi-meter scales. Amphibole is dominantly euhedral with grains ranging up to 40 mm in length; less commonly acicular. Hornblende is the dominant amphibole, but actinolite is locally present. Disseminated sulfides (pyrite and pyrrhotite) up to 5 mm in diameter were observed in some outcrops. Quartzofeldspathic augen up to 15 mm in diameter and rare quartz phenocrysts or xenocrysts were also observed. Plagioclase is generally interstitial. Magnetic susceptibility varies widely, and depends on how mafic the amphibolite is and its magnetite content. Magnetic susceptibility measurements are generally low, ranging between 0.04 and 36.6 x 10^{-3} SI, with an average of 0.52 x 10^{-3} SI. Amphibolite bodies are thin, up to 30 m, with the exception of one 70-m-thick body. Amphibolites have predominantly volcanic arc trace-element-indicated signatures, with some within-plate signatures (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2009; Wypych and others, 2018). Similar amphibolites have been divided into three different units by Werdon and others (2001): Amphibole-feldspar gneiss (pMaf), amphibolite and gneiss (pMa), and amphibolite (pMam) and into four units by Szumigala and others (2002): amphibolite and gneiss (pMag), amphibolite, gneiss, and schist (pMa), amphibolite (pMam), and amphibolite, paragneiss, and schist (Pza). Similar rocks have been combined with intermediate and mafic metavolcanic rocks into the Finlayson assemblage unit DMf1 by the Yukon Geological Survey (2019). A sample from this unit yielded a zircon U-Pb age of 336.9 ± 3.8 Ma, which is interpreted to be the age of the mafic igneous protolith (Wypych and others, 2020).

MDfo

ORTHOGNEISS (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Primarily orthogneiss with subordinate interlayered amphibolite and paragneiss. Outcrops are weakly to moderately foliated, grain size ranges from 0.1 to 15 mm, and feldspar augen are rare. Orthogneiss chemistry suggests protoliths range from intermediate to felsic calc-alkaline. Unit contains 30–80 percent plagioclase feldspar, up to 30 percent potassium feldspar, 20–55 percent quartz, up to 45 percent hornblende, 3–25 percent biotite, 1–12 percent muscovite, 5–40 percent chlorite, and up to 5 percent garnet; interstitial calcite occurs locally. Accessory minerals include epidote, hematite, magnetite, and pyrite. Petrography shows weak to moderate foliation defined by muscovite and biotite and the presence of an S-C fabric. Magnetic susceptibility measurements were generally low, ranging between 0.04 and 10.5 x 10^{-3} SI, with an average of 0.18 x 10^{-3} SI. In the Eagle A-1 Quadrangle, this unit is split into tonalitic orthogneiss (Motn), felsic orthogneiss (Mog), and undifferentiated orthogneiss (Mo; Szumigala and others, 2002). Trondhjemitic orthogneiss (Motr) was also mapped in the Eagle A-1 Quadrangle and was observed in the Tanacross Quadrangle at multiple localities, mainly as dikes that were not spatially extensive enough to map. These trondjemitic metadikes are leucocratic medium-grained, massive to weakly foliated quartz-plagioclase gneiss and minor white mica up to 15 percent. Orthogneiss interlayered with metasedimentary units and amphibolites may have originated as sills or depositionally interlayered volcanic rocks. Volcanic protoliths were interpreted for fine-grained orthogneisses in this unit (Dusel-Bacon and others, 2015) and metavolcanics make up a significant portion of the correlative unit Mo in the adjacent Eagle Quadrangle (Szumigala, 2002). Zircon from undifferentiated orthogneiss in the Eagle A-1 Quadrangle yielded a U-Pb age of 343 ± 4 Ma (Day and others, 2002), and a sample from this map area yielded zircon age of 341.1 ± 2.3 Ma (Wypych and others, 2020). These ages are interpreted to represent crystallization of the igneous protoliths.

MDfmb

MARBLE AND IMPURE MARBLE (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—White to gray, medium- to very coarse-grained, crystalline calcite marble. Marble is locally dolomitic and epidote-bearing, has quartzose layers, and is sparsely micaceous (Flynn, 2003). Magnetic susceptibility of this unit is very low, generally 0.1 x 10^{-3} SI or lower. This unit forms beds within metasedimentary and orthogneiss packages of Fortymile River assemblage. The unit is correlated with the marble and calcareous rocks unit (pMm) mapped in the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles (Szumigala and others, 2002; Werdon and others, 2001) and the Finlayson assemblage marble unit (DMf5) on the Yukon bedrock geologic map (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019). The age range of this unit is inferred from regional zircon data (Jones and others, 2017b) and interlayered felsic metavolcanic rocks (orthogneiss) dated by U-Pb zircon methods (Day and others, 2002), although conodont evidence suggests the unit could be as young as early Early Permian (Dusel-Bacon and Harris, 2003).

MDfms

UNDIVIDED METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Heterogeneous unit consisting of interlayered schist, quartz schist, semischist, quartzite, and paragneiss, with subordinate greenschist and carbonate-silicate schist. Marble, impure marble, and graphitic quartzite layers are present locally. Schist, quartz schist, and semischist contain 3–75 percent muscovite, up to 30 percent biotite, up to 85 percent quartz, up to 15 percent feldspar, and up to 35 percent garnet. Garnet porphyroblasts are typically 1–3 mm in diameter and rarely up to 5 mm. Schistosity is defined by muscovite and fine-grained quartz, chloritized biotite, and garnet porphyroblasts, which are commonly altered to biotite or chlorite along fractures and along grain edges. Feldspars are commonly altered to sericite. Paragneisses have similar mineralogy, with higher feldspar content (up to 60 percent) and less muscovite. Gneissic foliation is defined by quartz- and feldspar-rich bands separating quartz- and mica-rich bands. Gneissic foliation varies from weakly to strongly foliated. Quartzite contains 85–99 percent quartz, with anhedral crystals 0.05–1 mm in diameter. Quartzite foliation is defined by elongate quartz grains and 1–15 percent micas, dominantly muscovite with minor chloritized biotite. Accessory minerals include epidote/clinozoisite and graphite. Strong S-C fabric, multiple foliation orientations, and small-scale folding indicate the unit has undergone multiple deformation events. The unit contains relatively thin (less than 10 m thick) interlayered amphibolite, and is cut by thin, up to 0.5 m thick, trondhjemitic orthogneiss dikes and sills as well as unmetamorphosed to weakly metamorphosed diorite, granite, granodiorite, and pegmatite dikes. Magnetic susceptibility measurements showed a broad range between 0.02 and 46.9 x 10^{-3} SI with an average of 0.16 x 10^{-3} SI. The metasedimentary unit is estimated to be more than 600 m thick. Detrital zircons were dated from two samples of quartzite from this unit. The youngest populations of ages from those samples are 258.0 ± 3.4 and 264.9 ± 4.6 Ma (Wypych and others, 2020), which are interpreted as metamorphic zircon overgrowths typical of allochthonous rocks. The maximum deposition age of the quartzite is Paleozoic (Wypych and others, 2020). Szumigala and others (2002) and Werdon and others (2001) divide this unit into quartzite (pMq) and quartzite-paragneiss schist (pMqgs) units. The Yukon bedrock geologic map describes a similar unit as Finlayson assemblage felsic metavolcanics and quartz-muscovite schist (DMf2; Yukon Geological Survey, 2019).

MDfp

PARAGNEISS (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Paragneiss with subordinate interlayered amphibolite, orthogneiss, and thin marble. Grain size ranges from 0.05 to 15 mm with moderate to strong foliation. Paragneiss contains 30–88 percent quartz, 1–20 percent biotite, 5–15 percent chlorite, 20–55 percent feldspar, 2–10 percent muscovite, 5–20 percent calcite, up to 1 percent garnet, minor hornblende, and trace magnetite. A couple samples in the vicinity of the detachment have been highly altered, with up to 55 percent sericite in one of the samples; up to 1.5 percent pyrrhotite was observed near this sericite-altered sample. Magnetic susceptibility measurements are generally low, ranging between 0.04 and 11.1 x 10^{-3} SI, with an average of 0.30 x 10^{-3} SI. This unit is relatively uncommon in the map area, and is less than 150 m thick. Similar units have been described in the Eagle A-1 and A-2 quadrangles (Szumigala and others, 2002; Werdon and others, 2001) as schist and paragneiss (pMsg) and gneiss (pMg).

Parautochthonous rocks of Lake George assemblage

The Lake George assemblage represents the parautochthonous North America assemblage (pNA) in the map area and is dominated by augen gneiss (MDag) and orthogneiss (MDlo, MDlom). Orthogneiss forms tabular bodies intruding, or interlayered with, homogeneous metasedimentary (predominantly quartzite and semischist) rocks with occasional amphibolite layers and bodies. The metasedimentary and orthogneiss package is intruded by augen gneiss of plutonic origin (unit MDag). The assemblage is metamorphosed to amphibolite grade.

MDag

DIVIDE MOUNTAIN AUGEN GNEISS (MISSISSIPPIAN TO LATE DEVONIAN)—Granite and locally granodiorite orthogneiss with prominent potassium feldspar augens up to 10 cm long. Pale cream, pale gray, and pale pink; weathers pink gray. The meta-intrusions is porphyroclastic and coarse grained near the center, and finer grained and sheared toward the edges. The unit consists of up to 70 percent feldspar, with up to 40 percent potassium feldspar augen, 20–40 percent quartz, up to 10 percent plagioclase porphyroclasts, about 10 percent mica (biotite, muscovite, or both), and local trace tourmaline. In the vicinity of Cretaceous intrusions, the augen gneiss is locally highly altered, sericitized, and brecciated. Anhedral feldspar crystals are about 0.5 mm long, often recrystallized, with no twinning. Sericitization was observed in some samples. Plagioclase is anhedral, with clear polysynthetic twinning, and some samples preserve myrmekite textures. Anhedral quartz up to 0.5 mm in diameter has slight to strong undulatory extinction and forms approximately 1-mm-thick quartzose layers. The felsic layers are parted by thin muscovite and biotite layers. Biotite often has inclusions of opaque minerals and in some instances about 10 percent of biotite crystals are chloritized. Feldspar augen vary in size, from as small as a few millimeters up to 10 cm in length. The stretching of the augen seems dependent on the location within the body; more stretching and shearing are observed near the edges. This results in preservation of original igneous textures in some areas away from contacts. The non-stretched or weakly stretched feldspars are subhedral, twinned, and are often rotated. Recrystallized augen usually have no twinning preserved. Samples have accessory relict garnet, zircon, and opaque minerals. The unit is locally altered to chlorite, tourmaline, and sericite. The rocks are often cut by quartz veins (up to 20-cm thick) and pegmatite dikes. The augen gneisses are the main unit observed for the Lake George assemblage, and are characteristically non-magnetic to weakly magnetic, ranging from 0.03 to 0.2 x 10^{-3} SI. One augen gneiss yielded a U-Pb zircon crystallization age of 355.0 ± 4.5 Ma (Todd and others, 2019). The augen gneiss can be correlated with the Lake George orthogneiss along the Alaska Highway (Solie and others, 2019).

MDlo

ORTHOGNEISS (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Orthogneiss with diorite to granite composition occurring as tabular bodies interlayered with minor quartzite, paragneiss, amphibolite, and schist. Black and white in color, weathering gray to orange, foliated, with grain size ranging from 0.5 to 7 mm. Mineral composition varies: up to 5 percent quartz in dioritic orthogneiss to 60 percent in granitic varieties, 85 and 15 percent feldspar, respectively, and between 15 and 20 percent biotite, up to 9 percent white mica, and up to 1 percent garnet. Accessory minerals include zircon, fluorite, epidote, and chlorite. Quartz crystals are subhedral to anhedral with undulatory extinction and grain size ranges from 0.1 to 2 mm. Anhedral to subhedral feldspars include plagioclase and microcline, which are largely recrystallized, have no twinning, range in size from 0.5 to 2 mm, and are commonly replaced by sericite (up to 50 percent replacement). Biotite is up to 2-mm long with birds-eye extinction and rare chloritization along edges. Weak foliation is defined by biotite and fine-grained muscovite in irregular sub-mm-thick mica bands. Bodies are non-magnetic with measured susceptibilities between 0.01 and 0.2 x 10^{-3} SI. The tabular bodies vary in thickness from 30 cm to about 300 m. This unit differs from augen orthogneiss (MDag) in: 1) lack of large potassium feldspar augen, 2) greater compositional range, and 3) greater heterogeneity and interlayering with metasedimentary rocks. A granite orthogneiss sample yielded a U-Pb zircon crystallization age of 370.6 ± 9.6 Ma (Todd and others, 2019). This unit is included in the undifferentiated orthogneiss (unit MDlo) of Solie and others (2019).

MDlom

ORTHOGNEISS, MAGNETIC (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Magnetite-bearing felsic orthogneiss. Light pink, foliated, with grain size between 0.1 and 5 mm. Mineral composition includes: 74 percent feldspar, 25 percent anhedral quartz, and 1 percent magnetite. Foliation planes are defined by biotite. This unit is no more than 30-m thick and it is observed north of Fishhook Bend in the Tanacross D-1 Quadrangle. Magnetic susceptibility ranges between 6 and 15 x 10^{-3} SI.

MDla

AMPHIBOLITE (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Amphibolite to amphibole-bearing gneiss located south of North Ladue River near the Alaska-Canada border. Dark green to gray, weathering brown, foliated, gneissic, and with grain sizes of 1–3 mm. Mineral composition includes 55–85 percent amphibole, 4–50 percent plagioclase, up to 3 percent biotite, and rare quartz that is present locally. One anomalous sample has 5 percent quartz, one sample has 48 percent of chlorite, and two samples have 55 and 95 percent metamorphic clinopyroxene. Minerals are generally fresh with strong lineation defined by amphibole. Veins cutting the unit are 1–7 mm thick and contain feldspar and quartz. The magnetic susceptibility has a relatively narrow range of 0.25–0.49 x 10^{-3} SI. Amphibolite is characterized by a strong within-plate geochemical signature, but volcanic arc trace-element-indicated signatures are present as well. This amphibolite is correlated with Lake George assemblage amphibolite (pMa) from the Alaska Highway Corridor (Solie and others, 2019).

MDlau

AMPHIBOLITE AND SERPENTINITE (MISSISSIPPIAN TO DEVONIAN)—Amphibolite, amphibole orthogneiss, serpentinite, and clinopyroxenite occurring within Lake George assemblage north of McElfish Creek in the Tanacross C-2 Quadrangle. These units occur together and comprise several, approximately 300-m-thick, tabular bodies that trend east-west and dip 60–80 degrees to the north. All lithologies are black to dark green and weather orange, brown, or black. The rocks are foliated, with grain size ranging from 0.2 to 40 mm. Amphibolite and amphibole orthogneiss are composed of 40–95 percent tabular hornblende, 4–50 percent plagioclase, 1–10 percent biotite, and rare samples have up to 40 percent quartz and 0.3 percent pyrite clots. Hornblende is up to 30 mm long and often is rimmed with actinolite. Rare gabbro has 55 percent euhedral metamorphic clinopyroxene, 43 percent feldspar, and 2 percent epidote. Gabbro is moderately foliated with no appreciable compositional banding. Pyroxene crystals are vitreous, euhedral, and preferentially oriented; interstitial space is filled with granular feldspar. Thin feldspathic veinlets run parallel to foliation and have an epidote alteration rind approximately 3–6 mm wide. Serpentinite is porphyroblastic with weak to no foliation and is composed of 30–75 percent serpentine, up to 60 percent hornblende, up to 40 percent tremolite and anthophyllite, up to 20 percent olivine, and 5 percent vein-filling magnetite. Talc and relict orthopyroxene were observed in thin section. The serpentine and talc creates a groundmass for relict olivine, orthopyroxene, and up to 40-mm-long acicular hornblende. This mineralogy is consistent with amphibolite-facies regional metamorphism. The serpentinites are highly magnetic, with magnetic susceptibilities ranging from 16 to 138 x 10^{-3} SI with mean of about 30 x 10^{-3} SI, whereas the amphibolites have a mean of about 8 x 10^{-3} SI. The amphibolites have a primitive mid ocean ridge basalt trace-element-indicated chemical composition. Occurring together, the amphibolite and serpentinite appear to be the metamorphosed equivalent of differentiated mafic-ultramafic intrusions. An amphibolite sample yielded a zircon U-Pb age of 360.5 ± 3.6 Ma, which is interpreted to represent crystallization of the igneous protolith (Wypych and others, 2020).

pMlms

METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS (PRE-MISSISSIPPIAN)—Quartzite, semischist, and schist with subordinate paragneiss, marble, amphibole-bearing gneiss, and mafic metavolcanic rocks. Quartzites are gray or pale green, and locally weather brown to orange. Quartzite is weakly foliated with grain size ranging from 0.01 to 3 mm, and is composed of up to 96 percent anhedral quartz parted by single-crystal layers of white mica (up to 14 percent) and/or biotite (up to 10 percent). Some quartzite contains up to 1 percent garnet porphyroblasts reaching 3-mm in diameter. Schist and semischist are pale gray, silver, silver-pink, and white; weathering tan to orange with local iron staining. Schist and semischist are foliated, lineated, and often porphyroblastic, with grain size ranging from 0.05 to 18 mm. Felsic layers in the schist and semischist are composed of 0.5- to 1-mm-diameter quartz (20 to 85 percent), and 0.5- to 1-mm-diameter feldspar (2–40 percent), parted by sub-millimeter-thick mica layers (up to 40 percent) with chlorite replacing biotite, and rare graphite. Samples have 0.5–4 percent euhedral porphyroblasts of garnet up to 18-mm in diameter. Subordinate paragneiss is the most common minor lithology; it has a nearly identical mineral composition to the semischist and schist but differs in texture—exhibiting gneissic banding and a generally coarser grain size. Rare amphibole-bearing gneisses and mafic metavolcanic rocks are characterized by up to 40 percent amphibole, 15 percent chlorite, up to 20 percent feldspar, and up to 15 percent quartz. A couple of foliation-parallel beds of marble have been described near the detachment separating the unit from the Fortymile River assemblage to the north in the Tanacross D-1 Quadrangle. Marbles are tan to gray, granoblastic, and have grain size ranging from 1 to 2 mm. Interlayered marbles are 93 percent calcite, 5 percent quartz, 1 percent muscovite, and 1 percent biotite. Metasedimentary lithologies of this unit have low magnetic susceptibility ranging between 0.01 and 1.84 x 10^{-3} SI and averaging about 0.4 x 10^{-3} SI. The amphibole-rich layers however can reach up to 28.8 x 10^{-3} SI. This unit is more than 300 m thick and can be correlated with the Scottie Creek Formation in Canada (Yukon Geologic Survey, 2019), and paragneiss and schist, quartzite and felsic schist, and quartzite of Lake George assemblage in Alaska (Solie and others, 2019).

pMlp

PARAGNEISS (DEVONIAN TO PRE-MISSISSIPPIAN)—Paragneiss interlayered with subordinate orthogneiss, quartzite, semischist, schist, and amphibolite. Unit is intruded by augen gneiss (MDag) as well as Cretaceous granitoids, pegmatite and aplite dikes, and Late Cretaceous porphyry intrusions (Kg, Kfg, Kv and Ktgd). Paragneiss is predominantly black and white or tan to dark gray, weathering orange to gray. Paragneiss is foliated with gneissic textures and grain sizes ranging from 0.1 to 8 mm. Composed of 30– 70 percent quartz, 10– 70 percent feldspar, 2–35 percent biotite, 1–15 percent white mica, and up to 5 percent garnet as porphyroblasts, and has local tourmaline-rich layers. Alternating 0.25–7.5 centimeter layers consist of white-tan quartzofeldspathic bands and dark biotite-dominant bands. Garnetiferous bands seem to be concentrated in zones of highest ductile deformation. Interlayered lithologies are of similar composition as those described for Lake George metasedimentary unit (MDlms). This unit is over 300 m thick, and characterized by low magnetic susceptibility between 0.06 and 0.47 x 10^{-3} SI with a mean of 0.15 x 10^{-3} SI. Correlated with the Scottie Creek Formation in Canada (Yukon Geological Survey, 2019) and with paragneiss and schist, quartzite and felsic schist, and quartzite of Lake George assemblage in Alaska (Solie and others, 2019).

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