



British Columbia Geological Survey

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Geoscience Map 2022-01

Sheet 2 of 2

Bedrock geology of the Dease Lake area

Parts of NTS Sheets 104G, 104H, 104I, 104J

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SUPPLEMENT

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Digital files
Supporting digital data, including structural, magnetic susceptibility and GIS data, will be available in a forthcoming publication.

This release is a part of a broader compilation for an approximately 8 500 km² area that, once incorporated into the British Columbia digital geology, will be available from <https://www.gov.bc.ca/geo/opencontent/industry/mineral-evaluation-mining/british-columbia-geological-survey/geoscience-map-2022-01>.

Rocks in the study area are defined by their lithology, and a Paleozoic to Mesozoic land area that was deformed in the latest Triassic to Early Jurassic before accreting to ancestral North America in the Middle Jurassic. Latest Triassic to Early Jurassic folds are coveal with a magmatic and depositional hiatus that spans at least 30 my. (Fig. 1). This deformation, recorded throughout northwestern British Columbia, was attributed to collision between the Yukon and Sklaine terranes and the Selkirk terrane (Nelson et al., 2022). Subsequent terrane accretion to ancestral North America is recorded by a Middle Jurassic fold-and-thrust belt in the northern part of the map area that includes two regional north-trending faults, the King Salmon and Khelechoa faults. In the hanging wall of the King Salmon fault are rocks of the Cache Creek terrane, which represents a composite of several subduction zone ophiolites, mafic and bimodal primitive intra-oceanic duc-cussions, oceanic silicic pyroclastic basals, and limestone (Schultz, 2012; McDevitt, 2016). The Khelechoa fault, which represents a Late Jurassic to Early Jurassic collisional overthrust, separates the Cache Creek terrane from the Selkirk terrane (Nelson et al., 2022). Subsequent terrane accretion to ancestral North America is recorded by a Middle Jurassic fold-and-thrust belt in the northern part of the map area that includes two regional north-trending faults, the King Salmon and Khelechoa faults. In the hanging wall of the King Salmon fault are rocks of the Cache Creek terrane, which represents a composite of several subduction zone ophiolites, mafic and bimodal primitive intra-oceanic duc-cussions, oceanic silicic pyroclastic basals, and limestone (Schultz, 2012; McDevitt, 2016). The Khelechoa fault, which represents a Late Jurassic to Early Jurassic collisional overthrust, separates the Cache Creek terrane from the Selkirk terrane (Nelson et al., 2022). Subsequent terrane accretion to ancestral North America is recorded by a Middle Jurassic fold-and-thrust belt in the northern part of the map area that includes two regional north-trending faults, the King Salmon and Khelechoa faults. In the hanging wall of the Khelechoa fault are structurally juxtaposed against Sklaine.

1. Introduction
Geoscience Map 2022 01 portrays the bedrock geology of a 5 500 km² area in northwestern British Columbia between the community of Dease Lake and the Sklaine River, parts of NTS sheets 104G, 104H, 104I and 104J. This geology is based on mapping by the British Columbia Geological Survey carried out between 2011 and 2018.

Rocks in the study area are defined by their lithology, and a Paleozoic to Mesozoic land area that was deformed in the latest Triassic to Early Jurassic before accreting to ancestral North America in the Middle Jurassic. Latest Triassic to Early Jurassic folds are coveal with a magmatic and depositional hiatus that spans at least 30 my. (Fig. 1). This deformation, recorded throughout northwestern British Columbia, was attributed to collision between the Yukon and Sklaine terranes and the Selkirk terrane (Nelson et al., 2022). Subsequent terrane accretion to ancestral North America is recorded by a Middle Jurassic fold-and-thrust belt in the northern part of the map area that includes two regional north-trending faults, the King Salmon and Khelechoa faults. In the hanging wall of the King Salmon fault are rocks of the Cache Creek terrane, which represents a composite of several subduction zone ophiolites, mafic and bimodal primitive intra-oceanic duc-cussions, oceanic silicic pyroclastic basals, and limestone (Schultz, 2012; McDevitt, 2016). The Khelechoa fault, which represents a Late Jurassic to Early Jurassic collisional overthrust, separates the Cache Creek terrane from the Selkirk terrane (Nelson et al., 2022). Subsequent terrane accretion to ancestral North America is recorded by a Middle Jurassic fold-and-thrust belt in the northern part of the map area that includes two regional north-trending faults, the King Salmon and Khelechoa faults. In the hanging wall of the Khelechoa fault are structurally juxtaposed against Sklaine.

2. Pre-colonial (Paleozoic to Late Triassic)

2.1. Sklaine
2.1.1. Sklaine assemblage
The oldest units in the area are deformed meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanic rocks of the Sklaine assemblage (Devonian to Permian); units **DPSt**, **DPStv**, **DPSts**, **DPStsL**. These rocks are exposed in the western and southern parts of the map area. Lithology in the **DPStv**, **DPSts**, **DPStsL** and **DPSts** are also exposed along the trace and north of the King Salmon fault.

2.1.2. Deformation (D1)
Kilometer-scale highly folds are outlined by Sklaine assemblage rocks in the western part of the map area (see cross-section B-B'). Rocks largely display a penetrative steeply west-dipping phylitic foliation and the subequally vergent folds display subhorizontal to gently northward and southeast plunging axes. In the southern part of the map area, mapping by Read (1984) and Read and Poulton (1990) shows roughly parallel bedding and foliation in Sklaine assemblage rocks; south of the Sklaine River they typically display moderate southeasterly dips. The absence of penetrative deformation in overlying Triassic units suggests that deformation was Middle Permian to Early Triassic (Tullaghan region of Wheeler, 1967; Logan and Koyne, 1994).

2.1.3. Tayahvale Group and Stuhini Group
The Sklaine assemblage is unconformably (likely unconformably) by a volcano-sedimentary sequence informally referred to as the Tayahvale Group (Lower Middle Triassic; Read, 1984; Read and Poulton, 1990). These rocks are exposed in the western, central, and southern parts of the map area. We subdivide the Tayahvale group into a sedimentary unit of fine-grained silicic rocks and minor chert (unit **IMTr**), and a volcanic unit of monomitic tuff breccia with plagioclase-augite-phryic mafic volcanic rocks (unit **IMTrV**). The sedimentary unit contains rare Early Triassic mafic rocks, both units contain Middle Triassic fossils (Table 1). The overlying Stuhini Group (Upper Triassic) includes monomitic tuff breccia, lapilli-tuff, conglomerate, and subordinate volcanoclastic sandstone and siltstone (unit **TSu** units). Volcanic and coarse clastic units contain augite-plagioclase mafic mafic volcanic clasts. Rare fossils and cross-cutting relationships in the eastern part of the map area (see below) suggest that the Stuhini Group is Carman (Fig. 1). Tayahvale volcanic rocks may appear texturally similar to the Stuhini Group, but are separated based on their stratigraphic position atop the Sklaine assemblage. The Sklaine assemblage rocks, higher augite and lower plagioclase phenocryst content, more primitive lithological composition, low magnetic susceptibility, and low response on regional aeromagnetic surveys. Compared to widespread exposures of mafic volcanic rocks of the Stuhini Group in northern Sklaine, occurrences of the Tayahvale group and its correlates are rare. However, owing to a lack of ages for ages for such mafic volcanic rocks, we consider that some Tayahvale group exposures may have been included in the Stuhini Group and suggest that the unit is more extensive than currently recognized. The Tayahvale group may represent the remnants of an Early Middle Triassic marine basin that evolved into the present Middle Triassic volcanism before widespread Upper Triassic-Stuhini activity (van Straten and Wearmouth, 2023a).

2.1.4. Triassic intrusions
In the southwestern and southern parts of the map area, several small gabbro bodies (unit **IMTrGd**) with low magnetic susceptibility and primitive lithological composition cut successions no younger than late Early Middle Jurassic volcano-sedimentary strata and are interpreted as Middle Triassic feeders to the Tayahvale volcanic sequence. A lithological sample (van Straten et al., 2022) shows the lowest high (on a volatile-free basis) in the Tayahvale volcanic sequence. Triassic intrusions, gabbros, and ultramafic intrusions of the Great Lakes plutonic suite (**ULP** units, renamed from Palatin plutonic suite of Woodsworth et al. 1995) form several small outcrops throughout the western half of the map area. They have high magnetic susceptibility. Late Triassic cooling ages, cut successions no younger than the Stuhini Group and are highly similar to the Stuhini Group volcanic rocks (Anderson, 1983; Nason et al., 1997; this study). This suite includes the Great Lakes ultramafic body (unit **ULPb**) for which whole rock and mineral chemistry suggest an arc-related mafic affinity (van Straten et al., 2022). The main part of the map area the Hothall batholith (1984) named a composite granitic gneiss that accreted >2000 km in the central part of the map area the Hothall batholith. Subsequent studies retained this name but demonstrated that this body includes rocks of widely different age and lithology (Anderson, 1983; Gahleitner, 1998; van Straten et al., 2012; see below), including Late Triassic intrusions of the Sklaine plutonic suite (Beggley Creek, Cache Creek and Sklaine plutonic suites), a Middle Jurassic intrusion of the Three Sisters plutonic suite (Three Sisters pluton) and a late Middle to Late Jurassic intrusion of the Seward Creek plutonic suite (Midclive River pluton).

Whitehorn thrust north in the map area are juxtaposed with Middle Jurassic and older units of Sklaine across the Khelechoa thrust fault. Further northeast, Whitehorn thrust rocks are unconformably atop Sklaine Dourthe, T1, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8, M9, M10, M11, M12, M13, M14, M15, M16, M17, M18, M19, M20, M21, M22, M23, M24, M25, M26, M27, M28, M29, M30, M31, M32, M33, M34, M35, M36, M37, M38, M39, M40, M41, M42, M43, M44, M45, M46, M47, M48, M49, M50, M51, M52, M53, M54, M55, M56, M57, M58, M59, M60, M61, M62, M63, M64, M65, M66, M67, M68, M69, M70, M71, M72, M73, M74, M75, M76, M77, M78, M79, M80, M81, M82, M83, M84, M85, M86, M87, M88, M89, M90, M91, M92, M93, M94, M95, M96, M97, M98, M99, M100, M101, M102, M103, M104, M105, M106, M107, M108, M109, M110, M111, M112, M113, M114, M115, M116, M117, M118, M119, M120, M121, M122, M123, M124, M125, M126, M127, M128, M129, M130, M131, M132, M133, M134, M135, M136, M137, M138, M139, M140, M141, M142, M143, M144, M145, M146, M147, M148, M149, M150, M151, M152, M153, M154, M155, M156, M157, M158, M159, M160, M161, M162, M163, M164, M165, M166, M167, M168, M169, M170, 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