

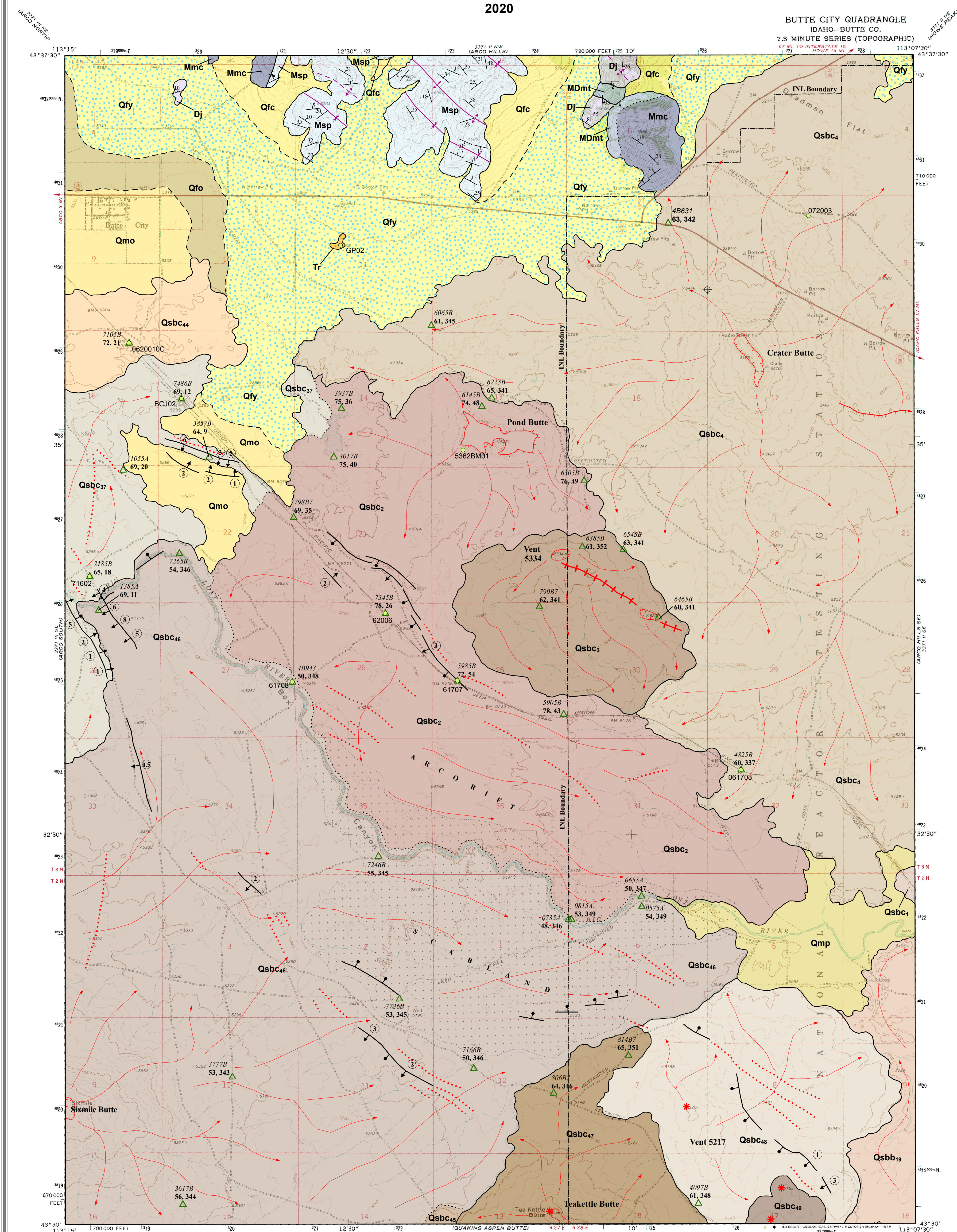
Geologic Map of the Butte City 7.5' Quadrangle, Butte County, Idaho

by
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2020

BUTTE CITY QUADRANGLE
IDAHO—BUTTE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Base Map Credit:
Base digitally scanned from 24,000-scale USGS film separates, 1997.

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972.

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Idaho coordinate system, central zone (Transverse Mercator).
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 12, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum.

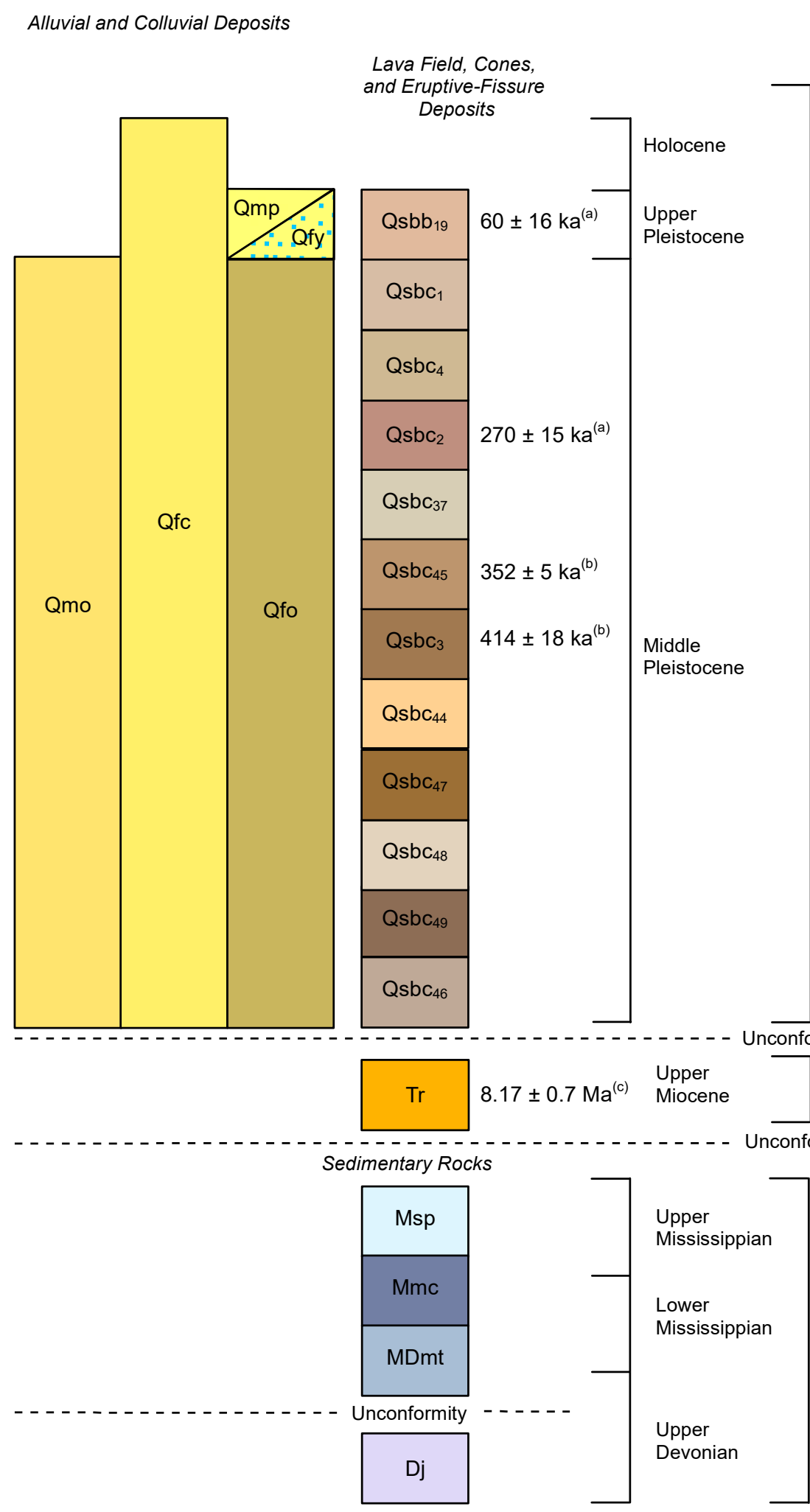
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 100-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

BUTTE CITY, IDAHO
N4330—N1307 5/7.5
1972
AMG 3311 IS DW-SKEETCH 7890

This Technical Report is a reproduction of independent geologic mapping from non-data Geologic Survey personnel. Its content, quality, and format does not conform to U.S. Geological Survey standards. This preliminary geologic map is published by the ICS to further future scientific studies.

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS



(a)¹⁴Ar/³⁹Ar ages from Hodges and others, 2015.
(b)¹⁴Ar/³⁹Ar age from written communication, B. Turrin, 2012, 2017.
(c) U-Pb zircon geochronology from Schuster, 2018.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP SYMBOLS

--- INL Boundary—Indicates the southwestern boundary of the Idaho National Laboratory

— Solid where certain
- - - Long-dashed where approximated with aerial photography
- · - · - Short-dash where interpreted based on stratigraphic relations and topography

Faults and Folds
Normal Fault and Monoclinial Flexure—Structures can pass transitionally into one another. Number in circle refers to offset in meters. Dashed where approximately located; ballarrow and bar on downthrown side
Anticline Axial Trace—Dashed where approximately located.
Syncline Axial Trace—Dashed where approximately located.

Bedding Measurement—Showing strike and dip direction

Paleomagnetic Sample Site—Site ID with inclination and declination direction rounded to the nearest degree for simplicity; see Table 1.

Geochemical Sample Site—Location of samples and historical sites labeled by site identification number; see Table 2.

Scalband—Area affected by cataclysmic flooding of the Big Lost River; see Rathburn, 1993. Boundary dotted where interpreted.

SYMBOLS FOR BASALTIC ROCKS

* Small Cone—Vent for small lava cones, cinder cones, and spatter cones

Crater—Outline of crater rim on volcanic vent; hachures point toward central depression

Lava Pond—Basalt-filled topographic depression surrounded by levees; hachures point away from pond

Rootless Vent—Secondary source of lava associated with lava tube openings

Flow Line—Linear flow features and lava tubes; arrows show flow direction; determined from topography, aerial photography, and field mapping

Eruptive Fissure—Fracture in rock through which lava erupted; commonly bordered by spatter ramps

Noneruptive Fissure—Fractures in rock which lava has not erupted

Lava Channel—Narrow channels; arrow shows direction of flow

INTRODUCTION

The geologic map of the Butte City 7.5' quadrangle is based on mapping summarized in the 1:100,000 scale map of the Idaho National Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Map I-2330, by Kurtz and others, 1994. New surficial geologic mapping was completed by National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) interns, Evan Martin (2015) and Samuel Helmuth (2017). Previously published maps and associated data, by various authors, including Kurtz, M.A., Betty Skipp, M.A., Lanphere, W.E., Scott, K.L., Pierce, G.B., Dalrymple, L.K., Morgan, D.E., Champion, G.F., Embree, W.R., Page, R.P., Smith, W.R., Hackett, and D.W. Rodgers from 1994 to 2017, were incorporated into this project. The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) Idaho National Laboratory Project Office, a field office of the Idaho State University, conducted subsurface investigations to study the Snake River aquifer at the Idaho National Laboratory. Many subsurface basaltic eruptions from vents exposed at the surface. Tracing the flows from the surface to the subsurface provides data for numerical models of groundwater flow and contaminant transport.

GEOLOGIC DISCUSSION

The geologic map of the Butte City 7.5' quadrangle contains Paleozoic: marine rocks, Miocene to Holocene volcanic rocks, and alluvial sediments of the Pinedale and Bull Lake glaciations (Kuntz and others, 1994; Skipp and others, 2009; Gosse and others, 1995). New paleomagnetic data (Table 1) from vents and flows in and near the Butte City quadrangle indicated that certain boundaries between volcanic and alluvial units needed to be revised.

Paleomagnetic investigations showed that a basalt flow from Pond Butte (Qsbcc) is the top flow of core USGS 142 (lat. 23°38'32" N, long. 115°01'09.41" W, NAD27), about 15 km N 84° E of the Pond Butte (Qsbcc) vent, in an area that had been previously mapped as Crater Butte (Qsbcc) (Kuntz and others, 1994; Skipp and others, 2009). Further surface and subsurface paleomagnetic investigations revealed that the Pond Butte (Qsbcc) flow was more extensive, while Crater Butte (Qsbcc) was less extensive than described on previously published 1:100,000 scale maps (Kuntz and others, 1994; Skipp and others, 2009). Paleomagnetic data was used to make the following changes in interpretation: (1) The unit mapped as Crater Butte (Qsbcc) south of Butte City was now identified as Vent 5337 (Qsbcc); (2) The contact between Pond Butte (Qsbcc) and Skimble Butte (Qsbcc) was discovered to be north of the Big Lost River and was adjusted; (3) The extent of Skimble Butte (Qsbcc) along the western map boundary was revised; previously undiscussed Vent 5571 (Qsbcc) flows were added; (4) Vent 5571 flows (Qsbcc) were revised, and extended eastward into what was previously mapped as Pond Butte (Qsbcc); (5) The northern contact between Teakettle Butte (Qsbcc) and Vent 5217 (Qsbcc) was revised, with Teakettle Butte flow extended northeast; (6) Field mapping and orthorectified were used to refine contacts and volcanic flow field from 1:100,000 scale maps and revealed the rhyolite of Butte Quarry (Tr) in the central map area.

Geochemical data (Table 2) shows that all the basalts sampled for this mapping are Snake River olivine tholeiite basalts (Kuntz, 1992). Geochemical and age data also indicate that the rhyolite of Butte Quarry is part of the Starlight Formation (Schuster, 2018), which erupted from the Picabo Caldera from 10.4–6 Ma (Bindeman and others, 2013).

EXPLANATION OF MAP UNITS

Names, unit abbreviations, and unit colors have been adopted from the previously published maps, "Geologic map of the Craters of the Moon 30'x60' quadrangle, Idaho," USGS Scientific Investigations Map 2969, scale 1:100,000, by Kurtz, M.A., Betty Skipp, D.E. Champion, P.B. Gans, and D.P. Van Sistine, 2007, and "Geologic Map of the Arco 30'x60' quadrangle, south-central Idaho," by Skipp, Betty, L.G. Snider, S.U. Janekne, and M.A. Kurtz, 2009. Idaho Geological Survey Geologic Map G-M-47, map scale 1:100,000. Names for lava fields are derived from titled vents and buttes on the 1:24,000-scale topographic base map or from named vents on adjacent quadrangles. Where labels for landmarks are absent, spot elevations near the interpreted source are used to name these lava fields. In some instances, names have been changed to better reflect the field and have been replaced by local or base map nomenclature. For example, the vent for Qsbcc was previously called Vent 5371, and has been renamed with local nomenclature to Pond Butte. The associated unit has also been renamed to Pond Butte lava field.

The unit symbol abbreviation scheme has remained consistent with the earlier publications mentioned. "Q" refers to the age, "s" identifying flows as part of the Snake River Group, "b" indicates basalt, and "c" or "m" refers to subdivisions of Pleistocene time. Final subscript numbers identify lava flows with the lava flow age units from stratigraphic data and interpretation. These numbers are for description, and do not represent relative age relations (Kuntz and others 2007; Skipp and others, 2009).

"Pinedale age" is the Central Rocky Mountain name for the last glacial period, which occurred from roughly 110,000 to 10,000 years B.P. "Bull Lake age" is the Central Rocky Mountain name for the glacial period which preceded the Pinedale advance, the maximum advance of which occurred 150,000–40,000 years B.P. (Pierce and others, 2018). Glacial maxima vary considerably depending on local climate and terrain.

MAP UNITS

Qmp Alluvial deposits of Pinedale age (upper Pleistocene)—Pebble and cobble gravel to pebbly sand, poor to moderate sorting; clasts subangular to rounded; parallel bedding and large-scale crossbedding. Upper 0.5–2 m generally includes sand and silt of eolian origin (Kuntz and others, 1994).

Qmo Older alluvial deposits (middle Pleistocene)—Pebble and cobble gravel to pebbly sand and minor sand. Less cover <1 m thick and contains at least one buried soil. Differentiated from unit Qmp on the basis of higher geomorphic position (Kuntz and others, 1994).

Alluvial-fan deposits

Qfc Fan deposits of alluvium and colluvium (Holocene to middle Pleistocene)—Pebble to boulder gravel in a matrix of silty sand to clay and silt; very poorly sorted; crudely bedded (Kuntz and others, 1994; Skipp and others, 2009).

Qfy Younger fan alluvium (upper Pleistocene)—Pebble to cobble gravel, locally bouldery near fan heads, generally distal supported, contains varied amounts of sand to silty sand as matrix and small lenses; clasts subangular to subrounded; parallel bedding and large-scale crossbedding; locally crudely bedded; medium to thick beds. Fans terraces, small fan remnants, and some fan surfaces. Topographically higher position, better developed soil, and thicker caliche coats on clasts than Qfy, possibly Bull Lake age (Scott, 1982; Skipp and others, 2009).

Qfo Older fan alluvium (middle Pleistocene)—Pebble to cobble gravel, locally bouldery near fan heads, matrix contains varied amounts of sand to silty sand; lenses of sand and silty sand also exist; poor to moderate sorting; clasts subangular to rounded; parallel bedding and large-scale crossbedding; locally crudely bedded; medium to thick beds. Fans terraces, small fan remnants, and some fan surfaces. Topographically higher position, better developed soil, and thicker caliche coats on clasts than Qfy, possibly Bull Lake age (Scott, 1982; Skipp and others, 2009).

Pleistocene basaltic vents and associated lava flows of the Snake River Group

Qsbcb Quaking Aspen Butte lava field (upper Pleistocene)—Low-lying distal flows of medium to dark-gray pahoehoe basalt, poorly exposed in outcrops along southeastern map boundary. Vent area is approximately 12 km south of the southeastern map boundary. Flows have tumuli, pressure ridges, and pressure plateaus with approximately 53 m of relief, and are mantled by 51 m of loess and eolian sand (Skipp and others, 2009). ¹⁴Ar/³⁹Ar age, 60 ± 16 ka (Hodges and others, 2015).

Qsbcc Lavato Butte lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface-fed pahoehoe basalt flows minimally exposed in outcrops along the east-central boundary of the map area. Smooth distal flows have relief of 52 m. Main vent approximately 2 km east of boundary (Skipp and others, 2009).

Qsbcd Crater Butte lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, dominantly surface-fed pahoehoe and shelly pahoehoe basaltic lava flows. Main vent in northwestern map area creating a 20 m deep, steep-walled crater with proximal shelly-pahoehoe flows. Crater is at summit of a large broad shield volcano. Flows have an average relief of 34 m and extend from the vent radially. Hand samples are texturally diktyxtalitic and weakly porphyritic with olivine and plagioclase phenocrysts in medium-gray, fine-grained crystalline matrix of plagioclase laths, olivine granules, ± clinopyroxene blades.

Qsbce Pond Butte lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray pahoehoe basalt flows dominantly surface-fed, also fed by channels and lobes. Main vent area located in central portion of map area, 2 km northeast of abandoned rail right-of-way. Vent area is a 515 m deep, 825 m long, 60–300 m wide lava-lake depression on top of a lava cone. Lava lake overflow created the proximal ridges of smooth pahoehoe flows south peak 5382. Smooth medial and distal flows create 52 m relief, and are inferred to terminate north of the Big Lost River. Flows mantled by 52 m of loess and eolian sand (Skipp and others, 2009). Hand samples are texturally diktyxtalitic and glomerophyritic with clots of olivine and local syntaxial plagioclase. ¹⁴Ar/³⁹Ar age, 270 ± 15 ka (Hodges and others, 2015).

Qsbcf Vent 5571 lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Medium-gray, pahoehoe basalt flows outcrop along western edge of map area, inferred to terminate at seasonal pond at approximately lat. N 43° 35' 00" long. W 115° 12' 30". Vent area located approximately 1 km south of map area, and interpreted to be correlated to Wilherson Butte. Smooth, distal flows with 51.5 m relief are mantled by 52 m of loess and eolian sand.

Qsbcg Tin Cup Butte lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Medium-gray, distal basalt flows outcrop along south-central border of map area. Main vent area several kilometers to the south of map area. More information can be found in Kurtz and others, 2007 and Skipp and others, 2009. ¹⁴Ar/³⁹Ar age, 352 ± 5 ka (written communication, B. Turrin to D. E. Champion, 2012).

Qsbci Vent 5334 lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Medium-gray to red-brown, surface-, channel-, and tube-fed pahoehoe and shelly pahoehoe basaltic lava flows and pyroclastic deposits proximal to vent. Main vent in east-central portion of map area near INL boundary. Vent area is a low cone with southeast-trending eruptive fissure extending to a rounded vent depression. Shelly pahoehoe flows proximal to main vent, and tephra commonly in fissure area. Medial and distal flows have rosey textures and relief of 52 m. Hand samples are texturally porphyritic with olivine, plagioclase, ± clinopyroxene phenocrysts in dark-gray aphanitic matrix. ¹⁴Ar/³⁹Ar age, 414 ± 18 ka (written communication, B. Turrin to D. E. Champion, 2017).

Qsbcl Vent 5337 lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Medium-gray, surface-fed, distal pahoehoe basalt flows. Poorly exposed weathered outcrop in map area, best exposed at rail right-of-way. Main vent area located south of map area. Paleomagnetic site 71058 provides new insight to area and correlates this with Vent 5337.

Qsbcm Skimble Butte lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Medium-gray, surface- and tube-fed, pahoehoe basalt flows. Main vent area is in southwest corner of map area, and is a shallow crater at summit of a 150 m high shield volcano. Flows extend from vent area and are inferred to terminate north of the Big Lost River. Proximal and medial flows are texturally porphyritic with glomeritic olivine clots and plagioclase phenocrysts in dark-gray aphanitic matrix. Dark-gray, dense, texturally aphanitic flows also exist and are interpreted as stratigraphically older than porphyritic flows. Textural differences and interpreted relationship best observed in outcrop near the Big Lost River.

Qsbcn Teakettle Butte lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed, pahoehoe and shelly pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent area is a long, round, shallow crater at summit of a 100 m high cinder cone at the southern map boundary. Crater, and red-brown oxidized pyroclastic deposits are proximal to crater and vent area. Rough, medial flows have a relief of 52.5 m (Skipp and others, 2009).

Qsbco Vent 5217 lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed, pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent is a small cinder cone at peak 5201, with a ridge extending to the southeast, in southwestern map area. Red to brown pyroclastic deposits located proximal to vent area. Smooth proximal and medial flows have 53 m of relief, and are mantled by 52.5 m of loess and eolian sand (Skipp and others, 2009). Hand samples are texturally diktyxtalitic and porphyritic with phenocrysts of olivine and plagioclase in fine-grained, gray matrix.

Qsbcp Vent 5153 lava field (middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent area is a small cinder cone with red, oxidized pyroclastic deposits in the southwest map area. Rough proximal flows have 52 m of relief, and are mantled by 52 m of loess and eolian sand (Kuntz and others, 2007).

Qsbcb Rhyolite of Butte Quarry (upper Miocene)—Dark-gray to maroon, fine-grained, moderately vesicular, rhyolite and associated vitrophyre outcrops 10 m north of main rhyolite exposure. Rhyolite has sub-parallel vesicles elongated east-west, hand samples are weakly porphyritic with subhedral plagioclase and vitrophyre, sparse to rare sandstone phenocrysts in dense, aphanitic matrix. Dark-gray to charcoal gray vitrophyre with quartz and plagioclase phenocrysts in dark gray, dense, glassy ground mass. U-Pb zircon age, 8.17 ± 0.7 Ma (Schuster, 2018).

Qsbcc Miocene Rhyolite rocks

Qsbcd Rhyolite of Butte Quarry (upper Miocene)—Dark-gray to maroon, fine-grained, moderately vesicular, rhyolite and associated vitrophyre outcrops 10 m north of main rhyolite exposure. Rhyolite has sub-parallel vesicles elongated east-west, hand samples are weakly porphyritic with subhedral plagioclase and vitrophyre, sparse to rare sandstone phenocrysts in dense, aphanitic matrix. Dark-gray to charcoal gray vitrophyre with quartz and plagioclase phenocrysts in dark gray, dense, glassy ground mass. U-Pb zircon age, 8.17 ± 0.7 Ma (Schuster, 2018).

Qsbce Vent 5217 lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed, pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent is a small cinder cone at peak 5201, with a ridge extending to the southeast, in southwestern map area. Red to brown pyroclastic deposits located proximal to vent area. Smooth proximal and medial flows have 53 m of relief, and are mantled by 52.5 m of loess and eolian sand (Skipp and others, 2009). Hand samples are texturally diktyxtalitic and porphyritic with phenocrysts of olivine and plagioclase in fine-grained, gray matrix.

Qsbcf Vent 5153 lava field (middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent area is a small cinder cone with red, oxidized pyroclastic deposits in the southwest map area. Rough proximal flows have 52 m of relief, and are mantled by 52 m of loess and eolian sand (Kuntz and others, 2007).

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Qsbcn Vent 5217 lava field (upper middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed, pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent is a small cinder cone at peak 5201, with a ridge extending to the southeast, in southwestern map area. Red to brown pyroclastic deposits located proximal to vent area. Smooth proximal and medial flows have 53 m of relief, and are mantled by 52.5 m of loess and eolian sand (Skipp and others, 2009). Hand samples are texturally diktyxtalitic and porphyritic with phenocrysts of olivine and plagioclase in fine-grained, gray matrix.

Qsbco Vent 5153 lava field (middle Pleistocene)—Dark-gray, surface- and channel-fed pahoehoe basalt flows. Vent area is a small cinder cone with red, oxidized pyroclastic deposits in the southwest map area. Rough proximal flows have 52 m of relief, and are mantled by 52 m of loess and eolian sand (Kuntz and others, 2007).

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Paleozoic strata of the southern Arco Hills

Msp Scott Peak Formation (upper Mississippian)—Medium gray, silty, sandy, with gray to orange chert, thin- to thick-bedded, ledge- to cliff-forming limestone; weathers light gray with scalloped texture. Abundant fossil inclusions include crinoids and rugose corals among fossil hash. Gradationally underlain by the Middle Canyon Formation; estimated thickness of 150 m in the southern Arco Hills (Skipp and others, 2009).

MDmt McGowan Creek and Three Forks Formations undivided (lower Mississippian and upper Devonian)—Undivided due to limited exposure in mapping area. Medium gray, fine- to medium-grained, thinly-bedded, slope-forming limestone; locally brecciated.

Mmc Middle Canyon Formation (Mississippian)—Dark gray, fine-grained, thin- to medium-bedded, slope- to ledge-forming silty limestone; thin light gray rind on weathered surfaces. Locally interbedded limestone and calcareous siltstone with tan to black discontinuous chert stringers and nodules. Gradational contacts with Scott Peak Formation and McGowan Creek Formation below; estimated thickness of 180 m in the southern Arco Hills (Skipp and others, 2009).

Dj Jefferson Formation (Devonian)—Medium gray, fine-grained, medium-bedded, slope- to ledge-forming dolomite; locally dolostone-limestone breccia or siltstone. Estimated thickness of 80 m in the southern Arco Hills (Skipp and others, 2009).

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The USGS/NAGT Cooperative Field Training Program is the longest continuously running internship program in the earth sciences and the opportunity this program provides to young, aspiring scientists is greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to the U.S. Geological Survey and the Idaho Geological Survey for making the publication of this map possible, to Kyle Schuster for his help and knowledge in the southern Arco Hills, and also to Michael Clymer, Paul Link, and Jan Ziegler for their constructive peer reviews.

Table 1. Paleomagnetic data for samples of selected basaltic lava fields in the Butte City 7.5' quadrangle, Butte County, Idaho. Analytical data acquired from sampling during 2015–2017 field seasons, and from the previous publication Kurtz and others, 1994. Recent field samples were acquired and analyzed by Duane E. Champion, U.S. Geological Survey, Volcano Hazards Program, Alaska Volcano Center, Menlo Park, California, using standard protocols and sampling equipment.

definition of table headings:

- site ID - site alphanumeric identifier
- unit Sampled - alphanumeric abbreviation associated with geologic unit
- North - North - Easting/Northing in UTM Zone 12N, NAD27
- N0 - number of cores used to calculate mean site direction compared with north
- Exp - strength of the peak alternating field (AF) demagnetization field in mT
- I - indicates that a vector component lines analysis was used
- D - indicates that a planes analysis was used
- α95 - indicates that a mixture of lines and planes was used to define the mean remanent direction
- k - remanent inclination in degrees
- R - remanent declination in degrees
- α95 - remanent of the 95% confidence limit about the mean direction
- R - estimate of the Fisher parameter
- estimate of the residual vector
- East and Plong - location in degrees north and east of virtual geomagnetic pole (VGP) calculated from the mean direction of the site
- source - publication for paleomagnetic data