

PRELIMINARY GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST SPECIAL STUDY AREA, ALASKA

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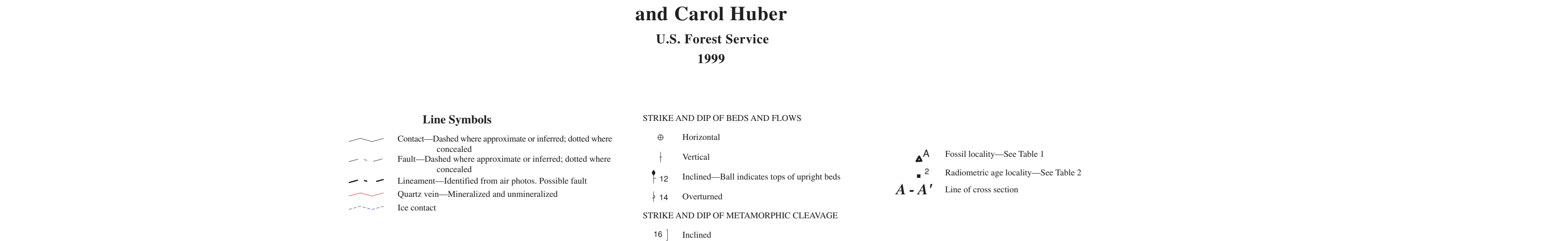


Table 4. Sr and Nd isotopic data on igneous rocks of the Prince William Sound area of southern Alaska.

Sample number	Age (Ma)	Sr ⁸⁷ /Sr ⁸⁶ measured	Sr ⁸⁷ /Sr ⁸⁶ calculated	Nd ¹⁴³ /Nd ¹⁴⁴ measured	Nd ¹⁴³ /Nd ¹⁴⁴ calculated
Tertiary plutons outside the Special Study Area in Prince William Sound					
92SN20A	27.00	0.7100	0.7100	0.5200	0.5200
92SN21A	8.10	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN22A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN23A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN24A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN25A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN26A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN27A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN28A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN29A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN30A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN31A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN32A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN33A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN34A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN35A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN36A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN37A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN38A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN39A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN40A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN41A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN42A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN43A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN44A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN45A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN46A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN47A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN48A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN49A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250
92SN50A	11.00	0.7150	0.7150	0.5250	0.5250

INTRODUCTION
 In 1990 both the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines were contacted by the Chugach National Forest (CNF) for the purpose of providing mineral resource information for the CNF Master Plan during the planning period fiscal years 1991-1994. This information is to address the terms and requirements of the 1986 Settlement Agreement and to provide mineral and geologic information useful to the CNF for making land-use decisions. This report is a preliminary report which estimates the undiscovered mineral endowments of the "special" study area (see Fig. 1) and to identify the potential for mineral discovery and development. The U.S. Bureau of Mines was to prepare a report updating the discovered mineral endowment of the Special Study Area. These reports are now published (Roe and Balen, 1994; Nelson and others, 1994). This geologic map is a component of the U.S. Geological Survey contribution to the overall project.

LOCATION AND GEOGRAPHIC SETTING
 The Chugach National Forest, located in the Kenai-Chugach Mountains physiographic province of Alaska (Wahrhaftig, 1965) is the second largest national forest in the United States and is about 9,000 square miles in area. This area encompasses scenic Prince William Sound, the largest embayment along the coast of Alaska between Cook Inlet and Cape Spencer on the Alaskan panhandle to the southeast. The Special Study Area is located in the northern part of Prince William Sound (Fig. 1). The Special Study Area is about 400 mi² in area and is bounded by Unalaska Inlet on the west and Columbia Glacier and Columbia Bay on the east. The southern part of the area includes Glacier Island and the northern boundary is approximately latitude 61° 07' N. The coastline of the area is indented by fjords that were produced by south-flowing glaciers. The lower slopes are densely vegetated with stands of spruce, cedar, hemlock, and douglas-fir. Timber line is located at about 1500' elevation. Relief in the area ranges from sea level to 8,800' at "X Mountain" (T11N, R12W, S3C, 3, 4).

PREVIOUS GEOLOGIC MAPPING
 Most previous geologic mapping efforts by federal agencies in the Chugach National Forest were reconnaissance or regional geologic and resource studies. One of the earliest geologic map compilations covering the area was done by Moffitt (1954). Nelson and others (1985) published a geologic map of the entire Chugach National Forest. Most geologic mapping under the U.S. Geological Survey's Alaska Mineral Resource Assessment Program (AMRAP) covered 1:250,000-scale quadrangle maps. Quadrangle maps covering the Chugach National Forest and Cape (1979) and the Seward and Blyling Sound Quads., Winkler and others (1981) for the Valdez Quad., Winkler (1992) for the Anchorage Quad., Winkler and Pfleger (1993) for the Cordova and Middleton Island Quads., Winkler (1993) published a 1:63,360-scale geologic map covering Hinichbrook Island in the Cordova Quad.

REGIONAL GEOLOGY
 The geology of the National Forest is dominated by two major lithologic units, the Valdez Group (Late Cretaceous) and the Orea Group (Paleocene and Eocene) (Schrader, 1990). The Valdez Group is part of a 2,200-km-wide belt of Mesozoic accretionary complex rocks that the Chugach terrane (Jones and others, 1987). This terrane extends along the Alaska coast margin from Baranof Island in southeastern Alaska to Sanak Island in southwestern Alaska. The Orea Group is part of an accretionary complex of Paleogene age called the Prince William terrane that extends from Prince William Sound westward through the Kodiak Island area, underlying much of the continental shelf to the west (Pflaker, 1960, 1971; Tysdal and Case, 1979). Both groups consist largely of graywacke, siltstone and shale; the finer grained rocks commonly display a slaty fabric. Petrographic study of the class composition from the graywackes has suggested that the sediments represent the progressive unroofing of a volcanic arc to its plutonic core (Dumoulin, 1987). A recent petrographic study (Phillips 1990) concluded the composition does not vary with turbidite facies units. Framework modes of Orea Group sandstones from the Special Study Area range from 10 to 53 percent quartz, 25 to 70 percent feldspar grains, and 5 to 74 percent total feldspar (Phillips, 1990). The compositional variations reflect differences in the proportions of lithic fragments, derived from volcanic core of the arc, versus quartz and feldspar, derived from deeper rocks of the arc. Additional isotopic and petrographic studies of the sedimentary rocks from the two groups indicate the major source of these clasts was likely the Coast Mountains provenance in Canada (Ferner and others, 1993) and that a secondary input may have come from the Wrangellia and Peninsular terranes (Phillips, 1990).

Both groups also contain thick sections of mafic volcanic rocks (Nelson and others, 1985). In the Orea Group the mafic rocks comprise an ophiolite section that contains, from base to top, ultramafic rocks, gabbro, sheeted dikes, and pillow basalt (Crowe and others, 1992; Nelson and others, 1985; and Nelson and Nelson, 1993). The volcanic section in the Valdez Group also contains thick pillow basalt, lesser sheeted dikes, gabbro, and ultramafic rocks. These units are spatially associated with each other. Both volcanic sections show massive sulfide deposits that were worked primarily for copper (Crowe and others, 1992). These volcanic sections can be distinguished geologically because those in the Valdez Group are more alkaline than those in the Orea Group (Crowe and others, 1992). The contact between the Orea and Valdez Groups is designated as the Contact fault (Winkler and Pfleger, 1981). In eastern Prince William Sound the location of the Contact fault is based on the change in structural trend in the two groups. Between the Copper River and Port Fidalgo the Orea Group crops out north of the Valdez Group in this area exhibits an east-west regional strike. In western Prince William Sound the regional strike of the two groups is parallel. This coupled with the close lithologic similarities of the two groups, makes location of the contact problematic in western Prince William Sound (Bol and Gribbons, 1992).

Plutonic rocks in the forest were emplaced during two main intrusive episodes. The earliest intrusive episode has been dated by potassium-argon methods at 50 to 53 Ma by ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar (Haussler and others, 1995). Rocks of this age are found in eastern Prince William Sound and to the west of Prince William Sound. These plutons have been assigned to the Sanak-Baranof plutonic belt (Hudson and others, 1979) are thought to have formed from large melt fractions of the graywacke host (Barber and others, 1992) and represent a creating center beneath the accretionary complex (Hasson and others, 1993 and references therein). The younger plutonic episode has been dated by both potassium-argon and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar methods (Lanphere, 1966; Nelson and others, 1985; this study). Potassium-argon dates of hornblende and biotite for the younger intrusive episode in Prince William Sound lie between 32.2±1.6 Ma and 38.4±1.9 Ma (Nelson and others, 1993). Rocks of both the Orea and Valdez Groups are found in the Special Study Area. The Valdez Group is represented by low-grade metamorphosed turbidites found north of the Contact fault. Rocks of the Orea Group are found to the south of the Contact fault and consist of both turbidites and mafic volcanic rocks.

Geologic mapping at 1:63,360-scale of both groups has focused on the distribution of the depositional facies (Matti and Ricci Lucchi, 1978) in turbidites both for structural interpretation and controls for mineralization (Haussler and Nelson, 1993). Two volcanic rock-associations are found in the study area. One association is the volcanic rocks found on Glacier Island that consist of pillow basalt and sheeted dikes typical of an ophiolite association (Crowe and others, 1992). The ophiolite of Glacier Island is part of a 100-km-long belt of ophiolite that extends from Erlingston Inlet in the south, north through Glacier Island and east to Ellmanor (Crowe and others, 1992). These ophiolite rocks are inferred to have formed around 57 Ma, which is the radiometrically determined age of the Resurrection Peninsula ophiolite near Seward (Nelson and others, 1989). We obtained a ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar plateau on plagioclase from the Glacier Island sequence in the study area of 57.6±0.6 Ma. We interpret this age as being reset during intrusion of the 32-38 Ma plutons.

The second association of volcanic rocks consists of volcanoclastic rocks and pelagic limestone. These rocks are found in two fault-bounded areas within the Orea Group turbidites. Volcanic mudstone with broken pillow breccia, purple or green calcareous shale, and thin beds of gray, green, and purple limestone are characteristic of the unit. These rocks are unusual because they contain fossils older than the enclosing Orea Group and older than the Valdez Group that lies to the north of the Contact fault. These rocks are younger than the McHugh Complex of Clark, 1973, are age-correlative with the "Cape Current terrane" of Connelly (1978), and thus are probably correlative. These rocks even though structurally they appear dissimilar. These rocks also contain mid-Eocene fossils, which may be explained by tectonic mixing of sediments of dissimilar ages.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS
Unconformity
 Unconformity is represented by a dashed line with a wavy pattern. It indicates a break in the geologic record where younger rocks overlie older rocks that have been eroded. **Quaternary**
 Quaternary units are represented by a light gray color. They include recent alluvium, glacial drift, and other recent deposits. **Tertiary**
 Tertiary units are represented by a light brown color. They include the Orea Group and Valdez Group rocks. **Upper Mesozoic**
 Upper Mesozoic units are represented by a light green color. They include the McHugh Complex and other Mesozoic rocks. **Plutonic rocks**
 Plutonic rocks are represented by a light blue color. They include the Sanak-Baranof plutonic belt and other plutonic rocks.

CONGLOMERATE (Lithofacies A)—Dark gray, poorly bedded to massive, matrix-supported pebbly mudstone and sandstone to pebble, cobble, and boulder conglomerate. Minor lenses of sandstone and lesser amounts of siltstone. Clasts are usually well-sorted and predominantly sandstone and siltstone. Only one felsic igneous rock clast was observed. The thickest occurrence of conglomerate is found on the east side of Unalaska Inlet just west of Miners Bay. Here the conglomerate unit nearly 1,000-m-thick and the outcrop are part of a large northeast-trending fold. Depositional environment probably in submarine/under-slope on unstable slopes and channel deposits on the slope and upper parts of deep-sea fans (Winkler and Tysdal, 1977).

MASSIVE SANDSTONE AND RHYTHMITE (Lithofacies B and D)—Massive sandstone and rhythmic siltstone. Beds range in thickness from 2 to over 5 m. Locally contains interbedded interval of well bedded turbidites of lithofacies C (Matti and Ricci Lucchi, 1978). Massive sandstone is predominant in a belt that extends from the Special Study Area to the southwestern part of the Chugach National Forest. Dish structures are locally common.

"TYPICAL" TURBIDITES (Lithofacies C)—Gray, well bedded, fine to medium grained, alternating layers of sandstone, siltstone, and shale. Beds are in layers less than or equal to 2 m thick. This lithologic association led to the original definition of turbidites (Matti and Ricci Lucchi, 1978). Commonly displays nearly complete Bouma sequences (Bouma, 1962). Primary sedimentary features are common and include well-developed graded bedding, cross-bedding, lode and flute casts, dish structures, and fine-scale laminations. Probably deposited in the middle part of a deep sea fan that had local inner fan deposits representing feeder and distributary channels with the fan complex.

RHYTHMITE (Lithofacies D)—Dark gray, well bedded, fine grained, siltstone, and shale in beds 5 cm or less in thickness. Probably represents a distal facies of Orea. Occurs in local rock outcrops on the southern side of Fairmount Island and the west side of Wells Bay.

MASSIVE SANDSTONE AND RHYTHMITE (Lithofacies B and D)—Massive sandstone and rhythmic siltstone. Beds range in thickness from 2 to over 5 m. Locally contains interbedded interval of well bedded turbidites of lithofacies C (Matti and Ricci Lucchi, 1978). Massive sandstone is predominant in a belt that extends from the Special Study Area to the southwestern part of the Chugach National Forest. Dish structures are locally common.

"TYPICAL" TURBIDITES (Lithofacies C)—Gray, well bedded, fine to medium grained, alternating layers of sandstone, siltstone, and shale with moderate to well developed slaty fabric. Beds are in layers less than or equal to 2 m thick. This lithologic association led to the original definition of turbidites (Matti and Ricci Lucchi, 1978). Commonly displays nearly complete Bouma sequences (Bouma, 1962). Primary sedimentary features are not common due to metamorphism and deformation.

Volcanic and Sedimentary Rocks, undivided (Late Cretaceous and Tertiary)—This unit consists of four lithologic units occurring in two fault bounded areas: one area is north of Long Bay and the second area is southeast of Miners Lake. Lithologic units are: (1) volcanic mudstone with broken pillow breccia, (2) purple or green calcareous shale, (3) thin bedded gray, green, and purple pelagic limestone, and (4) sheeted mafic rocks.

Structure
 After incorporation of the sediments into the accretionary complex the sediments were folded into kilometer-scale tight folds. The Special Study Area is at the hinge of the orocline of southern Alaska (Grant, 1966) where the regional strike of bedding changes by about 90°. Adjacent structural domains in the study area defined by the trend of bedding may have up to a 90° difference in strike of bedding in adjacent domains. This change reflects a structural pattern developed during orocline bending similar to the style of bending by Haussler and Nelson, 1993). Because the plutons

Table 1. Major element geochemistry of igneous rocks

Sample	SiO ₂	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeO	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Total
92SN20A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN21A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN22A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN23A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN24A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN25A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN26A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN27A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN28A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN29A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN30A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN31A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN32A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN33A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN34A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN35A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN36A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN37A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN38A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN39A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN40A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN41A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN42A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN43A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN44A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN45A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN46A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN47A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN48A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN49A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4
92SN50A	75.5	0.5	15.2	12.8	10.2	0.2	0.8	0.2	115.4