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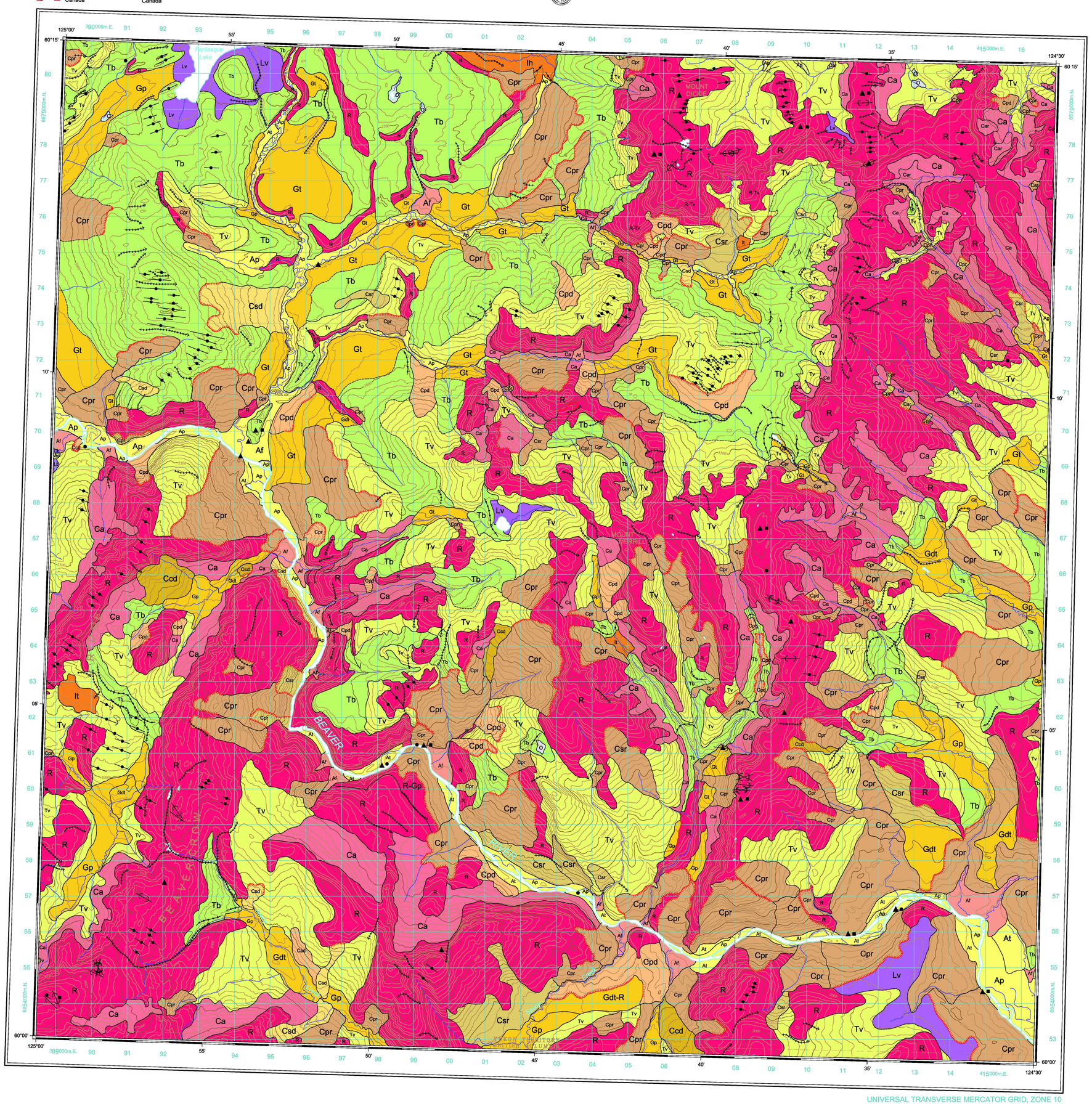
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA | COMMISSION GÉOLOGIQUE DU CANADA



UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID, ZONE 10

LEGEND

QUATERNARY SURFICIAL DEPOSITS

POST LAST GLACIATION

NONGLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

O — ***ORGANIC DEPOSITS:*** *organic matter; >1 m thick; formed by the accumulation of vegetation in poorly drained depressions (swamps and bogs); usually forms flat terrain*

COLLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *block accumulations and mass wasting debris, 1-50 m thick*

Ca — *Talus (scree): accumulations of blocks; commonly exceeding 2 m in diameter; as much as 50 m thick; forming aprons and fans below cliffs;* **Car**, *rock glacier debris (relict), pronounced transverse and longitudinal ridges and furrows exhibiting down-slope flow*

Ccd — *Debris creep deposits: unconsolidated material; accumulations (<1-10 m thick) at base of slopes; surface morphology includes ribbed or lobate forms*

Csr — *Rock slide deposits: chaotic landscape of irregular and stacked bedrock blocks; prominent in areas of steeply dipping, poorly-indurated sandstone and shale-rich beds in the Mattson and Fantasque formations*

Csd — *Debris slide deposits: accumulations of unconsolidated material; internal structure of material is not maintained; where sufficient moisture is present, the slide may become a flow producing characteristic levees along its lateral margins and a spatulate form at the base of slope*

Cpr — *Bedrock slump deposits: large rotational blocks in bedrock, shallow to 10's of metres thick; internal structure of material may be retained; often traceable upslope to active scarps; where sufficient moisture is present the slump may produce a flow at its base, forming a characteristic spatulate form; prominent in areas of steeply dipping, poorly-indurated sandstone and shale-rich beds in the Mattson and Fantasque formations; associated with the largest mass movements in the region*

Cpd — *Debris slump deposits: unconsolidated material; generally smaller blocks or more localized masses, but may include larger masses (>10 m thick) where associated with thick till, glaciolacustrine or glaciofluvial deposits; internal structure of material may be retained; often traceable upslope to active scarps; where sufficient moisture is present the slump may become a flow, producing characteristic levees along its lateral margins and a spatulate form at the base of slope*

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel, sand, and organic detritus >1 m thick*

A — *Fluvial deposits: well sorted gravel and sand with detrital organic beds, including concentrations of logs, >1 m thick;* **Ap**, *floodplains and mantling valley floors, forming meander scars and point bars;* **At**, *terraces along valley wall sides*

Af — *Alluvial fan: poorly sorted gravel and sand with organic detritus and buried soils; fans are commonly crossed by debris flow channels and levees and subject to shifting stream courses; >1 m thick*

POSTGLACIAL OR LATE WISCONSINAN

PROGLACIAL AND GLACIAL ENVIRONMENTS

L — ***GLACIOLACUSTRINE DEPOSITS:*** *coarse to fine sand, silt and clay, with gravel debris flow layers and dropstones; deposited in glacier-dammed lakes; level topography;* **Lv**, *thin discontinous veneer, <1 m thick;* **Lt**, *forming terraces, often deeply dissected by postglacial erosion where thick*

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel, sand, minor sandy diamict, usually >1 m thick; deposited on, beneath, or in front of glacier margins*

G — *Proglacial outwash:* **Gd**, *braided outwash deltas;* **Gdt**, *delta terraces;* **Gf**, *fans;* **Gp**, *outwash plains and mantling valley floors;* **Gt**, *level outwash terraces*

I — *Ice contact stratified drift: deposited behind or at the ice magin; topography is undulating, irregular, or ridged;* **It**, *forming lateral kame terraces and delta terraces;* **Ik**, *kettle holes;* **Ih**, *hummocky moulin kame fields, or ice block disintegration terrain;* **Ir**, *eskers or crevasse fillings*

TILL: *nonsorted diamict deposited directly by glacial ice; matrix is sandy to clayey and contains striated clasts of various lithologies*

Tb — *Till blanket: > 2 m thick; forming undulating topography that obscures underlying bedrock structure;* Tbk, *distinctly kettled*

Tv — *Till veneer: < 2 m thick and discontinuous; surface mimics underlying bedrock structure*

PRE-QUATERNARY BEDROCK

R — *Sedimentary bedrock, undifferentiated. The Merrill Anticline dominates the map sheet, extending from the northeast through the south-central area, and is comprised largely of moderate to shallow-dipping (<30°), Lower Carboniferous lower to upper Mattson Formation strata (calcareous quartz arenite, siltstone and shale, with minor limestone, dolostone and coal). The northern extension of the Beavercrow Anticline occurs along the west-central margin of the map, and is similarly comprised of Mattson Formation strata. The northwest quadrant of the map is comprised of shallow-dipping (<20°), Permian to Lower Cretaceous Fantasque, Toad, Garbutt and Scatter formations (strata include chert, hale, siltstone and sandstone).*

NOTE: *In areas where the surficial cover forms a complex mosaic, the area is coloured according to the predominant unit and labelled with hyphenated letters in descending order of cover*

MAP SYMBOLS

- *Geological boundary (defined, gradational)*
- *Scarp*
- *Moraine*
- *Striae (glacial flow direction known, unknown)*
- *Fluting or drumlinoid ridge parallel to ice flow (direction of flow known, unknown)*
- *Proglacial meltwater channel (direction of flow known)*
- *Lateral meltwater channel (barb points upslope and down flow)*
- *Observation*
- *Drift geochemistry sample site*
- *Canadian Shield erratic*

NOTE: ***Mass Wasting*** *is the collective term given to the range of processes and resultant landforms that relate to the gravitational downslope movement of rock and/or unconsolidated material without the direct conveyance by water, air or ice. Water and ice are, however, often key components in initiating and perpetuating mass wasting by reducing the strength of materials and in their plastic and fluid behaviour.*

Different types of mass wasting are distinguished by the type of materials involved (e.g., bedrock, talus, till), the mode of deformation (e.g., creep, slide, slump, flow), speed of movement, morphology of the moving mass, and water content.

Creep is the slow (mm's to cm's per year), often imperceptible, downslope movement of soil, talus or other unconsolidated material. Creep occurs episodically in response to solutional weathering, seasonal wetting and drying, or freeze-thaw cycles and may include the plastic deformation of clay-rich soils. While more prevalent on steep slopes, creep can occur on slopes <5°. Evidence of creep is seen where tree trunks or structures (e.g., hydro poles) are tilted downslope, soil accumulates upslope of retaining walls, and cracks develop in the soil perpendicular to the slope. Creep is also responsible for the formation of gelifluction lobes, prominent, small-scale (metres in length, centimetres thick), periglacial landforms found along the upper reaches of local mountain ranges (but not included in the regional surficial geology mapping).

Slides are the rapid, downslope movement of bedrock or unconsolidated material. Failure occurs along bedding and/or fracture planes in bedrock, and along bedrock contacts, or structural and sedimentological boundaries within unconsolidated material. Slides can be initiated at shallow or considerable depths.

Slumps involve the rotational movement of bedrock and/or unconsolidated material along failure planes. Slumps may occur as individual blocks or amorphous masses (reflecting water content and structural integrity of the failing material). Slumps often extend progressively up-slope through time, and can be associated with active scarp or headwall retreat. Slumps can be initiated by failure along bedding, fracture, or sedimentological planes, by infiltration of surface water, through lateral incision and undercutting of slopes by streams, or excavation activities (e.g., road building, pipeline trenching). Slumps are prominent in areas of steeply dipping, poorly-indurated sandstone and shale-rich beds in the Mattson and Fantasque formations, and are associated with the largest mass movements in map area.

While different earth surface materials and geological settings are often strongly associated with various types of mass wasting, predicting their occurrence, magnitude and rate of deformation is often not possible. Some areas that are prone to mass wasting include regions of steeply dipping bedrock, poorly indurated and shale-rich bedrock, and along stream courses and meandering river channels. Human activities such as road building, pipeline trenching, logging and seismic exploration can also initiate mass wasting, particularly where they undercut slopes, or act to destabilize surficial materials.

NOTE ON GLACIAL HISTORY: *The Mount Merrill map area was glaciated during the last (late Wisconsinan) glaciation (ca. 25-10 000 years ago) by the continental Laurentide Ice Sheet flowing from the northeast (Keewatin Sector) and by the Cordilleran Ice Sheet flowing from the west. The Laurentide Ice Sheet dispersed distinctive granite erratics, originating from the Canadian Shield. These granite erratics were found atop Mount Merrill (1400 m above sea level (asl)), along the La Biche Range (40 km north of Mount Merrill) at 1620 m asl, and 80 km west of Mount Merrill along the Beaver River at 580 m asl. In addition, cross-cutting ice flow directional indicators (striae and flutings) indicate that glaciers first moved westward across the region, followed by an eastward flow. It can thus be concluded that this map area was first occupied by Laurentide ice which inundated the entire landscape. Subsequently, Cordilleran ice advanced eastward, displacing the Laurentide ice. Cordilleran ice did not extend to the highest summits in the map area, and appears to have reached a local upper limit of ~1200 m asl. Several sets of nested, arcuate moraines in the upper valleys surrounding Mount Merrill are considered to mark the termini of Cordilleran valley glaciers.*

During both the advance and retreat of Laurentide ice, the regional southeastward drainage was blocked, resulting in the impoundment of large proglacial lakes along the Beaver River valley. Evidence of these lakes is found in glaciofluvial deltas and terraces deposited in valleys up to ~150 m above the modern Beaver River. Extensive glaciolacustrine deposits, however, are not seen (unlike in regions surrounding this map area), reflecting the steep topography along the Beaver River, the prevalence of slumping, and the likely erosion of much of the lacustrine sediment by Cordilleran ice which would have been last to occupy this valley.

Compilation by I. R. Smith based on fieldwork and studies of vertical air photographs 1999, 2000, 2001.
THIS MAP IS A PRODUCT OF THE CENTRAL FORELAND NATMAP PROJECT

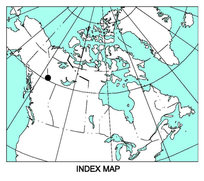
Surficial geology from field work by I. R. Smith 1999, 2000, 2001.

Digital cartography by I. R. Smith.

Any revisions or additional geological information known to the user would be welcomed by the Geological Survey of Canada.

Base map at the same scale published by Surveys and Mapping Branch in 1971.

Recommended citation:
Smith, I.R.
2002: Surficial Geology, Mount Merrill (95C/02), Yukon Territory - British Columbia; Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 4324, 1 map, scale 1:50 000.



INDEX MAP

CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
Elevations in Feet above Mean Sea Level
North American Datum 1983
Transverse Mercator Projection

NATMAP CARTNAT
Canada's National Geoscience Mapping Program
Le Programme national de cartographie géoscientifique du Canada

Canada

OPEN FILE 4324

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

MOUNT MERRILL

YUKON TERRITORY - BRITISH COLUMBIA

Scale 1:50 000 Échelle 1/50 000

Kilometres 1 0 1 2 3 Kilomètres

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4324
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA
COMMISSION GÉOLOGIQUE DU CANADA
2002

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95C/06 Gold Pay Creek	95C/07 Brown Lake	95C/08 Babiche Mountain
95C/03 Mooney Creek	95C/02 Mount Merrill GSC OF 4324	95C/01 Mount Martin GSC OF 4260
94N/14 Beavercrow Mountain	94N/15 Crow River	94N/16 Beaver River

NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SYSTEM REFERENCE AND INDEX TO ADJOINING GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA OPEN FILE MAPS