



## Camas County

Camas County contains the Soldier Mountains, Camas Prairie and Mount Bennett Hills on the northern edge of the Snake River Plain, west of the Wood River.

The Camas Prairie is a flat, alluvial covered agricultural area, downdropped from the Soldier Mountains by a concealed normal fault. The Mount Bennett Hills contain Miocene (12 to 8 Ma) rhyolites from the Twin Falls volcanic centers. The latest Miocene Magic Reservoir rhyolite dome and eruptive complex is found in the southeast corner of the county.

The Soldier Mountains, and the Smoky Mountains to the northeast are underlain by Cretaceous granodiorite to the Idaho batholith, as well as complex Eocene intrusive complexes associated with the Challis magmatic episode. Diverse metallic mineral deposits occur here, associated with carbonaceous Paleozoic rocks of the central Idaho black-shale mineral belt, and Cretaceous and Eocene hydrothermal mineralizing systems.

See sections on geology of this area in Rocks, Rails and Trails.

P.K. Link, 10/02

### Description of Units for Camas County, Idaho

- Qa** Quaternary alluvial deposits
- Qs** Quaternary surficial cover, including colluvium, fluvial, alluvial fan, lake, and windblown deposits. Included fluveolian cover on Snake River Plain, (Snake River Group).
- Qrb** Recent basalt lava, less than 12,000 years old, lava flows are fresh, poorly vegetated, and show original flow geometry.
- Qb** Pleistocene basalt lava, 2 million to 12,000 years old, flows have some vegetation and surface weathering.
- Tmf** Miocene felsic volcanic rocks, rhyolite lava, ignimbrite, fallout tuff (Idavada volcanics), includes rocks designated as Tmf (Bond, 1968) in Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills.
- Tmb** Miocene basalt (basalt of Weiser and basalt of Cuddy Mtn.) (split with Tpb is at 5 Ma) (includes rocks shown as Tpb (Bond, 1978) in Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills.
- Tcv** Eocene Challis Volcanic Group, volcanics and volcaniclastics; Older andesitic lavas, intermediate age dacite lava and tuff and younger rhyolite flows and tuffs; 51 to 44 Ma. (Includes Potato Hill and Kamiah volcanics of northern Idaho).
- Tgs** Eocene granite, pink granite, syenite, rhyolite dikes, and rhyolitic shallow intrusive; last phase of the Challis magmatic event (46 to 44 Ma). Forms craggy scenic mountain landscape in central and northern Idaho.
- Tgdd** Eocene granodiorite and dacite porphyry intrusive, also includes diorite and, in northern Idaho, minor granitic rock; intermediate phase of Challis magmatic event (50 to 46 Ma). Summit Creek stock.
- Kgd** Cretaceous granitic rocks of the 2 mica suite. Idaho batholith and related plutons; granite and granodiorite that contains both muscovite and biotite. Sodium (Na) rich. Intruded between 80 and 65 Ma.
- Ktg** Cretaceous tonalite and quartz diorite; hornblende and biotite bearing early phases of the Idaho batholith. Intruded about 90 to 95 Ma.
- PPs** Permian and Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks.
- PzYsq** Paleozoic/Mesoproterozoic schist and quartzite; age uncertain.

## Symbols

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | Geologic unit contacts with unit designation.  |    | Overturned anticline: trace of axial plane.     |
|  | Normal fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.     |    | Overturned syncline: trace of axial plane.      |
|  | Thrust fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.     |    | Location of ISU Rockwalk rock from each county. |
|  | Detachment fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed. |    | Cities  |
|  | Anticline: trace of axial plane: large arrow indicates direction of plunge.            |    | Feature location                                |
|  | Syncline: trace of axial plane: large arrow indicates direction of plunge.             | <b>Roads</b>  |   |
|   |  |    | Interstate Route                                |
|   |  |  | U.S. Route                                      |
|   |  |  | State route                                     |