

# Geologic Map of the Flatiron Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle, Maricopa County, Arizona

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Arizona Geological Survey Digital Geologic Map 46 (DGM-46), version 1.0  
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**Acknowledgments**  
 The Flatiron Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle is located approximately 70 km (40 miles) west of downtown Phoenix, and is just north of Interstate Highway 10. The map area includes the southeastern part of the Belmont Mountains and many isolated bedrock hills and southeast of the Belmont Mountains. Most of the quadrangle, however, is underlain by Quaternary surficial deposits. Jackrabdt and Coyote washes, heading in the proximal piedmonts of the Flatiron Mountain northwest of the study area, are the major drainages. Jackrabdt Wash is traced up to four meters into older Pleistocene deposits. Coyote Wash flows around the Belmont Mountains and diverges into multiple channels to the south. The channels and floodplains of Coyote Wash are less incised than Jackrabdt Wash. Smaller tributary washes on adjacent west Pleistocene deposits generally are not incised more than two meters. Older Hassayampa River deposits are found along the eastern side of the quadrangle.

The quadrangle was mapped during the 2004-2005 field season. Jon Spencer and Charles Ferguson were responsible for mapping bedrock, and Ann Youberg was responsible for mapping Quaternary surficial deposits. Map compilation was done using ESRI ArcMap software, and the resultant GIS geodatabase will eventually be available to the public. Mapping was done as part of a multiyear mapping program directed at producing complete geologic maps of the Phoenix area. The Flatiron Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle was mapped during the 2004-2005 field season and the previous 2003-2004 field season, a total of eight geologic maps, listed below, were produced for the Hassayampa Plain area. All these maps were prepared under the joint State-Federal STATEMAP program, as specified in the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. Also listed below are detailed maps of bedrock in adjacent areas.

**Surficial Geology**  
 Surficial mapping was conducted using natural-color (scale 1:24,000) stereo-pair aerial photographs from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) taken in 1979 and false color, high resolution digital orthophotographs (2004) provided by Maricopa County Flood Control District. Preliminary unit designations were field checked throughout the map area and mapping was supplemented by observations and descriptions of soils and stratigraphy. This mapping was done in conjunction with geologic mapping of the Flatiron Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle (Spencer and Ferguson, 2006) to the south, and is one of eight 1:24,000 scale geologic maps covering much of the Hassayampa Plain area that have been produced in 2004 and 2005. Mapping was completed in a GIS format and the final line work was generated from the digital data. Surficial deposits of the map area were then correlated to roughly estimate their ages.

Characteristics evident on aerial photographs and on the ground were used to differentiate and map various alluvial surfaces. The color of alluvial surfaces depicted on aerial photographs is primarily controlled by soil color, rock varnish and desert pavement development. Significant soil development begins on an alluvial surface after it becomes isolated from active flooding. In the early to middle Quaternary, Qz terraces cap a substantial aggradational sequence that was deposited during late Tertiary to early Quaternary (unit QTsr). Deposits of the Hassayampa River have been exploited as aggregate resources at several locations. Adjacent piedmont areas were likely aggrading at the time as well (unit Q1s). At that time the river was probably depositing sediment across a fairly broad floodplain in the eastern part of the quadrangle, and alluvial fans on both sides of the river were interfingering with the river floodplain. Since then the Hassayampa River has downcut 10 to 15 m, with dissection increasing slightly to the north. This downcutting is expressed by incision of tributary drainages immediately west of the Hassayampa River. Along these tributary drainages, late Quaternary deposits are quite limited in extent and flood hazards are restricted to relatively narrow valley bottoms.

In the western half of the quadrangle, piedmont washes drain to the south before eventually joining the Gila River. Much of this piedmont is masked by fairly old Pleistocene tributary deposits (units Q2c and Q3c) that have been eroded into broadly rounded ridges. Incision along these tributary drainages is less than a few meters, but there is enough topographic confinement that late Pleistocene and Holocene deposits are inset below the ridges and there are no major distributary channel networks or active alluvial fans on the piedmont. Thus, flood hazards are restricted to broad, nearly flat valley bottoms in this area (units Q2c, Q3c, and locally Q1y). Agricultural activity and recent residential development have modified the landscape to erode or lesser degrees. Areas are marked as "disturbed" where the surficial deposits are profoundly altered (stock tanks, agricultural fields).

**Bedrock Geology**  
 The Belmont Mountains, which form a southeastern extension of the Big Horn Mountains, consist largely of a Middle Tertiary granite that contains sparse fluorite (Reynolds et al., 1985) as well as numerous northwest trending, compositionally diverse dikes. This granite was intruded during a general interval of late Pleistocene volcanic activity and extensional faulting that produced most of the rock structures in the Belmont Mountains and Big Horn Mountains (Capps et al., 1985; Siman et al., 1994). Most of this activity occurred between about 16 and 21 Ma (Spencer et al., 1995).

The southeastern tip of the Belmont Mountains is within the map area. In this area the middle Tertiary Belmont Granite grades southward into a zone of felsic dikes and irregular hypabyssal intrusions emplaced within a crystalline complex of Proterozoic metamorphic rocks and granite. Rocks of uncertain age. Dikes are less abundant southward across the quadrangle where bedrock is exposed in scattered hills.

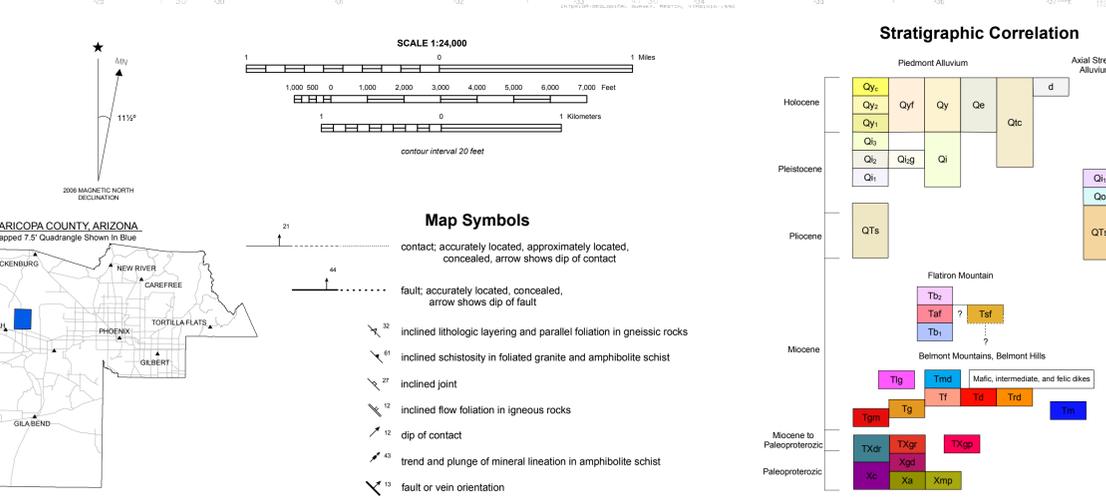
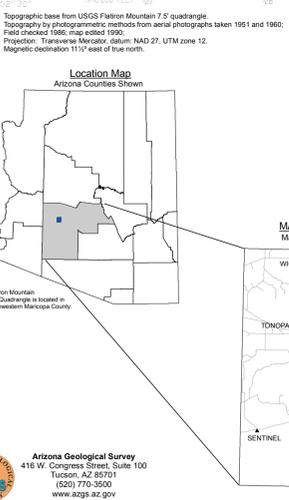
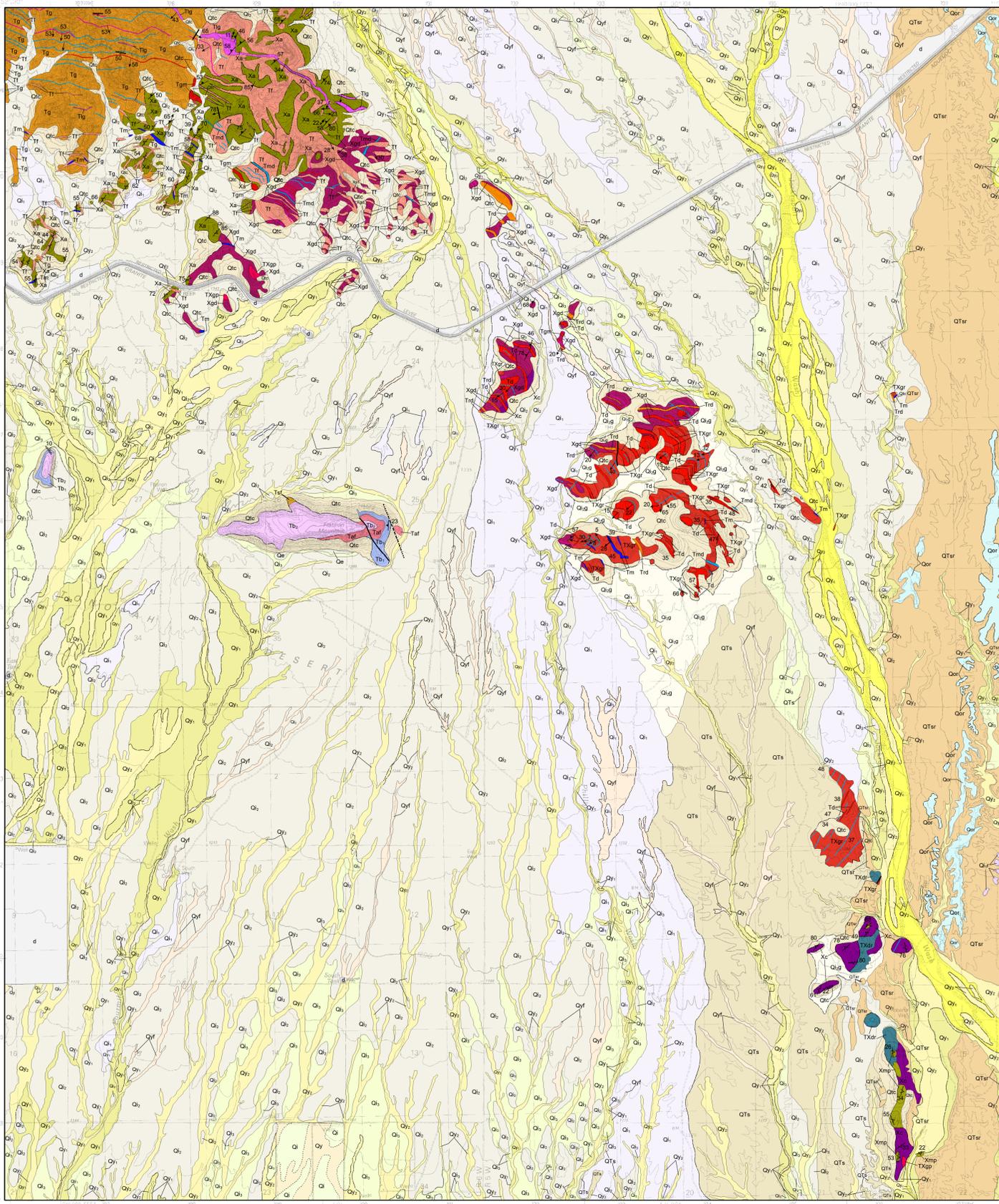
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**STATEMAP Geologic Maps, Hassayampa Plain Area, 2004-2005**  
 Ferguson, C.A., Spencer, J.E., Peartree, P.A., Youberg, A., and Ferguson, C.A., 2004. Geologic map of the Wagner Wash Well 7.5' Quadrangle, Maricopa County, Arizona. Arizona Geological Survey Digital Geologic Map 38 (DGM-38), 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000, 7 p. text.  
 Grubensky, M.J., and Shipman, T. C., 2004. Geologic map of the Vulture Mine 7.5' Quadrangle, Maricopa County, Arizona. Arizona Geological Survey Digital Geologic Map 41 (DGM-41), 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000.  
 Peartree, P.A., and Ferguson, C.A., 2005. Geologic map of the Wickenburg 7.5' Quadrangle, Maricopa County, Arizona. Arizona Geological Survey Digital Geologic Map DGM-47, 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000.  
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**Tertiary to early Proterozoic intrusive and metamorphic rock units**  
**K-feldspar porphyritic granite of the Belmont Mountains (Tertiary to early Proterozoic)** — Granite with fine-grained matrix, 5-8% 1-3 mm biotite, grayish white plagioclase phenocrysts typically 2-10 mm diameter but locally up to 20 mm, and pink K-feldspar phenocrysts up to 25 mm diameter. Some K-feldspar crystals are rimmed with plagioclase, and quartz phenocrysts are locally up to 12 mm diameter. The conspicuously porphyritic character of this granite is its defining characteristic.  
**Porphyritic biotite granite of the Belmont Hills (Tertiary to early Proterozoic)** — Medium grained, porphyritic biotite granite; biotite (7-12%) granite. Unit is exposed in the Belmont Hills zone of CAP canal and east of Vulture Mine road.  
**Diorite of Roberts Well (Tertiary to early Proterozoic)** — Plagioclase + hornblende diorite near Roberts Well in southeastern part of Flatiron Mountain Quadrangle. Unit contains approximately 35% 1.5 mm medium hornblende and 65% 1.3 mm gray plagioclase with variable iron oxide staining.  
**Foliated biotite granodiorite or granite (early Proterozoic)** — Somewhat heterogeneously, medium grained, equigranular, variably foliated biotite granodiorite (or granite) in the eastern Belmont Mountains. Felsic minerals are variably foliated. The unit contains less than 10% mafic minerals that consist primarily of biotite, and in some areas this biotite granite is K-feldspar porphyritic.  
**Heterogeneous crystalline complex (early Proterozoic)** — Heterogeneous mix of metapsammite (unit Xmp), foliated felsic granitoids, gneissic rocks, and pegmatite and quartz veins.

**Metapsammite (early Proterozoic)** — Greenschist-grade metasandstone and metapelite that generally lies in southeastern part of Flatiron Mountain Quadrangle. Unit is exposed in the southeastern corner of map area. Slightly schistosity. Generally a dark grayish gray to black rock with lithologic layering interbedded with reddish bedded. Numerous quartz veins and is in complex contact with associated granitoids with numerous mafic and leucocratic intrusions. Unit is in contact with the porphyritic granite.  
**Amphibolite schist (early Proterozoic)** — Heterogeneous, fine to medium grained amphibolite schist and mafic quartz-feldspathic schist and gneiss with local lenses of quartz-biotite schist, sericite schist, and psammite schist. Locally contains relict pillow basalt.

**Dikes shown on map with single colored line**  
**Mafic dikes (Miocene)** — Basaltic, andesitic, porphyritic andesite, and fine-grained dioritic and monzonitic dikes, undivided. Includes fine-grained monzonitic dikes with 10-20% mafics, sparse <2.5 mm feldspar phenocrysts, and 2-15%, 1-10 mm fine-grained dioritic inclusions (7mz). The monzonite appears to be gradational with some of the andesite porphyry dikes. Also includes composite dikes containing both basaltic and andesitic components.  
**Intermediate composition dike (Miocene)** — Mafic to intermediate dikes with fine-grained dioritic matrix. Contains 0-20%, 1-8 mm plagioclase phenocrysts, and 0-10%, 1-3 mm mafic-phenocryst clots. Some varieties are very fine-grained with aphanitic matrix. The varieties grade between in zones and swarms. The dikes commonly form the walls of younger (apparently felsic) rocks.  
**Crystal-poor felsic dike (Miocene)** — Two distinct varieties of rhyolite dikes; aphyric rhyolite dikes with very fine-grained, typically purple-gray, and commonly flow-foliated matrix (CAF samples: CAF-2-10246, 10283), and flow-foliated, typically purple-gray, microphyritic rhyolite dikes with vitric to crystalline matrix, and sparse feldspar and quartz (<2 mm) crystals. The vitric-matrix varieties are typically spherulitic and varcolored (CAF samples: CAF-10243, 10288, 10409).



**Map Symbols**  
 contact, accurately located, approximately located, concealed, arrow shows dip of contact  
 fault, accurately located, concealed, arrow shows dip of fault  
 inclined lithologic layering and parallel foliation in gneissic rocks  
 inclined schistosity in foliated granite and amphibolite schist  
 inclined joint  
 inclined flow foliation in igneous rocks  
 dip of contact  
 trend and plunge of mineral lineation in amphibolite schist  
 fault or vein orientation