

GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE GEOLOGY OF THE TWIN BUTTES (BALDY MOUNTAIN) AREA
CENTRAL LARAMIE RANGE, ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING

by

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The Twin Buttes area (more commonly known as Baldy Mountain) is located within the Baldy Mountain 7½-minute quadrangle near the western flank of the central Laramie Range (sec. 8, T.18N., R.72W.).

The geology of Baldy Mountain is that of a fairly simple hogback with gradual westerly dips, and a steep eastern facing slope. The hogback is unconformably overlain by Casper Formation limestones (Pennsylvanian) which dip to the west at an average of 10 degrees. Geologic mapping of the area (Hausel, 1981) suggests that the limestone could be as much as 100 or more feet thick, although it rapidly thins to the west and pinches out at the base of the slope. The limestone is exposed over a surface area of about 3,500 feet, by less than 2,000 feet. Locally, the limestone has been used as a source of flagstone.

The underlying grey anorthosite is a fairly pure anorthosite, and is part of the 350 square mile Laramie Range anorthosite batholith complex that is exposed in the central Laramie Range. The anorthosite consists primarily of andesine (soda) feldspar.

Two sill-like intrusives of pink potassium feldspar porphyry crop out on the eastern flank of Baldy Mountain. The sills approximately parallel the contact of the anorthosite, with the capping limestone. The thickness of the sills are estimated to be 10 to 20 feet.

Reference Cited

Hausel, W.D., 1981, Update report on the Twin Buttes feldspar-limestone-flagstone property, Albany County, Wyoming: Unpublished report, Geological Survey of Wyoming files, 36 p.