

Billings Area Stratigraphy

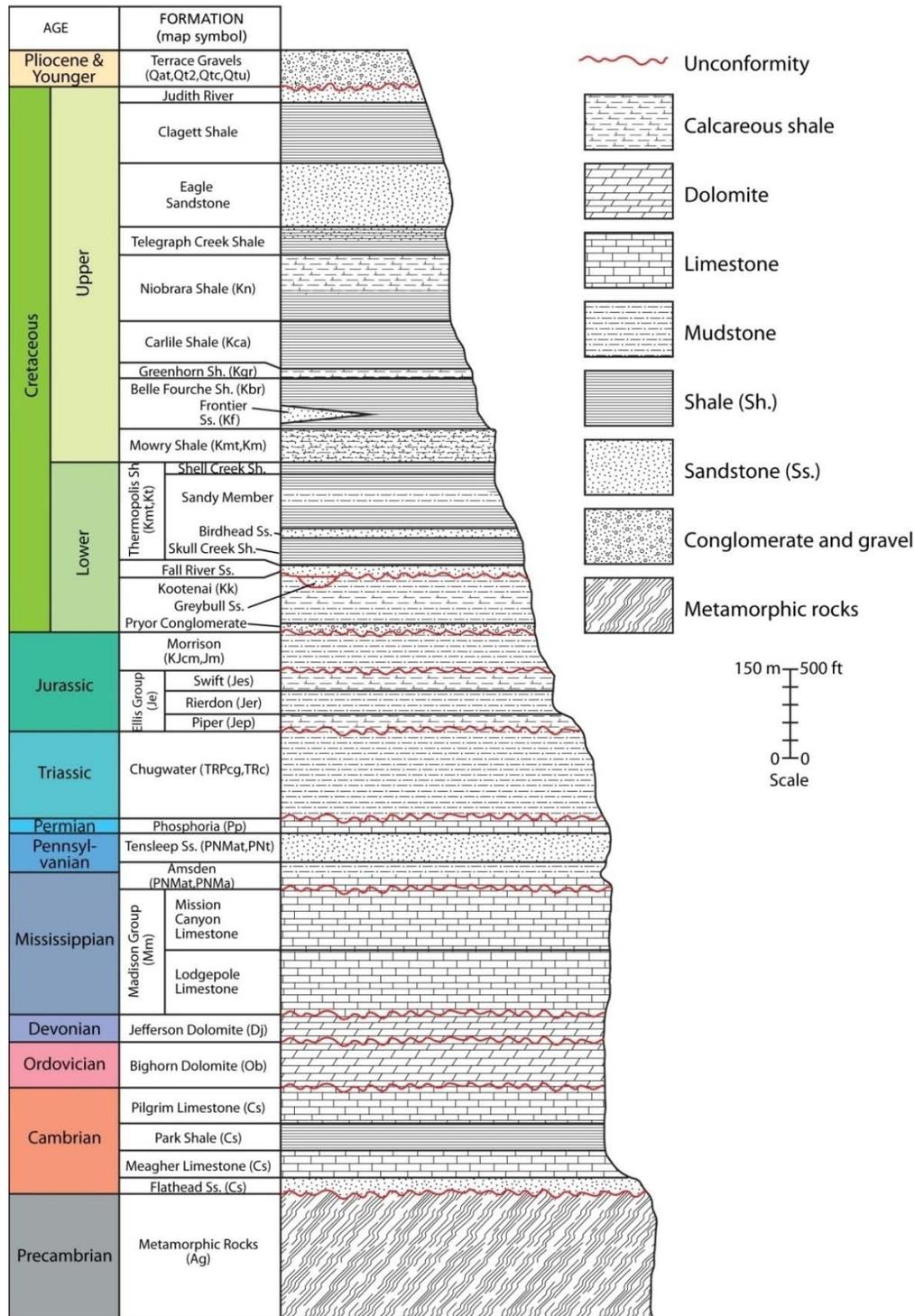


Figure 3. Stratigraphic column for the rocks in the Billings area. Billings is approximately 90 km (56 mi) from the Montana-Wyoming border in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. This stratigraphic column encompasses many of the rock units included within the digital geologic map (GIS) data included for Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. The map unit symbols are indicated in parentheses. Not all of these units are exposed within Bighorn Canyon. Rock units with a more vertical profile are more erosion resistant, and tend to form cliffs (such as Madison Group [Mm]) rather than slopes (such as the Thermopolis Shale [Kmt, Kt]). The “Cambrian sedimentary rocks, undivided” unit (Cs) encompasses a variety of units that are separately listed on this column. For more detail, refer to the “Geologic Map Data” section. Standard U.S. Geological Survey timescale colors are used. Graphic drafted by Trista Thornberry-Ehrlich (Colorado State University) after a stratigraphic column provided by David Lopez (geologist/consultant).