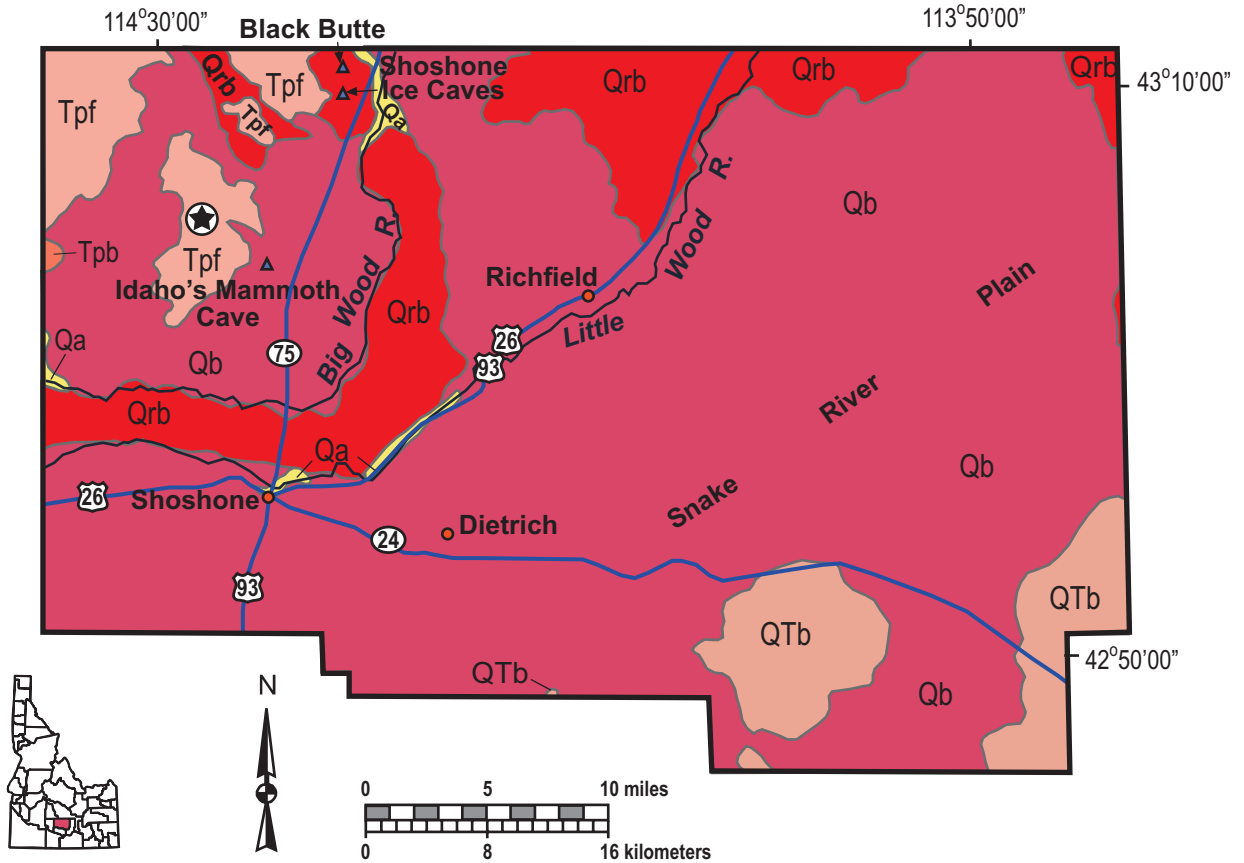


Lincoln County, Idaho



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Description of Geologic Units Lincoln County, Idaho

- Qa** Quaternary alluvial deposits
- 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.
- QTb** Pleistocene and Pliocene basalt lava and associated basaltic tuff (deposited close to basaltic vent).
- Tpb** Pliocene and Upper Miocene basalt (includes parts of Starlight Formation and Salt Lake Formation) (in Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills, this should be Tmb).
- Tpf** Pliocene and Upper Miocene felsic volcanic rocks, rhyolite flows, tuffs, ignimbrites. (in Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills, this should be Tmf).

Lincoln County

Lincoln County, close to the geographic center of the Snake River Plain, is entirely underlain by volcanic rock less than 10 million years old. The bulk of the county is Quaternary basalt lava, erupted from several shield volcanoes and fissure systems that are still visible. Farming near Richfield and Shoshone is possible in areas where alluvial or windblown soil has accumulated, and requires irrigation from the Big and Little Wood Rivers.

The main line of the Union Pacific Railroad crosses the basalt lava east-west through Shoshone, which started as a railroad town. The Ketchum and Camas Prairie branches of the Union Pacific run northeast through Richfield, following the Little Wood River.















Black Butte basalt volcano in the northwest part of the county, erupted in the last 10,000 years, producing a river of lava that flowed down the Big Wood River canyon. Shoshone ice caves are found in a lava tube, or underground pipe, where the molten lava flowed.

Late Miocene rhyolites of the Magic Reservoir volcanic field (5 Ma) are found west of Black Butte.

See discussion of Snake River Plain-Yellowstone volcanism in Rocks, Rails and Trails, plus the Topographic Development of Idaho maps.

P.K. Link, 10/02

Symbols

	Geologic unit contacts with unit designation.		Overtured anticline: trace of axial plane.
	Normal fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.		Overtured 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.		Roads
			Interstate Route
			U.S. Route
			State route