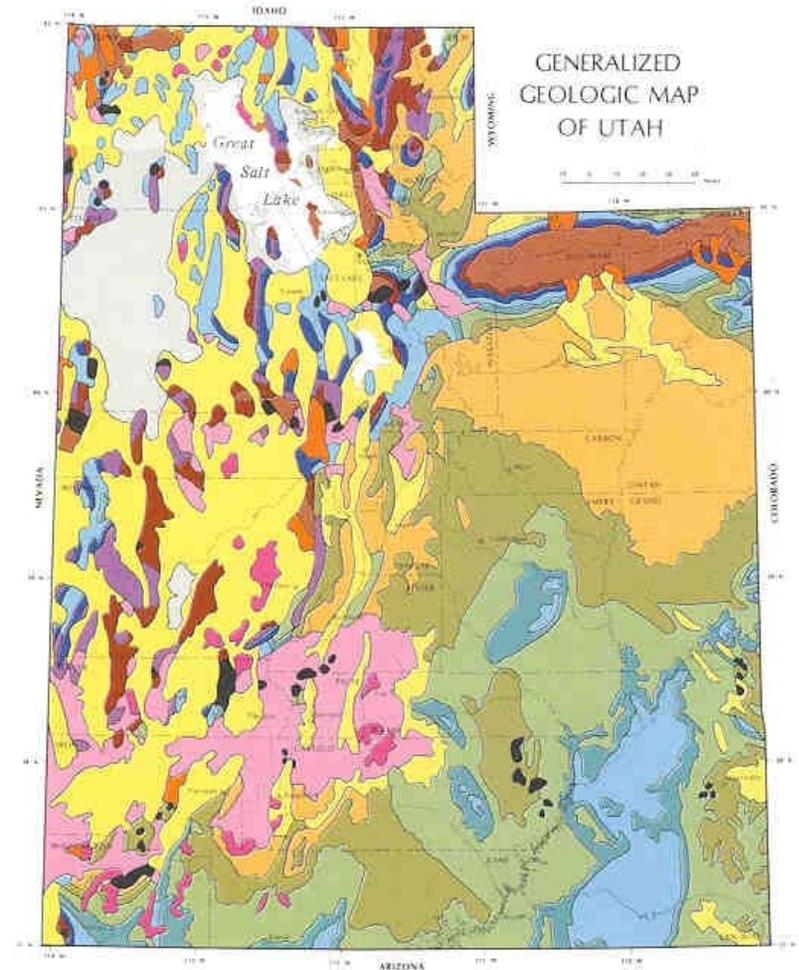


# Geologic Overview: Park City, Heber Valley, Strawberry Valley, Utah

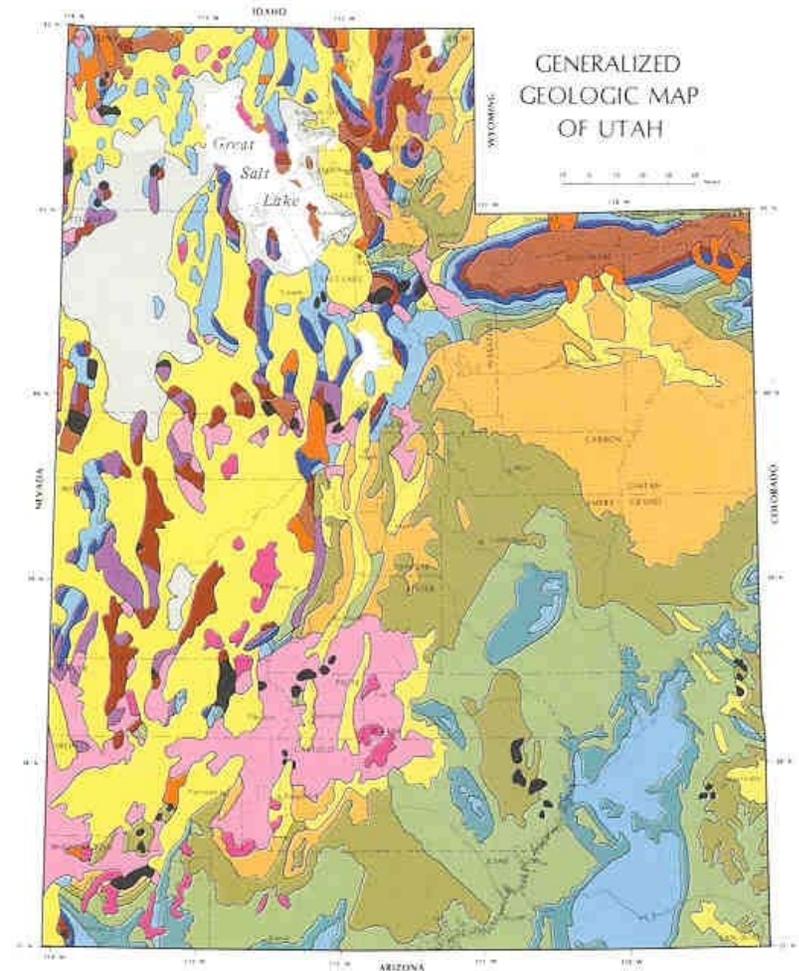
Janis Boettinger  
Utah State University

# Geology of Utah



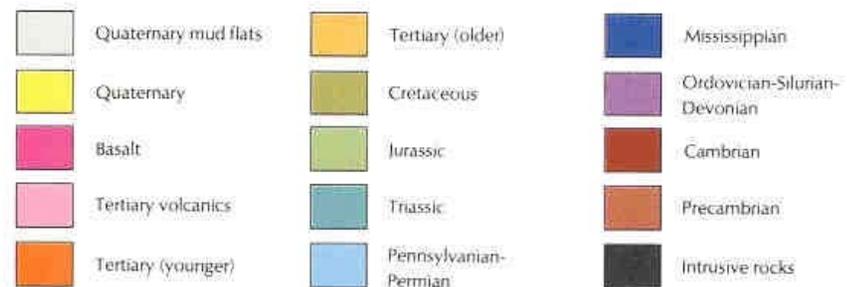
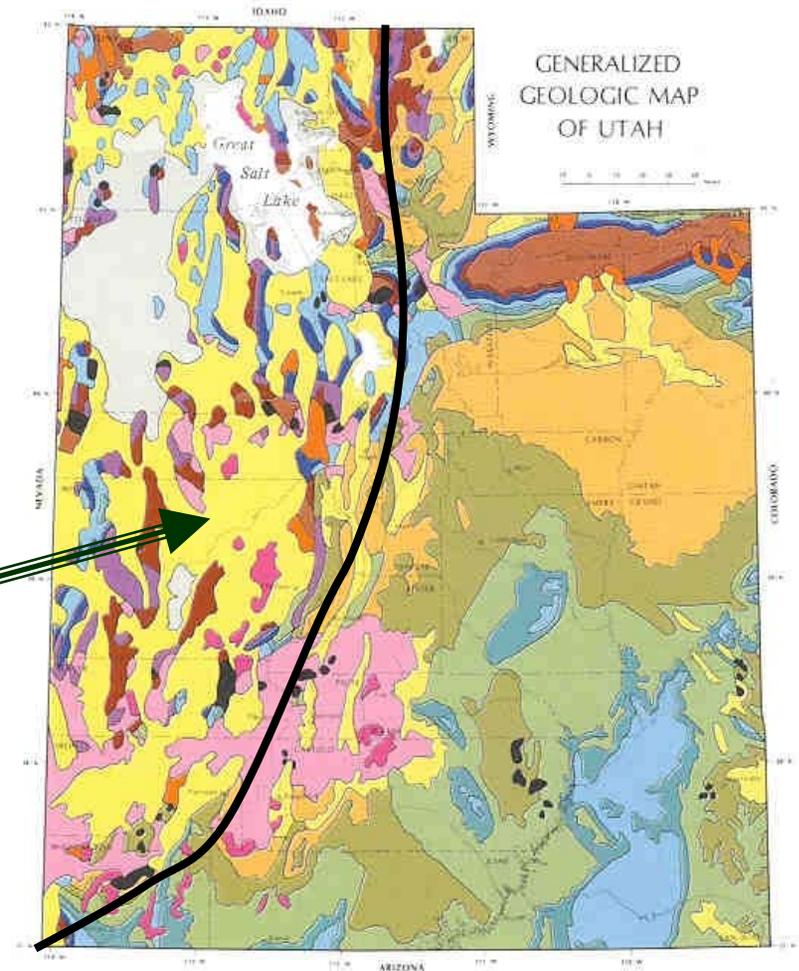
# Geology of Utah

## ■ Physiographic Provinces



# Geology of Utah

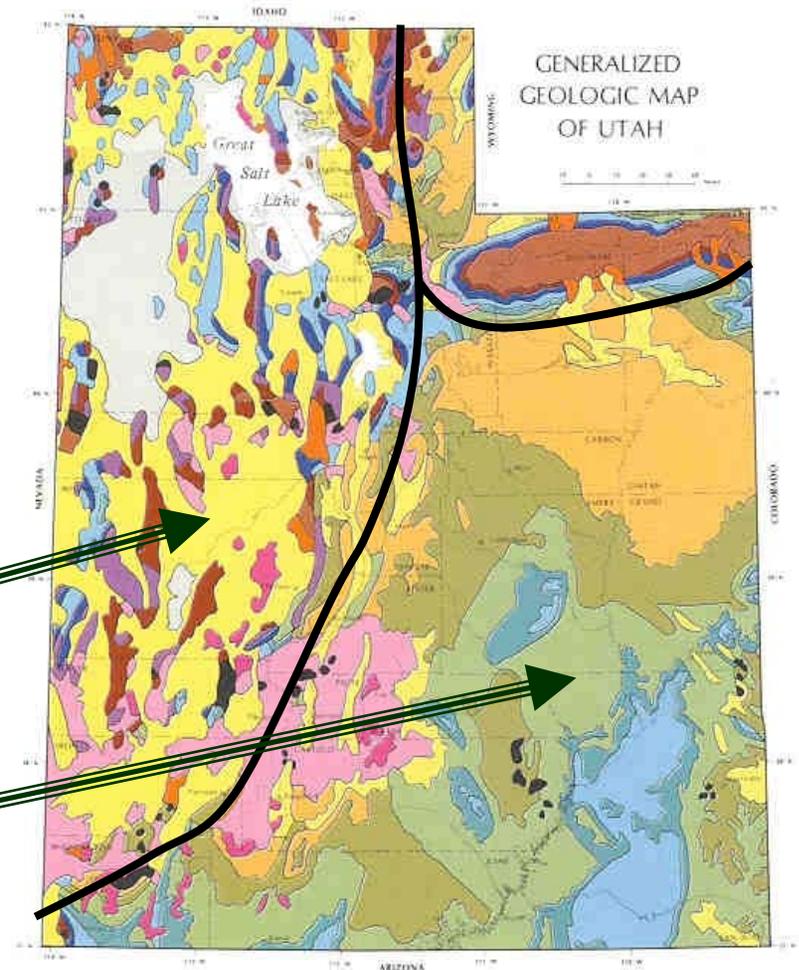
- Physiographic Provinces
  - Basin and Range



# Geology of Utah

## ■ Physiographic Provinces

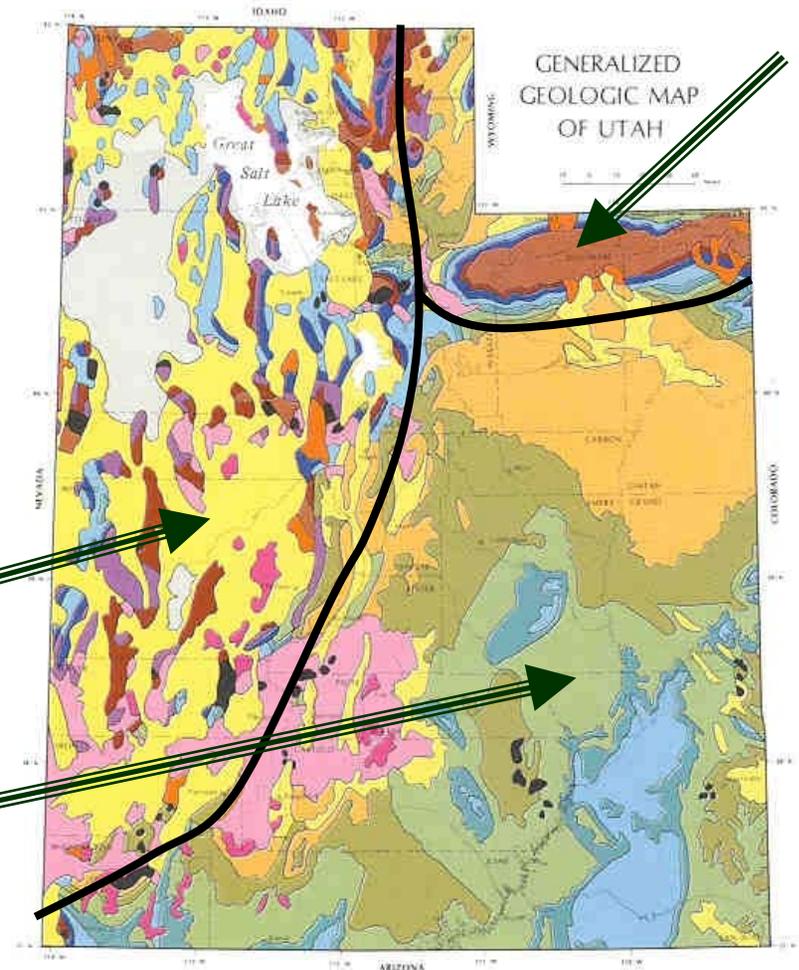
- Basin and Range
- Colorado Plateau



# Geology of Utah

## ■ Physiographic Provinces

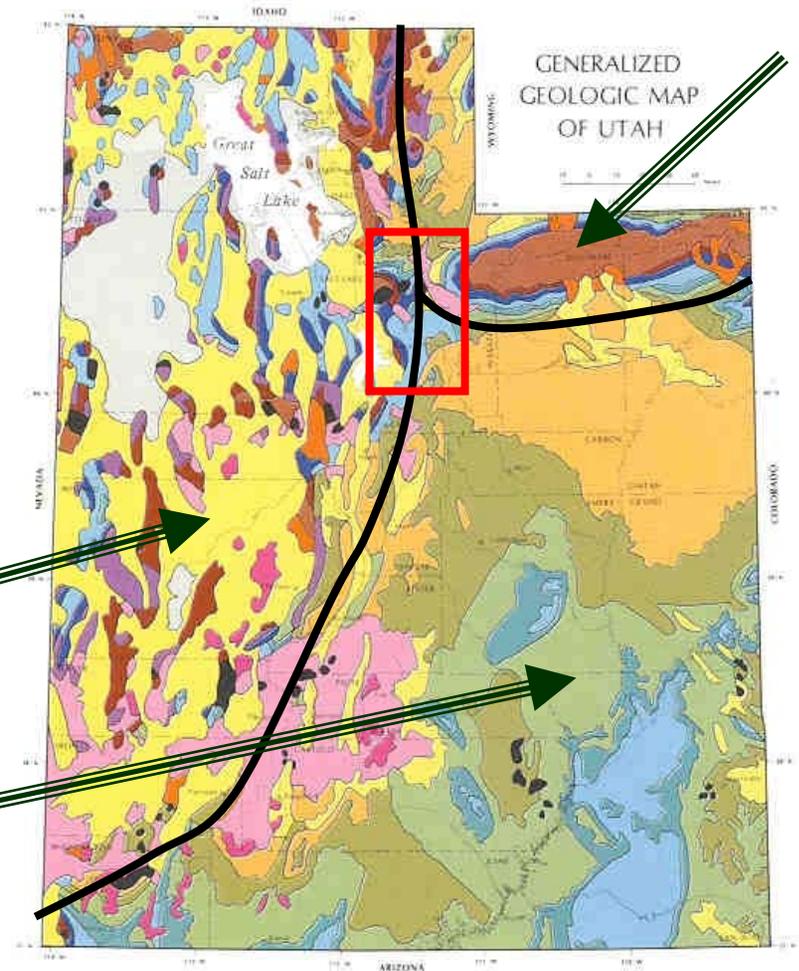
- Basin and Range
- Colorado Plateau
- Middle Rocky Mountains



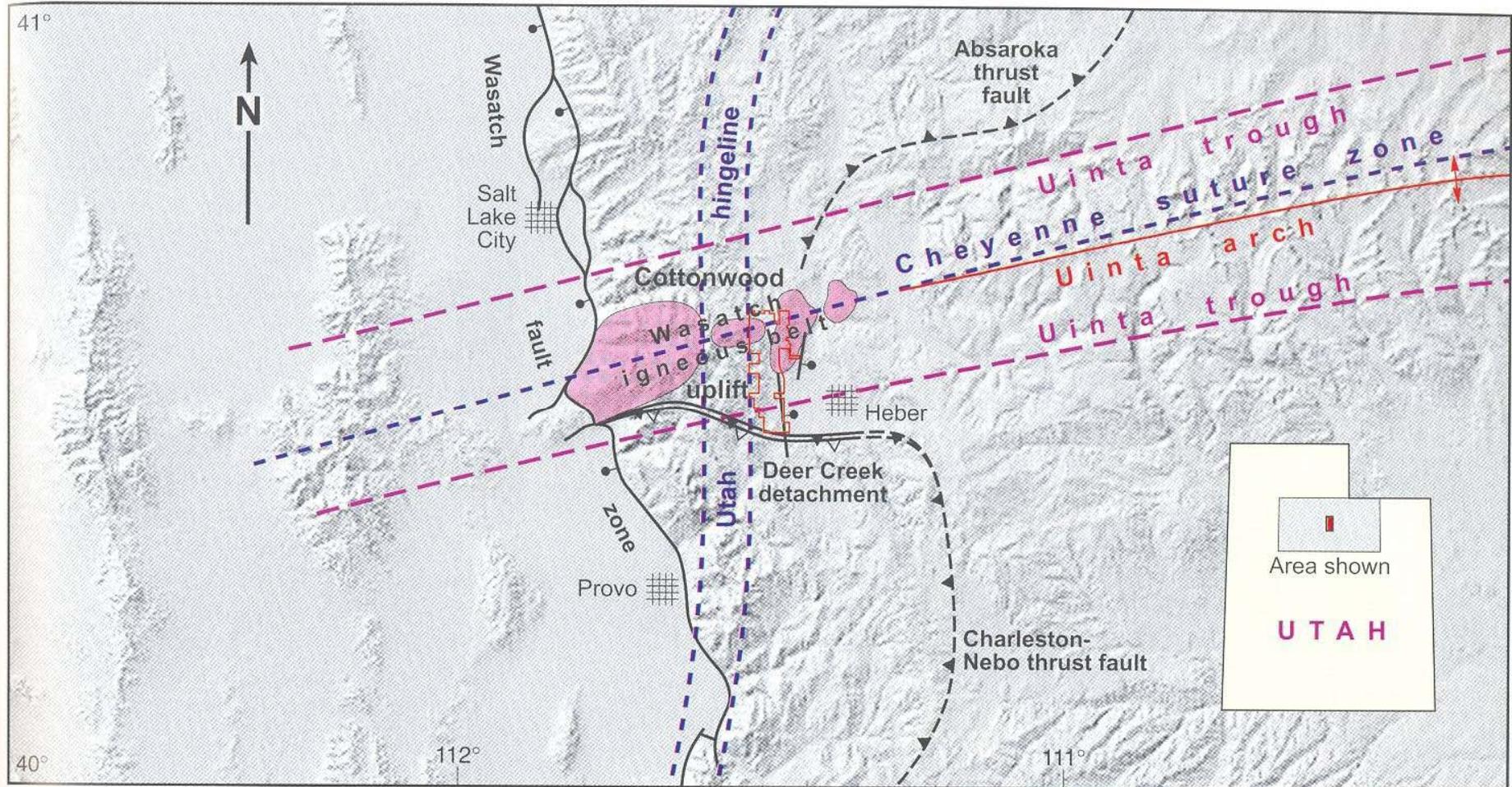
# Geology of Utah

## ■ Physiographic Provinces

- Basin and Range
- Colorado Plateau
- Rocky Mountains

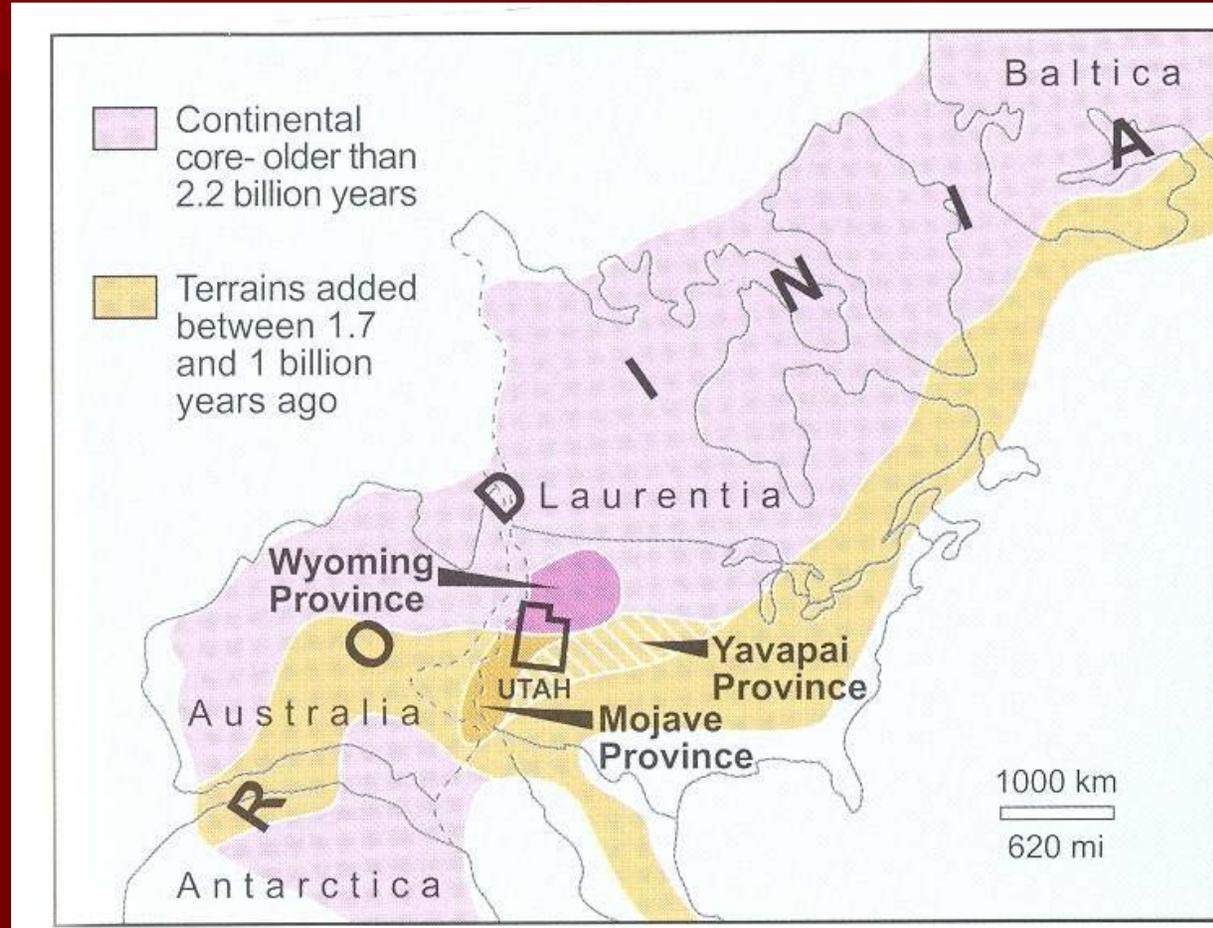


# Structural Features: Cheyenne Suture, Uinta Trough

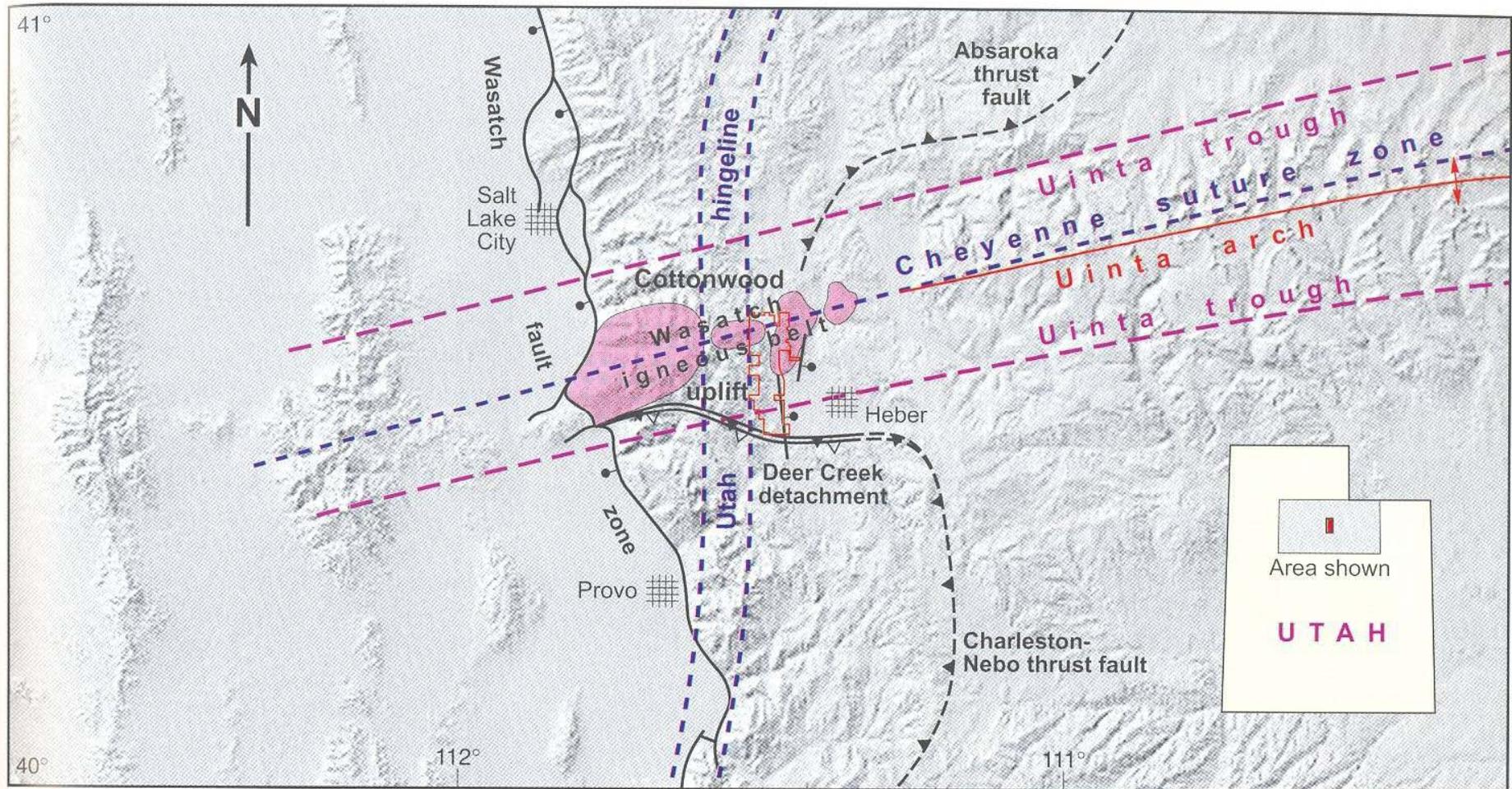


# Continental Collision and Rift

- 1.7 bya
  - Cheyenne suture belt
  - Weakly welded crust
- 1.0 bya
  - Rodinia supercontinent
- 850 mya
  - Rift @ Cheyenne suture belt
  - Uinta trough
- 725 mya
  - N-S rift -----
  - Thinned crust to central Utah

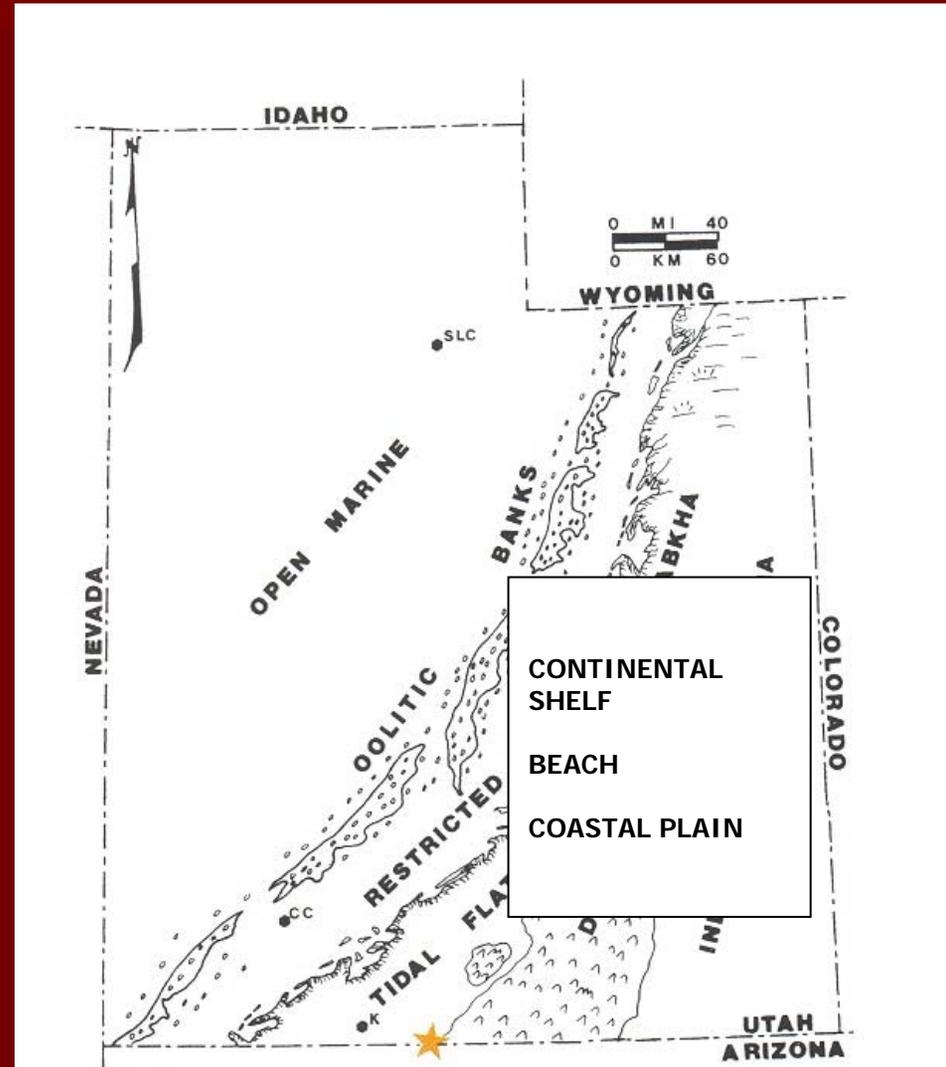


# Structural Features: Utah Hinge Line

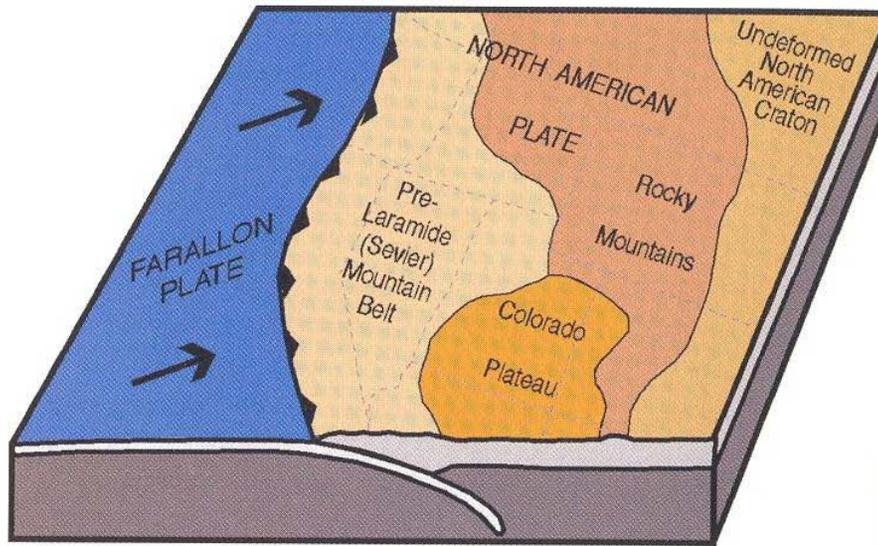


# Paleozoic to Early Mesozoic (Mid-Triassic)

- Utah tectonically quiet, tropical
  - West of hinge line
    - Subsiding basin (Nevada, W Utah)
    - Thick marine deposits
  - East of hinge line
    - Continental shelf
    - Thin beach, coastal plain, shallow marine deposits



# Mesozoic



- North American plate collides with Farrallon plate
- Farallon plate subducts under North American plate

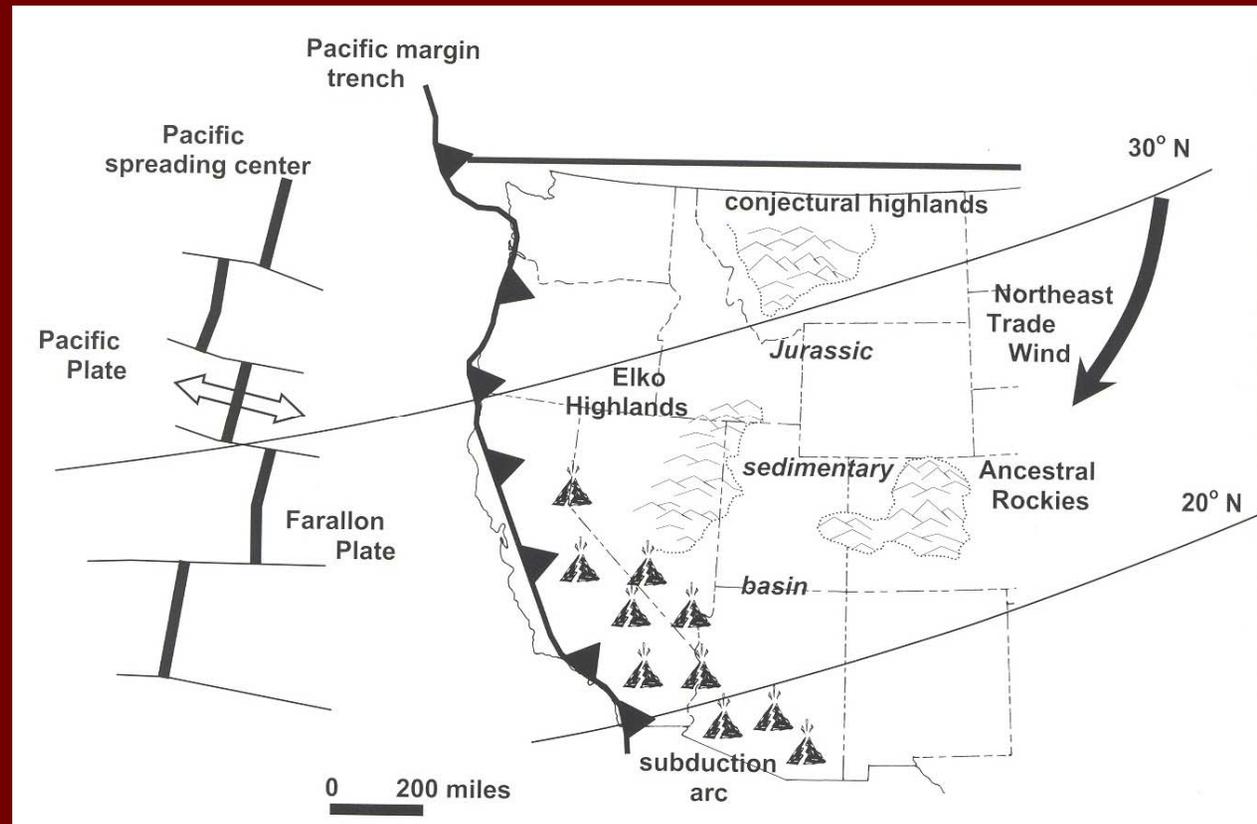
# Mesozoic

## ■ Mid-late Triassic

- Volcanoes in California, Arizona
- Ashy sediments

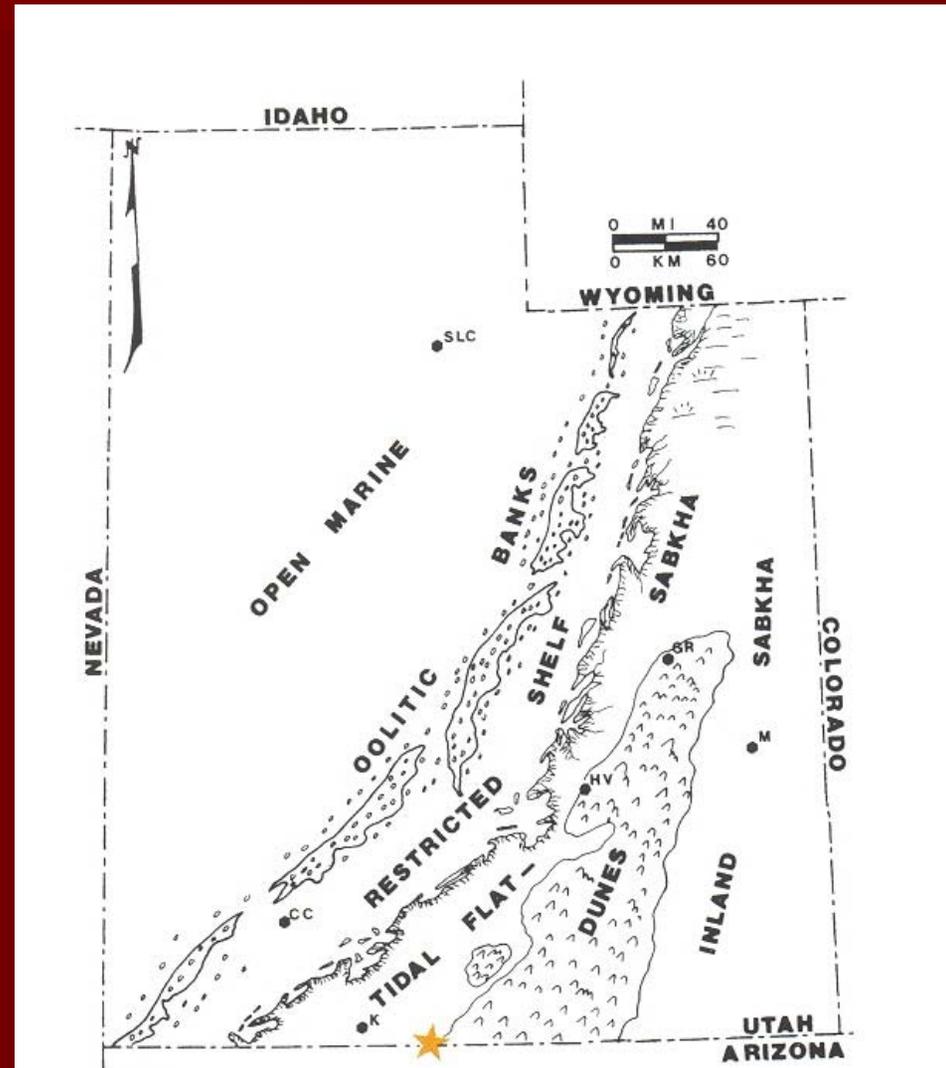
## ■ Early Jurassic

- Move into hot, dry trade winds
- New mountains to west block coastal precipitation
- Desert

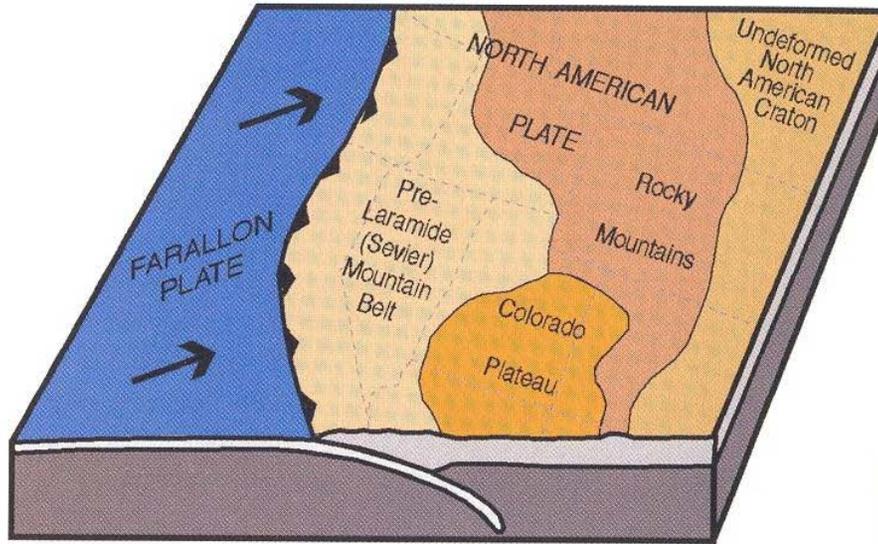


# Mesozoic (Late Triassic-Early Jurassic)

- West of Utah hinge line
  - Interior sea
    - Marine deposits
- East of Utah hinge line
  - Transition
    - Sea margin
    - Inland desert

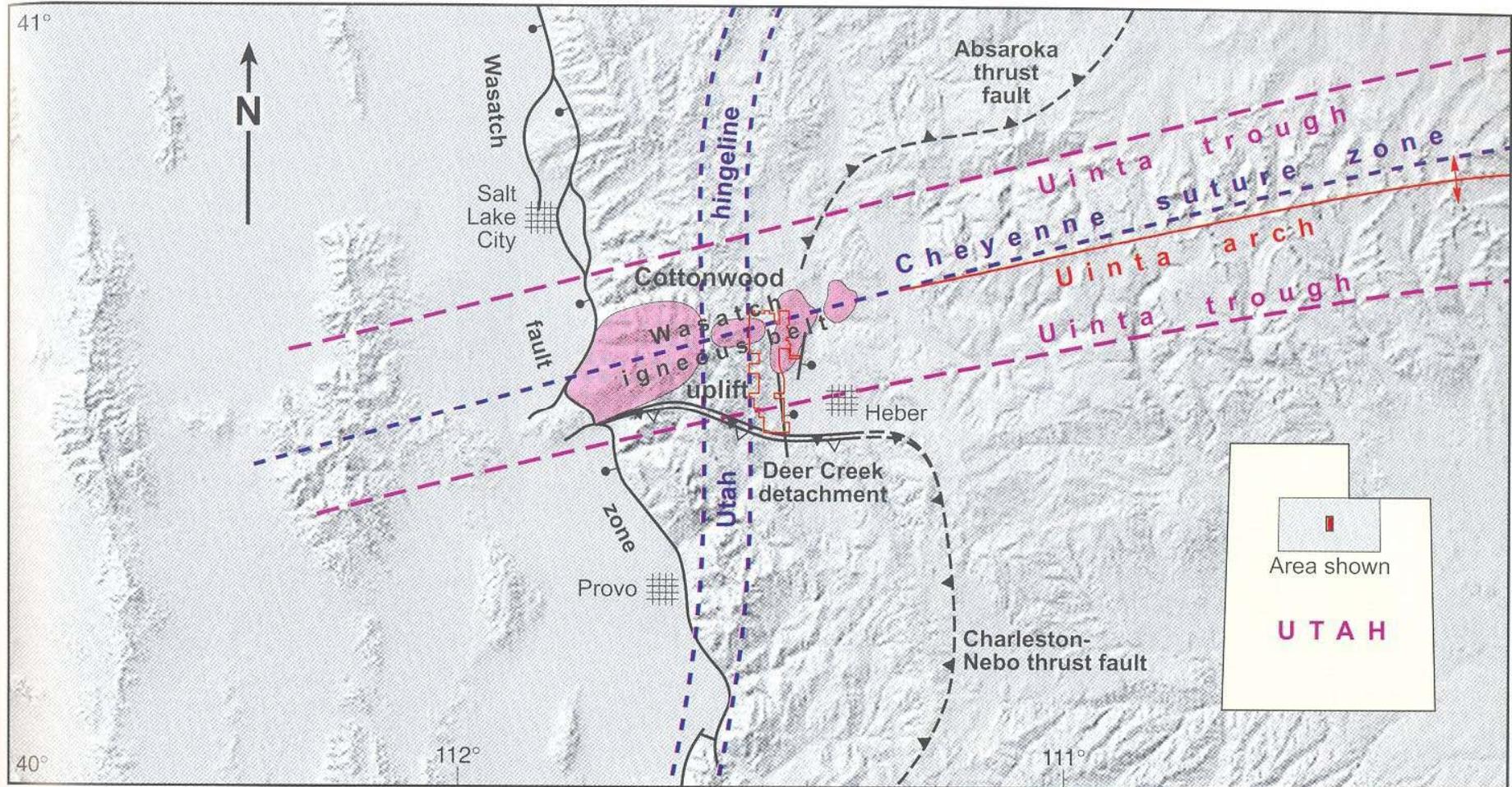


# Mid-Late Mesozoic



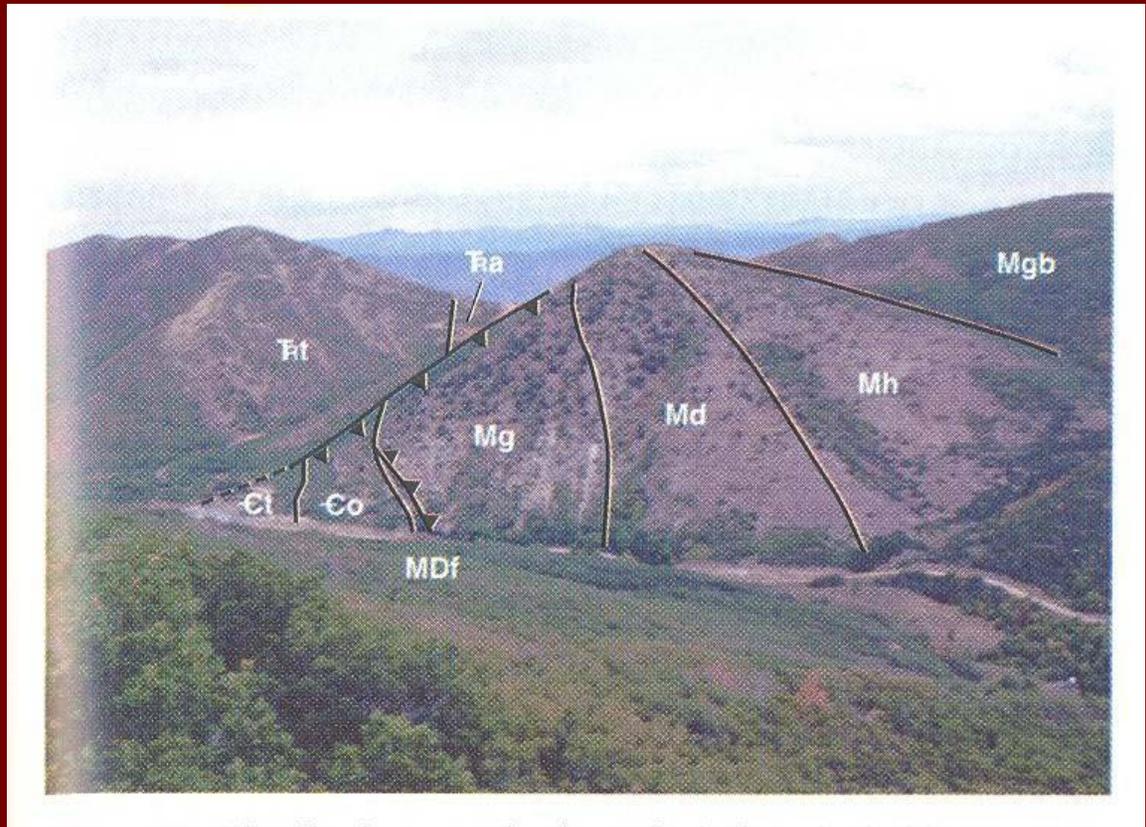
- Subduction of Farallon plate continues
  - Zone of structural deformity migrates east into Utah
  - Rock sheets folded, thrust eastward over younger rock
    - Sevier orogeny
    - Sevier thrust belt

# Structural Features: Thrust faults

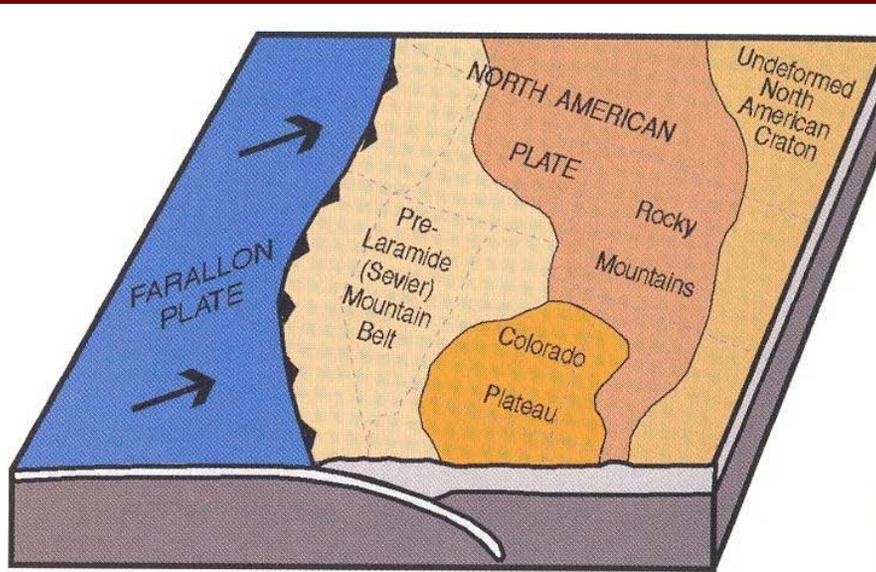


# Structural Features: Thrust Faults

- Charleston-Mt. Nebo thrust fault
  - Paleozoic (Mississippian) rocks thrust over Mesozoic (Triassic) rocks

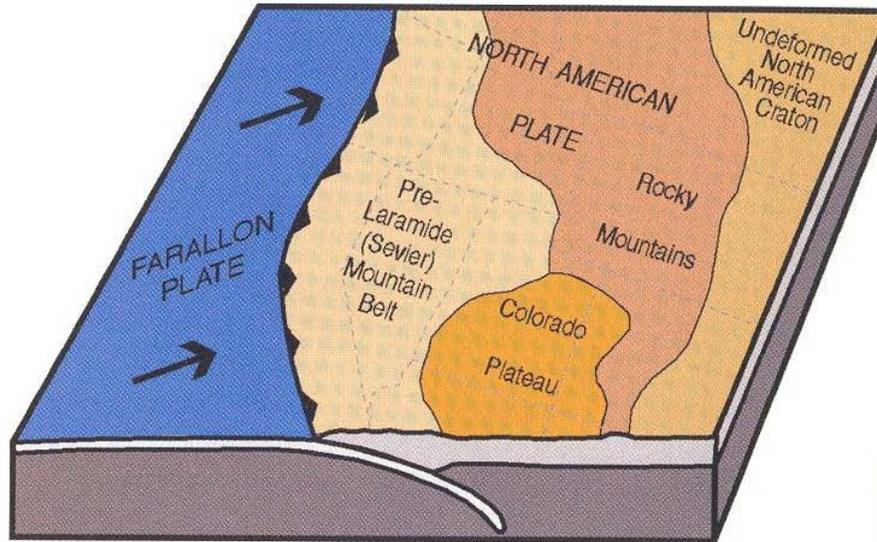


# Cenozoic (Early Tertiary)



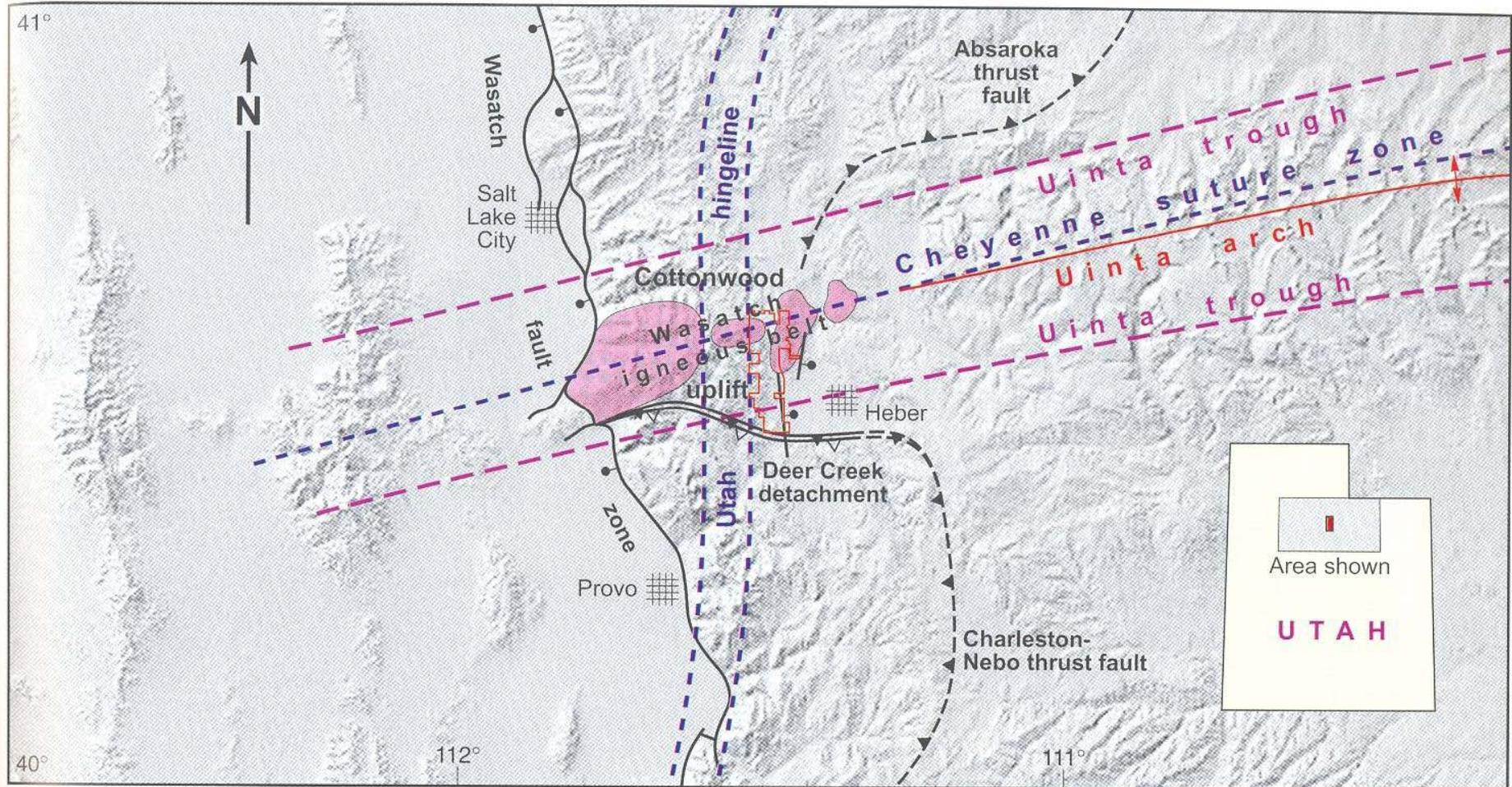
- Farallon plate
  - Subduction continues
  - Subduction angle lessens
- Structural deformity zone migrates eastward
  - West of Utah hinge line
    - Thrusting of rock sheets
  - East of Utah hinge line
    - Basement-cored uplifts
      - Laramide orogeny

# Laramide Orogeny



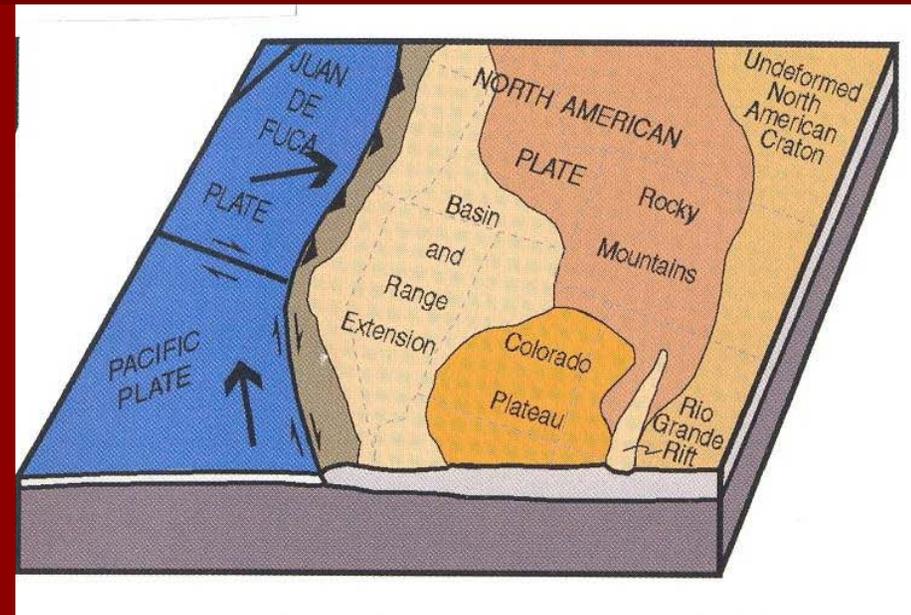
- Most structures oriented North-South
  - Compressional stresses oriented East-West
    - Rocky Mountain structure
      - Basement-cored uplifts bounded by high angle faults
    - Colorado Plateau structure
      - Sedimentary rocks deformed over fractured basement rocks
- Uinta Mountains and Cottonwood Uplift
  - Oriented East-West
  - Pushed up along Cheyenne suture zone

# Structural Features: Uinta Arch, Cottonwood Uplift



# Cenozoic (mid Tertiary)

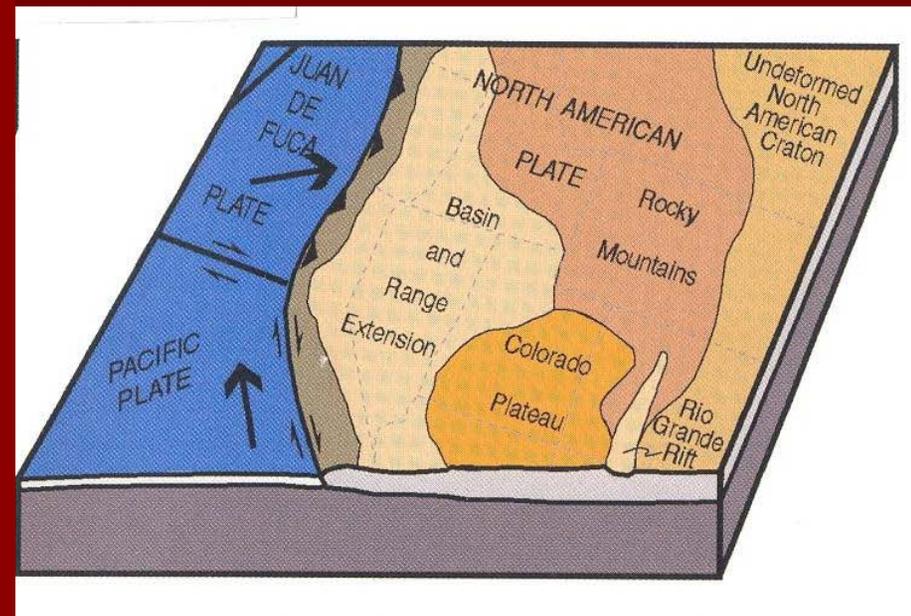
- Plate tectonics
  - North American plate overrides Fallon plate
- Crust extends, thins
  - Detachment faulting



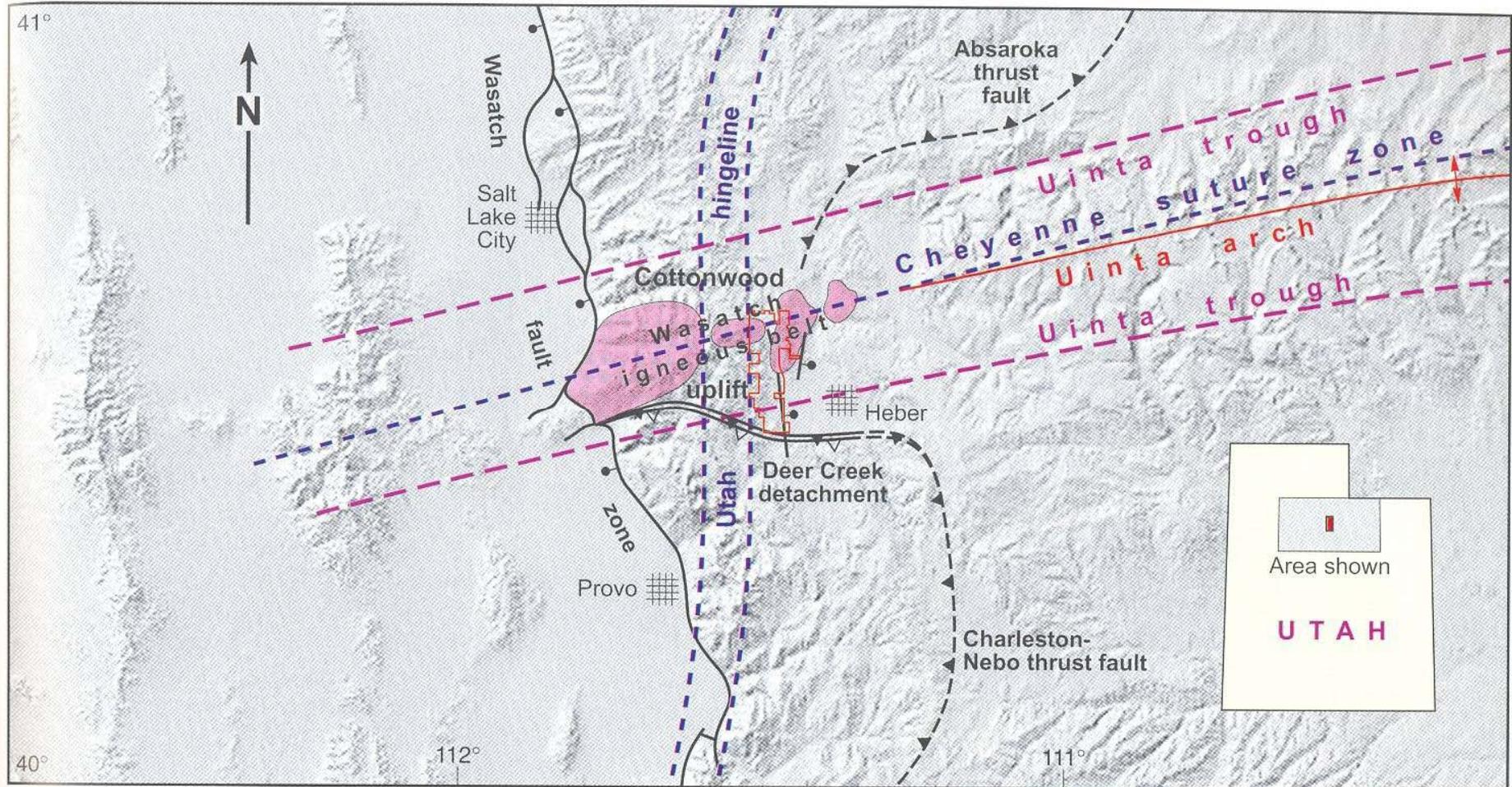
# Cenozoic (mid Tertiary)

## ■ Igneous Intrusions

- Over-thickened crust
  - Formed in Cheyenne suture
    - Sevier, Laramide orogenies
  - Isostatically sagged into upper mantle
- Detachment reduced crustal load
  - Isostatic rebound and decompression melting of lower crust
- Siliceous igneous intrusions
  - Granite-like stocks, dikes, volcanoes
    - Wasatch igneous belt

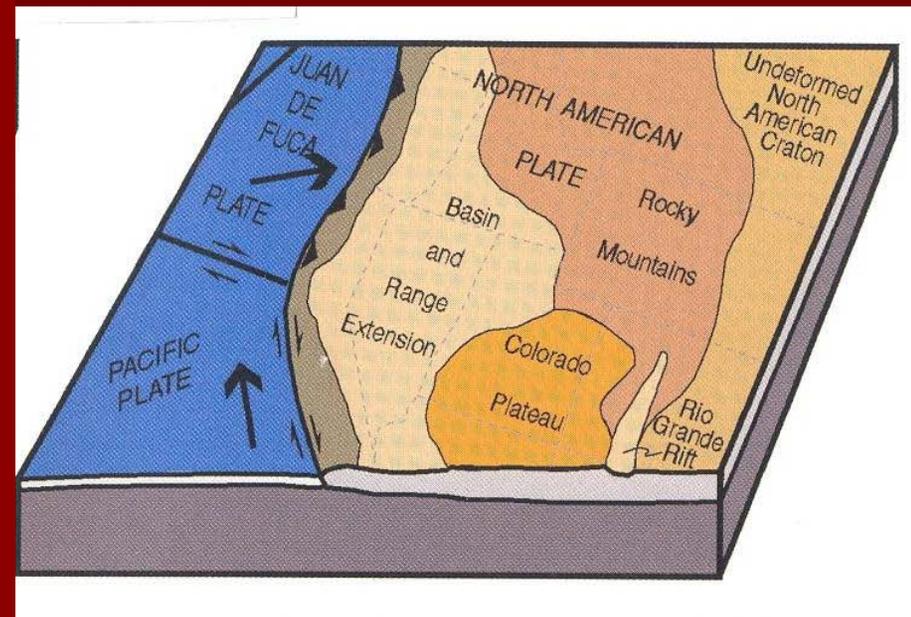


# Structural Features: Detachments, Igneous Belt

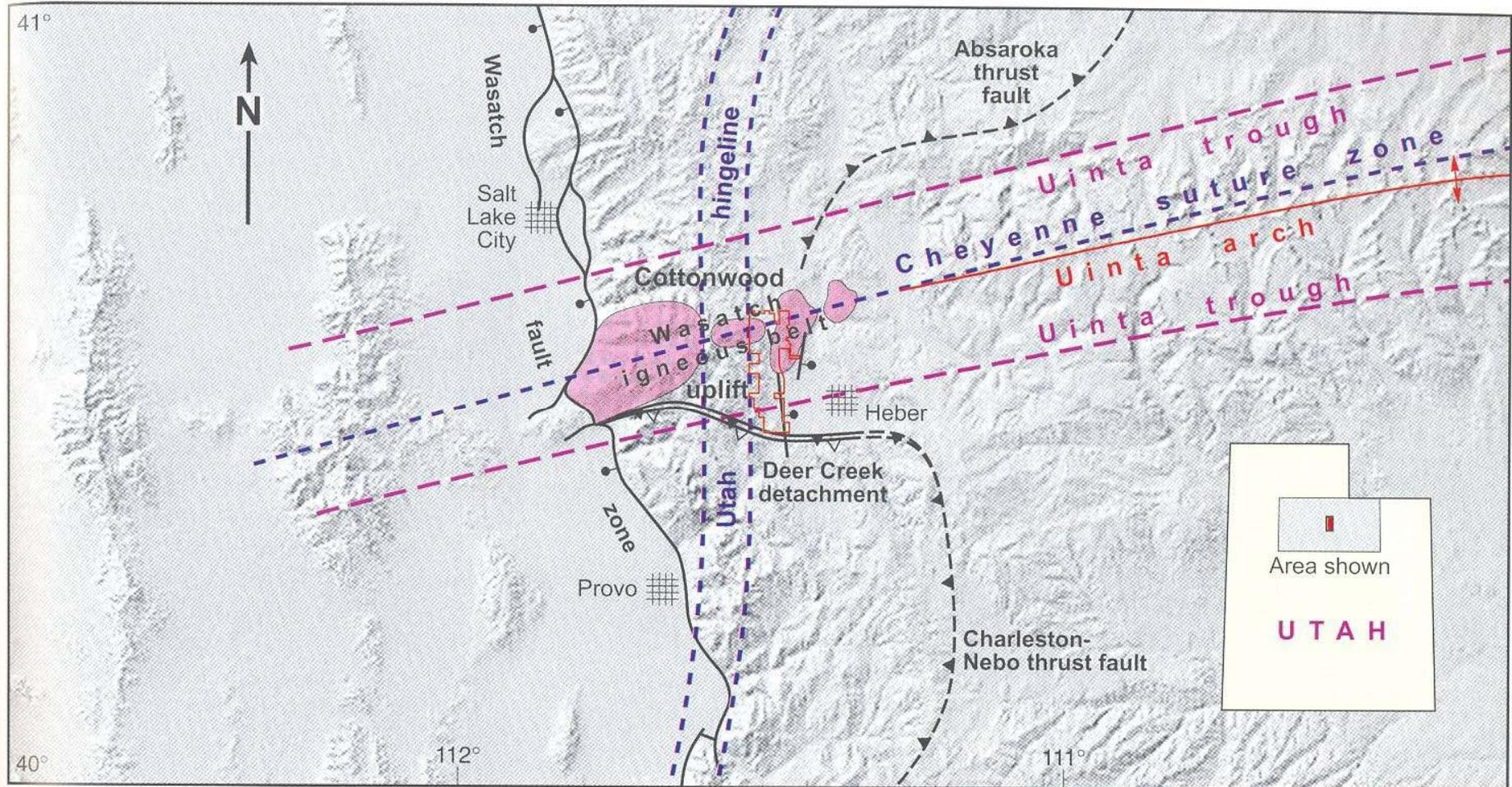


# Cenozoic (Late Tertiary to Quaternary)

- North American plate
  - Overrides East Pacific rise
  - Encounters rotating Pacific plate
  - Western part pulled away
  - Extension and detachment faulting accelerated
- West of hinge line
  - Extension, detachment faulting
    - Basin and Range
- East of hingeline
  - Uplift - isostatic rebound
    - Middle Rocky Mountains
    - Colorado Plateau
- Wasatch fault
  - Hinge line, boundary



# Structural Features: Wasatch fault, Heber valley



# Field Tour (Late Cenozoic)

## ■ Park City

- Wasatch igneous belt
- Glaciation

## ■ Heber Valley

- Basin and Range
- Half-graben

## ■ Strawberry Valley

- Basin and Range-Colorado Plateau transition zone
- Fault-controlled valley
- Some Colorado Plateau formations

Tour Route Map

