

Figure S1. Correlation and development of the nomenclature of the Lykins Fm. and associated Permian-Triassic strata of Colorado's Front Range (Fig. 1). The age assignments of the units are historical in nature, and do not reflect our current working hypothesis for the age of the various members of the Lykins Fm.. *The Greenacre Lentic, which overlies the Blaine Gypsum, and the basal carbonates that underlie it, are not formally named units of the succession. But they are used in this contribution, following their common informal use in the oil and gas industry.

		Hill (1899)	Lee (1917)	Maher & Collins (1952)	Shaw (1956)	Maher & Collins (1952)	Shaw (1956)	Mudge (1967)	Maughan (1980)	Kauffman (1986)	Merewether (1987)				
		Las Animas County Colorado	Raton Basin Colorado	Huerfano County Colorado (section #20)	Sangre de Cristo Mtns (section #1)	Baca County Colorado (section #12)	Southeastern Colorado (section #8)	Eastern Colorado Western Kansas	Eastern Colorado Western Kansas	Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Las Animas County, Colorado	Southeastern Colorado				
		(Dakota: Cretaceous)	(Morrison: Cretaceous)		(Santa Rosa Fm: basal unit of Dockum, Upper Triassic)	(Dockum Group: Upper Triassic)	(Dockum Group: Upper Triassic)	(Dockum Group: Upper Triassic)		Entrada Formation: Jurassic However, based on research published by Heckert et al, 2012, this is currently thought to be the Red Draw member of the Jelm Fm: Middle Triassic	(Dockum Group: Upper Triassic)				
PERMIAN	Guadalupian	Sangre de Cristo Fm	Undifferentiated "red beds" ranging in age from Pennsylvanian or older, to possibly Triassic; sitting on PreCambrian basement	Lykins Fm	unnamed unit		Taloga Fm		Taloga Fm	Taloga Fm	Lykins Formation	Strain sh	Taloga Fm		
							Day Creek dolomite		Day Creek dolomite	Day Creek dolomite		Day Creek dolomite			
										Whitehorse Ss		Whitehorse Ss	shales and sandstones lower contact not exposed	Whitehorse Ss	
	Leonardian			Lyons Fm	Glorieta Fm	Nippewalla Group	Blaine Fm	Blaine Fm	Nippewlla Group	Dog Creek Sh	Dog Creek Sh	?		Nippewalla Group	
								Lyons Fm		undifferentiated units (Harper St, Salt Plain Fm, Cedar Hills Ss & Flowerpot Sh)	Nippewalla Group				
	Wolfcampian			Fountain Fm	Yeso Fm	Sumner Group	Stone Corral	Sumner Group		Stone Corral Fm	Stone Corral Fm		Sumner Group		
										Ninnescah Sh	Ninnescah Sh				
										Wellington Fm	Wellington Fm				
					Sangre de Cristo Fm	Chase Group		Chase Group	Nolans Ls	Chase Group	Chase Group				
													Odell Sh		
						Council Grove Group			Wreford Ls				Winfield Ls		
													Doyle Sh		
													Barneston Ls		
													Matfield Sh		
													Wreford Ls		
													Speiser Sh		
													Funston Ls		
													Blue Rapids Sh		
													Crouse Ls		
													Easly Creek Sh		
													Bader Ls		
													Sterne Sh		
													Beattie Ls		
													Eksridge Sh		
													Grenola Ls		
													Roca Sh		
													Red Eagle Ls		
													Johnson Sh		
													Foraker Ls		
						Admire Group				Admire Group	Janesville Sh		Admire Group	Admire Group	
											Falls City Ls				
											Onaga Sh				
PENNSYLVANIAN															

Figure S2. Correlation and development of the nomenclature of Permian-Triassic strata exposed in southeast Colorado, with emphasis on the Whitehorse Sandstone, Day Creek Dolomite, and Taloga Formation (Fig. 1).

GSA DATA REPOSITORY ITEM S3: METHODS

Stratigraphy & Sedimentology

To assess the Permian-Triassic transition in Colorado in the Lykins Fm. and its equivalents, we conducted fieldwork at 32 localities and examined 21 partial or complete cores of the units. Only data from the Front Range and southeast Colorado surface exposures are presented here, because this contribution is an early progress report. Except where noted, all images as well as collected fossils, rock samples and thin-section billets are keyed to Figs. 1-2. Many of our study sites are on private land or sensitive public lands where permits are required for fieldwork; thus throughout the text we refer to locality numbers rather than to sites (e.g., referring to “section F4” rather than “Miriam Smith’s Ranch”). Detailed locality coordinates are available upon request. For the 16 Front Range and southeast Colorado reference sections, 420 standard thin sections were cut, stained and examined to petrographically characterize sedimentology, paleontology, depositional environments, and diagenesis of the Lykins Fm. and its equivalents.

Geochronology

A 5-10 kg sandstone sample from each target horizon (solid circles in section F13, Fig. 1) was processed using conventional mineral separation techniques including: crushing, grinding, sieving, Wilfley table density separation, magnetic separation, and heavy liquids separation. Concentrated zircon splits were poured onto double-sided tape and mounted in epoxy, ground and polished to half thickness to expose their internal structure, and imaged in transmitted and reflected light as well as SEM-based cathodoluminescence. Detrital zircons were ablated using a Photon Machines 193 nm Analyte Excite laser ablation system with spot sizes between 20 and

25 μm at 5 Hz and ~ 5 mJ laser energy with an energy density of 6 J/cm^2 . Ablated material was transported to a Nu Instruments AttoM high-resolution, double focusing, single-collector ICPMS. With the magnet set at a constant mass, the flat tops of the isotope peaks were measured at the following masses by rapidly deflecting the ion beam: ^{202}Hg , $^{204}(\text{Hg}+\text{Pb})$, ^{206}Pb , ^{207}Pb , ^{208}Pb , ^{232}Th , ^{235}U , and ^{238}U with a 30 s on-peak background measured prior to each 30 s analysis. Raw data were reduced using IoliteTM (Paton et al., 2011) to subtract on-peak background signals, correct for U-Pb downhole fractionation, and normalize the instrumental mass bias using external, well-characterized, mineral standards. Ages are corrected by standard sample bracketing with the primary zircon standard Temora2 (417 Ma; Black et al., 2004) and secondary standards Plešovice (337 Ma; Slama et al., 2008), and an in-house standard WRP-63-08 (1707 Ma; Wayne Premo, personal commun., 2015) used at the USGS Central Mineral and Environmental Resources Science Center LA-ICPMS Isotope Lab. Reduced data was compiled into concordia and probability density plots using Isoplot 4.15 (Ludwig, 2012). Analyses with discordance greater than 15% were excluded from probability density plots. Analyses younger than 500 Ma were also visually inspected for degree of concordance. In general the $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages become more precise for older zircons due to the relative abundance of ^{235}U (parent to ^{207}Pb daughter product) in the early Earth. $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages are equally imprecise as $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$ ages at about 1400 Ma, therefore, the preferred age for zircon greater than 1400 Ma is the $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age.

Paleontology

Only samples that were collected in-situ and logged into reference sections were considered for interpretation, with the exception of a vertebrate trackway, which was collected

from float ~60 m above the Park Creek Member near section F13 (Figs. 1, 2). Thin-sections spanning all the representative lithologies in sections F1-F13 and S1-S2 were systematically examined for microfossils at 40x and 100x on a petrographic microscope. We did not search for nanofossils or palynomorphs, except in two rare grey-black calcareous shales from the Lykins Fm., where they mantle the Falcon Member at a locality near section F13. An ~15 kg bulk limestone or dolostone sample was processed for microfossils from each of the six Lykins Fm. carbonates at locality F12 as well as from each of the Falcon coquinas in sections F3 and F13. These carbonates were cleaned then dissolved in 10% buffered acetic acid for 3-4 days, with all particles greater than 75 μm retained by sieving. Residues were rinsed, dried and then separated in tetrabromoethane. The resulting heavy fraction was hand-picked under a binocular microscope. Identified microfossils mounted on slides and imaged via SEM.

Chemostratigraphy

Petrographic screening of all limestones, dolostones, and calcareous siliciclastics was conducted under polarized and cross-polarized light on a petrographic microscope, and where diagenetically least-altered phases (dominantly micrite, dolomicrite, or ooids) were identified, counterpart billets of those samples were microdrilled for analysis. Samples from sections F13-F12 were analyzed at the University of Arizona Environmental Isotope Laboratory where the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of least-altered carbonate phases was measured using an automated carbonate preparation device (KIEL-III) coupled to a gas-ratio mass spectrometer (Finnigan MAT 252). Powdered samples were reacted with dehydrated phosphoric acid under vacuum at 70°C. The isotope ratio measurement was calibrated based on repeated measurements of NBS-19 and NBS-18 and precision was ± 0.10 ‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and ± 0.08 ‰ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (1 sigma).

The remaining samples were analyzed at the University of Utah SIRFER lab, where powders were weighed using a Sartorius microbalance, loaded into 4.5 ml flat-bottomed borosilicate vials (Labco) and capped with Labco butyl rubber septa. These were transferred to a Thermo Fisher Scientific system comprised of a GasBench II, PAL autosampler, ConFlow IV interface and a MAT 253 mass spectrometer. Vials were flushed for 6 mins on a PAL autosampler, with Ultra High Purity grade helium (99.999% He) at a flow rate of 50 mL/min. During flushing the vials were kept in a 50° C aluminum block. Samples were reacted with 10 droplets of 104% phosphoric acid (H₃PO₄) (kept at 50° C) to CO₂ gas. Samples were allowed to equilibrate for 12 hours before analysis. During analysis using the PAL autosampler the produced CO₂ gas in the vials was collected using a sampling loop of 100 µL and transported to the mass spectrometer. Nine individual gas injections per analysis were made for each sample and for the reference materials; their average was taken as the final number. Three sets of reference materials were used to calibrate the system and unknown samples, including Carrara marble, LSVEC and Marble-Std. Carrara and LSVEC was used as primary reference materials and Marble -Std used as secondary reference material to cross check the final number. The oxygen fraction factor was calculated using the alpha value proposed by Swart et al. (1991). The average analytical uncertainty for analyzed samples was <0.08 for δ¹³C and <0.10 for δ¹⁸O; samples yielding low CO₂ output were excluded from reported results.

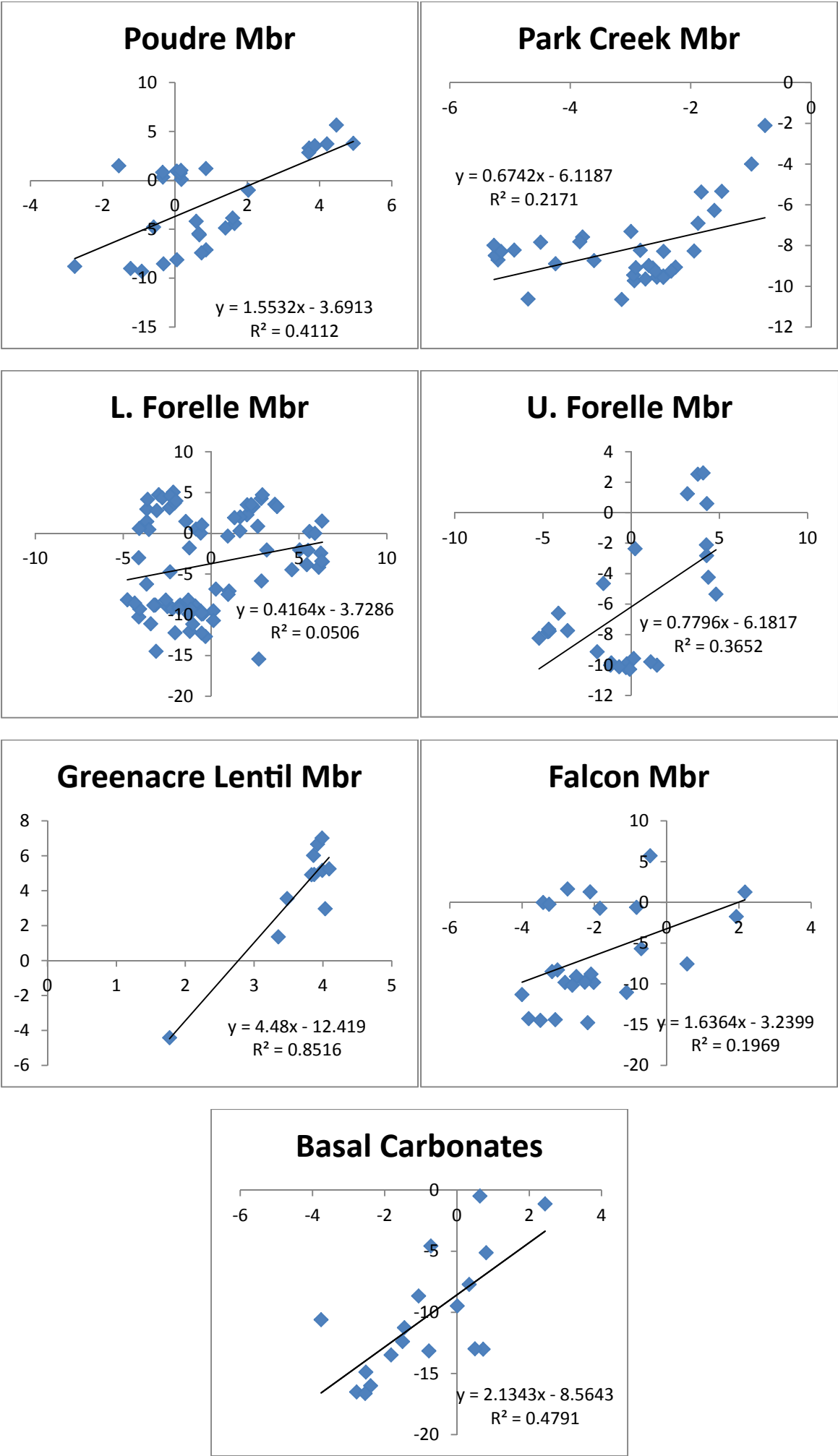


Figure S4. Cross-plots of ¹³C (horizontal axis) vs. ¹⁸O (vertical axis) for each of the carbonate-dominated intervals of the Lykins Formation. The three thin basal carbonates are plotted together whereas the Lower and Upper Forelle Member are separated. Results are preliminary.