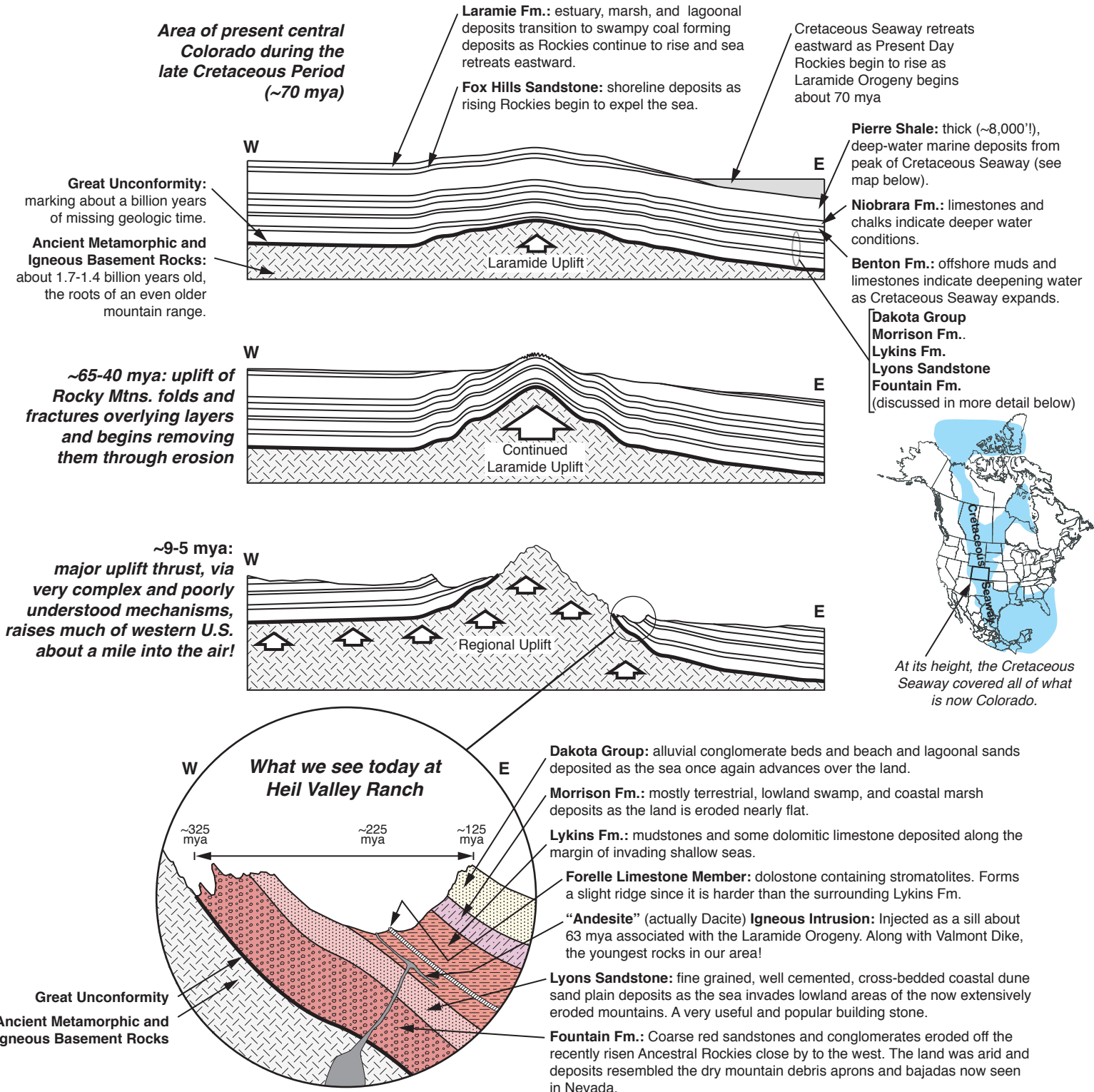


Story In The Rocks

A Conceptual (Rough and Greatly Simplified) Interpretation of the Geologic History of Heil Valley Ranch Open Space

Setting the scene:

Prior to the onset of the Laramide Orogeny, the Ancestral Rockies to the west (pushed up about 350 mya in response to the collision of continents forming the supercontinent of Pangea) had been eroded down nearly flat. The Cretaceous Seaway had totally inundated the entire area which is now Colorado, depositing thick marine deposits. About 12,000 feet of sedimentary material now blanketed the ancient metamorphic and igneous basement rocks. As the sea retreated to the east, the Fox Hills Sandstone and the Laramie Formation were the first terrestrial deposits of the newly emerging land pushed up by the Laramide Uplift.



Read More About It:

I suggest the following references that proved very helpful to me in creating this handout:

Message In Stone, Colorado's Colorful Geology, from the Colorado Geological Survey, edited by Matthews, KellerLynn, and Fox; ISBN 1-884216-59-5.

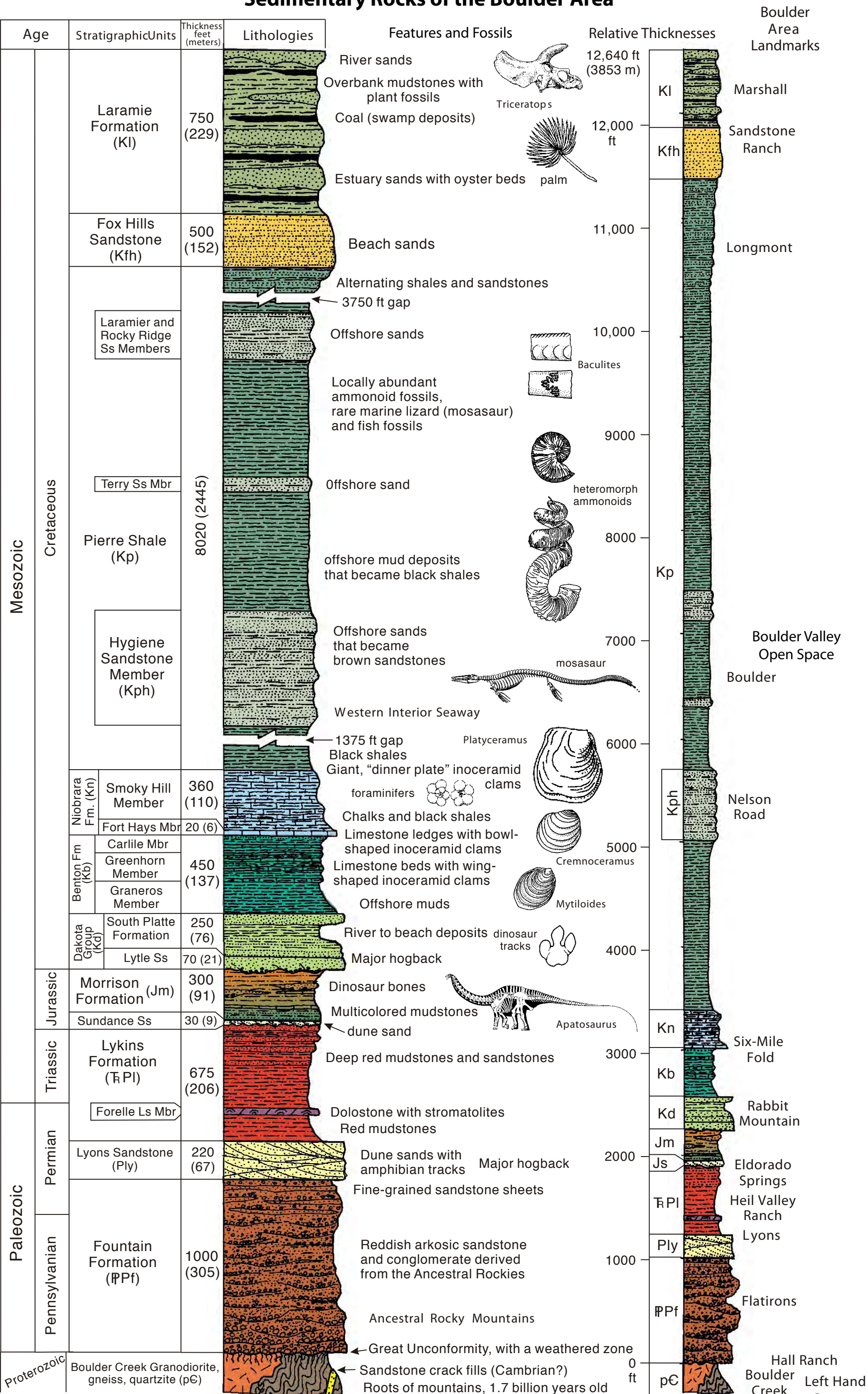
Geology Underfoot Along Colorado's Front Range, by Lon Abbott and Terri Cook; ISBN 978-0-87842-595-2.

The Geology of Boulder County, by Raymond Bridge; ISBN 0-9748010-0-3.

Ancient Denvers, from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, by Kirk R. Johnson and Robert G. Reynolds; ISBN 1-55591-554-X.

Rocks Above The Clouds, by Jack Reed and Gene Ellis; ISBN 978-0-9760525-8-6.

Sedimentary Rocks of the Boulder Area



Compiled by E. Evanoff, 2001, with minor additions by Roger Myers, 2012