

Geologic map of the Milan quadrangle,

Cibola County, New Mexico

June, 2012

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http://geoinfo.nmt.edu

# MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION

Tg Pediment gravel deposits (Miocene (?) to Pliocene) – Unconsolidated and heavily eroded terrace remnants composed dominantly of poorly sorted subangular to angular clasts of red Proterozoic granite and white bull quartz. Clasts are generally 20-30 cm and occasionally up to 80 cm in diameter. Subrounded clasts of grey limestone comprise less than 5% of the deposit. Deposits cap hills and mesas and are 90 – 100 m above present canyon bottoms. Similar Proterozoic clasts are common as scattered lag gravels on upland surfaces in the southwest part of the quadrangle. Clasts are sourced from Proterozoic exposures to the west of the quadrangle. Thickness: 0 to 6 meters.

## **Quaternary and Tertiary Igneous Rocks**

Qbz Zuni Canyon Basalt flow (upper Pleistocene) – Alkali-olivine basalt erupted from the Paxton Springs center to the southwest of the quadrangle. The basalt is holocrystalline, vesicular, and microporphyritic, with euhedral basalt phenocrysts up to 1.0 mm and rarer phenocrysts of clinopyroxene and plagioclase in a groundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene, and opaque minerals (Laughlin et al. 1972). Glassy surface rinds are eroded and ropy pahoehoe textures largely so. The age is  $20.7 \pm 2.2$  ka as determined by 36Cl cosmogenic exposure dating (Dunbar and Phillips 2004). It occurs as scattered remnant outcrops along the walls of lower Zuni Canyon and a larger area of exposure south of Milan and east of the canyon mouth. Around the canyon mouth and within Milan it is covered by Qvf and/or obscured by development. The Rio San Jose has cut through the flow south of Milan. Thickness: 0 - 5 meters in Zuni canyon, 9 - 14 meters within and south of Milan.

Qbf, Qvf/Qbf Bluewater Basalt flow (upper Pleistocene) – Tholeiitic basalt erupted from El Tintero cinder cone to the north of the quadrangle. The basalt is holocrystalline with olivine and plagioclase phenocrysts in a groundmass of plagioclase and clinopyroxene microphenocrysts with less common opaque oxides and olivine (Sims et al. 2007). Glassy rinds and ropy pahoehoe surface textures are completely eroded. The age is 68 +24/-20 ka by 238U - 230Th disequilibrium dating and 60 ka by 3He cosmogenic exposure dating (Sims et al. 2007). The flow occurs in the northeastern portion of the quadrangle and is mapped separately where exposed and/or with a thin sediment cover (Qbf), and where mantled by valley fill (Qvf/Qbf) but still identifiable on air photos. Based on water well logs, locally there are multiple buried flows with intervening sediments in the subsurface. Unit is more extensive to the south but is not identifiable on air photos. Thickness: 1 to 27 meters.

Tbb Basalt of Black Mesa (Pliocene) – Hawaiite basalt (Perry et al. 1990) capping Black Mesa on the east side of the quadrangle. The age is  $2.573 \pm 0.130$  by 40Ar/39Ar dating (Laughlin et el. 1993). Thickness: 15 to 20 meters.

# **Mesozoic Sedimentary Rocks**

Rps Sonsela member of the Petrified Forest Formation (upper Triassic) – Probable identification of white to pale tan, thick-bedded cross-bedded sandstone. Outcrop is surrounded by landslide deposits of Qls on private property in Milan and was observed from a distance. Sandstones in this member are described by Heckert and Lucas (2003) as trough cross-bedded, yellow to gray sublitharenites and subarkoses. Unit is part of the Chinle Group. Thickness: undetermined, base and top not exposed. Heckert and Lucas (2003) measured more than 20 meters at localities in the Zuni Mountains to the northwest.

**Rcb** Bluewater Creek Formation (upper Triassic)– Purple, lavender, and grey mudstones exposed in roadcut in Milan at the eastern edge of the quadrangle. Mudstones are slightly bentonitic and contain calcareous nodules. Bedding is poorly exposed and locally slumped. Rocks correspond to lithofacies assemblage I of Lucas and Heckert (2003). The formation is the lowest member of the Chinle Group and probably underlies much of the landslide deposits (Qls) surrounding Black Mesa. Thickness: undetermined, base and top not exposed. Heckert and Lucas (2003) measured up to 60 meters in the Zuni Mountains to the northwest.

Rm Moenkopi Formation (middle Triassic) - Sandstone, silty sandstone, and subordinate silty mudstone in shades of red and brownish-gray. Basal mudstones and silty mudstones are generally less than 5 meters thick, weak red to dark red, and weather into low, unvegetated slopes of shaley rubble. Overlying platy-weathering silty sandstones are pale red lithic arenites and lithic wackes, thin- to very thin-bedded, and calcareous. They are moderately sorted, composed of 80% quartz and 20% chert, feldspar, and lithic fragments in medium- to fine-grained, subangular to subrounded grains. Outcrops are capped by weak red to pale red, resistant, massive to locally planar and trough cross-bedded, pebbly sandstones and sandy pebble conglomerates. They are medium- to less commonly fine-grained lithic arenites with up to 20 % chert, feldspar ,and lithic fragments in subangular to subrounded grains with minor clay matrix. Varicolored chert and quartzite pebbles are common, either scattered throughout the rock or in discrete conglomeratic layers. In the northwest portion of the quadrangle the uppermost sandstones are light brownish-gray and distinctly lighter on air photos, and are more compositionally mature with more quartz and less lithic fragments, chert, and clay matrix. Thickness: up to 18 meters are exposed in the quadrangle; top is probably eroded. Heckert and

Lucas (2003) measured ~ 25 meters in the Zuni Mountains to the northwest.

## **Paleozoic Sedimentary Rocks**

Psa San Andres Formation (middle to upper Permian) – Medium to dark to very dark grey dolomitic limestone and calcareous dolomite interbedded with light tan to pink to pinkish-gray cross-bedded quartz sandstone. These rocks are locally overlain by very pale brown to light gray very fine-grained limestone. Sandstones are tongues or lenses of the underlying Glorieta Sandstone and the contact between the two is intertonguing. The contact is placed at the base of the lowest carbonate beds. Carbonate rocks range from medium- to very thick-bedded (up to 3 to 4 meters), are usually internally massive, and grade into sandy dolomites and dolomitic sandstones adjacent to sandstone beds. Sandstones are composed of medium- to fine-grained, rounded to subrounded quartz grains, are non-calcareous, and usually have distinct tabular cross-beds. A prominent sandstone tongue 7 – 8 meters above the Glorieta sandstone visible in the walls of Zuni Canyon is mappable but pinches out repeatedly At least three other variably discontinuous sandstone lenses are present higher in the section throughout the quadrangle. The top of the formation is a regional unconformity with development of paleokarst. Lenses, irregular masses, and erosional lag of varicolored chert are abundant at the top of the formation. Light gray limestones present in the southeast corner of the quadrangle and comprising the 7074 ft hill (VABM "Top") in the central portion of the quadrangle are an upper member that was mostly removed by pre-Triassic erosion elsewhere. Thickness: highly variable due to pre-Triassic erosion and karst processes; up to 60 meters in cross-sections, ~ 150 meters on hill where upper member is present.

Pg Glorieta Sandstone – White to pale orange to grayish-pink quartz sandstone. Quartz grains are moderately well- to well-sorted, medium- to coarse-grained, rounded to subrounded, and occur in thick to very thick beds. Tabular cross beds are prominent. Unit intertongues with the overlying San Andres Formation and is gradational with the underlying Yeso Formation. Thickness: Approximately 30 meters in Zuni Canyon. Colpitts (1989) measured 60 meters at the western head of Zuni Canyon.

Py Yeso Formation (middle Permian) – Moderate red to pale reddish-brown quartz sandstone. Quartz grains are very well-sorted, fine- to very fine-grained, and rounded to subrounded. Sandstones consist of thin-to thick planar tabular beds. White reductions spots and round concretions to 1 cm in size are locally common. Only the uppermost member is exposed and was correlated to the Joyita Member by Colpitts (1989). Unit is only exposed in Zuni Canyon and is mostly mantled by colluvium; the underlying Torres member is probably present in the canyon but obscured by colluvium. Unit is also probably present in western Limekiln Canyon along a NW-down fault, but it is again covered by colluvium. Thickness: Not completely exposed; Colpitts (1989) reports a total thickness of the formation in the Zuni Mountains of 379 meters.

pYu Pre-Yeso Formation rocks, undivided (middle Permian to Proterozoic) – Rocks older than the Yeso formation, cross-section only.

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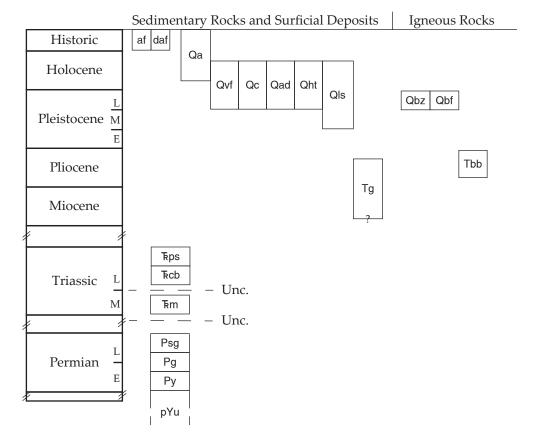
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# CORRELATION DIAGRAM



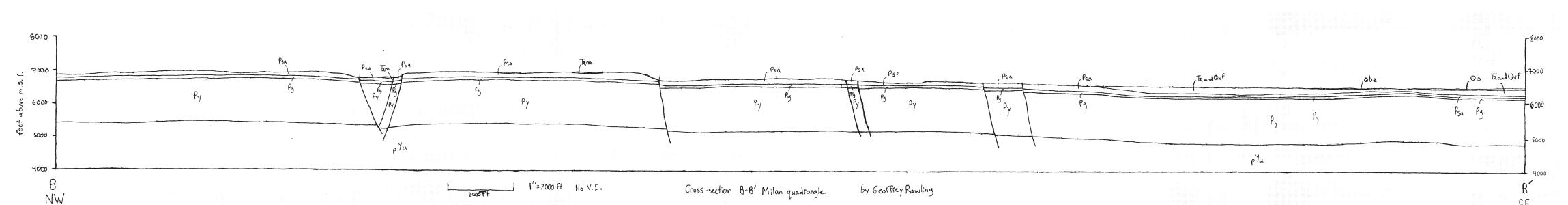


Typical outcrop of cross-bedded Moenkopi pebbly sandstone. Hammer is 42 cm long.



View down Zuni Canyon showing remnant outcrops of the Zuni Canyon basalt flow against cliffs of Glorieta Sandstone. The Glorieta is overlain by overlain by the San Andres Formation with a prominent lower sandstone lens.

# L 2000 ft No V.E. Cross-section A-A' Milan quadrangle by Geoffrey Rawling



rock and deposits and the occurrence of structural features. Geologic and fault contacts are irregular surfaces that form boundaries between different types or ages of units. Data depicted on this geologic quadrangle map may be based on any of the following: reconnaissance field geologic mapping, compilation of published and unpublished work, and photogeologic interpretation. Locations of contacts are not surveyed, but are plotted by interpretation of the position of a given contact onto a topographic base map; therefore, the accuracy of contact locations depends on the scale of mapping and the interpretation of the geologist(s). Any enlargement of this map could cause misunderstanding in the detail of mapping and may result in erroneous interpretations. Site-specific conditions should be verified by detailed surface mapping or subsurface exploration. Topographic and cultural changes associated with recent development may not be shown.

Cross sections are constructed based upon the interpretations of the author made from geologic mapping, and available geophysical, and subsurface (drillhole) data. Cross-sections should be used as an aid to understanding the general geologic framework of the map area, and not be the sole source of information for use in locating or designing wells, buildings, roads, or other man-made structures.

The map has not been reviewed according to New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources standards. The contents of the report and map should not be considered final and complete until reviewed and published by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the State of New Mexico, or the U.S. Government.

## Deposit is a mixture of Toreva blocks, slumps, and earthflows, and is composed of blocks of basalt, and chaotic mixtures of angular basalt boulders, underlying Triassic mudstones, and aeolian sand. Surface is usually mantled by basalt boulders.

**Anthropogenic Deposits** 

af Artificial fill for stock tanks and road embankments

**Quaternary and Tertiary Surficial Deposits** 

Qvf. Thickness: 0 to 4 (?) meters.

0 to 5 meters (?) in drainages.

valley bottoms. Thickness: 0 to 15 (?) meters.

Thickness: 0 to several 10s of meters.

daf disturbed land in urbanized areas and surface excavations such as gravel pits etc.

Qa Active alluvium (Holocene to Historic) – Unlithified gravel and poorly to

moderately sorted clay, silt, and sand in the active channel of the Rio San Jose. Incised

into Qvf and basalt lava flows. Only mapped where extensive and obvious on air

photos along the lower Rio San Jose; occurrences in other drainages are lumped with

Qvf Valley fill (upper Pleistocene to Holocene) - Unconsolidated, moderately

sorted sand, silt, and clay in shades of brown and reddish-brown. Unit grades into

minor alluvial fans and hillslope toe deposits and locally includes small gravelly

terrace deposits adjacent to drainages, composed of sandy pebbles through boulders.

Unit is widespread north of Milan in the broad Rio San Jose valley where it locally

includes sand sheets. Anthropogenic disturbance is common due to agriculture,

grazing, and suburban development. Incised by active drainages, floored by sand and

cobble to boulder gravel of Qa. Thickness: 3 to 12 meters in the valley north of Milan,

Qc Colluvium (upper Pleistocene to Holocene) - Poorly sorted boulder to cobble

gravel with a matrix of sand, silt and clay. Boulders may be up to several meters in

diameter. Unit was deposited by mass-wasting processes and mantles the base of

slopes. Unit includes small alluvial fans and interfingers with alluvial deposits on

Qsd Sandsheets and small dunes (upper Pleistocene to Holocene) – Aeolian sand

deposits in swales and locally mantling low-relief topography on Qls deposits around

Qht Hillslope toe deposits (upper Pleistocene to Holocene) – Poorly sorted gravel

with a matrix of sand, silt and clay. Unit was deposited by mass-wasting, alluvial, and

aeolian processes, and mantles the base of slopes. Unit includes small alluvial fans

Qls Landslide deposits (middle Pleistocene to Holocene) – Areas of hummocky

topography with abundant small closed depressions and swales around Black Mesa.

Black Mesa. Identified on aerial photographs. Thickness: 0 to 10 (?) meters.

and interfingers with valley bottom deposits. Thickness: 0 to 10 (?) meters.

# MAP EXPANATION

 $A \longrightarrow A$  Location of geologic cross section

Geologic contact, solid where exposed, dashed where approximately located, queried where uncertain.

Dip and dip direction of bedding Dip and dip direction of joints

Orientation of vertical joints

295-40 Trend and plunge of slickenside striae

Fault, solid where certain, dashed where approximately located, dotted where buried, queried where location or termination is uncertain. Ball and bar indicate sense of throw, usually based on map pattern.