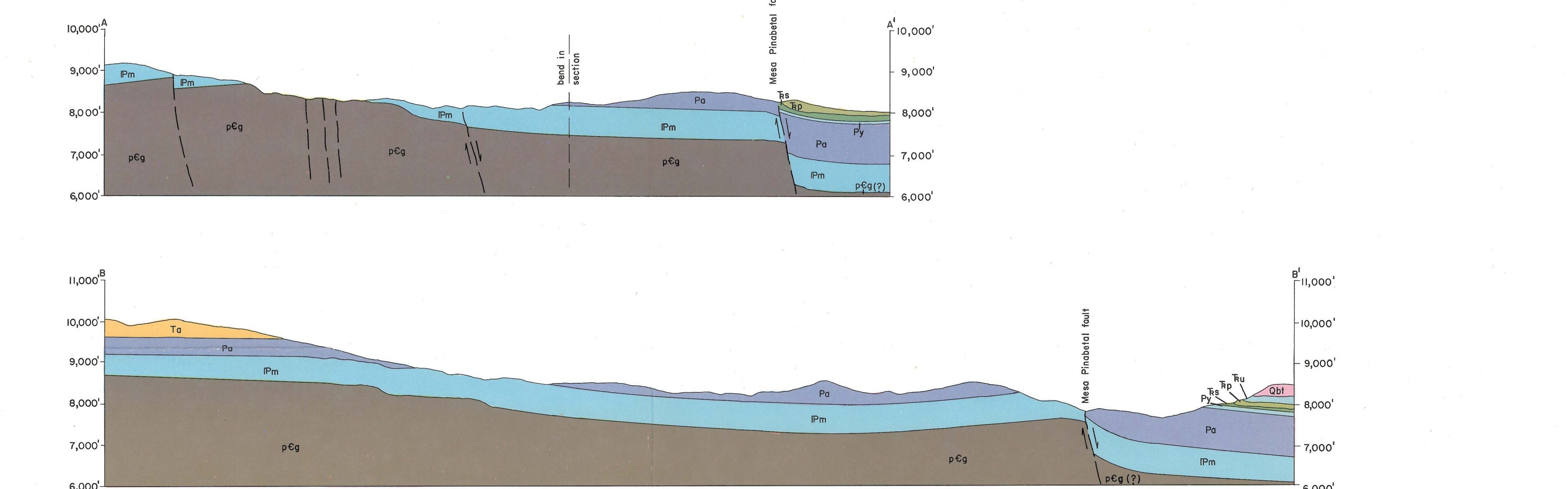
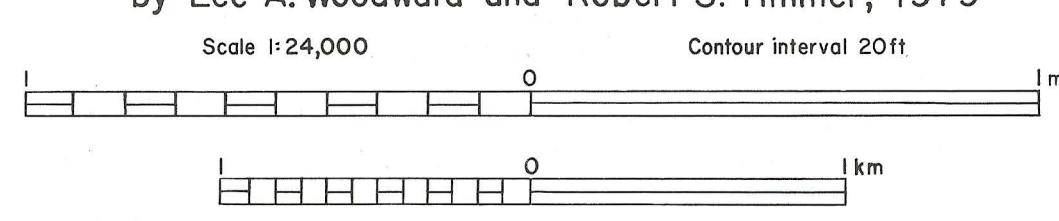


Base from U.S. Geological Survey. Geology by Lee A. Woodward and Robert S. Timmer, 1973, 1975, 1976, and 1977.



GEOLOGY OF JAROSA QUADRANGLE, NEW MEXICO

by Lee A. Woodward and Robert S. Timmer, 1979



PREVIOUS AND PRESENT WORK

A reconnaissance map of the Nacimiento Mountains and adjacent areas by Wood and Northrop (1946) included this quadrangle. Smith and others (1970) included the southern and eastern parts of the quadrangle in a map concerned principally with the Cenozoic volcanic rocks but generalized for the earlier rocks. Acosta (1973) mapped the northern part of the quadrangle.

Responsibility for mapping this quadrangle is shown on fig. 1. The mapping by Timmer was part of an M.S. thesis (1976) under the supervision of Woodward.

ROCK UNITS

No radiometric ages have been reported for Precambrian rocks in this quadrangle. However, Brooks (1974) reported ages of 1,800±50 m.y. and 1,840±170 m.y. for metamorphic rocks in the Nacimiento Mountains to the west. The granite (pCg) exposed in this quadrangle is probably correlative with granite exposed in the quadrangle to the west where the granite appears to be younger than the dated metamorphic rocks. Thus, the granite is assigned to Precambrian X(?) or Y(?) time (the age boundary between X and Y intervals is 1,600 m.y.).

The lowest unit of the Chinle Formation (Triassic), the Agua Zarca Sandstone Member, is locally absent, and the overlying Saltral Shale Member rests directly on the underlying Yeso Formation (Permian).

A complete section of the Morrison Formation (Jurassic) is not exposed in this quadrangle; limited exposures of the Morrison in the central-eastern part of the quadrangle are probably the middle and upper parts of the formation.

Smith (1938) named the Abiquiu Tuff for exposures about 15 mi northeast of the Jarosa quadrangle; this unit

is referred to as the Abiquiu Formation here because tuff is a subordinate lithology. The lower member is composed mostly of gravel and coarse-grained, arkosic sand, or where cemented, conglomerate and sandstone; this member is locally present beneath the Banderlier Tuff on Mesa Pinabetaal but is too thin to be shown on the map. The Pedernal Chert Member is absent at Mining Mountain where the upper member rests directly on the lower member of the Abiquiu. The upper member, consisting mainly of limestone and volcanoclastic rocks, is present at Cerro Jarocito, Mining Mountain, and VABM Brown (sec. 19, T. 21 N., R. 3 E.).

We mapped the Banderlier Tuff (Qbt) as one unit, although Smith and others (1970) have distinguished two members.

STRUCTURE

The Jarosa quadrangle is located at the junction of three major tectonic features: the Nacimiento uplift, the Chama Basin, and the Jemez volcanic field (fig. 2). Boundaries between these major elements are gradational and may overlap. The Nacimiento uplift trends north and is about 50 mi long and 6-10 mi wide; it grades into the Chama Basin to the northeast through a broad slope dipping toward the northeast. In the Jarosa quadrangle the boundary between the uplift and basin is interpreted to be the Mesa Pinabetaal fault. Outcrops of the Banderlier Tuff mark the northwestern erosional edge of the Jemez volcanic field.

The Mesa Pinabetaal fault surface is not exposed, but it is presumed to dip steeply to the northeast. This fault has about 1,000 ft of stratigraphic separation, down to the northeast; movement occurred prior to deposition of the Banderlier Tuff (Quaternary) and is probably late Tertiary.

Two northerly to northwesterly trending, east-facing monoclines are present in the western part of the quadrangle. These folds appear to have formed prior to deposition of the Abiquiu Formation and are probably of early Tertiary age.

A broad, shallow syncline in the central part of the quadrangle is seen in the Abo Formation. This fold is probably of early Tertiary age also, but no stratigraphic evidence for the age of folding is present here.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Twenty small copper prospects and occurrences, mostly in the Abo Formation (Permian), were noted in the Jarosa quadrangle. These prospects consist of copper sulfides that have replaced carbonaceous material and are surrounded by halos of copper carbonates. The mineralized strata are gray arkose, and they are enveloped in reddish-brown, non-mineralized arkose, sandstone, and shale. Timmer (1976) observed that fresh biotite from non-mineralized arkose contains 308-3,260 ppm (parts per million) copper, and he suggested that oxidation of biotite may release copper to ground water with deposition of the metal near the carbonaceous material. Detailed descriptions of the copper occurrences are given by Timmer (1976).

Chenoweth (1974) reported several minor uranium occurrences in the Abo Formation in the Jarosa quadrangle. We did not observe any uranium minerals in this quadrangle.

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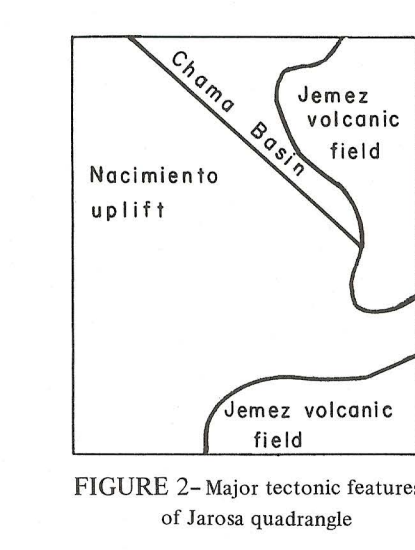
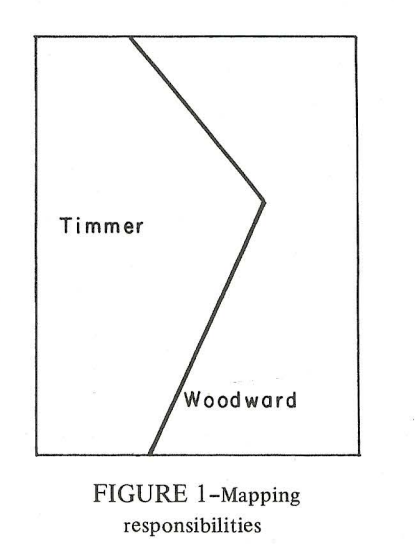
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