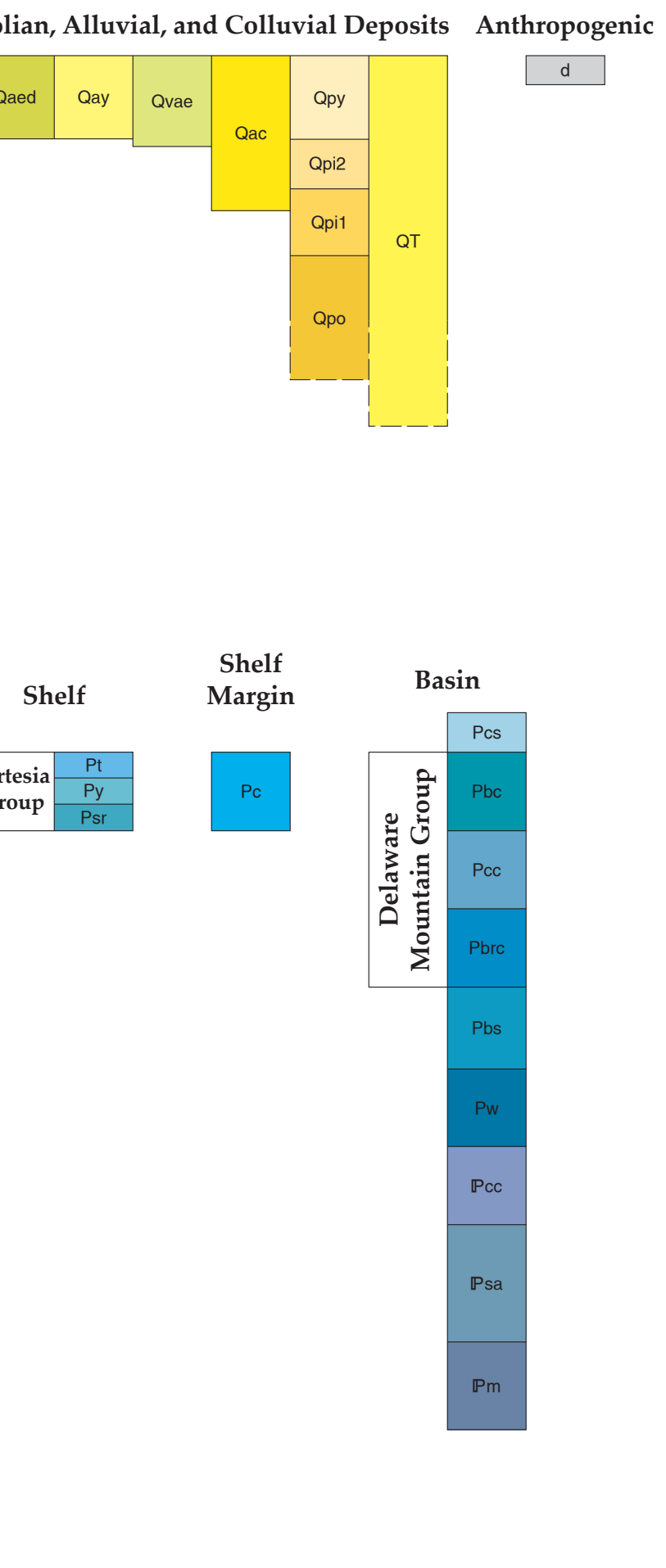


Correlation of Map Units



Description of Map Units

CENOZOIC ERATHEM Quaternary Series
 Anthropogenic
 Disturbed areas (Modern)—Highway 62-180 and the road to Slaughter Canyon.

Foliar, alluvial, and colluvial deposits
 Alluvial and eolian silt, sand, clay and gravel in closed or nearly closed depressions (Holocene)—Primarily silt and sand. May contain gravel and cobbles washed from depression margins. Fines are generally pale-tan to brown. Most of the depressions are probably karstic structures resulting from subsurface dissolution of Permian evaporites. Fills in smaller depressions may be thin (c. 1 m) to a few meters thick; thicker fills may be present in depressions in the southeastern part of map area.

Alluvium along active drainages (Holocene)—Alluvial sand, mud, and gravel along active drainages, including deposits underlying low terraces within and adjacent to modern channel systems. Deposits commonly contain abundant, poorly sorted pebbles, cobbles, and boulders of Permian carbonate rocks, although in some reaches surface deposits are comparatively fine-grained pale-tan to reddish-brown silty sand, sand, and pebbly sand. Unit is typically inset against younger piedmont alluvium (Qpy) on the distal piedmont slope, and merges with Qpy toward the mountain front. Thickness of the deposits including low fill terraces is probably less than a few meters in most areas.

Sand, mud, gravel and gypsite underlying the upper Black River valley floor (Upper Pleistocene to Holocene)—In general, sediment is relatively fine-grained and likely contains significant amounts of thin-bladed dust trapped by grasses and shrubs, together with gypsite washed in from embankments eroded in Permian evaporites. The southeastern corner of the map area is close to the well-known state-line roadcut that exposed typical laminated Castle Formation strata, and outcrops on the Oryzum Plain just above and east of the highway also consist of the interlaminated anhydrite calcite lithology characteristic of the Castle Formation. In contrast, the small exposures of Permian gypsum near the mouth of Slaughter Canyon do not exhibit the sharply defined calcite laminae of the Castle Formation, and may represent accumulation of post-Castle formation anhydrite. The combined thickness of Castle and Salado Formations strata remaining along the cross-section line ranges from about 60 to 200 ft, with all of the upper 150 feet appearing to be composed of a light-gray, fossiliferous, and dolomitic unit likely extending along the mountain front at least as far south as Double Canyon, as indicated by a group of sinkholes on intercalate fan remnants there. Several kilometers to the southwest along the escarpment, near the mouth of Big Canyon, Castle and Salado Formations strata have been completely removed, and the Bell Canyon Formation is exposed at the surface.

Undivided valley alluvium and colluvium in the Gaudalup Mountains (Middle Pleistocene to Holocene)—This composite unit includes alluvium along active channels, terrace deposits, hillslope colluvium along canyon walls, and unrippled areas of bedrock along scoured channel reaches and cut banks. Deposits consist of pale-tan to brown silty sand and gravel, cobbles and boulders. Larger clasts are dominantly pale-colored dolomite and gray limestone derived from surrounding Permian shelf and shelf-margin strata of the Artesia Group and Captain Formation. Accumulations of sediment above active channels commonly extend. Deposits may locally be several meters thick beneath terraces and colluvial wedges. Map unit merges eastward with piedmont alluvium in the vicinity of the mountain front.

Younger piedmont alluvium (sand, gravel, cobbles, boulders and mud) (Upper Pleistocene to Holocene)—Coarser debris, including cobbles and boulders in the interior of the mountain front, are Permian carbonate rocks derived from the Gaudalup Mountains and from reworking of older piedmont alluvium. Pale-tan to reddish-brown, silty sand, sand, and pebbly sand comprise much of the unit in some areas. Gravelly deposits are present in lenticular channels and in more continuous, decimeter- to meter-scale beds and are commonly indurated with calcium-carbonate cement. Includes accumulations of sediment in active channels, together with deposits graded to levels a few meters above active channels and colluvium along slopes. Common base of older fan remnants. Focusing of surface runoff toward areas underlain by younger piedmont alluvium is commonly expressed by a relative abundance of vegetation and darker shades on aerial imagery. Surface roughness (microtopography) is locally pronounced close to the mountain front where cobble- and boulder-sized clasts are plentiful. Some drainages floored by Qpy deposits exhibit subvertical wells deeply cut into cemented gravel of older alluvium. Outbank exposures of Qpy deposits up to a few meters thick are present in some areas.

Intermediate piedmont alluvium, younger map unit (Upper Pleistocene to Holocene)—In the map area, these deposits are graded to a somewhat higher level than those of Qpy, and are inset against older piedmont alluvium along the larger valleys and draws that drain eastward from the Gaudalup Mountains. Bar and swale microtopography is evident on depositional surfaces. Comparatively young deposits of gravelly alluvium in the western Delaware Basin, including relatively young deposits underlying the piedmont slope in the map area, are commonly cemented with calcium carbonate. This probably reflects a predominance of carbonate dust and debris in the region and the arid climate. Preservation of microtopography and inset relations with other piedmont map units suggest a relatively young age for Qpy2 deposits. Erosion of older piedmont deposits, transport of sediment from the Gaudalup Mountains and Qp2 deposition may have occurred primarily during the last glacial episode. Thickness of the deposits is variable, ranging from decimeters to perhaps several meters. Exposures in deeply incised drainages near the mountain front generally reveal up to a few meters of Qp2 sediment overlying surfaces scoured into older alluvium.

Intermediate piedmont alluvium, older map unit (Middle Pleistocene)—Deposits are graded to a higher level than those of Qp2, and remnant surfaces are generally smoother. Qp1 fan remnants underlie interfluval ridges and isolated levels in the northern part of the map area, and extend eastward up to 20 m above the floors of former drainages in the southern part of the map area. Gravelly strata are well-cemented and finer grained deposits are typically poorly exposed even in subvertical drainage cuts. Episodes of landscape erosion, sediment mobilization, and accumulation of Qp1 alluvium may be associated with any of the glacial-interglacial climatic fluctuations that occurred during the mid-Pleistocene. Unit probably ranges from less than one to several meters in thickness.

Older piedmont alluvium (Lower to Middle Pleistocene)—Surface exposures are generally well-cemented conglomerates, containing substantial to rounded pebbles, cobbles and boulders derived from Permian carbonate rocks in the Gaudalup Mountains. Fine grained strata are poorly exposed. Remnants of older piedmont alluvium are preserved as east-west oriented ridges that have been eroded and stripped down to resistant conglomeratic strata. Interfluvial summits underlain by Qp0 remnants rise up to 40 m above adjacent drainages. Slumping and tilting of the deposits, likely due to solution subsidence over extended periods of time, is evident in places. Hale (1955), based on borehole lithologic logs available at that time, reported an estimated maximum thickness of 60 m of accumulated fill sediment in the upper Black River valley, with gravel (longmentally) comprising a comparatively small proportion of the total alluvial fill.

Undivided clastic deposits (Pliocene? to Holocene)—Cross section only. The maximum thickness of QT depicted on the cross section is somewhat larger than Hale's (1955) estimate of 60 m, based on interpretations of more recent borehole logs and the probability that thicker accumulations may be present locally due to dissolution of Permian evaporites and subsidence of overlying fills.

Explanation of Map Symbols

- Contact—Identity and existence are certain or questionable where queried. Location is accurate where solid and dashed where approximate.
- Unconformable contact—Where solid and dashed where approximate. Location is accurate.
- Inclined bedding—Showing strike and dip.
- Map unit line—Pl—Cross Section only. Identity and existence are certain. Location is accurate.
- Drill hole for hydrocarbon exploration or exploitation—Showing API number.
- Cross section line and label.
- Area of sand in Bone Spring Formation (Pb8). Cross Section only.
- Well location (in cross section)—The location and depth of a well used to establish stratigraphy and geologic unit depth, shows API number.

U.S. Geological Survey, 2010–2014
 National Geologic Map Act of 2010
 IFGMR 4.5 in Digital Terrain Model, 2008
 NIMA, 2010

Geologic Cross Section A-A'

Comments to Map Users

A geologic map displays information on the distribution, nature, orientation, and age relationships of 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 on 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 may not be shown due to recent development. Cross sections are constructed based upon the interpretations of the author made from geologic mapping and available geophysical and subsurface (drill hole) 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 human-made structures.

The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources created the Open-File Geologic Map Series to expedite the dissemination of these geologic maps and map data to the public as rapidly as possible while allowing their map revision as geologists continued to work in map areas. Each map sheet carries the original date of publication below the map and the latest revision date in the upper right corner. In most cases, the original publication date coincides with the date of delivery of the map product to the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) as part of New Mexico's STATEMAP agreement. While maps are produced, maintained, and updated in an ArcGIS geodatabase, at the time of the STATEMAP deliverable, each map goes through cartographic production and internal review before uploading to the Internet. Even if additional updates are carried out on the ArcGIS map data files, citations to these maps should reflect their original publication date and the original authors listed. The views and conclusions contained in these map documents 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.