

**DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

**Quaternary deposits, undivided (Holocene and Pleistocene)** - Alluvium and alluvial fans in north-central part of area. Older parts were deposited during episodes of normal faulting in Quaternary fault zone. E. Oro fault and faults south and northeast of Mora. Maximum thickness may be as much as 500 ft (150 m) east of Rocaada and 550 ft (165 m) east of Mora.

**Gravel deposits, undivided (Holocene and Pleistocene)** - Pebble to boulder gravel in upper parts of river valleys in northwestern part of area. Deposits are partly glacial outwash.

**Mafic dikes (Pliocene)** - Vertical basaltic dikes in Cretaceous rocks in northeastern part of area.

**Complex dike and enclosing hornfels (Miocene)** - Quartz dike dike and hornfels in Cretaceous rocks in northwestern part of area. K-Ar age is 14.4 ± 1.0 my.

**Niobrara Formation (Upper Cretaceous)** - Gray clay shale and calcareous shale containing a few thin beds of gray limestone. Maximum preserved thickness is about 700 ft (213 m) northwest of Soree lake.

**Carlile Shale (Upper Cretaceous)** - Upper part is dark-gray shale and calcareous shale and fine gray limestone (Luzon Lopez Member); medial part is thin sandstone (Caddell Sandstone Member); and lower part is dark-gray fissile shale. Total thickness is about 340 ft (104 m).

**Greenhorn Limestone (Upper Cretaceous)** - Thin limestone beds and interbedded thin gray shale. Thickness is 65 ft (20 m).

**Graneros Shale (Upper Cretaceous)** - Dark-gray shale containing subordinate amounts of thin, platy, sandstone and siltstone beds; calcareous shale and thin bentonite beds occur in upper part. Total thickness is about 200 ft (60 m).

**Greenhorn Limestone and Graneros Shale, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)**

**Cretaceous rocks, undivided (Upper Cretaceous)** - Shown undivided on cross sections and on map from northeast of Abeyta Canyon to northern edge of area. North of Montezuma, includes Berral Formation, Gloria Sandstone, and Yaso Formation. To the south, includes also the San Andres Limestone.

**Dakota Sandstone (Lower and Lower Cretaceous)** - Upper part is tan thin-bedded medium-grained sandstone and interbedded thin gray shale; medial part is calcareous gray shale and interbedded thin sandstone; lower part is massive weathering coarse-grained sandstone containing lenses of quartz and chert pebbles. Medial part contains polymorphs of probable Apatite (Early Cretaceous) age; upper part also may be Early Cretaceous. Total thickness varies from about 125-170 ft (38-52 m).

**Jurassic rocks, undivided (Upper and Middle Jurassic)** - Includes, in descending order: Morrison Formation, Todillo Limestone, and Entrada Sandstone. Upper part of Morrison Formation (Upper Jurassic) is greenish-gray siltstone and shale containing subordinate amounts of thin to thick, fine to coarse-grained sandstone and a few thin concretionary limestone beds; middle part is buff to pale red, medium-grained sandstone and interbedded red, purple, and gray shale; lower part is red, purple, green, and brown claystone containing thin limestone, fine-grained sandstone, and bentonite beds. Total thickness is 4,270 ft (1,303 m) about 2 mi (3.2 km) south of Apache Springs; about 450 ft (137 m) at Sapello; and about 310 ft (95 m) southeast of La Cueva. Todillo Limestone (Middle Jurassic) is gray, bituminous limestone that has fissile and contorted bedding. Generally present, but locally absent, in southeastern part of area to a little north of Songuajilla Arroyo. Farther north, isolated lenses occur to the north of Rio Cebolla. Absent farther north. Thickness is 10-25 ft (3-7.6 m). Entrada Sandstone (Middle Jurassic) is buff to light-orange weathering, medium-grained, well-sorted sandstone, massive parallel bedded, and cross-bedded. Thickness is 50-80 ft (15-24 m).

**Chinle Formation (Upper Triassic)** - Consists of upper member, composed of red shale containing subordinate amounts of thin, fine-grained sandstone and a few thin lenses of limestone and limestone pebbles; middle member, composed of red shale and interbedded buff to red, fine to coarse-grained sandstone that locally contains limestone pebbles; and lower member, composed of red shale containing subordinate amounts of thin sandstone and a few lenses of concretionary limestone. Total thickness is about 800 ft (245 m) at the south, and about 1,100 ft (335 m) at the north.

**Santa Rosa Sandstone (Upper Triassic)** - Brown, gray, and red, ridge-forming, thick, fine to coarse-grained sandstone units, interbedded with thin to thick, red, purple, and greenish-gray shale. Basal sandstone contains subordinate amounts of chert pebbles, limestone, and chert-pebble conglomerate occurs in upper third. Total thickness is about 450 ft (135 m) at the south, and about 300 ft (90 m) at Mora River.

**Triassic rocks, undivided (Upper Triassic)** - Chinle Formation and Santa Rosa Sandstone, undivided, between head of Abeyta Canyon and Rio Cebolla.

**Bernal Formation (Permian)** - Changed to purplish-buff, fine to medium-grained sandstone and siltstone and subordinate thin-bedded yellowish sandstone. In the southern part of the area a bed of chalky-white gypsum occurs in the lower part. Locally, in the southern part of the area, the basal part of the formation grades downward into a solution breccia of concretionary blocks of red siltstone and shale of the Bernal and limestone of the underlying San Andres Limestone. Thickness is 145-200 ft (44-61 m) near Bernal and Myers, and 180-150 ft (55-45 m) in the northern part of the area. Present throughout southern and eastern parts of area.

**San Andres Limestone (Lower Permian, Leonardian)** - Dark to light gray fine-grained limestone underlain by gray plastic clay and interlayered thin, fine-grained sandstone. Clay and sandstone commonly are highly contorted, suggesting that clay is a residual from solution of evaporite rocks. Limestone is 8-20 ft (2.4-6 m) thick; clay and sandstone unit is 0-20 ft (0-6 m) thick. Total thickness ranges from about 40 ft (12 m) near Chapelle to about 20 ft (6 m) at Montezuma. Locally absent south of Montezuma; absent from Montezuma north.

**Bernal Formation and San Andres Limestone, undivided (Permian)** - Undivided from vicinity of Las Montañas north to near head of Abeyta Canyon.

**Gloria Sandstone (Lower Permian, Leonardian)** - Yellow to buff, ridge-forming, orthoquartzitic sandstone; sand is fine to medium grained and well rounded. Medial part locally contains thin silty shale beds. To the north, basal part contains a basal limestone breccia. Lower Mississippian Espiritu Santo Formation is dark-gray limestone and dolomitic limestone, sandy limestone, and basal conglomeratic sandstone. Thickness of group ranges from 110 ft (34 m) at the south, to 110-110 ft (34 m) at the north.

**Yaso Formation (Lower Permian, Leonardian)** - Reddish-orange, fine to medium-grained, arkosic sandstone and subordinate amounts of purplish siltstone and shale. Contains some thin-bedded yellowish sandstone. In southern part of area contains some contorted lenses of gray dolomite. Thickness is 450-500 ft (120-150 m) in the southern part of the area, about 300 ft (90 m) near Sapello, and about 150 ft (45 m) near north edge of area.

**Permian rocks, undivided (Permian and Lower Permian)** - Shown undivided on cross sections and on map from northeast of Abeyta Canyon to northern edge of area. North of Montezuma, includes Bernal Formation, Gloria Sandstone, and Yaso Formation. To the south, includes also the San Andres Limestone.

**Sangre de Cristo Formation of southern and central parts of area (Lower Permian, Wolfcampian)** - Buff, purple, and greenish-gray sandy shale, siltstone, and clay shale containing thin to thick, lenticular to arkosic, conglomeratic sandstone beds. Contains thin lenses of arkosiferous limestone nodules and a few beds of unfossiliferous gray argillaceous limestone. Coarse-grained sandstone in upper 150 ft (45 m) commonly contains well-rounded pebbles and cobbles of yellow, purple, and gray quartzite. Lies on Precambrian rocks northeast and south of Chitos Frios. In southern part of area thickness is about 800 ft (245 m) west of San Jose, and about 300 ft (90 m) near Starvation Peak and Tecolote Peak. To the north, thickness is at least 1,500 ft (460 m) northwest of Sapello.

**Sangre de Cristo Formation of northern part of area (Lower Permian, Wolfcampian, and Upper Pennsylvanian, Virgilian)** - Lithologically similar to unit in southern and central parts of area. Thickness is at least 2,500 ft (760 m) at Rio Cebolla and about 2,580 ft (785 m) at Mora River.

**Alamos Formation of southern and central parts of area (Lower Permian and Upper Middle Pennsylvanian)** - Gray, greenish-gray and red shale containing interbeds of conglomeratic, lenticular to arkosic sandstone; gray sandy limestone; fine to coarse-grained gray to purplish-gray limestone; nodular and thin-bedded gray limestone; and some limestone pebble conglomerate. Limestone and some shale and sandstone beds contain marine fossils. Potassium-feldspar clasts of arkosic sandstone and sandy limestone are mostly pink and unweathered. Fossils are Desmosian through Wolfcampian south of Gallinas Creek. Thin and locally absent in southern part of area because of unconformity with Sangre de Cristo Formation. Thickness is 645 ft (197 m) in western Gallinas Creek area, and as much as 1,828 ft (557 m) east of Rocaada.

**Alamos Formation of northern part of area (Middle and Upper Pennsylvanian)** - Lithologically similar to unit in central and southern parts of area. Arbitrarily mapped separately north of Mora River. Thickness is as little as 100 ft (30 m) north of Rio Cebolla, but is 1,050 ft (320 m) at Mora River.

**Porvenir Formation (Middle Pennsylvanian, Desmosian)** - Gray shale interbedded with nodular to thick-bedded gray limestone and lenticular to arkosic sandstone and conglomerate. Potassium-feldspar clasts generally weathered yellow to yellowish-pink. Generally, south of Rocaada and Sapello most of the formation is limestone and gray shale containing minor proportions of sandstone. Near Manuelitos Creek and Sapello River the proportion of sandstone increases northward, and in the northeastern part of the area the formation consists of shale, interbedded thick lenticular to arkosic sandstone, and subordinate amounts of limestone. In southeast part of the area the Porvenir is absent locally because of angular unconformity with overlying rocks. Thickness is 300-600 ft (90-180 m) southwest part of area, 1,614 ft (492 m) east of Rocaada, and 680 ft (207 m) at Mora River.

**Sandia Formation (Middle and Lower Pennsylvanian)** - Gray to dark gray shale, sandy shale, and calcareous shale containing interbeds of buff to brown, coarse-grained, quartzite and feldspathic to arkosic sandstone and conglomerate. Porosity range from thin bedded to massive; also contains some gray to dark gray, dense, fossiliferous limestone. Thin beds of carbonaceous to gray shale occur throughout most of the formation. Fossils are Norworn and Atokan. In southeastern part of area the Sandia is absent because of angular unconformity with overlying rocks. Thickness is 33-245 ft (10-75 m) in southwestern part of area, 1,030 ft (314 m) east of Rocaada, and more than 5,030 ft (1,533 m) 1 mi north of Mora River.

**Arroyo Pelafco Group, undivided (Upper and Lower Mississippian)** - Consists of Tereno Formation and underlying Espiritu Santo Formation. Upper Mississippian Tereno Formation is gray, sandy, clastic limestone, some crystalline limestone, and a basal limestone breccia. Lower Mississippian Espiritu Santo Formation is dark-gray limestone and dolomitic limestone, sandy limestone, and basal conglomeratic sandstone. Thickness of group ranges from 110 ft (34 m) at the south, to 110-110 ft (34 m) at the north.

**Pennsylvanian and Mississippian rocks, undivided** - Includes Porvenir and Sandia Formations and Arroyo Pelafco Group in small areas southwest of Agua Zarca.

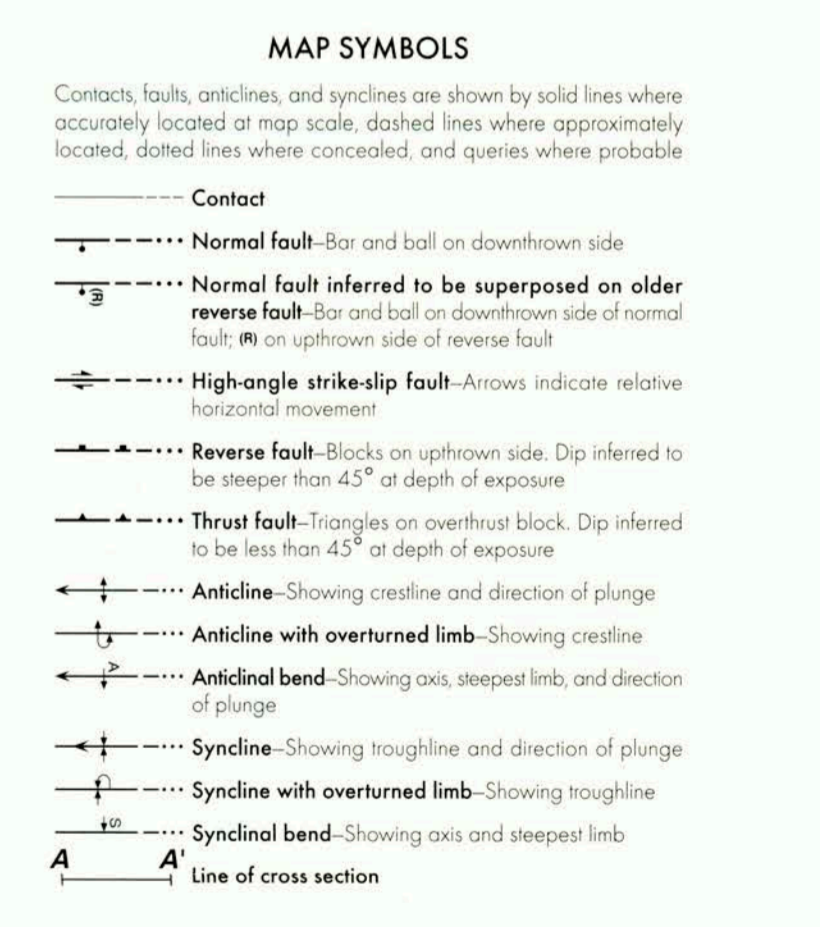
**Sandia Formation and Arroyo Pelafco Group, undivided (Middle and Lower Pennsylvanian and Mississippian)** - Shown undivided on cross sections and in southwestern part of map area.

**Precambrian rocks, undivided (Proterozoic)** - Includes metamorphic and metavolcanic rocks, intrusive complex of gabbro and tonalite, and granite.

Map of bedrock geology and cross sections of southeastern Sangre de Cristo Mountains and western part of Las Vegas Basin

by Elmer H. Baltz, 1999  
 Lakewood, Colorado 80226  
 Scale 1:125,000  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5 MILES  
 5 4 3 2 1 0 5 KILOMETERS

Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey Santa Fe 1° x 2° quadrangle, 1954, scale 1:250,000  
 Drafting and layout by J. J. Tins  
 Edited by N. S. Giffon



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