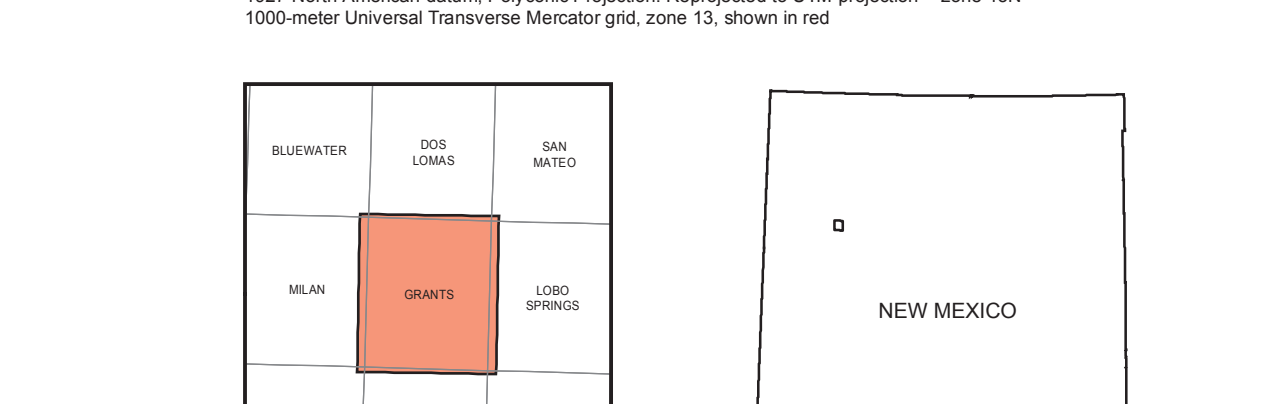


Base map from U.S. Geological Survey 1967, from photographs taken 1955, field checked in 1957. Photorevised in 1957. 1957 from American datum. Polyconic Projection. Reproduced at 1/20th production scale. 1967 from American datum. Polyconic Projection. Reproduced at 1/20th production scale. 1967 from American datum. Polyconic Projection. Reproduced at 1/20th production scale.

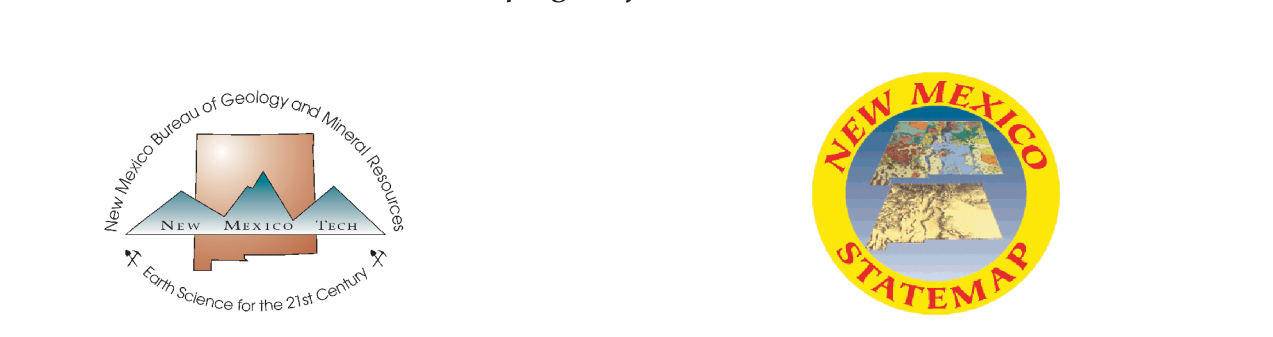


New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
Open-file Geologic Map 224

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Geologic map of the Grants quadrangle, Cibola County, New Mexico

June, 2012
by
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This draft geologic map is preliminary and under revision. It was produced from either scanned or hand-drawn original maps and figures using a wide variety of software, and is currently in cartographic production. It is being distributed in this draft form as part of the Bureau's Open-file map series (OTGM), due to high demand for current geologic map data in those areas where STATEMAP quadrangles are located, and it is the bureau's policy to disseminate geologic data to the public as soon as possible.

After this map has undergone scientific peer review, editing, and final cartographic production adhering to bureau map standards, it will be released in our Geologic Map (GM) series. This final version will receive a new GM number and will supersede this preliminary open-file geologic map.

DRAFT 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quadrangle map may be based on any of the following reconnaissance field geologic mapping, compilation of published and unpublished work, and photogeologic interpretation.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 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.

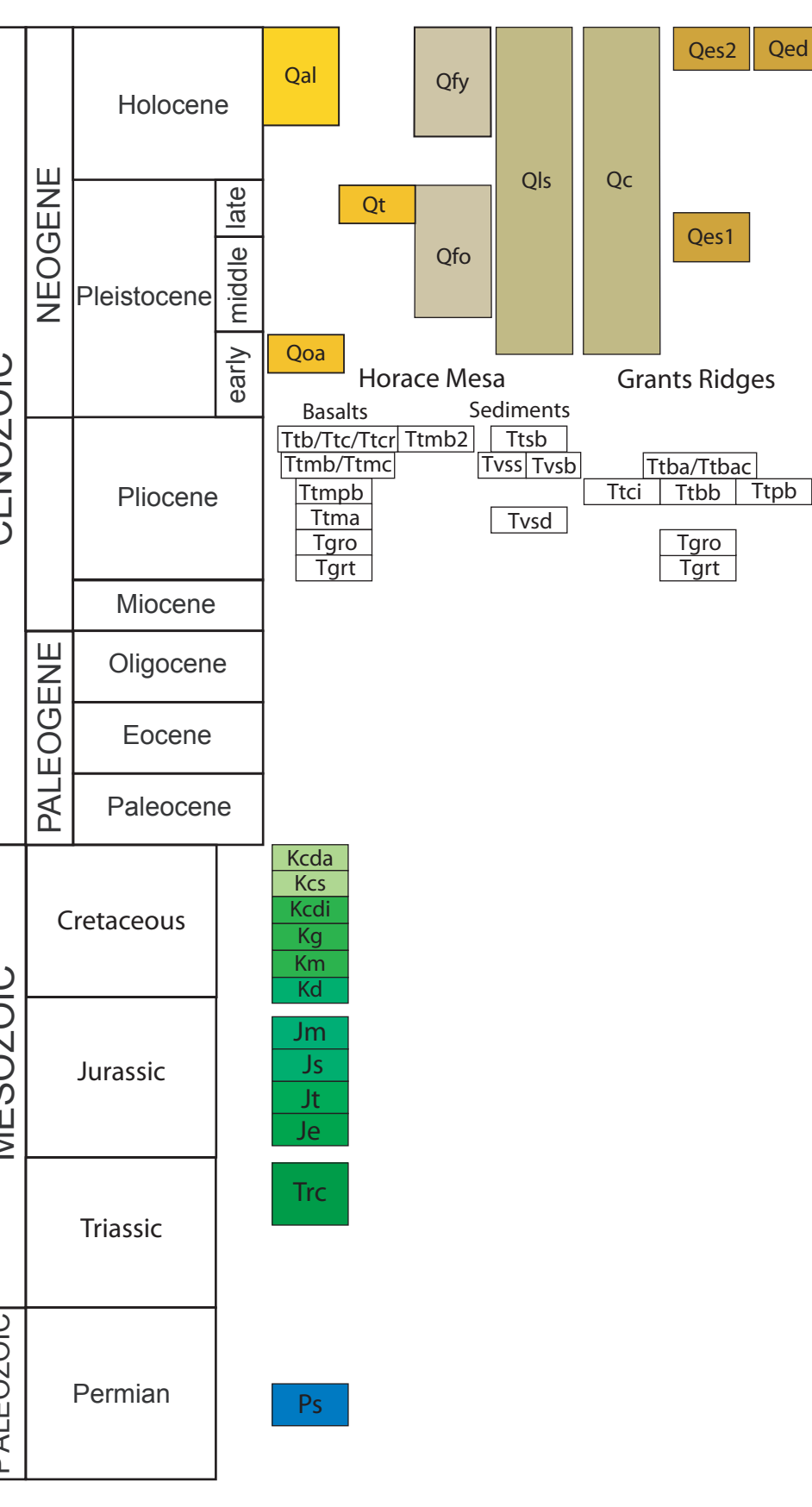
Cross sections are constructed based upon the interpretations of the author made from geologic mapping, and available geophysical, and subsurface (drillhole) data. Cross-sections should be used as an aid to understanding the general geologic frameworks of the map area, and not be the sole source of information 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 opinions 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.

MAP UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

- Quaternary**
- Qa1** Alluvium—Deposits of sand, gravel and silt in main valley bottoms; predominantly Late Holocene in age when exposed. Maximum thickness of various alluvial deposits is uncertain but is at least 40 m. Well logs from sections 26 and 35, T 12 N, R 10 W (in western Lobo Canyon) indicate a total thickness of 20 to 40 meters of alluvium overlying Chulte Formation shale. Well logs from the NW, Section 20, T 11 N, R 9 W (in western Grants Canyon) indicate a total thickness of around 40 meters of alluvium overlying red clay and shale. Well logs from Section 6, T 10 N, R 9 W (Rio San Jose valley) indicate a total thickness of 30 to 40 meters of alluvium and interbedded basalt overlying red shale (Chulte Formation). Alluvium is typically fine-grained, silt and sand dominated deposits with pebble and cobble-gravel lenses and is divided into three units: (1) coarse-grained alluvium from locally derived sources in Lobo and Grants canyon valley floor alluvium. Includes some low (<3m above modern valley floor) alluvial surfaces of possible middle Holocene age. Deposits are characterized by weakly-developed soils with 10R2-7YR color (reflecting varying parent material), none to Stage I carbonate morphology, and lack of Bt horizon development (Table 1). Locally includes thin eolian mantle 0-10 cm thick.
- Qw** Colluvial, eolian, and alluvial deposits that have accumulated behind large landslide blocks forming distinctive benches.
- Qt** Alluvium underlying terrace surfaces—Deposits of sandy pebble to cobble size gravel underlying terrace surfaces located approximately 7 m above local base level in Lobo Canyon. Clasts are subangular to rounded rhyolite, obsidian, basalt, limestone, sandstone, andesite, chert, and minor granite. Typically forms fill terraces with deposit thickness greater than 7 m. Deposits are characterized by stage II carbonate. Bt horizon is typically absent (stripiped) (Table 1). Likely Late Pleistocene in age and correlative with Qc3 in upper Lobo Canyon in Lobo Springs Quadrangle (Goff et al., 2008).
- Qfy** Young Alluvial fans—Typically fan-shaped deposits of sand, silt, and clay with pebbles and cobble size gravel lenses deposited at the mouth of small drainages at the base of Grants Ridge and Horace Mesa associated with present drainages and usually not incised more than a few meters; grades into alluvial deposits along main channels. Deposits are characterized by weakly-developed soils with 7.5YR – 2.5Y color (reflecting varying parent material), none to Stage I carbonate morphology, local gypsum accumulation, and lack of Bt horizon development (Figure 7, Table 1). Deposits are middle to late Holocene age; maximum exposed thickness about 5 m.
- Qfo** Older Alluvial fans—Dissected remnants of fan-shaped deposits of coarse to fine sand and silt, and clay graded to a base level 10 m or more above the modern valley floor. Middle(?) Pleistocene age. Forms a fan complex on the north side of East Grants Ridge. Characterized by well-developed soils with stage III carbonate morphology and Bt horizon development (Grimm, 1988). Approximate thickness about 5 to 10 m or more.
- Qc1** Eolian deposits in Lobo and Grants Canyons—0.5 to 10 m or more thick deposit of well-sorted, subrounded, very fine- to fine-grained quartz lithic sand forming sand sheets in Lobo and Grants Canyons. Distinguished by lack of soil-profile development, although locally includes buried soils with Stage II carbonate morphology (Table 1). Color of deposits typically ranges from 7YR to 7.5YR, reflecting varying source areas for different eolian events; low-angle planar cross bedding locally preserved (Figure 5).
- Qcd** Dune sand—well-sorted, subrounded, very fine- to fine-grained quartz lithic sand forming stabilized dunes in Lobo Canyon. Distinguished by lack of soil-profile development. Qcd in Grants Canyon appears destabilized by anthropogenic activities.
- Qc1** Older Eolian deposits of Horace Mesa—0.2 to approximately 1 m thick deposit of silt and very fine sand forming sand sheet on Horace Mesa (Figure 6). Characterized by thin (<10 to 20 cm thick) late Holocene eolian deposit overlying discontinuous, buried middle to late Pleistocene eolian deposit approximately 1 m thick. Surface soil is weakly developed with DfE color; none to Stage I carbonate morphology, and lack of Bt horizon development. Buried soil is well developed, with Stage II to III carbonate morphology. Bt horizon with 5YR to 7.5YR color. Deposit locally includes scattered large basalt clasts—Qc derived from debris that has moved chaotically down steep slopes; slumps or block slides (fossa blocks) partially to completely intact, that have moved down slope; slumps and block slides usually display some rotation relative to their failure plane; thickness varies considerably depending on the size and nature of the landslide.
- Qs** Landslides—Poorly sorted debris that has moved chaotically down steep slopes; slumps or block slides (fossa blocks) partially to completely intact, that have moved down slope; slumps and block slides usually display some rotation relative to their failure plane; thickness varies considerably depending on the size and nature of the landslide.
- Qh** Calcareous Tufa—Porous limestone with casts of grasses, reeds, and other plant matter, bedded 1 cm to 10 cm scale with a 2-40 cm layer of plant casts near top (Figure 8). Weathered surface is pale yellow to light yellowish brown, fresh surface is light gray with yellowish brown bands of plant mats and dark gray manganese-stained layers. Distinctive egg shell weathering on exposed surfaces. Maximum thickness approximately 1 m.
- Qc** Colluvium, undivided—Very poorly sorted gravels and sands deposited on steep slopes. Mapped where colluvium obscures underlying geologic relationships. <1 to 4 m thick.
- Qa** Older alluvium, undivided—High-level sands with rare pebbles of exotic(?) clasts. Exotic clasts consist of white to pink quartzite and very dark gray chert; the former is found as xenoliths in nearby cinder deposits, however, and could be locally derived. The latter has not been seen as xenoliths. No exposure of the soil developed in this alluvium has yet been found. Unit is 1 to 1.5 m thick.
- Qbp** Faxon Springs flow—Younger Quaternary basalt flow. Dark gray to black basalts largely uncovered by eolian material. Thin sections show olivine and rare pyroxene and plagioclase phenocrysts in a groundmass of plagioclase, pyroxene, and opaque oxides (Maxwell, 1986). Originated in the Zuni Mountains, 2 miles to the WSW. C3-S6 surface exposure age of 207 ± 2.2 ka (Dunbar and Phillips, 2004).
- Qbc** El Calderon flow—Older Quaternary basalt flows. Black basalts that are significantly buried by eolian material. Thin sections show olivine phenocrysts in a groundmass of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, olivine, and opaque oxides, with rare glass (Maxwell, 1986). Includes the less extensive, older Grants flow of Cascadden et al. (1997). Originated from El Calderon, a peak 15 miles to the SSW. Exact age uncertain (see report), but constrained to upper Pleistocene, 50-150 ka.
- Tertiary**
- Tertiary Volcanics**
- Tb, Tc, Tcr** Aphryitic trachybasalt—Very dark gray, very sparsely (<1%) porphyritic flows. Phenocrysts consist of fine olivine, plagioclase, and possibly pyroxene. Associated cinder deposits are Tc and Tcr; the former being light to dark brown and the latter being distinctly deep red in color. Cinder deposits contain rare xenoliths of Mesozoic sandstone as well as white to pink quartzite. Appears to underlie Tmb and Tmpb, but the relationship is not clearly expressed in outcrop.
- Tbs** Spotted trachybasalt—Very dark gray, very sparsely (<1%) porphyritic, 'spotted' flows. 'Spotting' consists of conspicuous abundant white to very light gray spots 2-3 mm across. Phenocrysts, where present, consist of plagioclase and olivine. No associated cinder has been found.
- Tm, Tmc** Older sparsely megacrystic trachybasalt—Very dark gray porphyritic flows with sparse megacrysts. Megacrysts consist dominantly of pyroxene but are rarely plagioclase, and are 1-2 cm across. In addition, flows consist of 4-10% medium phenocrysts of pyroxene (<2%, up to 4mm across, generally anhedral), plagioclase (<1% to 1%, up to 4mm across, generally anhedral), and sparse olivine (<1%, up to 1 mm across, anhedral and commonly replaced by iddingtonite). Associated cinder deposits are Tmc and Tmpc; Tmc appears to overlie Tmpc, but the relationship is not clearly expressed.
- Tmb** Younger sparsely megacrystic trachybasalt—Very dark gray porphyritic flows with sparse megacrysts locally found above the scoriae-top of Tmb. Similar in appearance to Tmb, save for rarer and possibly smaller megacrysts. It is distinguished from Tmb by the presence of a broad scoriae zone found toward the top of the main Tmb cliff, separating the younger and older flows. Overlies Tmc.
- Tmpb** Sparsely megacrystic, sparsely phenocrystic trachybasalt—Very dark gray sparsely porphyritic flows with sparse megacrysts. Megacrysts are dominantly of pyroxene but are rarely plagioclase, both of which are 1 to 1.5 cm across. Medium phenocrysts constitute generally <1%, but locally up to 1% of the flows, and are also dominantly pyroxene but locally include plagioclase; each is up to 1 mm across and anhedral.
- Tma** Abundantly megacrystic trachyandesite—Very dark gray megacryst-rich flows. Megacrysts are dominantly plagioclase with rare pyroxene that are up to 1 cm across and constitute 5-10% of the flows. Unit may be a local plagioclase-rich zone of Tmb, or may be a separate flow underlying Tmb.
- Tba, Tbac** Sparsely megacrystic, porphyritic basaltic trachyandesite—Medium to very dark gray porphyritic flows with sparse megacrysts. Macroscopic phenocrysts are dominantly plagioclase (5-15%, up to 6 mm across, subhedral to euhedral, white to clear), followed by pyroxene (<1-10%, up to 8 mm across, anhedral to subhedral, generally black but variably degraded to reddish and orangish minerals). Sparse (<1 to <1%) megacrysts of pyroxene are up to 1.5 cm across and anhedral. Associated cinder is mapped as Tba. On the east side of East Grants Ridge, basalt bands thin rapidly from the north and south edges of the Ridge toward the basin, suggesting the basalt overlapped a topographically high Turo or dome. On the west side of the Ridge, the basalt cliffs drop in elevation along a north-striking monocline-like fault, possibly dipping over a paleoslope. A thick mass of basalt surrounded by cinder above the perle mine at 0248140N, 3899500N (NAD27, Zone 13) may be an intrusive plug (Thaden et al., 1967) or a lava pond at the center of the cinder cone that solidified in place (Crumpler, 2003). The shallow valley in the cinder cone to the north of the mass of basalt may be the location that the basaltic magma breached the cone and flooded northward and westward to cap the Grants Ridge mesa (Crumpler, 2003). Overlies Td, Tmb, Tgr, Tgrt and a variety of Mesozoic rocks. Up to about 180 m thick by the perle mine, up to 30 m thick within the scoriae cone.
- Tca** Trachybasaltic cinder, undivided—Cinder deposits with no clear equivalent basalt. Light to dark brown to reddish brown, vesicular trachybasaltic cinder.
- Tci** Inset trachybasaltic cinder—Cinder deposits clearly inset upon Mesozoic strata at the west end of East Grants Ridge. Light brown to reddish brown to dark red blocks of moderately to strongly vesicular, aphyric basaltic scoria with a cement of stony calcite. Generally poorly exposed, and surrounded mainly by colluvium. Overlies or intrudes Mesozoic strata, underlies Tba, A less than 1 m thick.
- Tbb** Trachybasaltic breccia—Dark gray to dark brownish gray flow breccia with local discontinuous, aphyric flow core, forming a distinct bed inset upon Mesozoic strata on the West end of East Grants Ridge. Basalt blocks and flow core bear sparse, indistinct phenocrysts that are likely small plagioclase and amphibole clots of orangish brown feldspar that may be degraded pyroxene. Weathered surfaces bear common, vague to distinct, light gray spotting with spots typically 1 cm across. Bed trends from moderately west-dipping at west end, to horizontal, to moderately east-dipping at east end, with the east end clearly inset upon Mesozoic strata. Interrelates with Tca, underlies Tba, 5-10 m thick.
- Tbp** Porphyritic trachybasalt—Very dark gray porphyritic basalt with distinct greenish alteration. Phenocrysts are dominantly of pyroxene (5-10%, 0.1 to 1.5 cm across, subhedral to subeuhedral), with lesser plagioclase (1-3%, up to 0.5 cm across, subhedral) and both phenocryst types are variably degraded. Greenish alteration consists of an abundant greenish brown to greenish gray stain seen on weathered and fresh faces. Tbp is only very locally exposed inset upon Mesozoic strata at the west end of East Grants Ridge, and is possibly intrusive. At least 1 m thick.
- Tgr** Rhyolite of Grants Ridge—White to medium gray to brown, sparsely porphyritic lavas and local breccias. Phenocrysts consist of potassium feldspar, plagioclase, and very rare quartz. Massive to strongly flow-foliated, with bands of coarse vesicles and local lithoplysis following foliation trends. Vesicles are uncommonly rimmed with crystals. Some vesicles partially along the north flank, are rich in nodules of obsidian. A strongly flow-foliated vitrophyre is common to the base of the dome east along the north flank, with steep southward dips to the foliation suggesting the rhyolite is somewhat inset upon the underlying Tuff. Small exposures of porous clastic rocks suggest that minor tepha beds intercalate with the rhyolite lavas. Overlain by Tba and Tbc, underlain by Tgrt. Dated by the K-Ar method at 3.34 ± 0.16 Ma from an unknown location (Lipman and McHert, 1979). At least 180 m thick.
- Tgrt** Grants Ridge Tuff—White to light gray to pale red ignimbrite, fallout, flow, surge, and breccia deposits with local alluvial reworking, particularly at the top. Highly variable, but typically consists of a coarse, lithic-rich basal zone, and fine-grained, pumice-rich upper zone, and capped by alluvial gravels. Lithics are of rhyolite, granitic, gneiss, chert, sandstone, limestone, and basaltic (Goff et al., 1988). Keating and Valentine (1988) identified two eruptive sequences of ignimbrites overlain by fallout and surge beds. Alluvial beds consist of moderately to poorly sorted pebbles and sparse cobbles of argillite or subangular aphyric gray rhyolite and subrounded to rounded obsidian with sparse granitic and quartz-rich sandstone gravels. Alluvial beds are commonly thinly cross-bedded, and occur in thin to medium (10 cm to 1 m thick), locally channel-shaped beds. Goff et al. (2008) dated obsidian clasts from upper tuff beds beneath Mesa La Jara by the 40Ar/39Ar method at 3.28 ± 0.04 Ma. Thickness trends suggest the source lay beneath the rhyolite of Grants Ridge. At least 150 m thick.
- Pliocene Sediments**
- Ts** Sandstones interbedded with trachybasalts—Light gray sandstones and basalt-bearing pebbly sandstones. Only locally preserved between basalt flows. Thinly bedded with poorly sorted sands and rare fine subrounded pebbles of trachybasalt. Very poorly exposed.
- Tvb** Basaltic-rich volcaniclastic gravels—Gray to tan alluvial deposits of subrounded to rounded trachybasaltic pebbles and cobbles. Interbeds with trachybasaltic flows to the east on the Lobo Springs quadrangle (Goff et al., 2008).
- Tvd** Coarse basalt-dominated detrital flow deposits—Very poorly sorted pebbles to local boulders of angular to subrounded basalts of various textures. Deposits are massive and clast-supported with only minor matrix material between clasts. Only locally exposed as the very NW corner of Horace Mesa, where it underlies Tmpb with a very irregular upper contact; basal contact is not exposed.
- Cretaceous**
- Crevasse Canyon Formation**
- Kg** Gibson Coal Member—Interbedded black and brown siltstone, thin to medium bedded tan to greenish gray sandstone, and black coal. Sandstones are well to moderately sorted, very fine to medium grained, with angular to subangular quartz. Composition is 90% quartz, 10% lithics with less than 1% clay matrix (fibrilliferous). Sandstone beds are cross-bedded with a range from trough cross-beds to large-scale, low-amplitude planar cross-beds. Locally, ripple marks are preserved. Elliptical to spherical spherule to goethite concretions are common as is petrified wood. Coal beds are generally 0.3 m thick. Lower contact is gradational with underlying Dalton Sandstone, top is overlain by Tba of Horace Mesa. Maximum exposed thickness is approximately 350 m.
- Kda** Dalton Sandstone Member—Forms stepped cliff with lower yellow-orange cliff, intervening short spurs and upper white cliff. Lower sandstone has thin beds with abundant pelecypod casts and nodules and is carbonate cemented. This sandstone is well sorted, very fine grained with angular quartz grains. Composition is 95% quartz, 5% lithics with less than 1% clay matrix (sublithiferous). Upper sandstone is weakly cemented and is well sorted, fine grained with angular to subangular quartz grains. Composition is 90% quartz, 10% feldspar and <1% lithics. Upper and lower contacts are gradational and maximum exposed thickness is <25 m.
- Kema** Malato Tongue, Mancos Shale—Distinctive mustard yellow shale that coarsens upwards into laminated siltstone. Siltstone is bioturbated and locally can contain pelecypod shells. Upper and lower contacts are gradational. Up to 240' thick.
- Kcs** Stray Sandstone Member—Forms stepped cliff with two prominent red-orange cliffs separated with a short slope. Sandstones are medium bedded with planar cross-beds and are white to yellowish gray on fresh surfaces. Well to moderately sorted, very fine to medium grained with angular quartz grains. Composition is 90% quartz, 1% lithics with <1% clay matrix (quartz arenite). Topmost 1 m of sandstone is a pebble to cobble conglomerate with clasts of quartzite, chert and quartz. Upper and lower contacts are gradational and maximum exposed thickness is 40 m.

CORRELATION DIAGRAM



NEOGENE

HOLOCENE

PLEISTOCENE

PLIOCENE

MIOCENE

OLIGOCENE

Eocene

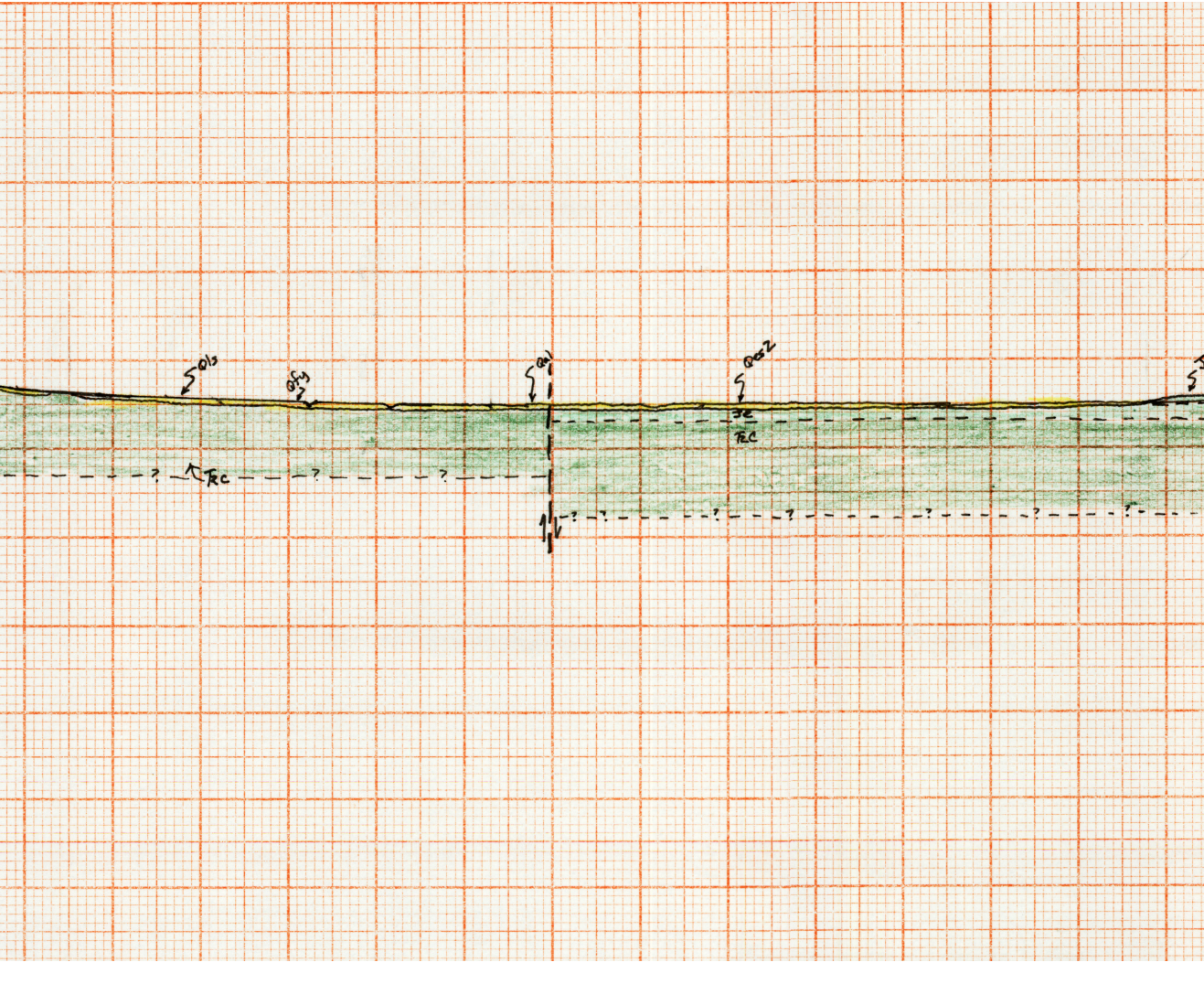
PALEOCENE

CRETACEOUS

JURASSIC

TRIASSIC

PERMIAN



- Kodi** Dileo Coal Member—Interbedded black and brown siltstone, thin to medium bedded tan to olive green sandstone and black coal. Sandstones are well to moderately sorted, very fine to fine grained with angular to subangular quartz grains. Composition is 90% quartz, 10% lithics (including muscovite mica) as well as plant debris. Contains up to 30% clay matrix from altered feldspar (quartz wacke). Often, beds are bioturbated with ~10 cm diameter cylindrical, vertically oriented burrows. Carbonaceous shale locally intercalated with sandstone. Fairly very low angle trough cross bed occur in sets less than 0.25 m thick, with paleocurrent azimuth of 010°. Beds primarily planar-tabular or laminated. Lower contact gradational with Mancos Shale unit and maximum exposed thickness with 25 m.
- Kgu** Upper Tongue—White, medium bedded sandstone locally capped by well-sorted, fractured, brown-weathered, planar cross-bedded sandstone. Brown sandstone is carbonate sandstone, underlying white sandstone is not. Sandstones are well-sorted, fine grained with angular quartz grains. Composition 95% quartz and 5% lithics with 15 to 25% clay matrix (quartz wacke). White sandstone has no muscovite, overlying brown sandstone has trace amounts of both muscovite and biotite. Trough crossbeds occur in sets less than 0.5 m thick with paleocurrent azimuths of 025°. Cross beds are somewhat steeper than in lower Tongue. Local internal scour surfaces present, as well as hemitic concretions and stained surfaces. Upper and lower contacts with Mancos Shale are gradational and maximum exposed thickness is <30 m.
- Kgl** Lower Tongue—White, medium bedded sandstone capped with brown-weathered sandstone as in Kgu. Sandstone well to moderately sorted, fine to very fine grained with angular quartz grains. Composition is 95% quartz and 5% lithics with 15 to 15% clay matrix (quartz arenite). White sandstone contains no mica, but overlying brown sandstone contains traces of muscovite. Cross bed sets are 0.5 m thick, are low angle trough cross beds and have paleocurrent azimuths of 150°. Top of unit locally conglomeratic with sandstone clasts and rare shark teeth. Upper and lower contacts with Mancos Shale are gradational and maximum exposed thickness is <15 m.
- Jurassic**
- Im** Morrison Formation, undivided—Interbedded sandstone and shale. Includes Jackie Member, Brushy Basin Member, Salt Wash Member, Recapture Member and Bluff Sandstone (Lucas and Zeigler, 2003). Combined thickness is in the order of 200 m.
- Js** Sumnerite Formation—White, red-brown and light brown fine to very fine muddy sandstone interbedded with brown mudstone and siltstone. Up to 40 m thick (Thaden et al., 1967).
- Jt** Todillo Formation—Pale gray to pale yellow micrite. Thick bedded and coarse crystalline in upper part, crinly bedded in middle part and laminated at base. Up to 12 m thick (Thaden et al., 1967).
- Je** Entrada Sandstone—Yellow fine to medium grained quartz arenite with large scale eolian crossbeds. Up to 40 m thick.
- Triassic**
- Tc** Chinle Group undivided—Red and purple mudstones, siltstones and fine to medium grained sandstones. Mudstones and siltstones commonly included pale green reduction spots up to 2 cm in diameter and small lenses of calcareous granules to pebbles. Sandstones are grayish purple lithic wackes with grains of mudstone, chert, mica and quartz that are moderately sorted and subround. Sedimentary structures include crossbeds, mudcracks and localized soft sediment deformation and bioturbation. Sandstones also may include small sandstone and limestone clasts of rip-up clast conglomerate with sandstone clasts and rare shark teeth. Upper and lower contacts with Mancos Shale are gradational and maximum exposed thickness is <10 m.
- Permian**
- Ps** San Andres Formation—Pale gray to buff dolomitic limestone that occurs only in the southwest corner of the map. Tabular to wavy, thinly bedded, and includes abundant and large pieces of gray and white banded chert. No fossils observed. Probably correlative with the Bonney Canyon Member of the San Andres Formation to the south due to presence of distinctive banded chert. Maximum exposed thickness is 0 to 10 m.

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