

Magnetic Declination

July, 2014 8º 58' 12" East

At Map Center

Quadrangle Location

New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources New Mexico Tech 801 Leroy Place Socorro, New Mexico

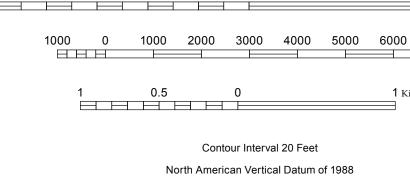
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Geologic Map of the Skute Stone Arroyo 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Sierra County, New Mexico

June, 2015

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Comments to Map Users

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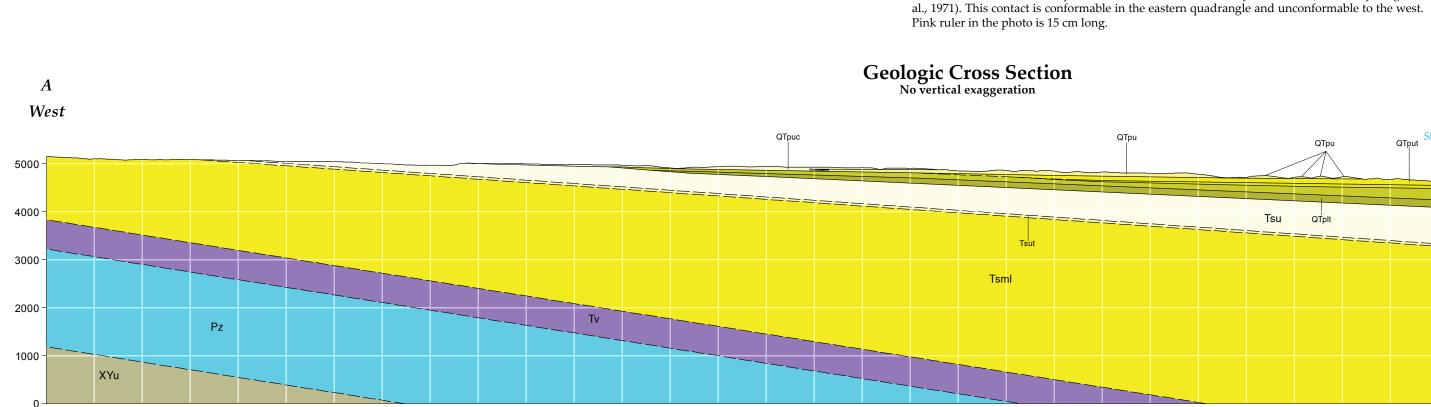
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those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or

implied, of the State of New Mexico, or the U.S. Government.

300 Millions of scale change years (Ma)





feet above MSL

Description of Map Units (full unit descriptions can be found in Appendix 1)

NMBGMR Open-File Geologic Map 252 Last Modified June 2015

fine- to very coarse-grained sand with 5-7% clay-silt. Subequal matrix vs. clast-supported (and imbricated) beds. Moderately consolidated. Surface is commonly eroded. 1-3m thick.

gravel that was not exposed. A few meters thick. Older alluvial fan deposits whose surfaces grade to the treads of terrace deposit Qtg1 **Qta4**—Widespread, high-level alluvial fan deposit along Animas Creek that consists of sandy gravel and pebbly sand, commonly coarsening upward; also characterized by a paleosol developed on lower, finer strata (with illuviated clay and stage I to III+ calcic horizons). Sand is mostly medium- to very coarse-grained. Surface gravel are moderately varnished and locally spallated. 2-6 m thick.

Older alluvial fan deposits whose surfaces grade to the treads of terrace deposit Qta3-Sandy

Qtp4—Sandy-gravel and pebbly sand of an alluvial fan deposit that has prograded over terrace **Qtp4** in Percha Creek. ~4 m thick.

Older alluvial fan deposits whose surfaces grade to the treads of terrace deposit Qtt4-Sandy Canyon. 2-3 m thick.

Terrace Deposits (Quaternary)

Qtau

Terrace Deposits Associated with Las Animas Creek. Undifferentiated Las Animas Creek terrace deposit—Sandy-gravel-terrace deposit that was not

correlated. 1-2 m thick.

Lower middle Las Animas Creek terrace deposit, undivided—Surface gravel are moderately to well varnished. Locally divided into three subunits: Qta2a, Qta2b, Qta2c (lower to highest), which

Lower middle Las Animas Creek terrace deposit, lower subunit—Sandy-gravel in vague, medium to thick beds. Clast-supported, subrounded to rounded, poorly to very poorly sorted, and comprised of 30-40% pebbles, 30-40% cobbles, and 15-30% boulders. Sand medium- to very coarse-grained, subrounded, and moderately sorted. Topsoil has some clay illuvation but no strong calcic horizon. Treads are ~13 m above the valley floor. ~ 1 m thick.

Lower middle Las Animas Creek terrace deposit, middle subunit—Sandy gravel consisting of medium) and lenticular to tabular. Matrix consists of fine- to very coarse-grained sand (mostly coarse to very coarse); <0.5% clay and no obvious clay argillans. Tread lies 18-21 m above the valley floor. 1-3 m thick.

Lower middle Las Animas Creek terrace deposit, upper subunit—Sandy gravel in thin- to thick-lenticular beds and very thin- to medium-tabular beds. Lower 1 m has abundant boulders. Sand is mostly medium- to very coarse-grained; 3-5% clay in the matrix. Very minor-interbeds of fine-grained, pinkish-gray (7.5YR 7/2), fine-grained sediment dominated by silt and very fine- to fine-grained sand. Tread lies 23-27 m above the valley floor. 1-8 m thick.

Middle Las Animas Creek terrace deposit, undivided—Sandy gravel and gravelly sand, mostly clast-supported in thin- to thick-lenticular beds. Gravel includes 30-50% pebbles, 30-40% cobbles, and 15-35% boulders. Sand is mostly medium- to very coarse-grained. 1-5% clay in sand matrix. Surface clasts are moderately to well-varnished and cobbly to bouldery. Includes 3 subunits whose treads lie 29-31 m above the valley floor; each is 1-3 m thick.

per middle Las Animas Creek terrace deposit-Sandy gravel containing 35-50% pebbles, 30-40% cobbles, and 15-35% boulders, commonly coarsest at its base. Locally in middle of deposit is a thick bed of tan, silty very fine- to fine-grained sand that is bioturbated and massive (overprinted by a mottled, stage II to III+ calcic horizon). Tread lies 42-35 m above the valley floor, decreasing in height downstream. 1-4 m thick (mostly ~2 m).

per Las Animas Creek terrace deposit—Sandy gravel in vague, medium to thick beds with local intervals that are about 1 m thick, dominated by bioturbated silt and very fine- to fine-grained sand. Surface is commonly covered by slopewash. Topsoil commonly has a stage III+ to IV calcic soil horizon. Lower contact is scoured (50-60 cm of relief). Tread lies 52-44 m above the valley floor, decreasing in height downstream. 0.5-3 m thick.

Terrace Deposits Associated with Percha Creek. Lower Percha Creek terrace deposit-Sandy, clast-supported gravel that includes 40-45% pebbles, 35-45% cobbles, and 15% boulders. Deposit constitutes a fill terrace with no base observed in the western part of the quad; basal strath is up to 3 m above modern grade downstream. Varnish is observed on 45% of clasts at the surface. No significant soil formation. Unconsolidated and 2 to 8 m thick.

Lower middle Percha Creek terrace deposit, undivided—Sandy gravel that includes 55-60% pebbles, 35% cobbles, and 5-10% boulders. Fine to very coarse sand in matrix. Overbank sediments and soils typically not preserved, though calcic soil horizons with stage I carbonate morphology are locally observed. Varnish is observed on 10-15% of surface clasts. Locally subdivided into two deposits: **Qtp2a** and **Qtp2b**. Unconsolidated and 2-6 m thick.

Lower middle Percha Creek terrace deposit, lower subunit—Basal strath lies 5-8 m above modern grade. It is inset 4-6 m into unit **Qtp2b**.

Middle Percha Creek terrace deposit—Sandy-pebble-cobble-gravel-terrace deposits. Matrix has

preservation of weak topsoils (with stage I+ calcic horizons). In the eastern most part of quad, the treads of **Qtp3** and **Qtp4** converge, with **Qtp3** inset 6-8 m into **Qtp4**. Basal strath lies 14-21 m above modern grade. Unconsolidated and 1-4 m thick.

Upper middle Percha Creek terrace deposit, undivided—Sandy to bouldery, pebble-cobble gravel that locally forms fill terraces. Deposit commonly capped by continuous stage II carbonate horizons and discontinuous Btk horizons up to 35 cm thick. In the easternmost part of the quad, the treads of **Qtp3** and **Qtp4** converge, with **Qtp3** inset 6-8 m into **Qtp4**. Locally subdivided into two inset deposits: **Qtp4a** and **Qtp4b**. Unconsolidated and 2-9 m thick.

Upper middle Percha Creek terrace deposit, lower subunit—Basal strath lies 19-21 m above modern grade. It is inset 3-4 m into **Qtp4b**. Jpper middle Percha Creek terrace deposit, upper subunit—Basal strath lies 25-29 m above

odern grade **Upper Percha Creek terrace deposit, undivided**—Sandy gravel that includes ~50% pebbles, ~40% cobbles, and ~10% boulders. Varnish observed on 75-90% of surface clasts. Overbank sediments pically not preserved. Cambic horizons may be observed in the upper 20 cm, whereas the lower 1

pper Percha Creek terrace deposit, lower subunit—Basal strath lies 32-34 m above modern grade. It is inset 4-14 m into **Qtp5b**. **Upper Percha Creek terrace deposit, upper subunit**—Basal strath lies 35-47 m above modern grade.

Terrace Deposits Associated with Trujillo Canyon.

Probably 1-3 m thick.

Figure 1-Contact (denoted by arrows) between the Palomas Formation and underlying

orangish Santa Fe Group strata (map unit Tsu). Both are composed of sand and gravel, but unit

Tsu is redder and finer-grained (i.e., finer gravel and slightly more clay). The uppermost part of

Tsu lacks dark gray basaltic gravel (presumably the 4.5 Ma basalt found near the western

quadrangle border), but this gravel type does occur in the overlying Palomas Formation ~6-10 m

above its base. Unit Tsu likely correlates with the Rincon Valley Formation (defined by Seager et

Lower middle Trujillo Creek terrace deposit—Cobble-rich sandy gravel that locally fines upward from boulder-dominated to pebble-dominated. Gravel is rounded to subrounded, poorly sorted, and composed of relatively dark volcanic rocks. Clasts on tread are well-varnished. Tread lies 11-12 m above the valley floor.

Middle Trujillo Creek terrace deposit-Clast-supported, sandy gravel that includes 40% pebbles, 35-45% cobbles, and 15-25% boulders and where Preserved top soil exhibits stage III calcic horizon(s). To the west, a lower 1.0-1.2 m-thick gravel layer is overlain by 1.5 m of pink (7.5YR 7/3), massive, silt containing calcium carbonate nodules. Tread is 20-27 m above the valley floor, increasing in height downstream. 5-6 m thick.

pebbles, 30-40% cobbles, and 15-30% boulders. Sand in matrix is medium- to very coarse-grained. Particularly large boulders are found near the western quadrangle border (b axis of 30-60 cm). Where not covered by slopewash, surface clasts are strongly varnished. Tread lies 21-30 m above the valley floor, increasing in height downstream. 1-3 m thick.

Older alluvial fan deposits whose surfaces grade to the treads of terrace deposits Qtp3—Sandy Upper Trujillo Creek terrace deposit—Sandy gravel with 25-35% pebbly sand. Gravel is generally gravel (minor-pebbly sand) in vague, thin- to medium-, lenticular to tabular beds. Gravel comprised Qtt5 clast supported and comprised of pebbles, 30-40% cobbles, and 3-30% boulders. Matrix sand is f pebbles with 35-45% cobbles and 10-15% fine boulders. Matrix consists of brown (7.5YR 5/4), very mostly medium to very coarse grained. Surface clasts are strongly varnished except where overlain by thick slopewash deposits. Tread lies 35-40 m above the valley floor, increasing away from the drainage axis due to southward slope. 1-6 m thick. Terrace Deposits Associated with Smaller Canyons.

> ower terrace deposit associated with smaller canyons-Sandy gravel and lesser pebbly sand. Gravel includes pebble, cobbles, and sparse to abundant boulders. Sand in matrix is mostly medium to very coarse grained. Where observed, topsoil has notable illuviated clay horizon(s) but only weak calcium carbonate accumulation (stage I morphology). Strath lies 0-2 m above the modern stream. Inset into both **Qtg2** and **Qtguh**. Up to 2 m thick.

fiddle terrace deposit associated with smaller canyons—Sandy gravel, mainly pebbles and Older alluvial fan deposits whose surfaces grade to the treads of terrace deposit Qtg2 cobbles with a matrix that consists of slightly clayey, fine- to coarse -grained sands. Bedding ranges from massive to very thin to medium, tabular to lenticular; local cross-stratification, 30 cm thick. Base of deposit is channelized. Strath heights are 2-5 m above the modern channel; tread heights are 3-8 m above the channel and inset into **Qtguh** treads. 0.5 to 4 meters thick.

gravel and pebbly sand of an alluvial fan deposit that has prograded over terrace Qtt4 in Trujillo High-level terrace deposit associated with smaller canyons, undivided—Sandy gravels with sparse interbedded sandy silts and clays, the latter increasing towards valley margins. Matrix naterial is reddish-brown clayey fine to coarse sand. Maximum calcic soil horizon morphology of stage II. Correlation of terraces is uncertain. Strath heights lie over 5 m above the local channel; tread heights are 5-12 m above the channel. Deposits are 0.75 to 1.5 meters thick.

> rrace deposit associated with smaller canyons, undivided—Poorly sorted, sandy gravels. Commonly used on map in upstream reaches of small tributary drainages, where terrace tread and rath heights converge and the above map units become indistinguishable. Also applied to what appears to be erosion-related, thin gravel deposits in the southeastern corner of the quadrangle (which commonly have a concave-up profile).

> Santa Fe Group Basin-Fill of Palomas Basin, Western Piedmont Facies (EarlyMiocene–Early Pleistocene) **Palomas Formation**

> Palomas Formation, upper coarse unit-Coarse sediment where gravelly channel-fills dominate (<35% reddish-brown, finer-grained, extra-channel sediment). Gravel matrix has 1-20% clay that imparts an orangish color. Overlies and interfingers eastwards with QTpu strata. Onlaps older Santa Fe Group to the west. Upper 2-6 m of unit contains paleosols (stage III to IV calcic horizons). 1-90 m thick.

Palomas Formation, upper unit-Light-reddish-brown, extra-channel sediment interbedded with laterally extensive, gravelly channel-fill complexes. Coarse channel-fills are 60% of unit volume and composed of sandy gravel and subordinate pebbly sand. Extra-channel sediment consists of medium- to thick-tabular beds composed of very fine- to medium-grained sand, clayey-silty fine sand, or silt. 15-41 m thick, pinching out to west.

Palomas Formation, fine-grained tongue of the upper unit within the upper coarse unit-Light-reddish-brown, extra-channel sediment interbedded with minor gravelly channel-fill complexes 1-3 m thick, as described in unit **QTpu**. Forms a mappable tongue in the upper coarse unit (**QTpuc**) in lower Greenhorn Arroyo. 4-25 m thick.

Palomas Formation, transitional zone at base of upper unit—A transitional interval between the upper and middle units, becoming less red down-section. Sediment consists of interbedded: 1) reddish-brown to light-brown to pink, extra-channel sand/silt and 2) brown to pinkish-gray channel-fill gravel, the latter constituting 35-65% of unit volume. Lowest part of this unit in Trujillo Canyon likely correlates with **QTpm**. 9-35 m thick, pinching out to west.

Palomas Formation, middle unit-Light-colored silt and very fine- to fine-grained sandstone; 10-20% interbedded gravelly channel-fills near eastern quad border, increasing to 30-50% in the middle of the quad. Fine-grained beds are thin to thick, tabular, and internally massive. Coarse channel-fills are typically ribbon-like forms, with 5-15% thick, extensive coarse channel-fill complexes. 5-35 m thick, pinching out to the west.

Palomas Formation, lower unit—Sandy gravel and pebbly sand interbedded with minor silt and fine sand beds. Gravel fraction includes trace to 2% dark gray basalt. In Trujillo Canyon, this unit has a well-developed calcic soil in its upper 1-12 m (stage III to V carbonate morphology, mostly III+), increasing in thickness (becoming cumulic?) to the west. Non- to weakly cemented. 1-155 m thick, pinching out to the west.

Palomas Formation, transitional zone at base of lower unit-Reddish, transitional base of the lower unit of the Palomas Formation that is composed of pebbly sandstone and subordinate sandy ravel (locally occurring as 2-10 m-thick intervals) containing trace to 1% dark-gray, vesicular basalt clasts. Correlated to 520-712 ft depths in the Percha well (pebbly sand with interbeds of sandy-gravelly clay or silt). 1-60 m thick, thinning to west.

Santa Fe Group Basin-Fill That Underlies the Palomas Formation Santa Fe Group, upper unit of pre-Palomas Formation basin-fill-Reddish pebbly sandstone interbedded with minor sandy pebbles that tends to form slopes. Estimated 10-15% coarse intervals where sandy gravel is subequal to gravelly sandstone. Gravel fraction lacks very dark-gray basalt clasts. Correlated to a fine-grained, reddish interval in the lower Percha well (712-1000 ft depths). Probably equivalent to the Rincon Valley Formation.

Santa Fe Group, transitional zone at base of upper unit of pre-Palomas Formation basin fill—Transitional zone between the upper and middle units of pre-Palomas Formation basin fill that is moderately to strongly cemented but still reddish in color. Strata consist of pebbly sandstone with 5-25% thin to medium, lenticular sandy pebble-cobble beds. Subsumed into the lowest part of unit **Tsu** in Percha Creek. Generally 10-30 m thick.

Santa Fe Group, middle unit of pre-Palomas Formation basin fill-Well-cemented, light-reddish-brown, sandy conglomerate, conglomeratic sandstone, and subordinate sandy siltstone. Forms local ledges and cliffs that are not as prominent as those associated with **Tslc**. Sand is mostly medium- to very coarse-grained. Differentiated only in western Percha Creek. Cemented by silica and calcium carbonate. 50-60 m thick.

Santa Fe Group, middle-lower units of pre-Palomas Formation basin fill, undivided—Pinkish-white to pinkish-gray, conglomeratic sandstone coarsening westward or down-section to sandy conglomerate. Well-cemented by silica and calcium carbonate. Forms ledges and cliffs, particularly towards the west. Matrix clay decreases down-section from 3% to <1%. Mapped south of Percha Creek. Mostly correlative to Hayner Ranch Formation. 550-1100 m thick.

Santa Fe Group, lower unit of pre-Palomas Formation basin fill—Strongly silica-cemented sandy conglomerate and pebbly sandstone comprising the base of the Santa Fe Group; forms prominent ledges. Mapped only in western Percha Creek. Gravel composition is dominated by basaltic andesite and other volcanic types (=5% each of chert and volcaniclastic lithologies). Unit is likely correlative to Hayner Ranch Formation of Seager et al. (1971). 75-300 m thick.

Basalt Flows (Neogene)

m of the deposit may feature stage III carbonate development. Locally subdivided into two inset deposits: **Qtp5a** and **Qtp5b**. Weakly consolidated and 2-8 m thick. bundant plagioclase in groundmass. North of Hwy NM-152, flow package is 30 m thick. South of Co Rd B027, the basalt fills paleovalleys and <2 m thick. Non-basaltic gravel does not overlie the flows. Basalt flow, upper subunit north of Greyback Arroyo-Upper flow subunit of Tb north of Greyback Arroyo. Grades upward into slightly vesicular basalt. See unit **Tb** description.

> asalt flow, lower subunit north of Greyback Arroyo—Lower flow subunit of **Tb** south of Greyback rroyo. Dated at 4.5 ± 0.10 Ma using K/Ar methods (Seager et al., 1984). See unit **Tb** description.

Lower Trujillo Creek terrace deposit—Sandy gravel. Tread is about 5 m above the valley floor. Mafic intrusions (dikes)—Dense to vesicular, aphanitic to aphanitic-porphyritic basalt intrusions Tmi occurring as dikes east of Wicks Gulch. Phenocrysts include 2-8% olivine, trace to 4% pyroxene, and I-2% plagioclase. Locally, mafic rocks rest on, or intrudes, hydromagmatic deposits (subsumed into unit) that are 0.4-2.1 m thick. Dikes inferred to have fed **Tb** flows and to be of similarage (4.5 Ma).

Subsurface Units (cross section only)

ertiary volcanic rocks, undivided—Includes upper and lower andesites of Trujillo Peak, which are a dark-gray to purplish-brown, aphanitic to aphanitic-porphyritic, fine- to medium-grained andesite (Jochems et al., 2014). Other rocks may include rhyolites, andesites, basaltic andesites, tuffs (i.e., Kneeling Nun and Sugarlump Tuffs), and volcaniclastic sediment (including the Rubio Peak Fm). Poorly constrained thickness of ~180 m.

Paleozoic rocks, undivided—Paleozoic strata dominated by limestones and dolomites, with lesser shales and sandstones. Jochems et al. (2014) describes these strata in detail. Poorly constrained thickness of 600-650 m. Proterozoic rocks, undivided—Includes granite, gneiss, and schist.



the western Caballo Mountains). The uppermost and coarsest unit of the Palomas Formation

extends furthest west and onlaps older Santa Fe Group basin fill.

meters above MSL