

### EXPLANATION Geologic Mapping by: Kempster, K.A., Kelley, S., and Fluk, L.

- Qal** - Alluvium. Late Pleistocene to Holocene. Alluvial deposits in modern drainage bottoms. Deposits include conglomerates, sands, and silts. Holocene terrace deposits less than 1 meter above drainage bottoms are included. Alluvium in canyons in the western portion of the quadrangle is dominated by weathering products of the Banderler Tuff (primarily Qbt), while alluvium in eastern canyons is dominated by fluvial clasts of Tschicoma dacite (Tt). Obsidian fragments common. Maximum thickness can exceed 4 meters.
- Qc/Qcb** - Colluvium. Late Pleistocene to Holocene. Poorly sorted talus, debris, and colluvium in wedge-shaped deposits on hill slopes. Numerous hill slopes beneath mesas of Tshirige Member, Banderler Tuff (Qbt), are covered by Qc/Qcb colluvium obscuring the underlying bed rock, and have been mapped as Qc/Qcb. Thickness can locally exceed 5 meters.
- Ql** - Terraces. Late Pleistocene to Holocene. Alluvial deposits near the margins of modern streams or older perched floodplain deposits. Most are fill terrace deposits of sand, silt and gravel - 10' m above modern streamlines. Maximum thickness is ~5 meters.
- Qal** - Undifferentiated terraces and alluvium in modern stream drainages. Late Pleistocene to Holocene. Obsidian fragments common.
- Qe** - Eolian deposits. Late Pleistocene to Holocene. Poorly bedded fine-grained sand and silt preserved sporadically on terraces and mesa tops. Although no sedimentary structures could be identified, these deposits appear to be primarily eolian in origin, capping older alluvial deposits. Less than 1 meter in thickness.
- Qma** - Mesa alluvium. Late Pleistocene to Holocene. Poorly sorted sand and debris composed primarily of reworked Upper Banderler Tuff (Qbt). Obsidian fragments common. Though common as isolated patches on Qbt mesa tops, these deposits were only mapped in a few localities. Maximum thickness is less than 2 meters.
- Ql** - Landslides. Pleistocene to Holocene. Unsorted, chaotic debris emplaced during a single detachment event from a steep slope or cliff. Fan-shaped deposits occur where debris spread out on valley floor. Thickness highly variable.
- Qoa** - Old Alluvium. Quaternary. Older alluvial deposits of gravel, sand and silt that were deposited after the eruption of the Tshirige Member, Banderler Tuff. In Polvadera Canyon, a remnant of a paleocanyon filled by this unit is exposed along the western edge of the modern canyon. Aggradation of this paleocanyon may have occurred when the downcutting of the river encountered a mound of Tschicoma dacite (Tt) mound at the confluence of Polvadera Creek and the West Fork Polvadera Creek, impeding erosion and backfilling the canyon with sediment. The modern canyon then incised slightly to the east of this paleodrainage, preserving alluvial deposits along the canyon's western margin. Maximum thickness is approximately 30 meters.
- Qa** - Upper Banderler Tuff. Tshirige Member. Quaternary. White to orange non-welded to welded ash-flow tuff containing well-sorted, orange-brown fine-grained sand and silt. Basal Tshirige Pumice, though seldom exposed, is typically 1 meter thick and contains 5% of lithic fragments. Though mostly thin (0.2-0.5 m), some units are thicker (up to 1.5 m), and some units contain 5% of lithic fragments, appearing similar to facies of the Owiwi Member, Banderler Tuff. Erupted at approximately 1.2 Ma during the formation of the Valles Caldera (Spill et al., 1996). Maximum thickness is approximately 250 meters.
- Qct** - Cerro Toledo Interval. Quaternary. Rhyolite lavas erupted within the Toledo embayment along the southern boundary of the quadrangle and poorly exposed fluvial sediments deposited between eruptions of the Banderler Tuff. The rhyolite lavas are typically white to pink and crystal poor, with sparse phenocrysts of quartz and sanidine. Lithophysal, flow and banded and obsidian phases are common. Secondary facies are preserved in the South and West Forks of Polvadera Canyon, overlying either Tschicoma dacite or Owiwi Member of the Banderler Tuff. These fluvial facies are poorly consolidated, typically manifested as colluvial rounded cobbles of mixed lithologies (primarily Tschicoma dacite) at the surface. Fluvial cobbles of Owiwi Member, Banderler Tuff, were not recognized, so mapping of this unit was based on stratigraphic position and extrapolation. Maximum thickness is approximately 5 meters.
- Qbo** - Banderler Tuff. Owiwi Member. Quaternary. White to beige to orange non-welded to welded ash-flow tuff containing abundant phenocrysts of quartz and sanidine and sparse mafic phenocrysts. Moderate to abundant lithic fragments (5-12%), primarily of andesitic or mafic lavas. Though not as evident as the overlying Tshirige Member, this unit is a compound cooling unit of multiple flows. One of the lower flow units is lithic poor (< 5%), resembling facies of the Tshirige Member. Where poorly welded this unit is also poorly exposed, often obscured by colluvium of overlying Tschicoma dacite. Thus, there is likely more of this unit than indicated on the map. No exposures of the basal Guaje Pumice were observed in the quadrangle; its presence is inferred from stratigraphic position in the eastern portion of the canyon. However, recent work (Spill et al., 1996) reveals an underlying lahar deposit (Qol) that may indicate transience of the caldera region before the eruption. Erupted at approximately 1.51 Ma during the formation of the Valles Caldera (Spill et al., 1996). Maximum thickness (exposed in Cañones Canyon) is approximately 200 meters.
- QTI** - Terrace gravels and conglomerates of uncertain age. Late Tertiary - Early Quaternary. Isolated exposures of older alluvium preserved adjacent to large Tschicoma flow boundaries. May be equivalent to the Puyc Formation (Griggs, 1964; Gardner et al., 1986). Mostly coarse boulder conglomerates of Tschicoma dacite with minor amounts of andesite and rhyolite. No clasts of Banderler Tuff. Maximum thickness is approximately 30 meters.
- Ter1/Ter2** - El Rechuelos Rhyolite. Tertiary. At least seven eruptive centers of white to pink rhyolite with subordinate amounts of dark, glassy obsidian. Older, Miocene-age rhyolite centers (Ter1) are exposed at three vent sources in the southwestern corner of the quadrangle. They include flow banded, vitrophylic lavas with vesicular horizons with phenocrysts of plagioclase and minor biotite. Ages for this group of rhyolites range from 6.8 - 7.3 Ma (Loeffler et al., 1988). A younger set of rhyolites (Ter2) were emplaced along an arcuate fracture adjacent to Polvadera Peak at ~2 Ma (Goff et al., 1989). The northernmost eruptive center (~2.5 miles north of Polvadera Peak) is defined by a depression (small caldera structure) termed El Lagunito del Palo Quemador. Rhyolite fragments are typically pumiceous with < 5% phenocrysts of plagioclase, quartz, biotite and hornblende. Geochemical analysis of this rhyolite suggests that it may be more closely related to older, Tschicoma-related volcanism (Loeffler, 1984). The three remaining eruptive centers occur along a north-south fracture west of Polvadera Peak. Two large centers occur at the base of Cañada del Ojitos and consist of intrusive and extrusive dome facies with sparse phenocrysts of plagioclase and biotite. The margins of both of these domes include autochthonous and vesicular horizons with minor obsidian facies. The northernmost of these two domes has apparent landslide scarps on its NW flank, which may explain the two small satellite exposures of this unit in the Cañada del Ojitos valley floor. Lastly, at approximately 1.2 miles SW of Polvadera Peak is a small rhyolite center with abundant obsidian facies, though poorly exposed. Maximum thickness is approximately 150 meters.
- Tp** - Puyc Formation. Pliocene to Early Pleistocene. Poorly exposed alluvial gravels composed almost entirely of Tschicoma lava clasts. Mapped only in the West Fork of Polvadera Canyon where overlain by the Owiwi Member of the Banderler Tuff. May also include older terrace deposits (QTI) mapped adjacent to Tschicoma domes in the northeast quadrant of the quadrangle. Maximum thickness is approximately 25 meters.
- Tt1/Tt2/Tt3** - Tschicoma Formation. Late Miocene to Pliocene. Light gray to dark gray coarsely porphyritic lavas, primarily of dacitic composition but also including andesites and rhyolites. This formation includes thick, superimposed flows and high-aspect ratio domes. No pyroclastic facies of this unit were observed in the quadrangle. The first and third highest peaks in the Jemez Mountains, Tschicoma Peak and Polvadera Peak, are dacitic domes of this unit located within the quadrangle. Age dates for this unit in the study area range from ~7 to 3 Ma with most domes/flows emplaced between 5 to 3 Ma. These domes and flows were subdivided into three general age relationships based on field relationships, age data, and geomorphology of the dome flows: 1) an older sequence of domes and flows (Tt1) exposed in the NW and NE quadrants of the quadrangle. In Cañones Canyon and Cañada Seca this includes facies of andesitic composition, with phenocrysts of plagioclase, clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene. A large flow exposed along Chihuahueros Creek appears more dacitic with large plagioclase phenocrysts and minor amounts of pyroxene and biotite. In the NE quadrant these older flows and domes are mostly dacitic to rhyolitic, with abundant phenocrysts of plagioclase, biotite and hornblende with minor amounts of pyroxene. 2) Tt2 deposits include the majority of Tschicoma exposed in the quadrangle, including the northern rim rocks of the Toledo embayment. These dacites commonly contain cognate clots of more mafic magmas (vesicular basaltic andesite) ranging in size from 2 to 25 cm. 3) The youngest lavas and domes (Tt3) formed Polvadera Peak and Cerro Pelon, both porphyritic dacites with plagioclase the dominant phenocryst. Cerro Pelon contains both clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene, with minor biotite and hornblende. Maximum thickness exceeds 600 meters.
- Tt4** - Lobato Basalt. Miocene. Dark gray, fine grained basaltic lavas with phenocrysts of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene and olivine. This unit is only exposed in the northwest quadrant of the quadrangle, with most exposures along the eastern margin of Cañones Canyon. Have the main basalt flow thin and thicken dramatically, clearly filling in paleogeography at the time of its eruption. The base of the unit is typically buried by basalt colluvium, although where exposed overlies fluvial deposits of the Santa Fe Group. Presumably, Lobato basalts underlie the thick Tschicoma dacite sequence in the quadrangle, connecting broad exposures at La Grulla Plateau to the west and Lobato Mesa to the east. Maximum thickness is approximately 100 meters.
- Tt5/Tt6** - Santa Fe Group. Miocene. Primarily buff to tan, cross-bedded eolian sandstones of the Ojo Caliente Member, quadrangle. These eolian sandstones are composed primarily of quartz and indicate a prevailing wind from the west. In Cañones Canyon some exposures of the Ojo Caliente Member are consolidated, outcropping as sublevel cliffs. Most of the unit, however, is poorly consolidated, forming buff-colored sand and silt on the canyon slope. At the base of the eolian sequence in Cañones Canyon are isolated exposures of thin basalt flows (Tt6), presumably intercalated with the sedimentary sequence. Overlying the eolian sandstones along the eastern rim of Cañones Canyon are poorly exposed fluvial sandstones with rounded cobbles (2 to 12 cm across) of volcanic origin, primarily andesite, with lesser amounts of rhyolite and basaltic andesite. These cobbles may represent early volcanic activity in the Jemez Mountains. Maximum thickness exceeds 200 meters.
- Ta1/Ta2** - Abiquiu Formation. Miocene. There is a possible exposure of Abiquiu sandstone in Chihuahueros Canyon along the quadrangle's northern boundary. This thin unit is a quartzite, consolidated sandstone beneath eolian sandstones of the Ojo Caliente Member, Santa Fe Group. Maximum thickness is approximately 5 meters.

### Geologic Mapping of the Polvadera Peak 7.5-minute Quadrangle, Northern Jemez Mountains, New Mexico.

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#### Overview:

The Polvadera Peak 7.5-minute quadrangle is dominated by dacitic lavas of the Tschicoma Formation, erupted between ~ 7.3 Ma (Loeffler et al., 1988; Gardner et al., 1986) and forming some of the highest peaks in the Jemez Mountains, including Polvadera (11,232') and Tschicoma Peaks (11,501'). These lavas were erupted as high-aspect ratio, viscous, voluminous flows with steep-sided flow lobes. Most of the vent sources for these lavas were from north-south trending structures along the eastern portion of the quadrangle. The western portion of the quadrangle is dominated by flow lobes of the Banderler Tuff, erupted onto highly irregular surface of distal Tschicoma lava flows. This relatively low topographic region between the Polvadera Peak highlands to the east and the La Grulla Plateau to the west, provided the main corridor for pyroclastic flows of the Upper and Lower Banderler Tufts extending northward from the Valles and Toledo Calderas. Modern Quaternary canyons dissecting the western portion of the quadrangle reveal the complex pre-Banderler topography that preceded these eruptions. In isolated exposures within these canyons, the thin sedimentary records of the Puyc Formation, Cerro Toledo Interval, and post-Banderler Tuff alluvium are preserved.

Geologic mapping of this quadrangle has provided several new insights into the volcanic and sedimentary history of the region, including:

- Major volcanic centers for Tschicoma Formation lavas are recognized and separated into three age-distinct episodes: a) an older phase (mapped as Tt3) that includes crystal-rich, hydrous mineralogy in the northeast corner of the quadrangle, and dacitic lavas with relatively non-hydrous mineralogy in the northwest corner of the quadrangle; b) an intermediate phase (mapped as Tt2) that includes most of the lavas erupted along the rim of the Toledo embayment, including some flows rich with cognate clots of more mafic compositions; and c) a younger eruptive episode (Tt1) forming the steep-sided domes of Cerro Pelon and Polvadera Peak.
- Detailed mapping of the El Rechuelos Rhyolite distinguishes two major phases of activity: an older (Late Miocene) phase (Ter1) represented by separate vents in the southwestern corner of the quadrangle, and a younger phase (Late Pliocene, Tt2) erupted along a N-S trending structure along the western margin of Polvadera Peak and including 4 discrete vents.
- Our mapping reveals a much greater extent of Lower Banderler Tuff (Qbo) than previously known.
- Recognition of broad exposures of the Ojo Caliente Member of the Santa Fe Group in Cañones Canyon. These well-sorted eolian sandstones clearly indicate a prevailing wind from the west during the time of deposition. A thin fluvial sequence capping the eolian section contains well-rounded volcanoclastic cobbles - possibly recording the erosion of Polvadera Canyon Formation volcanic units in the central Jemez Mountains.
- A possible exposure of Abiquiu Formation sandstone in Chihuahueros Canyon, representing the oldest-known geologic unit in the region. Cañones Canyon, representing the oldest-known geologic unit in the region, representing a post-Banderler Tuff, older alluvial deposit (Qoa) in Polvadera Creek Canyon, representing an episode of fluvial aggradation with alluvium when a resistant mound of Tschicoma dacite was exhumed downstream. Eventually, downcutting resumed, with the new canyon offset slightly eastward of the paleovalley.

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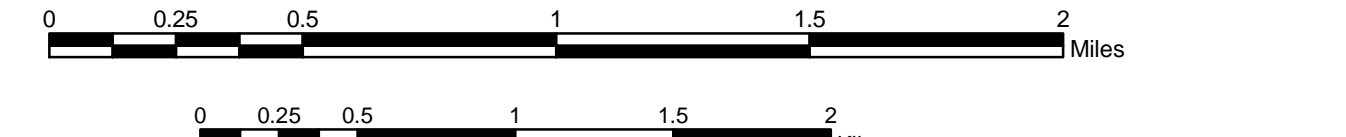
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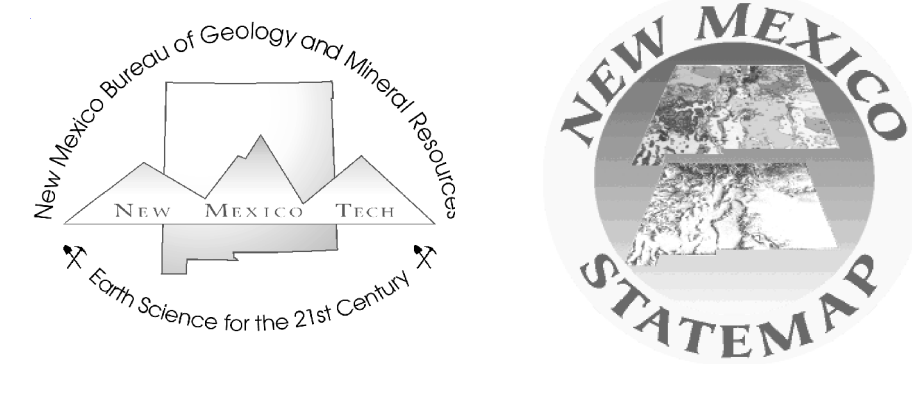
### Preliminary Geologic Map of the Polvadera Peak 7.5 - minute quadrangle by Kirt Kempster, Shari Kelley, Fraser Goff, and Mike Rampey

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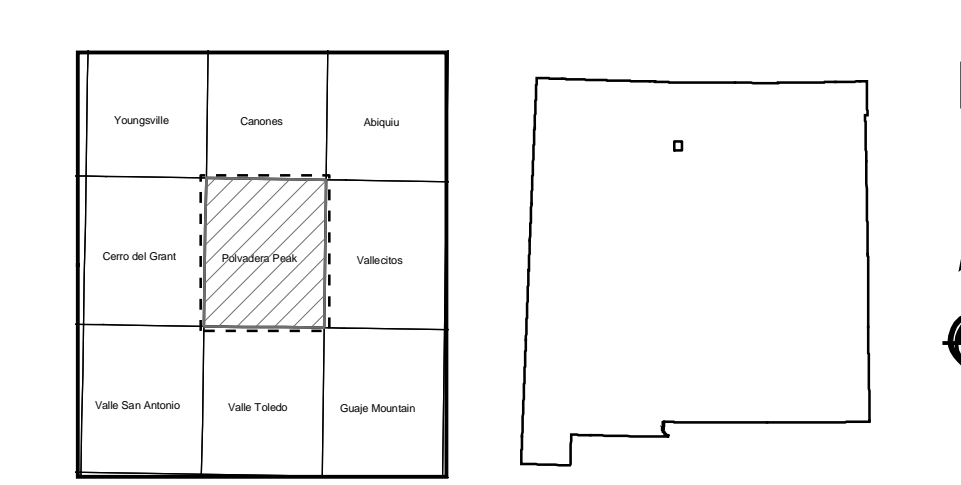
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CONTour INTERVAL: 10 FEET  
VERTICAL EXAGGERATION: 10X



**DRAFT**  
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#### 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.

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This draft geologic map was produced from scans of hand-drafted originals from the author(s). It is being distributed in this form because of the demand for current geologic mapping in this important area. The final release of this map will be made following peer review and redrafting in color using NMBGMR cartographic standards. The final product will be made available on the internet as a PDF file and in a GIS format.

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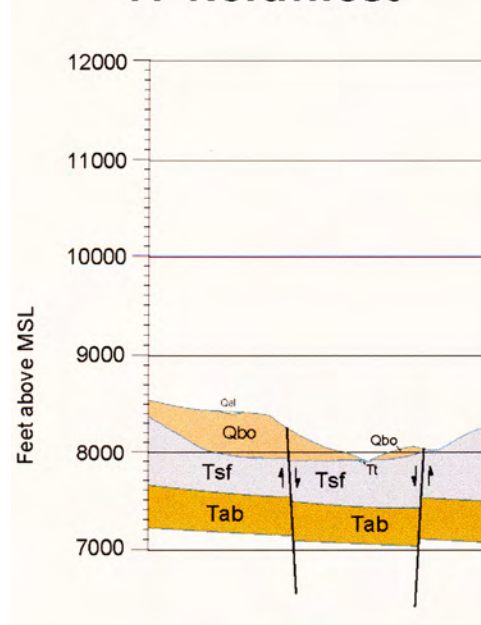
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### Polvadera Peak 7.5-minute Quadrangle Cross Section A - A'

A Northwest



A' Southeast

