

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

SEDIMENTS AND SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

QUATERNARY SEDIMENTS
Nonglacial
Alluvium—Silt, sand, and gravel deposited in streambeds and fans; surface relatively undisturbed.

Older alluvium—Silt, sand, and gravel deposited in stream beds and fans; may form low terraces; surface commonly dissected; commonly iron-oxide stained and, east of the Cascade Range, commonly contains caliche layers. Includes Skokholm Gravel.

Beach deposits—Fine to coarse sand forming beaches and associated active and stabilized back-beach dune fields, and minor estuarine deposits.

Holocene dune sand—Eolian sand and silt forming active dunes; dominant source is beaches along the Columbia River.

Peat deposits—Peat, muck, and lacustrine silt and clay rich in organic matter; deposited mostly in closed depressions.

Landslide debris—Clay, silt, sand, gravel, and large blocks; unstratified and poorly sorted; surface commonly hummocky. Includes the 1980 debris avalanche of Mount St. Helens (Lipman and Mullineaux, 1981), talus, and all other mass-wasting deposits.

Pleistocene continental sediments—Stratified clay, silt, sand, gravel, and peat of lacustrine, estuarine, and fluvial origin; near Mount Rainier contains deposits of volcanic mudflows. Includes Kitsap, Almerston, and Psychop Formations, and the Damon Silt (Moore, 1965).

Periglacial
Loess—Pale orange to brown eolian silt and fine sand; locally contains caliche and tephra.

Upper Pleistocene Outwash Deposits of Glacial Lake Missoula
Flood sand and silt—Silt, sand, and clay, commonly grading into unit QG; contains slackwater deposits and crossbedded fine-grained gravel deposits, and some interbedded gravels.

Flood gravel—Boulder to cobble gravel with sandy matrix and minor silt interbeds; generally crossbedded with forest beds dipping downvalley.

Terraced sediments—Silt, sand, and gravel of diverse compositions and origins, such as proglacial outwash, glacial outwash deposits, older alluvium, lahars, and uplifted coastal marine and estuarine deposits. Includes parts of the Lakeland and Kittitas Drifts.

Deposits of Continental Glaciers—Puger Lake of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet
Vashon Stage of the Upper Pleistocene Fraser Glaciation

Undifferentiated glacial drift—Clay, silt, sand, and gravel; commonly till, but may be till and outwash not separately mappable. Consists of part of the Vashon Drift.

Advance outwash—Outwash sand and gravel and lacustrine clay, silt, and sand deposited during advance of glacial stage; commonly till, well sorted, and fine grained, with lenses of coarser sand and gravel; locally contains nonglacial sediments. Consists of Colvos Sand and part of the Vashon Drift.

Till—Unsorted, unstratified, highly compacted mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders deposited directly by glacial ice; locally contains outwash sand and gravel both within and overlying till. Consists of part of the Vashon Drift.

Undifferentiated sand and gravel—Recessional and proglacial stratified sand and gravel; locally contains silt and clay. Consists of part of the Vashon Drift.

Outwash sand—Recessional and proglacial, stratified pebbles, cobbles, and boulder gravel deposited in meltwater streams and their deltas; locally contains ice-contact deposits. Includes Steilacoom Gravel and part of the Vashon Drift.

Pre-Fraser Glacial Deposits
Undifferentiated drift—Till and outwash sand and gravel; includes Lookout Mountain Ranch Drift, parts of Waijane and Stuck Drifts, and Helm Creek Drift of Carson (1970).

Deposits of Alpine Glaciers
Fraser Glaciation and Younger Deposits
Undifferentiated drift—Till and outwash sand and gravel; includes Burroughs Mountain, Gard, and McNeely Drifts, parts of Evans Creek and Lakeland Drifts, and McDonald Ridge Drift (Hopkins, 1976).

Outwash deposits—Stratified sand and gravel; locally contains silt and clay. Includes parts of Evans Creek and Lakeland Drifts and Chow Chow Drift (Moore, 1965).

Pre-Fraser Glacial Deposits
Undifferentiated drift—Till and outwash sand and gravel; includes Lookout Mountain Ranch Drift, parts of Waijane Hill, Hayden Creek, and Kittitas Drifts, White Salmon drift (Hopkins, 1976), Moberly drift (Carson, 1970), and parts of the Humpnups drift (Moore, 1965), part of the Amboy drift (Mundorf, 1964, 1984).

Outwash deposits—Outwash sand and gravel with minor silt and clay. Includes Logan Hill Formation, part of Hayden Creek, Kittitas, and Waijane Hill Drifts, part of the Humpnups drift (Moore, 1965), part of the Amboy drift (Mundorf, 1964, 1984), and the Weatherax and Weddick Creek formations (Carson, 1970).

PLEISTOCENE-PIOLOCENE SEDIMENTS
Continental
Continental sediments—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay; deposits of the ancestral Columbia River contain distinctive orange quartzite clasts thought to be derived from northeast Washington; in the southern foothills of the Olympic mountains, moderately to intensely deformed alluvial sand and gravel; at Swale Creek, consists of material eroded from adjacent basaltic terranes and is overlain by loess. Includes the Troutdale Formation, and the Swale Creek valley sedimentary deposits (Newcomb, 1969).

PILOCENE SEDIMENTS
Continental
Continental sediments—Weakly cemented, moderately sorted cobble to pebble gravel with thin sand, silt, clay, and tephra interbeds; deposited by ancestral Yakima River and by smaller streams mainly in the Columbia Basin. Includes Thorp Gravel.

MIOCENE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS
Marine
Middle to upper Eocene marine sedimentary rocks—Course- to fine-grained, silty, friable lithofeldspathic sandstone, locally dominated by conglomerate, siltstone, and mudstone; blue-gray when fresh, orange-brown when weathered; locally tuffaceous; most commonly massive, but bedding locally enhanced by conglomerate lenses and beds, carbonized wood, mica flakes, and concretionary beds; mudstone and siltstone beds are common. Contains foraminiferal faunas referable to the Moberly and Delmonian Stages. Consists of Montesano Formation.

Lower to middle Eocene marine sedimentary rocks—Fine-grained, silty, lithofeldspathic sandstone, friable, micaceous, gray when fresh, weathers to olive brown or creamy orange; massive to thin bedded; locally tuffaceous; abundant siltstone that contains macerated carbonaceous material; local basaltic sandstone, pebble conglomerate, and poorly sorted basal conglomerate. Contains foraminiferal faunas referable to the Saucian, Relizian, and Lusion (7) Stages. Consists of the Astoria Formation.

Continental
Continental sediments—Poorly consolidated to semiconsolidated sandstone, siltstone, and conglomerate, commonly tuffaceous; includes some tuff breccias, lahars, volcanic arcites, and peat; primarily the products of fluvial systems draining Tertiary volcanic terranes. Includes Mashel, Wilkes, and Dalles Formations and part of the Ellensburg Formation.

Continental
Continental sedimentary rocks, conglomerate—Conglomerate with abundant dark-colored porphyritic andesite clasts, debris flow breccia, pebbly volcanoclastic sandstone, siltstone, and minor airfall tuff; commonly thick bedded. Consists of Eagle Creek Formation.

OLIGOCENE-EOCENE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

Marine
Oligocene to upper Eocene marine sedimentary rocks—Indistinctly bedded to massive, commonly concretionary, light-gray tuffaceous siltstone and fine-grained tuffaceous sandstone; lower strata contain discontinuous beds of basaltic and gneissitic sandstone; dominantly offshore marine but grades into nonmarine volcanoclastic rocks east of Chehalis. Contains foraminiferal faunas referable to the Relizian and Zemmernian Stages. Consists of the Lincoln Creek Formation and part of Unit B of Wolfe and McKe (1972).

Nearshore
Oligocene to upper Eocene nearshore sedimentary rocks—Basaltic conglomerate, sandstone, tuffaceous siltstone, pumice-lithic lapilli tuff, claystone, and lignite; locally interbedded with basaltic andesite flows; depositional environments range from nearshore marine to nonmarine; contains foraminiferal fauna referable to the Relizian Stage. Consists of the Toutle Formation.

Marine
Middle to upper Eocene marine sedimentary rocks—Laminated to massive, tuffaceous siltstone, claystone, shale, and massive to crossbedded micaceous feldspathic sandstone; lower part interbedded with lower basaltic andesite; locally interbedded with basaltic flows, tuffs, tuff breccias, and conglomerates. Contains foraminiferal faunas referable to the Natuzian Stage. Includes part of the McIntosh Formation, Stillwater Creek Member of the Cowlitz Formation (Henriksen, 1956), Humpnups Formation (Rau, 1984, 1986), siltstone of Skamokawa Creek (Wells, 1981), siltstone of Cliff Point (Wells, 1979), siltstone and sandstone at Omeka Point (Wells, in press), siltstone at Shoalwater Bay (Wells, in press), and part of Unit B of Wolfe and McKe (1972).

Lower to middle Eocene marine sedimentary rocks—Siltstone and mudstone to planar-interbedded micaceous feldspathic sandstone, locally with graded bedding. Contains foraminiferal faunas referable to the Utaian Stage. Includes Unit A of Wolfe and McKe (1972), part of the McIntosh Formation (Wagner, 1967a), siltstone of Megler (Wells, 1979), part of the Crescent Formation (Rau, 1986), and the Hoh Assemblage (Rau, 1986).

Nearshore
Middle to upper Eocene nearshore sedimentary rocks—Nearshore marine to nonmarine micaceous feldspathic sandstone, siltstone, shale, carbonaceous siltstone, claystone, and thick coal seams; locally interbedded with basaltic flows and volcanoclastic rocks. Contains foraminiferal faunas referable to the Natuzian Stage. Includes Skokholm Gravel Formation, Olequa Creek Member of the Cowlitz Formation (Henriksen, 1956), Cowlitz Formation (Wells, 1981), and rocks mapped as part of McIntosh by Pease and Hoover (1957) [See Logan, 1987].

Continental
Middle to upper Eocene continental sedimentary rocks—Micaceous feldspathic sandstone and lithofeldspathic sandstone interbedded with siltstone, shale, claystone, and coal; locally interbedded with lava flows, tuffs, volcanoclastic breccias, and pebble conglomerates, and brackish-water deposits. Includes Puget Group undivided, Carbonium Spiketon, Roslyn Formations, parts of the Naches Formation, the Summit Creek sandstone (Ellington, 1959), the Lookout Creek sandstone (Schreiber, 1981) and the beds of Chambers Creek (Winters, 1984).

Lower to middle Eocene continental sedimentary rocks—Micaceous feldspathic sandstone and lithofeldspathic sandstone with lesser amounts of carbonaceous siltstone and shale, pebbly sandstone, conglomerate, and coal; locally interbedded with tuffs and volcanoclastic breccias. Consists of Swank and Manastash Formations.

CRETACEOUS AND JURASSIC SEDIMENTARY ROCKS
Marine
Marine sedimentary rocks—Lithofeldspathic sandstone and mudstone, with lesser conglomerate and greenstone, minor chert, and very rare tuff. Radiolarian faunas indicate an age of Triassic(?) to Jurassic, and Early Cretaceous; limestone clasts in a carbonate have yielded fossils of probable Permian age. Consists of part of the Russell Formation.

Chert-rich marine sedimentary rocks—Lithofeldspathic sandstone, mudstone, radiolarian chert, greenstone, green tuff, and red shale; characterized by thin stringers of altered green tuff and red shale within chert-rich horizons; contains radiolarian faunas referable to the Titonian and Valanginian or Hauterivian Stages. Consists of part of the Russell Formation.

Chert-rich marine sedimentary rocks—Lithofeldspathic sandstone, mudstone, radiolarian chert, greenstone, green tuff, and red shale; characterized by thin stringers of altered green tuff and red shale within chert-rich horizons; contains radiolarian faunas referable to the Titonian and Valanginian or Hauterivian Stages. Consists of part of the Russell Formation.

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PLIOCENE VOLCANIC ROCKS

Lava Flows
Rhyolite—Flow-banded flows and domes, obsidian, breccias, lahars, and tuffs; at Devils Horns, tuffs are pumiceous and vitric. Includes Devils Horns rhyolite (Clayton, 1983) and volcanic rocks of Simcoe Mountains (Shepard, 1960).

Dacite flows—Light- to medium-gray porphyritic dacite flows and flow breccia with phenocrysts of plagioclase, hornblende, quartz, and biotite; occurs as scattered remnants; also contains tuffs, lava domes, and hypabyssal intrusions.

Basalt flows—Olivine basalt, olivine-angite basalt, and basaltic andesite flows, agglomerates, pyroclastic rocks, and dikes; the pyroclastic rocks contained welded basaltic bombs, blocks, scoria, and spatter. Includes the Devils Washbasin basalt (Clayton, 1983) and the olivine basalt of Bethel Ridge (Swanson, 1978).

Tuff—Poorly consolidated pyroclastic debris to welded, dacitic lithic-crystal-vitric tuff and tuff breccia; contains quartz phenocrysts and spherulites; contains a flow-banded plug at South-Cowichy Chimney east of Mount Rainier.

Miocene Volcanic Rocks
Lava Flows
Rhyolite—Gray to white, banded, devitrified rhyolite interpreted as rheogimbrite, with rare black welded vitrophyre and local basal unwelded pumice-perlite tuff, interbedded with hornblende flows, flow-dome complexes, and perists as scattered flow remnants; south of the Cispus River, black, glassy, plagioclase-angite-phyric, columnar flows and flow breccia.

Andesite flows—Pyroxene andesite and two-pyroxene andesite and basaltic andesite flows and flow breccia; also contains minor hornblende-pyroxene andesite and clinopyroxene basalt flows interbedded with volcanoclastic breccias, tuffs, and volcanic sandstone; lavas commonly porphyritic; shield volcanoes of this unit are recognized at Fries Peak, Cliffcliff, and south of Bethel Ridge. Includes the Fries Peak Formation, also part of the volcanic rock of Eagle Gorge (Frizzell and others, 1984), lava flows of Council Bluff (Hammond, 1980), lava flows of Three Corner Rock (Hammond, 1980), and Stevenson Ridge lavas (Berr and Kenese, 1983).

Basalt flows—Black to medium-gray and green, aphyric to sparsely plagioclase-, olivine-, and augite-phyric basalt flows and flow breccia, with minor interbedded mafic tuff, labric breccia, and volcanic sedimentary rock.

Volcanoclastic Rocks
Volcanoclastic rocks—Massive to well-bedded volcanoclastic breccias and conglomerates, tuffs, tuff breccias, and volcanic sandstones and siltstones; northeast of Mount St. Helens, andesitic to rhyolitic, pumice-lithic tuff and tuff breccia, volcanic siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate, and minor coal beds, locally associated with plugs and flows of dacite and rhyolite; south and west of Naches Pass, well-bedded andesitic breccia, tuff, and volcanic sandstone with rare white pumice tuff locally containing graded beds; west of Randle, poorly sorted, massive breccia and conglomerate that has sand- to boulder-sized clasts of angite andesite; near Burnett in Pierce County, andesitic to rhyolitic, andesite-supported breccia and conglomerate that has clasts of andesite and hornblende dacite, and crossbedded, pumiceous sandstone, lapillistone, and thin tuff; in the Kittitas Valley, mostly volcanoclastic sandstone and siltstone, and conglomerate and feldspathic sandstone interbedded with or stratigraphically above flows of Grande Ronde Basalt (unit Mrg.). Includes the Randle and Skokholm formations (Frizzell and others, 1984), and east of the Cascades, part of the Ellensburg Formation.

Tuff—Welded to nonwelded, vitric to crystalline, lithic and pumiceous dacite and rhyolite tuffs and tuff breccias; commonly quartz phenocrysts; contains associated plugs and airfall tuff with minor siliceous lava flows and volcanoclastic sandstones. Includes part of the volcanic rocks of Eagle Gorge (Frizzell and others, 1984), welded tuff of the Palisades (Fiske and others, 1963), and Stevens Ridge Formation north of Mount Rainier.

Flows of Eocene Columbia River Basalt Group
Yakima Basalt Subgroup
(Erupted from fissure vents in southeast Washington and adjacent Oregon and Idaho)
Middle to upper Miocene Saddle Mountains Basalt—Fine-grained, sparsely phryic tholeiitic and olivine flood basalt; generally 5 to 35 m thick; as much as 100 m thick west of Kelso; forms sheet flows and intracanyon flows, with sedimentary interbeds of tuffaceous sandstone, siltstone, and pumiceous conglomerate. K-Ar ages for flows show range from approximately 13.5 to 10.5 m.y.; contains Umattila, Wilbur Creek, Asotin, Pomon, and Elephant Mountain Members in the Columbia Basin; west of the Cascade Mountains, consists only of Pomon Member, which includes flows mapped as basalt of Pack Sack Lookout (Snaveley and others, 1973; Magill and others, 1982).

Middle Miocene Saddle Mountains Basalt, invasive flows—Silt and dikes of olivine basalt and peridotite thought to be formed by the invasion of the Pomon Member of the Saddle Mountains Basalt (Mss) into poorly consolidated sediments. Consists of basalt mapped as invasive basalt of Pack Sack Lookout (Snaveley and others, 1973).

Middle Miocene Wanapan Basalt—Fine to coarse-grained, sparsely phryic to abundantly phryic tholeiitic basalts, forming sheet flows that have little sedimentary interbeds and a few intracanyon flows. K-Ar ages range from approximately 15.6 to 14.5 m.y.; contains Frenchman Springs, Roza, and Priest Rapids Members in the Columbia Basin, and west of the Cascade Mountains, consists only of Frenchman Springs Member; includes flows mapped as Cape Foulweather Basalt.

Middle Miocene Grande Ronde Basalt—Fine-grained, aphyric to very sparsely phryic flood basalt with basaltic andesite chemistry, forms broad sheet flows with sedimentary interbeds of tuffaceous sandstone, siltstone, and conglomerate. K-Ar ages for basalt range from approximately 16.5 to 15.6 m.y.; consists of magnetostriatigraphic units R1, R2, and R3 (Swanson and others, 1979b) in the Columbia Gorge and eastern Washington; west of the Cascade Mountains probably contains only R2 and R3; includes flows mapped as Depeze Bay Basalt.

Middle Miocene Grande Ronde Basalt, invasive flows—Silt and dikes of basaltic andesite and peridotite thought to be formed by the invasion of Grande Ronde Basalt (Mrg) into poorly consolidated sediments. Consists of basalt mapped as invasive Depeze Bay Basalt.

Middle Miocene Grande Ronde Basalt, massive flows—Silt and dikes of basaltic andesite and peridotite thought to be formed by the invasion of Grande Ronde Basalt (Mrg) into poorly consolidated sediments. Consists of basalt mapped as massive Depeze Bay Basalt.

Middle Miocene Grande Ronde Basalt, massive flows—Silt and dikes of basaltic andesite and peridotite thought to be formed by the invasion of Grande Ronde Basalt (Mrg) into poorly consolidated sediments. Consists of basalt mapped as massive Depeze Bay Basalt.

Middle Miocene Grande Ronde Basalt, massive flows—Silt and dikes of basaltic andesite and peridotite thought to be formed by the invasion of Grande Ronde Basalt (Mrg) into poorly consolidated sediments. Consists of basalt mapped as massive Depeze Bay Basalt.

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