

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

QUATERNARY

Alluvial Deposits

Stream alluvium (Holocene to upper Pleistocene) – Generally stratified, moderately well-sorted sand, silt, clay, and pebble to boulder gravel in channels and flood-plains; locally includes small alluvial-fan, debris-flow, and colluvial deposits too small to map separately. Younger stream alluvium (Qal) includes terraces as much as 10 feet (3 m) above modern stream level, older stream alluvium (Qato) forms incised, level to gently sloping surfaces 10 to 30 feet (3–9 m) above modern channels and may include melt deposits of younger stream alluvium too small to map separately; unconsolidated stream alluvium (Qai) mapped where deposit age is uncertain. Thickness 0 to 30 feet (0–9 m).

Fan alluvium (Holocene to upper Pleistocene) – Poorly stratified, poorly to moderately well sorted, boulder to clay-sized sediment deposited as relatively small alluvial fans along major drainages; deposited by intermittent streams, debris flows, and debris floods graded to or slightly above modern stream level; locally includes minor colluvium and debris flow margins of the fans, and grades into stream alluvium at fan toes. Younger fan alluvium (Qaf) forms active depositional surfaces and grades into younger stream alluvium (Qay) at toe of the fans; older fan alluvium (Qao) forms deeply incised, generally inactive surfaces as much as 30 feet (9 m) above modern stream channels. Thickness 0 to 40 feet (0–12 m).

Lacustrine and alluvial basin-fill deposits (Holocene to upper Pleistocene) – Stratified, thin-bedded, light-brown to gray silt and clay with interbeds and lenses of fine to coarse sand and fine gravel, locally abundant organic matter. Location of these deposits along Clear Creek (Willow Canyon) and Meadow Creek upstream of landslide. Deposits suggests accumulation in quiet water behind landslide dams; these “lakes” probably held water only during brief wet periods and were probably more like shallow ponds or swampy alluvial plains; deposits are similar to those of numerous Holocene and Pleistocene lakes in Zion National Park (see discussion in Beck and others, 2003). Thickness 0 to 50 feet (0–15 m).

Artificial-Fill Deposits

Artificial fill (historical) – Primarily road-embankment fill used in the construction of State Route 9; other deposits, too small to map separately, are scattered across the quadrangle and include stock-pile embankments and waste-rock piles at uranium and coal mines and reservoirs; 0 to 60 feet (0–18 m) thick.

Colluvial Deposits

Colluvium (Holocene to upper Pleistocene) – Unsorted, nonstratified, locally derived sand and silt with subangular to angular gravel, cobbles, and boulders; color and clast composition vary with parent material, deposited primarily by creep and slope wash, but some deposits, particularly on upper part of the Straight Cliffs Formation, may also result in part from shallow landsliding; gradational with and locally includes talus and mixed alluvial and colluvial deposits; estimated to be less than 10 feet (3 m) thick.

Mass-Movement Deposits

Landslide deposits (Holocene to middle(?) Pleistocene) – Poorly sorted masses of rock and unconsolidated material that have undergone translational and/or rotational downslope movement; deposits display hummocky topography, internal scarps, back-filled geomorphic surfaces, and chaotic bedding attitudes, typically associated with low-strength clay in the Cedar Mountain, Dakota, and Tropic Formations. Some of the deposits form large complexes of contiguous but separate landslides having different movement histories and directions; where discernible, individual landslides are delineated on the basis of drainages and other geomorphic features that indicate landslide flanks and toes. Geomorphically youthful scarps and hummocky topography indicate new or reactivated movement, whereas geomorphically subtle landslide features and/or surfaces that are deeply incised by stream channels may indicate relatively old initiation of movement. However, very slow movement may be occurring in some landslide areas that lack obvious geomorphic evidence of recent movement. Formation symbols in parentheses denote large blocks of bedrock that has been displaced by landsliding, but internal stratigraphy has remained relatively intact (Toreva block). Historical landslides (Qmsh) are delineated on the basis of evidence of historical movement (i.e., disturbed vegetation, damaged cultural features such as roads and culverts); the Meadow Creek landslide, crossed by Utah Highway 9, presents ongoing road maintenance issues (see Stauffer, 1964; Doelling and Hilland, 1989; Ashland and McDonald, 1999). Thickness of landslide deposits is highly variable; the larger slides are possibly hundreds of feet (100 m) thick.

The Meadow Creek landslide was the subject of survey-grade Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring between October 2005 and October 2008 (Ashland and others, 2009; Ashland and McDonald, in press). In the area crossed by Highway 9 mapped as Qmsh, measured horizontal displacement ranged from 24 to 64 inches (61–163 mm) (Ashland and McDonald, in press). Within the exception of five measurement stations, movement was not detected elsewhere in the Meadow Creek landslide (areas mapped as Qms). Where movement was detected (mostly near Highway 9), horizontal displacement ranged from 6 to 10 inches (15–25 cm) (Ashland and McDonald, in press).

Talus (Holocene to upper(?) Pleistocene) – Very poorly sorted, angular, gravel- to cobble-sized sandstone boulders and fine-grained interstitial sediment on steep slopes below ledges and cliffs of the Straight Cliffs Formation; deposited primarily by rock fall, but creep and slope wash also involved; locally includes undifferentiated colluvium; generally 0 to 20 feet (0–6 m) thick.

Spring Deposits

Spring mud (Holocene) – Brown and greenish-gray clay and organic mud with white evaporitic surface encrustation (efflorescence), deposited immediately downflow of small, active springs in the southeastern part of the quadrangle (NW 1/4 section 33, T. 40 S., R. 9 W., S18B.M.); highly susceptible to piping and erosion; estimated to be less than 15 feet (5 m) thick.

Spring tufa (Holocene) – Gray, white, and tan, blocky, porous, calcareous sinter that forms small, earth mounds, contains abundant root casts, associated with presently inactive springs; two spring deposits are mapped in the southeastern part of the quadrangle (NE 1/4 section 36, T. 40 S., R. 9 W., and NW 1/4 section 3, T. 41 S., R. 8 W., S18B.M.); thickness uncertain, but probably less than 10 feet (3 m).

Mixed-Environment Deposits

Alluvial and colluvial deposits (Holocene to upper Pleistocene) – Poorly to moderately sorted, generally poorly stratified sand, silt, and clay with scattered, subangular to angular gravel and cobbles; deposited in minor drainages and topographic depressions primarily by fluvial, debris-flow, slope-wash, and creep processes; commonly scattered across landslide deposits where displaced bedrock blocks, back-filled surfaces, and closed depressions form sediment traps; thickness less than 6 feet (2 m).

Eolian and residual deposits (Holocene to upper(?) Pleistocene) – Well-sorted fine sand with scattered, subangular gravel and cobbles of sandstone derived from the Straight Cliffs Formation; deposited by wind and in-place weathering of bedrock; forms discontinuous fill in shallow topographic depressions on mesa tops; 0 to 5 feet (0–1.5 m) thick.

Residual and eolian deposits (Holocene to upper(?) Pleistocene) – Reddish-brown silt and fine sand with scattered subangular gravel derived from the Crystal Creek Member of the Carmel Formation; deposited by wind and in-place weathering of bedrock and partly reworked by the wind; forms a thin (0 to 2 feet [0–0.6 m]), discontinuous mantle on top of the Co-op Creek Limestone.

CRETACEOUS

Straight Cliffs Formation

Shown undivided where one or more members form bedrock blocks displaced by landsliding, but internal stratigraphy has remained relatively intact (see “Landslide deposits”).

Upper unit (Upper Cretaceous, Santonian to Turonian)

Slope- and ledge-forming sandstone, siltstone, shale, and minor conglomerate; sandstone is subarkosic, light gray, brown, and pale orange, typically trough cross-bedded, variegated shale thin top of unit is maroon and greenish gray. Limonite-stained pebbly conglomerate and gristone with clasts of quartzite and chert is poorly exposed in the lower 200 feet (60 m) of the unit; the conglomerate likely comprises multiple beds, one or more of which may be correlative with the Catlow bed of Peterson (1969a). Deposited in fluvial, floodplain, and lagoonal environments of a coastal plain (Faton and others, 2001); interpreted to be correlative with Smoky Hollow Member and possibly John Henry Member of the Straight Cliffs Formation of the Kaiparowits Plateau (see, for example, Eaton and others, 2001). At least 700 feet (210 m) thick in the quadrangle, but upper contact not preserved.

Tibbet Canyon Member

(Upper Cretaceous, Turonian) – Predominantly cliff-forming sandstone, quartzite, light gray to grayish orange, medium to thick bedded with local low-angle cross-beds; interbedded with minor shale, mudstone, and siltstone; locally contains pelecypods, ammonoids, and bivalvia-like features. Upper contact corresponds to a break in slope and is placed at top of conchoidal oyster bed that cements the member. Deposited in shelf, lagoonal, estuarine, and floodplain environments of a coastal plain (Laurin and Sageman, 2001, 2007; Tibbet and others, 2003). About 240 to 440 feet (75–135 m) thick.

Crystal Creek Member

(Middle Jurassic, Bathonian) – Slope-forming, thin- to medium-bedded, “banded” reddish-brown and light-gray, fine-grained sandstone and siltstone; local gypsum veinlets and thin beds, and minor volcanic ash; upper contact is sharp and broadly undulating and corresponds to the base of the Paria River Member. Deposited in shallow-marine and coastal-sabkha environments in southwestern Utah (Kowallis and others, 2001). Deposited in coastal-sabkha and tidal-flat environments (Imlay, 1980; Blakey and others, 1983). Thickness 160 to 220 feet (50–65 m).

Co-op Creek Limestone Member

(Middle Jurassic, Bathonian to Bajocian) – Interbedded, micritic to oolitic, thin- to thick-bedded, calcareous and argillaceous shale, platy limestone, and minor dolomite, sandstone, and volcanic ash; locally fossiliferous, including pelecypods, gastropods, and crinoid columns (*Isocrinus nioletii*); about 167–168 Ma based on radiometric dating of ash interbeds in southwestern Utah (Kowallis and others, 2001). Deposited in a shallow-marine environment (Imlay, 1980; Blakey and others, 1983).

Upper unit

Ledge-forming, thin- to medium-bedded, white-weathering, micritic limestone and minor shale; upper contact is sharp and planar; 80 to 110 feet (25–35 m) thick.

Lower unit

Slope-forming, light-gray, calcareous and argillaceous shale and platy limestone with sandstone and thick-bedded limestone; about 8 feet (2.4 m) of reddish to purplish shale and thin-bedded sandstone to basic; upper contact is gradational and corresponds to a break in slope; 160 to 220 feet (50–65 m) thick.

Dakota Formation

Shown undivided where one or more members form bedrock blocks displaced by landsliding, but internal stratigraphy has remained relatively intact (see “Landslide deposits”). In southwestern Utah, the Dakota Formation has traditionally been subdivided into three informal members (see, for example, Doelling and Davis, 1989; Gustason, 1989), following the convention established for the Dakota on the Kaiparowits Plateau (Peterson, 1969b). On the Kolob Terrace, the lower member has recently been reassigned to the Cedar Mountain Formation (Beck and others, 2003; Beck, 2007a, 2007b; Beck and Hilland, 2007; but see Tibbet and others, 2005) on the basis of lithologic and age similarities with the Mussentuch Member (see Kirkland and others, 1997; Kirkland and Madsen, 2007), and that convention is followed on this map.

Upper member

(Upper Cretaceous, Cenomanian) – Slope- and ledge-forming, interbedded sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, shale, marl, and minor coal, sandstone is light brown, gray, and white, arkosic to quartzite, thin to thick bedded, planar, siltstone, mudstone, and shale are gray to dark gray, typically with disseminated organic debris; coal occurs as scattered lenses 1 to 2 feet (0.3–0.6 m) thick; abundant gastropod (*Cratogeomys*) and pelecypod (*Cassostrea* and *Isocrinus pizica*) fossils in upper part of unit, bivalvia-like features (*Optomorpha*) lower part.

Middle member

(Upper Cretaceous, Cenomanian) – Slope-forming, interbedded sandstone, siltstone, shale, and lignite, and ledge-forming sandstone; mudstone and claystone are gray to brown, commonly smectitic; siltstone is dark brown to black, typically with abundant organic debris; shale is gray to dark gray, locally smectitic or carbonaceous; sandstone is light brown to gray, typically locally trough cross-bedded. Coal occurs within two laterally persistent zones at the top and base of the unit (upper and lower coal zones, respectively, of Cashion, 1961, 1967; see also Doelling and Graham, 1972); upper contact placed at top of upper coal zone. Middle member of the Dakota is poorly exposed and involved in widespread landsliding. Deposited in estuarine, floodplain, swamp, and lacustrine environments (Gustason, 1989; an Ende, 1991; Laurin and Sageman, 2001, 2007). About 280 to 480 feet (85–145 m) thick.

Dakota coal in the Clear Creek Mountain quadrangle

is part of the Kolob cliff, regionally the coal rank varies between subbituminous A and high-volatile bituminous B (Grose and others, 1967; Doelling and Davis, 1989), and the coal has relatively high ash and sulfur contents (Doelling, 1994; Peterson, 1994). Three mines in the southeast part of the quadrangle were probably active from about 1930 to 1950 (Doelling and Graham, 1972); production from these mines is unknown, but the largest (Meeks-Carroll mine) had underground workings that extended over 12 feet (3.7 m) (Grose and others, 1967). Based on measurements reported by Eaton (1961) and Doelling and Graham (1972) and collected during this mapping, cumulative coal thickness in the upper coal zone within the quadrangle ranges from 2.5 to 10.0 feet (0.8–3.0 m) and averages 6.8 feet (2.1 m), and maximum individual bed thickness is 8.0 feet (2.4 m); cumulative coal thickness in the lower coal zone ranges from 2.8 to 11.9 feet (0.9–3.6 m) and averages 6.4 feet (1.9 m), and maximum individual bed thickness is 7.0 feet (2.1 m).

Navajo Sandstone

(Lower Jurassic, Toarcian to Pliensbachian) – Cliff-forming, light top of upper coal zone. Middle member of the Dakota is poorly exposed and involved in widespread landsliding. Deposited in estuarine, floodplain, swamp, and lacustrine environments (Gustason, 1989; an Ende, 1991; Laurin and Sageman, 2001, 2007). About 280 to 480 feet (85–145 m) thick.

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Paria River Member

(Middle Jurassic, Bathonian) – Slope-forming, light-gray to yellowish-gray, thin-bedded, platy limestone underlain by shaly limestone and sandstone, in turn underlain by ledge-forming, white gypsum bed. Upper contact is sharp and planar. Deposited in shallow-marine and coastal-sabkha environments (Imlay, 1980; Blakey and others, 1983). Thickness 60 to 100 feet (20–30 m).

Crystal Creek Member

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Upper unit

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Lower unit

Slope-forming, light-gray, calcareous and argillaceous shale and platy limestone with sandstone and thick-bedded limestone; about 8 feet (2.4 m) of reddish to purplish shale and thin-bedded sandstone to basic; upper contact is gradational and corresponds to a break in slope; 160 to 220 feet (50–65 m) thick.

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