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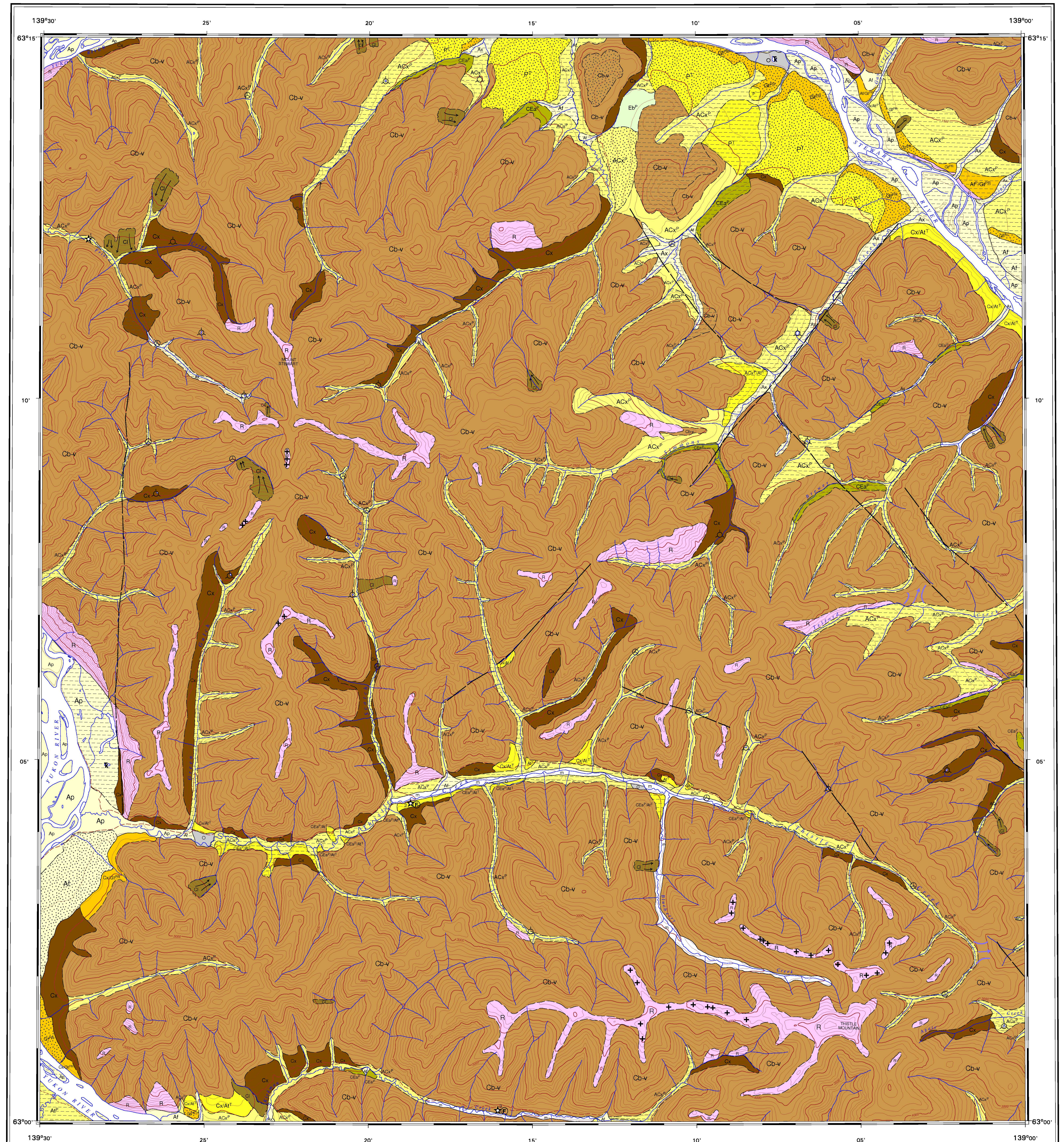
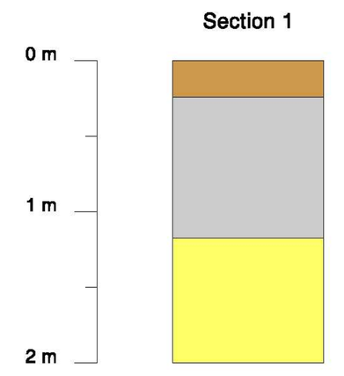
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA — COMMISSION GÉOLOGIQUE DU CANADA

NATMAP
CARTNAT
Canada's National Geoscience Mapping Program
Le Programme national de cartographie géoscientifique du Canada



Section 1



Wall of placer mine excavation in valley floor of Frisco Creek valley

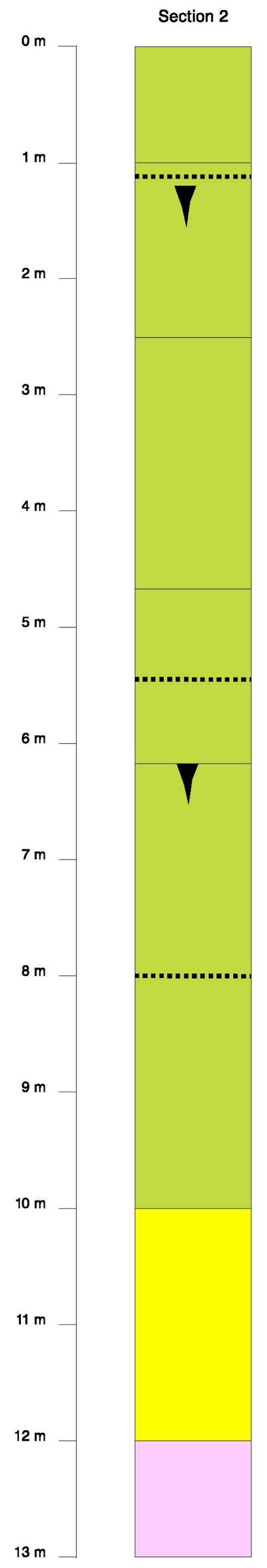
Angular rocky colluvial diamicton, silty matrix

Frozen, laminated organic and inorganic silt; contains thin lenses of rusty sand; laminations are contorted by the growth of segregated ice lenses

Angular bouldery gravel; pebbly micaceous sand matrix; contains coarse placer gold

N.B. One of several sections measured at a placer mine at Eddas Bench by D.G. Froese (Jackson et al. 2002) along Thistle Creek; this section is the simplest succession of units of resedimented loess found; adjacent sections are complicated by deformation caused by massive ground ice, thaw-related collapse and slumping; segregated ice bodies are absent here but ice in sediment interstices is present throughout

Section 2



Organic-rich silt with abundant tree trunks and branches and rare gastropod shells; abrupt basal contact

Discontinuous pods of tephra (probably Sheep Creek tephra ca. 190 ka, Berger et al. 1996)

Massive silt. Contains ice-wedge casts; abrupt basal contact

Organic-rich silt; abundant tree trunks and branches; gastropod shells common throughout unit; abrupt basal contact

Massive silt

Tephra bed

Organic rich silt with abundant tree trunks and branches and rare gastropod shells; contains numerous ice wedge cast and abundant evidence of permafrost thaw; articulated skeleton of ground squirrel found within unit

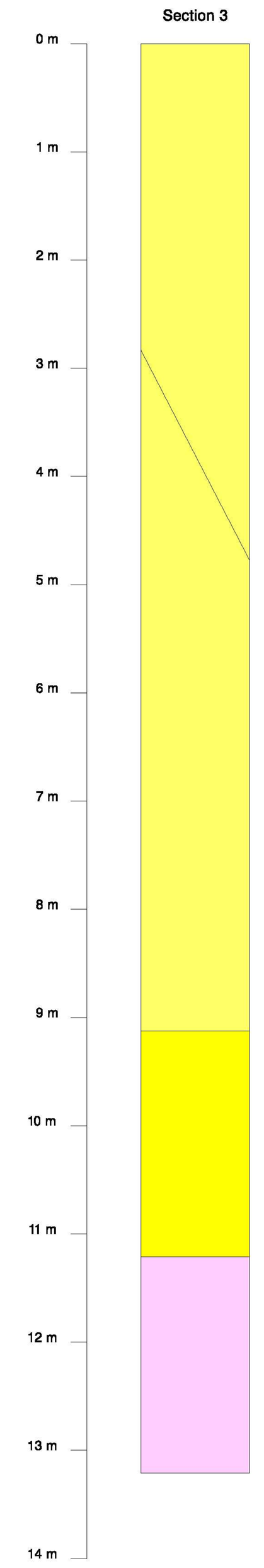
Tephra

Abrupt basal contact

Weathered schist-rich gold placer gravel. Primary sedimentary structures are not recognizable due to extensive weathering of schist clasts; contains placer gold

Schist, largely disaggregated or weathered to clay

Section 3



Surface stripped of overburden by mining operations

Fine sand; thickly bedded; significant organic content, which increases with depth and imparts a brown colour to the sand; contains local lenses of sandy pebble gravel

Gradational contact

Angular gravel, deposited in an alluvial fan which ponded Kirkman Creek resulting in the deposition of the overlying sand; hip bone of mammoth (*Mammuthus* sp.) and mountain sheep (*Ovis* sp.)

Undulatory contact

Disorganized bouldery cobble gravel; auriferous; clast lithologies entirely derived from Kirkman Creek basin; base of unit not observed; contains placer gold

Abrupt contact

Dark schist; extensively weathered to clay

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The physiography of the Thistle Creek map area is characterized by steep-sided valleys incised up to 800 m into a formerly rolling erosional surface of early to middle Tertiary age know as the Yukon Plateaus (Mathews 1986). The area escaped intrusion of Cordilleran ice sheets during the ice ages that began in the late Pliocene and occurred periodically until about 12,000 years ago (Duk Rodkin et al. 2001, Jackson et al., 1991). Consequently, slopes are covered by thick colluvium and bedrock is commonly weathered or oxidized to depths of 5 m or more. Natural bedrock exposures usually are confined to tors along ridges lines or along stream cut banks. Drainage patterns are primarily rectangular and follow structurally-transposed lithologic boundaries and fault, fracture or linear intrusions oriented northwest-southeast, northeast-southwest, and north-south (Ryan and Gordey 2001). In the Mount Stewart area, the underlying pluton is expressed by radial drainage.

Terraces occur 10 to 20 m above the floors of Thistle and Kirkman creeks. These are commonly underlain by weathered gravel overlying bedrock which has been largely weathered to clay. Terrace formation marks a period of stability during overall fluvial incision during the early Pleistocene or late Tertiary. The gravel and upper m of weathered bedrock contain coarse placer gold and have been mined discontinuously for a century. Younger stream sediments, underlying contemporary valley floors, also yield placer gold. The lack of evidence for past glaciation or evidence of major stream diversions in the map area indicate that the bedrock sources for the placer gold lie within drainage basins upstream or upslope from where the placer gold is found. Analysis of placer gold from Thistle and Kirkman creeks and currently mined tributaries suggest that they share the same bedrock source type (Drumula and Mortensen 2002).

Fluvial terraces and most valley margins are overlain by complexes of colluvial and alluvial fans and resedimented eolian silt and organic sediments (commonly called muck). Eolian silt was deposited by winds originating from ice sheets which mantled Yukon from southwest to northeast of the map area many times during the last several million years. Accumulation of these sediments have preserved, plant, insect, mollusk, and vertebrate remains. They also preserve tephra layers originating from volcanoes in the Wrangell Mountains, Alaska Penninsula and Aleutain Islands in neighbouring Alaska. One site, known as Eddas Bench, along Thistle Creek (Section 2), apparently contains a record of plants and animal life spanning perhaps the last three glacial and nonglacial periods (Jackson et al., 2002).

Continuous permafrost occurs along the bases of north facing slopes and the bottoms of most steep sided valleys. Patterned ground, segregated ice bodies and open system pingos are common in these areas, particularly within resedimented loess and organic deposits. Thermokarst collapse is common in areas of floodplains covered by organic sediments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This map could not have been produced without the help and cooperation of the placer miners of Thistle and Kirkman Creeks. Special thanks are directed to Stuart Schmidt in this regard.

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STRATIGRAPHIC LEGEND

Note: Not all stratigraphic units from the legend are present on stratigraphic logs

HOLOCENE (< 0.010 Ma)

- *Modern soil*
- *Stratified sand and gravel; alluvial sediments*

LATE PLEISTOCENE (< 0.125 Ma)

- *Silt (organic rich), peat, and organic detritus, and extensive interstratified and segregated ice; collectively called muck*
- *Massive to stratified diamicton; colluvial sediments (may locally date to Middle Pleistocene)*
- *Massive to stratified silt and fine sand; eolian sediments*
- *Stratified silt and sand; resedimented eolian sediments locally interstratified with alluvial fan sediments*
- *Stratified sand and gravel; alluvial sediments*

MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE (0.780 - 0.125 Ma)

- *Paleosol developed in Reid and younger pre-Reid glaciofluvial sediments*
- *Stratified sand and gravel; glaciofluvial sediments deposited during Reid glaciation*
- *Stratified sand and gravel; glaciofluvial sediments deposited during younger pre-Reid glaciations*
- *Massive to stratified silt and fine sand; primary and resedimented eolian sediments*

LATE PLIOCENE TO EARLY PLEISTOCENE (2.7 - 0.780 Ma)

- *Paleosol developed in late Pliocene to early Pleistocene glaciofluvial and non-glacial sediments*
- *Stratified sand and gravel; glaciofluvial sediments deposited during older pre-Reid glaciations*
- *Stratified to massive diamicton; till deposited during one of several older pre-Reid glaciations*
- *Fine sand, silt and clay; lacustrine or slack water fluvial sediments*
- *Stratified to massive sand and gravel; non-glaciofluvial sediments, may be graded to pre-Reid outwash*

PLIOCENE (pre-glacial, ~2.7 - 5 Ma)

- *Basalt and basalt breccia*
- *Stratified to massive gravel and sand; White Channel Gravel and equivalent clastic units predating regional glaciation, includes Late Tertiary pediment sediments*

PRE-PLIOCENE (> 5 Ma)

- *Mesozoic and Paleozoic bedrock*

SYMBOL

- *Tephra - identification and age, if known, described on stratigraphic log*
- *Ice-wedge pseudomorph or sand wedge*

LEGEND

Note: Map units listed below occur within one metre of the surface. Where organic or eolian sediments < 1 m thick overlie these, a pattern is overlaid upon the map unit. Along some valleys, colluvial or alluvial sediments > 1 m thick overlie older alluvial gravels that could contain placer gold. In order to accentuate these potentially exploitable deposits, a compound map unit is presented, e.g., **Cx/At**^{T}*. This means that colluvial complex sediments overlie alluvial terrace sediments thought to be late Tertiary in age. This legend is part of a larger regional study hence coloured boxes indicate units that appear on this map. In addition, not all symbols in the legend are represented on this map.*

CENOZOIC

QUATERNARY

HOLOCENE

m — ***Made Land:*** *placer mines, roads, and airstrip*

ORGANIC DEPOSITS: *peat and organic silt formed predominantly by the accumulation of vegetative material in bogs, fens, and swamps situated on valley bottoms; permafrost is commonly encountered within 1 m of the surface. Thermokarst collapse is common.*

O — ***Organic Blanket:*** *undivided; thickness > 1 m to 5 m*

Organic Veneer: *blanket bog generally < 1 m thick*

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel to silt size sediments, well stratified, deposited by streams*

Ap — ***Floodplain Sediments:*** *gravel, cobble to pebble; massive to well stratified, capped by sand and silt; flat lying; includes lacustrine and organic deposits in abandoned channels and backswamp areas; subject to periodic inundation and reworking by floods; thickness 1 to 5 m*

Af — ***Alluvial Fan Sediments:*** *gravel, sand, silt, and diamicton, massive to well stratified; sediments form fan-shaped landforms or complexes of coalesced fan-shape landform at the confluence of tributary streams; may be subject to flooding accompanied by sudden stream migration and inundation; thickness up to 10 m*

Ax — ***Alluvial Sediments Complex:*** *sediments forming floodplains, fans, and terraces as above that cannot be subdivided at this map scale*

HOLOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE (UNDIVIDED)

COLLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *stony diamicton resulting from the physical and chemical breakdown of bedrock and subsequent reworking and transportation by creep, solifluction, and landsliding; colluvial deposits may contain reworked glaciofluvial and morainal sediments within the limits of pre-Reid ice-cover and reworked eolian sediments; colluvial deposits are products of formation and reworking over a significant part of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs*

Cb-v — ***Colluvial Blanket and Veneer Sediments:*** *diamicton, stony with a sandy matrix; massive to poorly stratified; colluviated blankets generally conform to underlying bedrock and exceed 1 m in thickness; veneers are < 1 m in thickness and are commonly discontinuous over bedrock*

Ca — ***Colluvial Apron Sediments:*** *bouldery diamicton and bouldery sandy gravel, poorly sorted; massive; sediments form a wedge-like slope-toe complex of small steep debris flow and solifluction deposits; thickness is < 1 m at the upper and lower slope limit to up to 5 m or more in the thickest part of the apron*

Cl — ***Landslide Sediments:*** *silt loam to boulders, poorly sorted to unsorted; massive; clasts are subangular to angular and are locally derived; thickness varies greatly*

Cx — ***Colluvial Complex Sediments:*** *areas of intergrading colluvial and alluvial sediments which are too complex to subdivide at the scale of mapping; unit may include colluvial and alluvial fan, colluvial blanket, landslide sediments and colluviated drift within the limits of glaciation; the unit commonly occurs along the lower slopes of valley margins*

CEa^{P} — ***Colluvial/Eolian Apron (muck):*** *primary deposits of eolian fine sand and silt resedimented and interstratified with organic silt, and detritus, alluvial fan gravel and sand and variable amounts of stony colluvial diamicton; forms aprons along valley bottoms through resedimentation of eolian sediments from valley sides to valley floor, commonly preserved on north-facing slopes; thickness 1 to 20 m; commonly contains segregated bodies of ice and buried ice wedges*

MIDDLE TO LATE PLEISTOCENE (UNDIVIDED)

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel and sand deposited by streams that were not fed by glacial meltwater; sediments may have experienced several cycles of alluviation and erosion, but are now inactive due to burial or fluvial incision; basal gravels within these sediments commonly contain placer gold*

At^{P} — ***Alluvial Terrace Sediments:*** *gravel, cobble to pebble with a sandy matrix; massive to well stratified; capped by sand and silt; sediments are of flood plain origin now isolated from flooding by stream incision; thickness 1 m to 10 m*

Af^{P} — ***Alluvial Fan Sediments:*** *single fans or aprons of coalesced fans formed of gravel and sand, poorly to moderately sorted, now isolated from water and debris floods due to fluvial incision; sediments disturbed by cryoturbation; thickness up to 10 m*

ACx^{P} — ***Alluvial Complex Sediments:*** *silt, sand and gravel, poorly to moderately sorted; thin to thick bedded, interstratified with colluvial diamicton; sediments underlie the floors and margins of narrow upland valleys and grade laterally up slope into colluvial blankets; sediments may represent several depositional cycles; thickness may exceed 10 m in mid-valley locations*

EOLIAN DEPOSITS: *well sorted medium sand to silt initially transported and deposited by wind action during glaciations and commonly resedimented through fluvial and colluvial processes; deposits of very fine sand and coarse silt < 1 m thick are distributed discontinuously throughout low lying areas*

Eb^{P} — ***Eolian Blanket:*** *fine sand and silt, well sorted; massive; may form crescent-shape and linear dunes and featureless or gently undulating inter-dune eolian plains; thickness 1 to 5 m*

Eolian Veneer: *thin deposits of very fine sand and coarse silt distributed discontinuously throughout low lying areas, thickness < 1 m*

LATE PLEISTOCENE - McCONNELL GLACIATION

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel and sand deposited by streams flowing away from glacial ice; deposits display poor soil development with rare cryoturbation*

Gt^{M} — ***Glaciofluvial Terrace Sediments:*** *gravel and sand, unweathered, forming one or more terraces*

MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE - REID GLACIATION

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel and sand deposited by streams flowing away from glacial ice; deposits display moderate soil development with signs of cryoturbation; soil thickness < 0.5 m*

Gt^{R} — ***Glaciofluvial Terrace Sediments:*** *gravel and sand, moderately weathered, forming one or more terraces*

LATE PLIOCENE TO MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE - pre-Reid GLACIATIONS (UNDIVIDED)

GLACIOLACUSTRINE DEPOSITS: *well stratified sand, silt, clay, deposited in lakes ponded by glacial ice*

Lu^{PR} — ***Glaciolacustrine Undivided:*** *sand, silt, and clay; undifferentiated at this scale of mapping*

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *gravel and sand deposited by streams flowing away from glacial ice in meltwater channels and outwash plains; massive to well stratified. Surface soils may extend to 2 m depth with well developed clay skins on clasts, frequent signs of cryoturbation (ice wedge pseudomorph and sand wedges), and strong chemical weathering*

Gt^{PR} — ***Glaciofluvial Terrace Sediments:*** *gravel and sand, deeply weathered; incised into flights of terraces; thickness 1 to > 5 m*

MORAINAL DEPOSITS (TILL): *glacial diamicton, mainly till, generally consisting of a matrix ranging from sand to clay that supports clasts ranging from boulders to pebbles in size; deposited either directly from glacial ice or by gravity flow from glacial ice; surface soils may extend to 2 m depth with well developed clay skins on clasts, frequent signs of cryoturbation (ice wedge pseudomorph and sand wedges), and strong chemical weathering*

Tb^{PR} — ***Till Blanket:*** *diamicton, stony, silty-sand matrix; massive; conforms to underlying topography, thickness > 1 m; extensively colluviated on slopes*

Tv^{PR} — ***Till Veneer:*** *diamicton, stony, silty-sand matrix; massive; discontinuous and may contain extensive areas of thin (< 1 m) colluvium*

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *Gravel and sand deposited by streams that were not fed by glacial meltwater; sediments may have experienced several cycles of alluviation and erosion, but are now inactive due to burial or fluvial incision; basal gravels within these sediments commonly contain placer gold*

At^{PR} — ***Alluvial Terrace Sediments:*** *sandy pebble and cobble gravel deposited by streams having a fluvial source but graded to the margins of pre-Reid glaciers or glacial drainage; thickness 1 to 5 m*

UNDIFFERENTIATED DRIFT: *diamicton, gravel, sand, silt and clay deposited from glacial ice, glacial streams, and glacially damned lakes; extensive weathering, poor exposure and permafrost make differentiation into component glacial sediments difficult; thicknesses commonly exceed 10 m and mask underlying bedrock topography; commonly colluviated and intergraded with colluvium; surface soils may extend to 2 m depth with well developed clay skins on clasts, frequent signs of cryoturbation (ice wedge pseudomorph and sand wedges), and strong chemical weathering*

D^{PR} — ***Drift:*** *flat to gently sloping*

Dl^{PR} — ***Drift Modified by Landsliding:*** *drift translated along failure plains into irregular steps and sub parallel scarps*

De^{PR} — ***Fluvially Incised Drift:*** *formerly extensive areas of drift incised by closely spaced stream valleys*

LATE PLIOCENE

V^{T} — ***Basalt:*** *columnar alkaline olivine basalt and flow breccia; erosional remnants of formerly valley filling flows underlying terraces along lower Rosebud Creek; thickness 10 m*

PLIOCENE AND LATE MIOCENE

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS: *preglacial gravel and sand; highly dissected and deeply weathered*

P^{T} — ***Pediment and Bajada Sediments:*** *inclined fluvial surfaces which are found at a midslope position in unglaciated drainage systems; usually thinner than 5 m; formed as a result of limited agradation of stream gravel and significant colluviation; composed of thin, poorly sorted gravel that contains both locally derived subangular stream gravel deposits and angular bedrock fragments*

At^{T} — ***High Level Terrace Sediments (includes White Channel Gravel and equivalent sediments):*** *weathered pebble to cobble gravel > 1 m thick; surface soils may extend to 2 m depth with well developed clay skins on clasts, frequent signs of cryoturbation (ice wedge pseudomorph and sand wedges), and strong chemical weathering; terraces above the 500 m contour may be remnant features from the southward-flowing paleo-Yukon drainage system*

PRE-LATE TERTIARY

R — ***Bedrock:*** *schist, gneiss, ultramafics, granodiorite, monzonite, marble, and basalt; includes areas of thin colluvial cover, blockfields, and sorted stone polygons in alpine areas*

SYMBOLS

- *Geologic contact; defined, approximate, inferred*
- *Open system pingo, collapsed open system pingo*
- *Thermokarst collapse activity*
- *Landslide movement direction in bedrock and colluvium*
- *Scarps created by widespread landslide movement in drift*
- *Terrace scarp (ticks on sloped side)*
- *Degraded Cirque: active during pre-Reid Glaciations*
- *Degraded Arete: active during pre-Reid Glaciations*
- *Meltwater channel: flow direction, unknown flow direction*
- *Meltwater channel: large*
- *All time (pre-Reid) glacial limit; defined, inferred*
- *Cryoplanation terrace*
- *Tor*
- *Landform Streamlined by glacial ice*
- *Vertebrate fossil locality*
- *Stratigraphic section*
- *Radiocarbon date in years (lab no.)* — GSC No.1234
- *Ar-Ar radiometric age on basalt*
- *Fault trace*
- *Lineaments (fault, fracture, joint system) defined by linear drainage courses, aligned gaps in ridges, or aligned breaks in bedrock slopes*
- *Abandoned valley: paleoflow defined*
- *Abandoned valley: paleoflow undefined*
- *Paleoflow, suspected buried valley*

Geology by L.E. Jackson, Jr. (1999, 2000, 2001) and C.A. Huscroft (1999)

Co-ordinated through the auspices of the Ancient Pacific Margin NATMAP

Digital cartography K. Shimamura, Terrain Sciences Division

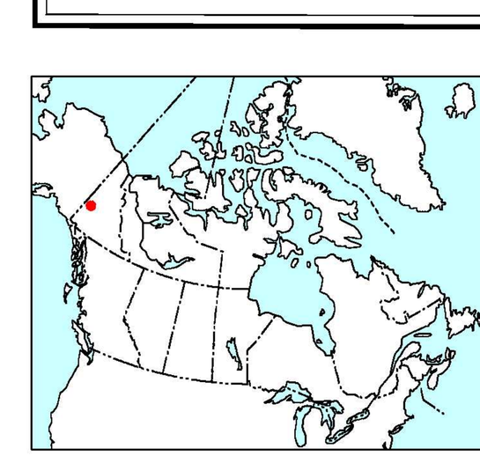
Any revisions or additional geological information known to the user would be welcomed by the Geological Survey of Canada

Digital base map from data compiled by Geomatics Canada, modified by Terrain Sciences Division

Magnetic declination 2002, 26°27' E, decreasing 19.0' annually

Elevations in feet above mean sea level

Contour interval 100 feet



LOCATION MAP

OPEN FILE 4349

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

THISTLE CREEK

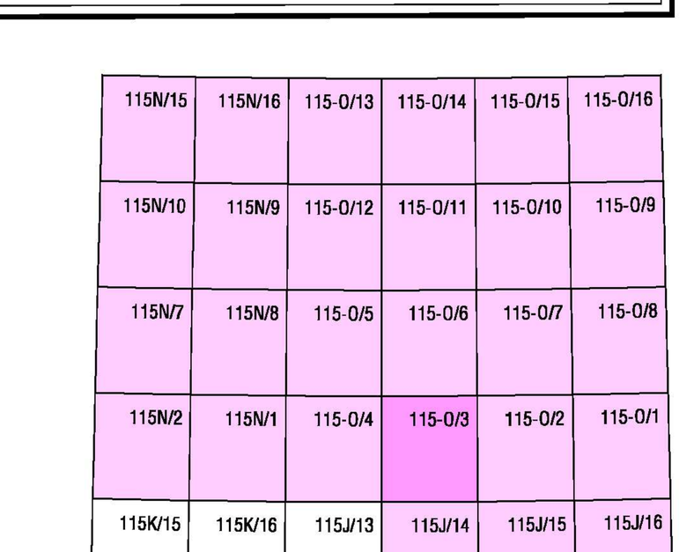
YUKON TERRITORY

Scale 1:50 000/Échelle 1/50 000

kilometres 1 0 1 2 3 4 kilomètres

Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
North American Datum 1983

Projection transverse universelle de Mercator
Système de référence géodésique nord-américain, 1983



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