

**GEOPROCESS FILE - SUMMARY REPORT**  
GLENLYON MAP AREA - NTS 105L

**INTRODUCTION**

The GEOPROCESS File is a compilation of information and knowledge on geological processes and terrain hazards, including mass movement processes, permafrost, flooding risks, faults, seismic activity and recent volcanism, etc. Please refer to the GEOPROCESS File User Guide for more in-depth information on how the maps were developed, which other GEOPROCESS File maps are available, how to utilize this inventory and how to interpret the legend. Special interest should be taken in the detailed description of the terrain hazard map units. Appendices in the User Guide include summary papers on the geological framework, permafrost distribution, and Quaternary geology in Yukon and a list of comprehensive GEOPROCESS File references.

This report includes a brief discussion of the scope and limitations of the GEOPROCESS File compilation maps followed by summaries of the bedrock geology, surficial geology and terrain hazards for this NTS map area, and a list of references.

**Geological Processes and Terrain Hazard Compilation Maps**

The GEOPROCESS File map units were drafted on the 1:250 000 topographic base maps through interpretation from bedrock geology maps, surficial geology maps and in some cases terrain hazard maps at various scales. The compilation maps have a confidence level reflecting the original source material. All materials used to produce the maps are listed in the references on each map. A file containing the documentation used to construct these maps is available at the Indian and Northern Affairs Library in Whitehorse, Yukon. Areas for which no surficial geology or terrain hazard information is published were left blank. Summary reports on surficial geology and terrain hazards for these map sheets were written by extrapolating the data from adjacent map sheets of smaller scale maps, information from small scale (e.g. 1:100 000) maps was used for the summary reports, but not rotated onto the 1:250 000 GEOPROCESS File maps.

The GEOPROCESS File compilation maps are intended as a first cut planning tool; the legend on the maps describes the general aspects of terrain hazards (also see below) and associated geological processes. These maps should never replace individual site investigations for planning of site specific features, such as buildings, roads, pits, etc.

**Bedrock Geology, Surfaces, and Permafrost**

Each 1:250 000 NTS map area is described according to morphogeological belts and terranes defined by Gibbels et al. (1991) and Wheeler et al. (1991). Bedrock geology (including sedimentary and igneous) is described and taken largely from the referenced, most recent 1:250 000 geological map with additional contributions from Wheeler and McFarley (1991), and Yukon MNFILE (1993). A summary paper 'A Geological Framework for Yukon' in Appendix A of the User Guide provides a framework and context for each of the bedrock summaries.

The level of knowledge and understanding of Yukon geology is constantly evolving with more detailed mapping and development of geological models. Names, ages and terrane affinities of rock units on the most recent 1:250 000 geological maps may, in some cases, now be considered incorrect. This information contained within some of the bedrock geology summaries may be out of date. Although much of the information reflects the knowledge at the time the source map was published, additional information has been presented whenever possible to assist the user in merging the information with current geological maps, concepts and understanding. The age ranges for similar packages of rocks may also vary between map areas since the actual rocks, or at least the constraints on their age, may vary between map areas.

**BEDROCK GEOLOGY**

The Glenlyon map area is in the Cordillera Belt except for the extreme southwesterly corner which is in the Intermontane Belt. These two belts are separated by the northerly extension of the Selwyn Fault identified by Thompson et al. (1994) in the Laberge map area. The largest geological features in the map area is the Tintina Trench and Tintina Fault which cut across the northwestern part of the map area and provide the basin for much of the Pelly River.

Rocks northeast of the Tintina Fault are mostly part of the Selwyn Basin and are composed of 400-320 million year old chert, argillite, quartzite, limestone and chert conglomerate including the Crystal Peak Formation chert conglomerate, Kalzak Formation limestone and Eam Group chert, argillite, quartzite and minor limestone. The sedimentary package is structurally overlain by 570-440 million year old basaltic and andesitic flows, breccia, diorite, gabbro, gneiss and phyllite.

Southeast of the Tintina Fault are three major north-south trending belts containing distinct rock packages. Adjacent to the Tintina Fault is a thick sequence of Cordilleran Tertiary quartzite, quartzite schist, amphibolite, marble, limestone, phyllite and slate that range in age from pre-400 to 360 million years old and may include the Harvey and Aslin Groups. This package has been intruded by several large 100 million year old granitic batholiths.

The second belt, further to the southwest, and separated from the previous belt of rocks by the D'Abadie Fault, consists of 400-320 million year old mafic and ultramafic quartzite and sedimentary rocks and volcanic units of the Neulak Mountain (Sibley Mountain Terrane). These rocks include locally granular quartzite schist, amphibolite, quartzite, marble, argillite, phyllite, limestone, gneiss, schist, diorite and sericitized (Yukon-Tanana Terrane) intruded by 185 million year old Klondike Suite granitoid batholiths.

The third belt is the most southwesterly package. It is separated from Sibley Mountain Terrane rocks by the Selwyn Fault and is composed of 220 million year old andesitic and basaltic flows, breccia, tuff and minor rhyolite of Quornville; 210 million year old Lewis River Group limestone, basalt, andesite, conglomerate and greywacke, and 200-160 million year old Laberge Group arkose, conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone and argillite. Laberge and Lewis River Group sedimentary rocks collectively comprise the Whitehorse Trough of Sibley.

Some small exposures of the South Fork (90 million years old) and Camacks Group (70 million year old) volcanic rocks occur in the map area.

**SURFICIAL GEOLOGY**

Surficial geology information available for this map sheet consists of four maps at 1:100 000 scale (Ward and Jackson 1993a, b, c, and d). Most of the map area has been glaciated by the Cordilleran ice sheet during the McConnell Glaciation (25 000 to 10 000 years ago). Earlier glaciations also reached this area. Moraines associated with Reid and pre-Reid ice have been mapped at high elevations on isolated summits and at the very edge of the northwest corner of the map, beyond the extent of the McConnell glacial limits.

During the McConnell Glaciation, the southeast corner of the Glenlyon map sheet was covered by the Cordilleran ice sheet in a general northwesterly direction. Reid moraines are exposed at elevations ranging from 3500 to 4000 m. Nivalites, or rock summits unaffected by the Cordilleran ice sheet are situated at elevations around 4900 m.

The northern and eastern portions of the map sheet were covered by the Selwyn Ice Lobe which also flowed in a general northwesterly direction from the Selwyn Mountains. The higher summits of the Glenlyon and Little Salmon Ranges were unglaciated and are now partially covered by colluvial or steep bedrock slopes.

In the northwest corner of the map, close to the ice limit, glacially streamlined landforms spread out radially, indicating ice flow directions ranging from south to southwest to northwesterly. Terminal moraines associated with the Selwyn Lobe have been mapped in the northwesterly corner of the map, and directly west of the map area. Lateral moraines are mapped at elevations just below 4000 m in the MacMillan Range and at elevations of 5000 m in the southern map area. Isolated patches of Reid till are exposed above these younger moraines throughout the map area. Till, or more correctly, glacial till, is an unsorted mixture of coarse material ranging in size from pebbles to boulders, with a matrix of clay, silt and sand. The general composition of the till matrix in this area indicates a wide range of sand (20 to 70%) and silt content (20 to 40%), and lower clay content (5 to 20%). This low clay content is reflected by the low plasticity of the matrix and good permeability rates. Alluvial deposits can usually provide a stable site, if there is no permafrost present.

Glaciofluvial deposits are abundant throughout the map area and occupy most of the main valley floors. Benches of gravely sand to gravel occur in most valleys. The glaciofluvial sediments are dominantly composed of all and very fine sand and clay. The sediments were deposited in valleys blocked by ice. They commonly contain minor ice bodies and clumps of ice. The steep portions of alluvial fans are usually stable surfaces, however they may contain undesirable lithologies (weak) for their potential use as aggregates.

Slightly large glaciofluvial deposits are present in the MacMillan River valley (commonly between 1700 and 1900 m), south and northwest of Druy Lake in the Tatu and Ess Lakes area, and along the Pelly River valley south of Glenlyon River. The glaciofluvial sediments are dominantly composed of all and very fine sand and clay. The sediments were deposited in valleys blocked by ice. They commonly contain minor ice bodies and clumps of ice. The steep portions of alluvial fans are usually stable surfaces, however they may contain undesirable lithologies (weak) for their potential use as aggregates.

Modern stream deposits are often covered by thick organic blankets and in those cases permafrost is often present. The lowermost terraces of the streams are subjected to frequent erosion or deposition due to stream erosion or seasonal flooding.

**TERRAIN HAZARDS**

**Seismicity**

There are 16 recorded seismic events within the map area. All of the recorded events are 4.0 to 4.99 in magnitude.

**Mass Movement Processes**

At high elevations avalanches and rock slides are a serious risk on steep rock faces. Most of these areas are located in the MacMillan, Little Salmon and Glenlyon ranges. Colluvial fans should be considered unstable surfaces, with softening lobes and mud flows active on most colluviated slopes.

**Permafrost**

The map area lies within the discontinuous permafrost zone (Brown, 1967). Ice content is expected to be low to low in glaciofluvial and fluvial coverglaciated deposits in northwesterly and easterly directions, and in poorly drained sites, softening lobes and stripes, and sorted stone polygons. Rock glaciers are very common in the Glenlyon Ranges and are associated with conditions favorable to permafrost.

High ice content is possible in fine-grained fluvial terraces located above stream level, and in silt to clayey glaciofluvial sediments. Ice lenses or veins are also common at the base of colluvial (steep) slopes covered by thick moraine. Thermokarst processes may be triggered by surface disturbances such as forest fires, road construction or logging.

**Flooding and Other Risks**

Floods related to ice-jams, snow melt and summer rainfalls are possible hazards in lower reaches of most streams. The steep portions of alluvial fans are exposed to the additional possibility of mud and debris flows associated with a rapid increase in discharge, in addition to the inherent risk of flooding.

**References: Glenlyon Map Area - NTS 105L**

To be thorough, check the references for adjacent NTS map sheets and the General Reference List (see User Guide).

Most of the following references should be available for viewing in the DIAND library on the third floor of the Elijah Smith building in Whitehorse.

Brown, R.J.E., 1967. Permafrost in Canada. Geological Survey of Canada, Map 1246A, (scale 1:7 603 200).

Campbell, R.B., 1951. Continental glaciation in the Glenlyon area. Pelly River district, Yukon, Canada. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California.

Campbell, R.B., 1959. The texture, origin, and emplacement of the granitic rocks of the Glenlyon Range, Yukon Territory, Canada. Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, California Institute of Technology, California.

Campbell, R.B., 1967. Geology, Glenlyon map-area, Yukon Territory. Geological Survey of Canada, Map 1221A, scale 1:253 440.

"Canadian Earthquake Epicentre File: Maintained by the Geological Survey of Canada, Geophysics Division.

Duk-Rodkin, A., Jackson, L.E., and Rodkin, O., 1986. A composite profile of the Cordilleran ice sheet during McConnell glaciation, Glenlyon and Tatu River map areas, Yukon Territory. In: Current Research, Part B, Geological Survey of Canada, Vol. 86-B, p. 257-262.

Gabrielik, H. and Yorath, C.J. (eds), 1991. Geology of the Cordilleran Region in Canada. Geological Survey of Canada, No. 4, 844 p. (Contains summary of Yukon geology).

Geological Survey of Canada, 1990. Regional stream sediment and water geochemical reconnaissance data 105L. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 1991.

Philo, M.J., 1968. Bimodal volcanism along the Tintina Trench, near Faro and Ross River. In: Yukon Geology, Vol. 2, Exploration and Geological Services Division, Indian and Northern Affairs, Whitehorse, p. 69-80.

Rosard, H.P.W., Kozak, L.M., and Anton, D.F., 1977. Soil survey and land evaluation of the Yukon Territory. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Northern Environmental and Renewable Resources Branch, Land Management Division, Whitehorse, Yukon.

Sublett texture, Camacks area, Sheet 4, Yukon Territory. Soil and Soil Substability Information Series, Agriculture Canada, Yukon, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, (scale 1:125 000), (NTS 1154, 1154, 105E, 105L).

Surface texture, Camacks area, Sheet 4, Yukon Territory. Soil and Soil Substability Information Series, Agriculture Canada, Yukon, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, (scale 1:125 000), (NTS 1154, 1154, 105E, 105L).

Topography and genetic material, Camacks area, Sheet 4, Yukon Territory. Soil and Soil Substability Information Series, Agriculture Canada, Yukon, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, (scale 1:125 000), (NTS 1154, 1154, 105E, 105L).

Ward, B., 1989. Quaternary stratigraphy along Pelly River in Glenlyon and Camacks map areas, Yukon Territory. In: Current Research, Part 69-B, Cordillera and Pacific margin, Geological Survey of Canada, p. 257-264.

Ward, B. and Jackson, L.E., Jr., 1992. Late Wisconsinan glaciation of the Glenlyon Range, Pelly Mountains, Yukon Territory, Canada. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, Vol. 29, No. 9, p. 2007-2012.

Ward, B.C. and Jackson, L.E., Jr., 1993a. Surficial geology, Ahn Creek, Yukon Territory. Geological Survey of Canada, Map 1787A, scale 1:100 000.

Ward, B.C. and Jackson, L.E., Jr., 1993b. Surficial geology, Needlenook Creek, Glenlyon Range, Yukon Territory, Canada. Map 1786A, scale 1:100 000.

Ward, B.C. and Jackson, L.E., Jr., 1993c. Surficial geology, Telegraph Mountain, Yukon Territory. Geological Survey of Canada, Map 1788A, scale 1:100 000.

Wheeler, J.O., Brovski, A.J., Gabrielik, H., Monger, J.W.H., Tipter, H.W. and Woodsworth, G.J., 1991. Terrane map of the Canadian Cordillera. Geological Survey of Canada, Map 1712A.

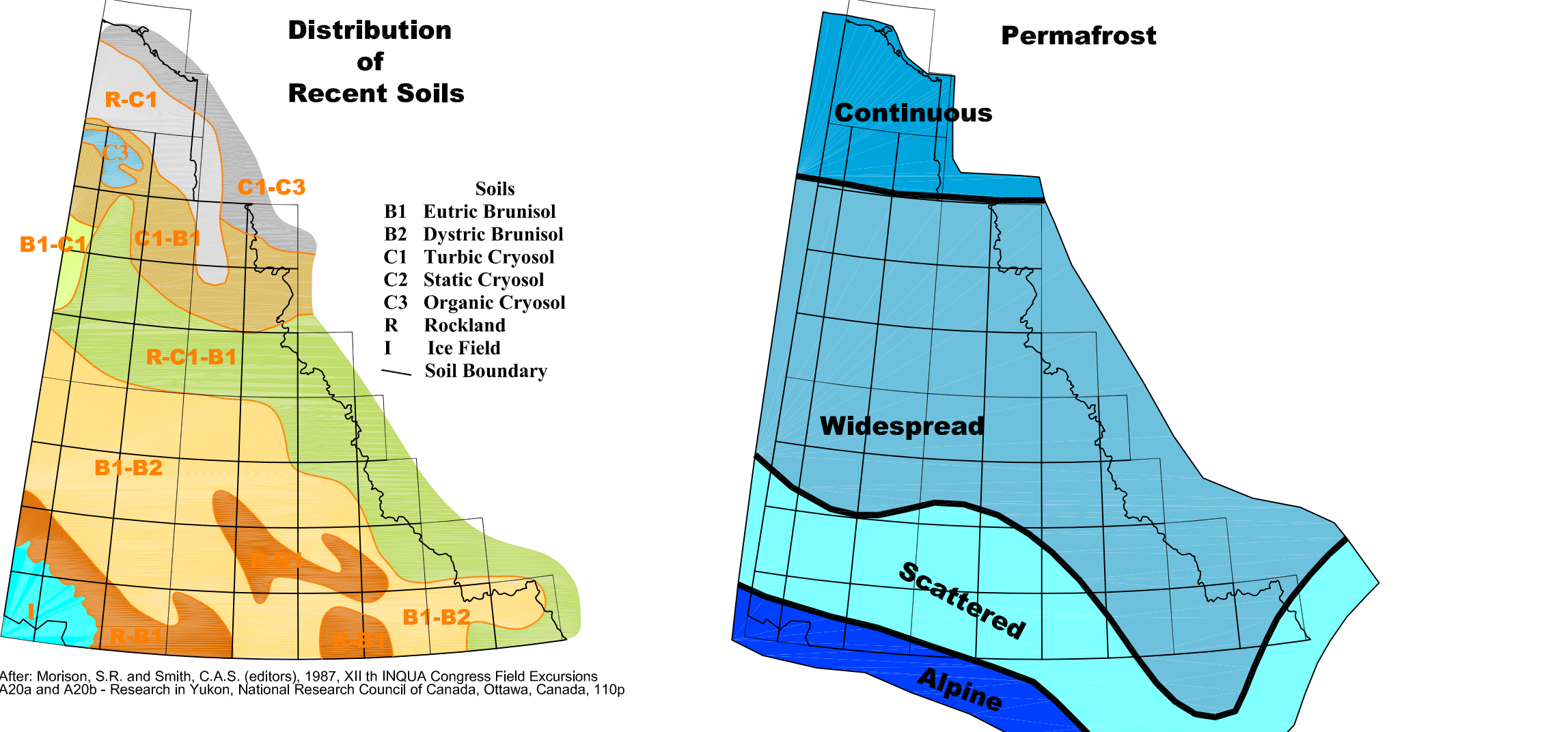
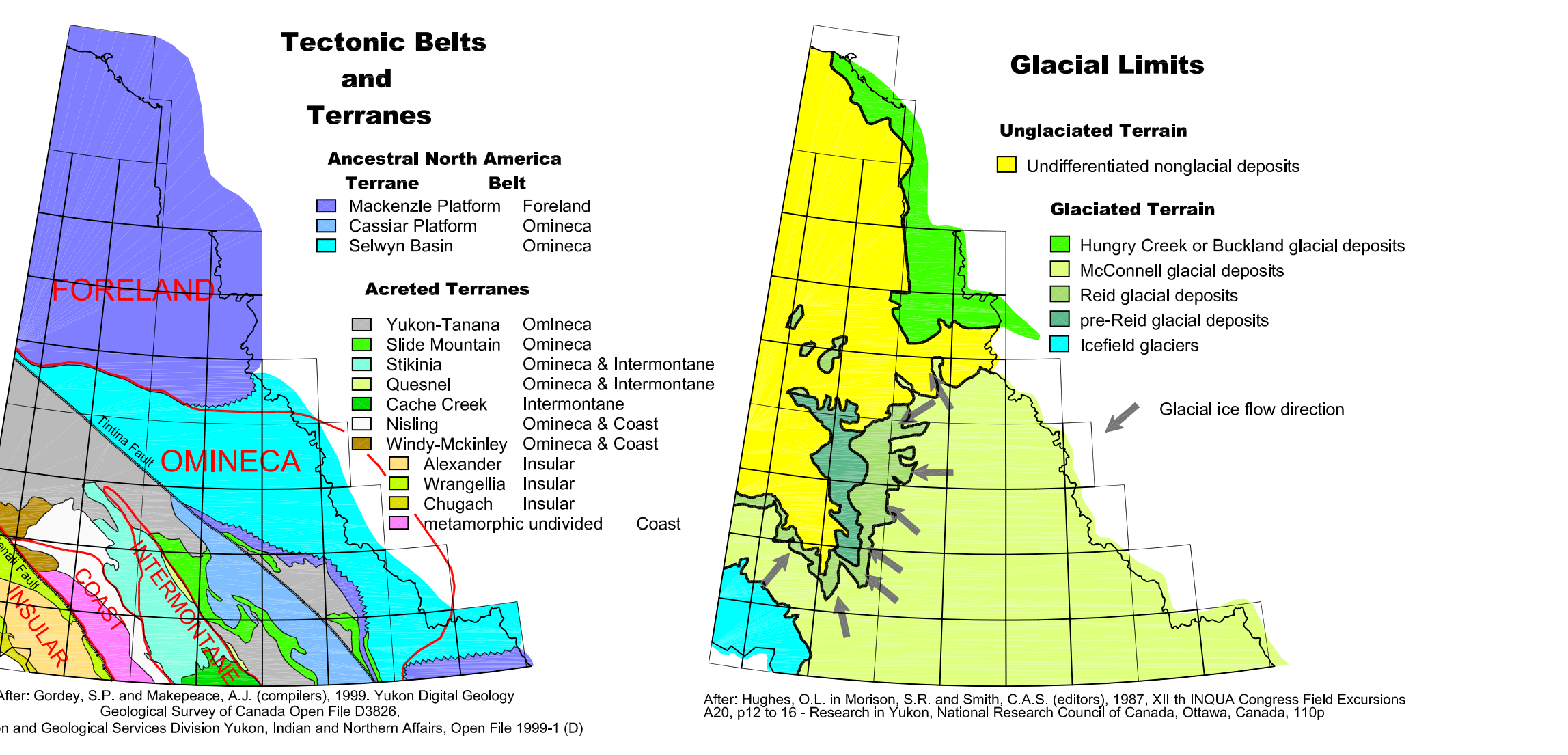
Yukon MNFILE 1994, 105L - Glenlyon. Exploration and Geological Services Division, Yukon Region, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

\* References used in compiling this map

**LEGEND**

LEGEND TERRAIN HAZARDS	DESCRIPTION	ASSOCIATED RISK LEVELS, COMMENTS	LEGEND GEOLOGICAL PROCESSES	DESCRIPTION	INFERRED HAZARDS
<b>MASS MOVEMENT PROCESSES</b>	<b>A</b> Snow-anchored	high	<b>cl</b>	Talus fan or apron, moderate to steep slopes, coarse angular bedrock fragments, sources are often areas of rapidly disintegrating bedrock.	Rock fall and debris flows common on active fans, steep slopes generally unstable to traffic.
<b>B</b> Extremely slow to moderate rates of failure in soil and bedrock, including soil creep, rock creep, earthflow, soil of rock slumps, debris or rock slides	low to intermediate	<b>cl</b>	<b>cl</b>	Landslide, moderate slope, varies from large blocks of bedrock to finer material.	Landslides generally are recurrent in susceptible areas and may become active if disturbed.
<b>C</b> Moderate to extremely rapid rates of failure in soil and bedrock (1.5 m to >3 m), including rock slump, debris slide, rock slide, debris flow, debris torrent, debris avalanche, rockfall, rock avalanche, Arctic, Alpine and Periglacial Processes	high	<b>cl</b>	<b>cl</b>	Colluvium covered slope, gentle to moderate slope, underlain by unsorted rubble, colluvium and other periglacial features common.	Areas of fine textured materials and gentle slopes at high elevations, where there is ground ice will be susceptible to high soilification rates and thermokarst if disturbed.
<b>X</b> Permafrost present	low	<b>fa</b>	<b>fa</b>	Alluvial fan, active.	Subject to shifts in channel and low positions, occasionally subject to flooding.
<b>K</b> Thermokarst present	low	<b>fl</b>	<b>fl</b>	Floodplain.	Subject to shift in channel and low positions, occasionally subject to flooding.
<b>S</b> Softfucted	low to intermediate	<b>ice</b>	<b>ice</b>	Glacier ice.	Creevasses.
<b>Z</b> Grouped, cryoturbated, softfucted, riveted.	low to intermediate	<b>lm</b>	<b>lm</b>	Mountain ice caps.	Avalanches, ice and rock falls, and crevasses.
<b>B</b> Braided, unstable channels, risk of flooding.	intermediate to high	<b>lm</b>	<b>lm</b>	Mountain ice caps.	Avalanches, ice and rock falls.
<b>E</b> Fluvial erosion, deposition and low risk of flooding.	low to intermediate	<b>l</b>	<b>l</b>	Cliff glacier.	Silt and clay, usually susceptible to frost heaving and, if permafrost present, to thermokarsting when disturbed.
<b>L</b> Anastomosing	intermediate to high	<b>ml</b>	<b>ml</b>	Lacustrine or glacio-lacustrine sediments.	Ice at depth make surface susceptible to thermokarst, unstable slopes.
<b>U</b> Flooded regularly.	intermediate to high	<b>o</b>	<b>o</b>	Organic.	Thick organic matter is often underlain by permafrost. Disturbance of permafrost may cause poor drainage and thermokarsting.
<b>Y</b> Karst.	intermediate				
<b>P</b> Piping.	intermediate to high				
<b>G</b> Gullied.	low to intermediate				
<b>On Site Symbols</b>					
Unit boundary (defined, approximate).	high				
Erosional escarpment.	high				
Landslide escarpment.	high				
Landslide (includes source and runout areas).	high				
Pings.	high				
Spring or saline seep.	low				
Observation of frozen soil or ground ice.	low				
Rapid mass movements (debris torrent) with known point source. Limits of runout not implied by symbol.	high				
Slow mass movement (earth flow) with landslide, escarpment source. Limits of landslide runout not implied by symbol.	intermediate to high				
<b>LEGEND SEISMIC EVENTS</b>					
<b>SYMBOL</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE REPRESENTED</b>	<b>SYMBOL</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE REPRESENTED</b>		
□	<2.0	□	4.0 to 4.99		
□	2.0 to 2.99	□	5.0 to 5.99		
□	3.0 to 3.99	□	>6.0		
<b>LEGEND VOLCANISM</b>					
<b>SYMBOL</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE REPRESENTED</b>	<b>SYMBOL</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE REPRESENTED</b>		
□	<2.0	□	4.0 to 4.99		
□	2.0 to 2.99	□	5.0 to 5.99		
□	3.0 to 3.99	□	>6.0		
<b>OTHER FEATURES</b>					
Streams		Lakes			
Roads		Marsh			

NOTE: Where areas have more than one identified process or hazard, the colour of the encompassing polygon is assigned based on a hierarchical scheme relating to the severity of the hazard. The relative order of severity is: Terrain Hazards ( Mass Movement Processes then Fluvial Processes then Arctic, Alpine and Periglacial Processes) followed by Geological Processes.



Exploration and Geological Services Division  
Yukon Region  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

**Yukon GEOPROCESS File**  
**Geological Processes and Terrain Hazards of Glenlyon 105L**

by  
Mougeot, C.M. and Walton, L.A.

Copies of this map may be obtained from Geoscience and Information Sales, Whitehorse Mining Recorder, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Room 102, 300 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2B5 (867) 667-2366, FAX: (867) 667-2420

Recommended citation: Mougeot, C.M. and Walton, L.A., 1996. Yukon GEOPROCESS File (2002), Geological Processes and Terrain Hazards of Glenlyon, 105L. Exploration and Geological Services Division, Yukon Region, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1:250 000 scale.

NOTE: A new digital compilation of Yukon Geology is now available by Steve Gorday and Andrew Makepeace (GSC Open File D3026 and/or DIAND Open File 1999-10D), and more recent MNFILE updates should also be verified (Yukon MNFILE, 2001).