



**MARGINAL NOTES**

**PHYSIOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE**  
115J/03 map area lies within the Nisling Range and is characterized by a rolling, largely unglaciated dissected plateau surface (Fig. 1 and 2). The Nisling River cuts across the northeast corner and is fed by east-flowing unnamed tributaries within the map area. The headwaters of Graying Creek are located in the south and a glacially diverted reach of the creek flows across the northeast corner of the map area in Mount Forest (1560 m elevation) and the majority of summits reach 1200 m elevation. The lowest elevation in the map area is the Nisling River at 600 m. Upper Graying Creek valley has a mature landscape appearance with broad gentle slopes, which are somewhat unique in the Nisling Range (Fig. 2). This type of physiography suggests a stable weathering environment with little to recent tectonic disruption.

**SURFICIAL GEOLOGY**  
115J/03 map area is predominantly unglaciated with the exception of glacially related terrain along the eastern and southern margins. The unglaciated surficial deposits consist of weathered bedrock colluvium, fluvial deposits, aeolian deposits and organic material. At the highest elevations, on summits and ridge tops, the surficial deposits consist of locally weathered bedrock that has undergone minimal glacial transport. Slope deposits consist of colluviated weathered bedrock veneers and blankets that have textural properties reflecting the local bedrock lithologies. Aeolian additions into the soil profiles may be significant, especially near the Nisling River (Fig. 1).  
The map area lies in the northern limit of glaciation by the Cordilleran Ice Sheet. Three glacial limits have been mapped and are correlated with the Reid (120 ka), Gladstone (60 ka) and McConnell (15 ka) glaciations. The ice extent was greater during the Reid and McConnell glaciations in the Nisling River valley, approximately 10 km separates the Reid and McConnell glacial limits, whereas near the southern edge of the map area the difference is only 0.5 - 1 km. The main conduit for ice along the eastern margin of the map area were Cronin Creek and Nisling River valleys. This ice front would have blocked eastward drainage from the interior of the map area and caused northward drainage diversions and possibly deposition of glacioclastic sediments. Subdued and moraine deposits are preserved from the Reid glaciation in this area and broad outwash plains are present in the Nisling River valley (Fig. 4). Along the southern margin of the map area the ice advanced to edge of the Graying Creek drainage. The headwaters of three tributaries to Graying Creek were overtopped by the ice allowing meltwater to flow into the drainage. In the southwest the ice was sufficiently thick during the Reid glaciation to reach Graying Creek and deposit an end moraine. The pulses of meltwater draining into the Graying Creek valley caused erosion within the tributaries and establishment of a lower base level. Remnant high-level fluvial terraces are present on the south side of the valley that pre-date the Reid glaciation and may date to the Tertiary.

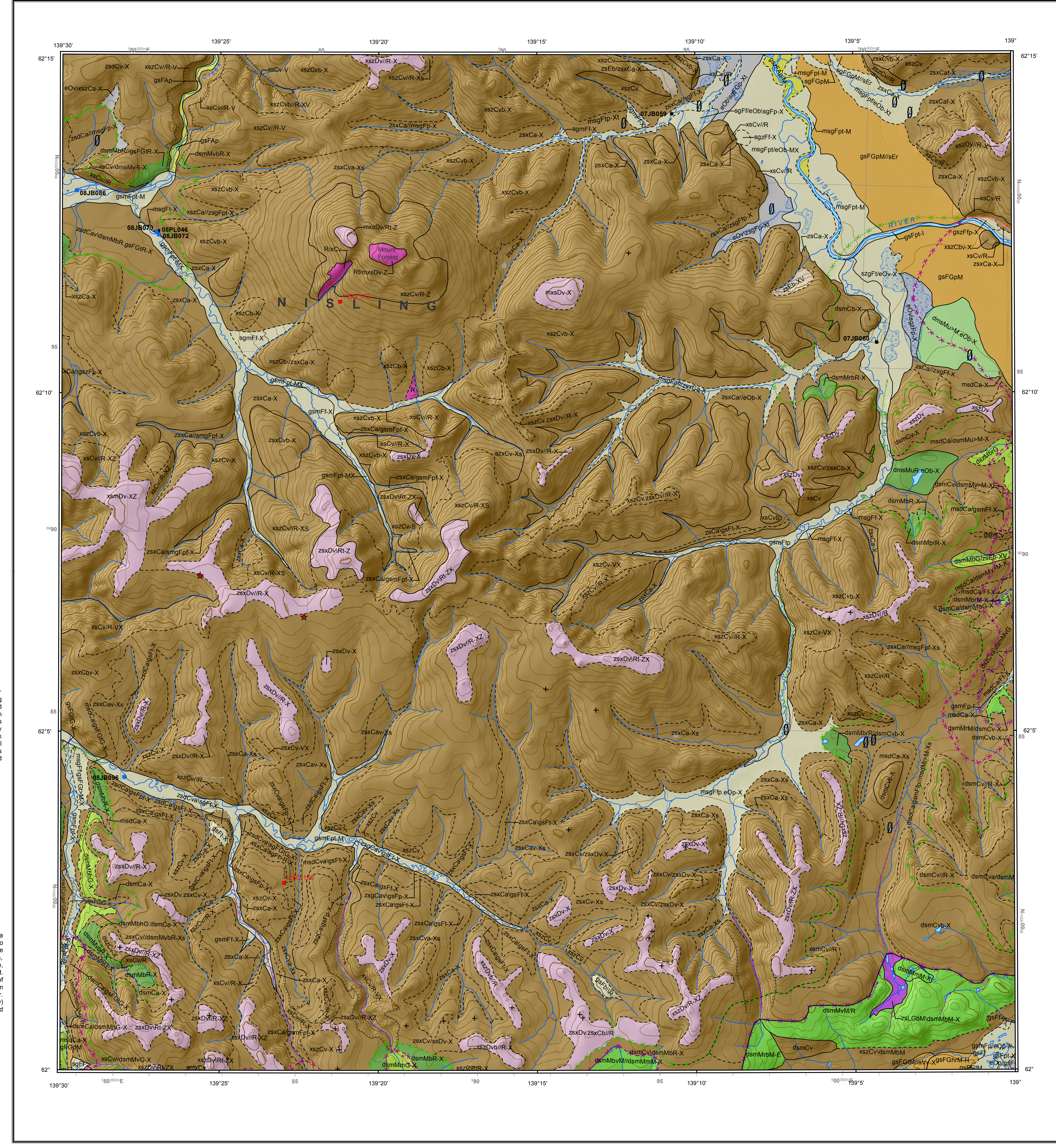
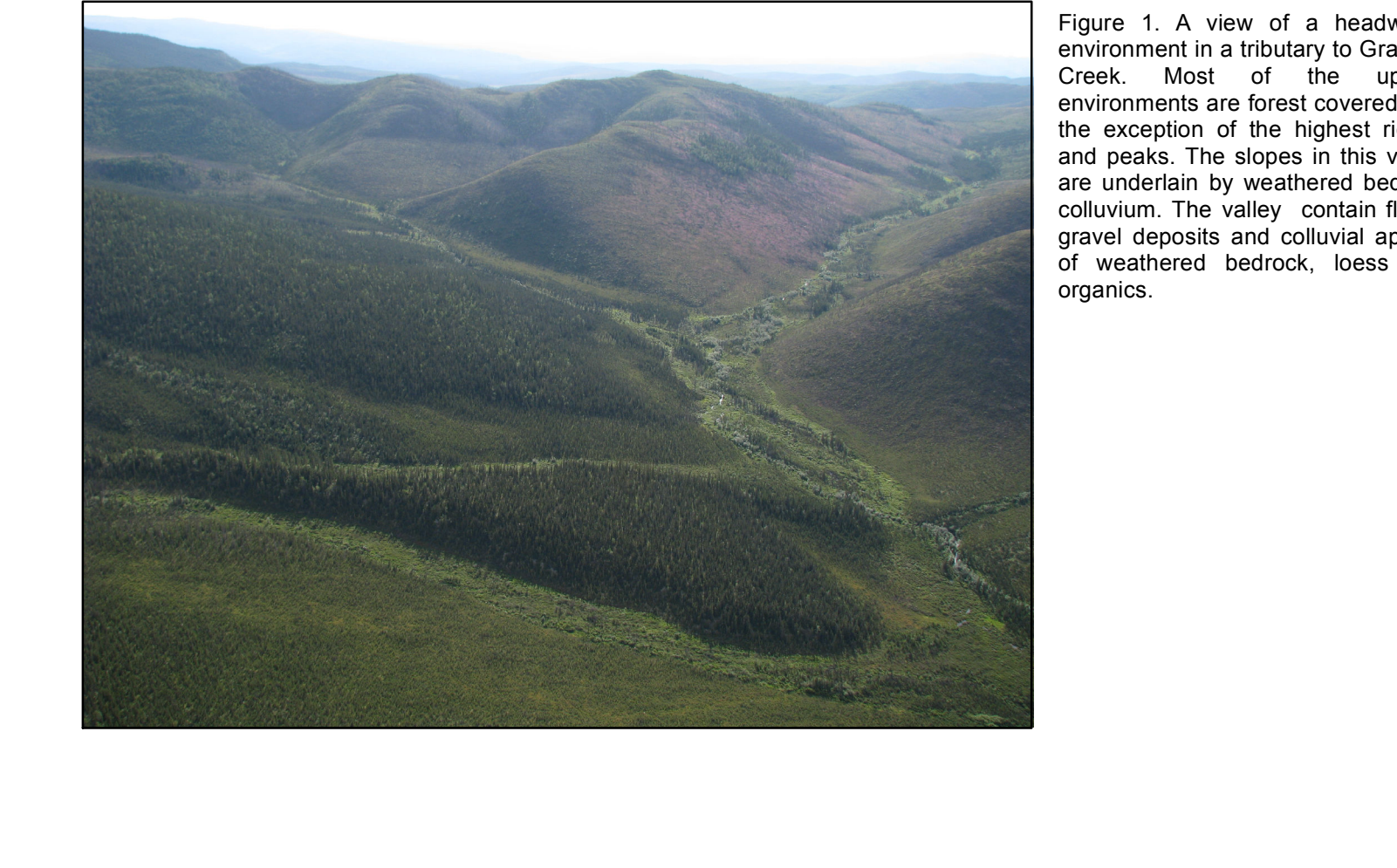
**PERMAFROST**  
Evidence of permafrost was found at all elevations in the map area. Thermokarst lakes are particularly common, likely due to the abundance of loess that has accumulated in the valleys. Inactive areas of the Nisling River floodplain are also underlain by permafrost. This is particularly obvious by the lack of tree growth on large areas of the floodplain. Periglacial features such as solifluction and inversion terraces are common near the higher uplands in the Nisling Range.

**PLACER POTENTIAL**  
The placer potential of Graying Creek is described in Bond et al. (2008) and is expanded upon by this surficial geology map and Brochure 2015-1. Placer Graying Creek fluvial gravel benches have been mapped in the headwaters of the drainage. Colluvial aprons overlie the bench gravel and permafrost is pervasive, therefore testing should focus near the bench edges where overburden is thin. The presence of placer gold has not been confirmed in the pre-glacial benches however, surface sampling at multiple locations on the Graying Creek floodplain consistently produced gold grains. Impure placer gold is common in the upper reaches of the drainage. Placer gold is present, but may be preferentially enriched in channels.  
1) Pre-glacial (Tertiary) bench deposits in the upper reaches of the drainage. Placer gold, if present, will be concentrated near the bedrock surface and may be preferentially enriched in channels.  
2) Modern stream fluvial deposits created after the Reid glaciation-related base level adjustments. Placer gold will be disseminated throughout the fluvial gravel but may have greater concentration on the bedrock surface. This will be immature placers so chromatinized placer distribution is less of a concern, and  
3) Gulch deposits. In tributaries to Graying Creek, created within or near the glacial diversion sections of the drainage. Placer gold, if present, will be concentrated on the bedrock surface.

**HEAVY MINERAL SAMPLING**

Site Number	Location (UTM Zone 7)	Type	Results
07JB056	594641 E / 68901731 N	bulk Heavy Min	1 gold grain
07JB060	600420 E / 6895623 N	bulk Heavy Min	3 gold grains, 1 ruby corundum
08JB072	580675 E / 6899056 N	sluice (7.5 gallons)	No gold grains
08JB073	580612 E / 6898138 N	pan (x1)	No gold observed
08JB096	578397 E / 6899211 N	sluice (7.5 gallons)	6 gold grains (5 reshaped, 1 pristine)
08JB096	580116 E / 6883164 N	sluice (7.5 gallons)	7 gold grains (7 reshaped)

**DATA SOURCES**  
This surficial geology map was interpreted from high resolution digital stereo imagery (1:40000 scale scanned aerial photographs from 1989). Selective field checking was performed in July 2007 and July 2008.  
\*National Air Photo Library photographs A27479-49-58, 81-90, 119-129, 178-186.



**TERRAIN CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**  
This surficial geology map was classified using the Terrain Classification System for British Columbia (Howes and Kern, 1997), with minor modification to meet standards set by the Yukon Geological Survey. For example, we have added some permafrost process subclasses to accommodate the wider variety of permafrost features found in Yukon. We have also added an age classification to distinguish materials deposited during different Pleistocene glaciations.  
A sample map unit label is shown below to illustrate the terrain classification system. Surficial materials from the core of the polygon map unit labels and are symbolized with a single upper case letter. Lower case letters are written to the left of the surficial material, and lower case surface expressions are written to the right. An upper case activity qualifier (A = active; I = inactive) may be shown immediately following the surficial material designator. The glacial qualifier "G" may alternatively be written immediately following the surficial material to indicate glacially modified materials. Age is indicated by a capital letter that follows the surface expression but precedes the process modifiers. Geomorphological processes (capital letters) and subclasses (lower case letters) always follow a dash symbol (" - ").

**TEXTURE**  
Texture refers to the size, shape and sorting of particles in glacial sediments, and the proportion and degree of decomposition of plant material in organic sediments. Texture is indicated by up to three lower case letters, placed immediately before the surficial material designator, listed in order of decreasing abundance.  
a - blocks: angular particles >256 mm in size  
b - boulders: rounded particles >256 mm in size  
k - cobbles: rounded particles >64 - 256 mm in size  
p - pebbles: rounded particles >2 - 64 mm in size  
s - sand: particles between >0.0625 - 2 mm in size  
z - silt: particles > 0 - 0.0625 mm in size  
c - clay: particles < 0.0625 mm in size  
Common clastic textural groupings  
d - mixed fragments: a mixture of rounded and angular particles >2 mm in size  
x - angular fragments >2 mm in size (i.e. a mixture of blocks and rubble)  
g - gravel: a mixture of two or more size ranges of rounded particles >2 mm in size (e.g. a mixture of boulders, cobbles and pebbles); may include interstitial sand  
r - rubble: angular particles between 2 and 256 mm; may include interstitial sand  
m - mud: a mixture of silt and clay; may also contain a minor fraction of fine sand  
y - silt/clay: a sediment consisting predominantly of silt and/or fine sand  
Organic textures  
o - organic: general organic materials  
e - fibric: best decomposed of all organic materials; it contains amounts of well-preserved fibre (40% or more) that can be identified as to botanical origin upon rubbing  
u - mesic: organic material at a stage of decomposition intermediate between fibric and humic  
h - humic: organic material at an advanced stage of decomposition; it has the lowest amount of fibre, the highest bulk density, and the lowest saturated water-holding capacity of the organic materials; fibres that remain after rubbing constitute less than 10% of the volume of the material

**COMPOSITE SYMBOL DELIMITERS:**  
Due to scale limitations, up to 4 terrain units may be included in a single map unit label (e.g. sgFGpIM-Xs). Each component is separated by a delimiter that indicates relative proportions between the components (" ", ":", "\*/", or a stratigraphic relationship "v").  
"-": terrain units on either side of the symbol are of approximately equal proportion  
"/": terrain unit(s) before the symbol is more extensive than the one(s) following  
"v": terrain unit(s) before the symbol is considerably more extensive than the one(s) following  
"-": terrain unit(s) before the symbol is the "1" symbol stratigraphically overrides the one(s) following

**SURFICIAL MATERIALS**  
Surficial materials are non-lithified, unconsolidated sediments. They are produced by weathering, sediment deposition, biological accumulation, human and volcanic activity. In surficial materials are of relatively young geological age and they constitute the parent material of most (pedological) soils. Note that a single polygon will be coloured only by the dominant surficial material, but other materials may exist within it.

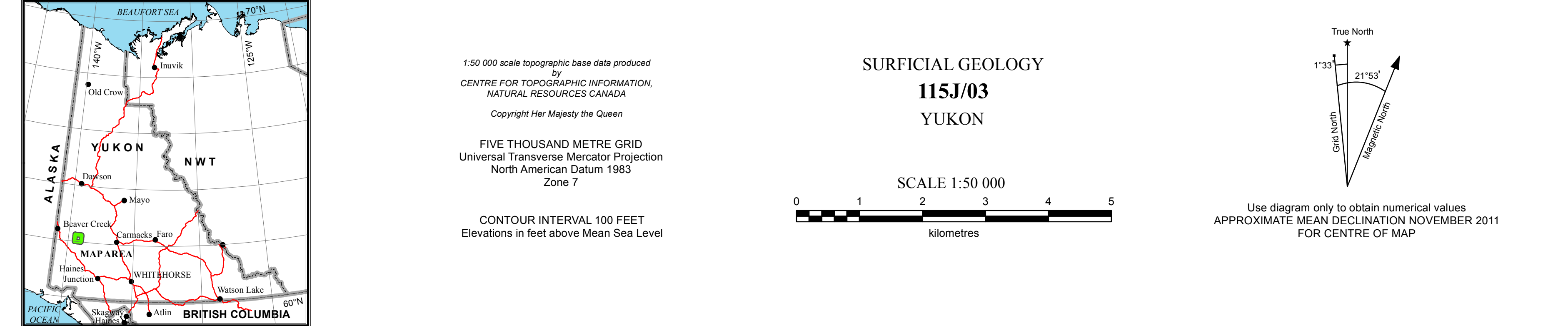
- HOLOCENE**  
Organic: Organic deposits are accumulations of vegetative matter thicker than 1 m. They are commonly found in floodplains, areas of near-surface permafrost such as north-facing slopes, and locations where there is poor drainage. Thin veneers of organic material are widespread and generally unmaped. Organic material in the map area commonly consists of peat with fibric to mesic decomposition.  
E: Eolian: Material transported and deposited by wind. The dominant eolian sediment in the map area is loess, which is a predominantly silty in texture with a smaller fraction of fine sand. Loess veneers and blankets were deposited over the landscape during the last McConnell glaciation. On stable sites, the loess is intact, whereas in cryoturbated or colluviated areas, the loess is reworked into the soil profile and its presence is indicated by the "z" textural symbol. Reconsolidated loess is a major component of colluvial aprons in the area. Ice-rich permafrost is common within loessing eolian sediments.  
C: Colluvium: Material transported and deposited by down-slope, gravity-driven processes such as creep, solifluction, landslides and snow avalanches. Colluvium is the dominant surficial material in the region as most of the area escaped Pleistocene glaciation. It commonly has a stratified structure with a highly variable texture and composition controlled by the parent material, transport mechanism and travel distance. Colluvium on uplands and slopes is generally coarse grained and to have a hummocky or rolling surface expression. Inactive loess, local bedrock clasts. On steeper slopes colluvium is generally coarser grained, as it has been deposited by rapid mass wasting processes such as rock fall, debris flow and avalanches. Inactive processes such as sheetwash, solifluction and creep occur on gentler slopes and produce finer grained colluvium. Colluvial aprons found on lower slopes are commonly ice-rich and are primarily composed of reworked tills and peat.  
F: Fluvial: Sediments transported and deposited by modern streams and rivers, found in floodplains, fans and terraces. Fluvial deposits typically consist of well-sorted stratified sand and gravel comprising sub-angular to rounded clasts. In unglaciated regions, low order streams are confined to very narrow V-shaped valleys and their fluvial deposits are generally not mapped due to scale limitations. In glaciated regions, however, are more coarse grained and more locally derived than in higher order streams. Active fluvial (FA) materials are subject to regular flooding. Pre-glacial fluvial terraces are present in Graying Creek.  
Glacioclastic: Sediments transported and deposited by glacial meltwater alone, in, below, or adjacent to a glacier. Glacioclastic materials are deposited in meltwater channels, eskers, plains, terraces, fans and deltas. Sediments consist of moderately to well-sorted, rounded, stratified sand and gravel, although the nature and texture may vary locally depending on transport distance. Near surface ground ice is generally absent in glacioclastic deposits unless there is a poorly drained underlying unit.

- LATE WISCONSIN - MCCONNELL (M)**  
**EARLY WISCONSIN - GLADSTONE (G)**  
**ILLINOIAN - REID (R)**  
**EARLY PLEISTOCENE - PRE-REID (PR)**
- M<sup>o</sup>** LATE WISCONSIN - MCCONNELL (M)  
**M<sup>m</sup>** PRE-LATE WISCONSIN - MCCONNELL (M)  
**M<sup>e</sup>** EARLY WISCONSIN - GLADSTONE (G)  
**M<sup>r</sup>** ILLINOIAN - REID (R)  
**M<sup>pr</sup>** EARLY PLEISTOCENE - PRE-REID (PR)
- LG** Glacioclastic: Stratified sand, silt and clay deposited in a lake that formed on, in, under or beside a glacier, may contain dropstones (ice-rattled clasts). Ice-rich permafrost and thermokarst erosion is widespread as these deposits as they are generally poorly drained with high in situ moisture contents that promote the growth of massive ice lenses. Glacioclastic sediments are rarely exposed in the region.
- PRE-QUATERNARY**  
**R** Bedrock: Bedrock in the northern and eastern parts of this map area consists of Devonian-Mississippian carbonaceous muscovite-quartz phyllite or schist and quartzite of the Yukon-Tanana Terrane. Cretaceous-Tertiary Dorsal Creek Formation (primary olive basalt) and the terrain immediately to the west (Trypanite) and south (Gade) (Murphy et al., 2007, 2008).  
**D** Weathered bedrock: bedrock decomposed or disintegrated in situ, by processes of chemical and/or mechanical weathering such as freeze-thaw. Weathered bedrock is commonly unconsolidated, especially along ridge tops and near toes. The material texture is coarse grained and sandy where derived from plutonic bedrock, although a silt component may be present due to incorporation of loess by cryoturbation.

- SYMBOLS**
- GEOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES:**  
--- defined  
- - - approximate  
- - - assumed
- AGE OF GLACIAL FEATURES:**  
- McConnell (M) - late Wisconsin  
- Gladstone (G) - early Wisconsin  
- Reid (R) - Illinoian  
- Reid (PR) - early to middle Pleistocene  
age unspecified
- GLACIAL FEATURES:**  
- moraine ridge  
- meltwater channel  
- cirque  
- arête  
- GLACIAL LIMITS:  
- defined  
- approximate  
- assumed
- OTHER LINEAR FEATURES:**  
- escarpment  
- lineation fault, joint, tension crack  
- sand dunes  
- strandline
- TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES:**  
- contours  
- streams  
- wetlands
- GROUND OBSERVATION SITES:**  
(labelled with site number, e.g. 10JB004)
- field station  
x stratigraphic section
- ▲ radiocarbon sample  
● cosmogenic sample  
▲ heavy mineral sample
- ▲ eratic, unspecified age  
▲ eratic, Gladstone  
▲ eratic, Reid  
△ no erratics found
- OTHER SURFACE FEATURES:**  
- open system pingo; uncollapsed, collapsed  
+ tor  
Z drumlin (coloured by glacial age)  
T cryoturbation terrace  
○ kettle  
★ landslide, active layer detachment  
# pass  
□ thermokarst pond  
x placer mine  
x Yukon mineral occurrence

**SELECTED REFERENCES**

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Murphy, D.C., van Staal, C. and Mortensen, J.K., 2008. Windy McKinley terrane, Stevenson Ridge area (115J/K), western Yukon: composition and proposed correlations, with implications for mineral potential. In: Yukon Exploration and Geology 2007, D.S. Emrod, L.R., Blackburn, R.P. Hill and L.H. Weston (eds.), Yukon Geological Survey, p. 225-235.



Map Sheet	Year	Status
115J/05	115J/06	115J/07
WELLER BAY open file 2013-9	open file 2013-10	MOUNT PATTON open file 2013-11
115J/04 MCCONNELL CREEK open file 2013-4	115J/03 open file 2013-5	115J/02 DORSALE CREEK open file 2013-8
115J/13 TOM MURRAY CREEK OGI map 1978	115G/04 TOSHANBERMAN LAKES open file 2003-45	115G/15 KERRIA LAKE open file 2003-46

**SURFICIAL MATERIALS**

GLACIATION	TIME PERIOD	APPROXIMATE GLACIAL MAXIMUM	MARINE ISOTOPE STAGE
M - McConnell	late Wisconsin	15 000 years ago	2
G - Gladstone	early Wisconsin	50 000 years ago	4
R - Reid	Illinoian	130 000 years ago	6
PR - Pre-Reid	early to Middle Pleistocene	2.6 million to 200 000 years ago	6-102

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**RECOMMENDED CITATION**  
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Any revisions or additional geological information known to the user would be welcomed by the Yukon Geological Survey.

Paper copies of this map may be obtained from Yukon Geological Survey, Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon, Room 102 - 100 Main St., Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2B5, Canada. Tel: (867) 330-1100. E-mail: geology@yukon.ca

A digital PDF (Portable Document Format) file of this map may be downloaded free of charge from the Yukon Geological Survey website: <http://www.geology.gov.yk.ca>.

**Yukon Geological Survey**  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Government of Yukon

**Open File 2015-5**  
**Surficial Geology**  
**NTS 115J/03**  
**Yukon**  
**(1:50 000 scale)**

by  
Jeffrey D. Bond and Panya S. Lipovsky