08JB015 - TALBOT CREEK CUTBANK peat (0-17 cm) cryoturbated organic and silt-rich sheetwash; frozen below 25 cm; mostly pore ice, but some lenses up to 3 cm thick and 11cm long glaciolacustrine silt and fine sand; dropstones increase with depth; at least upper 1.2 m frozen; ice content approximately 25%; contains massive ice lens 12 cm thick and 1.5 m long; ice also present as veinlets <1cm thick, and microveinlets <0.5 cm thick glaciofluvial outwash; poorly sorted pebbles, cobbles and coarse sand; fines upward; weakly bedded sand and pebbles underlie coarsest component; unit absent in other parts of exposure

advance phase glaciolacustrine clay, silt and sand; coarsening

INTRODUCTION

GLACIAL HISTORY

PERMAFROST

The Talbot Creek map area straddles the Ruby and Nisling ranges. Broad treeless uplands dominate the landscape with summits reaching 2100 m a.s.l. in the Ruby Range and 1800 m a.s.l. in the Nisling Range. Upland surfaces are covered with weathered bedrock colluvium and sporadically distributed till deposits from former alpine glaciers and ice sheets. Upland surficial deposits are affected by active periglacial processes such as cryoturbation, nivation and solifluction (Fig. 1).

MARGINAL NOTES

Talbot Creek valley forms a natural division between the Ruby and Nisling Ranges. It is a deep, U-shaped valley that has its principal tributaries originating from the south in the Ruby Range. All the main valleys in the map area are steep-sided, covered with colluvium or rock outcrops, and valley bottoms are filled by glacial material (Fig. 2).

At least three ice sheets originating from the St. Elias Mountains have advanced into the Ruby and Nisling ranges during the Quaternary period. The oldest advance predates marine isotope stage (MIS) 4 (50ka BP to 80ka BP) and may correlate with the MIS 6 (130ka BP to 230ka BP) Reid glaciation documented for the Selwyn Lobe (Ward et al., 2008). Mapping the Reid glacial limit in the Talbot Creek map area was not possible since the younger Gladstone glaciation reached a similar extent and therefore masks any older features.

The early Wisconsin Gladstone glaciation reached its maximum extent and had begun to recede by 50,000 years ago (Ward et al., 2007). During this advance, the St. Elias lobe converged with local alpine glaciers to form a system of valley glaciers. The valley glaciers advanced northward across the Nisling Range and terminated just north of the map area in the Rhyolite Creek map sheet. Upland surfaces, apart from cirques, would have been ice free. Deposits from this glaciation become increasingly obscured as you move southward from the glacial limit. As a result, the glacial limit is not mapped in the Ruby Range and could only be delineated in the Nisling Range near the northern edge of the map sheet. Morainal and glaciofluvial material is well preserved in upper Tyrrell Creek and in an unnamed tributary to Dwarf Birch Creek along the north-central margin of the map sheet. The poor preservation of Gladstone glacial features in the Ruby Range is likely a function of the resistant Ruby Range

Most of the glacial deposits in the map area are attributed to the late Wisconsinan McConnell glaciation. According to cosmogenic dates on erratics from the glacial limit immediately to the west of the map area, the McConnell glaciation was determined to be at its maximum extent between 13,740 ± 500 years B.P. and 14,620 ± 800 years B.P. The St. Elias lobe advanced up Talbot Creek valley (overriding a proglacial lake) and terminated in the middle of the map sheet. The end moraine from this glacier, which is actually an accumulation of ice-proximal and ice-contact beds, extends across Talbot Creek valley and rises 100 m above the valley floor (Fig. 3). Numerous valley glaciers developed in the Ruby Range and advanced northward into Talbot Creek valley (Fig. 4 and 5). A glacial lake developed in Talbot Creek as the St. Elias lobe advanced up the drainage. Local alpine glaciers may have receded as the proglacial lake advanced up the main valley, opening up a northerly outlet into Tyrrell Creek. In the Nisling Range, McConnell valley glaciers advanced up to 11 km from their cirques.

With the exception of well-drained fluvial and glaciofluvial deposits in the main valleys, most of the map area is underlain by permafrost. The nature of the ice within the sediments is generally a function of drainage. Ice lenses up to 12 cm thick were noted in the glaciolacustrine deposits in Talbot Creek (08JB015) and in a retrogressive thaw flow scarp in the Nisling Range (Fig. 6; 08PL026). Rock glaciers are common in both the Ruby and Nisling ranges.



batholith, as well as active periglacial weathering on the upland surface.

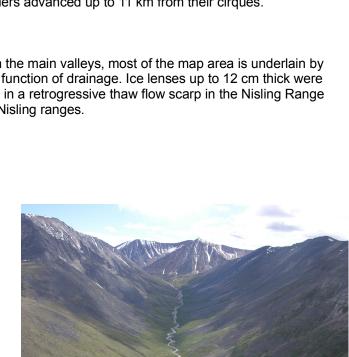
Figure 1. Weathered bedrock colluvium-covered slopes in the Nisling Range.



Figure 3. A view looking west at the McConnell terminal moraine in Talbot Creek valley (see arrow, points to 08PL003). Glacial lake Talbot would have occupied the foreground of the picture.



from a valley glacier in the Ruby Range (see dashed line). Talbot Creek is in the foreground.



08JB030 - CUTBANK NEAR ALPINE END MORAINE

organic, 6 cm thick
White River tephra, 4 cm thick

10 com seged 1

ablation/recessional moraine; 40% matrix, coarse sand and

basal till; cohesive with some jointing structures; 50% sandy

silty clay matrix; 50% clasts, angular and subangular pebbles

poorly sorted advance phase glaciofluvial deposit; majority

pebbles and cobbles; some openwork structures, and diamict

of unit is clast supported with angular and subangular

covered from 9.5 - 20 m

08JB085 - MCCONNELL END MORAINE IN UPPER TYRELL CREEK

White River tephra, 7 cm thick

poorly sorted, moderately cohesive end moraine:

25% silty coarse sand matrix; 75% angular to subangular

clasts from pebble to boulder size; bouldery beds near

1:50 000-scale topographic base data produced

CENTRE FOR TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA

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FIVE THOUSAND METRE GRID

Universal Transverse Mercator Projection

North American Datum 1983

CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET Elevations in feet above Mean Sea Level

grit; 60% clasts, angular to subangular pebbles and cobbles

Figure 2. Typical valley in the Ruby Range with steep,

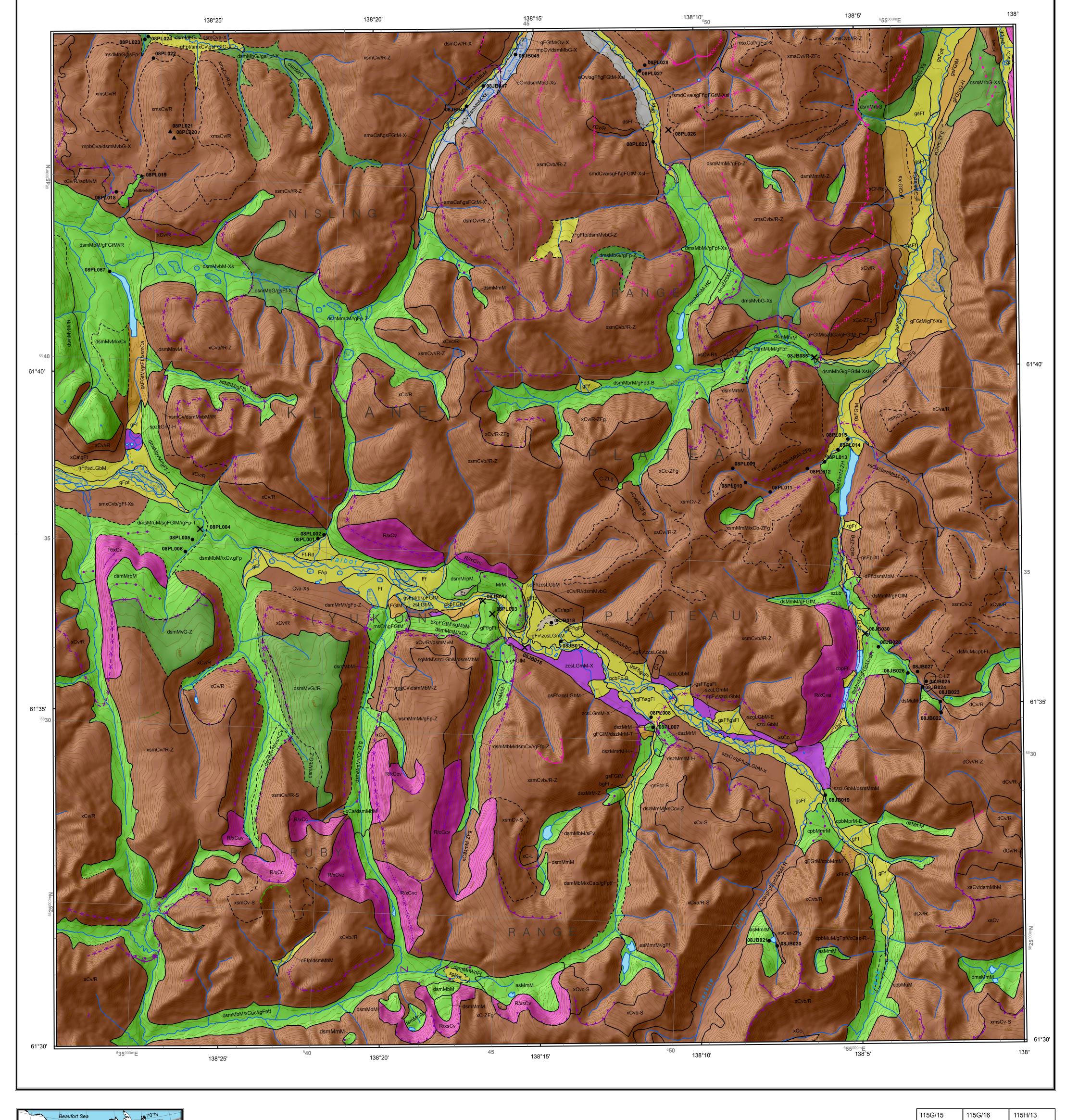


Figure 4. View to the southwest of a typical McConnell cirque in the Ruby Range (08JB021).



Figure 6. Massive ice-rich peat exposed in a retrogressive thaw slide scarp in the Nisling Range (08PL026).

YUKON



SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

TALBOT CREEK

YUKON 115G/09

SCALE 1:50 000

08PL003 - CUTBANK EXPOSURE OF TALBOT CREEK END MORAINE

sand and gravel, fining upward

pebble to boulder gravel with coarse sand

sandy glaciolacustrine beds, crudely bedded

moderately dense diamicton with silty sand

massive fine sand with silty clay beds

2-8 cm thick and occasional dropstones

up to 10 cm in diameter

Talbot Creek water level at 95 m

matrix (65%) and primarily pebble-sized clasts

fine glaciofluvial sand

08PL004 - TALBOT CREEK CUTBANK

loose, sandy pebble cobble gravel

laminated fine to medium sand; dipping east

fine silty deltaic sand; beds up to 20 cm thick

dipping east; occasional clay-rich beds, soft

grey diamicton; moderately dense; 70% silty

sand matrix; primarily pebble sized clasts;

thickness unknown as top contact covered

grey diamicton; very dense; 70% silty sand

matrix; primarily pebble sized clasts

coarse to fine silty deltaic sand with ripples, horizontal

bedding, planar cross beds and jellyroll structures

sediment deformation and rip up clasts present;

thickness unknown as bottom contact covered

08PL026 - RETROGRESSIVE THAW FLOW SCARP

White River tephra

silty colluvium; 70% angular to subangular

pebble to cobble-sized schistose clasts

frozen colluvial diamicton with cobbles

frozen colluvium with angular boulders

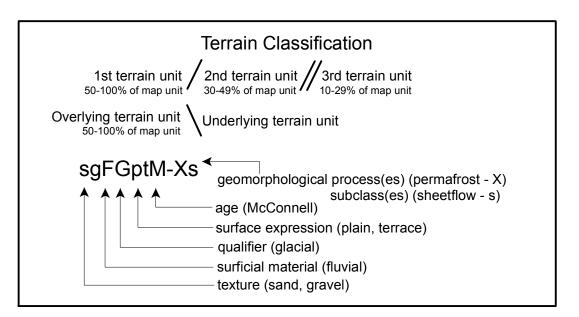
ice-rich peat; 50% visible ice;

ice lenses 2-12 cm thick

and boulders

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY MAP

This surficial geology map was classified using the Terrain Classification System for British Columbia (Howes and Kenk, 1997), with modification to meet standards set by the Yukon Geological Survey. For example, we have added permafrost process subclasses to further account for the breadth of permafrost features on the landscape. In addition, we have added an age classification to the glacial deposits to distinguish different Pleistocene glaciations. Linework for the map was produced from interpretations of 1:40 000-scale aerial photos (1987). Subsequent field checking of the map area was completed in the summers of 2007 and 2008.



SURFICIAL MATERIAL

Surficial materials are non-lithified, unconsolidated sediments. They are produced by weathering, sediment deposition, biological accumulation, human and volcanic activity. In general, surficial materials are of relatively young geological age and they constitute the parent material of most (pedological) soils. On the map, surficial materials form the core of the polygon label. They are symbolized with a single upper case letter, with texture written to the left, and surface expression or glacial qualifier to the right. The glacial qualifier "G" was used to describe glacially modified materials. If actual activity state is different than the assumed activity state (indicated in brackets next to the surficial material name below), a qualifier A (active) or I (inactive) must be used as a superscript following the surficial material designator. Note that a single polygon will be coloured only by the dominant surficial material, but other materials may exist in that unit.

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 often unmapped. Volcanic: Volcanic tephra deposits found in the map area are from the 1140-year-old White River eruption. Primary

accumulations exceeding 20cm. Eolian: Material that was transported and directly deposited by wind. The dominant eolian sediment in the map area E is loess. A thin veneer of loess (10-20 cm) was deposited over the landscape during the last glaciation. On stable sites, the loess is intact, whereas at cryoturbated or colluviated areas, the loess is reworked into the soil profile. Since loess deposits represent only a thin veneer, they were not mapped; however, loess it is a widespread material

Local resedimentation of the tephra into lake basins, onto fluvial fans or into cirque basins can result in

tephra deposition across the map area was between 10 cm and 20cm and consisted of a grain size of medium-sand.

Colluvium: Material that was transported and directly deposited by down-slope, gravity-driven processes such as creep, landslides and snow avalanches. Due to the active periglacial processes that have occurred in the map area, colluvium is widespread across the upland surfaces. The texture and composition of colluvium vary more than any other material in the map area, depending on the parent material, and the mechanism and distance transported. For example, materials derived from till will likely resemble the in situ till, however they may contain slope-parallel resedimentation structures. Comparatively, colluvium derived from physically weathered bedrock will be an angular, poorly sorted diamict and will likely contain less matrix. Some materials formed by rapid processes, such as rock falls, debris flows and avalanches, are deposited within tens of seconds and are typically found on steep to moderate slopes. Conversely, slower processes occur on gentle slopes and are commonly associated with permafrost, solifluction and creep. Colluvium in the map area is commonly derived from weathered bedrock and till, resulting in a silt-rich diamicton with angular, local bedrock and sub-rounded erratic clasts. Beyond the glacial limits and in alpine

Fluvial: Fluvial materials are transported and deposited by modern streams and rivers. They typically consist of stratified sand and gravel that is well sorted and contains sub-angular to rounded clasts. These deposits result in floodplain, terrace and fan surface expressions within the map area. Due to scale limitations, fluvial deposits in most of the smaller valleys are not mapped.

settings, colluvium is dominantly derived from weathered bedrock fragments and loes:

marl and gyttja. Lacustrine deposits are only mapped where a lake has drained exposing the lake bottom material. Glaciofluvial: Glaciofluvial materials have been deposited directly by glacial meltwater. These deposits can form

Lacustrine: Sediment that has been deposited into a modern lake. Includes biologically produced material such as

above, in, below, or adjacent to a glacier. They are deposited in meltwater channels, eskers, plains, terraces, kames and deltas. Glaciofluvial deposits consist of moderately to well-sorted, rounded, stratified sand and gravel, but can vary locally depending on transport distance. Near surface ground ice is generally absent in glaciofluvial deposits unless there is a poorly drained underlying unit present.

LATE WISCONSIN - MCCONNELL (M) McConnell glaciofluvial plains are most common in Tyrrell Creek valley.

Gladstone glaciofluvial terraces are found in Tyrrell Creek valley and may be masked under an apron of colluvium against the valley sides.

Isolated pockets of Reid glaciofluvial deposits may be found above the Gladstone limit in the map area.

Morainal: Morainal materials are diamicts deposited by either primary glacial processes such as lodgement, deformation and melt-out, or secondary glacial processes caused by gravity and water. Therefore, this term applies to all types of till including flow tills, which are not directly deposited by glacial ice. Ablation tills tend to have a hummocky or rolling surface morphology with a sandy matrix comprising 30-40% of the material. Lodgement tills have an even surface morphology with a silty sand matrix comprising 40-60% of the material. Due to the uneven topography of the map area, tills are often colluviated. Permafrost is generally widespread within morainal deposits.

McConnell ablation and lodgement tills were observed and are common on the valley flanks throughout the map EARLY WISCONSIN - GLADSTONE (G)

Gladstone ablation and lodgement tills were observed and occur in isolated deposits immediately above or beyond No Reid morainal deposits were mapped, however, isolated deposits may be found above the Gladstone limit.

Glaciolacustrine: Glaciolacustrine materials were deposited in a lake that formed on, in, under or beside a glacier.

Glaciolacustrine sediments consist of stratified sand, silt and clay. Ice-rich permafrost and thermokarst erosion is widespread in these deposits. Their poor drainage and high in-situ moisture content can result in massive ice lenses.

LATE WISCONSIN - MCCONNELL (M) McConnell glaciolacustrine deposits are common in Talbot Creek valley.

defined approximate * × × assumed

KIYERA

115G/10

115G/07

Use diagram only to obtain numerical values APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION NOVEMBER 2009

FOR CENTRE OF MAP

BURWASH

LANDING

SERPENTHEAD

open file 2009-46 open file 2009-47

RHYOLITE CREEK

115G/09

115G/08

GLADSTONE

CREEK

TALBOT CREEK open file 2009-48

SCHIST CREEK

115H/12

115H/05

SEKULMUN

EARLY WISCONSIN - GLADSTONE (G) Glaciolacustrine sediments of this age were not documented in the map area.

Glaciolacustrine sediments of this age have not been documented in the map area.

Bedrock: Rocks in the Kluane Lake area are composed of three metamorphic assemblages, mid- and Late Cretaceous to Eocene granitoids and Upper Cretaceous to Eocene volcanic rocks. Late Cretaceous to Eocene Ruby Range batholith, the largest pluton in the area. Metamorphic rocks to the northwest belong to Yukon-Tanana terrane and the structurally overlie Windy-McKinley terrane. Yukon-Tanana terrane consists of two assemblages: quartzose psammite, pelite, marble and amphibolite of the Proterozoic to Lower Paleozoic Snowcap assemblage, and carbonaceous phyllite and quartzite and lesser felsic and mafic metavolcanic rocks of the mid-Paleozoic to Late Permian Finlayson assemblage. Foliated granitic rocks occur in both assemblages. Windy-McKinley terrane also comprises two assemblages: the schist-gabbro subdivision and the Harzburgite Peak-Eikland Mountain ophiolite. The former assemblage is lithologically and stratigraphically similar to Yukon-Tanana terrane, differing only in the presence of voluminous bodies of Triassic metagabbro. The Harzburgite Peak-Eikland Mountain ophiolite in Kluane Lake area consists primarily of harzburgite, with lesser amounts of gabbro, dunite and plagiogranite. The third metamorphic assemblage, the Kluane schist, is southwest of the Ruby Range batholith. Kluane schist consists primarily of highly deformed, variably carbonaceous, porphyroblastic biotite schist and rare bodies of gabbro and harzburgite (Murphy et al., 2009).

	SYMBOLS	3	
	GEOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES:		GROUND OBSERVATION SITES: (labelled with site number, e.g. 08JB004)
	defined approximate assumed	×	field station stratigraphic section
	AGE OF GLACIAL FEATURES:		radiocarbon sample cosmogenic sample
	McConnell (M) - late Wisconsin Gladstone (G) - early Wisconsin	•	heavy mineral sample
	Reid (R) - Illinoian unspecified age	A	erratic, unspecified age erratic, Gladstone erratic, Reid
	GLACIAL FEATURES:	\triangle	no erratics found
	moraine ridge		OTHER SURFACE FEATURES:
	meltwater channel	\$	open system pingo tor
	cirque	7 ×	drumlin (coloured by glacial age)
د د د د د د د د د د د د د د د د د د د	esker		TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES:
***	glacial lake shoreline		contours streams
	GLACIAL LIMITS:		trails

wetlands

TEXTURE

Texture refers to the size, shape and sorting of particles in clastic sediments, and the proportion and degree of decomposition of plant fibre in organic sediments.

Specific clastic textures a - blocks: angular particles >256 mm in size b - boulders: rounded particles >256 mm in size

k - cobbles: rounded particles between 64 and 256 mm in size

p - pebbles: rounded particles between 2 and 64 mm in size s - sand: particles between 0.0625 and 2 mm in size

be identified as to botanical origin upon rubbing

z - silt: particles between 2 µm and 0.0625 mm in size c - clay: particles <2 µm in size Common clastic textural groupings

d - mixed fragments: a mixture of rounded and angular particles >2 mm in size x - angular fragments: a mixture of 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 (eg., 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 - shells: a sediment consisting dominantly of shells and/or shell fragments

Organic terms o - organic: unclassified organic materials e - fibric: the least decomposed of all organic materials; it contains amounts of well-preserved fibre (40% or more) that can

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

SURFACE EXPRESSION

Surface expression refers to the form (assemblage of slopes) and pattern of forms expressed by a surficial material at the land surface. This three-dimensional shape of the material is equivalent to 'landform' used in a non-genetic sense (e.g., ridges, plain). Surface expression symbols also describe the manner in which unconsolidated surficial materials relate to the underlying substrate (e.g., veneer). Surface expression is indicated by up to three lower case letters, placed immediately following the surficial material designator, listed in order of decreasing extent.

a - apron: a wedge-like slope-toe complex of laterally coalescent colluvial fans and blankets. Longitudinal slopes are generally less than 15° (26%) from apex to toe with flat or gently convex/concave profiles

b - blanket: a layer of unconsolidated material thick enough (>1 m) to mask minor irregularities of the surface of the underlying material, but still conforms to the general underlying topography; outcrops of the underlying unit are rare c - cone: a cone or sector of a cone, mostly steeper than 15° (26%); longitudinal profile is smooth and straight, or slightly concave/convex; typically applied to talus cones

f - fan: sector of a cone with a slope gradient less than 15° (26%) from apex to toe; longtitudinal profile is smooth and straight, or slightly concave/convex

h - hummock: steep sided hillock(s) and hollow(s) with multidirectional slopes dominantly between 15-35° (26-70%) if

composed of unconsolidated materials, whereas bedrock slopes may be steeper; local relief >1 m; in plan, an assemblage of non-linear, generally chaotic forms that are rounded or irregular in cross-profile; commonly applied to knob-and-kettle

I - delta: landform created at the mouth of a river or stream where it flows into a body of water; gently sloping surfaces between 0-3° (0-5%), and moderate to steeply sloping fronts between 16-35° (27-70%); glaciofluvial deltas in the map area are typically coarse-grained with steep sides and gently inclined kettled or channeled surfaces

m - rolling: elongate hillock(s); slopes dominantly between 3-15° (5-26%); local relief >1 m; in plan, an assemblage of parallel or sub-parallel linear forms with subdued relief (commonly applied to bedrock ridges and fluted or streamlined till plains)

p - plain: a level or very gently sloping, unidirectional (planar) surface with slopes 0-3° (0-5%); relief of local surface

irregularities generally <1 m; applied to (glacio)fluvial floodplains, organic deposits, lacustrine deposits and till plains r - ridge: elongate hillock(s) with slopes dominantly 15-35° (26-70%) if composed of unconsolidated materials; bedrock slopes may be steeper; local relief is >1 m; in plan, an assemblage of parallel or sub-parallel linear forms; commonly applied to drumlinized till plains, eskers, morainal ridges, crevasse fillings and ridged bedrock

t - terrace: a single or assemblage of step-like forms where each step-like form consists of a scarp face and a horizontal or gently inclined surface above it; applied to fluvial and lacustrine terraces and stepped bedrock topography

v - veneer: a layer of unconsolidated materials too thin to mask the minor irregularities of the surface of the underlying material; 10 cm - 1m thick; commonly applied to eolian/loess veneers and colluvial veneers

GEOMORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

Geomorphological processes are natural mechanisms of weathering, erosion and deposition that result in the modification of the surficial materials and landforms at the earth's surface. Unless a qualifier (A (active) or I (inactive)) is used, all processes are assumed to be active, except for deglacial processes. Process is indicated by up to three upper case letters, listed in order of decreasing importance, placed after the surface expression symbol, and separated from the surface expression by a

Subclasses can be used to provide more specific information about a general geomorophological process, and are represented by lower case letter(s) placed after the related process designator. Up to three subclasses can be attached to each process. Process subclasses used on this map are defined with the related process below.

EROSIONAL PROCESSES

V - gully erosion: running water, mass movement and/or snow avalanching, resulting in the formation of parallel and sub-parallel long, narrow ravines

FLUVIAL PROCESSES

B - beaver damming: stream channel is commonly dammed by beavers causing extensive inundation of the valley bottom I - irregularly sinuous channel: a clearly defined main channel displaying irregular turns and bends without repetition of similar features; backchannels may be common, and minor side channels and a few bars and islands may be present, but regular and irregular meanders are absent

M - meandering channel: a clearly defined channel characterized by a regular and repeated pattern of bends with relatively uniform amplitude and wave length

MASS MOVEMENT PROCESSES

F - slow mass movements: slow downslope movement of masses of cohesive or non-cohesive surficial material and/or bedrock by creeping, flowing or sliding L - mass movement with an unspecified rate

R - rapid mass movements: rapid downslope movement by falling, rolling, sliding or flowing of dry, moist or saturated debris derived from surficial material and/or bedrock

Subclasses: (b) rockfall; (g) rock creep PERIGLACIAL PROCESSES

C - cryoturbation: movement of surficial materials by heaving and/or churning due to frost action (repeated freezing and

S - solifluction: slow gravitational downslope movement of saturated non-frozen overburden across a frozen or otherwise

X - permafrost processes: processes controlled by the presence of permafrost, and permafrost aggradation or degradation Z - general periglacial processes: solifluction, cryoturbation and nivation, possibly occuring in a single polygon

Subclasses: (e) thermokarst erosion; (I) segregated ice; (n) pingo; (t) thermokarst subsidence; (r) patterned ground; (s) sheetwash

DEGLACIAL PROCESSES E - channeled by meltwater: erosion and channel formation by meltwater alongside, beneath, or in front of a glacier

H - kettled: depressions in surficial materials resulting from the melting of buried glacier ice

T - ice contact: landforms that developed in contact with glacier ice such as kames

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Surficial Geology of Talbot Creek (NTS 115G/09) Yukon (1:50 000 scale)



Jeffrey D. Bond and Panya S. Lipovsky