

**INTRODUCTION**  
The Talbot Creek map area straddles the Ruby and Nising ranges. Broad tectonic uplifts dominate the landscape with summits reaching 2100 m a.s.l. in the Ruby Range and 1800 m a.s.l. in the Nising 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 pedological processes such as cryoturbation, inversion and colluviation (Fig. 1). Talbot Creek valley forms a natural division between the Ruby and Nising Ranges. It is a deep, U-shaped valley that has its principal tributaries originating from the Ruby 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).

**MARGINAL NOTES**  
The early Wisconsin 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 Nising Range and terminated just north of the map area in the Rhyolite Creek map sheet. Upland surfaces, apart from cirques, would have been free of ice. Deposits from this glaciation become increasingly dissected 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 Nising Range near the northern edge of the map sheet. Moraine and glaciolacustrine material is well preserved in upper Tynnel Creek and in an unnamed tributary to Dwarf Birch Creek along the north-central margin of the map sheet. The poor preservation of Glaciation glacial features in the Ruby Range is likely a function of the resistant Ruby Range, as well as active periglacial weathering on the upland surface.

**GLACIAL HISTORY**  
At least three ice sheets originating from the St. Elias Mountains have advanced into the Ruby and Nising ranges during the Quaternary period. The oldest advance produces marine isotope stage (MIS) 4 (50ka BP to 18ka BP) and may coincide with the MIS 6 (130ka BP to 23ka 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 Glaciation glaciation reached a similar extent and therefore masks any older features.

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**PERMAFROST**  
With the exception of well-drained fluvial and glaciolacustrine 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 10 cm thick were noted in the glaciolacustrine deposits in Talbot Creek (08JB015) and in a retrogressive thaw flow scarp in the Nising Range (Fig. 3, 08PL028). Rock glaciers are common in both the Ruby and Nising ranges.

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

Figure 2. Typical valley in the Ruby Range with steep colluvium-covered slopes and moraine-blanketed valley bottoms.

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

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

Figure 5. View to the southwest of an end moraine from a valley glacier in the Ruby Range (see dashed line). Talbot Creek is in the foreground.

Figure 6. Massive ice-rich peat exposed in a retrogressive thaw flow scarp in the Nising Range (08PL028).

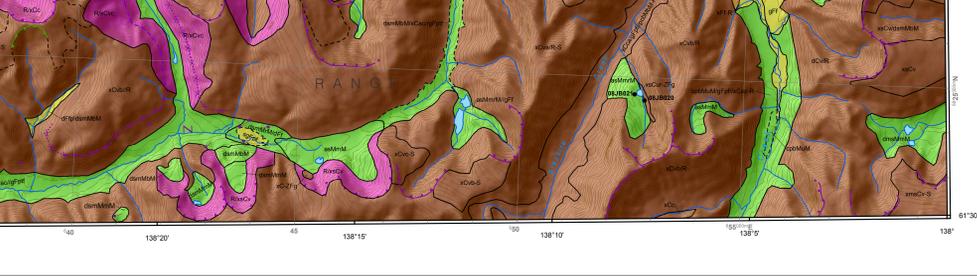
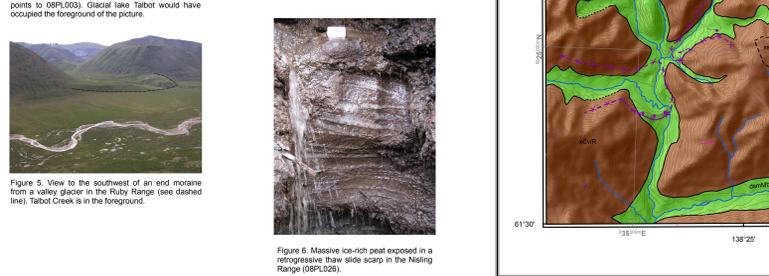
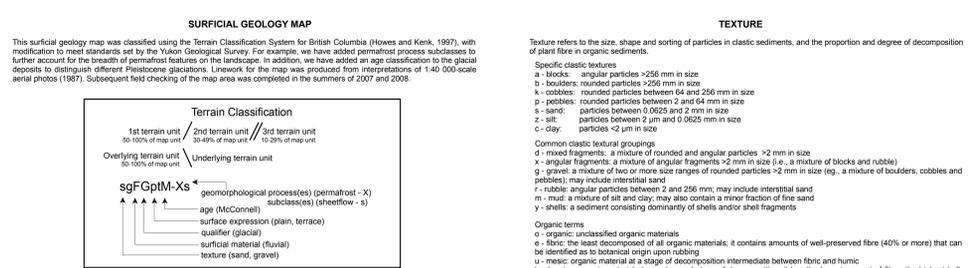
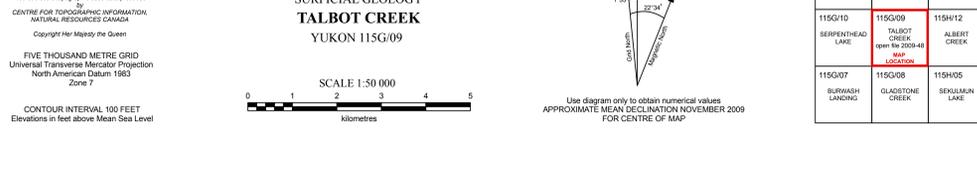


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**SURFICIAL MATERIAL**  
Surficial materials are non-lithified, unconsolidated sediments. They are produced by weathering, sediment deposition, biological accumulation, human and volcanic activity. In general, surficial materials are of relatively young geological age and they constitute the parent material of most (pedological) soils. On the map, surficial materials from 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 'C' was used to describe glacially modified materials. If actual glacial activity is different than the assumed glacial stage (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 covered only by the dominant surficial material, but other materials may exist in that unit.

- Holoocene**
  - O - 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 unmaped.
  - V - Volcanic: Volcanic tephra deposits found in the lake area are from the 1140-year-old White River eruption. Primary tephra deposition across the map was between 10 cm and 20cm and consisted of a grain size of medium-sand. Local re-entrainment of the tephra into the map area, onto fluvial fans or into cirque basins can result in accumulations exceeding 20cm.
  - E - Eolian: Material that was transported and directly deposited by wind. The dominant eolian sediment in the map area 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. Shrub beds deposits represent only a thin veneer; they were not mapped; however, loess is a widespread material in the map area.
  - C - 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 geological 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 reorientation 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 permafrost-associated, such as permafrost suffusion and creep. Colluvium in the map area is commonly derived from weathered bedrock and silt, resulting in a silt-diamict with angular local bedrock and sub-angular erratic clasts. Beyond the glacial limits and in alpine settings, colluvium is dominantly derived from weathered bedrock fragments and loess.
  - F - 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 ice instabilities, fluvial deposits in most of the smaller valleys are not mapped.
  - L - Lacustrine: Sediment that has been deposited into a modern lake. Includes biologically produced material such as mat and gyttja. Lacustrine deposits are only mapped where a lake has drained exposing the lake bottom material.
- LATE WISCONSIN - MCCONNELL (M)**
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- EARLY WISCONSIN - GLADSTONE (G)**
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- ILLINOIAN - REID (R)**
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- PRE-QUATERNARY**
  - R - Bedrock: Rocks in the Klane 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 metabasaltic, quartzite, quartzite, pelite, marls and amphiboles 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 Franciscan assemblage. Foliated granitic rocks occur in both assemblages. Windy-McKinley terrane also comprises two assemblages: the schist-gabbro subdivision and the Harzburgtie Peak-Eklund Mountain ophiolite. The former assemblage is lithologically and stratigraphically similar to Yukon-Tanana terrane, differing only in the presence of voluminous bodies of Franciscan metabasalt. The Harzburgtie Peak-Eklund Mountain ophiolite in Klane Lake area consists primarily of harzburgite, with lesser amounts of gabbro, dunite and plagiogranite. The third metamorphic assemblage, the Klane schist, is southwest of the Ruby Range batholith. Klane schist consists primarily of highly deformed, variably carbonaceous, porphyroblastic biotite schist and rare bodies of gabbro and harzburgite (Marty et al., 2009).

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