

ALLUVIUM (*Holocene, Recent*) — Unconsolidated flood-plain and channel deposits composed of locally derived sand, silt, clay, and occasionally gravel found along present-day rivers and streams.

Thickness 0 to no more than 50 feet.

PEDIMENT DEPOSIT (*Holocene*) — Unconsolidated, locally derived sand, silt, clay, and gravel forming an immature alluvial fan or debris field that gently slopes away from bedrock escarpments; observed only in the far northeast corner of the map area. Thickness from 0 to no more than 100 feet.

PLAYA DEPOSIT (*Pleistocene, Wisconsinan? - Holocene*) — Unconsolidated clay and silt found in shallow depressions that contain water for variable periods of time. Includes Randall and Lofton clay loam soils (Allgood and others, 1962; Meinders and others, 1961; Murphy and others, 1960). Water in depressions not shown.

Average surficial thickness less than 5 feet but some deposits of the Randall clay my extend to a depth of 60 feet or more.

OLDER ALLUVIUM (*Pleistocene, Wisconsinan?*) — Unconsolidated remnants of older channel and flood-plain deposits consisting of sand, silt, clay, and gravel; top of deposits usually positioned 5 feet to as much as 50 feet above modern alluvial deposits (Qal). Sand, fine- to course-grained; gravel usually in the pebble-sized fraction consisting of locally derived clasts; cross-bedded to structureless, with lenticular to tabular bedforms.

TERRACE GRAVELS (*Pleistocene, Wisconsinan?*) — Unconsolidated gravel, sand, and silt; gravel is sandy, bordering on a matrix-supported texture, and composed of pebbleand cobble-sized clasts of quartz, quartzite, and caliche; sand is fine to medium-grained. Thickness 0 - to about 20 feet.

COVER LOESS (*Pleistocene, Wisconsinan*) — Featureless sheet of loess and silt-sized material with minor sand; distinguishable from Qcs only on grain size differences between soil associations. Mapped as Richfield-Ulysses soil association by Allgood and others (1962), Meinders and others (1961), and Murphy and others (1960), which is predominantly composed of loess and other silt-sized material. Unit may correlate to the Vanhem Formation of Kansas (Smith, 1940; Barnes, 1970).

DUNE SAND (*Pleistocene, Illinoian*) — Unconsolidated, fine- to very fine-grained sand and silt formed into definite vegetated dunes and sand ridges; low-angle wedge crossbedding frequently observed along base of structures.

Thickness 0 to no more than 50 feet.

Thickness from 0 to no more than 20 feet.

COVER SAND (*Pleistocene, Illinoian*) — Featureless sheet of fine- to very fine-grained sand with minor silt and clay; distinguishable from Qcl only on grain size differences between soil associations. Mapped as Richfield-Dalhart soil association by Allgood and others (1962), Meinders and others (1961), and Murphy and others (1960), which is dominated by sand-sized material. Unit may correlate to the Blackwater Draw Formation of Texas (Reeves, 1976).

Thickness 0 to no more than 40 feet.

BASALT FLOW (*Pliocene*) — Dark to light olive gray olivine basalt, mostly aphanitic except for small olivine phenocrysts that comprise less than 10% of the rock; groundmass dense, compact to vesicular, composed of near-equal amounts of augite, magnetite, and labradorite (Barnes, 1984). At Black Mesa there is clear evidence it laterally interfingers with the Ogallala Formation. According to Scott and others (1990), radiometric dates of 3.5-4.0 Ma places this and other associated basalt flows into the middle Pliocene.

Thickness between 50 feet to 85 feet, with thickness part of section occurring along the

Oklahoma-New Mexico state line.

OGALLALA FORMATION (*Miocene - Pliocene*) — Mostly friable to weakly indurated, light gray to light brown stream-laid deposits of sand, silt, clay, and gravel capped in numerous exposures by a light-colored caliche. Sand is fine- to coarse-grained mixed with silt and clay; well-developed trough crossbedding locally; a weak calcite cement common, silica cement locally. Gravel pebble- through cobble-sized; composed of exotic clasts of metamporphic rocks, felsic and mafic igneous rocks, quartzites, bull quartz, and minor chert. Where exposed, base may exhibit a relief of as much as 200 feet, and consists of a well indurated bed of conglomerate with basalt, limestone, and dolomite clasts. Some fossiliferous freshwater limestone (probably of the Laverne facies of Schoff, 1956), and volcanic ash locally in northeast Beaver County.

Thickness 0 to as much as 300 feet.

VOLCANIC ASH DEPOSITS (Quaternary - Neogene, Pleistocene - Pliocene) — White, partially devirtrified (locally), felsic volcanic ash; numerous, small deposits associated with the Ogallala Formation, and possibly high gravel terrace deposits in northeast Beaver County.

Thickness varies from 10 to 30 feet.

COLORADO GROUP, in part (*Upper Cretaceous, Cenomanian - Turonian*) — Includes the lower part of the Greenhorn Limestone (Bridge Creek [in part], Hartland, and Lincoln Members) and Graneros Shale. Both formations poorly exposed.

The Greenhorn is a light gray to bluish-white, thin-bedded whole-fossil carbonate mudstone, interbedded with brownish-yellow, calcareous clayshale and occasional bentonite; whole *Inoceramus* common in limestones; top of formation removed by post-Cretaceous erosion; thickness 256 feet.

The Graneros consists predominantly of moderate to dark gray mudshale, interbedded with light gray to light brown calcareous quartz arenites; arenites more prevalent in basal and upper third of formation; top marked by a thick (~1 foot) bentonite bed; thickness about 99 feet.

Total thickness of the Colorado Group in this area is 355 feet.

DAKOTA FORMATION (Lower to Upper Cretaceous, Albian - Cenomanian) — Composed of three informal members or divisions (Schoff and Stovall, 1943). Upper member is a brownish-yellow, light gray, or white, planar crossbedded, fine-grained, slightly argillaceous quartzarenite; bedding thin to medium (ranging between 6 to 12 inches), although laminations separating cross bed sets are common. Unit thickness about 53 feet, poorly exposed.

The middle division is predominately a light to medium gray, silty clayshale with

than 6 inches thick); bentonite and coal more common in the upper half of division. Unit thickness about 47 feet.

The lower division is very similar to the upper sandstone division, being a planar crossbedded, fine-grained quartzarenite; however, the lower sandstone is consistently better cemented than the upper, and as such, is better exposed. Thickness of the lower sandstone division varies due to erosion, maximum thickness about 115 feet.

Total thickness of the Datoka Formation is 215 feet.

occasional interbeds of thin coal (6 to 12 inches thick) and bentonite (usually no more

CRETACEOUS(?) UNKNOWN — Small outliers of probable Cretaceous sandstones (mostly in-situ) that appear similar to one of the two Dakota Formation sandstones; outliers located in the SE1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 15, T.3N., R.13E., Texas County, Oklahoma and S1/2, Sec. 6, and NE1/4, Sec. 7, T.1N., R.20E., Beaver County, Oklahoma. One outlier in N1/2, SW1/4, Sec. 14, T.3N., R.13E., Texas County, Oklahoma is not insitu, consisting of a chaotic mixture of large blocks of either Dakota or Cheyenne sandstone intercalated with possible Kiowa Shale, all of which collapsed into underlying formations.

Thickness of in-situ outliers from 2 to 5 feet.

PURGATOIRE GROUP (*Lower Cretaceous, Albian*) — Consists of two formations, the upper Kiowa Shale and the lower Cheyenne Sandstone.

The Kiowa Shale is a medium dark gray to dark gray, locally calcareous clayshale that grades in the upper half into a fossiliferous, sandy mudshale interbedded with thin (about 1 inch thick) argillaceous sandstone beds; sandstone more common in uppermost quarter of unit; *Gryphea* the most common fossil found in the upper half. Formation thickness varies from 0 to 63 feet.

The Cheyenne Sandstone is light gray to very light gray, weakly to moderately indurated, thin-bedded to seemingly massive (structureless), trough and planar crossbedding with wedge crossbedding in lower third, medium- to coarse-grained quartzarenite; locally conglomeratic in the lower half of the member with clast size ranging from granule- to cobble, and composed of milky quartz, and rock fragments of schist, chert, and limestone. Thickness of the formation 0 to 70 feet; absent in the eastern part of the outcrop belt northwest of Boise City as the unit is truncated by the overlaying Kiowa Shale.

Total thickness of the Purgatoire Group varies considerably due to a pre-Dakota

MORRISON FORMATION (Upper Jurassic, Oxfordian - Tithonian) — Interbedded argillaceous, fine- to very fine-grained quartzarenites, variegated sandy mudstones, and carbonate mudstones that commonly show internal algal laminations. Sandstones are light gray, greenish-gray, brownish-yellow, and white, and have a lenticular geometry that pinch and swell laterally for short distances along exposures; they tend to be more common in the upper half to two-thirds of the unit. Mudstones predominantly greenish-gray, brownish-yellow to brown, but moderate red, dusky red, purple, and grayish-purple shales may occur; bedding blocky to massive and caused by extensive paleosol development. Carbonate mudstones usually light gray to medium gray, but maroon and orangishyellow colors also occur; partial dolomitization common; beds average 6 inches thick, but 2 to 3 foot thick beds have been described in other reports; bedding and bedding contacts even and planar; internal algal laminations common. An angular unconformity between the Morrison and overlying Purgatoire Group occurs throughout much of the area due to a prominent pre-Purgatoire flexure. Total thickness of the Morrison Formation range from 250 to 315 feet, thinning to the

Formation erosional surface, ranging from 0 to as much 133 feet.

EXETER FORMATION (Middle Jurassic, Callovian) — Basal 13 to 15 feet a brown to yellowish-brown, moderately indurated, wedge crossbedded, fine- to occasionally medium-grained, pebbly quartzarenite; cross-beds not pronounced on weathered surfaces; very fine-grained sand and silt may occur as bedding laminae separating cross bed sets; pebbles usually observed along base of cross bed sets and are composed of chert. This basal part of the Exeter is absent in the outcrop belt located north and northwest of Boise City.

The upper 38 to 40 feet of unit is a light gray to white, friable to weakly indurated, trough

DOCKUM GROUP, UNDIVIDED (Upper Triassic, Carnian - Norian) — Includes in ascending order: the Sheep Pen Sandstone, Sloan Canyon Formation, Travesser Formation, and the top of the Baldly Hill Formation represented by the Cobert Canyon Bed (Lucas and others, 1987).

SHEEP PEN SANDSTONE: brown to yellowish-brown, wavy laminated to thin-badded, fine to medium grained quartzarenits; badding contacts both planer and years.

crossbedded, medium-grained quartzarenite.

Total thickness varies between 40 and 55 feet.

bedded, fine- to medium-grained quartzarenite; bedding contacts both planar and wavy with wavy contacts more common in basal and upper third of unit; trough crossbedding common in thicker sandstone beds; vertical burrows of *Skolithios*(?) common in upper part of unit. Thickness about 15 feet; upper contact represented by a disconformity, basal contact conformable.

SLOAN CANYON FORMATION: predominantly greenish-gray in color, with local variations of dark red, maroon, to reddish-purple; mostly a calcareous sandy siltstone with sandy mudstones and local interbeds of fine- to very fine-grained, calcareous quartzarenites and very argillaceous carbonate mudstones (lithologically bordering on

variations of dark red, maroon, to reddish-purple; mostly a calcareous sandy siltstone with sandy mudstones and local interbeds of fine- to very fine-grained, calcareous quartzarenites and very argillaceous carbonate mudstones (lithologically bordering on marls). Sandstones planar laminated, wavy laminated to thin-bedded, and typically no more than 1 to 1.5 feet thick; however, some intervals and beds may be as much as 8 feet thick. Thickness 70 to 125 feet; basal contact represented by a disconformity. TRAVESSER FORMATION (description based on Lucas and others, 1987, p. 100-102): predominantly reddish-brown in color, consisting of interbedded sandy siltstones and thin argillaceous, thin- to very thin-bedded quartzarenites, with local associations with limestone conglomerates. Sandstone appears more concentrated in upper third of unit. Bedding characteristic of siltstones typically planar to wavy laminated; sandstones wavy, thin- to medium-bedded. Thickness about 330 feet with a sharp, but

disconformable basal contact.

BALDY HILL FORMATION (description based on Lucas and others, 1987, p. 98-100): represented by the Cobert Canyon Bed, a 6 to 10 foot thick, pale red, planar crossbedded, paraconglomerate; clasts mostly fall within the pebble- to cobble-size range and consist of limestone with minor siltstone rock fragments; matrix consists of fine-grained quartzarentite. The unit was only observed in the outcrop belt north-northwest of Boise City, near the termination of Picket House Draw, Sec. 31, T.6N., R.6E., Cimarron County, Oklahoma (Lucas and others, 1987). It does not appear to crop out anywhere west of this location. The Cobert Canyon Bed most likely correlates with the Trujillo Formation of Palo Duro Canyon, Texas (Lucas and others, 1987, fig. 13). Overall, the Dockum Group has a minimum-maximum thickness range of 421 to 480 feet; base is not exposed.

TRIASSIC(?) UNKNOWN — Possible outliers of Triassic redbeds occur along the Beaver River and its tributaries, mostly within Secs. 13 to 25, T.3N., R.13E., and in Secs. 7 and 8, and Secs. 19 and 20, T.3N., R.12E., Texas County, Oklahoma. Consists of yellowish-gray to reddish-brown, crossbedded paraconglomerate, reddish-brown, fine- to course-grained argillaceous quartzarenites, and reddish-orange interbedded siltstone and mudstone. Conglomerate with pebble-sized clasts consisting of fine-grained sandstone fragments, dolomite, and volcanic rock fragments set in a coarse-grained sand matrix. Sandstones friable, medium-grained, micaceous, lenticular, and laterally grade into shales and siltstones. Beds may be equivelant to the Trujillo and Tecovas Formations of Palo Duro Canyon (Barnes, 1970).

DOXEY FORMATION (*Upper Permian, Ochoan*) — Dark reddish-brown to dark yellowish-brown, moderately indurated, interlaminated, clayshale and siltstone; light yellowish-brown mottling or iron reduction spots common throughout. Minor orangish-brown, fine-grained, argillaceous quatrzarenite locally at base of unit.

Thickness about 30 feet; top truncated by Ogallala Formation and by an outlier of Cretaceous(?) sandstone in Sec. 6, T.1N., R.20E., Beaver County, Oklahoma.

Thickness from 45 to 95 feet; top truncated by the Ogallala Formation, base not

CLOUD CHIEF FORMATION (*Upper Permian, Guadalupian - Ochoan*) — Reddishbrown to orangish-brown, locally greenish-gray, interbedded poorly laminated clayshale and mudshale, fine- to very-fine grained, argilaceous quatrzarenite, gypsum and thin dolomite beds; gypsum and sandstone, with minor siltstone more common in middle of unit. Calcite and/or gypsum veins, oriented oblique to main bedding, common throughout. Base of formation marked at the base of the Moccasin Creek Dolomite, a light gray, fine-crystalline dolostone. The Dog Creek Dolomite (which appears similar to the Moccasin Creek) poorly exposed and stratigraphically located near the middle of formation.

Thickness 220 feet.

RUSH SPRINGS FORMATION (*Upper Permian, G*uadalupian) — Reddish-brown, fine-grained quartzarenite, commonly cross-bedded with local interbeds of reddish-brown shale.

Thickness 175 feet.

MARLOW FORMATION (*Upper Permian, G*uadalupian) — Poorly exposed, orangish-brown, fine-grained sandstone, with local interbeds of very sandy mudstone and siltstone. Thin gypsum beds in upper 5 to 10 feet of exposures.

Thickness 50 feet, base not exposed

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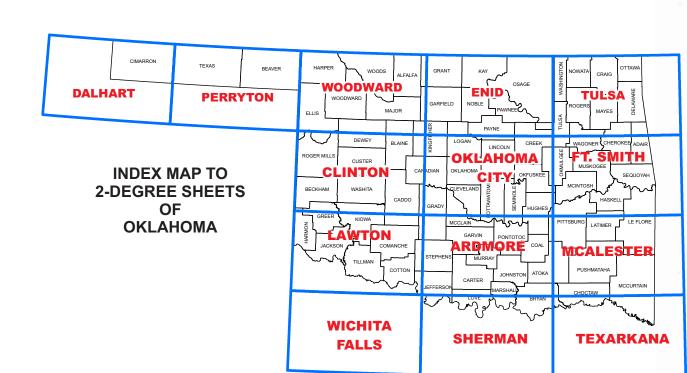
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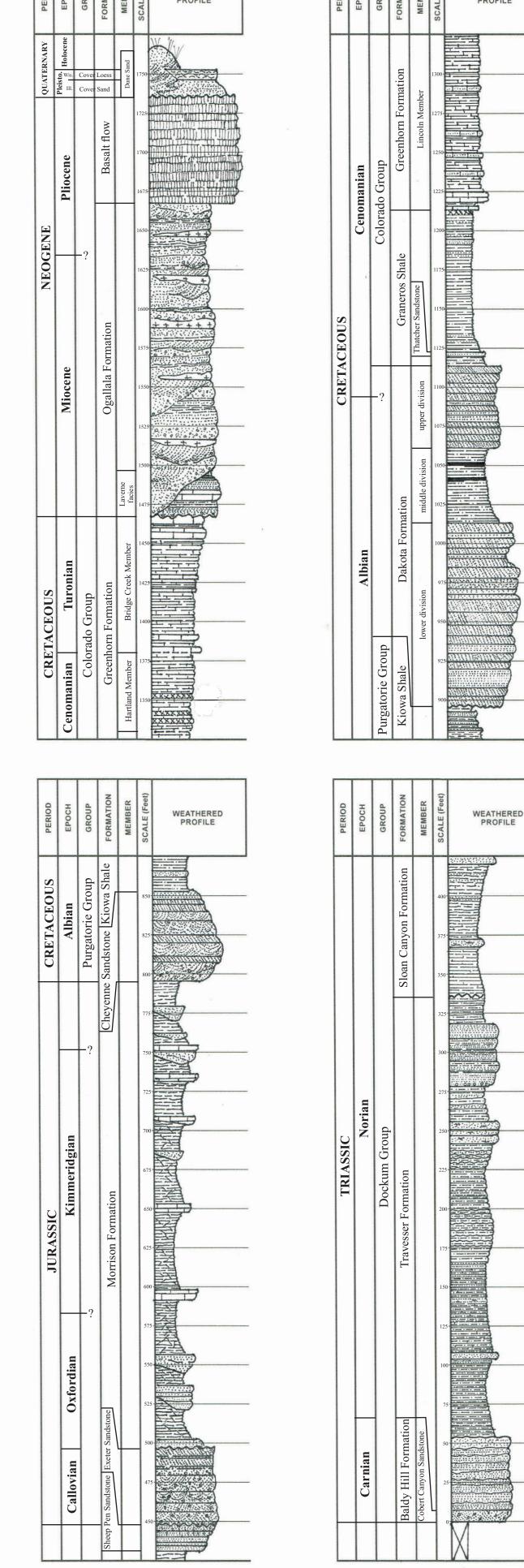


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Weathered profiles of the stratigraphic interval exposed around Black Mesa, located in the far northwest corner of Cimarron County.