

# Geologic map of the Durham Hills 7.5' Quadrangle, Pinal County, Arizona

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## Map Units

Surficial Geologic Units: Map units consisting of variably consolidated clay, sand, and gravel, differentiated based on soil development, depositional environment, and outcrop morphology

**Qyc** Modern stream channel deposits (< 1 ka) – Active channel deposits composed of well-sorted sand and gravel to poorly-sorted sand, gravel and cobbles in the steeper channels. Channels are generally incised less than 1 m below adjacent terraces and fans, but locally incision may be as much as 2 m. Channel morphologies generally consist of a single-thread high flow channel or multi-threaded low flow channels with gravel bars. Channels are extremely flood prone and are subject to deep, high velocity flows in moderate to large flow events, and severe lateral bank erosion.

**Qyl** Late Holocene alluvium (< 2 ka) – Channels, low terraces, and small alluvial fans composed of gravel, cobbles, sand, silt, and boulders recently deposited by modern drainage. Includes Qyc where not mapped separately. Near mountain fronts, channel sediments are generally coarse and gravel, but may include cobbles and boulders. Terraces typically are mantled with sand and finer sediment. On piedmont areas, young deposits are mainly sand and silt, with some gravels and cobbles in channels. Channels generally incised less than 1 m below adjacent terraces and fans, but locally incision may be as much as 2 m. Channel morphologies consist of a single-thread high flow channel or multi-threaded low flow channels with gravel bars adjacent to low flow channels. Downstream branching distributary channel patterns – small, discontinuous, well-defined channels alternating with broad excavation reaches where channels are very small and poorly defined – are typical on the western piedmont. Local relief varies from fairly smooth channel bottoms to the undulating bar-and-swale topography that is characteristic of coarser deposits. Channels are flood prone and may be subject to deep, high velocity flows in moderate to large flow events. Potential lateral bank erosion is severe. Flood flows may significantly change channel morphology and flow paths. Terraces have planar surfaces, but small channels are common. Soil development associated with Qyl deposits is minimal. Vegetation along Qyl channels includes ironwood, mesquite and palo verde, along with several shrub species.

**Qyo** Late Pleistocene alluvium (< 2 to 10 ka) – Low terraces found at scattered locations along incised drainages and broad alluvial fans on the western edge of map area. Qyl terraces are 1 to 2 m above adjacent active channels and less subject to inundation than adjacent Qyl terraces. Qyl surfaces are generally planar but fans may be incised up to 2 m. Deposits typically are sandy but locally have unvarnished, open, fine gravel lags. Soil development is minimal with well-sorted, well-sorted, well-sorted, well-sorted (1) carbonate accumulation (see Machette, 1985, for description of stages of calcium carbonate accumulation in soils). Yellow brown (10YR) soil color is similar to original fluvial deposits. Qyl surfaces support mainly creosote bush.

**Qy1** Holocene to Late Pleistocene alluvium (< 2 to 130 ka) – Terraces and broadly rounded alluvial fan surfaces approximately 2 m above active channels. Qyl is composed of mixed Late Pleistocene (Q1) and Holocene (Qy1 and Qy2) alluvium. Qy1 areas are covered by a thin veneer of light brown, fine-grained Holocene alluvium and scattered the gravel lag, with reddened Late Pleistocene alluvium exposed in patches on low ridges, in roads and wash cut banks. Drainage networks are a mix of distributary channel networks on the lower piedmonts and tributary channels on the upper piedmonts. Vegetation includes triangle leaf bursera, creosote bush, cholla, prickly pear, barrel cacti, saguaros, ironwood and palo verde trees.

**Q1** Late Pleistocene alluvium (< 10 to 130 ka) – Broadly rounded to rounded and moderately dissected relict alluvial fans and terraces. Surfaces are 1 to 2 m above active channels with light bar and swale morphology preserved. Deposits consist of gravel, cobbles, and finer-grained sediments. Q1 surfaces commonly have loose, open lags of pebbles and cobbles; surface clasts may exhibit weak rock varnish. Q1 soils are brown to weak (stage 1) calcareous accumulation (see Machette, 1985, for description of stages of calcium carbonate accumulation in soils). Vegetation includes triangle leaf bursera, creosote bush, cholla, prickly pear, barrel cacti, saguaros, ironwood and palo verde trees.

**Qm** Middle Pleistocene alluvium (< 130 to 750 ka) – Moderately dissected relict alluvial fans drained by well-developed, moderately to deeply incised tributary channel networks. Channels are incised 1-4 meters with channel incision increasing towards the mountains. Well-observed, planar Qm surfaces are smooth with moderately to strongly varnished, loose to moderately packed gravel and cobble pavements. More eroded, rounded Qm surfaces are characterized by scattered cobbles and broad ridge-like topography. Qm alluvium derived from granitic rocks and has smooth gravel surfaces with little to no varnish on surface clasts, and lesser amounts of carbonate accumulation through the soil profile. Qm surfaces have a distinctive dark color or color mottling, reflecting reddening of the surface soil and surface clasts. Soils typically contain reddened, clay argillite horizons, with obvious clay skins and subangular to angular blocky structure. Underlying soil sections developed on Qm surfaces are typically stage II, with abundant carbonate through at least 1 m of the soil profile. Rounded petrographic horizons are rare. Qm alluvium derived from granitic rocks contain lesser amounts of carbonate accumulation through the soil profile. Qm2 surfaces are found on the lower western piedmonts. They are typically incised two to four meters and form isolated, well rounded ridges with coarse gravel and cobble lags. These surfaces are typically smooth and more incised than surrounding Q1 surfaces, with coarser lag and redder soil. However, soil development is not as strong as a typical Qm. Qm surfaces generally support mesquite, palo verde, ironwood, creosote, cholla, prickly pear, and sometimes ocotillo.

**Qmo** Middle to Early Pleistocene alluvium (< 500 ka to 1 Ma) – Moderately to deeply dissected relict alluvial fans. Qmo forms broadly rounded ridges that are higher than adjacent Qm surfaces but not as high or eroded as Qo surfaces. Tributary drainage networks are incised 3 to 6 m, increasing towards the mountains. Qmo soils are very well developed with a distinct dark red (> 2.5 YR), heavy clay argillite horizon and subangular blocky to prismatic structure. Carbonate accumulation ranges are 2-4 m thick, and range from stage III, IV, Qmo surfaces support sparse vegetation including palo verde, mesquite, ocotillo, cholla, and prickly pear cacti.

**Qo** Early Pleistocene alluvium (< 750 ka to 2 Ma) – Early Pleistocene alluvium (< 750 ka to 2 Ma) – Moderately to deeply dissected relict alluvial fans remains in the southeastern map area. Qo surfaces are highly eroded, rounded ridges with up to 10 m of active channel incision. Qo deposits consist of cobbles, boulders, and sand and finer clasts with soil development similar to Qmo soils. Qo surfaces vary from red where the argillite horizon is preserved, to light colored where carbonate fragments derived from the underlying petrologic horizon litter the surface. Qo is a thin veneer of well-preserved Qo alluvium over bedrock pediment. Qo surfaces record the highest levels of aggradation in the area surrounding the Tortolita Mountains, and are probably correlative with other high, remnant surfaces found at various locations throughout southern Arizona (e.g. Skotnicki, 2000). Qo surfaces support sparse vegetation including palo verde, mesquite, ocotillo, cholla, and prickly pear cacti.

**Other Quaternary Map Units**  
**Qc** Talus and colluvium (< 2 Ma) – Qc consists of gravely-transported, unconsolidated talus and colluvium on steep hillslopes where it is sufficiently thick to obscure underlying bedrock. Deposits consist of angular to subangular boulders to fine sand, composed mainly of adjacent bedrock rock types. Vegetation is generally not found on these deposits due to the frequent movement of material.  
**QTKg** Holocene alluvium and residuum over TKg (< 10 ka) – Thin, discontinuous Holocene alluvium and residuum overlying bedrock unit TKg. Deposits are silt and sand with angular to subangular gravel and cobbles composed of Unit TKg. Vegetation is sparse and consists mostly of creosote.

**Tertiary map units**  
Zone of hematitic alteration and fracturing.  
**Tdx** Ductile lava flows (Oligocene to early Miocene) – Ductile lava flows on Inselbergs southwest of Durham Hills. Rock has very fine-grained crystalline matrix, and contains 20-25% 2-dmm diameter plagioclase phenocrysts, 2-5mm biotite phenocrysts. Ductile is dark red in color, and strongly potassium metasomatized. Includes massive and autochthonous zones. Overlies basal lava. Incised in unit Tm.  
**Tb** Mafic lava (Oligocene to early Miocene) – Undivided basalt to andesite, mostly scattered outcrop on flats, difficult to place in stratigraphic context. Outcrops above detachment fault in east-central Durham Hills, consists of very fine crystalline, dark tan weathering, variably vesicular mafic lava flows. Contains 1-5% olivine and diophrone phenocrysts, but small (10mm) crystal size and iron-titanium alteration matrix. Contains 20-25% thin sandstone bed with volcanoclastic debris probably overlying or underlies a lava flow autochthonous. Scarcous, vesicular basaltic lavas on Inselberg southwest of Durham Hills contain 5-7% mafic phenocrysts 1-2 millimeter in diameter, and in some places about 3x-13 millimeter diameter plagioclase phenocrysts.

**Tc** Conglomerate of Magma Wall (Oligocene to early Miocene) – Conglomerate in hanging wall of detachment fault in Central Durham Hills. Pebbles to cobbles conglomerate with 90% diasts of porphyritic biotite granite with 5-8% dark (mostly biotite) minerals in one area, abundant mafic volcanic debris in another. Heterogeneity and poor sorting indicate probable local derivation.  
**Tm1** Mafic lava with biotite (Oligocene to early Miocene) – Dark, medium to fine grained mafic dikes, in some areas with biotite, in other areas appears to be a fine-grained plagioclase-hornblende mafic dike. Moderately to severely fracturing with fracture-filling hematite and chloritic alteration are common. Dike apparently intrudes detachment fault in western exposure of dike, and is faulted by post-detachment, high-angle, south-west-dipping normal fault in eastern exposure.

**Tertiary mylonitic rocks**  
**Tz** Mylonitic rocks (Oligocene to early Miocene) – Heterogeneous mylonitic rocks, derived from porphyritic granodiorite unit (TKg). Pinal Schist. Diorite to granodiorite of Durham Hills (TKgd), and possibly other units. Characterized by well developed mylonitic fabric that obscures the coarse relict of the protolith. Rock is typically gray-green to very fine-grained quartz-feldspar-chlorite mylonite. Transposed quartz veins are common.  
**TXm** Pinal Schist with mylonitic overprint (Middle Proterozoic and Cretaceous or Tertiary) – Pinal Schist with mylonitic overprint. Lenses of leucocratic granitoid concordant to foliation are apparently the transposed remnants of muscovite granite and pegmatite dikes. Floating isoclinal fold hinges in millimeter to cm-scale. Foliation is commonly visible. Mylonitic stretching lineation is poorly developed in mica-rich rock, but is easily seen in transposed quartz veins and granitoid dikes. The stretching lineation is typically parallel to prominent intersection lineation formed between older laminated differentiated foliation and mylonitic foliation.

**TKa** Hematitic mylonitic porphyritic biotite granodiorite (Cretaceous and Oligocene to early Miocene) – Moderately to strongly mylonitic porphyritic biotite granodiorite (TKg), strongly fractured with common hematite staining on fracture surfaces. The rock is affected by chloritic and hematitic alteration with local fracture-filling secondary copper minerals (chrysocolla?, malachite?). Structural thickness of mylonitic zone is generally greater than alteration zone. Mylonitic rocks are typically strongly mylonitic, with some rocks so transposed by shearing that they have been converted to a thin layer of mylonite, with layers 2-10 mm thick. Contact into weakly foliated porphyritic granodiorite in NW NE Sec. 19 is very abrupt.

**Intrusive complex of the Durham Hills (Cretaceous or Tertiary)**  
**TKa** Aplitic, fine-grained, equigranular dikes consisting of quartz and feldspar, with 1-2% biotite. 5-10 millimeter diameter potassium feldspar phenocrysts are present in some areas. Some dikes have pegmatitic zones in the field. Content of large K-feldspar phenocrysts (1-2 cm) is highly variable, and ranges from 0% to perhaps 40%. Full range of content visible over distances as little as 15 m. Rock commonly weathers to form large rounded boulders including the surface.  
**TKg** Porphyritic granodiorite of the Durham Hills. Contains 1-2 cm pinkish white K-feldspar that are sufficiently abundant and visible, with dark, biotite-rich matrix, that rock has a distinctive, porphyritic appearance in the field. Content of large K-feldspar phenocrysts (1-2 cm) is highly variable, and ranges from 0% to perhaps 40%. Full range of content visible over distances as little as 15 m. Rock commonly weathers to form large rounded boulders including the surface.

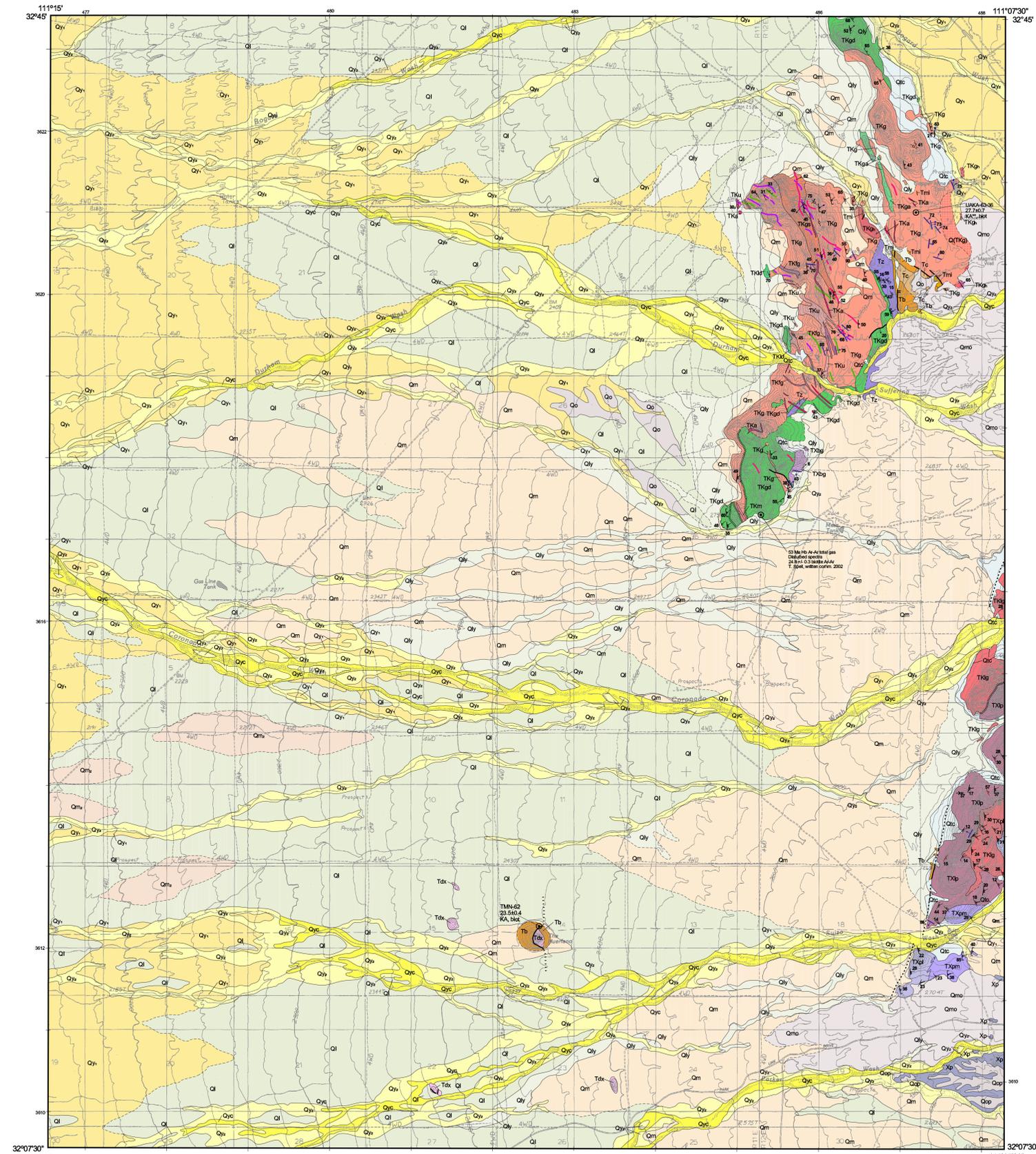
**TKga** Slightly porphyritic granodiorite of the Durham Hills. Seriate-tetune granodiorite, grain size from 0.5 to 3 millimeter, with scattered 1 cm potassium feldspar phenocrysts. Rock contains 20-40% quartz, 60-70% feldspar, mostly plagioclase, and 2-7% biotite. Contact with porphyritic granodiorite is sharp to gradational; the two rocks appear to be phases of the same pluton.  
**TKgd** Aplitic and porphyritic granodiorite of the Durham Hills. This unit consists of abundant thin to very thick aplitic dikes intruding porphyritic granodiorite of the Durham Hills.  
**TKgk** Diorite to granodiorite of Durham Hills. Texturally variable diorite to granodiorite. Ranges from medium-grained (3-5 mm), equigranular hornblende-plagioclase diorite to fine-grained biotite-hornblende-plagioclase granodiorite. Potassium feldspar content difficult to estimate, mostly seems sparse to absent, but 0.5-cm diameter potassium feldspar phenocrysts are present in some areas. Mostly medium gray color. Irregular intrusive contacts separate phases. Strain is highly variable, rock ranges from foliated to non-foliated. Medium-grained granitoid dikes, pegmatites and some aplitic dikes cut the unit, and locally cut across mylonitic fabric in the granodiorite. One porphyritic granodiorite dike intruding the diorite-granodiorite unit in the southern Durham Hills was observed to have steeped blocks of diorite-granodiorite in the porphyritic granodiorite, demonstrating that at least locally the porphyritic granodiorite is younger. Schist is common accessory mineral.

**TKgu** Leucocratic granodiorite of Durham Hills. Medium-grained equigranular granodiorite with sparse but ubiquitous hornblende prisms and sparse potassium feldspar phenocrysts. Locally grades to seriate-tetune granitoid with quartz-biotite granitoid within 100 m diameter, well crystalline hornblende prisms and sparse potassium feldspar phenocrysts. Weak internal foliation generally present, defined by aligned hornblende, biotite, and potassium feldspar crystals. Rock distinguished from slightly porphyritic granodiorite by lighter color, and sparsity of porphyritic and presence of hornblende prisms.  
**TKk** Mixed porphyritic granodiorite, leucocratic granodiorite, fine-grained granodiorite. Mixed zone of porphyritic granodiorite, leucocratic granodiorite in dikes with variable orientations, aplitic to porphyritic granodiorite in the field, and fine-grained biotite quartz diorite. Mixed phases seem to be irregular blocks in granitoid. Rock variations occur on 1-10 meter scale. May be zones of megacryst magmatism.  
**TKks** Fine-grained diorite to granodiorite (late Cretaceous or Tertiary) – medium gray, fine-grained to very fine-grained, equigranular diorite to granodiorite. Rock consists of approximately 70% feldspar, with some quartz; remainder is biotite and hornblende. 1-2 millimeter prismatic mafic crystals locally present. Forms dikes and lenses in porphyritic granodiorite and slightly porphyritic granodiorite; rock is lithologically quite similar to locally abundant eroded in porphyritic granodiorite.

**TKm** Mafic dikes (late Cretaceous or Tertiary) – fine to very fine-grained dark greenish gray dikes, generally very poorly exposed. Forms swales with sparse float in the rock. Apatite and iron-oxide (hematite) chills mantles exposed rarely. Rock is plagioclase + chloritic mafic minerals. Hornblende phenocrysts and mafic phenocrysts altered to very fine-grained biotite present in some dikes.  
**TKn** Leucocratic complex of the Suizo Mountains  
**TKnu** Leucocratic of the Suizo Mountains (Late Cretaceous or Tertiary) – Leucocratic muscovite-biotite granitoid, consists of about 20% quartz, 1-3 millimeter diameter, weakly to moderately seriated plagioclase, and generally less than 7% muscovite + biotite. Locally contains 2-3% of 1 to 3 mm garnet, and up to 3 mm muscovite. The unit consists of pegmatite and pegmatite quartz veins in some areas. Rock is generally resistant and forms rick tops in Suizo Mountains. Foliation is generally very weakly developed in the northern part of the Suizo Mountains. The leucocratic is transformed to strongly lineated mylonite and finely ultramylonite in a mylonite zone on the southwest side of Suizo Mountains. Mylonitic fabric is progressively less developed structurally downward or west side of range.

**Mixed Pinal Schist and leucocratic**  
**TKp** Mixed unit, leucocratic predominant over Pinal Schist (Early Proterozoic and Late Cretaceous or Tertiary) – Heterogeneous pegmatite muscovite leucocratic with screens of muscovite-biotite schist, and schist with concordant varieties and sheets of leucocratic. This unit mapped where leucocratic is the predominant phase present, and schist forms > 10% of rock volume. Garnet is only locally present in schist phase. Leucocratic dikes can locally be observed to cross cut laminated differentiated foliation in schist, interpreted to represent the Proterozoic fabric in the schist. Includes some lenses of medium-grained equigranular to slightly porphyritic, locally variable diorite in TKp.  
**TKq** Mixed unit, Pinal Schist predominant over leucocratic (Early Proterozoic and Late Cretaceous or Tertiary) – identical to TKp, but schist is predominant, and leucocratic forms > 10% of rock.  
**TKr** Biotite granodiorite (Tertiary, Cretaceous or Early Proterozoic) – Light gray, medium-fine grained, recrystallized biotite granodiorite. Rock is generally equigranular with granoblastic texture. Aligned biotite dikes define a moderately developed schist. Recrystallized texture of rock suggests that this is an older granitoid phase than unit TKgd, and has been subjected to a pre-TKgd metamorphic event.

**TKs** Pinal Schist (Early Proterozoic) – Gray to silvery fine-grained psammite, schist and phyllite, in hanging wall of detachment fault, exposed in west and on sediment in southeastern corner of map area. Locally contains 1-2 millimeter diameter dark spots, siliceous laminations, and sandy lenses. Fabric is very variable.  
**TKt** Weakly foliated, incipient mylonite.  
**TKu** Moderately developed mylonite.  
**TKv** Mylonitic foliation.  
**TKw** Inlined joint.  
**TKx** Fault orientation.  
**TKy** Inclusion, number indicates plunge.  
**TKz** Mylonitic stretching lineation.  
**TKaa** up-dip sense of shear.  
**TKab** up-dip sense of shear.  
**TKac** crenulation fold in mylonite.  
**TKad** slickenside striation.



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**INTRODUCTION**  
This digital geologic map and report describes the bedrock and surficial geology of the Durham Hills 7.5' Quadrangle. The study area is located approximately 60 km northwest of downtown Tucson. It includes the Durham Hills, western Suizo Mountains, and the piedmont areas extending west and south of these hills with sparse outcrops of Tertiary volcanic rock. Elevations in the study range from approximately 3200' in the Suizo Mountains on the eastern edge of the map area to 2760' on the western edge. Mapping was conducted between October, 2001 and May, 2002 as part of continuing efforts by the Arizona Geological Survey (AGS) to map the geology of the Phoenix-Tucson urban corridor. This map is part of a mapping project that encompasses several adjacent quadrangles including Fort Huachuca Peak (DGM 18), Desert Peak (DGM 20), Oro Valley (DGM 21), Chief Butte (DGM 22), North of Oracle (DGM 23), and the Tortolita Mountains including the northern portion of Ruess Canyon (DGM 26). Bedrock mapping consists almost entirely of new mapping but locally incorporates past mapping by Banks and others (1977). The surficial geologic mapping builds on and complements previous efforts in the Tucson area (e.g. Kluwon and others, 1999; Peartree and Biggs, 1999; Skotnicki, 1999; Peartree and Youberg, 2000; Skotnicki, 2000), and references cited on those maps). This mapping is part of the STATEMAP Program of the U.S. Geological Survey, administered under contract #01HQAC0008 and jointly supported by the AGS and the U.S. Geological Survey National Cooperative Mapping Program.

The majority of the map area is a piedmont that slopes gently westward from the Durham Hills and Suizo Mountains. The piedmont is mantled by Quaternary alluvium of varying ages. The two main ridges of the Durham Hills are separated by a northwest-trending high-angle fault. This fault is inferred to be a gently east-dipping detachment fault exposed southwestward from about 487000N 3621000E (UTM, zone 12). Rock above and below the detachment fault is crushed for a distance of 20 to 200 cm. Footwall rocks are strongly mylonitic for several to 10 meters structurally beneath the fault, with some rocks transposed by shearing that they have been converted to a thinly layered gneissic mylonite, with layers 2-10 mm thick. Hanging wall rocks are reddish and oxidized, footwall rock is greenish gray and chloritic. The fault slips 40° to 45° to the east. No microbreccia or relict fault surface was observed. This detachment fault is inferred to bound the east side of the Durham Hills, juxtaposing Tertiary volcanic and sedimentary rocks on foliated to massive granitic rocks exposed in the Durham Hills. These volcanic and sedimentary rocks are inferred to be continuous in the subsurface and infiltrates into the soil more deeply than summer rainfall (summarized from Sellers and Hill, 1974). Freezing temperatures are common during most winters, but snow is uncommon and not persistent.

Topographic base U.S. Geological Survey Durham Hills 7.5' quadrangle, Provisional Edition, 1988; UTM zone 12, NAD 27.

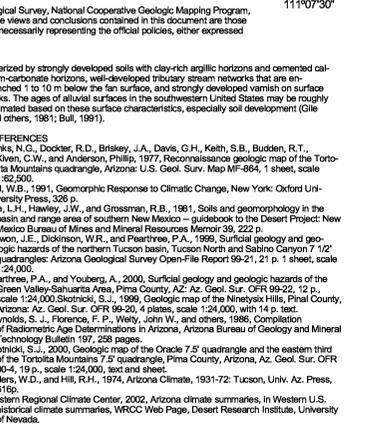
Research partially supported by the U.S. Geological Survey, National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, under USGS award number 01HQAC0008. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Government.

Climate records from two of these stations illustrate the relatively warm and dry climate of the lower elevations in the Sonoran Desert. Cortaro, at about 2280 ft a.s.l., has an average annual precipitation of 11.2 in., while Red Rock, at about 1860 ft a.s.l., has an average annual precipitation of 9.9 in. (Western Regional Climate Center, 2002). Average annual maximum temperature for Cortaro is 85.7° F, with an average high temperature of 102.7° F in July and 67.0° F in January. Temperature data from Red Rock are typically within a degree of Cortaro. These conditions reflect those typically found on the piedmonts throughout the map area. The higher, mountainous areas of Durham Hills and Suizo Mountains are more closely approximated by the Willow Springs Ranch weather station, located at 3690 ft a.s.l. Average annual precipitation is 15.1 in., with an average annual total snowfall of 3.1 in. Average annual maximum temperature for Willow Springs is 77.1° F, with an average high temperature of 95.4° F in July and 58.6° F in January.

**METHODOLOGY**  
Quaternary surficial geology was mapped and described by Youberg. Bedrock geology of the Durham Hills and Suizo Mountains was mapped and described by Richard and Kluwon, C.W., and Anderson, Philip, 1977. Recombination geologic map of the Tortolita Mountains, Arizona, U.S. Geol. Surv. Map MF-884, 1 sheet, scale 1:52,500.  
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actuated by strongly developed soils with clay-rich argillite horizons and oriented calum-carbonate horizons, well-developed tributary stream networks that are entrenched 1 to 10 m below the fan surface, and strongly developed varnish on surface rocks. The ages of alluvial fans in the southwestern United States may be roughly estimated based on these surface characteristics, especially soil development (Kluwon and others, 1981; Bull., 1991).

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## Structure Symbols

