

Geologic map of the Bouse and Ibox Peak 7 1/2 Quadrangles, La Paz County, Arizona

Arizona Geological Survey
Digital Geologic Map 107 (DGM-107), version 2.0

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Introduction

The Bouse and Ibox Peak 7 1/2 Quadrangles are located approximately 41 km south-southeast of the town of Parker in La Paz County, western Arizona. The quadrangles encompass the northern Pimosa Mountains and flanking piedmonts, as well as part of upper Bouse Wash, the town of Bouse, and the southern edge of Cactus Plain. Geologic mapping was done under the joint State-Federal STATEMAP program, as specified in the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and was jointly funded by the Arizona Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey under STATEMAP assistance award #G12AC20464. Mapping was completed digitally using ESRI ArcGIS software.

Version 2 of DGM-107 includes two days of new mapping east and southeast of Four Peaks, along the southeastermost extent of the Pimosa detachment fault, and north of Ibox Peak.

Surficial geology

Surficial geologic units were mapped using field observations, stereo aerial photographs, digital orthophotographs and/or georeferenced imagery, and digital elevation models (DEM). Relative ages of alluvial deposits were estimated using characteristics of clast weathering, soil development, carbonate accumulation, and position in the landscape (Cole and others, 1981; Machette, 1985; Bull, 1991; Birkland, 1999). Soil development and carbonate accumulation beneath a deposit is isolated from active alluvial processes. As a result, the degree of soil development and carbonate accumulation are one of the criteria used to identify the approximate ages of surficial units. Younger alluvial deposits have little to no soil development, retaining the original gray or brown color of the alluvial sediments, and no carbonate accumulation. Clasts in these deposits have no weathering rinds or surface patinas and thus appear brighter and fresher than older clasts. Young alluvial surfaces often retain original depositional characteristics such as bars and swales. Conversely, older alluvial deposits have better developed soils that appear orange or red in color, with soil horizons reflecting clay and carbonate accumulations. Clasts in older alluvial deposits often exhibit darkened weathering rinds or some degree of oxidation (orange surface patina), and thus appear darker on the ground and in aerial photographs. Preserved alluvial surfaces may be smooth and flat (Q1), becoming more rounded and covered with age (Q2). The oldest alluvial surfaces (Q11) are often eroded, rounded ridges with no soils preserved and the carbonate horizon exposed.

Numerous northeast-trending, linear troughs are located on the west side of the northernmost Pimosa Mountains in older Quaternary to Pliocene alluvial deposits. Field examination did not identify any other features associated with these troughs except in a small number of locations where they were associated with faults, which are shown on the map.

Bedrock geology

The northern Pimosa Mountains are a southward tilted fault block bounded above and to the north by the Oligocene(?) Miocene extensional Pimosa detachment fault (Scarborough and Meador, 1983; Spencer and Reynolds, 1991). Displacement on the fault was sufficient to uncover mylonitic crystalline rocks that make up a metamorphic core complex. Further south in the detachment fault footwall block, the Pimosa Pass thrust zone consists of multiple thrust faults and folded tectonites derived primarily from Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks (Strommen, 1985; Steinke, 1996). Rocks of this complex thrust zone are displaced northward in fault blocks above the Pimosa detachment fault. Aquatic and zircon fission-track ages indicate that exhumation and cooling of footwall rocks below the Pimosa detachment fault occurred at about 15-23 Ma (Foster and Spencer, 1992). The southern part of the map area consists largely of upper Oligocene(?) to lower Miocene Tertiary volcanic rocks and shallow intrusions.

Extensional faulting and basin genesis, and elevated geothermal gradients associated with magmatism and crustal thinning, produced conditions that caused extensive oxidative alteration and mineralization in rocks near and above the detachment fault, including barite veins and deposits of hematite, specular hematite, and manganese oxides, with associated secondary copper minerals (Hamer, 1964; Duran, 1990). At least one north-south trending fault includes breccia that was derived from rocks previously subjected to argillic alteration, presumably in the Jurassic, and then metamorphosed during Cretaceous thrust burial (Reynolds et al., 1987). Electron microprobe analysis of four samples from 3 localities identified quartz, hematite, kaolinite, rutile, albite, diaspore, pyrophyllite, topaz, and sphenigite (Ken Domink, Univ. Arizona, written comm., 2014, sample locations: 3760720 UTMN, 3760759 UTMN; 3760753 UTMN, 3760759 UTMN; 3760759 UTMN, 3760753 UTMN; 3760753 UTMN, 3760759 UTMN).

Oligocene(?) Miocene sedimentary and volcanic units are positioned on the Stratigraphic Correlation Diagram so that their inferred tectonic setting is indicated by the "Extensional tectonic stage", as follows: (1) initial normal faulting resulted in subsidence and deposition of basal arkose and limestone on crystalline rocks that previously formed a highland; (2) this was followed by deposition of rock-avalanche breccias and mafic lavas. The breccias are interpreted to indicate development of high relief, with breccias derived from a big normal fault scarp at the southern or southwestern margin of a half-graben basin. (3) This was followed by fragmentation of the half-graben basin into multiple small-scale half-graben basins, with increasing differentiation of stratigraphic sections between basins.

Description of Map Units

- Disturbed ground** - Heavily disturbed or covered ground associated with mine dumps, excavations, and municipal development that has obscured or occluded original exposures.
- Pedogenic carbonate** - Extensive, riva (2-4 m), off-profile features of pedogenic carbonate found high on mountain slopes. These deposits are typically formed in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Deposits in local channels** - Recently active channel deposits that are commonly unconsolidated, very poorly sorted sands to cobble beds, and are weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Active channels, low terraces and bars** - Presently active channels located along active channels including small channels, arroyos, and washes. Presently active channels include active channels, arroyos, and washes.
- Small channels and pediment terraces** - Q11 deposits consist of coarse to fine sand and silt, and are located in the areas of pediment terraces and low terraces. These deposits are typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and are weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Pediment terraces and isolated alluvial fan deposits** - Q11 deposits consist of coarse to fine sand and silt, and are located in the areas of pediment terraces and low terraces. These deposits are typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and are weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Young deposits, undifferentiated** - Primarily alluvial deposits, with small clasts of sand and silt.
- Young alluvial fan deposits** - Young, active alluvial fan deposits that are laterally extensive and composed of green, silt, sand, and gravel. They are typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and are weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Intermediate alluvial fan and terrace deposits, undifferentiated** - Undifferentiated intermediate and late Pleistocene alluvial fan and terrace deposits.
- Young intermediate alluvial fan and terrace deposits** - Pebble, cobble, and sand deposits in low terraces and alluvial fans. Intermediate alluvial fan and terrace deposits.
- Intermediate fan and terrace deposits** - Pebble, cobble, and sand deposits in low terraces and alluvial fans. Intermediate alluvial fan and terrace deposits.
- Older intermediate fan and terrace deposits** - Pebble, cobble, and sand deposits in low terraces and alluvial fans. Older intermediate alluvial fan and terrace deposits.
- Higher dissected alluvial fan and terrace deposits** - Higher dissected alluvial fan and terrace deposits and dissected terraces. Alluvial fan and terrace deposits.
- Very high old alluvial fan deposits** - Coarse gravelly high remnant alluvial fans with very strong caliche development. These surfaces are usually well preserved and are typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and are weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Debris flow deposits and colluvium** - Boulder debris flow and debris flow, and erosion scars associated with debris flow debris.
- Hillside talus and colluvium** - Hillside talus and colluvium.

- Active main and side channels of Bouse Wash**
- Active high-flow channels and terraces along Bouse Wash**
- Terraces along Bouse Wash** - Terraces along Bouse Wash that are only active during the highest flows.
- Terraces along Bouse Wash** - Abandoned terraces along Bouse Wash. Open cropland fields.
- Intermediate terrace deposits - Bouse River** - Gravel and sand deposits with a mix of crystalline rocks, volcanic, and minor rounded cobbles. Terraces up to 15 ft above the active channels.
- Older deposits - Bouse River** - Older, highly dissected terrace gravel and sand along Bouse River. Gravel is primarily crystalline and volcanic lithology, but includes some gravel reworked from the Colorado River (Bull, 1991).

- Sandy deposits in active channels** - Reservoir and fine gravel in and along active channels in Cactus Plain, where sandy deposits are predominantly sand. Locally includes gravelly deposits in proximity to bedrock or older fan deposits.
- Dune sand deposits** - Quartz-rich dune sand deposits, with lesser amounts of silt and clay associated with more fine-grained sand. Dunes are commonly formed by dune sands that have been reworked from the Colorado River. These dunes are up to 10 ft high. Many portions of Cactus Plain are dominated by much smaller, more recent dunes.
- Sand surface mantle** - Intermediate and new dune areas covered primarily by sand, with minor gravel, silt, and clay. This is a common feature of Cactus Plain.
- Gravel and sand surface lag** - Erosion surfaces with open gravel lag and common, small-scale sandy soil deposits. Commonly associated with Bouse River terraces.

- Regolith derived from Miocene conglomerate** - Disaggregated rubble derived from conglomerate of map unit Tm. In many areas this may be an in situ regolith, and probably includes substantial areas of conglomerate map unit Tm. This is not a gravelly deposit.
- Regolith, undifferentiated** - Clayey weathered and disaggregated debris derived from unspecified units.
- Deeply incised fans without preserved surfaces**
- Silt, clay, minor sand** - Fine-grained deposits, some are likely poorly exposed Bouse Formation, others are eroded caliche.
- Bullhead alluvium** - Quartz-rich sand and rounded pebbles and cobbles of Bullhead alluvium, some fine-grained sand, and some coarse sand. This is a common feature of Cactus Plain.
- Bullhead alluvium?** - Quartz-rich sand and rounded pebbles and cobbles of Bullhead alluvium, some fine-grained sand, and some coarse sand. This is a common feature of Cactus Plain.
- Bouse Formation - fine siliceous deposits** - Green, tan, to reddish brown clay, silt, sand, and minor limestone and lime.
- Pebble conglomerate** - Reddish to moderately reddish conglomerate pebbles composed of lithes of less consolidated red and brown. This is a common feature of Cactus Plain.
- Fanglomerate** - Highly sorted, poorly consolidated, to light brown fanglomerate. Unit is not listed by faulting, located in a few exposures which appears to be slightly flow.

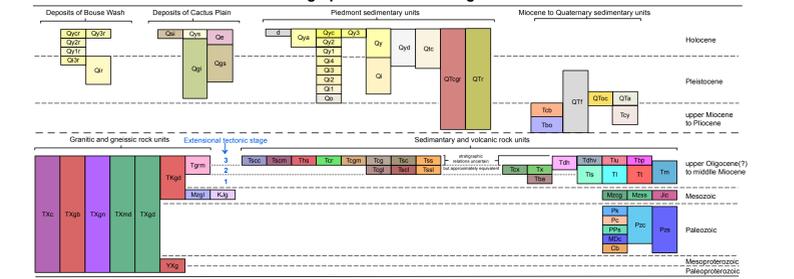
Upper Miocene volcanic units of north Cactus Plain

- Conglomerate with mylonitic clasts** - Tan to brown, moderately to poorly sorted conglomerate with diverse clast composition including mylonitic and chloritic breccias derived from the Pimosa detachment fault. Lack of carbonate alteration indicates that these clasts are derived from the high-strain zone in Miocene compressional strata or that alteration had eroded from these strata were deposited and lifted by faulting.
- Basaltic and andesitic lavas** - Compressive and compressional breccias. Clasts are typically 10-20% basaltic, 15-20% andesitic, and 10-20% quartzite. These are inferred to be river deposits.
- Intermediate to basic intrusions, undifferentiated** - In most exposures, this unit forms crystal-poor foliate dikes or irregular intrusions, with 0-1% quartz, 0-1% hornblende, and 0-2% clinopyroxene. This unit is typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and is weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Hornblende dikes** - Intermediate-composition lava flows, extrusive materials, dikes, and irregular shallow intrusions. This unit typically contains 0-1% quartz, 0-1% hornblende, and 0-2% clinopyroxene. This unit is typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and is weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.
- Basaltic and andesitic lavas** - Compressive and compressional breccias. Clasts are typically 10-20% basaltic, 15-20% andesitic, and 10-20% quartzite. These are inferred to be river deposits.
- Mafic volcanic rocks** - Mafic volcanic rocks, dark gray, with up to 8% clinopyroxene, and up to 4% iron oxides in the southern part of the Bouse 7 1/2 Quadrangle. This unit consists of mafic lava with up to 20% iron oxides, 1-2% clinopyroxene, and 1-4% iron oxides. These rocks are typically unconsolidated, very poorly sorted, and are weakly to moderately sorted. They range from the fine silty sand to coarse gravelly bars in meandering reaches based on position within the channel. Clasts range from sub-rounded to angular. Over deposits are typically emplaced in a "ribble column" and are covered by thin, discontinuous layers of caliche.

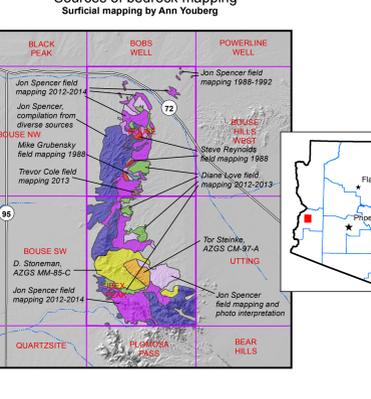
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Stratigraphic Correlation Diagram



Sources of bedrock mapping



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