

GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE DAGGS TANK 7.5' QUADRANGLE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA

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Arizona Geological Survey Digital Geologic Map 39 (DGM-39), version 1.0
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Introduction

The Daggs Tank 7.5' quadrangle is located approximately 40 miles (60 km) northwest of downtown Phoenix, Arizona, on the east side of the Hassayampa Plain. The map area is dominated by deposits of the south-flowing Hassayampa River, a major regional drainage in central Arizona. The surficial geology depicted in this map is substantially modified from Field and Pearthree (1991b), and includes new field mapping and aerial photograph interpretation using high-resolution digital images provided by Maricopa County. Tertiary volcanic rocks were mapped for this study, but most of the rest of the bedrock was mapped by Barrett (1976) and modified locally based on new field mapping, and on mapping and examination of rock units in the adjacent Wagner Wash Well 7.5' quadrangle (Ferguson et al., 2004). This map is one of six 1:24,000 scale geologic maps that cover much of the Hassayampa Plain area and that were produced for this study. Mapping was done as part of a multiyear mapping program directed at producing complete geologic map coverage of the Hassayampa River corridor, and was done under the joint State-Federal STATEMAP program specified in the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

Surficial Geology

Surficial geology was mapped primarily using aerial photos taken in 1979 for the Bureau of Land Management. Unit boundaries were spot-checked in the field, and mapping was supplemented by field observations during spring, 2004. The physical characteristics of Quaternary alluvial surfaces (channels, alluvial fans, floodplains, stream terraces) evident on aerial photographs and in the field were used to differentiate their associated deposits by age. This mapping was transferred to a digital orthophotoquad base from 2002 provided by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. Mapping was compiled in a GIS format and the final line work was generated from the digital data. Surficial deposits of the map area were then correlated with regional deposits to roughly estimate their ages. The mapping of Field and Pearthree (1991b) was incorporated into this map, but contacts were modified extensively in some parts of the map based on reinterpretation of geologic relationships and the higher quality digital aerial photo base that is currently available. Variations in the distribution of surfaces of different ages and in dissection across the quadrangle provide evidence regarding the recent geologic evolution of this area and the distribution of flood hazards. Generally, areas near the Hassayampa River are moderately to moderately dissected, and middle and upper piedmont areas are variably dissected. Very old terraces (unit Qor and Qir) that are perched high above the modern Hassayampa River record past locations of the river bed. Qor terraces cap a substantial aggradational sequence that was deposited during late Tertiary to early Quaternary. At that time the river was not entrenched and probably was depositing sediment across a fairly broad floodplain across most of the quadrangle. Since then the Hassayampa River has downcut 30 to 45 m, with dissection increasing dramatically to the north. The former gradient of the Hassayampa River as preserved by Qor terraces was 170' steeper than the modern channel, probably reflecting the deposition of a large alluvial fan as the river exited the White Tank Mountains to the north. The effects of the river downcutting over the past several million years are expressed by incision of tributary drainages through much of the White Tanks piedmont. Pleistocene deposits are thoroughly dissected in the lower piedmont and Holocene deposits are quite extensive. Incision along Wagner Wash decreases rapidly to the northeast, so dissection is much less on the northern flank of the White Tank Mountains. In this area, several washes have major expansion reaches with distributary channel networks and extensive, thin young deposits. These areas are of particular concern because of the potential for widespread inundation and changes in channel positions during floods (Field and Pearthree, 1991a).

Acknowledgments

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Bedrock map units continued...

Monzonite porphyry (Tertiary) - Porphyritic dikes characterized by the absence of quartz phenocrysts visible in hand specimen. Phenocryst content varies from 10-50%. Subhedral to euhedral plagioclase (0.5-5 mm) is by far the most abundant phase. Potassium feldspar is virtually absent, but sparse, microscopic (<0.2 mm) subhedral to anhedral quartz is ubiquitous. Matrix phenocrysts are strongly chloritically altered biotite (1-2% 0.4-1.5 mm), and 0.5-3% 0.5-1.5 mm glomeroporphyritic clinopyroxene. Traces of sphene (<0.3 mm) and opaques are associated with the biotite and clinopyroxene. Glomeroporphyritic clumps of clinopyroxene are commonly rimmed by euhedral plagioclase phenocrysts. The monzonite porphyry correlates with Barrett's (1976) monzonite porphyry and quartz latite porphyry units.

Basaltic dikes (Tertiary) - Fine-grained, generally dark gray to purple, aphanitic-matrix basaltic dikes with sparse plagioclase (1-4 mm) and altered mafic (<2 mm) phenocrysts. The basaltic dikes represent a wide-ranging swarm of dikes that consistently intrude the medium-grained granite of map unit TKg and are mostly intruded by the quartz monzonite of map unit Tmp and monzonite porphyry of map unit Tm. Basaltic dikes are commonly intruded by parallel dikes of the quartz monzonite (map unit Tm) and monzonite porphyry (map unit Tmp), and in some areas, overlapping relationships are present. The basaltic dikes correlate with Barrett's (1976) diorite porphyry dikes.

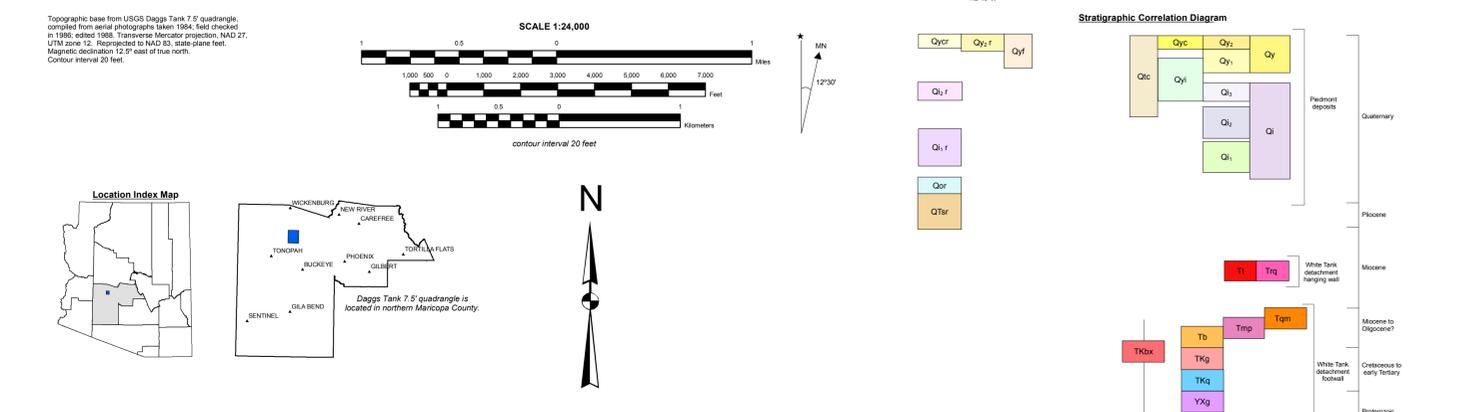
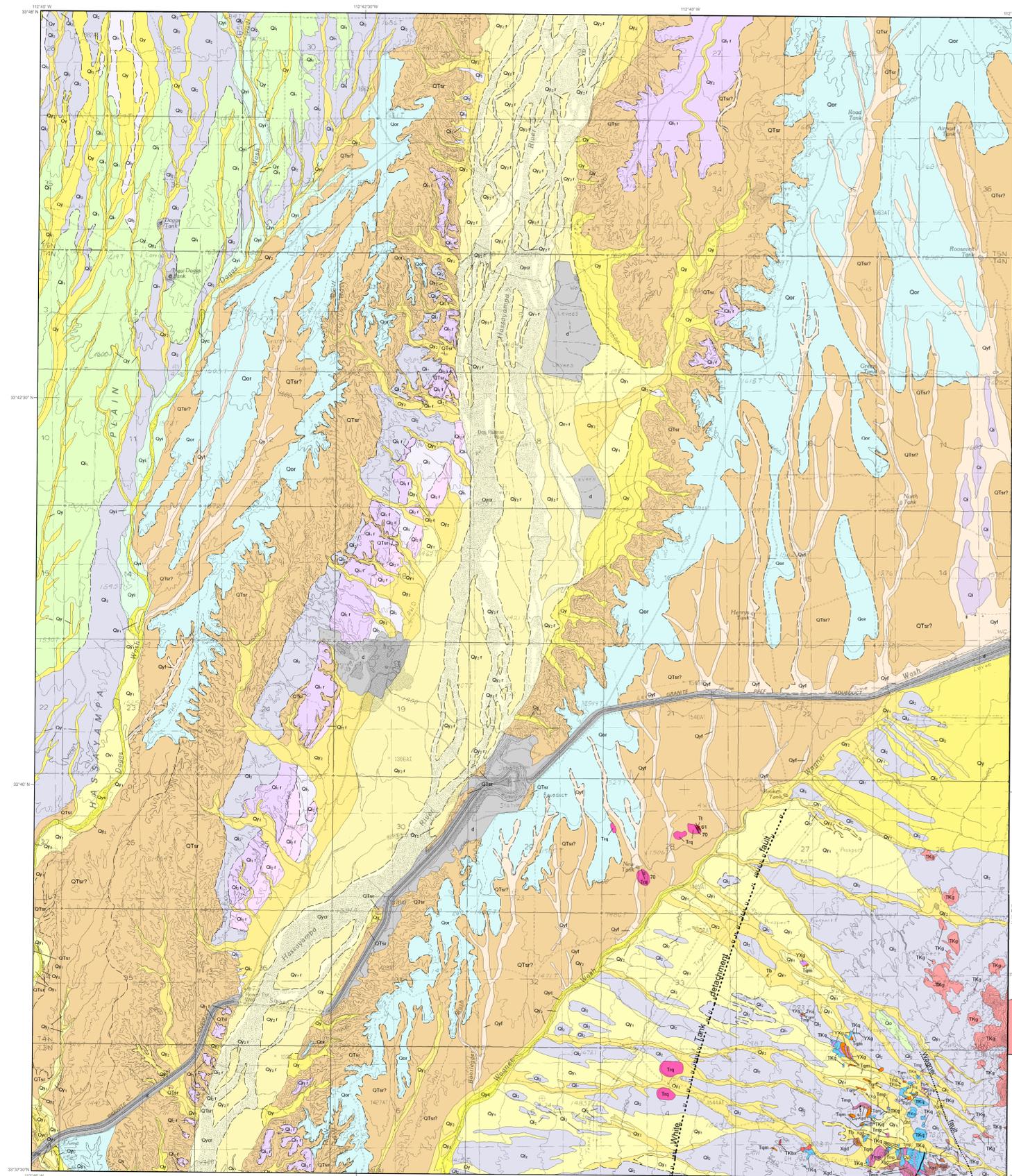
Brecciated and mineralized rock (Tertiary) - "Mineralized breccia" (Barrett (1976) that was the focus of exploration activity in the 1960s and 1970s. Pyrite and chalcopyrite comprise < 2% of the most mineralized rocks, which are associated with goethite and jarosite and peripheral, weak propylitic alteration. A shallow rotary drill hole encountered up to 0.14% copper and 185 ppm molybdenum (Arizona Geological Survey file data).

Medium-grained granite (early Tertiary - Late Cretaceous) - Medium-grained to locally coarse-grained, equigranular to potassium-feldspar porphyritic granite with 3-15% <3 mm subhedral to euhedral biotite, up to 1% hornblende, and sparse opaques associated with the biotite and hornblende. The granite typically weathers to tan to brown and rounded gran-covered hills, and is present on both sides of the Wagner fault. To the west, the granite is leucocratic (< 7% biotite), homogeneous, and porphyritic with up to 20% fine-grained crystalline matrix. On the east side of Wagner fault, the granite ranges from medium-grained, equigranular granite, monzonite, and plagioclase to potassium-feldspar porphyritic granite with potassium-feldspar phenocrysts up to 30 mm diameter and biotite content of 5-15%. Just south of the edge of the Daggs Tank 7.5' quadrangle, two samples of this granite were dated by the K-Ar method. One sample, collected to the west of the Wagner fault and mapped by Barrett (1976) as granite porphyry, yielded a K-Ar homblende date of 88.2 ± 3.1 Ma (R.L. Armstrong, 1975, written communication, reported by Reynolds et al., 1986). The other sample, collected to the east of the Wagner fault and correlated with the granodiorite unit (TKgd) of Reynolds et al. (2002), yielded a K-Ar biotite cooling age of 19.6 ± 0.5 Ma (Shafiqullah et al., 1980). Another sample of this unit, from the White Tank Mountains NE 7.5' quadrangle, yielded a U-Pb zircon date of 56.2 ± 14 Ma (Spencer et al., 2003). Our late Cretaceous to early Tertiary age assignment for this unit is based on the interpretation that both the U-Pb and homblende K-Ar dates reflect a Late Cretaceous to early Tertiary crystallization age, and the biotite K-Ar date is related to cooling during later extensional exhumation associated with displacement on the White Tank detachment fault, the Wagner fault, or both.

Rhyolite porphyry (early Tertiary - Late Cretaceous) - A composite unit of quartz-phyric rhyolite porphyry dikes and stocks with highly variable phenocryst content. The rhyolite porphyry is characterized by light gray, commonly flow-foliated aphanitic matrix and contains between 0.5% and 40% phenocrysts of 1-10 mm quartz, potassium feldspar, and plagioclase phenocrysts with sparse biotite, hornblende, and other mafics. In general, grain size and the abundance of accessory mafic minerals increases with phenocryst content. Contacts between the different varieties of this heterogeneous rock unit are sharp, and many of the dikes are occupied by more than one variety. The rhyolite porphyry and its phenocryst-poor to phenocryst-rich varieties represent a continuum of essentially contemporaneous felsic to intermediate hypabyssal rocks. The rhyolite porphyry has a lighter colored matrix than the quartz monzonite porphyry of map unit Tm. The bulk of the rhyolite porphyry correlates with the older rhyolite and apite porphyries of Barrett (1976) and the intrusive rock unit (T1) of Reynolds et al. (2002).

Coarse-grained granite (Middle or Early Proterozoic) - Coarse-grained, potassium-feldspar porphyritic granite with 7-10% biotite. The coarse-grained granite correlates with Barrett's (1976) granite unit.

Granodiorite (Early Proterozoic) - Medium-grained, weakly to strongly foliated granitoid ranging from monzonite to quartz monzonite and quartz monzodiorite, and containing 5-40% mafics. Mafic minerals in one sample from the adjacent Wagner Wash Well 7.5' quadrangle are hornblende (5-8% 1-3 mm) and clinopyroxene (2% <0.5 mm; Ferguson et al., 2004). The granodiorite correlates with the hornblende diorite, quartz diorite and diorite units of Barrett (1976).



Topographic base from USGS Daggs Tank 7.5' quadrangle, compiled from aerial photographs taken 1984, field checked in 1985, edited 1986. Transverse Mercator projection, NAD 83, UTM zone 12. Resampled to NAD 83, state plane feet. Magnetic declination 12° E of true north. Contour interval 20 feet.

