

Geologic Map of the Washington Portion of the Port Angeles 1:100,000 Quadrangle

by Henry W. Schasse

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INTRODUCTION

This geologic map of the Port Angeles 1:100,000-scale quadrangle covers the north-central slopes and adjacent coastal areas of the Olympic Peninsula and the southern tip of San Juan Island. It was compiled to support the construction of the northeast quadrant of the 1:250,000-scale geologic map of Washington (Dingus and others, 2002). Until recently, most geologic maps of the peninsula featured bedrock geology. Quaternary deposits were shown primarily where they obscured the bedrock and only at two or three units defined by broad-scale chronologic assignment and origin. I have attempted to give equal attention to the Tertiary bedrock and Quaternary sediments in compiling the mapping for the Port Angeles 1:100,000-scale quadrangle.

The Olympia Peninsula bedrock geology shown on this map is largely modified from Taber and Cady (1978) and Brown and others (1960) with more recent contributions from Schasse and Logan (1998) and Schasse and Wegmann (2000). The bedrock geology of southern San Juan Island is largely modified from Vance (1975), Brandon (1980), and Brandon and others (1988). Additional age data used to modify the bedrock geology of earlier works were taken from K. J. Stewart (Cady, 1978; written communication, 1999), Raut (1998, 2000, 2002), and Brandon and Vance (1992).

The Quaternary geology of the Olympic Peninsula shown on this map is largely modified from Ollberg and Palmer (1979a,b, 1982), Ollberg and Logan (1977), Washington Department of Ecology (1978), Schasse and Palmer (2002), Schasse and Logan (1998), and Schasse and Wegmann (2000). Quaternary geology west of the city of Port Angeles was subdivided using parent material interpretations derived from a soil survey of the Clallam County area (Hollon, 1987) complemented by field spot-checking and reconnaissance mapping. Landslide deposits in the vicinity of Lakes Crescent and Sulphur are included in present-day units (Schasse and Palmer, 1991). Subdivided alpine glacial units and the maximum extent of the late Wisconsinan Cordilleran ice sheet were taken from Long (1975). The surficial geology of southern San Juan Island is taken from Dettler and others (1996). Additional age data used to characterize the surficial geology of the Port Angeles quadrangle were taken from Dettler and others (1995), Blunt and others (1987), Hallen and others (1997), Hesser (1973), Petersen and others (1983), and Armstrong and others (1965).

Unit symbols used in this compilation generally follow the time-lithology symbolology applied by the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources in Dingus and others (2002). The geologic time scale of Palmer and Gosselin (1999)

was used as the basis for the ages of the bedrock units for this compilation. Provincial biostratigraphic stage correlations are from the "Correlation of Stratigraphic Units of North America" project of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (Savard, 1985) and were slightly modified to match parts of the time scale of Palmer and Gosselin.

BEDROCK GEOLOGY

The two pre-Tertiary bedrock units exposed on southern San Juan Island are part of a thick and regionally extensive sequence of Late Cretaceous thrust faults and nappes, referred to as the San Juan thrust system of Brandon and others (1980) (see Dingus and others, 2002, sheet 3, fig. 4). These units are fault-bounded packages of oceanic sediments interbedded with minor volcanic rocks that have been subjected to low-grade metamorphism.

Three major stratigraphic sequences occur within the Tertiary rocks of the Olympic Peninsula:

1. The Eocene to Pliocene Crescent Formation and Blue Mountain unit of Taber and Cady (1978). The Crescent Formation is interpreted as a significant rift basin sequence, while the Blue Mountain unit consists of submarine fan deposits between and between the eruptive centers (Wells and others, 1984; Eisenstein, 1987; Babcock and Logan, 1998; and Schasse and Wegmann, 2000). The bedrock geology of the city of Port Angeles was subdivided using parent material interpretations derived from a soil survey of the Clallam County area (Hollon, 1987) complemented by field spot-checking and reconnaissance mapping. Landslide deposits in the vicinity of Lakes Crescent and Sulphur are included in present-day units (Schasse and Palmer, 1991). Subdivided alpine glacial units and the maximum extent of the late Wisconsinan Cordilleran ice sheet were taken from Long (1975). The surficial geology of southern San Juan Island is taken from Dettler and others (1996). Additional age data used to characterize the surficial geology of the Port Angeles quadrangle were taken from Dettler and others (1995), Blunt and others (1987), Hallen and others (1997), Hesser (1973), Petersen and others (1983), and Armstrong and others (1965).

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includes the rocks of the first two stratigraphic sequences listed above and corresponds to the "peripheral rocks" of Taber and Cady (1978). These rocks form a horseshoe-shaped outcrop belt surrounding the inboard or east side of the Olympic subduction complex (see Dingus and others, 2002, sheet 3, fig. 4). The Olympic subduction complex (Brandon and Calderwood, 1998) includes the rocks of the third stratigraphic sequence listed above, and corresponds to the "core rocks" of Taber and Cady (1978).

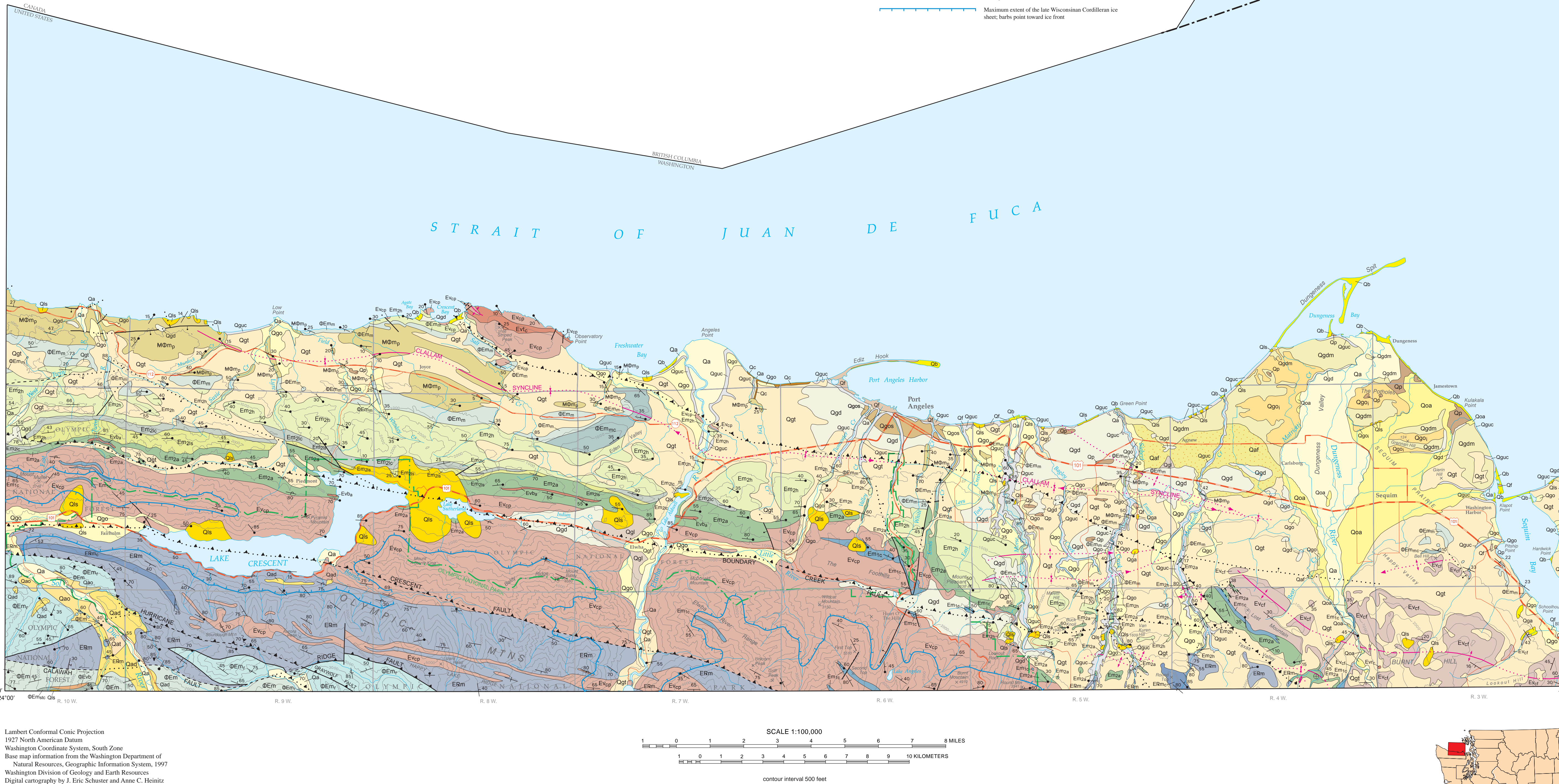
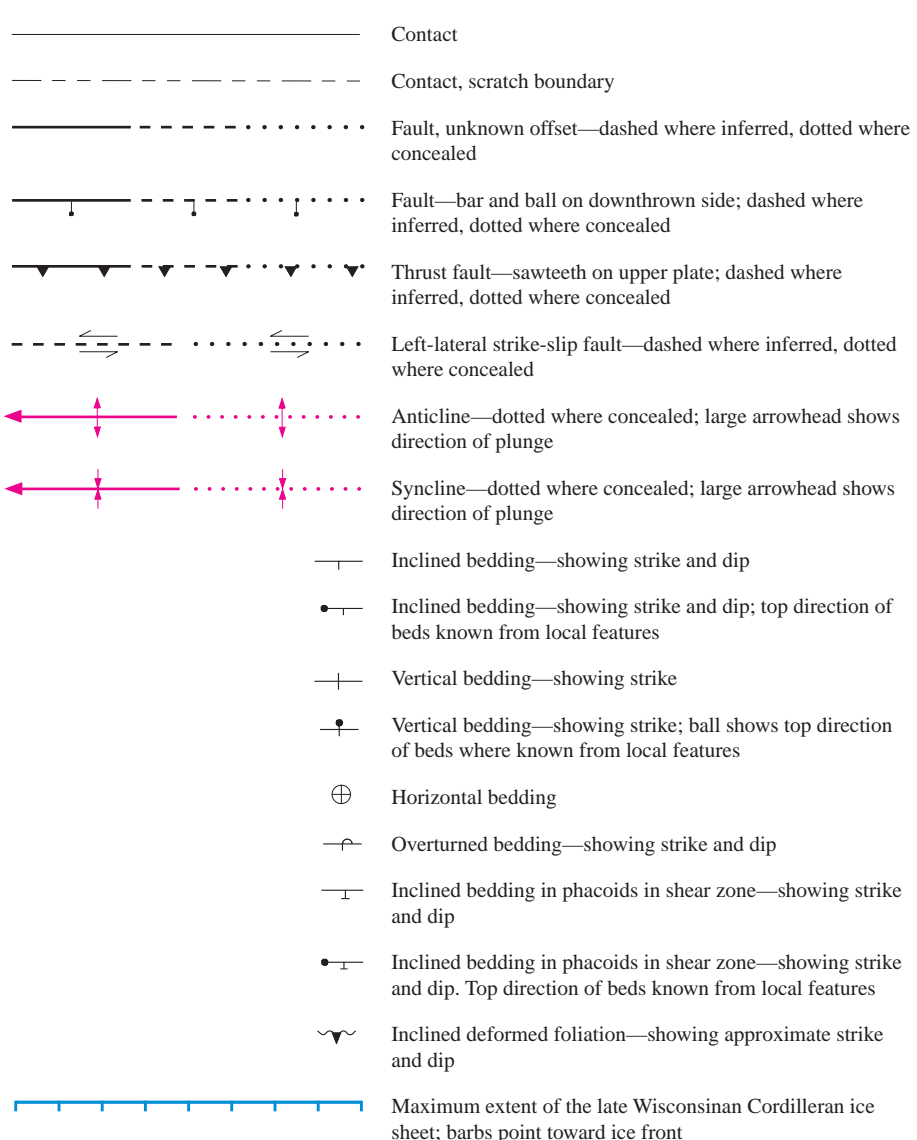
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

The surficial units exposed in the Port Angeles 1:100,000-scale quadrangle consist primarily of Pleistocene glacial materials deposited by the Juan de Fuca lobe of the Cordilleran ice sheet during the Vashon Stage and Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation. Alpine glacial deposits, formed during the late Wisconsinan, are mapped in the upper valley of the Sol De River. Holocene post-glacial sediments were deposited after the ice retreated from the area. Older pre-Fraser glacial and nonglacial deposits exposed primarily in the dells along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in some north-south drainages are mapped as an all inclusive unit that also contains some post-glacial deposits and deposits of Fraser age.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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GEOLOGIC SYMBOLS



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Quaternary Surficial Deposits

NONGLACIAL DEPOSITS

Artificial fill and modified land (Holocene) - Rprg, soil, sediment, rock, and sand and gravel material that has been added or removed to modify topography; includes engineering and nonengineered fill.

Beach deposits (Holocene) - Generally well-sorted sand and cobbles within the influence of the surf zone; may include cobbles and pebbles; forms dune-like shapes; larger clasts in coarser deposits are generally well rounded and that is a result of wave action.

Alluvium (Holocene) - Generally well-sorted and well-sorted rounded cobble and pebble gravel, sandy gravel, gravelly sand, and clay; deposited in and along present streams; grain size varies both laterally and vertically due to stream migration; includes alluvial fans and alluvial cones.

Point and marsh deposits (Holocene) - Point, bank, and lacustrine silt and clay rich in organic matter; formed by the accumulation and decomposition of organic material in wet depressions and other areas of poor drainage.

Landslide deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene) - Clay, silt, sand, gravel, and larger blocks deposited by mass wasting; may be unstratified, bedded, chaotic, and poorly sorted or may retain primary bedding, depending on degree of failure; located within the slide mass, type of slide, cohesiveness, and competence of materials; commonly hummocky; mostly earth-slip blocks resulting from streams or wave action undercutting the toes of these blocks along steep stream-valley walls and shoreline bluffs.

Older alluvium (Holocene and late Pleistocene) - Stratified gravel, cobbles, sand, and silt in terraces above modern flood plains; commonly non-oxide stained; exposures are axial-channel and flood-plain deposits and deposits of an ancestral Dungeness River (Schasse and Wegmann, 2000; Schasse and

Logan, 1998; Ollberg and Palmer, 1979a, 1982). A tephra from this unit has been identified as Marana and dated elsewhere at 6,700 ± 400 14C yr BP (Hallen and others, 1997), establishing a minimum age; the lower part of this unit may be as old as late Pleistocene (Schasse and Wegmann, 2000).

Alluvial fan deposits (Holocene and Pleistocene) - This is to include bed, bed sand and interbedded silt and clay, with lenses of sand and pebbly gravel; sands are gray to yellowish brown, fine to medium grained, and well sorted; fine surfaces grade to coarser sand and gravel; the upper part of this unit is correlated with the Marana tephra dated at 6,700 ± 400 14C yr BP (see Schasse and Wegmann, 2000; Ollberg and Palmer (1982) suggest that the lower part of this unit may interfinger with glauconitic drift (unit Qgfm) deposited during the late Pleistocene.

Continental sediments (Pleistocene) - Pre-Fraser fluvio-ice-outwash, partially cemented pebbles to cobble gravel; contains lenses of non-oxide stained sand. Clasts are predominantly basalt and andesite; Holocene Olympic Mountains, probably deposited by an ancestral Elwha River as a delta into the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

CONTINENTAL GLACIAL DEPOSITS, FRASER GLACIATION

Glauconitic drift (Pleistocene) - Poorly sorted, weakly stratified to non-stratified, poorly compacted pebbly silt and clay with discontinuous layers of silt sand; weathers to a pseudo-conglomerate appearance on vertical soil cliff faces; tan to gray; weathers to dark to pale yellowish brown; may contain fine silt. A silt from the unit collected northwest of Sequim yielded a 14C age of 12,600 ± 200 yr BP (Dettler and others, 1999), indicating that unit Qgfm was deposited during the time interval established for the Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation; however, it is not clear that the label "Eversen" should be applied to deposits in this far west of the Puget Lowland.

Glauconitic drift, subalpine deposits, Eversen age (Pleistocene) - Moderately to well-sorted sand, silt, and silt with lenses of sand and pebbles; gravelly; limited in this bedded, locally massive or cross stratified; gray to bluish gray generally poorly sorted; marine diatom, silt, and mudflat-laminated diatom units (Qgfm, Qgt, and Qgtf) preserved in topographic depressions below 200 ft elevation; locally fossiliferous; deposited in a glauconitic or marine environment during the Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation; ages compiled from Dettler and others (1996).

Glauconitic drift, marine diatom, Eversen age (Pleistocene) - Poorly to moderately sorted pebbly silt and diatomite; contains lenses and discontinuous beds of silt, sand, and clay; also contains lacustrine deposits and ice-contact stratified drift. Its stratigraphically above till (unit Qgt). Age is constrained between the time of recession of the Juan de Fuca lobe from its terminal zone, established by a 14C date of 11,460 ± 200 yr BP near the western margin of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Hesser, 1973), and a 14C date of 12,600 ± 200 yr BP from wood collected from sediments 1 ft, above Vashon (unit Qgtm) at the Marana Massada site southwest of Sequim (Petersen and others, 1983).

Vashon recessional outwash (Pleistocene) - Chiefly proglacial, stratified, and ice-contact stratified drift. Its stratigraphically above till (unit Qgt). Age is constrained between the time of recession of the Juan de Fuca lobe from its terminal zone, established by a 14C date of 11,460 ± 200 yr BP near the western margin of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Hesser, 1973), and a 14C date of 12,600 ± 200 yr BP from wood collected from sediments 1 ft, above Vashon (unit Qgtm) at the Marana Massada site southwest of Sequim (Petersen and others, 1983).

Vashon till (Pleistocene) - Most commonly lignite till consisting of an unstratified, highly compacted mixture of poorly sorted silt, sand, gravel, and cobbles deposited directly by glacier; gray where fresh and yellowish gray to light gray and tan where oxidized; includes abundant silt of variegated color; weathers to a pseudo-conglomerate appearance on vertical soil cliff faces; tan to gray; weathers to dark to pale yellowish brown; may contain fine silt. A silt from the unit collected northwest of Sequim yielded a 14C age of 12,600 ± 200 yr BP (Dettler and others, 1999), indicating that unit Qgtm was deposited during the time interval established for the Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation; however, it is not clear that the label "Eversen" should be applied to deposits in this far west of the Puget Lowland.

Vashon recessional ice-contact outwash (Pleistocene) - Moderately sorted, weakly to well-sorted sand, silt, and silt with lenses of sand and pebbles; gravelly; limited in this bedded, locally massive or cross stratified; gray to bluish gray generally poorly sorted; marine diatom, silt, and mudflat-laminated diatom units (Qgfm, Qgt, and Qgtf) preserved in topographic depressions below 200 ft elevation; locally fossiliferous; deposited in a glauconitic or marine environment during the Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation; ages compiled from Dettler and others (1996).

slumping, and collapse features resulting from the melting of supporting ice; exposed geographically as kettled topography, eskers, and kame terraces; stratified gravels locally interfingering with and are overlain by glauconitic drift (unit Qgfm) suggesting that the gravels were deposited near the margin of grounded stagnant melting ice in a coastal marine environment (Ollberg and Palmer, 1979a, 1982).

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oxidized; generally rests on striated bedrock and underlies marine diatomite (unit Qgfm). Age is older than 13.2 ka (Description of map units and ages for the San Juan Island compiled from Dettler and others, 1996).

Vashon advance outwash (Pleistocene) - Sand, gravel, and lacustrine clay, silt, and sand deposited during glacial advance; gray where fresh, grayish brown and grayish orange where weathered; sand commonly thick, well sorted, and fine grained; mapped where there is stratigraphic position beneath Vashon till (unit Qgt) can be established. It is ice-cliff exposures between Stebbins and Moose Creeks, displays prominent west-dipping forest beds and very large angular silt rip-up blocks 5 ft or greater resembling underlying nonglacial silt; forest beds are laterally continuous over a distance of about 2.5 mi and are interpreted to represent one or more glacial drift events during glacial advance (Schasse and Palmer, 2000). Age in the Port Angeles 1:100,000-scale quadrangle is between 17.5 and 18.5 ka as reported by Blunt and others (1997) from bluff exposures west of Sequim.

Vashon glauconitic deposits (Pleistocene) - Sand, silt, and clay; clay drapings in proglacial lakes; laminated, with disseminated deposits; medium gray where wet and fresh, tan where dry and oxidized; formed during both glacial advance and recession.

Vashon drift, undivided (Pleistocene) - Glacial deposits of various composition consisting of various sand, gravel, and lignite, silt, and clay; contains lenses of silt sand, gravel, and lignite; may be unstratified, poorly sorted, and poorly compacted; may be unstratified, poorly compacted pebbly silt and clay with discontinuous layers of silt sand; weathers to a pseudo-conglomerate appearance on vertical soil cliff faces; tan to gray; weathers to dark to pale yellowish brown; may contain fine silt. A silt from the unit collected northwest of Sequim yielded a 14C age of 12,600 ± 200 yr BP (Dettler and others, 1999), indicating that unit Qgtm was deposited during the time interval established for the Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation; however, it is not clear that the label "Eversen" should be applied to deposits in this far west of the Puget Lowland.

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GLACIAL AND NONGLACIAL DEPOSITS OF FRASER AND PRE-FRASER AGE

Unconformable stratified deposits (Holocene-Pleistocene) -

Clay, silt, sand, gravel, till, diatomite, and peat; shows how steps preclude more detailed definition at map scale; includes pre-Holocene deposits and Holocene alluvium or landslide deposits found along steep slopes of narrow stream valleys; also includes poorly sorted pebbles at the base of the Vashon drift; may be unstratified, poorly sorted, and poorly compacted; may be unstratified, poorly compacted pebbly silt and clay with discontinuous layers of silt sand; weathers to a pseudo-conglomerate appearance on vertical soil cliff faces; tan to gray; weathers to dark to pale yellowish brown; may contain fine silt. A silt from the unit collected northwest of Sequim yielded a 14C age of 12,600 ± 200 yr BP (Dettler and others, 1999), indicating that unit Qgtm was deposited during the time interval established for the Eversen Interglaciation of the Fraser Glaciation; however, it is not clear that the label "Eversen" should be applied to deposits in this far west of the Puget Lowland.

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