

Geologic Map of the Chester Morse Lake 7.5-minute Quadrangle, King County, Washington

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ABSTRACT

We combine new geologic mapping, geochronology, geochemistry, thin-section analysis, a detailed gravity survey, and geophysical modeling to gain understanding of the geology at the transition between the glaciated Puget Lowland and the volcanic and metamorphic Cascade Range in the Chester Morse Lake quadrangle.

Continues to Jurassic rocks of the western melange belt are the oldest in the area and consist of meta-sediments (<8.5 Ma) and argillite interleaved with greenstone and meta-intrusive rocks (13.2–15.5 Ma). The contact with the overlying Tertiary rock is poorly exposed, but probably a faulted depositional surface above which a middle Eocene (~47.2 Ma) cherty conglomerate is locally present. The majority of Tertiary rocks is a late Eocene (~34.5 Ma) through Oligocene intermediate to siliceous volcanic succession of thick crystal-rich, lapilli tuff and flows. Oligocene to Miocene mafic to felsic dikes and plutons, including the Sequoia batholith, are accompanied by a pronounced aureole of thermal metamorphism.

Late Quaternary units include abundant deposits from the last continental glaciation including thick accumulations of subglacial embankment deposits, which form the flat-topped surfaces near the mouths of major rivers and are mined for their aggregate. A now-incised series of fluvial deposits and terraces records the dynamic post-glacial adjustments as ice receded. There are isolated remnants of pre-glacial deposits and more are tilted and (or) faulted, though deformation associated with the advance of the Puget Lobe glacier in the most recent glaciation makes it difficult to deconvolve any older tectonic components. We find no compelling evidence for post-Nahcote tectonic faulting.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Holocene Nonglacial Deposits

- Artificial fill (Holocene)**—Mixed earth materials of varied grain size and sorting placed to elevate the land or modify topography.
- Modified land (Holocene)**—Mixed earth materials of varied grain size and sorting; mapped where humans have modified the underlying unconsolidated deposits.
- Alluvium (Holocene)**—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay, in varied abundance; locally contains scattered boulders, some greater than 5 m across; locally contains organic material and (or) peat; generally flows, mapped where there is a low-energy fluvial environment of geologically recent fluvial deposition or erosion. Where unit Q10 is present, unit Q10 is topographically lower and (or) inset into it.
- Alluvium, older (Holocene)**—Gravel, sand, silt, and clay, in varied abundance; locally contains scattered boulders, some greater than 5 m across; locally contains organic material and (or) peat; generally flows, mapped where there is a low-energy fluvial environment and closed depressions such as bogs, swamps, abandoned river channels, kettles, and lakes commonly contain abundant fibrous or woody plant debris.
- Beach and nearshore deposits (Holocene)**—Sand, locally interbedded with varying amounts of silt and clay; scattered pebbles to boulders are locally common. Mapped along the shores of Chester Morse Lake and Moccasin Pool.
- Peat (Holocene)**—Organic, matter-rich silt to clay; locally sandy; typically loose and easily compressed; includes peat, muck, and gyttja deposited in low-energy fluvial environments and closed depressions such as bogs, swamps, abandoned river channels, kettles, and lakes commonly contain abundant fibrous or woody plant debris.
- Colluvium and talus (Holocene)**—Boulders, cobbles, pebbles, sand, silt, clay, soil, organic material, and semi-intact blocks of older deposits or bedrock, in varied abundance; clast to matrix supported; clasts range from angular to rounded, depending on source material; loose to compact. Includes deposits from small debris flows, topples, rock avalanches, talus, scree, and colluvium; may include deposits from small unimpacted shallow landslides.
- Landslide (Holocene)**—Boulders, cobbles, pebbles, sand, silt, clay, soil, organic material, and semi-intact blocks of older deposits or bedrock, in varied abundance; typically matrix supported; generally unsorted; may include deposits from both shallow (depth less than that of tree roots) and deep-seated landslides, debris flows, topples, and rock avalanches. Absence of a mapped landslide does not indicate the absence of landslide hazard.
- Alluvial fan (Holocene)**—Pebbles to boulder gravel and sand in varied abundance; moderately to poorly sorted; stratification varies from absent to weakly planar bedded; may contain organic material and (or) soil. Unit is mapped along and adjacent to streams where they emerge from confined channels into broader and flatter topography and is differentiated from other Holocene units on the basis of a fan-shaped morphology.

Late Pleistocene Glacial and Nonglacial Deposits

The most recent continental glaciation in the Puget Lowland occurred during the Vashon stage of the Fraser glaciation. This glaciation had a profound effect on the landscape, and was quite rapid; the glacier, known as the Puget Lobe, advanced and then retreated past the latitude of Seattle between about 15 and 13.5 ka (Booth and Goldstein, 1994). As the glacier advanced southward, it blocked rivers draining the Cascade Range, commonly forming ice-saturated lakes and subglacial rivers (Porter, 1976; Booth, 1988). In much of the Puget Lowland, deposits from the Puget Lobe are lithologically distinctive because they contain rocks from the Cascade Range and northern Washington. However, such clasts seem quite rare in clearly glacial deposits within the current map area, perhaps because they are overwheeled by material carried by the ice-marginal river systems.

DEPOSITS OF LOCAL RIVERS DURING GLACIAL RECESSION
Booth (1990) and Taber and others (2000) map a series of successively lower and younger "recessional outwash" deposits near the map area that record lowering base level during recession of the Puget Lobe glacier. During this time, local rivers (which lack Puget Lobe glacial meltwater) intersected with the voluminous glacial meltwater from the Puget Lobe. Because discharge volume, sediment flux, and source area differ markedly between the two potential sources of sedimentary deposits, we use the terms "old alluvium" for fluvial deposits of local rivers formed during glacial recession and "outwash" for similar-age deposits resulting from glacial meltwater.

Old alluvium (Holocene to late Pleistocene)—Cobble and boulder gravel to coarse sand with subordinate silt and clay; minor lenses of diamictite; scattered outwash boulders are up to 5 m across; well to poorly sorted; typically crudely stratified or structureless; well-developed bed benches are locally common and their back edges are marked by a steep rise. Mapped below 100-ft elevation where smooth and flat surfaces lie adjacent to major rivers and into which units Q10 and Q10a are inset.

Old alluvium (Pleistocene)—Cobble and boulder gravel to coarse sand with subordinate silt and clay; minor lenses of diamictite; scattered outwash boulders are up to 5 m across; well to poorly sorted, typically crudely stratified or structureless; well-developed bed benches are locally common and their back edges are marked by a steep rise. Mapped above 100-ft elevation where sediment is inferred to have been deposited by local rivers and not glacial meltwater of the Puget Lobe.

DEPOSITS OF THE VASHON STAGE OF THE FRASER GLACIATION

Beach and nearshore deposits (Pleistocene)—Sand, silt, and blue sand in varied abundance; poorly exposed and mapped predominantly on the basis of geomorphology, which are generally well sorted; gravelly intervals are generally moderately to poorly sorted and typically chert supported. The two large expanses of this unit (south from Turner Bend and north of Cedar Barre) have a smooth and subtly stepped surface that contrasts with the dimpled surface of unit Q10c (which typically lies adjacent to and below unit Q10).

Glacial embankment deposits (Pleistocene)—Light tan to gray sand and gravel in varied amounts, with sparse pebbles to boulder diamictite (fill) and minor interbedded clayey silt, organic-rich beds are rare; till and silt are compact and dense; sand and gravel are moderately to weakly consolidated and generally thin to thickly bedded; clasts mostly subrounded to rounded; some are faceted, and there are many boulders >5 m across. Inset channels are found on the newly flat but gently east-dipping surface of the three embankment deposits.

Ice-contact deposits (Pleistocene)—Variable assortment of compact lenses of diamictite (fill) and consolidated to loose beds of stratified to structureless sand to cobble and boulder gravel. The surface of unit Q10c is typically dimpled, without directional fabric, and locally has outwash boulders at the surface.

Lodgment till (Pleistocene)—Compact gray diamictite and minor stratified sand or gravel; mild weathering of clasts and matrix; clasts are generally subrounded and some are faceted; typically lacks fabric, but locally there is weakly developed fabric and subhorizontal layering.

Kame deposits (Pleistocene)—Light tan to gray pebbles to boulder gravel, pebbly sand, and minor compact diamictite; widely weathered; typically loose to somewhat consolidated; typically stratified; mostly consisting of medium to thick planar bedding, but locally structureless.

Glacial sandstone deposits (Pleistocene)—Silt and sand with subordinate clay and rare diamictite; compact and firm; light to medium gray or tan, locally slightly bluish where found below about 1,000 ft elevation; typically thin to medium bedded to laminated; locally with rhythmic intervals of sandy silt and silty clay. Fairhead and others (1966) obtained a 13,570 °C yr BP radiocarbon date on charcoal in lacustrine sediment from this unit (age GDI.2).

DEPOSITS OLDER THAN THE FRASER GLACIATION

Drift, alpine (Pleistocene)—Tan to brown or gray unsorted compact mixture of boulders to pebbles in a matrix of coarse sand to clay; clasts angular to rounded, locally faceted, and similar to rocks exposed up-slope and (or) up-valley; typically mapped in alpine cirques, though exposures are not good. We did not find clear evidence of alpine glaciers interacting with ice from the Puget Lobe, in line with previous work (for example, Porter, 1976).

Glacial and nonglacial deposits, undivided (Pleistocene)—Compact clay, silt, sand, minor gravel, and rare pebbles to cobble diamictite; sand and silt are tan to light gray; clayey beds are gray to slightly bluish; thin to medium planar bedding is typical; thick beds of clay are uncommon; charcoal is locally present in more extensive sandy deposits; found beneath units Q10, Q10a, or Q10c; presumably rests on bedrock, commonly tilted and locally faulted. New luminescence ages (age site GD3-4 and GD7-9) indicate deposition prior to 20 ka. Includes advance deposits of the Vashon Stage and deposits of the Olneya non-glacial period; may include deposits from pre-Vashon glaciations.

Tertiary Intrusive, Volcanic, and Sedimentary Rocks

The map area contains a remnant of middle Eocene sandstone and conglomerate beneath a late Eocene through Oligocene intermediate to siliceous volcanic succession. Cretaceous to Jurassic rocks of the western melange belt underlie the Tertiary rocks and are uncertain if the contact is depositional or faulted where best exposed along the northwest flank of Mount Washington. Low-grade relict alteration of the volcanic succession occurred shortly after burial (Hammond, 1963). Oligocene to Miocene mafic to felsic dikes and plutons intrude these rocks and are accompanied by an aureole of thermal metamorphism that locally extends a meter or more from the igneous intrusion.

Granodiorite (Miocene)—White to light gray medium-grained equigranular to slightly porphyritic granodiorite and minor diorite; lacks notable chloritic alteration; intrudes rocks of units K1m1m, K1m2, and M10. This is the Sequoia Granodiorite of Smith and Collins (1900) and the Sequoia batholith of Erikson (1969); nearby ages from Taber and others (2000) range from ~17–20 Ma.

Intermediate intrusive rocks (Miocene to Oligocene)—Gray medium- to fine-grained diorite, gabbro, monzonite, and minor granodiorite to tonalite; mostly equigranular; locally porphyritic; alteration is common and includes chloritic mafic minerals and argillite foliations; lacks ductile shearing, in contrast to some rocks of unit J10. Considered a border phase of the Sequoia batholith by Erikson (1969). An "Ar" Ar age on biotite from this unit is 24.8 Ma (age site GD3).

Rhyolite, intrusive (Miocene to Oligocene)—Maroon, lavender, and gray fine-grained sparsely plagioclase-phyric rhyolite with uncommon irregular quartz phenocrysts. Near-vertical flow lamination and bedding is prominent, distinctive, and defines the rock into 1–5 cm-thick plates.

Basalt dikes and sills (Miocene to Oligocene)—Black to gray aphanitic to very sparsely plagioclase-phyric basalt dikes 0.5 to 2 m or more in width; crude, blocky, margin-perpendicular fractures or sub-horizontal columns. The rock of this unit is the least altered of any observed in the map area.

Tuff (Oligocene)—Light green to greenish white crystal-rich lapilli tuff; poorly welded to unconsolidated; mapped by Hammond (1963) as the Tuff of Sequoia Pass.

Intrusive dikes and sills (Oligocene to Eocene)—Gray to tan aphanitic to porphyritic basalt, andesite, and possibly diorite to rhyolite; typically found as 1–2-m-wide dikes and sills within unit DEv, where they similarly flow of flows that unit made differentiation difficult. Shown as red lines (see legend at right) only.

Volcaniclastic rocks (Oligocene to Eocene)—Gray, tan, and light green siliceous siltstone, pebbly diamictite, and interbedded coarse sandstone.

Volcanic rocks, flows and tuffs (Oligocene to Eocene)—Tan, black, or grayish green tuff, lapilli tuff, and tuff breccia with varying proportions of crystal, silt, and fine-grained matrix comprising most of the lower and upper portions of the unit; dark gray, black, or blue aphanitic to porphyritic flows with varying amounts of plagioclase, hornblende, and pyroxene seem to be more prevalent in the middle of the unit. The unit is geochemically diverse, ranging from basaltic andesite to dacitic rhyolite. Two zircon U-Pb ages near the base of the section are 34.5 and 34.7 Ma (age sites GD16 and GD19).

Conglomerate and sandstone (late to middle Eocene)—Cherty pebbly conglomerate with interbeds and lenses of lithic to arkosic and micaceous medium sandstone to pebbly sandstone; gray to tan; base of unit contains a poorly sorted vesicular and trachytic andesite flow that appears to rest on unit J10. Detrital zircon U-Pb ages indicate deposition after ~47 Ma (age site GDI5).

Mesozoic Low- and Medium-Grade Metamorphic Rocks of the Western Melange Belt
The oldest rocks in the map area are Cretaceous to Jurassic marine metasediments, metacarbonates, and meta-intrusives that are mapped as part of the western melange belt (WMB) by Taber and others (2000). In this section, chlorite, epidote, calcite, and quartz are common secondary minerals, and in combination with locally developed foliation, define metamorphism near greenschist facies as described in detail by Taber and others (1993, 2000).

Marine metasediments and metacarbonates (Cretaceous to Jurassic)—Fine sandstone, argillite, and minor chert; dark blue, black, off-white, or tan, composed of any of the sedimentary facies described below. Unit K1m1m is locally subdivided into:

Argillite-rich facies—Dark blue to black argillite with subordinate shale, phyllite, slate, and fine sandstone; weakly developed cleavage to well-developed foliation common.

Sandstone-rich facies—Fine-grained dark gray to dark blue sandstone, subordinate argillite and chert, and minor conglomerate. Detrital zircon U-Pb ages indicate deposition after 8.5 Ma (age site GD18).

Chert-rich facies—Rhythmic thin to thick beds of tan to off-white chert, subordinate medium gray to black argillite, and minor fine-grained dark blue to gray sandstone.

Greenstone (Cretaceous to Jurassic)—Dark gray to black or dark green aphanitic to finely porphyritic rock; found as sheeted bodies in a locally argillite-rich, pyrite locally abundant.

Meta-intrusives (Jurassic)—Altered medium-grained gabbro and diorite, subordinate tonalite, and minor amphibolite; typically light greenish gray, with a range of metamorphic fabrics, from static alteration of mafic minerals to chlorite, through incipient foliation and development of local thin ductile shear zones. metamorphic minerals generally indicate sub-greenschist facies but locally include glaucophane, locally brecciated. Two zircon U-Pb ages indicate crystallization between ~155–158 Ma (age sites GD2 and GD13).

- GEOLOGIC SYMBOLS**
- Contact—Solid where location accurate; long-dashed where approximate; short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where identity or existence questionable; grayed out where internal flow contacts are present
 - Bedding form—Identity and existence certain; location inferred; in this map, symbol shows internal contact between lava flows of the same unit
 - Fault—Solid where location accurate; long-dashed where approximate; short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where identity or existence questionable; sawtooth on upper plate
 - Thrust fault—Solid where location accurate; long-dashed where approximate; short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where identity or existence questionable; sawtooth on upper plate
 - Oblique-slip fault, reverse right lateral offset—Short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where identity or existence questionable; arrows show relative motion; rectangles in upthrown block
 - Oblique-slip fault, high-angle right-lateral offset—Solid where location accurate; short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where identity or existence questionable; rectangles in upthrown block
 - Oblique-slip fault, low-angle right-lateral offset—Solid where location accurate; short-dashed where inferred; dotted where concealed; queried where identity or existence questionable
 - Geologic unit too thin to show as a polygon—Identity and existence certain, location accurate
 - Dike or sill (DEv)—Identity and existence certain; location accurate
 - Former shoreline or marine limit—Location accurate; queried where identity or existence questionable
 - Cross section line—Location accurate; location inferred; location uncertain
 - Fluvial terrace—Location accurate; location inferred; location uncertain
 - Landslide scar—Location accurate; location inferred; location uncertain
 - Perennial stream
 - Intermittent stream
 - Former shoreline or marine limit—Location accurate; queried where identity or existence questionable

- Included bedding—showing strike and dip
- Horizontal bedding
- Included metamorphic or tectonic foliation—showing strike and dip
- Approximate orientation of inclined bedding in unconsolidated deposits or bedrock—showing approximate strike and dip
- Small, minor inclined fault—showing strike and dip
- Small, minor inclined fault—showing strike and dip
- Included fold hinge of generic (type unspecified) small, minor fold—showing bearing and plunge
- Included slickenside, groove, or striation on fault surface—showing bearing and plunge
- Included bedding in unconsolidated sedimentary deposits or unconsolidated fragmental deposits of volcanic origin—showing strike and dip
- Included fault—showing dip value and direction
- Included dike—showing dip value and direction
- Included flow banding, lamination, layering, or foliation in igneous rock—showing strike and dip
- Age site, U-Pb, uranium-lead
- Age site, ¹⁴C, carbon-14
- Age site, 40Ar/39Ar, argon-argon
- Age site, optically-stimulated luminescence
- Geochemistry sample location
- Water well
- Thin section sample

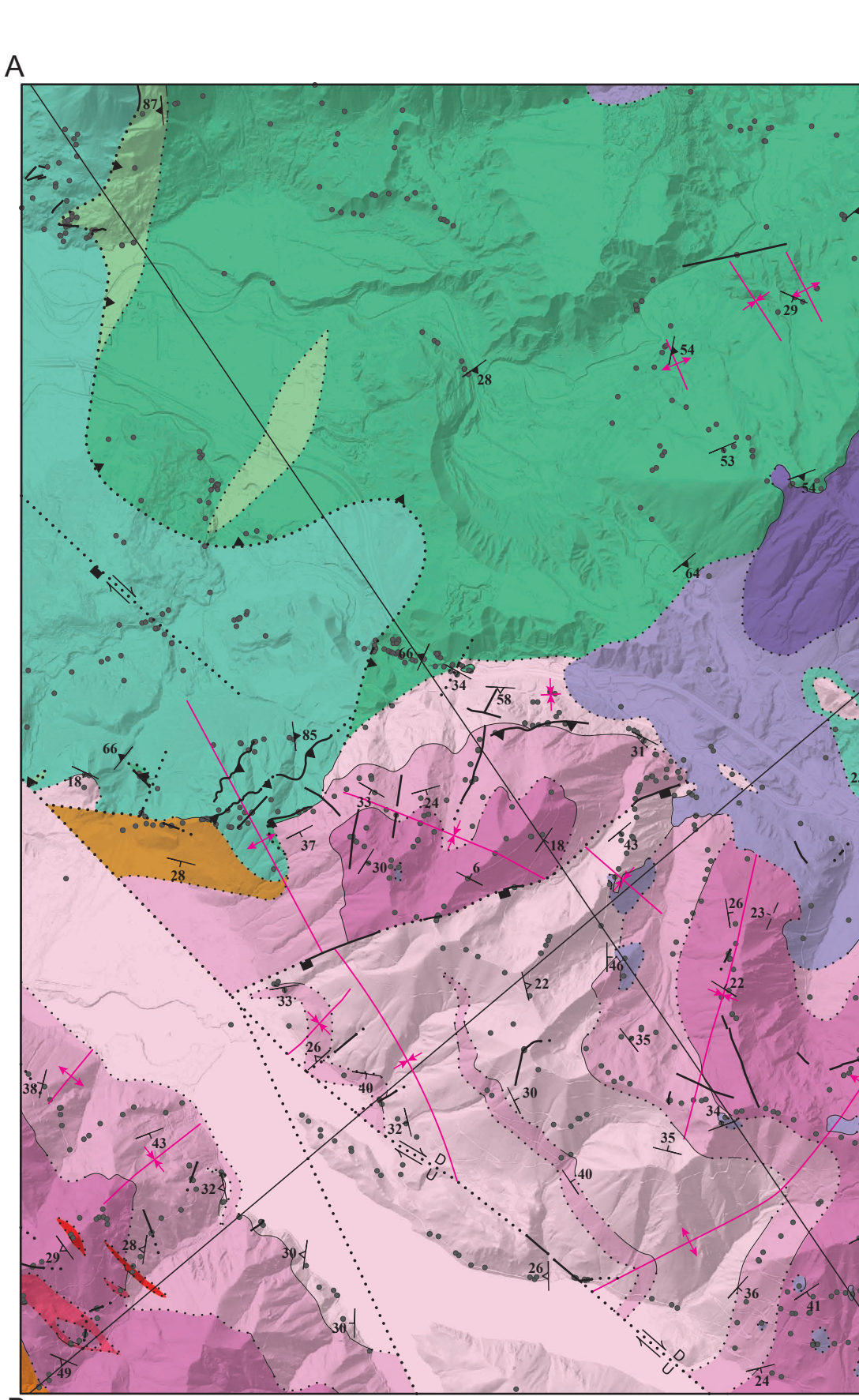


Figure M2. Inferred bedrock geology of the Chester Morse Lake quadrangle. This figure uses the mapped location of bedrock contacts and faults and infers their continuation beneath the cover of Quaternary units. The location of field observations is shown to indicate where we have constraints on the geology at the surface.

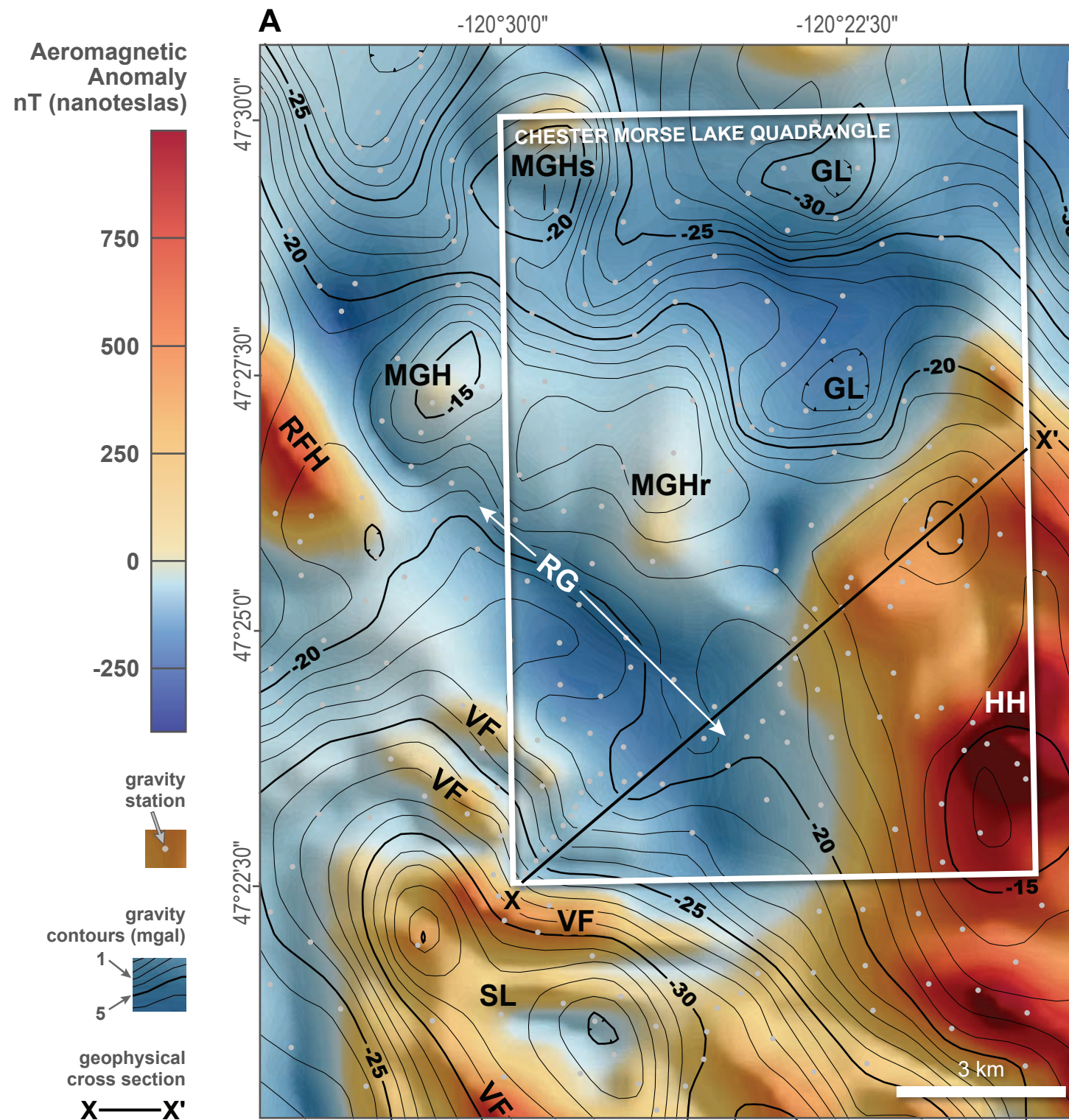



















Figure M1. Geophysical interpretation for the map area. Geophysical feature anomalies referred to in the pamphlet—GL: Glacial gravity lows; HG: Horizontal gradient (magnetic gradient along the edge of the region containing horizontal rocks); MH: Horizontal magnetic high; MD: Mafic dike gravity high; MGH (and MGHr/MGHr): Magnetite anomaly high; PF: Potential fault (unmodeled gravity low); RPH: Rattlesnake Mountain fault magnetic high; RG: Rattlesnake Mountain fault strand gravity gradient; SL: Syncline gravity low; VF: Volcanic flow magnetic high.

A. Combined isotropic gravity and hillshade aeromagnetic map (reduced to pole). Gravity contours are 1 mGal. Clearly visible are light gray dikes, X-X' shows the end points of the geophysical model in MB. White box marks the limits of the Chester Morse Lake quadrangle.

B. Two-dimensional potential field forward model of profile X-X'. Units and properties shown in the bottom panel predict gravitational and magnetic anomalies shown in the top two panels (a-saturated bulk density in g/cm³; x-magnetic susceptibility in SI x 10⁻³). Gravity data shown are no more than 300 m in map view from the model line. In our modeling, the dimensions of the small dikes make the larger circles for the gravity and magnetic data points equal the data errors, but these errors are too small to show at print scale. "Flight path" shows the elevation of the airplane that flew the aeromagnetic survey. Several sub-units of the Eocene-Oligocene volcanism, though not separated on the geological map, and cross section are geographically distinct enough to model here; therefore we identify them only by their physical volcanology. It is likely that the edges of the areas with horizontal rocks are not hard boundaries as depicted, but are gradational; however, the x-axis of the magnetic gradient HG suggests these zones do transition to unexposed areas either abruptly. The Rattlesnake Mountain fault zone strand (RG) has inferred right-lateral strike slip because of inferences northwest of the study area.

	Model Properties		Average Measured Rock Properties	
	P	X	P	X
 Quaternary (undifferentiated)	2,000	0	—	—
 Miocene-Oligocene intrusive-M0r	2,630	12	2,630	12
 Miocene-Oligocene intrusive-M0b	2,800	22	—	—
 hornfels	2,700-2,830	55-144	2,750	76
 predominantly tuff and breccia	2,400	6	2,600	8
 predominantly flows	2,840	0	2,670	2
 predominantly tuff	2,770	8	2,620	9
 predominantly flows	2,620	5	2,620	5
 predominantly tuff and breccia	2,670	22	2,670	12
 predominantly flows	2,300-2,500	17-22	2,600	8
 predominantly tuff and breccia	2,800	6	2,600	8
 Sequoia batholith-M0d	2,708	1	—	—
 Sequoia batholith-M0i	2,845	33	2,790	28
 Sequoia batholith-M10i	2,735	15	2,710	15
 Western melange belt-J10	2,850	57	—	—
 Western melange belt-K1m2	2,860	0-8	2,860	1
 Western melange belt-K1m1	2,730	3	2,730	3

UNIT CORRELATION DIAGRAM

PERIODS AND EPOCHS BASED ON USGS FACT SHEET 2010-309

