

DESCRIPTION OF SURFICIAL-GEOLIGIC MAP UNITS

(Map units below might not all appear on this sheet)

This map shows the distribution of unconsolidated deposits and undifferentiated bedrock exposed at the surface in part of the central segment of the proposed natural-gas pipeline corridor straddling the Alaska Highway from Robertson River to Tetlin Junction in the Tanacross Quadrangle. Units were mapped by interpretation of false-color infrared ~165,000-scale aerial photographs taken in July 1978, August 1980, and July 1983 and verified by field checking in 2007 and 2008.

Map units shown in parentheses such as (Q_{u1}) indicate combination map units consisting of bedrock overlain by thin to discontinuous material of the map unit shown.

UNCONSOLIDATED DEPOSITS¹

ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS

- Q_{u1}** **UNDIFFERENTIATED FLOODPLAIN ALLUVIUM**—Chiefly well sorted and well stratified polymeric pebble gravel, sand, and silt comprising channel and overbank deposits of generally small streams; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content
- Q_{u2}** **ACTIVE FLOODPLAIN ALLUVIUM**—Chiefly well sorted and well stratified layers and lenses of polymeric pebble gravel, sand, and silt with rare to scattered cobbles comprising river bars subject to recurrent inundation by streams every 5 yrs or less (Chapin and others, 2006); mapped extent is a function of river level (stage) and reflects the transitory extent of exposed river bars at the time the photographs were taken; in braided and anastomosing reaches, active channels typically shift positions from year to year and present channel locations may differ from locations in the photography on which the deposits were mapped; active alluvium underlies upper stream bank and active stream channels and includes point-bar and meander-scut deposits (Brakenridge, 1988); composed dominantly of gravel and sand where stream is braided and anastomosing and sand and silt bars and cover deposits where meandering; prone to liquefaction where fine grained and unfrozen (Harp and others, 2003); where braided, subject to formation of extensive, thick seasonal-stream kinks (auffs); generally unfrozen, except seasonally frozen to depth of foot penetration; shallow water table
- Q_{u3}** **ABANDONED-FLOODPLAIN ALLUVIUM**—Chiefly 10 to 20 ft (3 to 6 m) of overbank sandy silt and silty sand overlying sandy, polymeric riverbed gravel beneath surfaces with widespread cover of lowland loess and local sand dunes and subject to stream flooding about once every 500 to 1,000 yrs (Mann and others, 1995); may include several surfaces at different levels; overbank sequences include flood-related features, like natural levees, crevasse splays, and expansion fans near channels and fine-grained, peaty back-levée swale deposits farther from channels (Brakenridge, 1988; Mann and others, 1995); may contain organic-silt channel fills 7 to 20 ft (2.1 to 6 m) thick; surface peat generally discontinuous to widespread in backwater areas away from channels; floodplain lakes are larger than lakes on younger floodplain surfaces and typically have rounded to scalloped shorelines formed by thermokarst erosion; generally frozen with low to moderate ice content
- Q_{u4}** **ALLUVIAL-FAN DEPOSITS**—Fan-shaped deposits of unsorted to well sorted gravel, sand, and silt with numerous cobbles and boulders in proximal zone; lithologies reflect bedrock of source area; in general, size of clasts decreases and degree of sorting increases downfan; typically mixed with debris-flow deposits in proximal part of fans; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen, except in fine-grained distal deposits where permafrost may be shallow and continuous; ice content low to moderate
- Q_{u5}** **INACTIVE-FLOODPLAIN ALLUVIUM**—Chiefly 2 to 20 ft (0.6 to 6 m) of overbank silt and sandy silt overlying gravelly, polymeric riverbed sand and sandy gravel beneath surfaces subject to flooding as often as two to ten times per century (Mason and Begét, 1991; Yarie and others, 1998; Chapin and others, 2006); may include more than one surface at different levels; overbank sequences include flood-related features such as natural levees, crevasse-splays, and expansion fans near channels, and fine-grained back-levée swale deposits farther from channels (Brakenridge, 1988; Mann and others, 1995); silt and loess have linear, arcuate, and coalesced outlines (Weber and others, 1991, 1970b; Pwé, 1970; Reger and Hubbard, 2009); surface peat generally absent; prone to liquefaction where fine grained and unfrozen (Harp and others, 2003); generally unfrozen in younger areas and discontinuously frozen in older areas with low to moderate ice content; active channels may be underlain by 5 to 20 ft (1.5 to 6 m) of generally unfrozen sand and silty sand; fills of inactive channels may include 7 to 12 ft (2.1 to 3.7 m) of discontinuously frozen organic sand and silt with moderate to high ice content over sand and gravelly sand
- Q_{u6}** **STREAM-TERRACE ALLUVIUM**—Chiefly 4 to >20 ft (0.6 to >6 m) of organic sandy silt and silty sand overlying well sorted, polymeric sand and gravel beneath stream terrace trends not longer subject to inundations by the stream that deposited the alluvium (Kreig and Reger, 1982); may include several levels and flood-related features such as natural levees, crevasse-splays, and expansion fans near channels; may incorporate outwash alluvium of Donnelly age in highest terraces, locally covered by <15 ft (4.5 m) of lowland loess and eolian-sand blanket and dune complexes, especially close to active sediment sources; thaw lakes with rounded to scalloped shorelines formed by thermokarst erosion are typically present (Weber and Pwé, 1961, 1970; Pwé, 1970; Reger and Hubbard, 2009); locally subject to seasonal stream kinks where buildup of auffs in stream channels diverts subsequent drainage and spreads arched across terrace trends that would not otherwise be flooded (Spritzer and others, 1976; Sloan and others, 1976); continuously to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content
- Q_{u7}** **FLOOD DEPOSITS**—Expansion fans, crevasse-splay complexes, pendant bars, and linear bars fanning away from the modern floodplain of the Tanana River on terraces along the southern margin of the Yukon-Tanana Upland; typically located downstream from bedrock ridges that trend transverse to the Tanana River; include stream-terrace preserved downstream from bedrock ridges and knobs and are typically composed of clean, coarse to medium pebbly sand overlying cobble gravel with scattered large, granitic flood boulders; impound carbonate lakes along the northern margin of the Tanana Lowland; include pillow-shaped deposits of the well-drained, low gradient, western, older part of the broad Tok fan, which is composed of clay and matrix-supported, tabular massive to crudely bedded gravels interbedded with minor beds of crudely bedded pebbly sand; beds average ~3.3 ft (1 m) thick, parallel the fan surface, and contain rare extraordinarily large flood boulders; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen; low ice content
- Q_{u8}** **ZONE OF GROUNDWATER EMERGENCE ON OLDER TOK FAN**—Surface features on typically well drained western, older Tok fan that indicate emergence of groundwater include swampy vegetation, peat, and standing surface water; the presence of water in shallow, artificial trenches; cracks of shallow drainage channels originating at discharge water springs; and a concentration of discharge ponds and lakes
- Q_{u9}** **SLACKWATER FLOOD DEPOSITS**—Chiefly organic silt and silty backwash sediments deposited during floods in slackwater basins separated from source streams by expansion fans and natural-levée and crevasse-splay complexes; typically inundated by shallow water between flood events; sparse vegetation is water-clogged shrubs and peat bogs; may be associated with open-system pingos, numerous thaws ponds and lakes, and thermokarst pits; inferred to be continuously frozen and ice-rich
- Q_{u10}** **TERRACE DEPOSITS OF YOUNGER TOK FAN**—Surface above inactive and abandoned floodplains of Tok River displays former meandering and anastomosing channels of Tok River composed of micaceous cover silt with trace clay up to 5 ft (1.27 m) thick overlying poorly sorted, generally massive to crossbedded, matrix-supported pebbly medium-coarse sand with trace silt and rare polymeric cobbles up to 4 in (10.2 cm) diameter; moderate imbrication; depth to carbonate-bottomed pebbles varies up to 32 in (0.8 m); carbonate cement granules and coarse sand to bottom of pebbles; silt caps discontinuous and <1 ft (0.3 to 0.6 m) thick; well formed faceted and keeled ventifacts common in surface lags developed beneath pebbly sand; beds average ~3.3 ft (1 m) thick, parallel the fan surface, and contain rare extraordinarily large flood boulders; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content
- Q_{u11}** **ZONE OF GROUNDWATER EMERGENCE ON YOUNGER TOK FAN**—Surface features on the eastern, younger Tok fan that indicate emergence of groundwater include swampy vegetation, peat, standing surface water, and networks of shallow drainage channels

COLLUVIAL DEPOSITS

- Q_{cl1}** **UNDIFFERENTIATED COLLUVIUM**—Blankets, aprons, cones, and fans of heterogeneously mixed angular to subangular rock fragments, gravel, sand, and silt formed by complex, gravity-driven mass movements involving sliding, flowing, gliffing, and frost creep of weathered bedrock, and modified glacial till; cobbles and boulders are later winnowed, leaving coarse gravel and cobble tongues and lobes, some with natural levees of cobbles and boulders up to 7 ft (2.1 m) high bounding medial channels with rectangular to U-shaped cross profiles measuring 10 to 70 ft (3 to 21.3 m) across and 10 to 40 ft (3 to 18.3 m) deep; many large boulders and blocks have small debris mounds and scuffed cobbles on upper surfaces; generally unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low ice content
- Q_{cl2}** **MIXED COLLUVIUM AND ALLUVIUM**—Primarily fan-shaped or elongate, massive to poorly stratified, generally inorganic silt mixed with siltly angular to subangular pebble gravels derived from weathered bedrock uplands and loess-covered terraces, and laid down by debris flows and hyperconcentrated flows produced during brief, intense local summer storms; colliuvial processes > fluvial processes; surface slightly irregular; contains numerous cobbles in glacial terrain and angular to subangular, fresh to weathered rock fragments and gravels in weathered granitic bedrock terrain; discontinuously to continuously frozen with low to moderate ice content
- Q_{cl3}** **TECTONICALLY DEFORMED COLLUVIAL-FLUVIAL DEPOSITS**—Arcuate ridges of poorly stratified, coarse, sandy gravels with trace silt, numerous pebbles and scattered subrounded to rounded granitic boulders up to 9 ft (2.7 m) diameter initially deposited as piedmont aprons southwest of Tanacross Airfield (sheet 3) by debris flows derived from the steep mountain valley to the southwest and later tectonically deformed (Carver and others, 2010); sandy granitic matrix, color dark brown (2.5Y4/4) to light olive brown (2.5Y5/4); surface smoothly rounded with slopes between -4° and -17°; partially exhumed granitic boulders stand up to ~5 ft (~1.5 m) in relief; heights of surface boulders greater where surface slopes are steeper; surface stepped by ~20° to ~25° scarp of shallow, local slope failures; discontinuously frozen with low ice content
- Q_{cl4}** **ROCK-GLACIER DEPOSITS**—Tongue-shaped heterogeneous surface blanket of angular to subangular blocks of local bedrock overlying deformed ice with trace to some gravel, sand, and silt at depth; where active, blocky surface layer is disrupted on steep marginal slopes and core debris is exposed; accumulated on floors and lower walls of cirques and glaciated valleys by flow of rock glaciers derived from shrinking of former glaciers (ice cores) or from deposition, cementation, and deformation of precipitation-derived ground ice (ice cemented); surface typically has furrows, nested arcuate ridges arranged convexly downvalley, and pits, and may have prominent lateral ridges; permafrost frozen where active with moderate to high ice content
- Q_{cl5}** **LANDSLIDE DEPOSITS**—Laminate to triangular or fan-shaped, heterogeneous mixtures of large fractured bedrock blocks and pebble gravel with scattered to numerous cobbles and boulders and trace to some sand and silt deposited by near-surface or deep creeping, flowing, and sliding of failed bedrock and unconsolidated surficial deposits; surface features include gapping ground cracks where active, slight irregularities, hummocks, low longitudinal ridges, and terminal bulges; unfrozen to continuously frozen with low to moderate ice content
- Q_{cl6}** **ROCK-FALL DEPOSITS**—Rubble blanket or apron of large, angular rock fragments of local bedrock formed by collapse of upslope outcrop; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low ice content
- Q_{cl7}** **TALUS**—Cone- and apron-shaped heterogeneous mixtures of frost-faceted, angular rock fragments downslope of bedrock outcrops with trace to some gravel, sand, and silt deposited on steep bedrock slopes and at the front-sides of steep bedrock outcrops with U-shaped cross profiles by snow avalanches, free fall, tumbling, rolling, and sliding; surface steep, slightly irregular, and covered with numerous rock fragments, particularly in distal zones; includes debris-flow tongues; blocks and boulders covered by crustose lichens where stable and lichen free where freshly displaced; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low ice content

EOLIAN DEPOSITS

- Q_{e1}** **UNDIFFERENTIATED EOLIAN DEPOSITS**—Chiefly well sorted, massive to finely bedded, primarily airfall eolian sand and loess forming a blanket over bedrock ridges and hills and lowlands in the southern Yukon-Tanana Upland; complex stratigraphy may include retrotransported sand and silt; discontinuously to continuously frozen with low to high ice content
- Q_{e2}** **LOESS**—Silt with up to 15 percent very fine sand carried by winds and deposited as a blanket over downwind topography (Pwé, 1951, 1955); mixed with sand on lower slopes and on lowland surfaces close to floodplain sources; may include intricate mixtures with retrotransported silt; thickness ranges from ~20 ft (~6 m) close to active sediment sources to ~2 ft (~0.6 m) elsewhere (Lindholm and others, 1959); typically rilled where >3 ft (~0.9 m) thick on steep upper slopes, but areas of mapped loess should be considered minimal because rills are locally obscured by dense vegetation cover; organic rich on lower slopes and lowland sites; moderate to high moisture content (>15 percent) in lowland sites (Kreig and Reger, 1982); generally unfrozen, except discontinuously frozen with moderate to high ice content on some lower, south-facing slopes and continuously frozen and ice rich on some lower north-facing slopes and lowland sites
- Q_{e3}** **RETROTRANSPORTED SILT AND SAND COMPLEXLY MIXED WITH LOWLAND LOESS**—Chiefly massive to well stratified organic silt and sandy silt with lenses and tongues of locally derived gravel and scattered to numerous angular rock fragments (particularly in upper valleys of small ephemeral streams) in less areas and organic fine sand in sand dune areas; deposited primarily by hyperconcentrated flows (Costa, 1988) draining weathered bedrock slopes thinly covered by upland silt (loess) and eolian sand and generated by thawing of ice-rich permafrost or brief, intense summer rainstorms; complexly mixed with debris-flow deposits in upper stream drainages; primary airfall loess and eolian fine sand in lowland sites, and fine-grained distal overbank sediments in slackwater flood basins; fluvial processes > colliuvial processes; surface fairly smooth with scattered open-system pingos and local thermokarst pits, ponds, and lakes; may be subject to seasonal stream and slope kinks; discontinuously to continuously frozen with moderate to high ice content
- Q_{e4}** **EOLIAN SAND**—Chiefly blankets and dunes of fine to medium, massive to cross-bedded eolian sand with trace to some silt (Kreig and Reger, 1982, pl. 9); dunes stand 5 to 15 ft (1.5 to 4.5 m) in relief and may extend for up to 3 m (4.8 km) in the direction of dominant summer winds; mapped extent, based on the presence of dunes, should be considered minimum; cliffed dunes locally crown steep slopes that are the sand sources; discontinuous with thicknesses up to ~25 ft (~7.6 m); unweathered color grayish brown (2.5Y5/2); generally covered by 1 to 3 ft (0.3 to 0.9 m) of loess (Lindholm and others, 1959); locally being deposited along the margins of braided floodplains; average moisture content ~8 percent (Kreig and Reger, 1982); discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content

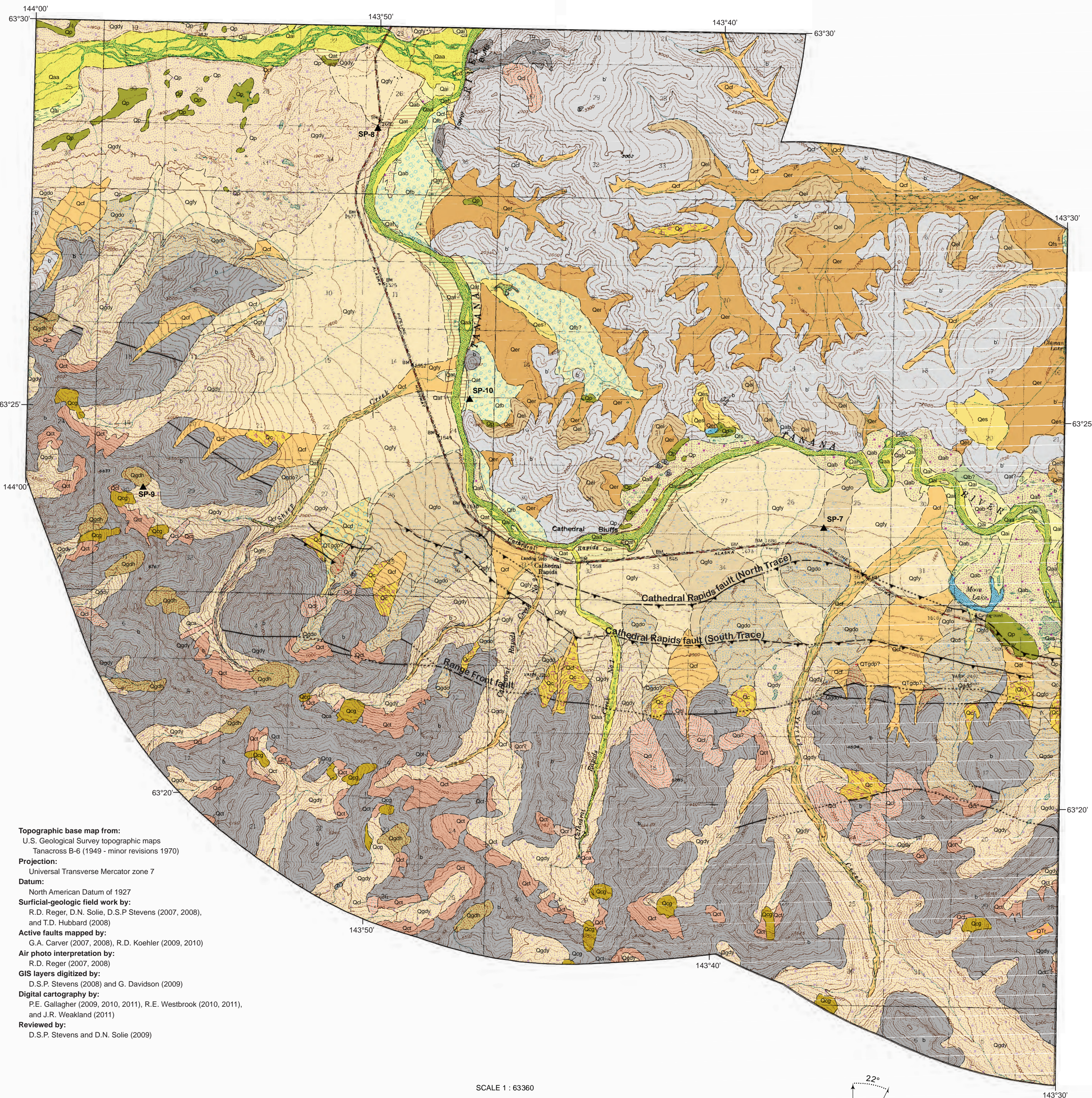
GLACIAL DEPOSITS

- Q_{gl1}** **TILL AND ASSOCIATED MORAINAL DEPOSITS OF POST-DONNELLY GLACIATION**—Heterogeneous, non-stratified, polymeric pebble-cobble gravel with some sand and silt and numerous angular to subrounded boulders deposited by glacial ice and associated colliuvial processes in upper mountain valleys during Holocene time; boulders of ice cores are unvegetated or bear crustose lichens; older moraines are typically covered with tundra; loess cover thin and patchy to discontinuous; ice cores may be present, especially in younger moraines; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content

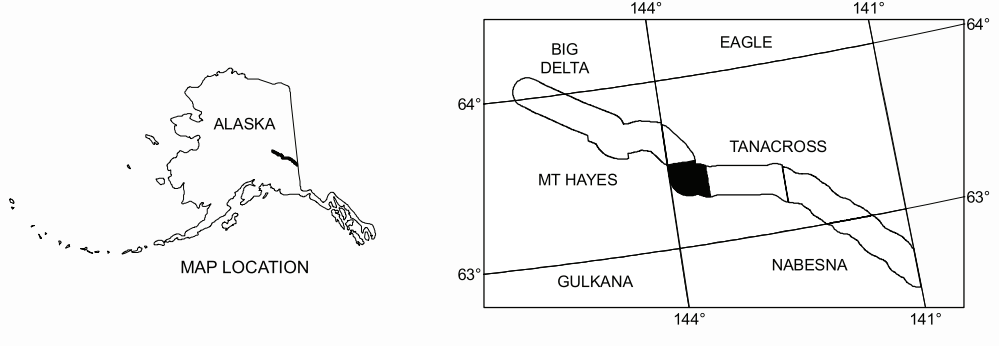
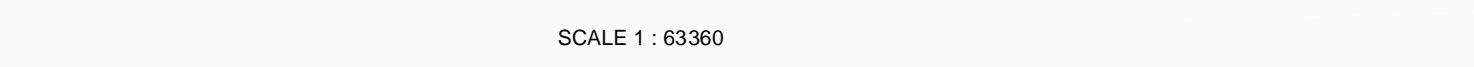
MAP SYMBOLS

(Map symbols might not all appear on this sheet)

- PHOTOINTERPRETED CONTACT—Dashed where approximately located
- QUESTIONABLE IDENTIFICATION
- ACTIVE HIGH ANGLE FAULT—Dashed where approximately located, dotted where concealed
Arrows indicate apparent direction of relative movement
U, uppermost block; D, downthrown block (Carver and others, 2010)
- ACTIVE THRUST FAULT—Dashed where approximately located, dotted where concealed
Arrows on upper plate (Carver and others, 2010)
- ANTIFORM—Dashed where approximately located, dotted where concealed (Carver and others, 2010)
- LOCATION OF RADIOCARBON SAMPLE DISCUSSED IN TEXT
- LOCATION OF SOIL PIT DISCUSSED IN TEXT
- ▲ LOCATION OF VEGETATION SITE DISCUSSED IN TEXT
- ▲ MAP LOCATION DISCUSSED IN TEXT
- GEOLOGIC PROFILE DISCUSSED IN TEXT

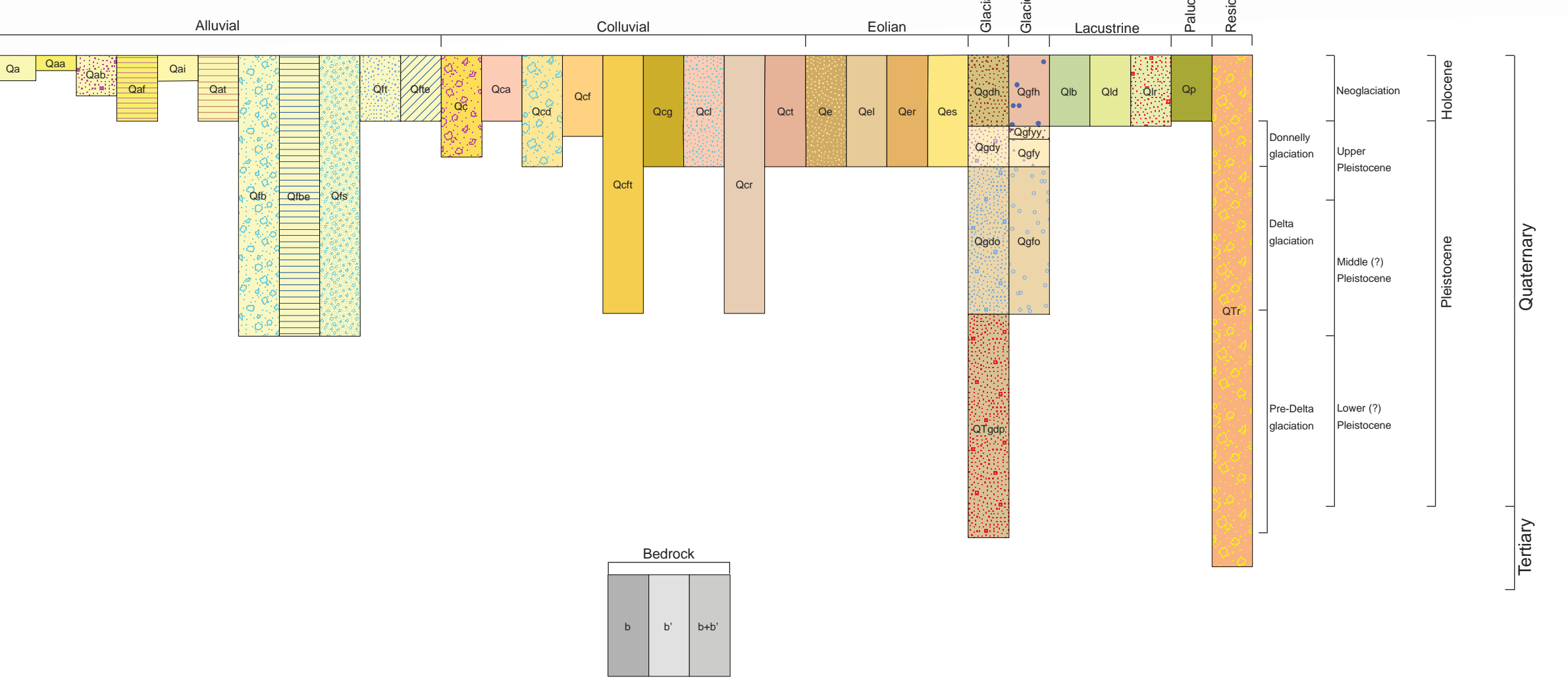


Topographic base map from:
U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps
Tanacross B-6 (1949 - minor revisions 1970)
Projection:
Universal Transverse Mercator zone 7
Datum:
North American Datum of 1927
Surficial-geologic field work by:
R.D. Reger, D.N. Solie, D.S.P. Stevens (2007, 2008),
and T.D. Hubbard (2008)
Active faults mapped by:
G.A. Carver (2007, 2008), R.D. Kohler (2009, 2010)
Air photo interpretation by:
R.D. Reger (2007, 2008)
GIS layers digitized by:
D.S.P. Stevens (2008) and G. Davidson (2009)
Digital cartography by:
P.E. Gallagher (2009, 2010, 2011), R.E. Westbrock (2010, 2011),
and J.R. Westland (2011)
Reviewed by:
D.S.P. Stevens and D.N. Solie (2009)



CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS

(All map units may not appear on this sheet)



SURFICIAL-GEOLIGIC MAP, ALASKA HIGHWAY CORRIDOR,
PART OF THE TANACROSS B-6 QUADRANGLE, ALASKA

by
R.D. Reger¹, T.D. Hubbard² and G.A. Carver³

2011

¹ Reger, J. Geologic Consulting, PO Box 3326, Solomons, Alaska 99669-3326
² Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, 3354 College Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3707
³ Carver Geologic Inc., PO Box 5, Kotlik, Alaska 99613-0005

- Q_{gl2}** **TILL AND ASSOCIATED MORAINAL DEPOSITS OF DONNELLY GLACIATION**—Heterogeneous, nonstratified, polymeric pebble-cobble gravel with some sand and silt and few to numerous subangular to subrounded boulders deposited by glacial ice and locally reworked by meltwater washing and associated mass-movement processes; may include eskers and kame deposits; moraine relief 50 to 175 ft (15.2 to 53.3 m); kettle frequency ~16/m² (~6.4/km²); kettle fillings of silt, peat, and silt colluvium generally thin but may be several feet (meters) thick close to active sources of eolian deposits; maximum till thickness ~300 ft (~91 m); surface weathering profiles 1.5 to 2.5 ft (0.5 to 0.8 m) thick; friable; sand matrix weathered to brown (10YR5/3); 25 to 35 percent of silt/clay clasts are intact in weathering profiles and granitic clasts are fresh to slightly weathered; silt caps generally <1 mm thick; discontinuous cover of silt (<3 ft [0.9 m] thick and weathered yellowish brown (10YR5/3) to light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) but eolian sand and silt mantle may be >20 ft (~6 m) thick close to active sediment sources and may obscure primary surface morphology; ventifacts exhibit thin to moderate surface polish and shallow pitting but lack facets and keels in lags developed beneath loess covers; ice-wedge casts generally rare and up to 3 ft (0.9 m) wide; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content (Pwé and Holmes, 1964; Holmes, 1965; Carter and Galloway, 1978; Pwé and Reger, 1983a, table 3)
- Q_{gl3}** **TILL AND ASSOCIATED MORAINAL DEPOSITS OF DELTA GLACIATION**—Heterogeneous, nonstratified, polymeric pebble-cobble gravel with some sand and silt and few to numerous subangular to subrounded boulders deposited by glacial ice and massive, sandy pebble gravel with rare cobbles deposited by glacial meltwater and associated mass-movement processes; may include esker and kame complexes; moraine relief 25 to 225 ft (7.6 to 68.6 m); kettle frequency ~3/m² (~1.2/km²); kettle fillings of silt, peat, and silt colluvium may be several feet (meters) thick; maximum till thickness ~200 ft (~60 m); surface weathering profiles generally 3.7 to 11 ft (0.9–2.1 m) deep; on high-level surfaces may locally be ~10 ft (~3 m) deep; friable to strongly cemented with numerous clast molds; sand matrix weathered light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) to brownish yellow (10YR6/6); 1 to 10 percent of silt/clay clasts are intact in weathering profiles and 250 percent of granitic clasts are partially decomposed; silt caps range from ~0.04 to 0.12 in (~1 to 3 mm) thick; discontinuously mantled by thin eolian sand and loess; loess cover weathered to light reddish brown (5YR6/4) (rubification); well-formed faceted and keeled ventifacts common in surface lags beneath loess covers; ice-wedge casts scattered to numerous and up to ~5 ft (~1.5 m) wide; wedge fillings include deformed eolian sand that is locally pebbly; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content (Pwé and Holmes, 1964; Holmes, 1965; Carter and Galloway, 1978; Pwé and Reger, 1983a, table 3)
- Q_{gl4}** **UNDIFFERENTIATED GLACIAL DRIFT OF PRE-DELTA GLACIATIONS**—Thin, discontinuous to continuous sheets of heterogeneous pebble-cobble gravel, sand, and silt with rare to numerous cobbles, boulders, and blocks up to 8 ft (2.4 m) in diameter deposited directly from melting glacial ice and reworked by meltwater streams; includes drift of Darling Creek age and perhaps other pre-Delta glaciations on alpine surfaces and lower mountain slopes south of Tanana River; sandy matrix weathered pale brown (10YR6/3) to brown (10YR5/3); surface morphology extensively modified by mass-movement processes; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content (Pwé and Reger, 1983a; Weber, 1986; Duk-Rodkin and others, 2004)

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS

- Q_{glf1}** **OUTWASH OF POST-DONNELLY GLACIATION**—Massive to well sorted, polymeric pebble-cobble gravel with some sand and numerous subrounded to angular boulders deposited by meltwater streams from Holocene glaciers in upper mountain valleys; locally includes deposits of debris flows and rockfalls; clasts are generally fresh; surfaces unvegetated to vegetated with thin tundra; loess cover nonexistent to thin and patchy; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low ice content
- Q_{glf2}** **OUTWASH OF LATE DONNELLY AGE**—Course outwash gravel in steep-walled, flat-floored, broad channel incised into surface of outwash fan of Robertson River glacier north of Jan Lake; connects with kame-esker deposits in the southeastern corner of Corridor Segment 1 (Reger and others, 2008, sheet 2)
- Q_{glf3}** **OUTWASH OF DONNELLY GLACIATION**—Massive to well sorted, polymeric pebble-cobble gravel with some sand and scattered to numerous subrounded to subangular cobbles and boulders <7 ft (~2.1 m) in diameter in proximal zones; surface weathering profiles typically 3 ft (~0.9 m) deep; sand matrix color varies from pale brown (10YR6/3) to brown (10YR5/3); 5 to 10 percent of foliated siltstones are typically split into plates by frost action and granitic siltstones are fresh to slightly weathered in weathering profiles, except locally, where foliated siltstones are shattered to small, platy fragments and granitic clasts are reduced to crumbly remnants by the growth of calcite (calcified) in the upper 2 to 4 ft (0.6 to 1.2 m) of the outwash deposit; silt caps thin and discontinuous; cover sands discontinuous and up to ~10 ft (~3 m) thick; average loess cover ~0.4 ft (~0.1 m) thick and generally weathered light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) to brown (10YR5/3), except red (2.5YR5/6) where strongly oxidized after repeated wildfires (Pang and others, 2006); ventifacts exhibit slight to moderate surface polish and pitting but no facets or keels in lags developed beneath loess covers; ice-wedge casts generally rare, but locally common and <3 ft (~0.9 m) wide (Pwé and Reger, 1983a, p. 62–66); deformed wedge fillings composed of brown to greenish gray silt with trace to some pebble gravel and scattered cobbles; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low ice content
- Q_{glf4}** **OUTWASH OF DELTA GLACIATION**—Massive to well sorted, polymeric pebble-cobble gravel with some sand and numerous subrounded to subangular cobbles and boulders <3.5 ft (~1.1 m) in diameter; coarse in proximal zones and finer near distal; surface weathering profiles ~12 ft (~3.6 m) deep; sand matrix color varies from pale brown (10YR6/3) to very pale brown (10YR7/4) ~50 percent of foliated and granitic clasts in weathered profiles are rotten; silt caps on clasts in weathered profile ~0.08 in (~2 mm) thick; cover sands discontinuous and up to ~10 ft (~3 m) thick; loess cover typically 1 to 2 ft (0.3 to 0.6 m) thick; well formed faceted and keeled ventifacts common in surface lags beneath loess covers; quartz pebbles in lags stained yellowish brown (10YR5/4) to very pale brown (10YR7/4); ice-wedge casts scattered to numerous and <3 ft (~1 m) wide; deformed wedge fillings are typically eolian sand with trace to some silt and pebble gravel and may include scattered pebble ventifacts; unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low ice content

LACUSTRINE DEPOSITS

- Q_{lac1}** **LAKE-BOTTOM DEPOSITS**—Chiefly silt and clay with some sand and organic material deposited in ephemeral lakes in backwater areas of inactive floodplains and behind ice-bowled ramps in large lakes; discontinuously to continuously frozen with moderate to high ice content
- Q_{lac2}** **DELTA DEPOSITS**—Chiefly sand and silt with some organic material deposited in a lake basin by a stream entering the lake during floods of the Tanana River; streams normally draining the lake into the river reverse directions and carry floodwaters and sediments into the lake basin; sparsely frozen with moderate to high ice content
- Q_{lac3}** **DEPOSITS OF ICE-SHOVED RIDGES**—Single or multiple 3- to 5-ft-high (0.9- to 1.5-m-high) ridges parallel to and 2 to 15 ft (0.6 to 4.5 m) above modern lake shorelines; composed of overturned and severely and complexly deformed deposits of adjacent lake bottoms, including fine to coarse clastic lake-bottom sediments and peat with thin interlayered light gray lacustrine sands; built by shoreward transport of lake-bottom sediments by wind-driven, drifting lake ice (Pwé and Reger, 1983b, figs. 22A and B); unfrozen to discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content

PAUDAL DEPOSITS

- Q_{pa}** **SWAMP DEPOSITS**—Primarily fibrous and locally woody, autochthonous peat with organic silt and sand deposited in lowland sites (Kreig and Reger, 1982); <3 ft (~2 m) thick; discontinuously to continuously frozen with moderate to high ice content

RESIDUAL DEPOSITS

- Q_{rd}** **BLOCK RUBBLE**—Nests and blankets of angular to subangular blocks derived by frost wedging and jacking of underlying bedrock (autochthonous block fields) on high-level surfaces (felsenumer of Carrara, 2004) and/or as lags left by winnowing of sandy matrix from gelifraction deposits thin to till by subterranean piping (calicheous block fields); locally may be included in units of thinly covered bedrock (Q_{u1}) and in units of colluvium (Q_{cl1}); size of blocks in function of joint spacing in local bedrock; associated microrelief features formed by frost action and mass movement include stone polygons, stone nets and circles, stone stripes, nonoriented circles and hummocks, and soil lobes and benches; frost jacking locally active; discontinuously frozen with low to moderate ice content

BEDROCK

- Q_b** **UNDIFFERENTIATED BEDROCK**—Outcrops of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks; linear and curvilinear shallow troughs and linear changes of surface vegetation indicate the presence of planar bedrock structures
- Q_{b1}** **THINLY COVERED BEDROCK**—Subcrops with <3 ft (<0.9 m) of loess cover; bedrock structures recognizable through thin veneer of surficial debris
- Q_{b2}** **Complex map unit consisting of bedrock outcrops and thinly buried subcrops that cannot be mapped separately**

¹ Estimated contents of sand and silt, based on field observations, are indicated by the terms "trace" and "some." "Trace" implies a general composition of 4 to 12 percent. "Some" implies a general composition of 12 to 30 percent. Estimated compositions of 4 percent are not included in the field. Terms used to describe the estimated percentages of cobbles and boulders are: "numerous," "scattered," and "rare." "Numerous" implies that during the deposit would encounter two cobbles or boulders in an interval of 2 ft (0.6 m); "scattered" implies that during would encounter two cobbles or boulders in an interval of 10 to 15 ft (3 to 4.5 m); "rare" implies that during would encounter two cobbles or boulders in an interval of 15 ft (~4.5 m)

REFERENCES

Brakenridge, G.R., 1988, River flood regime and floodplain stratigraphy, in Baker, V.R., Kochel, R.C., and Patton, P.C., eds., Flood geomorphology: New York, John Wiley & Sons, p. 139–156.
Carrara, P.E., 2004a, Surficial geologic map of the Tanacross B-6 Quadrangle, east-central Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Map 2850, version 1.0, 9 p., 1 sheet, scale 1:63,360.
———, 2004b, Surficial geologic map of the Tanacross B-5 Quadrangle, east-central Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Map 2856, version 1.0, 9 p., 1 sheet, scale 1:63,360.
Carter, L.D., and Galloway, J.F., 1978, Preliminary engineering geologic maps of the proposed natural gas pipeline route in the Tanana River valley, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 78-794, 20 p., 3 sheets, scale 1:125,000.
Carver, G.A., Bemis, S.P., Solie, D.N., Castonguay, S.R., and Obermiller, K.E., 2010, Active and potentially active faults in or near the Alaska Highway corridor, Robertson River to Tetlin Junction: Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys Preliminary Interpretive Report 2010-1, 42 p.
Chapin, F.S., III, Viereck, L.A., Adams, C.P., Van Cleve, Keith, F., Ott, R.A., Mann, D.A., and Johnson, J.F., 2006, Successional processes in the Alaskan boreal forest, in Chapin, F.S., III, Oswald, M.W., Van Cleve, Keith, F., and Verbyla, D.L., eds., Alaska's changing boreal forest: New York, Oxford University Press, p. 108–120.
Costa, J.E., 1988, Rheologic, geomorphic, and sedimentologic differentiation of water-washed flows, hyperconcentrated flows, and debris flows, in Baker, V.R., Kochel, R.C., and Patton, P.C., eds., Flood geomorphology: New York, John Wiley & Sons, p. 113–122.
Duk-Rodkin, Aljandra, Barredraj, R.P., Fresse, D.W., Weber, Florence, Eakin, Randy, Smith, L.R., Zarza, D.G., Waters, Pamela, and Klason, Rudy, 2004, Timing and extent of Plio-Pleistocene glaciations in northwestern Canada and east-central Alaska, in Ehlers, J., and Gibbard, P.L., eds., Quaternary glaciations—extent and chronology, part II: North America: New York, Elsevier, Developments in Quaternary Sciences, v. 2, p. 313–345.
Harp, E.L., Johnson, R.W., Kayen, R.E., Keefer, D.K., Sherrod, B.L., Carver, G.A., Collins, B.D., Moss, R.E.S., and Sitar, N., 2003, Landslides and liquefaction triggered by the M7.9 Denali Fault earthquake of 3 November 2002: GSA Today, v. 13, no. 8, p. 4–10.
Holmes, G.W., 1965, Geologic reconnaissance along the Alaska Highway, Delta River to Tok Junction, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1181-H, 19 p., scale 1:125,000, 1 sheet.
Kreig, K.A., and Reger, R.D., 1982, Air-photo analysis and summary of landform soil properties along the route of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System: Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Survey Report 86, 49 p.
Lindholm, G.F., Thomas, L.A., Davidson, D.T., Handy, R.L., and Roy, C.J., 1959, Silts near Big Delta and Fairbanks, in Davidson, D.T., and Roy, C.J., eds., The geology and engineering characteristics of some Alaskan silts, 150: Engineering Experiment Station Bulletin 188, p. 33–70.
Mann, D.H., Fawcett, C.L., Rowland, E.L., and Bigelow, N.H., 1995, Spruce succession, disturbance, and geomorphology on the Tanana River floodplain, Alaska: Ecoscience, v. 2, no. 2, p. 184–199.
Mason, O.K., and Begét, J.E., 1991, Late Holocene flood history of the Tanana River, Alaska, U.S.A.: Arctic and Alpine Research, v. 23, no. 4, p. 392–403.
Pwé, T.L., 1951, An observation of wind-blown silt: Journal of Geology, v. 59, p. 399–401.
———, 1955, Origin of the upland silt near Fairbanks, Alaska: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 66, no. 6, p. 699–724.
———, 1970, Permafrost and vegetation on floodplains of subarctic rivers (Alaska), a summary, in Ecology of the subarctic region—Proceedings of the Helsinki symposium, UNESCO, p. 141–142.
Pwé, T.L., and Holmes, G.W., 1964, Geology of the Mt. Hayes D-4 Quadrangle, Alaska: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations Map I-394, scale 1:63,360, 2 sheets.
Pwé, T.L., and Reger, R.D., 1983a, Delta River area, Alaska Range, in Pwé, T.L., and Reger, R.D., eds., Guidebook to permafrost and Quaternary geology along the Richardson and Glenn Highways between Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys Guidebook 1, p. 47–135.
———, 1983b, Middle Tanana River valley, in Pwé, T.L., and Reger, R.D., eds., Guidebook to permafrost and Quaternary geology along the Richardson and Glenn Highways between Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys Guidebook 1, p. 45–48.
Ping, C.L., Bream, R.D., Clark, M.H., Packer, E.C., and Swanson, D.K., 2006, State factor control of soil formation in interior Alaska, in Chapin, F.S., III, Oswald, M.W., Van Cleve, Keith, Viereck, L.A., and Verbyla, D.L., eds., Alaska's changing boreal forest