

Hagerman Valley Geology

A Focus on:

The Effect of Large-scale Heterogeneities and Geologic Structures on Spring Spatial Distribution

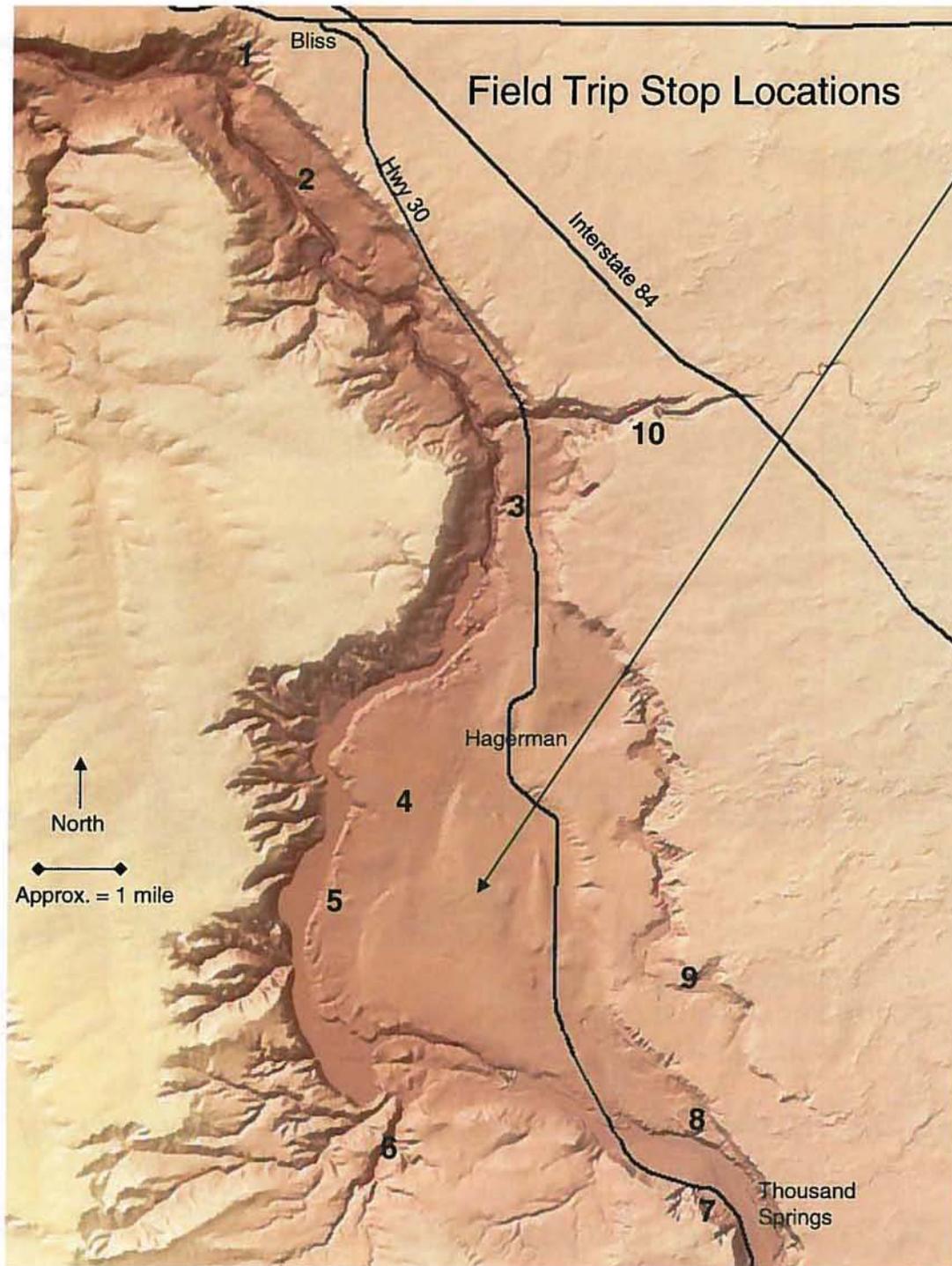
By: Neal Farmer

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Email: neal.farmer@idwr.idaho.gov



Maley, 2005



General Overview

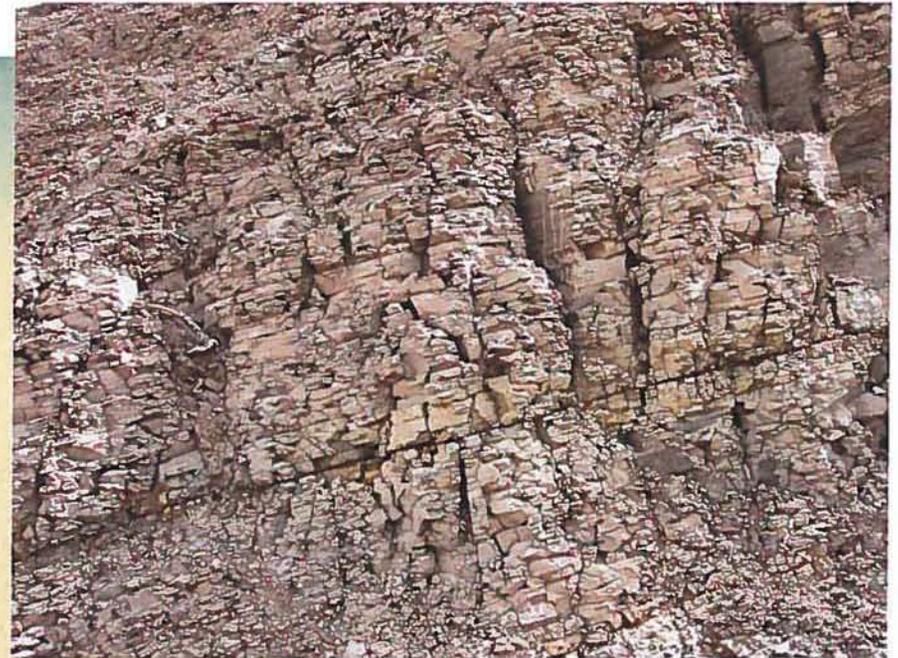
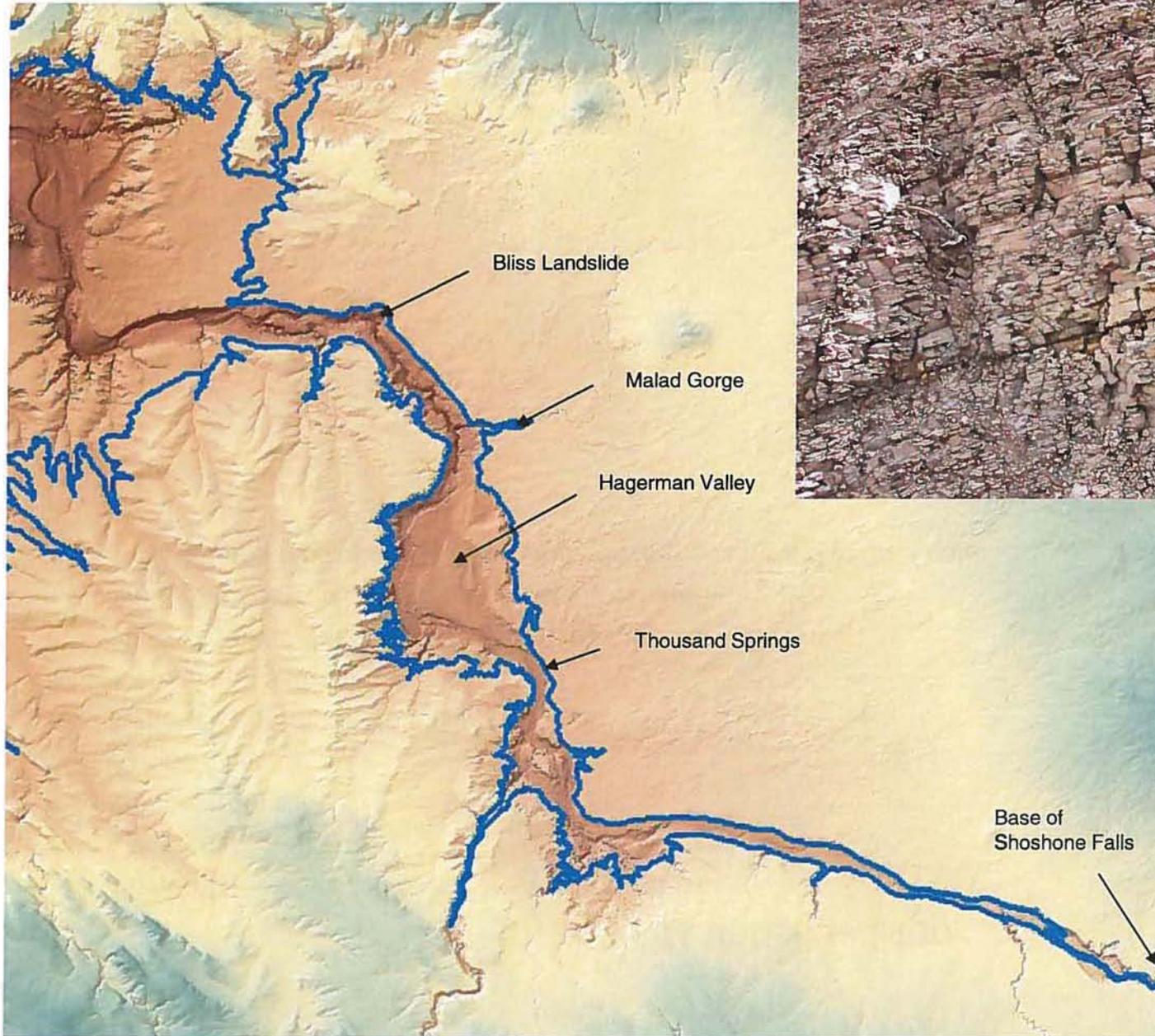
The Hagerman valley is an approximately six square mile expanse of basalt bedrock, Snake River gravels, Yahoo Clay lake sediments, Glens Ferry Formation (GFF) lake sediments and Bonneville Flood deposits bounded by steep canyon walls on the west and **basalt cliffs underlain by lake sediments on the east** (Malde, 1972). The valley is bounded by very different geology on the east and west sides of the Snake River. The fine-grained sediments of the **GFF dominate the stratigraphy on the west side of the valley, acting as impediments to ground water flow, with intercalated basalt lavas and buried fluvial channel facies acting as hosts for preferential ground water flow within the low-permeability sediments of the Glenn's Ferry Formation hosting anthropogenic perched aquifers** (John Welhan, IGS).

The east side of the valley exhibits a cap rock of basalt overlying the **GFF sediments from Lake Idaho with more basalt under the lake sediments**. Geologic structures have folded, faulted, and tilted the formation layers causing or influencing divergent groundwater flow paths to form unconfined, confined and artesian aquifer systems. These systems include: **geothermal artesian aquifers, deep cold water artesian aquifers and of course the ESPAquifer**. We will visit locations where both Quaternary age basalts (1.8 m.y. or younger) and **Tertiary age basalts (older than 1.8 m.y.) host aquifers that exhibit high permeability and aquifer discharge rates**.

Bliss Landslide Stop

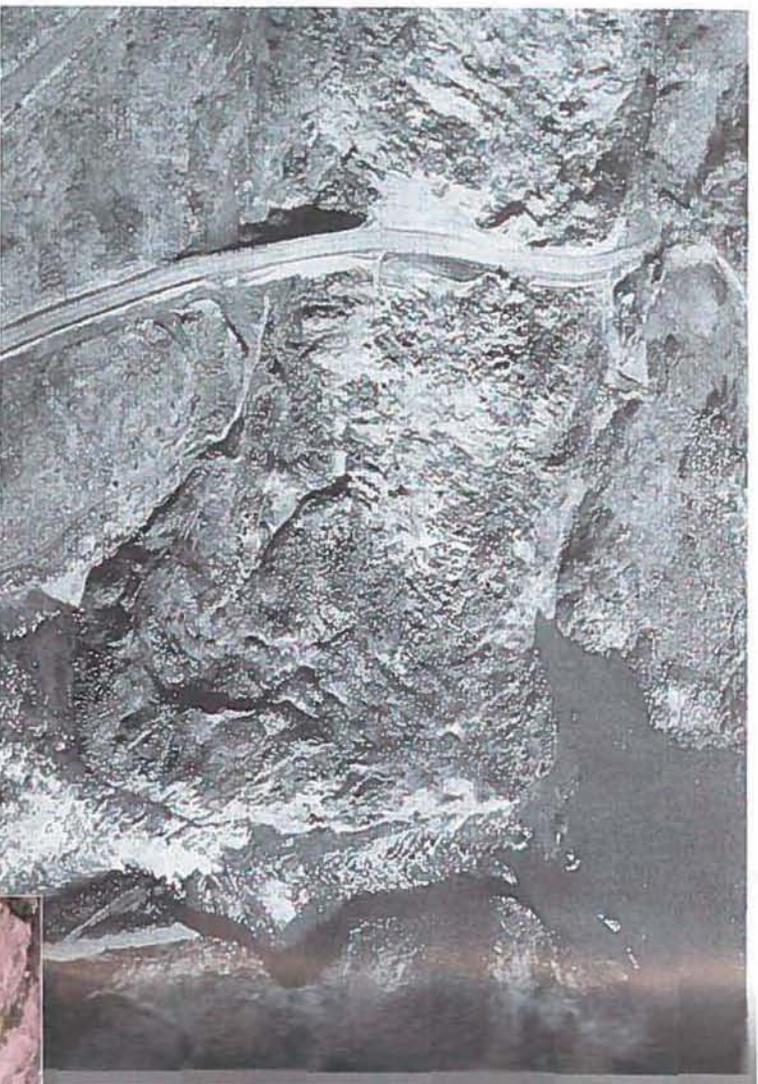
- General geology from one side of river to other.
- Slide characteristics
- Effects from slide
- Yahoo Clay
- Estimate percentage of clay.
- Note slides across river.
- Bliss slide has the last downstream outcrops of Y.C. Fm.
- Note patches in road and hummocky road surface
- Note rotated blocks of Y.C. Fm. while driving down road in road cuts.

“Lake Yahoo”

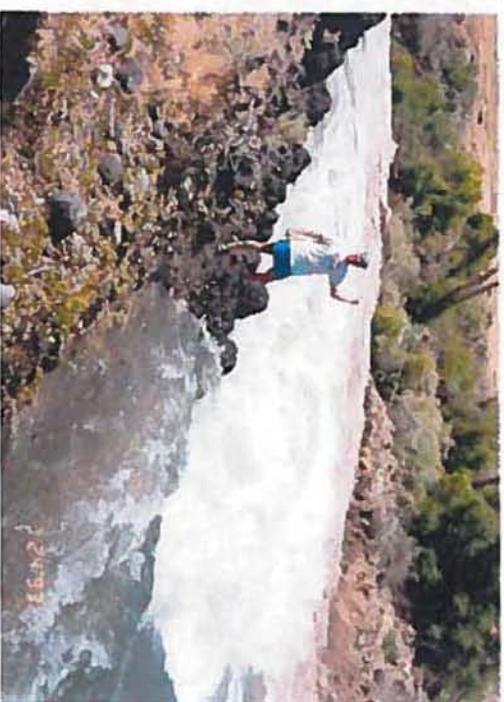


McKinney Butte erupted about 50,000 y.b.p. and discharged a basalt flow into the Snake River Canyon blocking and damming the river which deposited the Yahoo Clay Formation (Malde, 1972) . The lake would have nearly filled the Hagerman Valley from rim-to-rim and extended from Bliss area upstream to possibly the base of Shoshone Falls.

Landslide Events



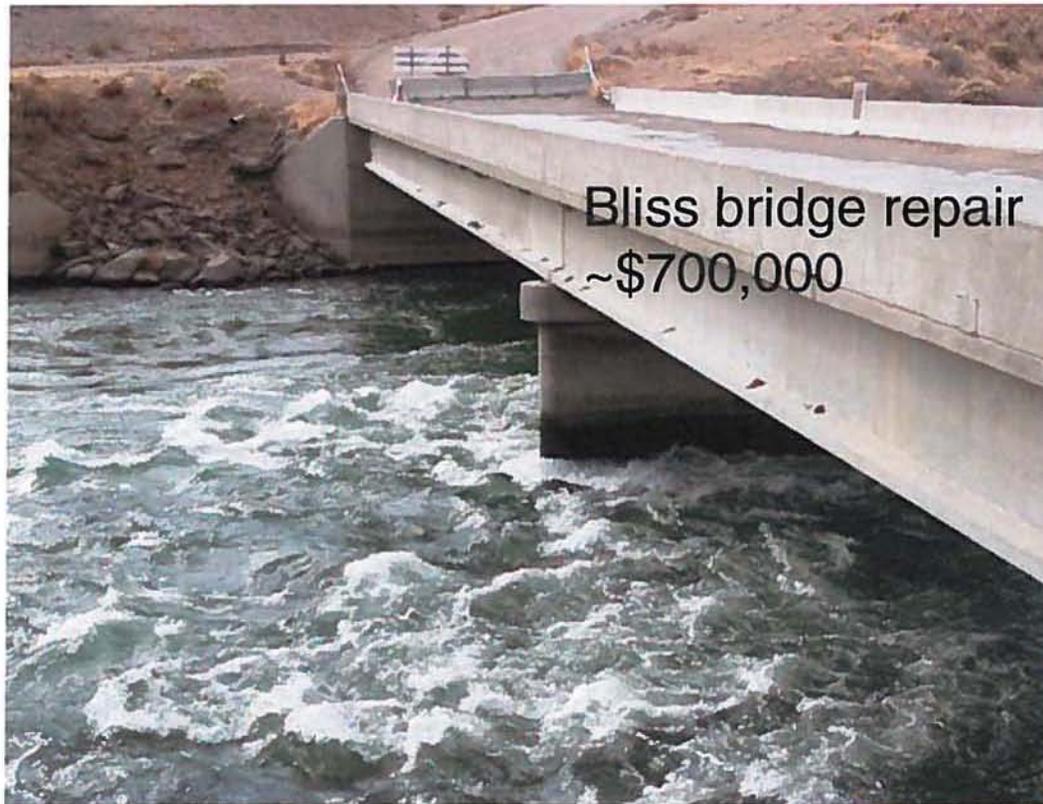
(Maley, 2005)



1993 Bliss Landslide



Impacts from Landslides



Bliss bridge repair
~\$700,000

Bridge closure strands some



Photo by GUY WITTE/The Times-News
An Idaho Transportation Department crew barricades off the Bliss bridge early Saturday morning. The bridge was declared unsafe for vehicular traffic after two underwater inspections determined that the high velocity of the Snake River and the unstable foundation of the bridge could result in bridge failures.

Alternate routes will add hours to driving time

By Julie Perco
Times-News writer

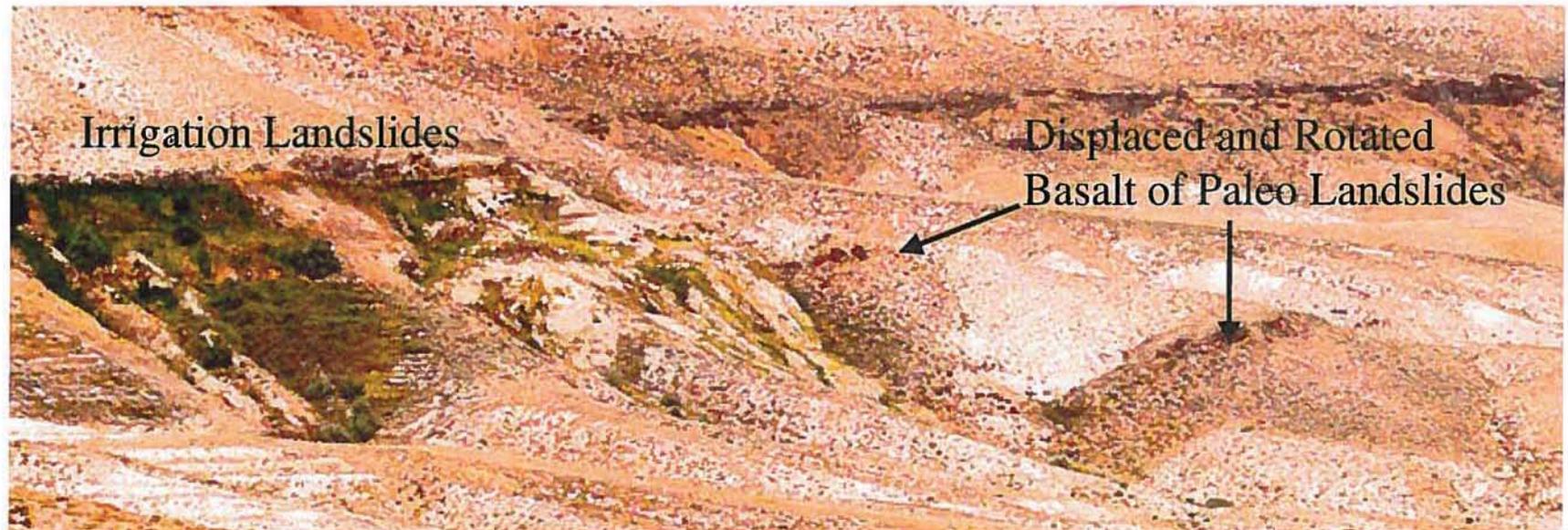


1993 Bliss Landslide

Bonneville Flood Scabland Stop

Recent and Ancient Landslides

- Stratigraphic relation of YC fm. to landslides.
- Intercalated basalt flow.
- Dry and wet vegetation patterns act as a tracer to both aquifers and stratigraphy.

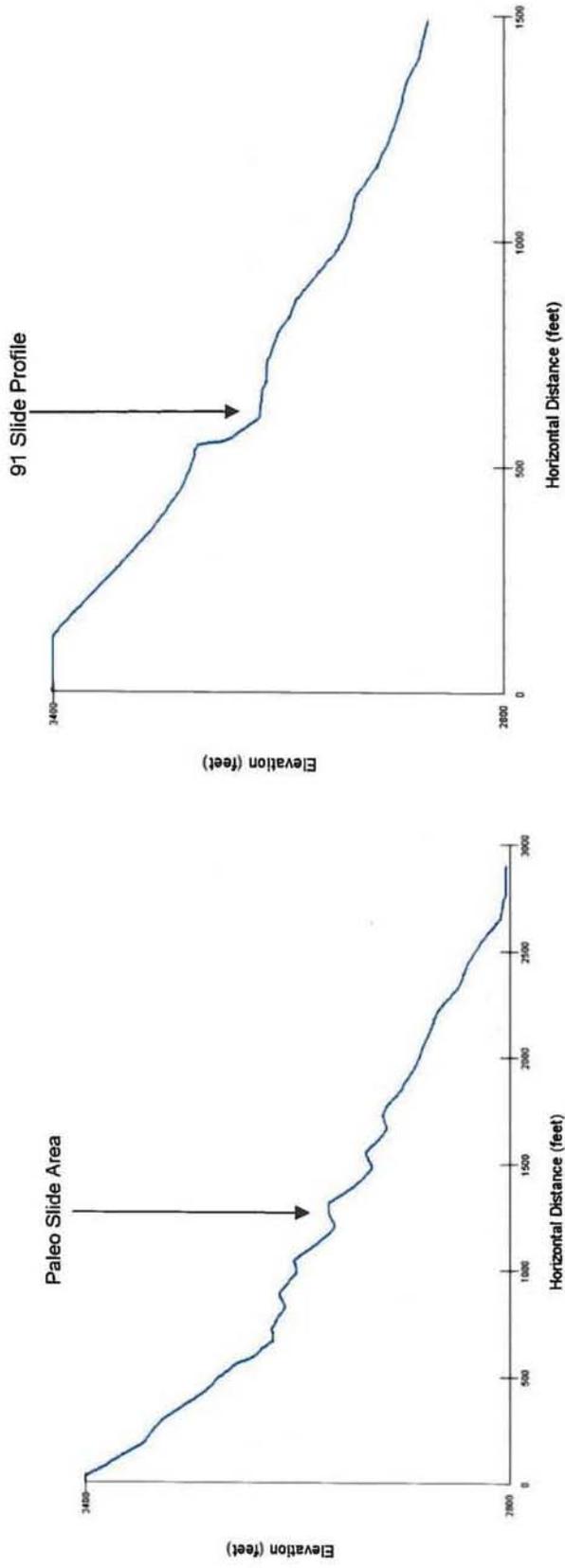




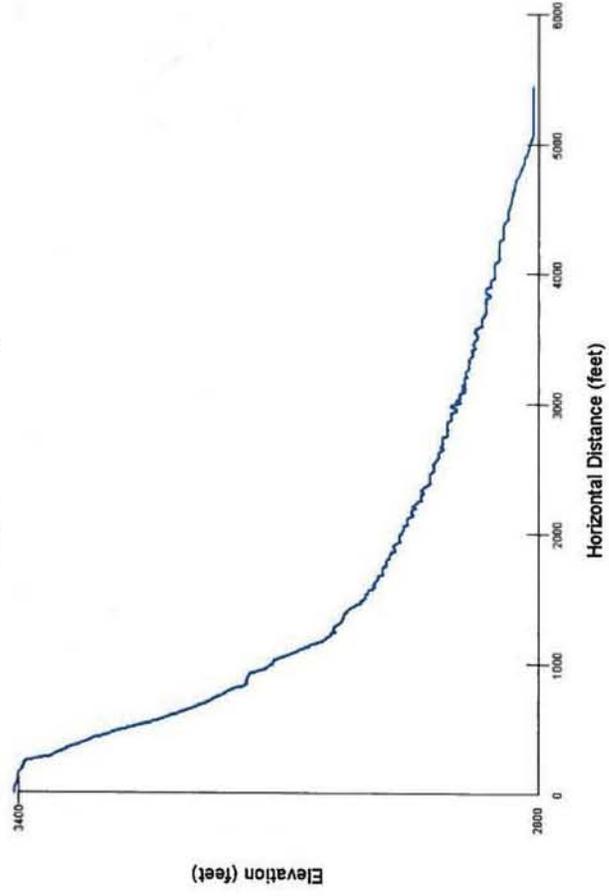
Intercalated Tertiary age basalt within the clay rich sediments of the GFF dated at 3.4 million years old (Hart, 1999).

Discharge from the rubble base of this basalt flow, at only this location of the headwall scarp of the 1991 landslide, averages 200 gpm or 2,900 ac-ft per year. Tracer tests record groundwater flow velocities ranging from 150 to 200 linear feet per day.

Geomorphic Profiles from Hagerman Fossil Beds N.M.



Deeply Incised Drainage

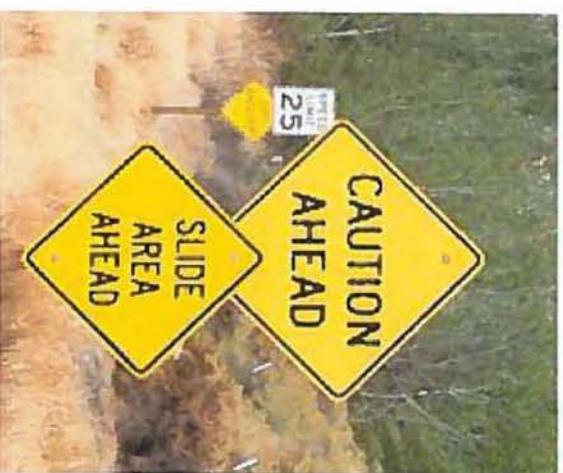


Scoured Scabland Basalt from the Bonneville Flood c.a. 15,000 y.b.p.

- Note scoured flute surface features on basalt and how they trace the paleo flow patterns.



Landslides of Hagerman Valley

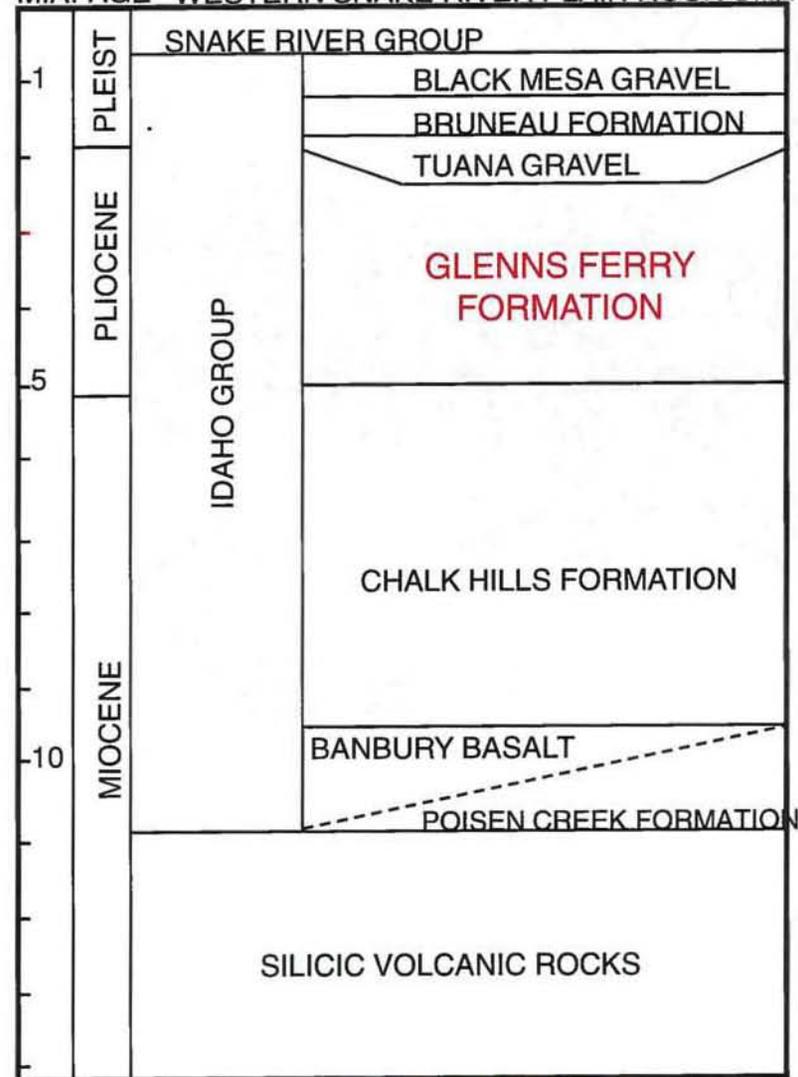


'Lake Idaho'

- 5 to 1.5 m.a.
- deposited Glenns Ferry Formation.
- about 50 miles wide and 150 miles long.
- some fossils are radioactive including the official Idaho State Fossil – “The Hagerman Horse”.



M.A. AGE WESTERN SNAKE RIVER PLAIN ROCK UNITS



(modified from Malde, 1972)

'Hagerman Horse Quarry'

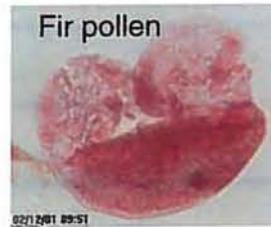
Horse hoof



Water Lilly pollen



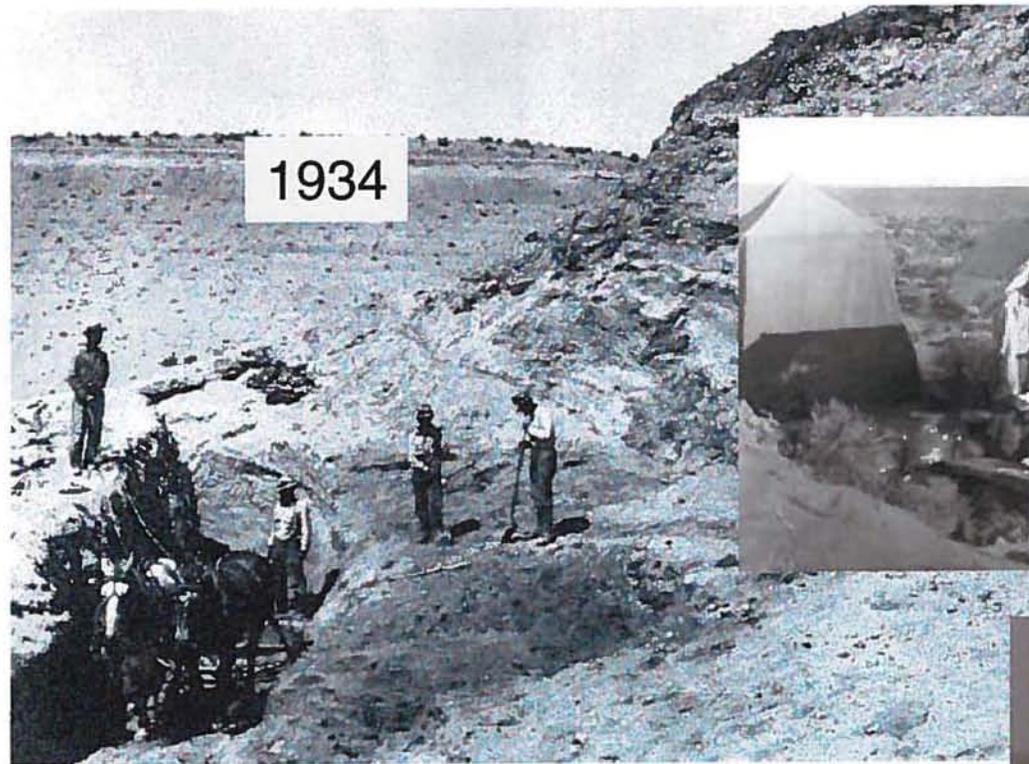
Fir pollen



Borophagus (hyena dog)



1934



Turtle shell

Beaver vertebrae



Salmonid vertebrae



Horse molars



**Radioactive Isotopes Identified by
XRF and SEM/EDS Reconnaissance Analysis
(noted with isotope numbers)**

sources: (UofI, 2005) and
(WSU Transuranium &
Uranium Registries, 1997) and
(Data Chem, 1997)

- Uranium - 238 & 235
 - Thorium - 234
 - Radium - 226 & 223
 - Lead - 210 & 214
 - Bismuth - 214
 - Cesium - 137
 - Protactinium - 231
 - Yttrium
 - Barium
 - Lanthanum
 - Iodide
 - Nearly all Lanthanide/Rare Earth Elements.
- ☒ Aluminum
 - ☒ Chloride
 - ☒ Manganese
 - ☒ Iron
 - ☒ Titanium
 - ☒ Sulfur
- SEM/EDS analysis indicates that U and Th concentrations in carbonate-fluorapatite range up to 5000 ppm.



Radon



Cabinet
1996 Test
 Ave. =
436 pCi/L

Max =
544 pCi/L

HONEYWELL Professional Radon Monitor

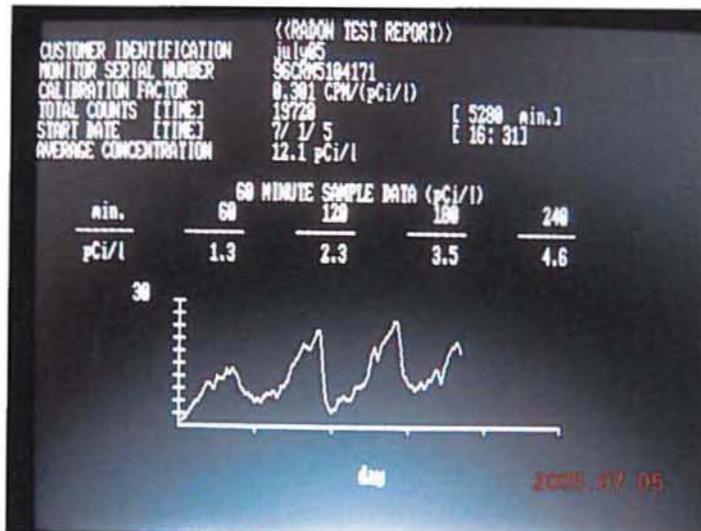
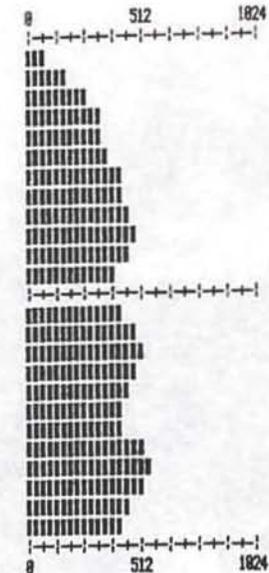
Start Date 7-8-96
 Start Time 11:47 AM
 Serial #
 Location: Cabinet

Signature: John C. G. [unclear]

Data in pCi/l
 Time Interval 4 Hrs

64.0	184	272
324	348	376
432	428	456
484	456	408
428	488	516
496	468	436
444	520	544
512	464	440

Overall Avg. = 436
 Last 12 Hrs. = 462



Room
2005 Test
 Ave. =
12 pCi/L

Max =
26 pCi/L

Radioactive Fossil Distribution

and

Summary

- 75% exhibit radioactivity.
- ~ 50% are 1,500 CPM or higher with one specimen at 21,000 CPM.
- The Idaho State Fossil is one of the 'hottest' sites.
- Radon is a health hazard associated with fossil collections.
- Higher radioactivity is associated with permeable rock units (sand) and lower activity from clay rich deposits.
- 130 radioactive fossil sites are documented so far.
- Radioactivity has been documented since 1996 at HAFO.

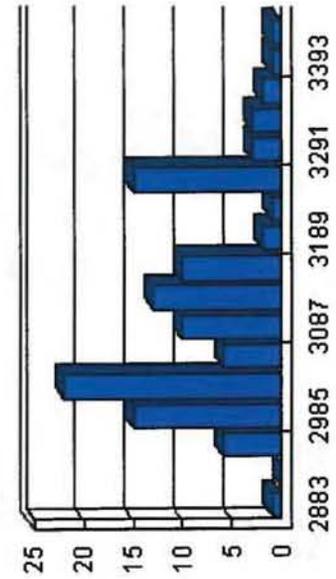


CONT_ELEV

Statistics:

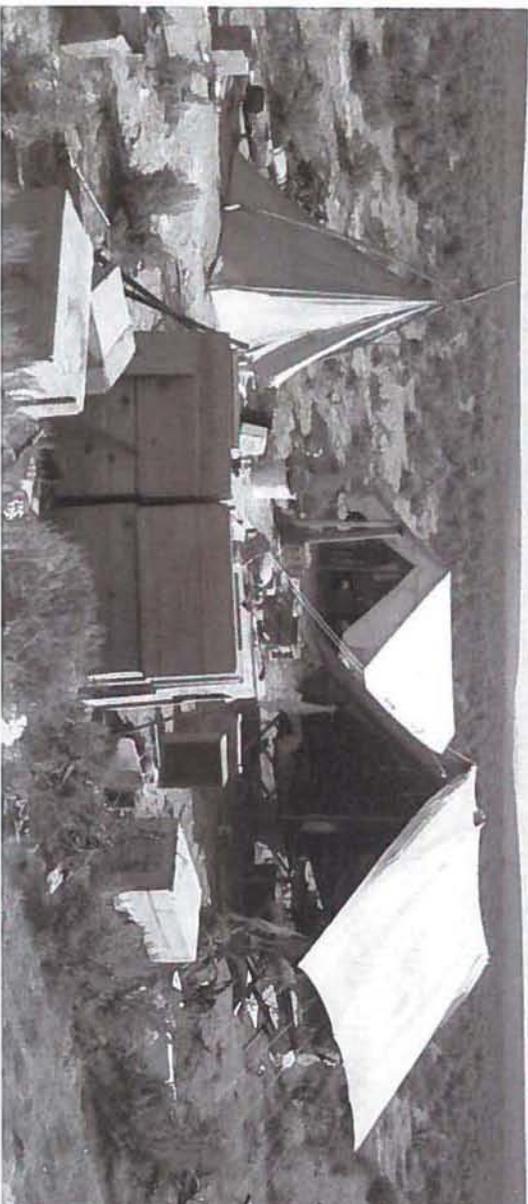
Count:	111
Minimum:	2883.000000
Maximum:	3443.000000
Sum:	346774.000000
Mean:	3124.090090
Standard Deviation:	118.804446

Frequency Distribution

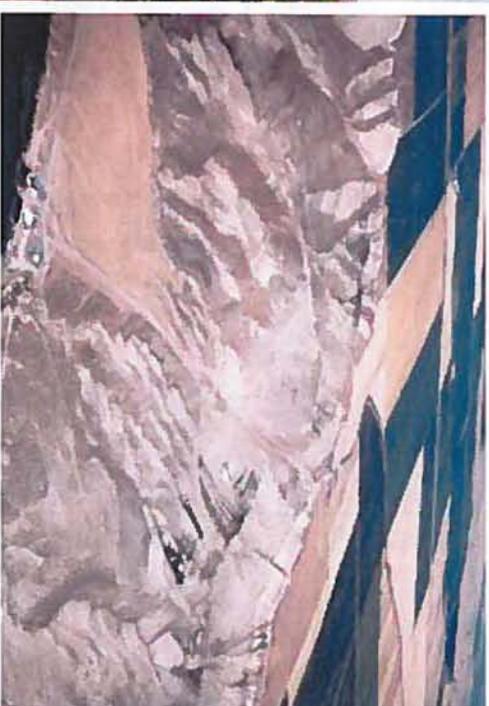
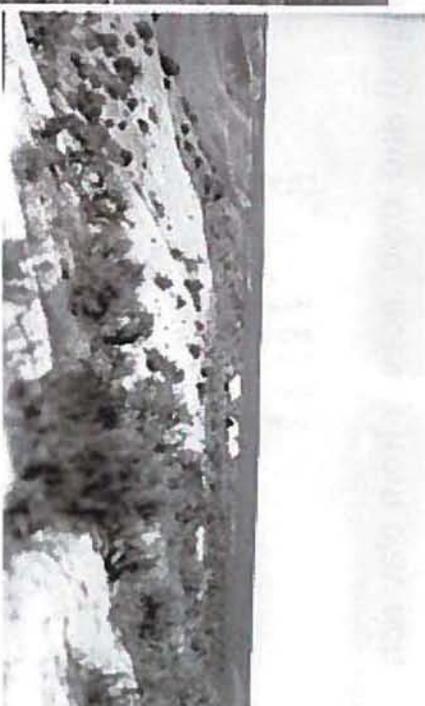


Land Use Change

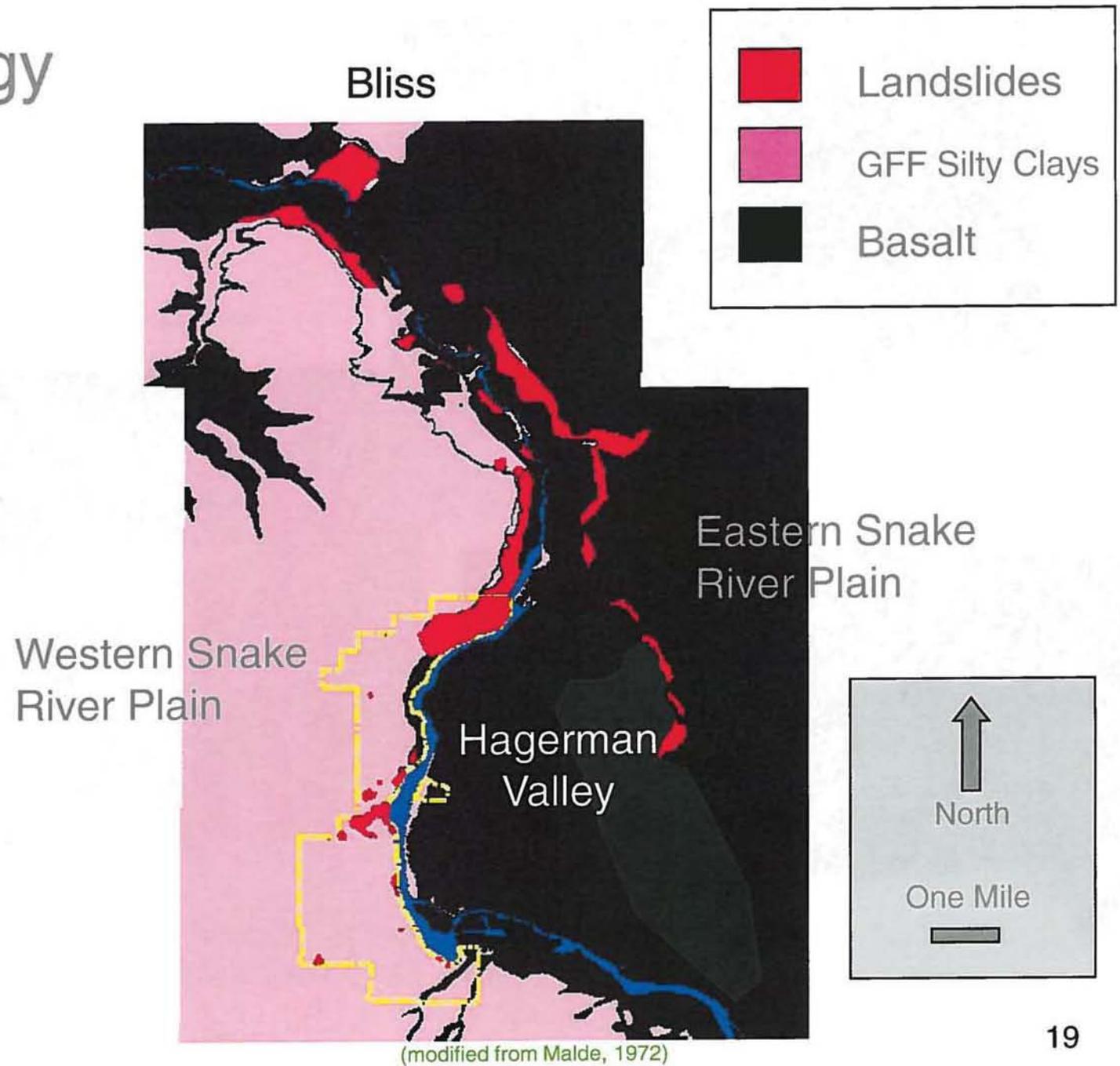
1930's



1997 (same location as photo above)



Landslides and Geology



Paleo Block Failures



Malad Gorge block failures with IP Co. Facilities.



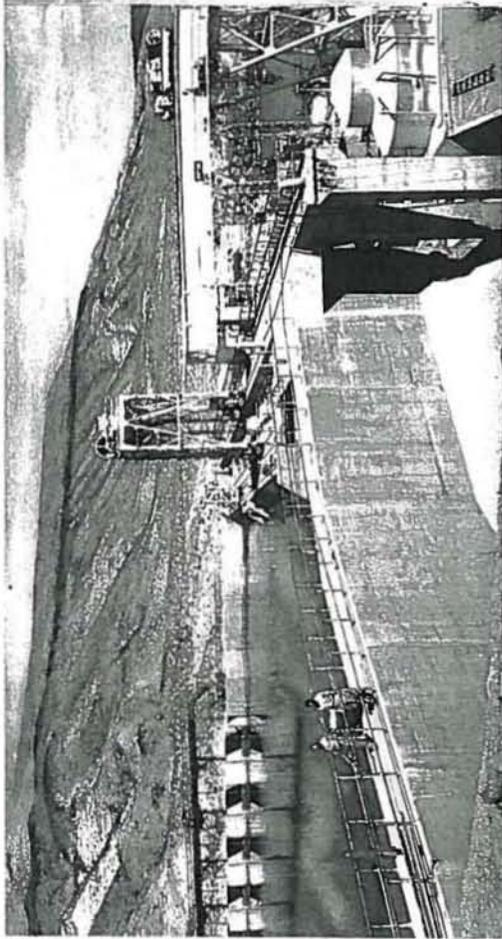
Paleo Slide, Rock Fall, and Highways



Roads, bridges and homes built on slides.



Reservoir Associated Landslides



ABOVE, view of combined fish and powerhouse structures being erected at right abutment. Left, auxiliary section, both in concrete enclosure, with their gravity cranes, at right.

Lower Salmon Done

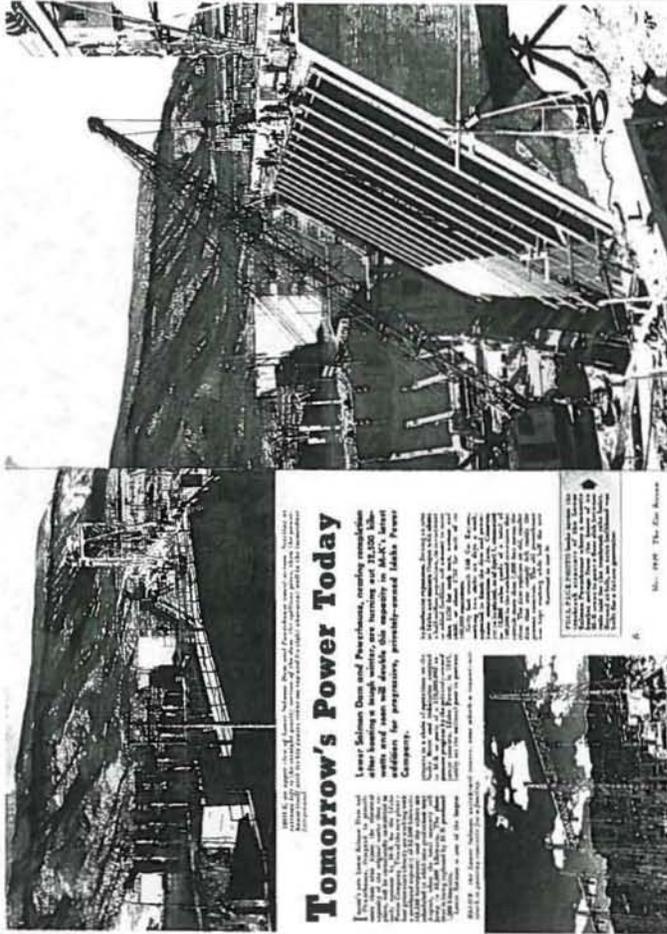
New power now flows from the fourth and largest dam and powerhouse completed by M-K under Idaho Power Company's huge expansion program, with four generators turning out 87,100 horsepower for homes and business.

On September 8 the last of four generators in the beautiful new Lower Salmon Powerhouse whose headwall is a part of Lower Salmon Dam, the structures and installations all built by M-K, does 87,100 horsepower (65,000 kilowatts) of electric current. The dam stretches more than 1,000 feet across the Snake River, a concrete structure having a gravity operating section and a water wheel section. The dam is designed to control the river's flow.

This big hydroelectric development, which includes a switchyard to transmit power over the private lines that serve the communities of southern Idaho, is



ABOVE, in powerhouse control room, Glenn C. Johnson, assistant project manager, Robert C. Foster, erection superintendent, Fred McCormick, IFCo resident engineer, and Ed A. Woodford, IFCo superintendent of power plants. Below, pouring concrete for powerhouse, showing craning fish ladder, a graceful concrete structure at right.



Tomorrow's Power Today

Lower Salmon Dam and Powerhouse, nearing completion after having a tough winter, are turning out 87,100 kilowatts and soon will double the capacity of Idaho Power Company.

Lower Salmon Dam and Powerhouse, the fourth and largest dam and powerhouse completed by M-K under Idaho Power Company's huge expansion program, is turning out 87,100 kilowatts of electric current. The dam stretches more than 1,000 feet across the Snake River, a concrete structure having a gravity operating section and a water wheel section. The dam is designed to control the river's flow.



Below, 1948. The dam, however, is still being built.

(source: Hunt, 1984)

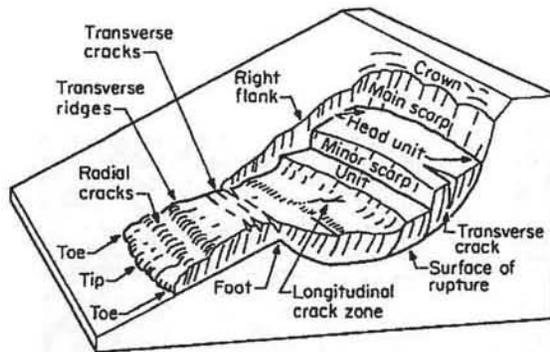


FIG. 9.21 Characteristics and nomenclature of a rotational slide. [From Varnes (1958).¹ Reprinted with permission of the Transportation Research Board.]

Birmingham shale of zone 4 is heavily jointed vertically.

Slide History

In the 1930s a large tension crack opened at the top of the slope. Sealing with concrete to prevent infiltration was unsuccessful in stopping movement and the crack continued to open over a period of several years. The rainfall that entered the slope through the vertical fractures normally drained from the slope along pervious horizontal beds. On the day of failure, which followed a week of rainfall, the horizontal passages were blocked with ice. Hamel (1972)¹⁰ concluded that final failure was caused by water pressure in the mass, and the failure surface was largely defined by the existing crack at the top of the slope and the weak basal stratum.

9.2.5 ROTATIONAL SLIDES IN SOILS

General

A common form of sliding in soil formations is the rotation about some axis of one or more blocks bounded by a more or less cylindrical failure surface. The characteristics at total failure and descriptive nomenclature are given on Fig. 9.21.

The major causes are seepage forces and increased slope inclination, and relict structures in residual soils. Usually neither the volume of mass involved nor the distance moved is great; therefore, the consequences are seldom cata-

strophic although slump slides cause substantial damage to structures. If their warning signs are recognized they can usually be stabilized or corrected.

Recognition

Occurrence

Slump or rotation slides are characteristic of relatively thick deposits of cohesive soils without a major weakness plane to cause a planar failure. The depth of the failure surface varies with geology.

Deep-seated failure surfaces are common in soft to firm clays and glaciolacustrine, and glaciomarine soils. Deep to shallow failure surfaces are common in residual soils, depending on the strength increase with depth and relict rock defects. Relatively shallow failure surfaces are characteristic of colluvial soils.

Surface Features

During early failure stages tension cracks begin to form as shown on Figs. 9.22 and 9.23. After partial failure, in a progressive mode, the slope exists as a series of small slumps and scarps with a toe bulge as shown on Fig. 9.24, or it may rest with a single large scarp and a toe bulge as illustrated on Fig. 9.25. After total failure, surface features include various head scarps, concentric and deep tension cracks (Fig. 9.26), and a large mass of incoherent material at the toe (Fig. 9.27). (See also Fig. 9.21.)

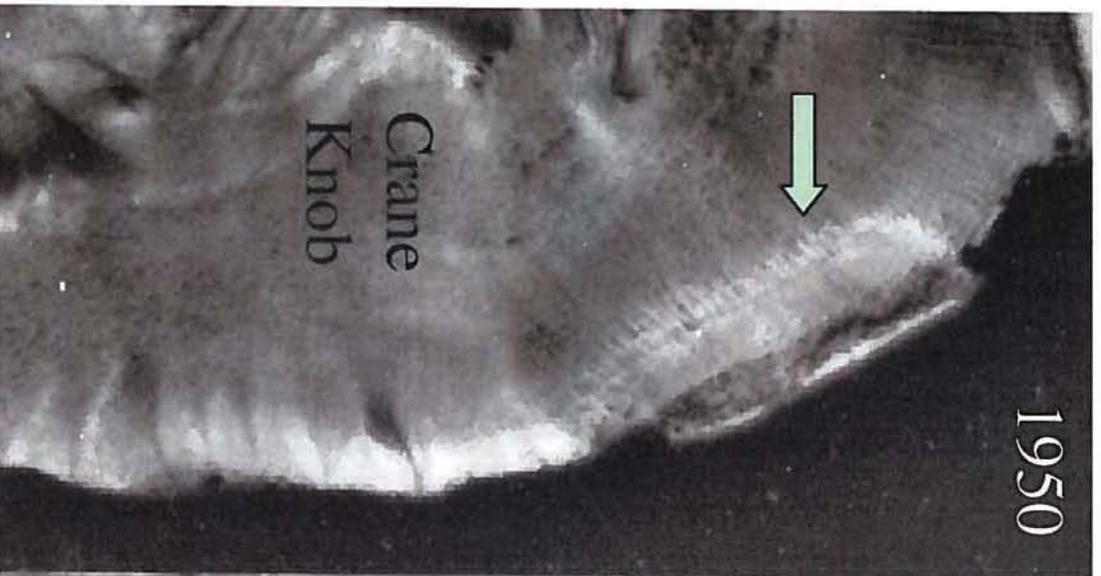
Slump landforms remaining after total failures provide forewarning of generally unstable slope conditions. They include spoon-shaped irregular landforms, as seen from the air (Figs. 9.28 and 9.29) cylindrical scarps along terraces and water courses (see Fig. 2.18), and hummocky and irregular surfaces, as seen from the ground (Figs. 9.30 and 9.31). In the stereo pair of aerial photos shown in Fig. 9.28, the slump failure mass has stabilized temporarily but probably will reactivate when higher-than-normal seasonal rainfall arrives. A small recent failure scar exists along the road in the center of the slide mass. The rounded features of the mass, resulting from weathering, and vegetation growth indicate that the slide is probably 10 to 15 years old, or more. In the photo, it can be seen that the steep high-

River Corridor Landslides and Effects from Reservoir Management

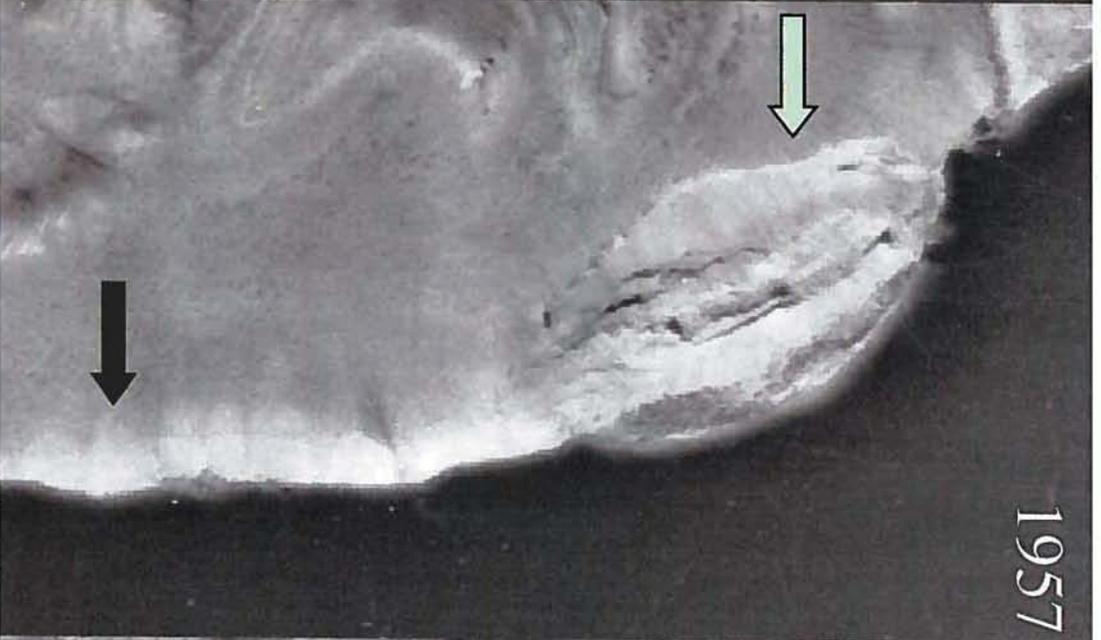


Failure date is c.a. 1954

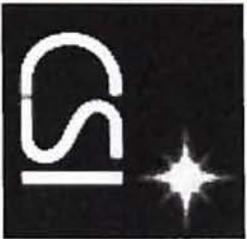
Translational 'Sheetlike' Movement



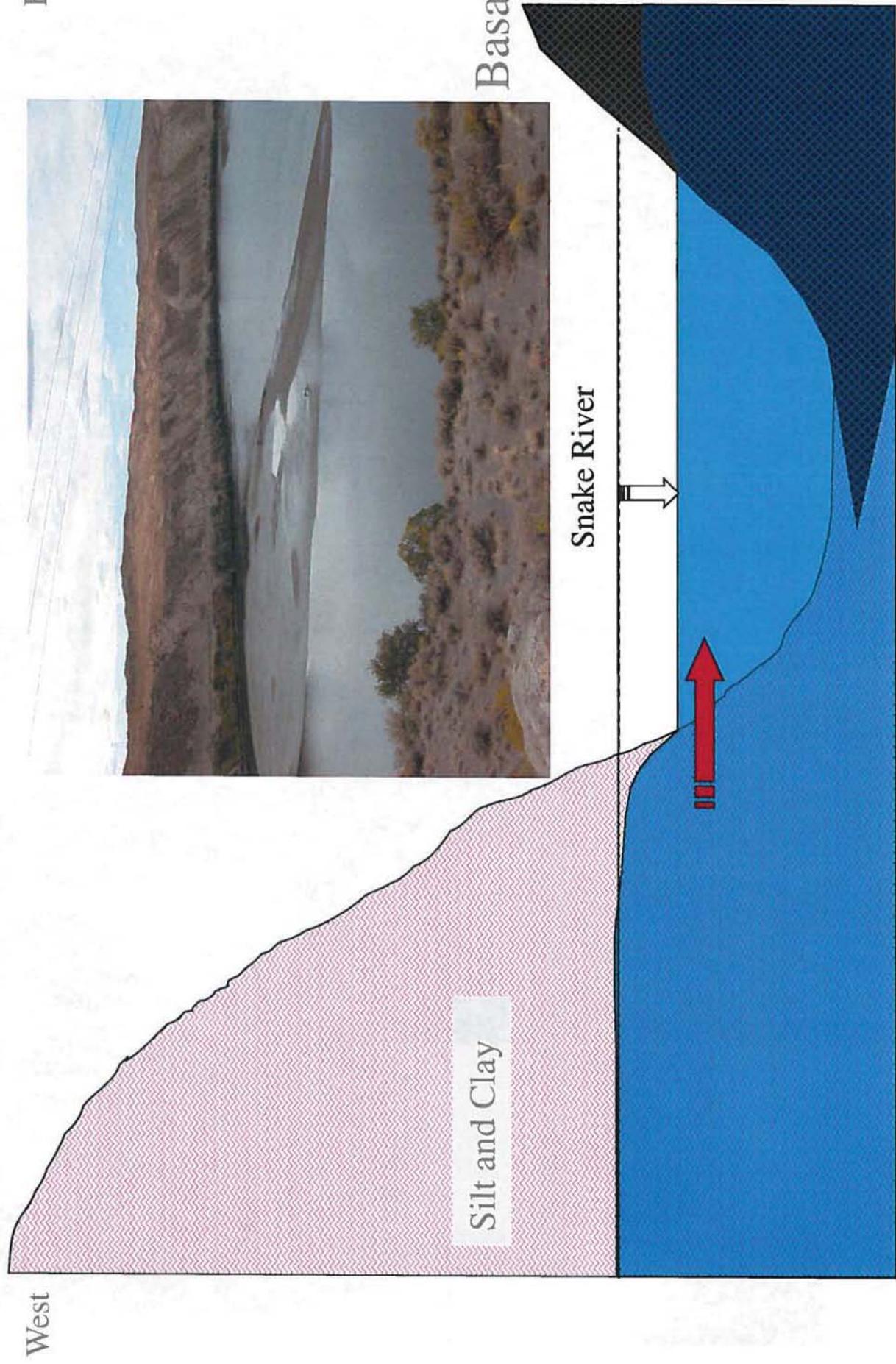
Rotational 'Spoonshaped' Movement



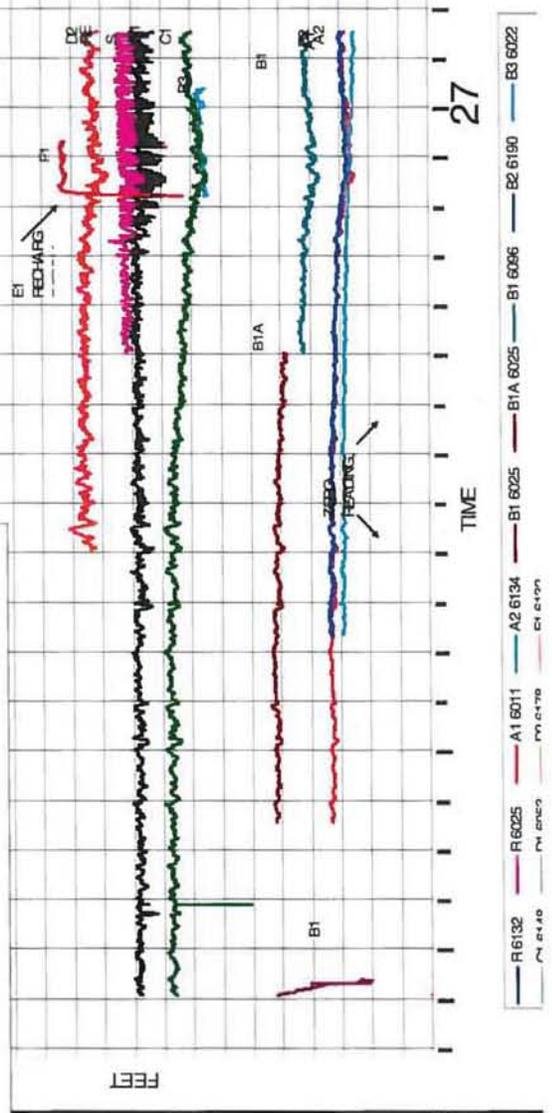
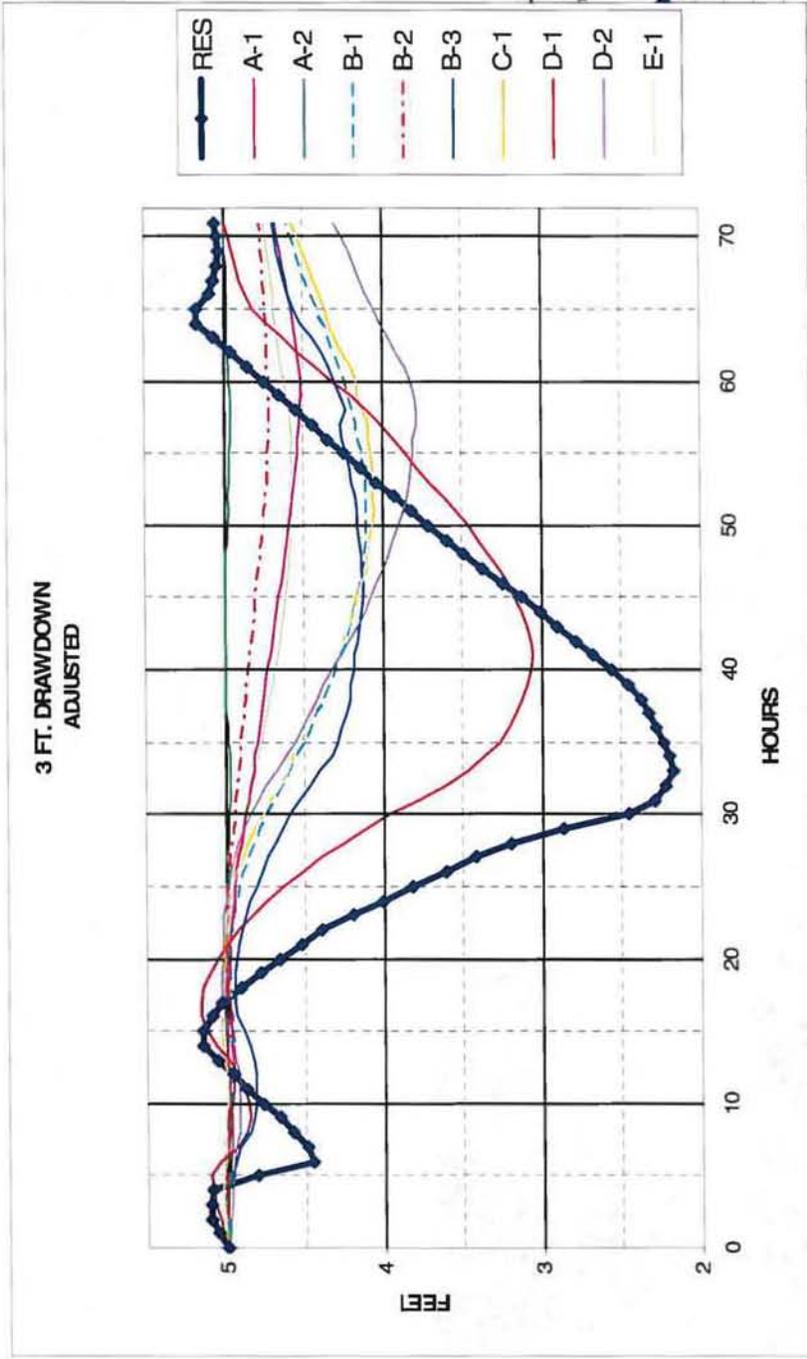
Partnership with College of Southern Idaho & IWRRRI



Groundwater Response to Reservoir Pool Levels



Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir Drawdown Data

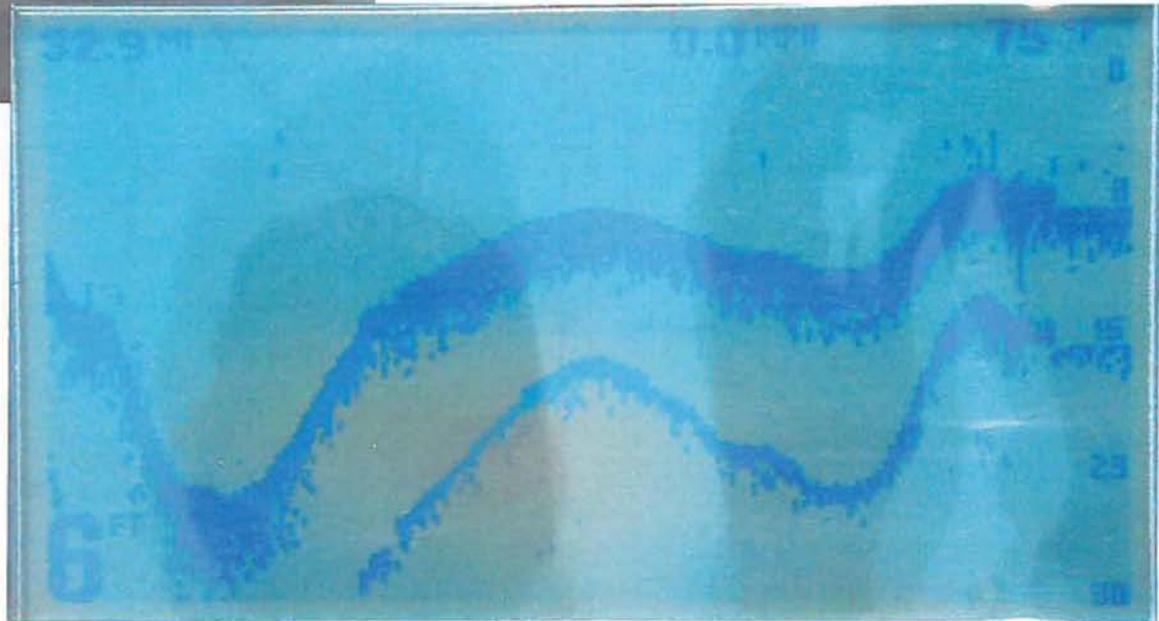


Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir Sediments



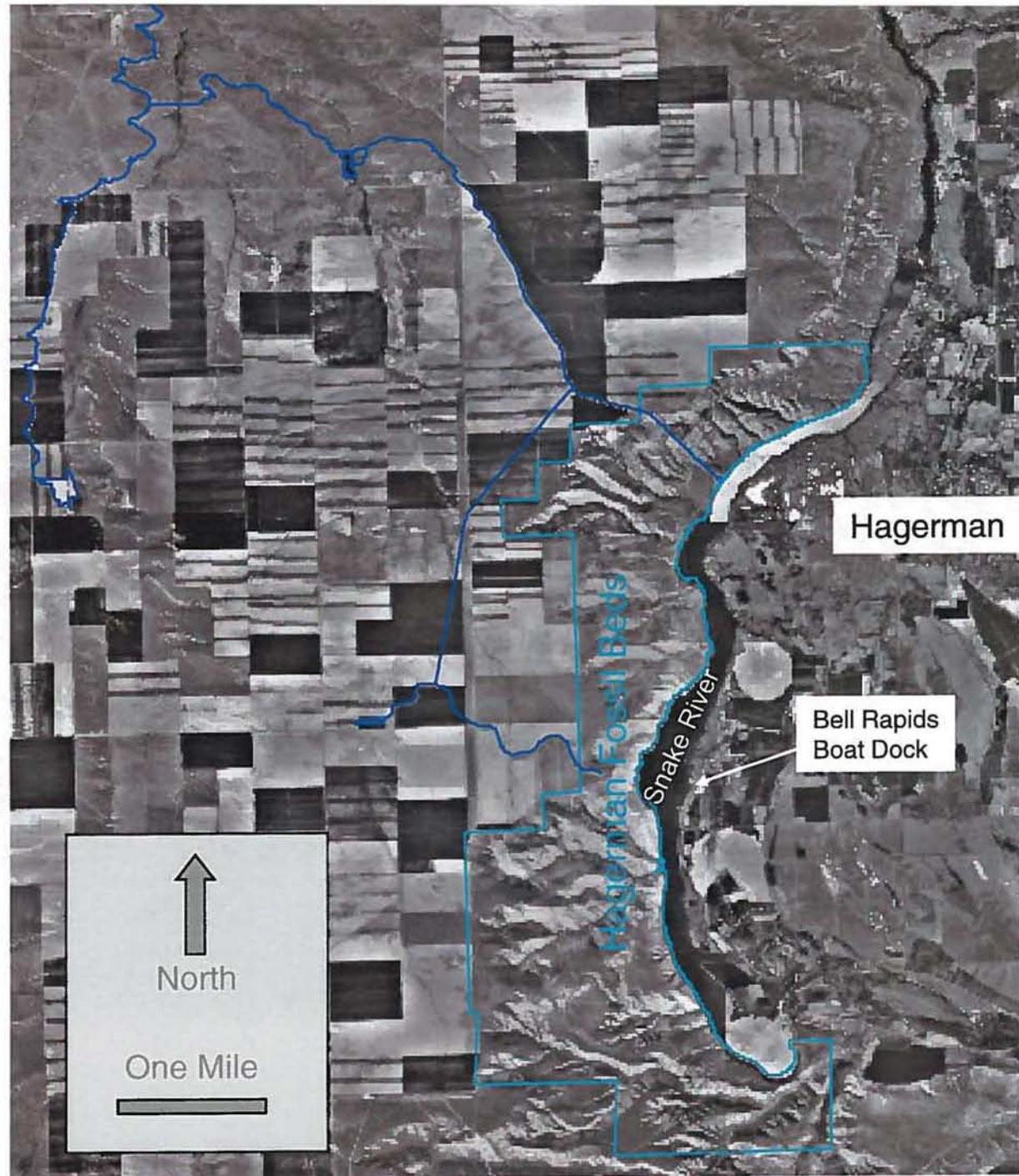
Sediments de-gassing during a reservoir drawdown event.

Depth of sediments is interpreted to be about 7 feet over approximately 50 year period or about 1.5 inches per year. So, if the rate continues, in 50 years the shallow flats will be at normal reservoir pool level.



Bell Rapids Project

- 1st irrigation season in 1970
- Last irrigation season in 2004
- 1st landslide associated with perched aquifers in ~ 1979
- originally ~ 25,000 acres
- Ave. annual water usage ~45,000 ac-ft.
- pressurized irrigation only
- 300 miles of pipeline
- originally 2 pump stations on river
- 1987 landslide destroyed one station
- canal leakage tests range from 10 to 20 percent.
- Project shutdown in year 2005



Perched Aquifer Growth Timeline

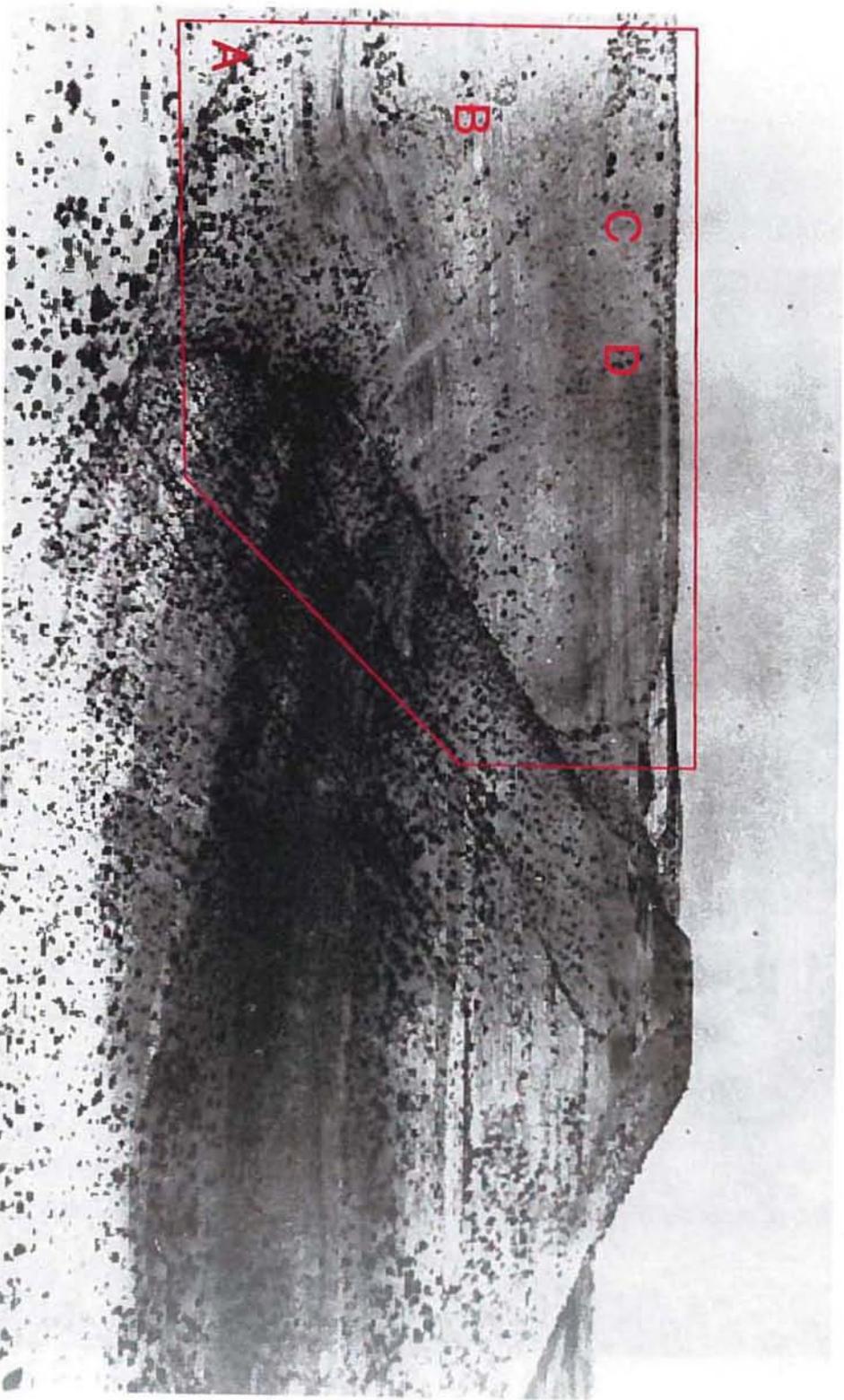


Photo from
the 1930's

Impacts From Land Use Change

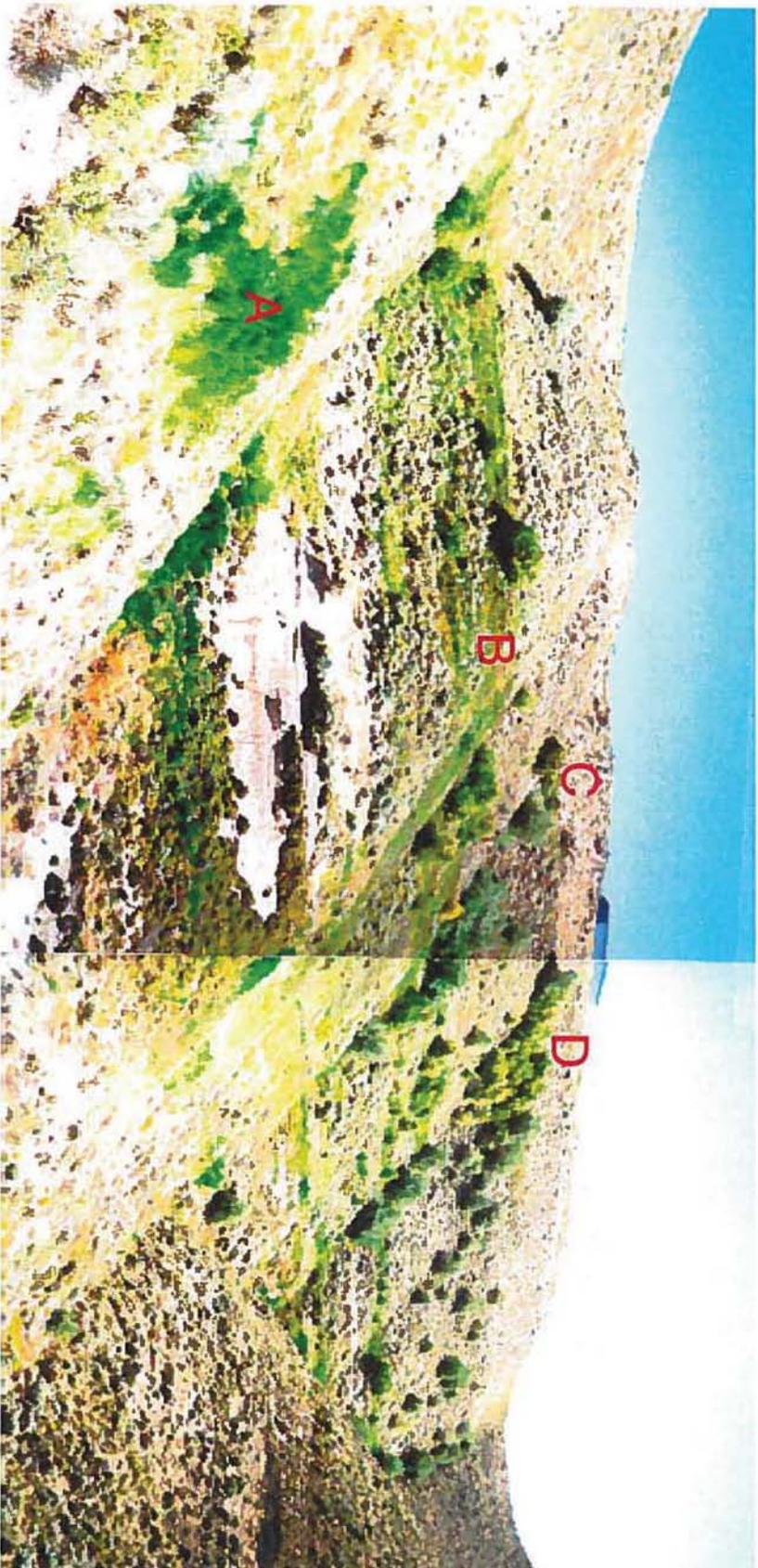


Photo year - 1997

Impacts From Land Use Change

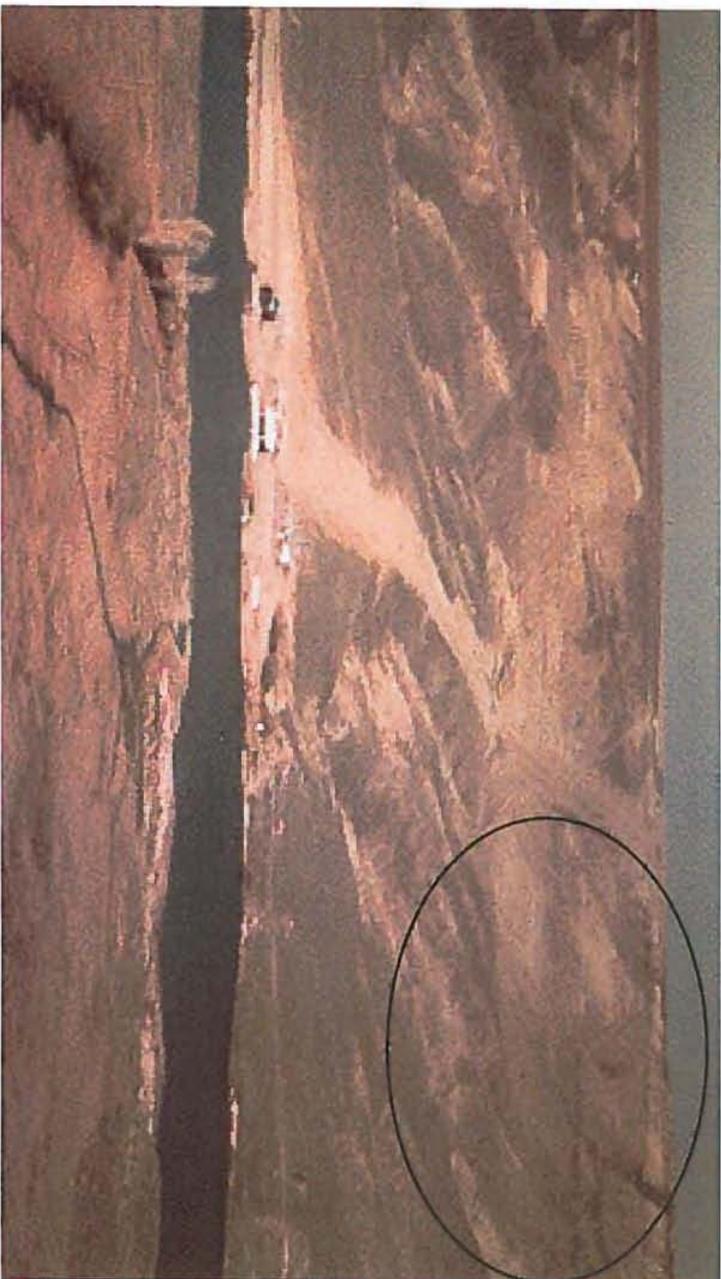


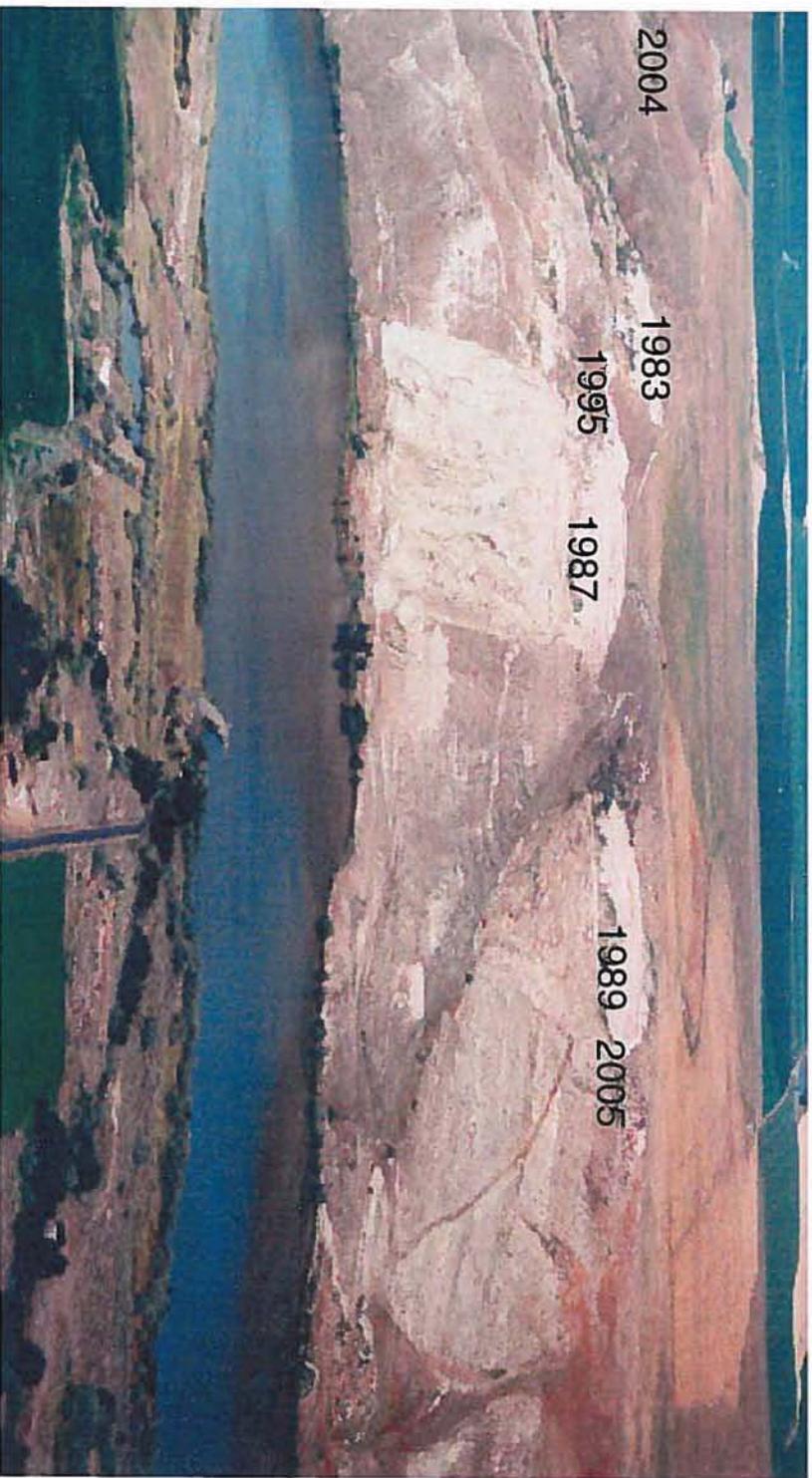
Photo year 1974

Impacts From Land Use Change



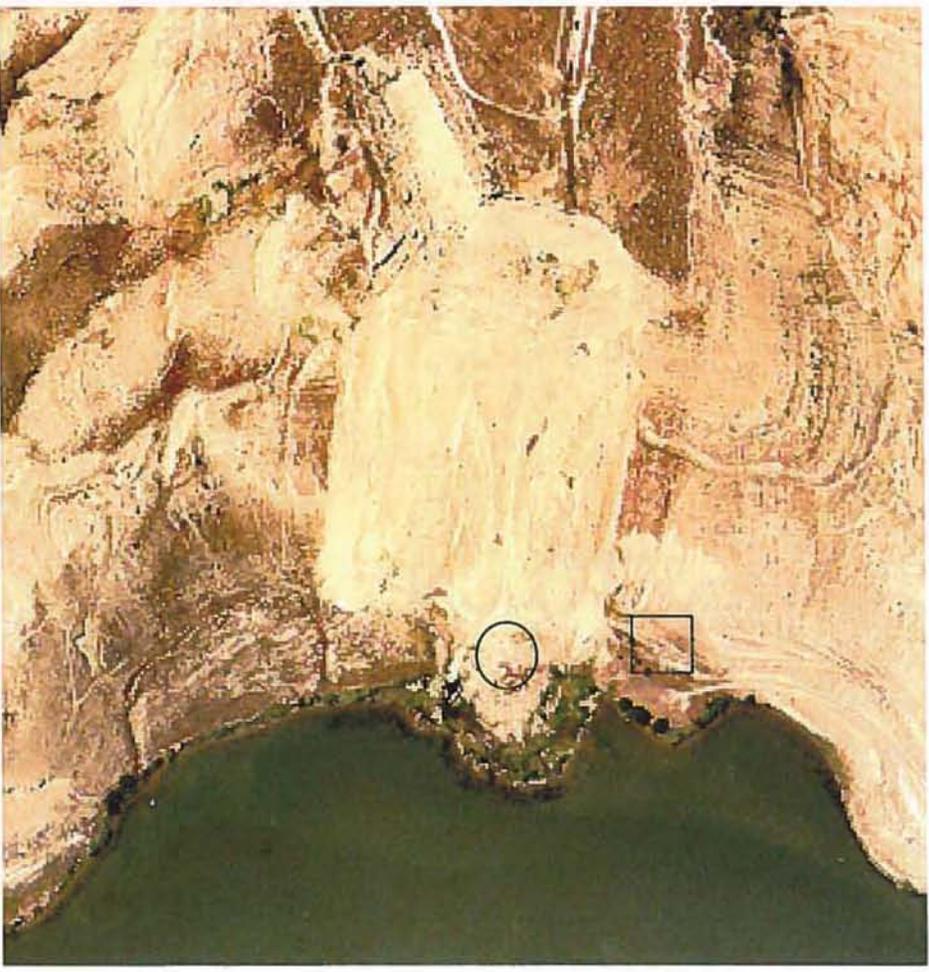
Photo year 1997

Impacts From Land Use Change



Impacts From Land Use Change

1950



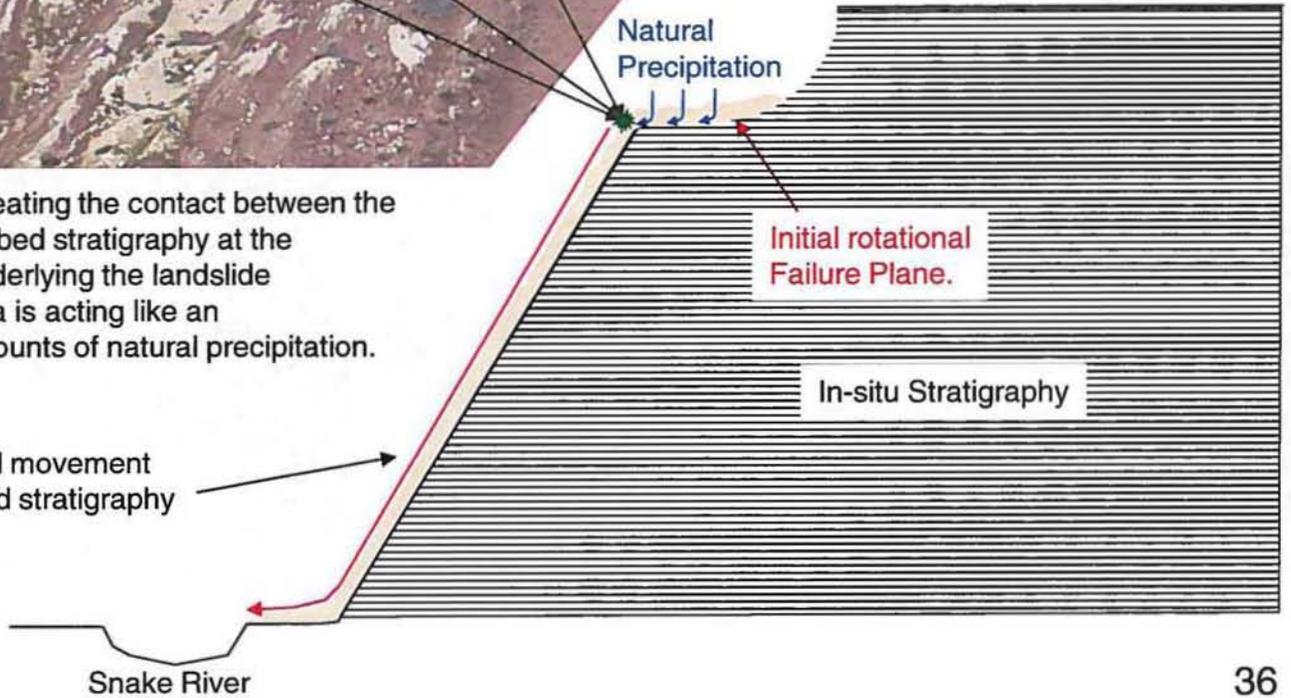
1997



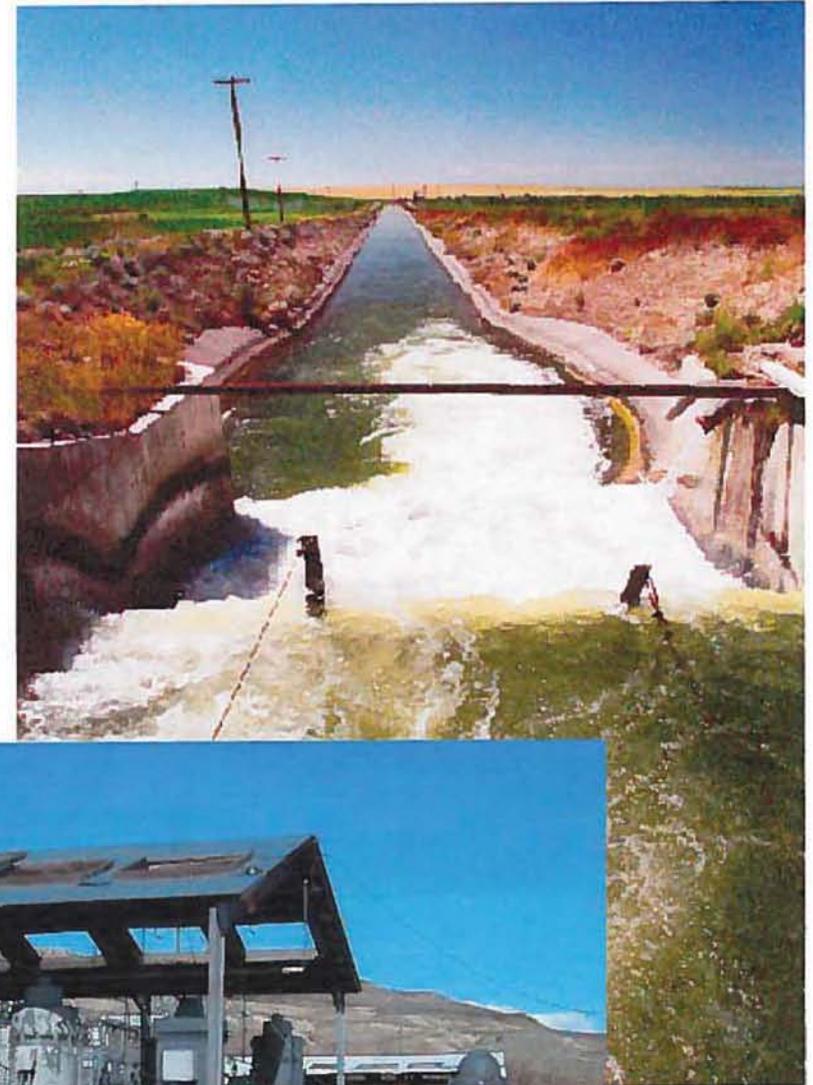
1987 Landslide that destroyed the irrigation pump station.

Line of vegetation may be delineating the contact between the slide overburden and non-disturbed stratigraphy at the lower rotational failure plane underlying the landslide debris. The non-disturbed strata is acting like an aquitard for the recent large amounts of natural precipitation.

Secondary translational movement of slide with undisturbed stratigraphy underneath.



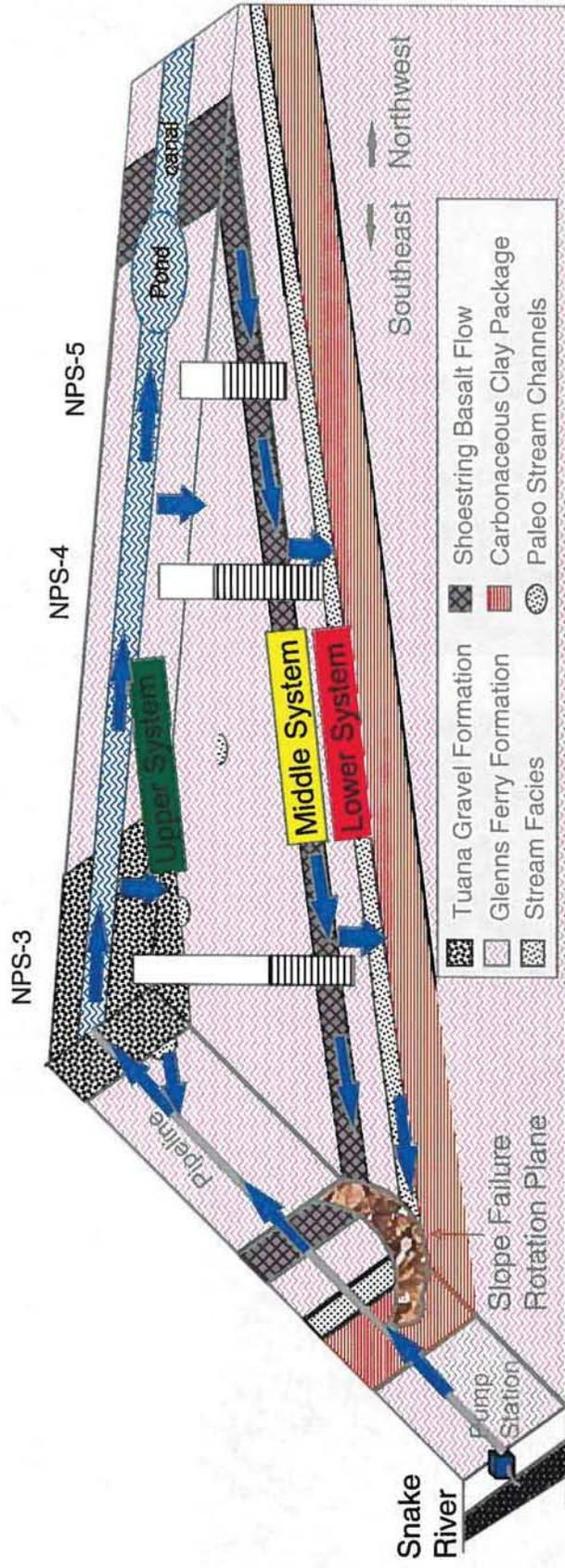
Fossil Gulch Pumping Station and Canal



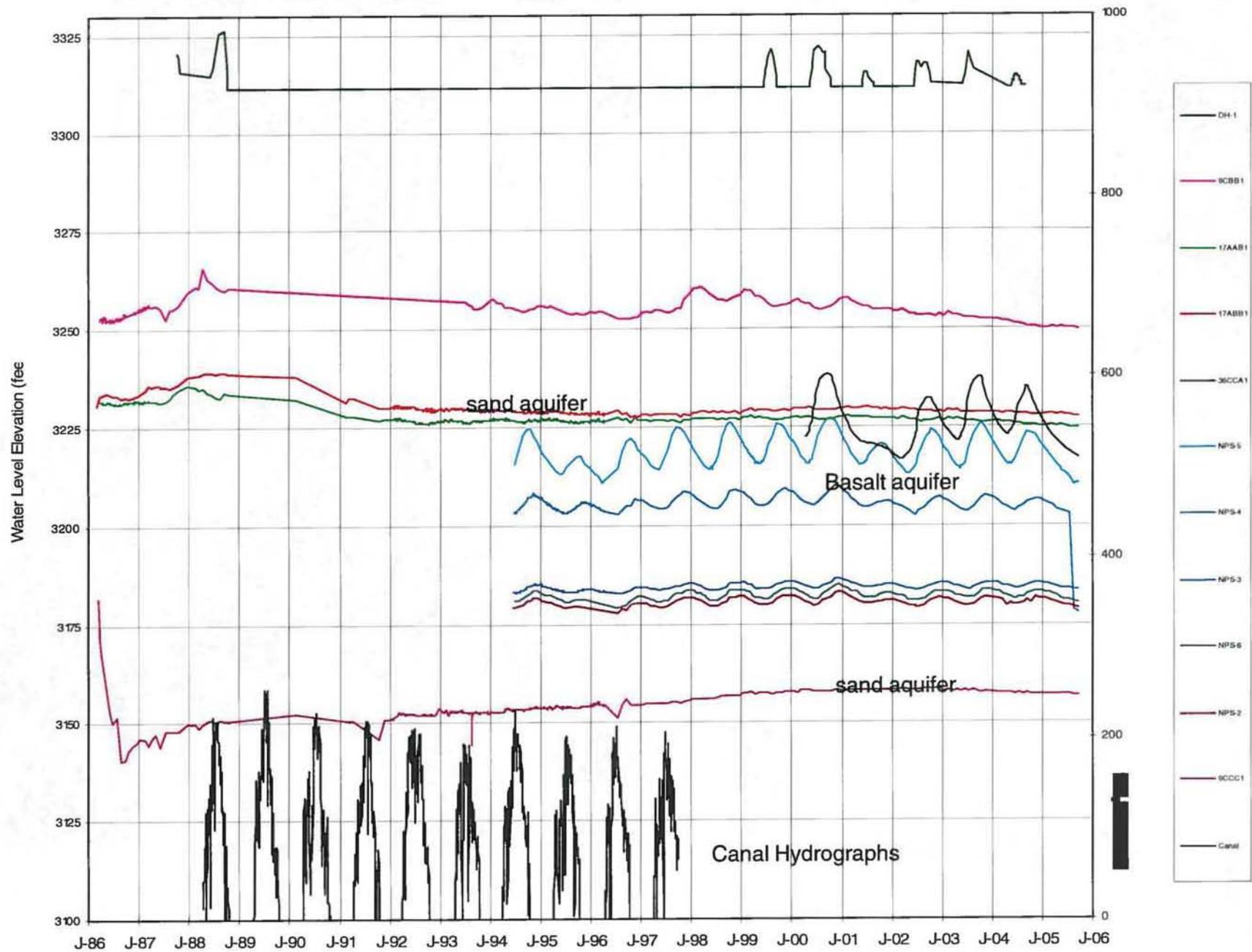
- Maximum delivery rate exceeded 120,000 g.p.m.
- Each pump = 9,000 g.p.m.
- Each electric motor = 10,000 h.p.
- 3 pipelines up hillside to plateau
- In July 2004 electric costs was ~ \$180,000



Hydrostratigraphic Block Model



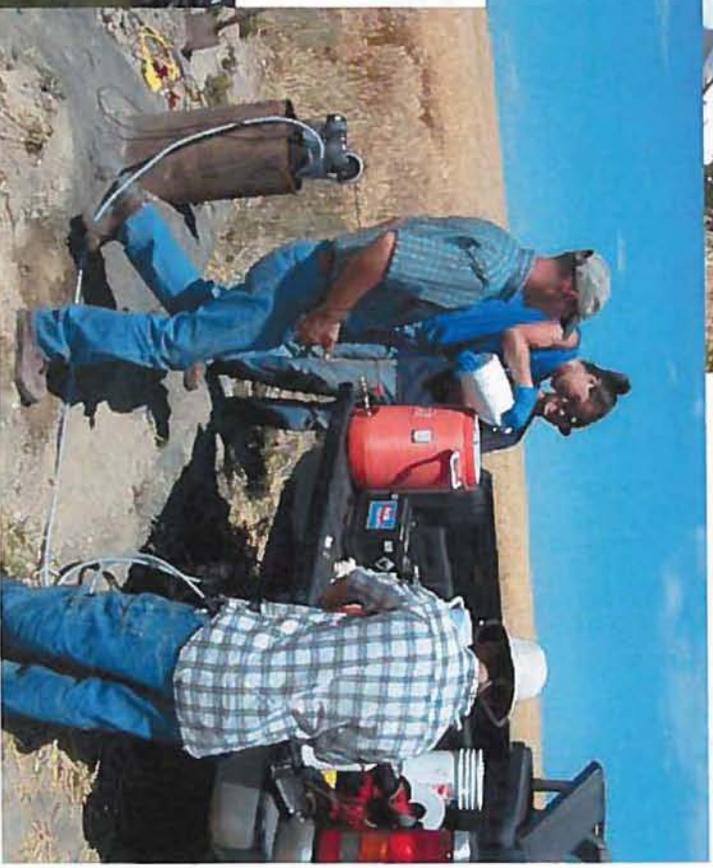
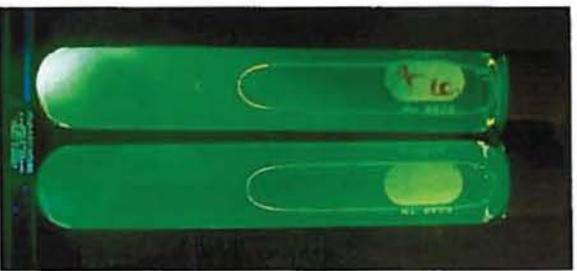
Perched Aquifer Groundwater Hydrographs



Partnership with University of Idaho and Idaho Water Resources Research Institute



University of Idaho

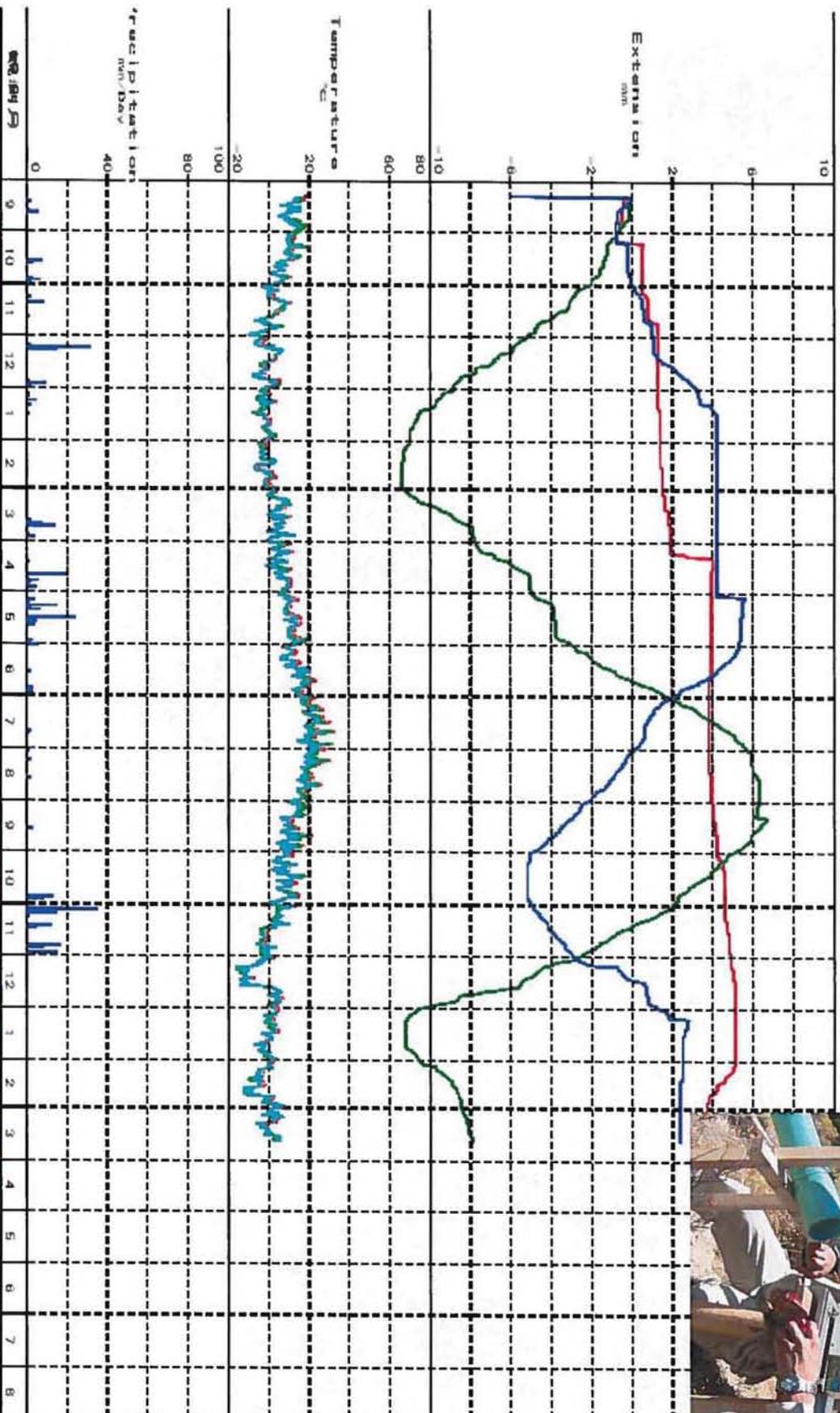


International Partnership with Japan Laruslue Scientists

IDAHO
HAGERMAN

GRAPH OF EXTENSION

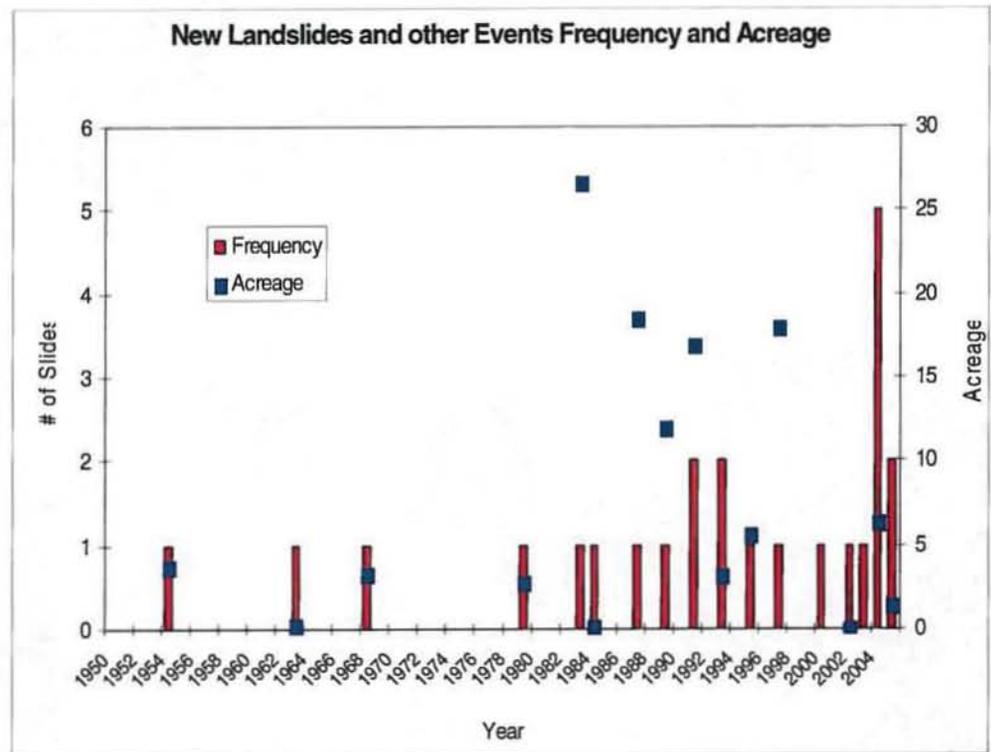
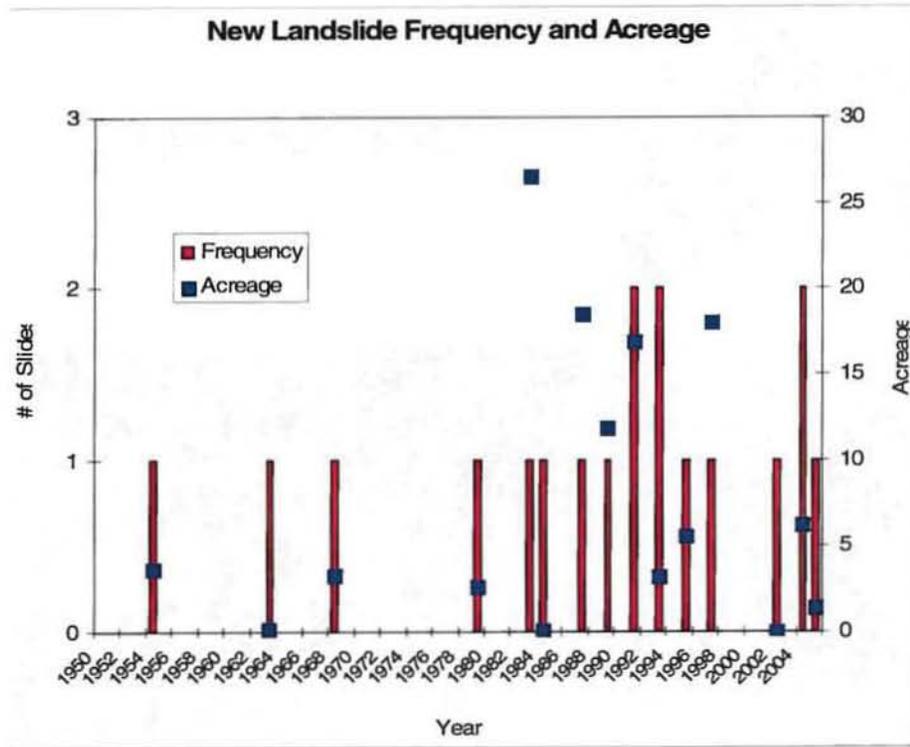
2004 to 2005



Natural Tracers Research Partnership with UOI and IWRI



Histogram of Landslide Events



2004 Landslide

Photo year 1995



Apparent Initial slip surface or shear zone.

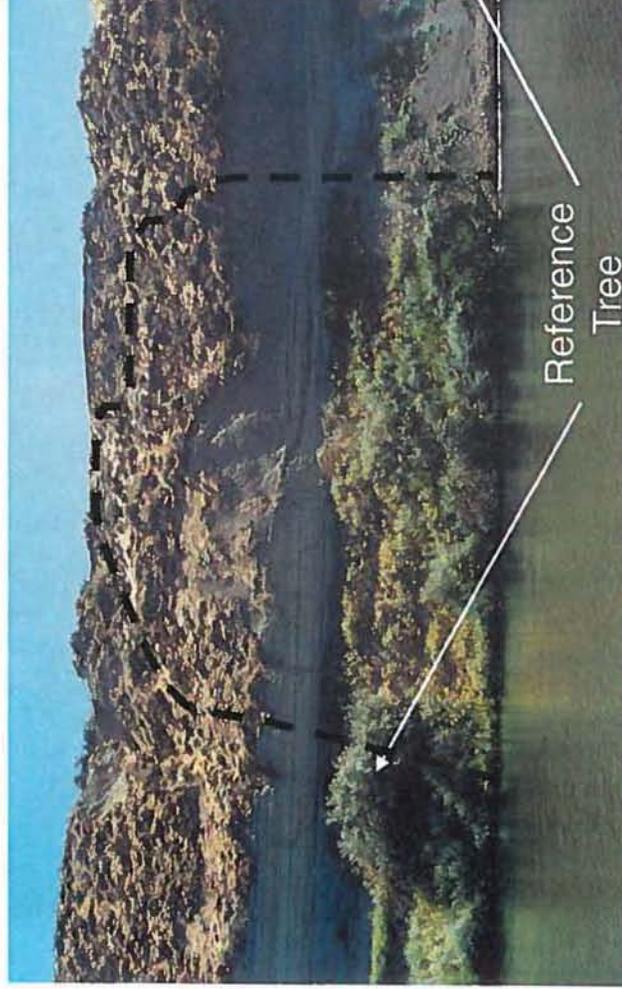
Paleo stream sand channel discharging groundwater.

Area of 2004 Landslide

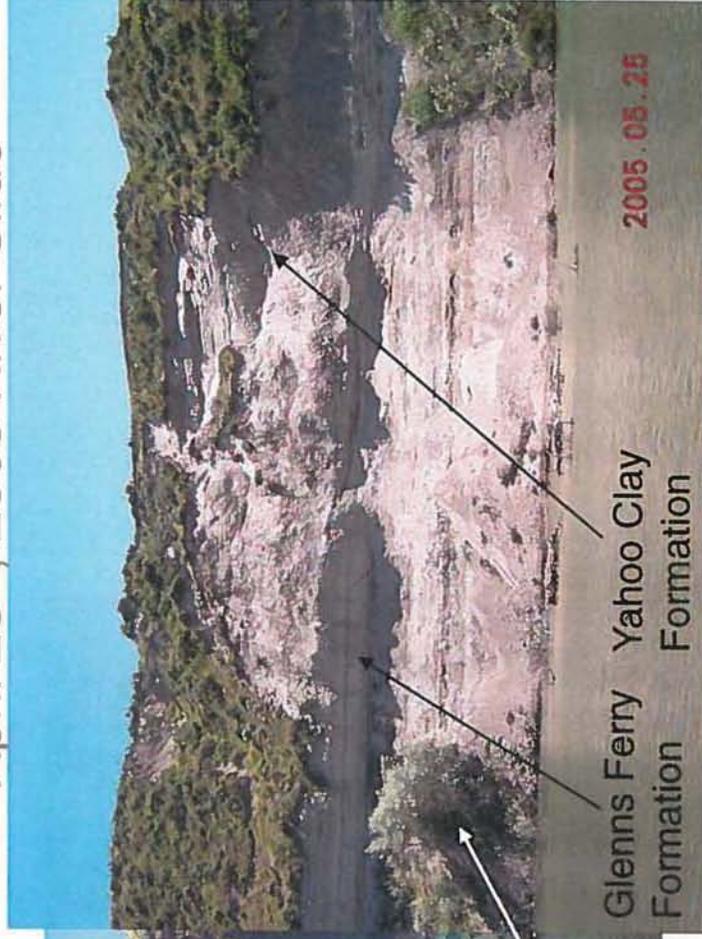


Landslide Events

Photo from year 2001



April 28th, 2005 River Slide



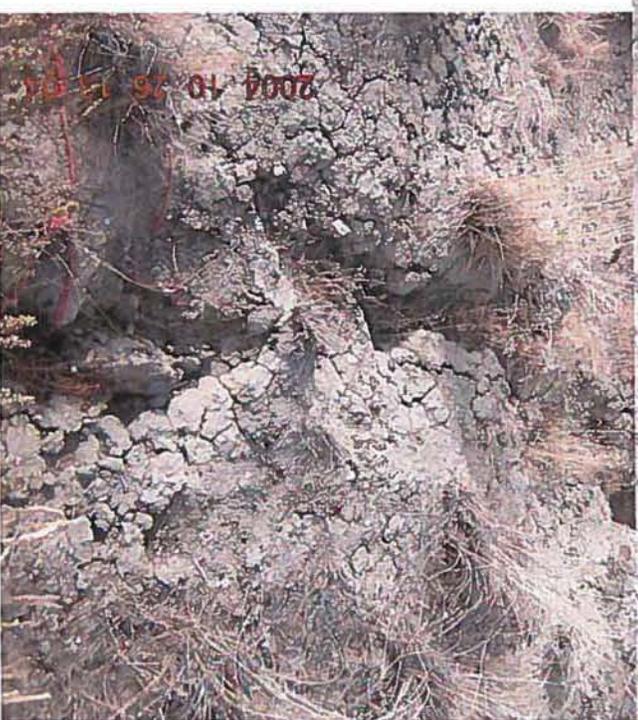
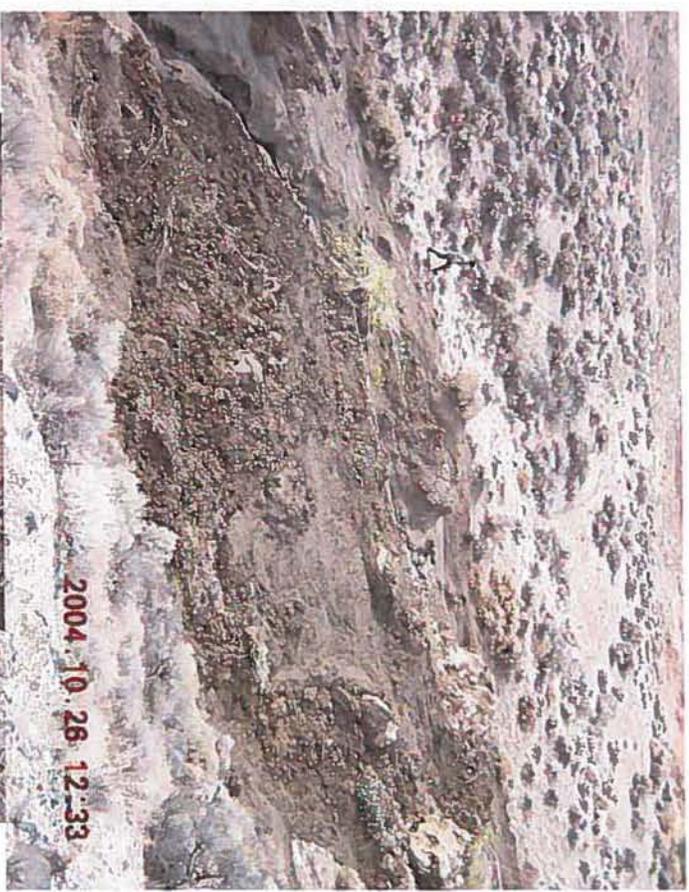
Landslide Events

Air Photo year 2001



June 2005 photo

Landslide Events



Recent Landslide Events

1989 landslide Reactivation



Area that failed between October 13 and October 19, 2005.

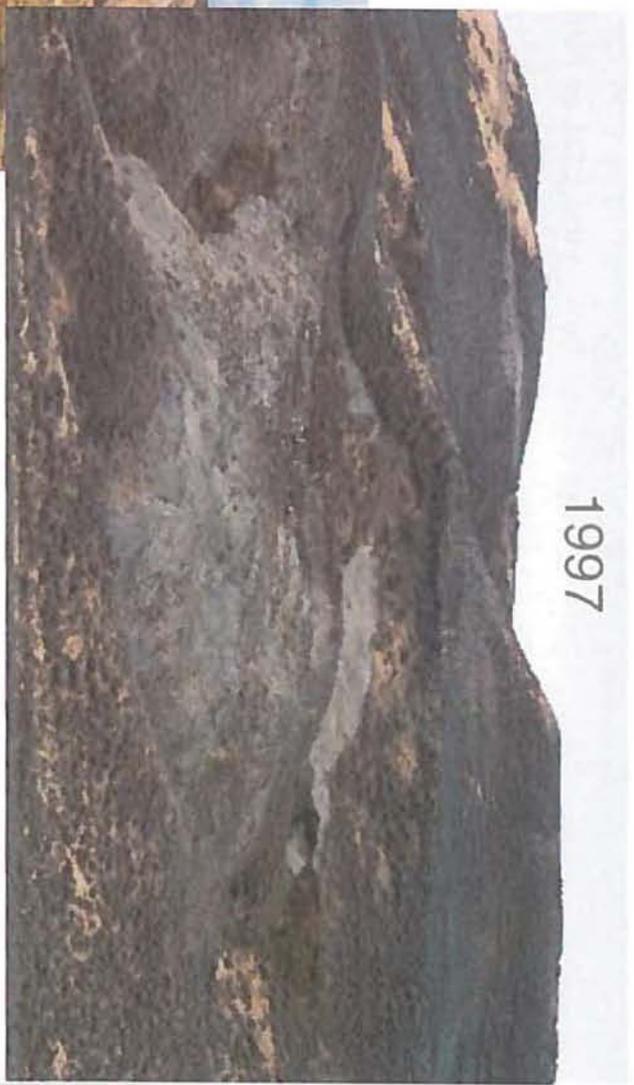
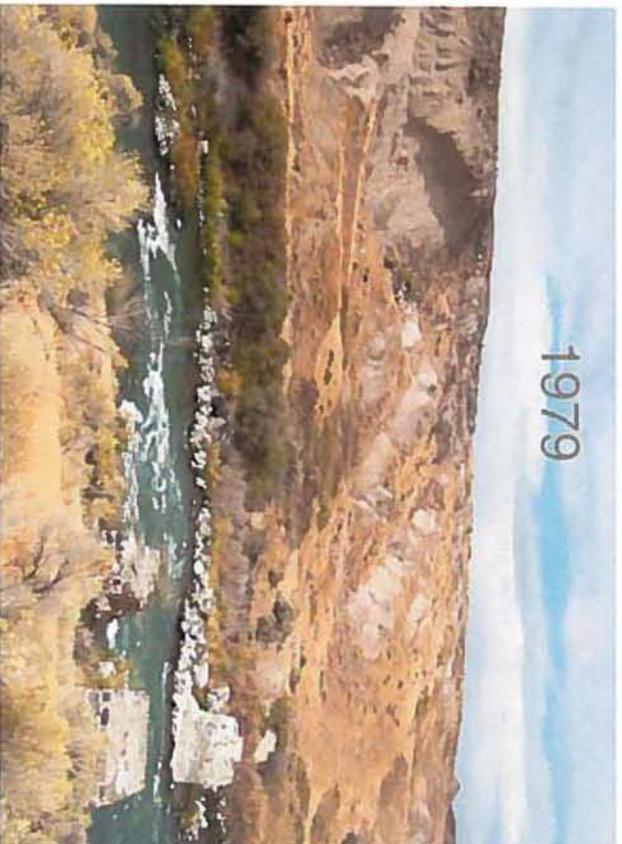
Fracture in Oct. 19th photo but not on 13th.

Fresh scarp of Oct. 19th photo but not in Oct. 13th.

Distance is about 25 – 30 meters.

1989 landslide sat dormant for 16 years then reactivated with a headwall scarp failure in year 2005. The failure started on the north edge and progressively failed in sections across the headwall scarp right to left (south) edge.

Impacts From Land Use Change



References:

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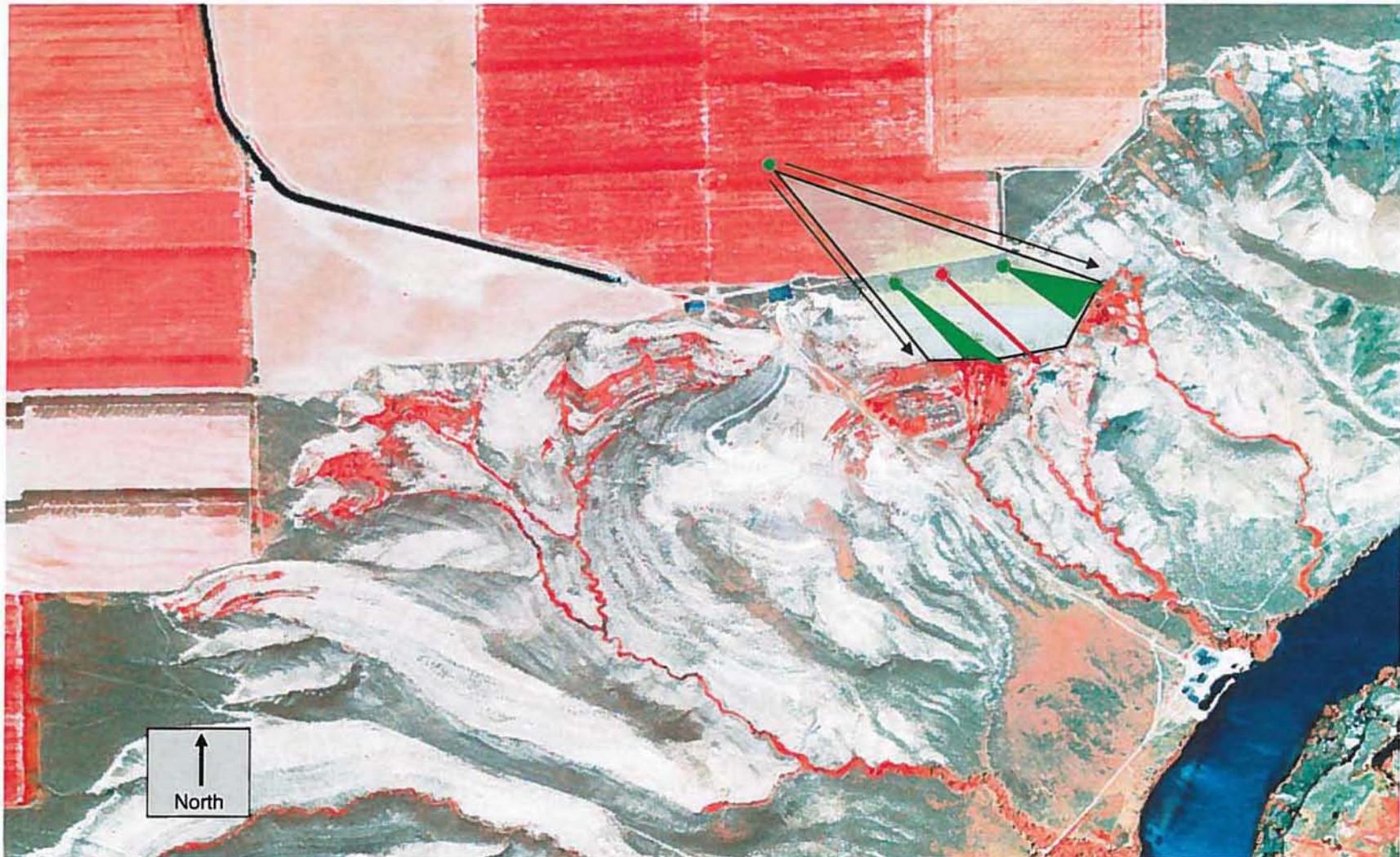
Yahoo Gulch Stop

Geologic dips and groundwater flow direction

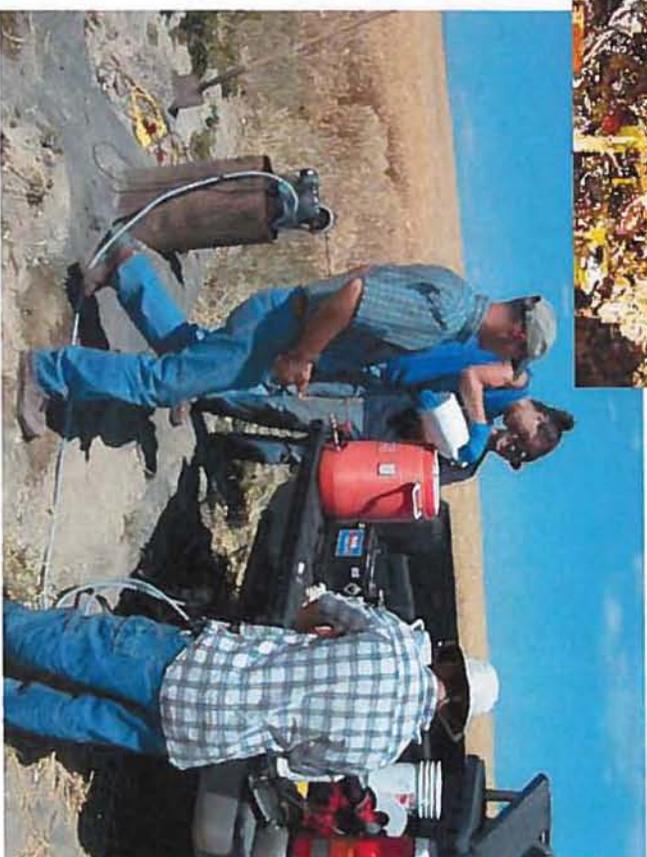


Flourescent dye groundwater tracer tests document direction of groundwater flow is to southeast at up to 250 feet per day in Tertiary age 'brown' basalt, sometimes thought to have low permeability.

Surveyed geologic outcrops and well logs in this area support a southeast dipping architecture with in the lake sediments.



Flourescent Dye Groundwater Tracer Tests

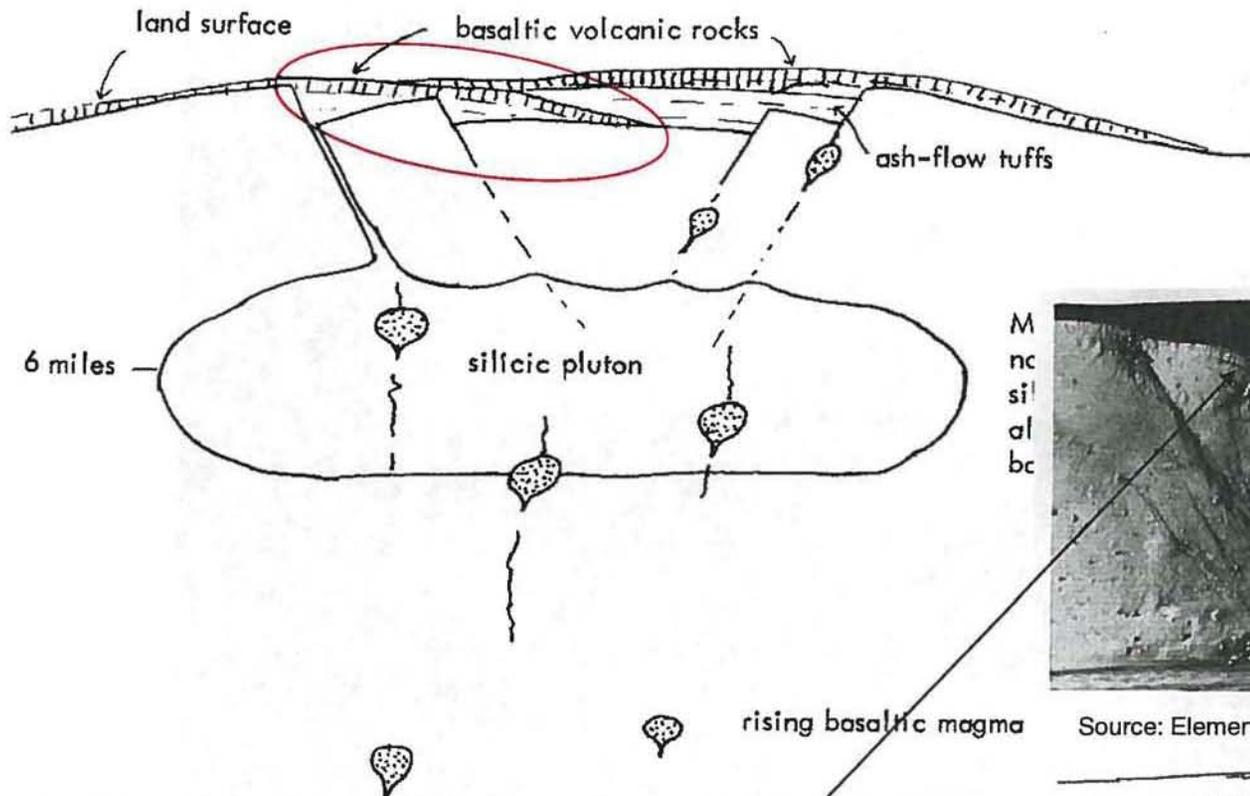


Northerly Dipping Ash Interbedded within Glenns Ferry Fm. Lake Sediments
(view azimuth is west)

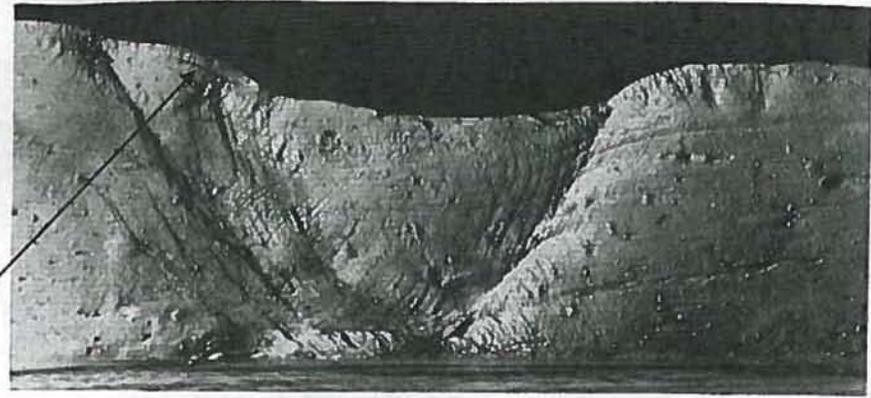


Idealized Caldera Collapse Structure as a Possible Model

(from Terry Maley 'Exploring Idaho Geology', 1987)



M
nc
sil
al
bc



Source: Elements of Structural Geology by E. Sherbon Hills, 1972, 502 p.

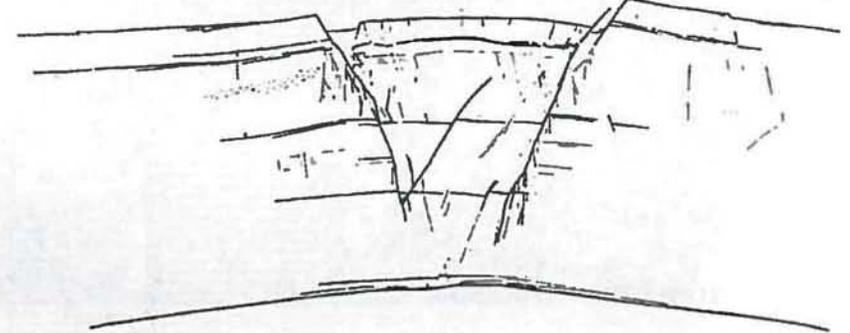
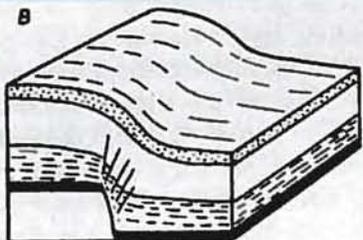


FIG. VII-28. EXPERIMENTAL GRABENS
 A. Produced in a cake of clay subjected to tension.
 B. Produced in a cake of clay arched over a balloon. (After H. Cloos)

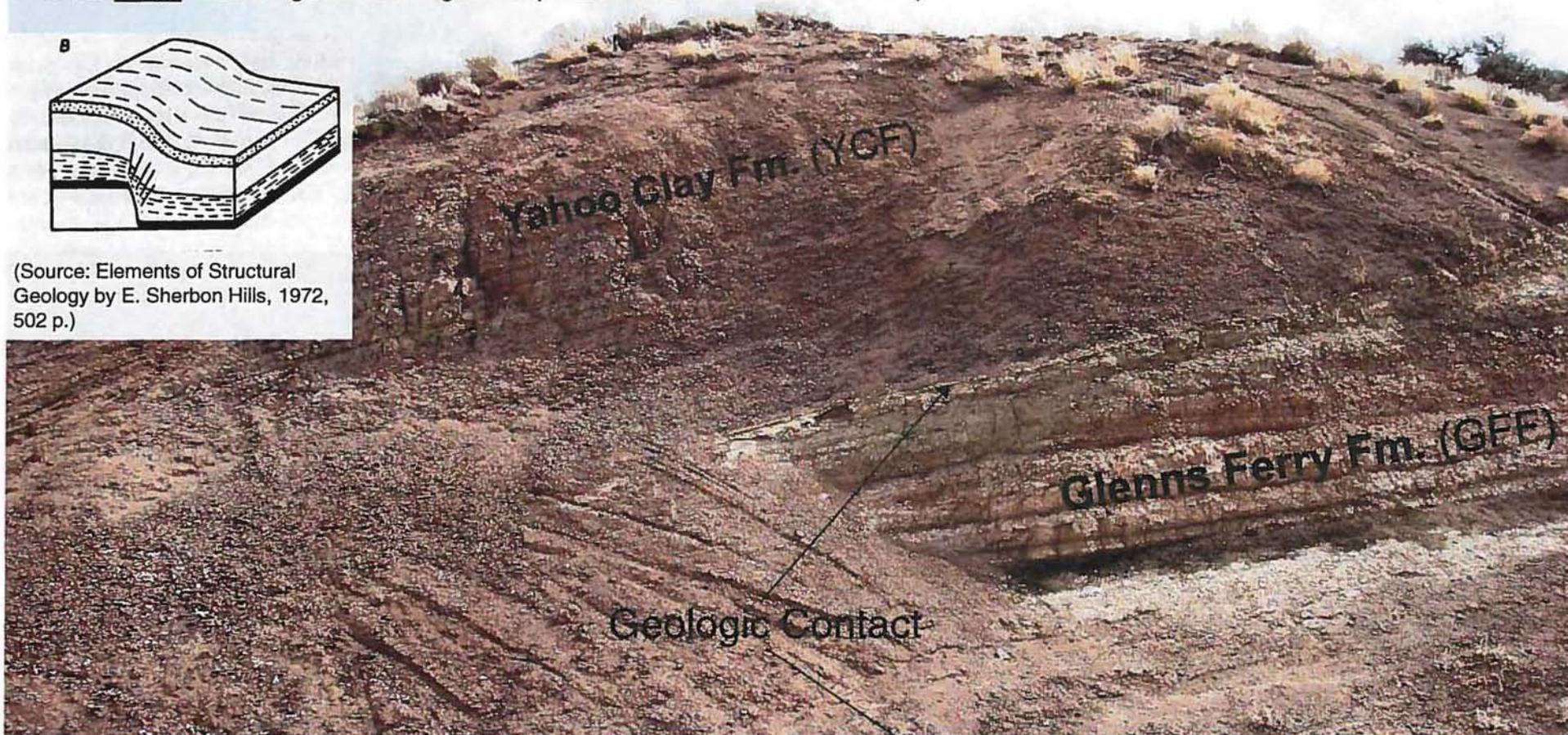
North Dipping Yahoo Clay Fm. on top of North Dipping Monocline of the Glenns Ferry Fm.

(view azimuth is east and location is Yahoo Creek)

- What "**Stage**" is missing from the diagram sequence below relevant to the outcrop?



(Source: Elements of Structural Geology by E. Sherbon Hills, 1972, 502 p.)

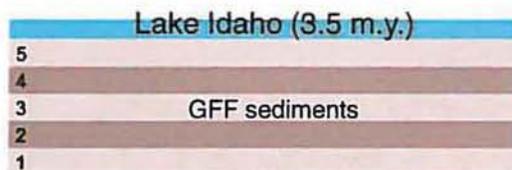


http://www.wvnorton.com/college/geo/egeo/flash/10_2.swf - Micros...

Types of Unconformity

A sequence of sedimentary beds accumulates beneath a shallow sea.

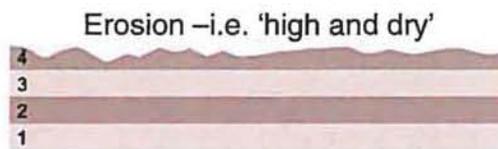
Stage 1



Types of Unconformity

The sea level rises, and new sediment accumulates over the eroded surface.

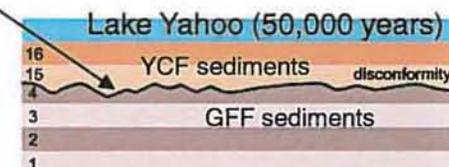
Stage 2

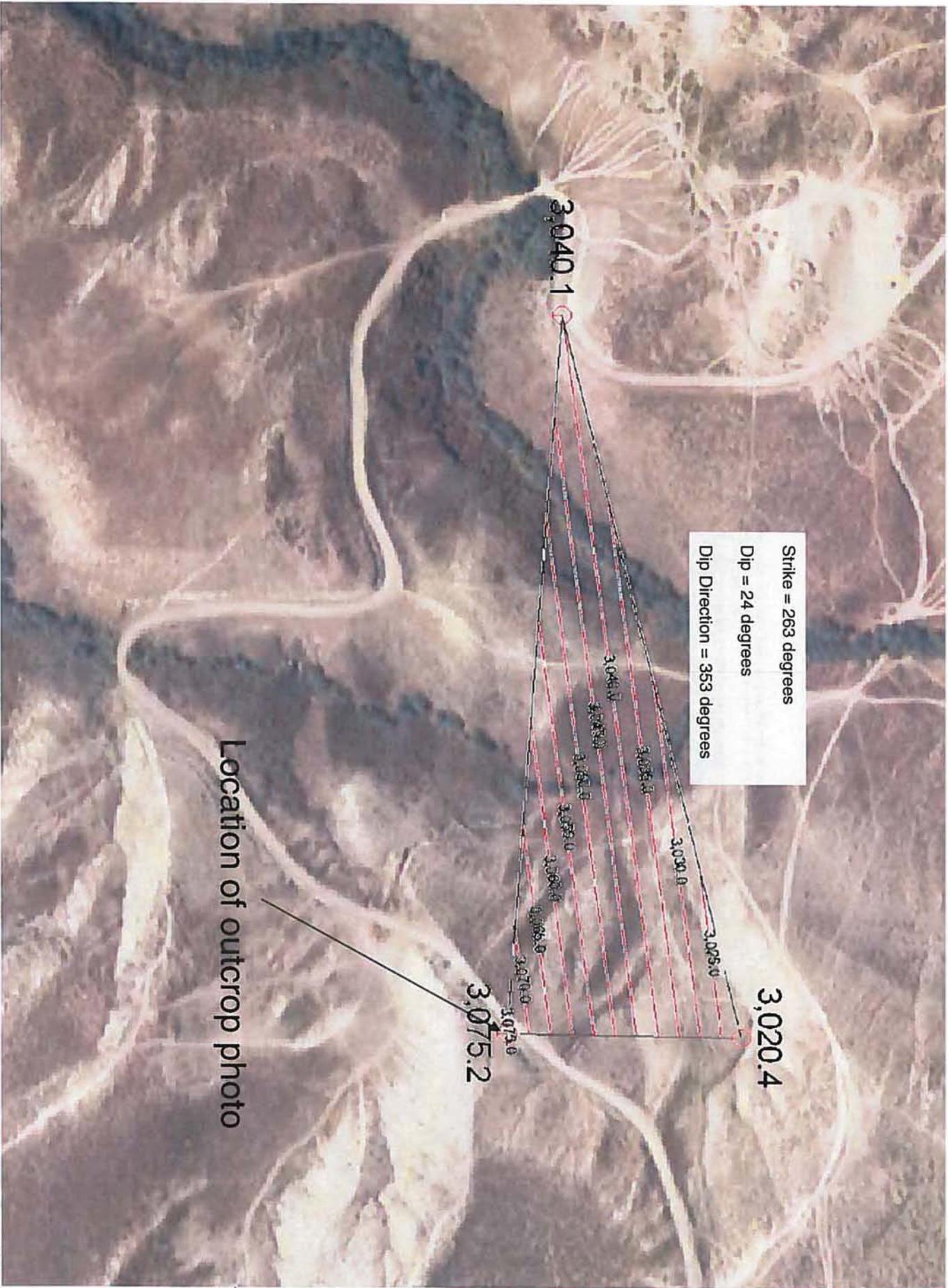


Types of Unconformity

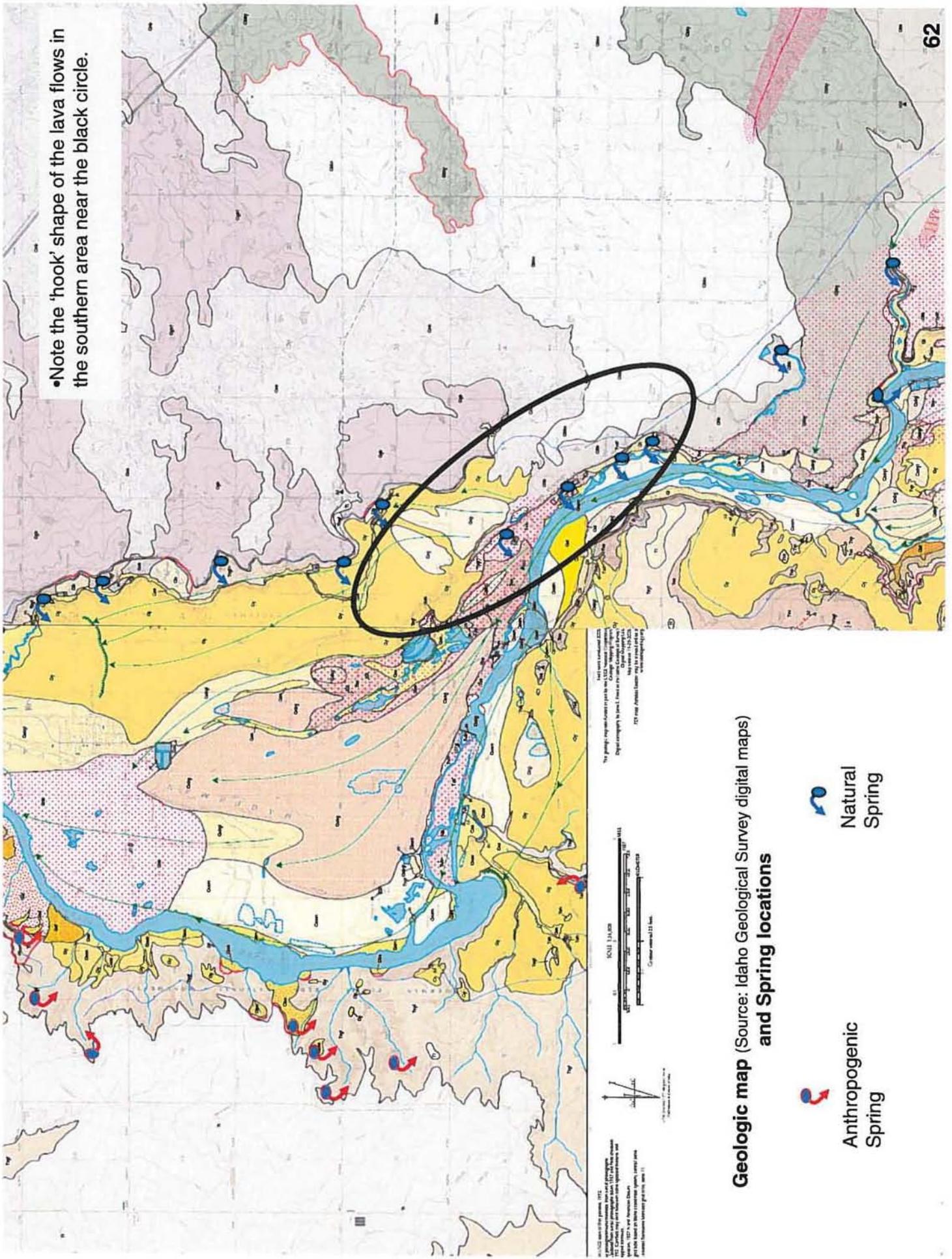
The boundary between the two sequences of sediment is a type of unconformity called a *disconformity*.

Stage 3





Sligars Stop



•Note the 'hook' shape of the lava flows in the southern area near the black circle.

Geologic map (Source: Idaho Geological Survey digital maps and Spring locations)

 Anthropogenic Spring

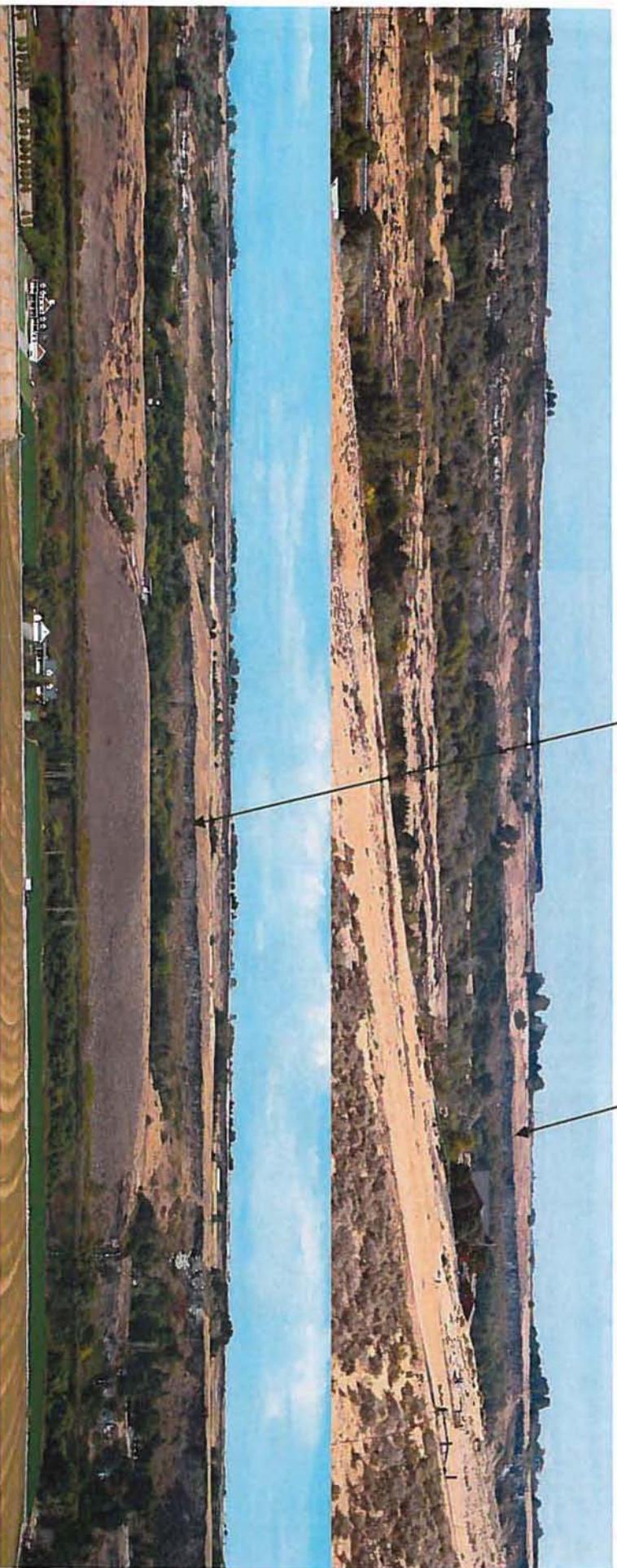
 Natural Spring

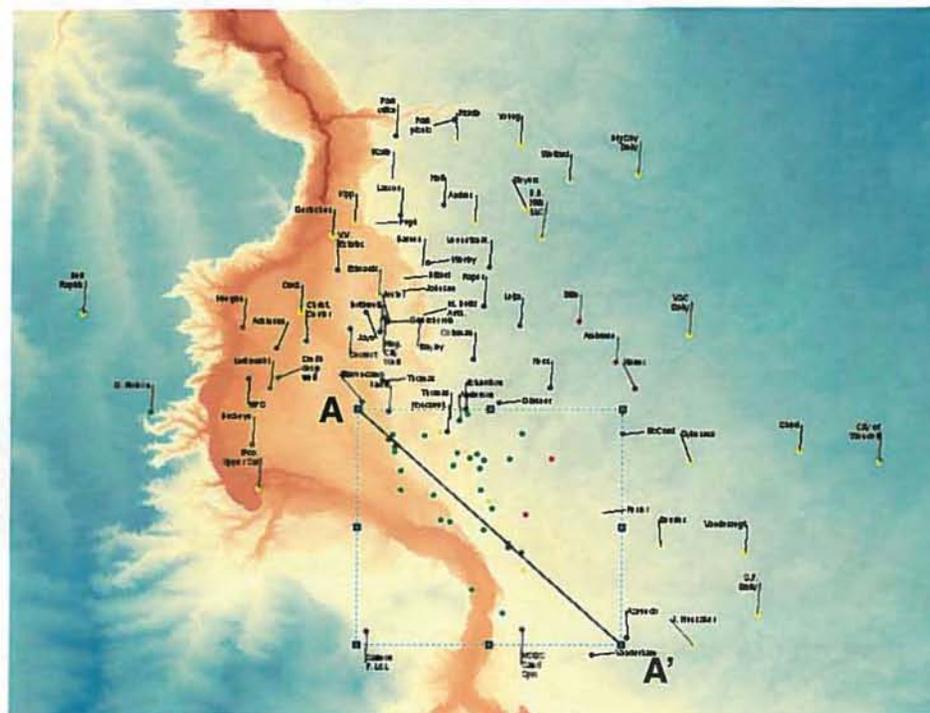
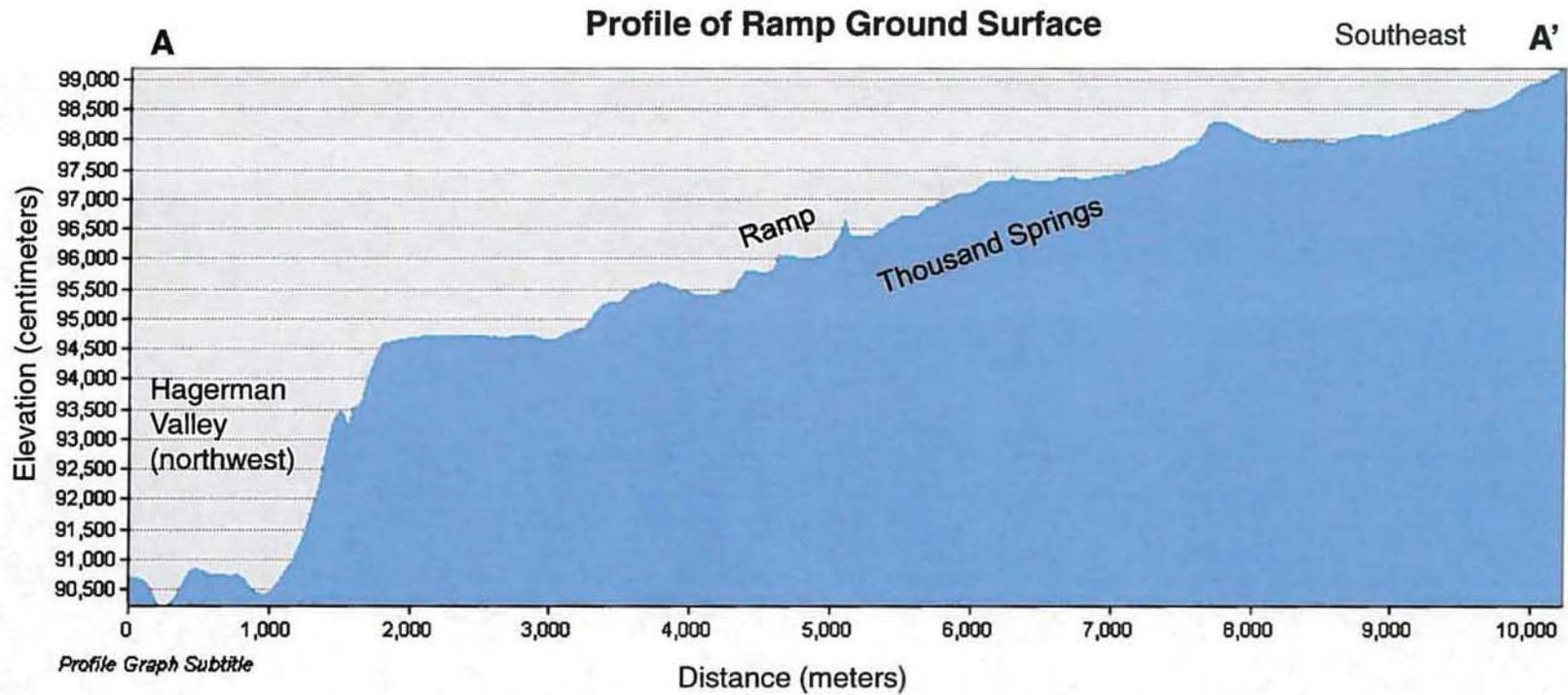
Northwest Dipping Basalt on west side of Snake River

(view azimuth is to the west from National Fish Hatchery)

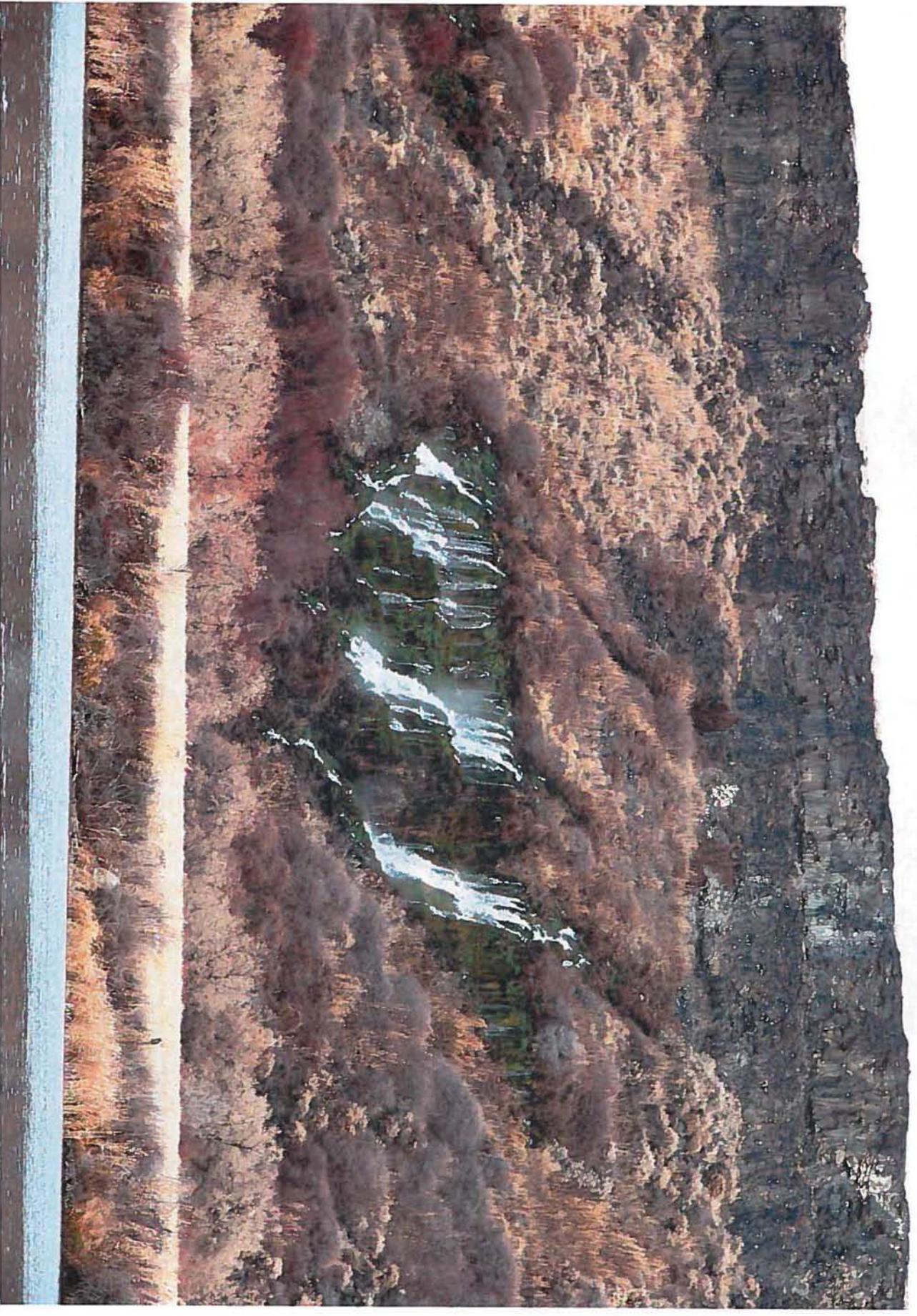


Northwest Dipping Basalt near Thousand Springs
(view azimuth is east)





Thousand Springs – note the dip of the springs and contact.



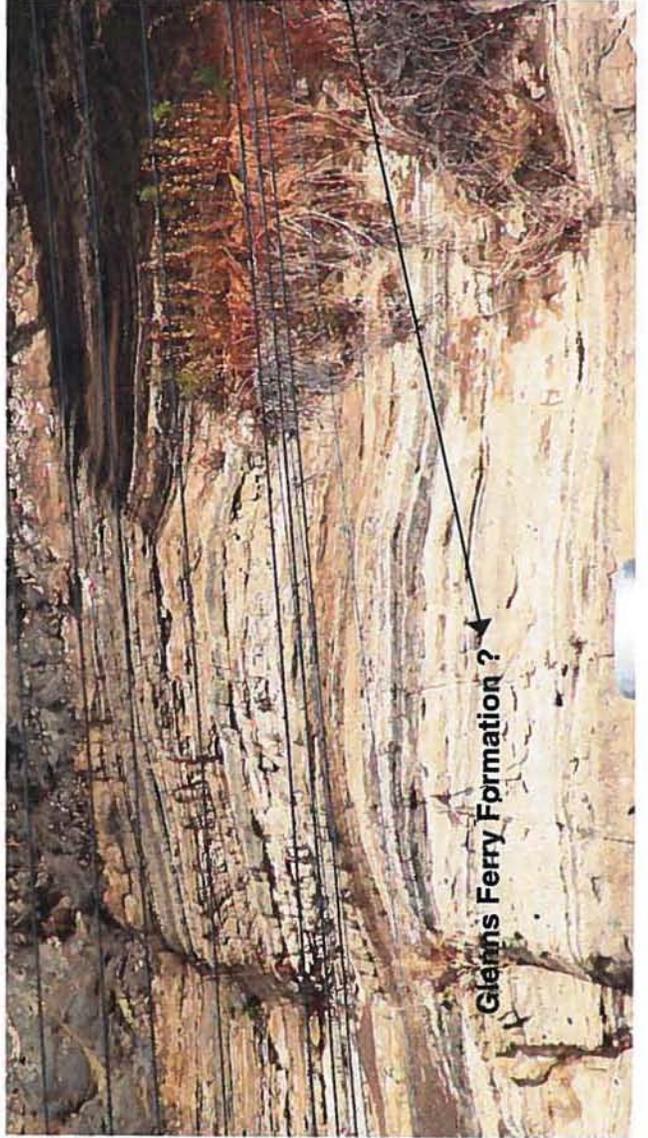
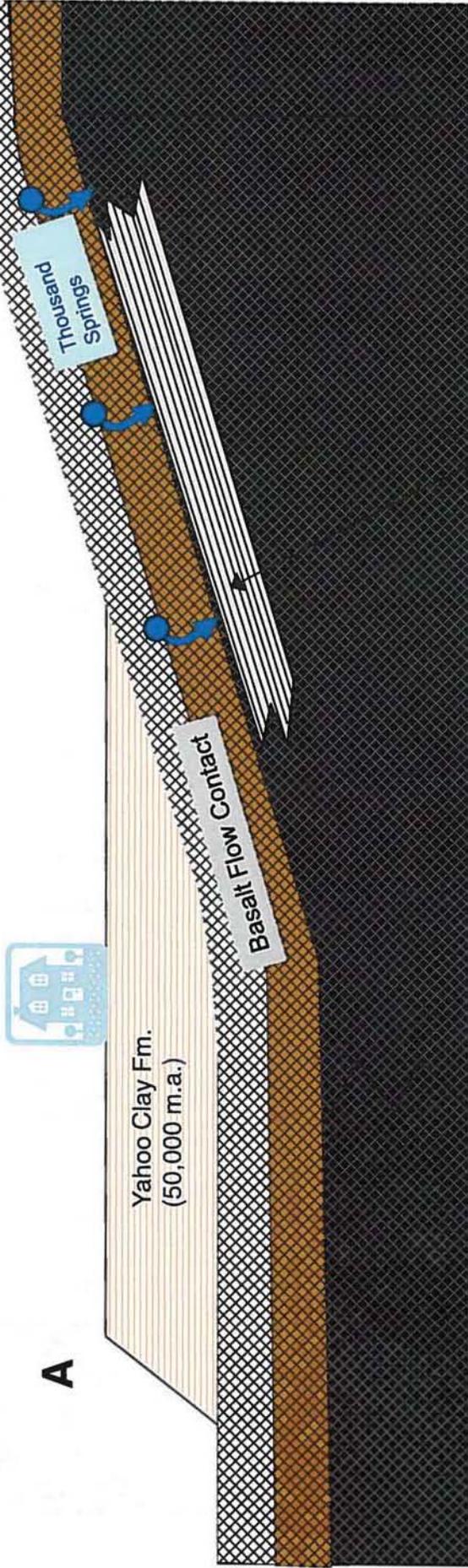
Conceptual Block Diagram of Geology A-A'

(vertical and horizontal are not to scale)

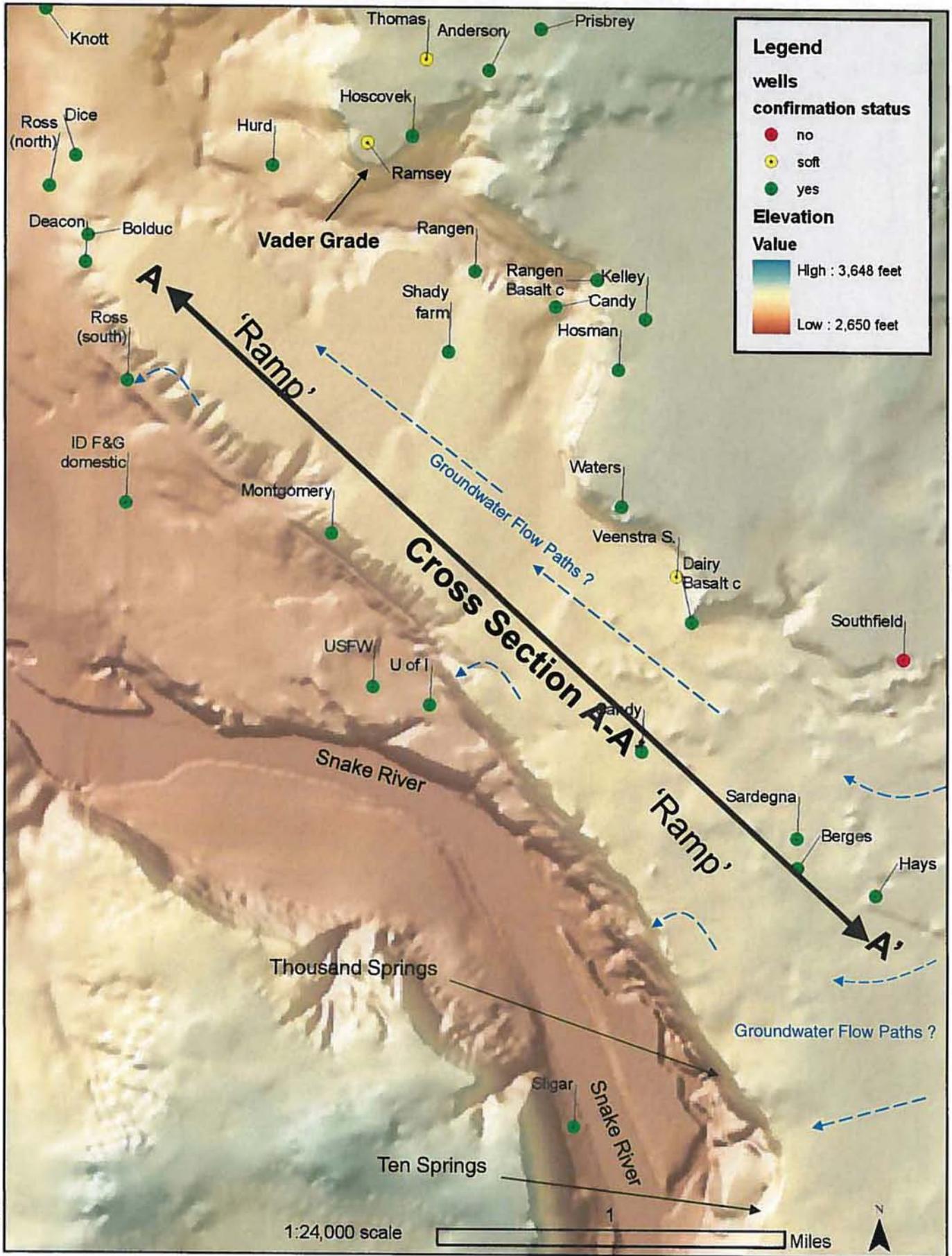
A'

South East

North West

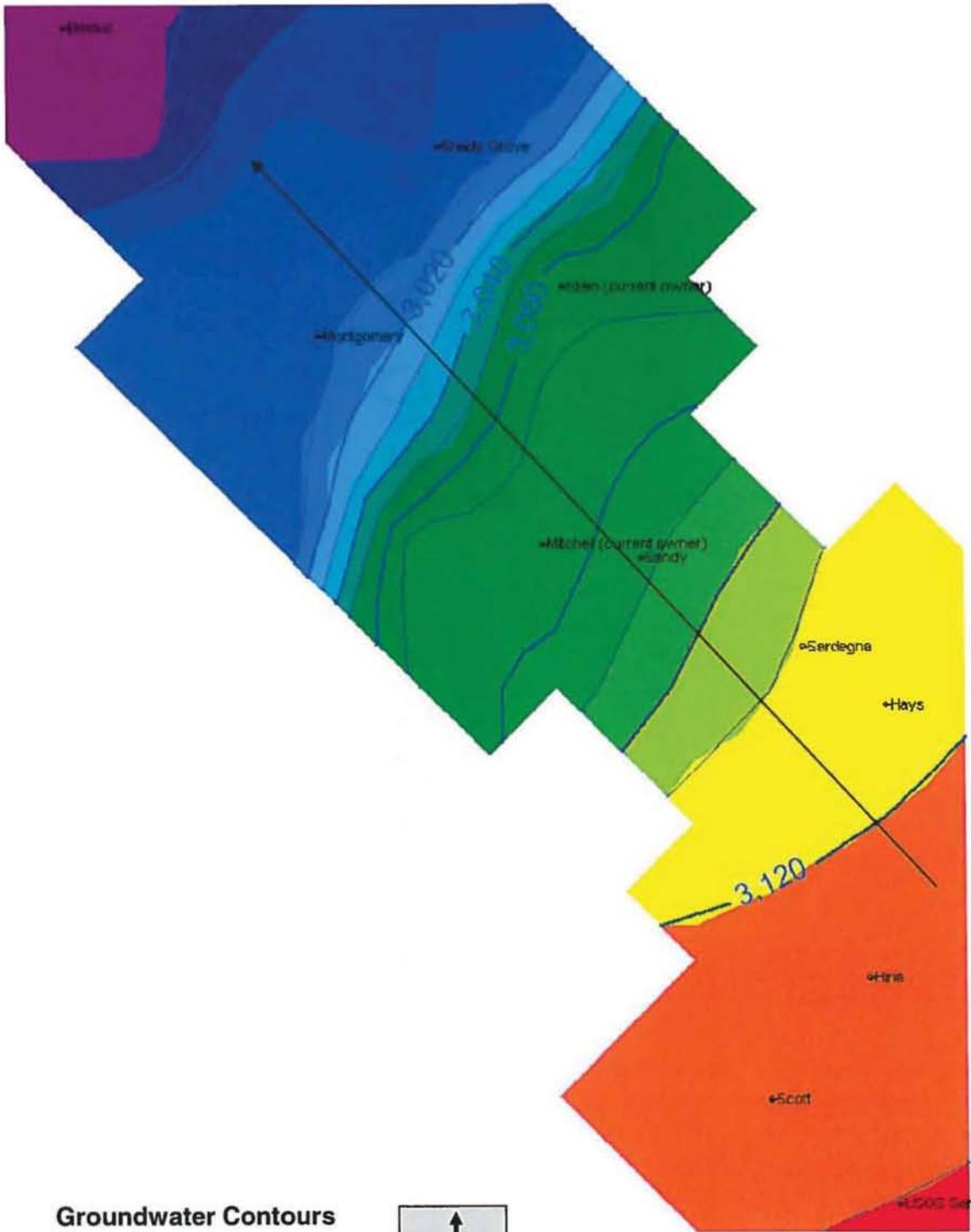


'Ramp' Area Wells



North West

A



**Groundwater Contours
down 'Ramp' Structure
with flow line.**

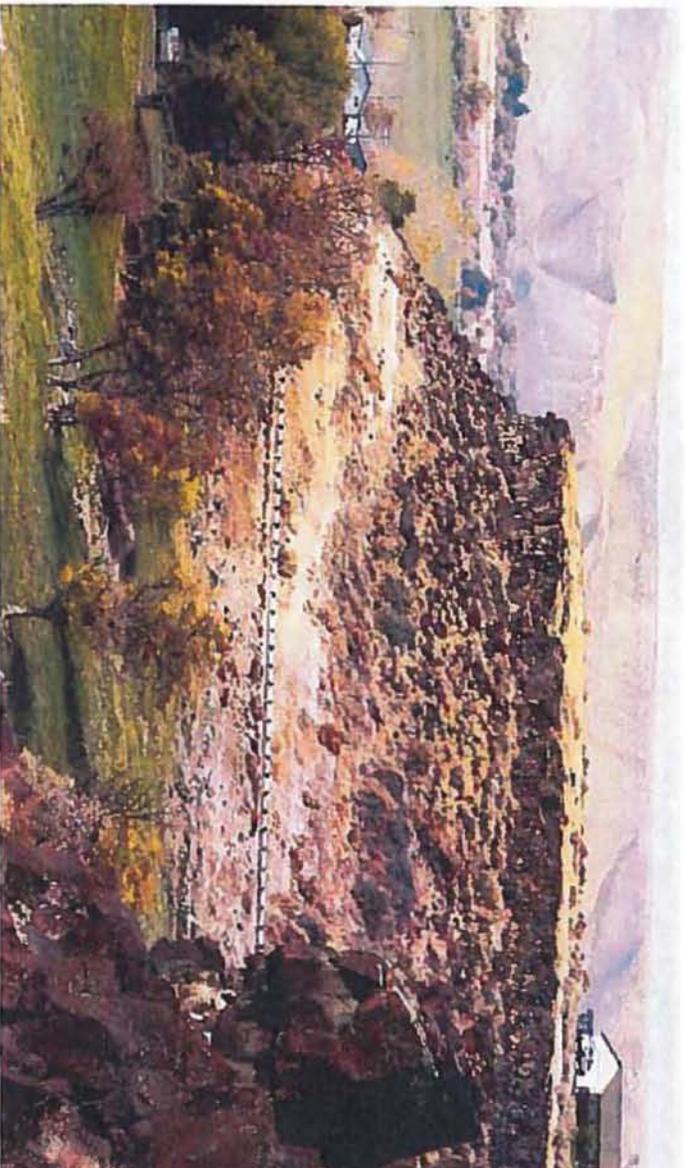


South
East

A'

Vader Grade Road Cut Stop

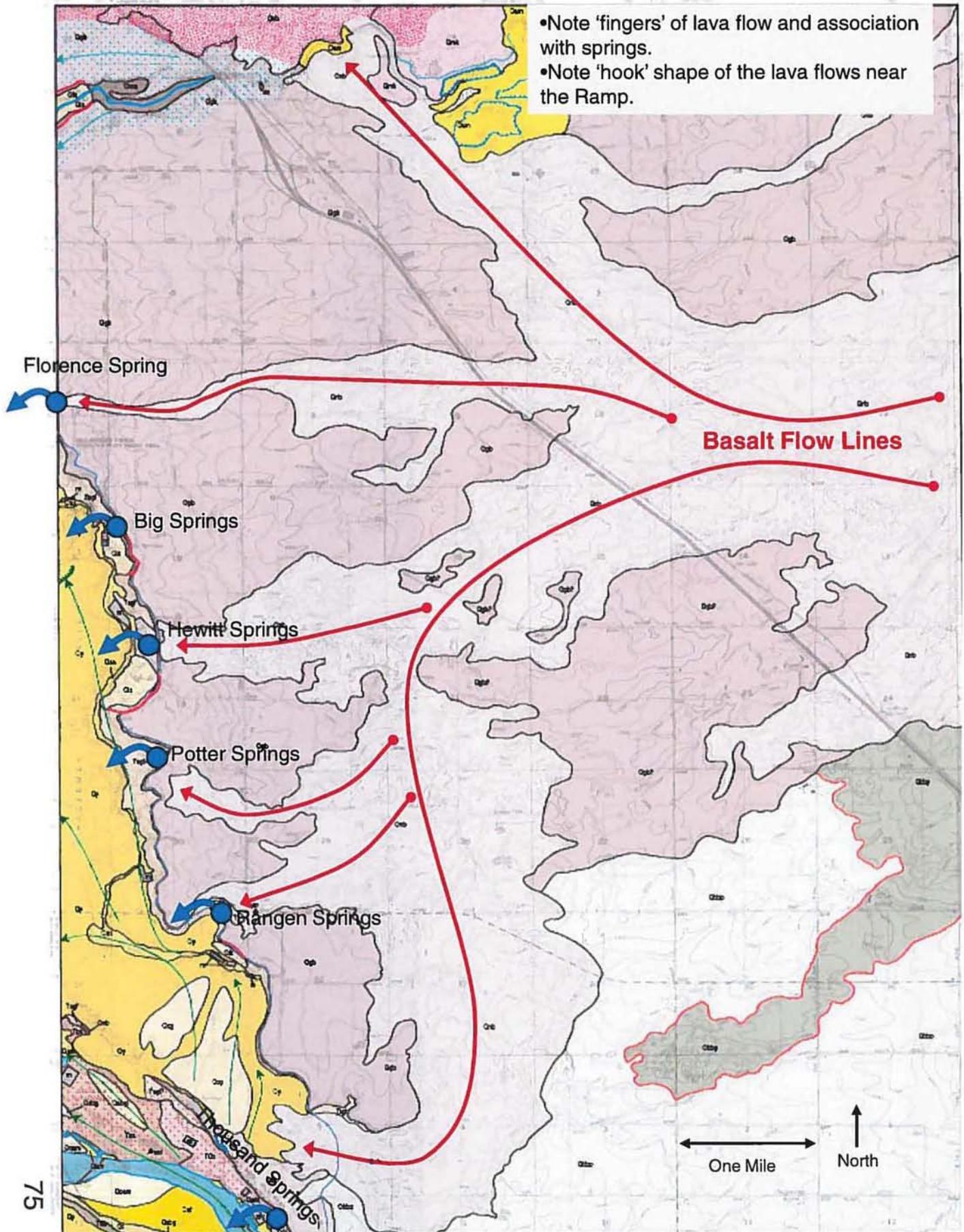
Vader Grade GFF Fossils



Vader Grade GFF Fossils

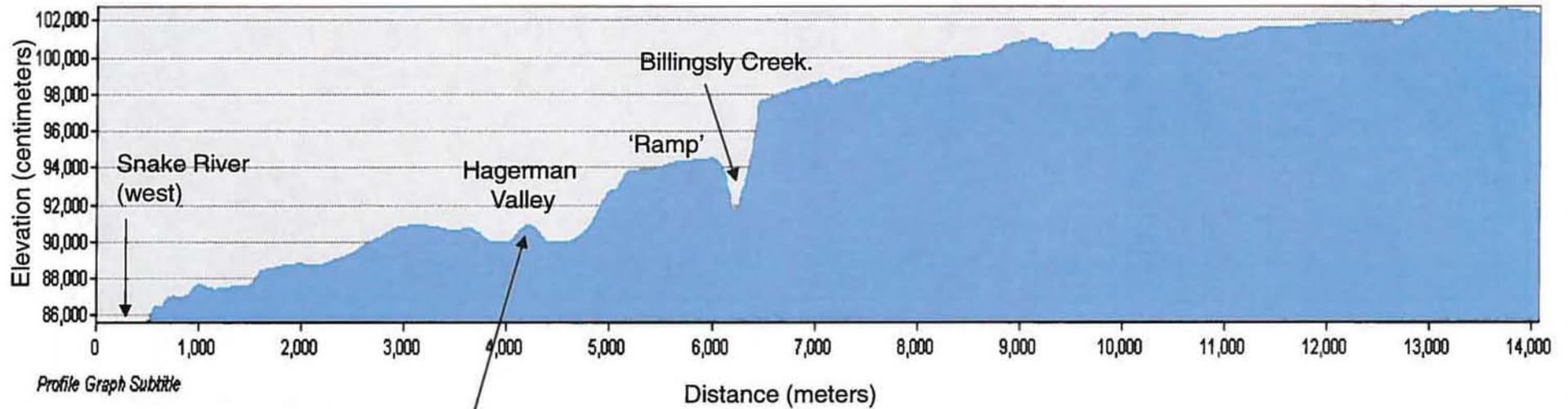


- Note 'fingers' of lava flow and association with springs.
- Note 'hook' shape of the lava flows near the Ramp.

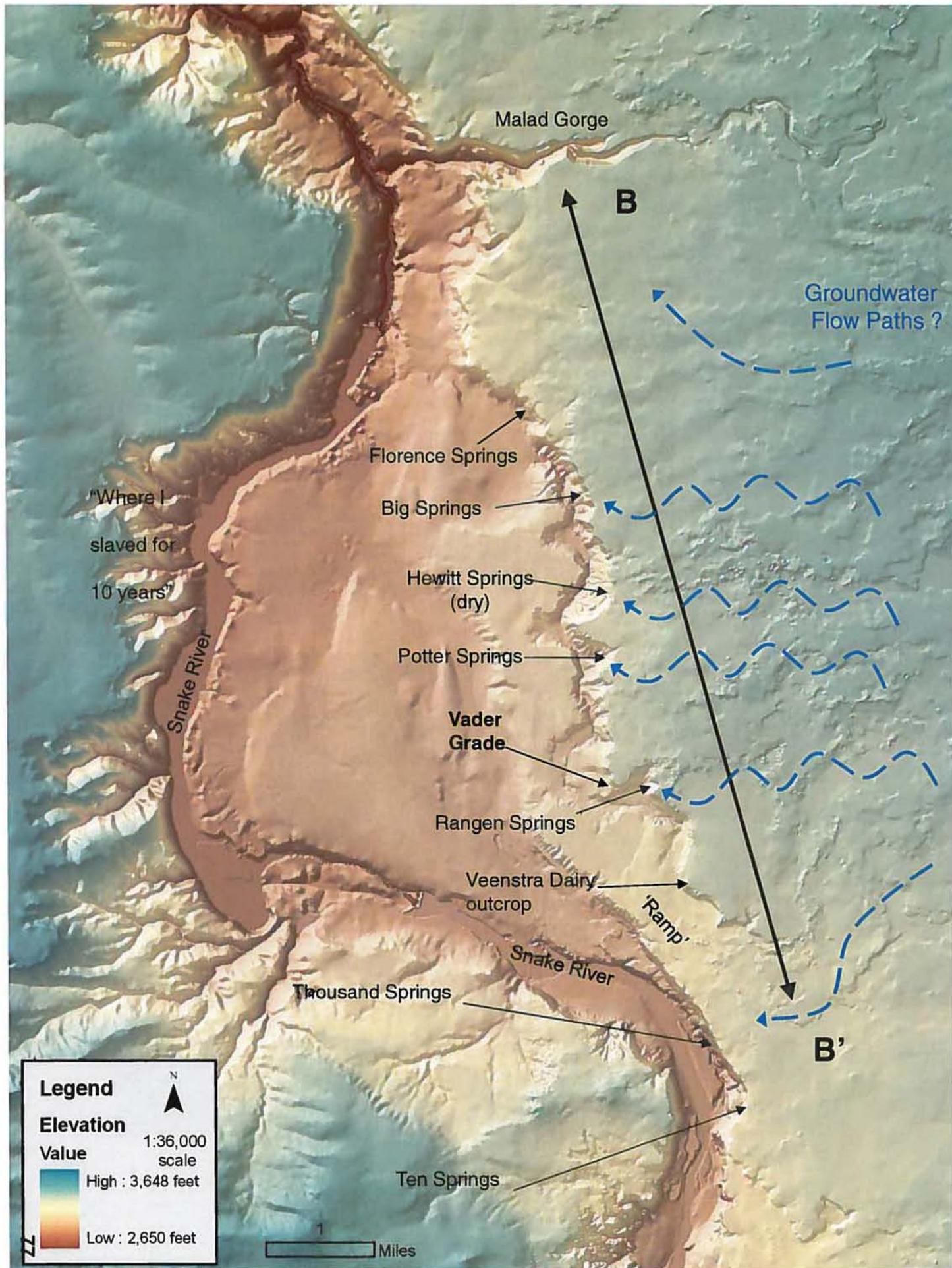


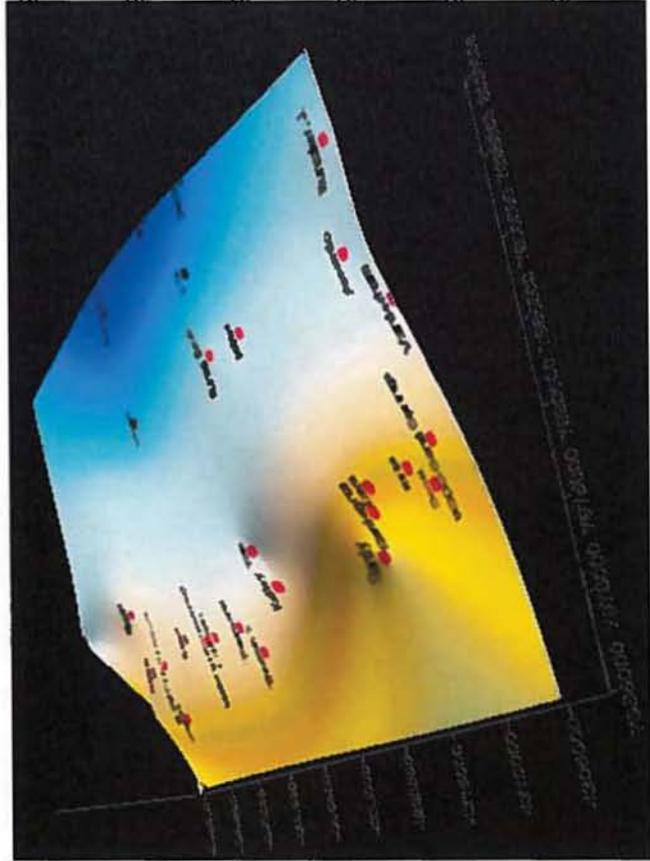
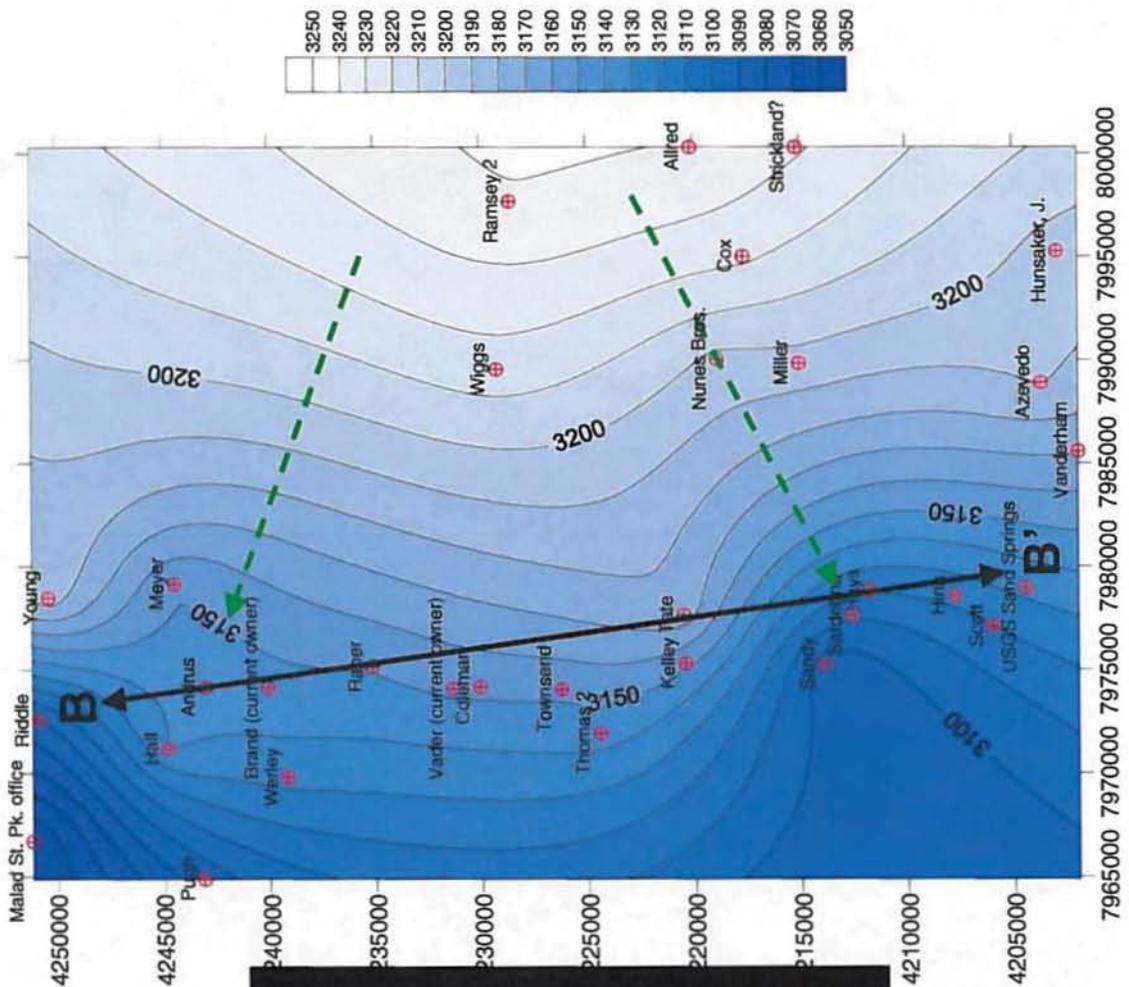
East/West Profile of Land Surface

City of Wendell
(east)

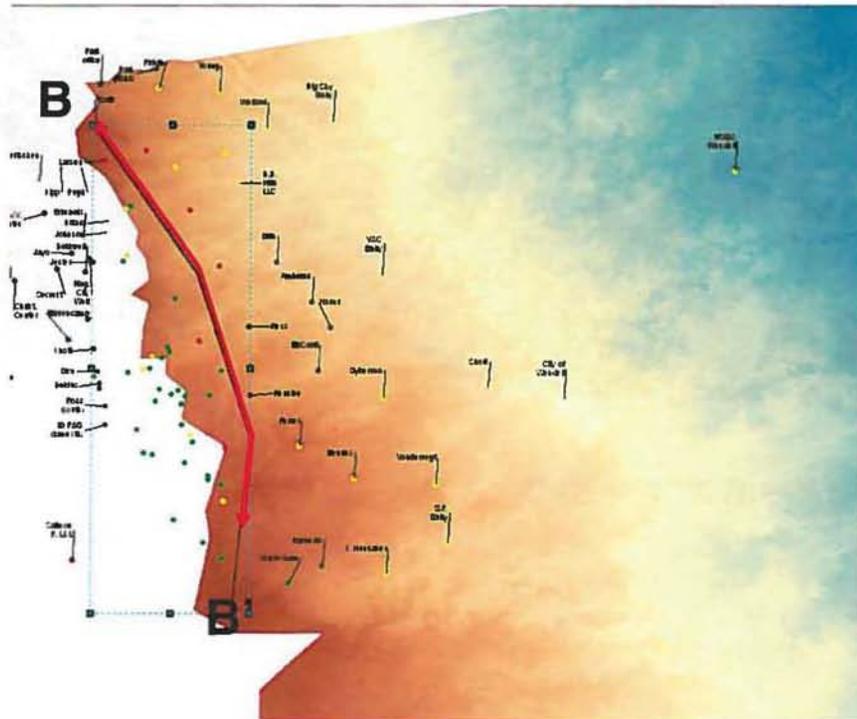
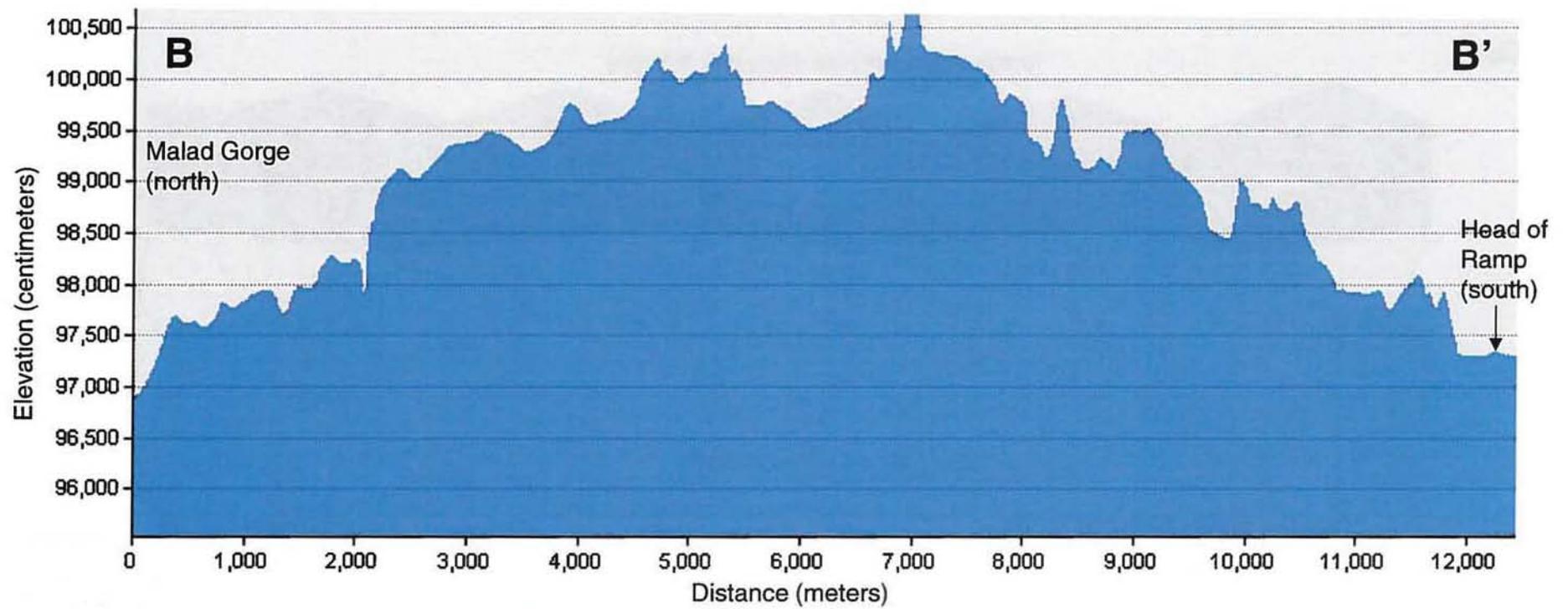


Guess what this ridge is from or why it exists?



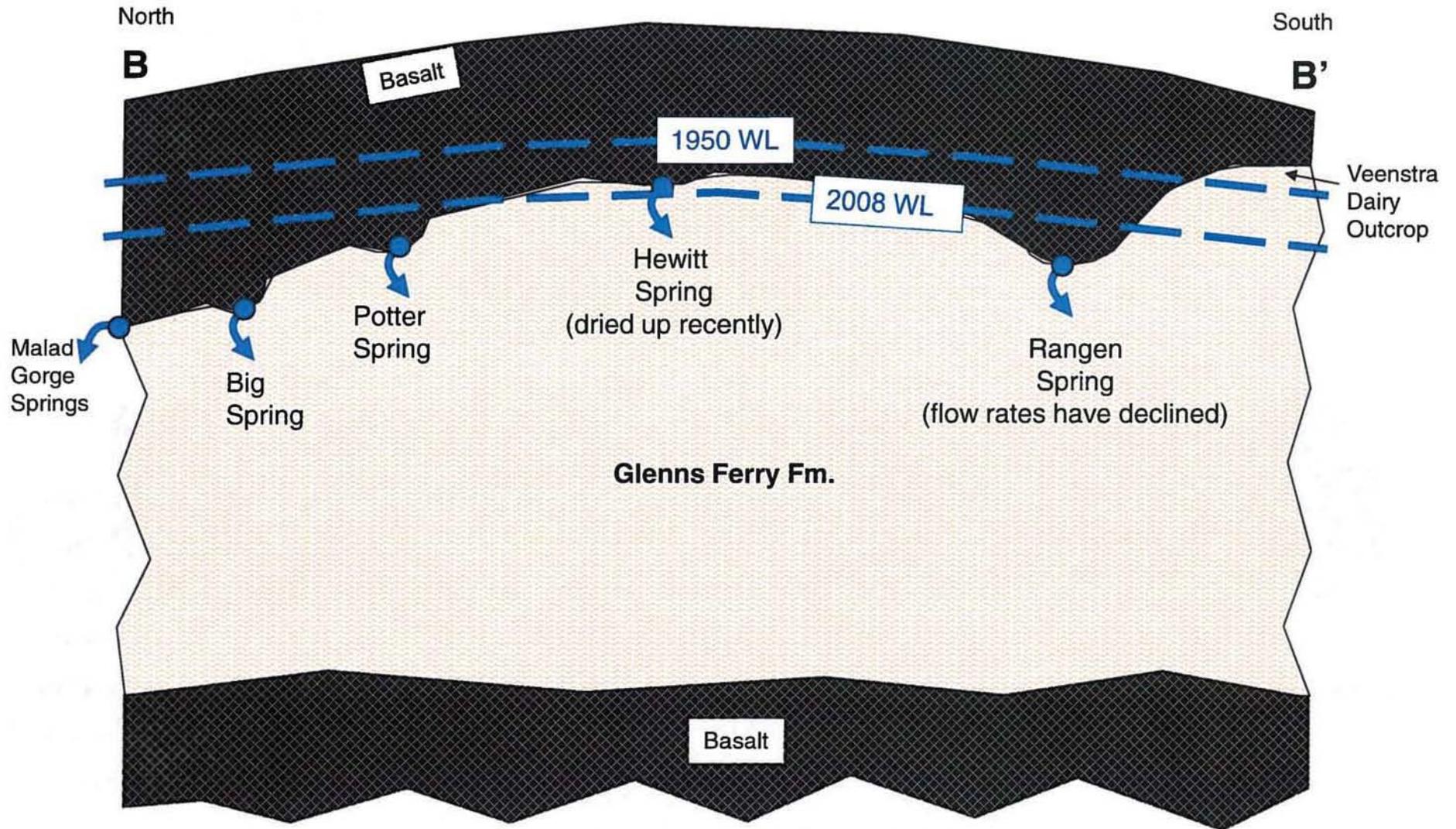


North ↑



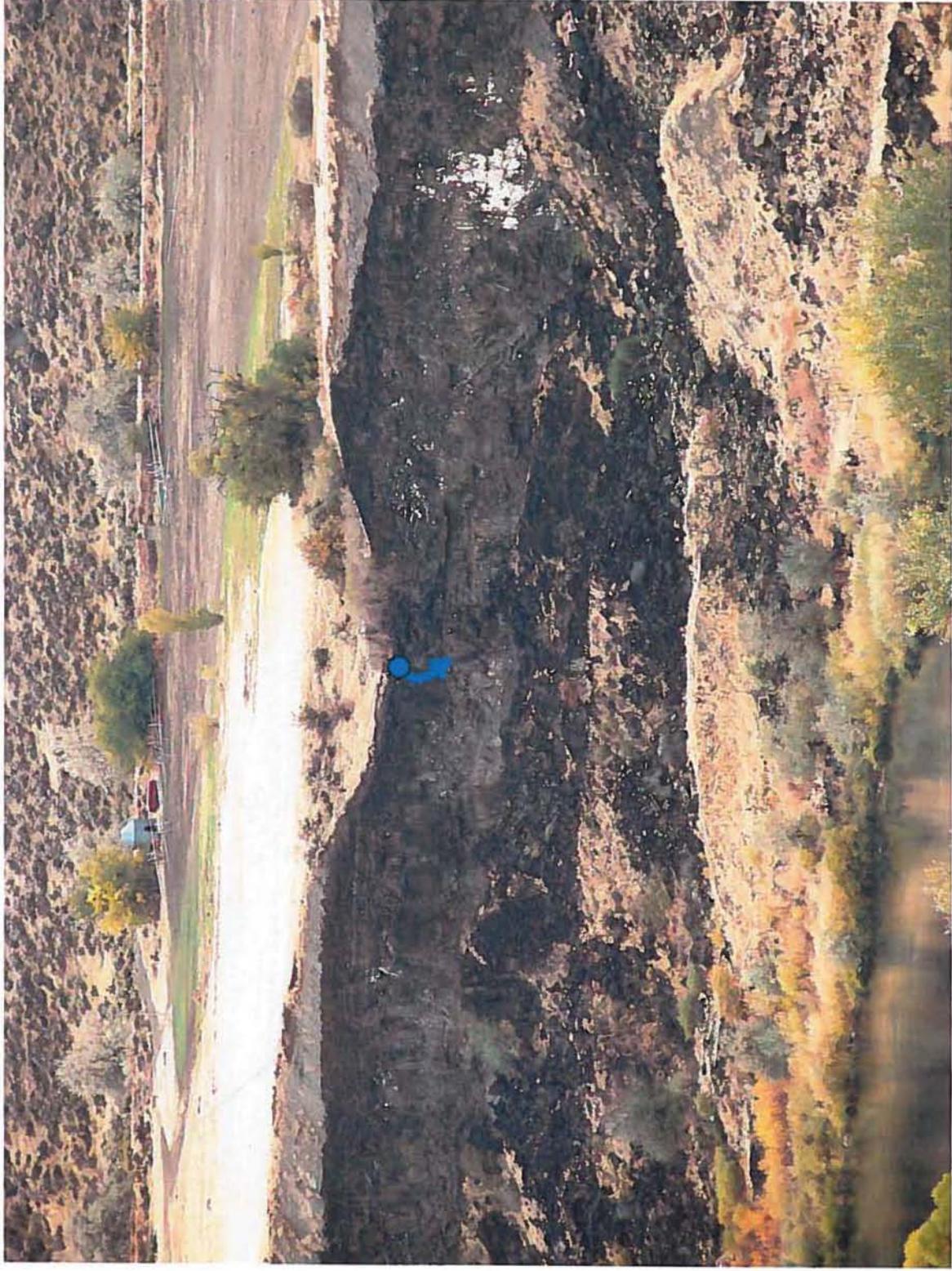
Ground surface profile from Malad Gorge to Thousand Springs area showing a arched feature which correlates to the groundwater contours.

Conceptual Block Diagram

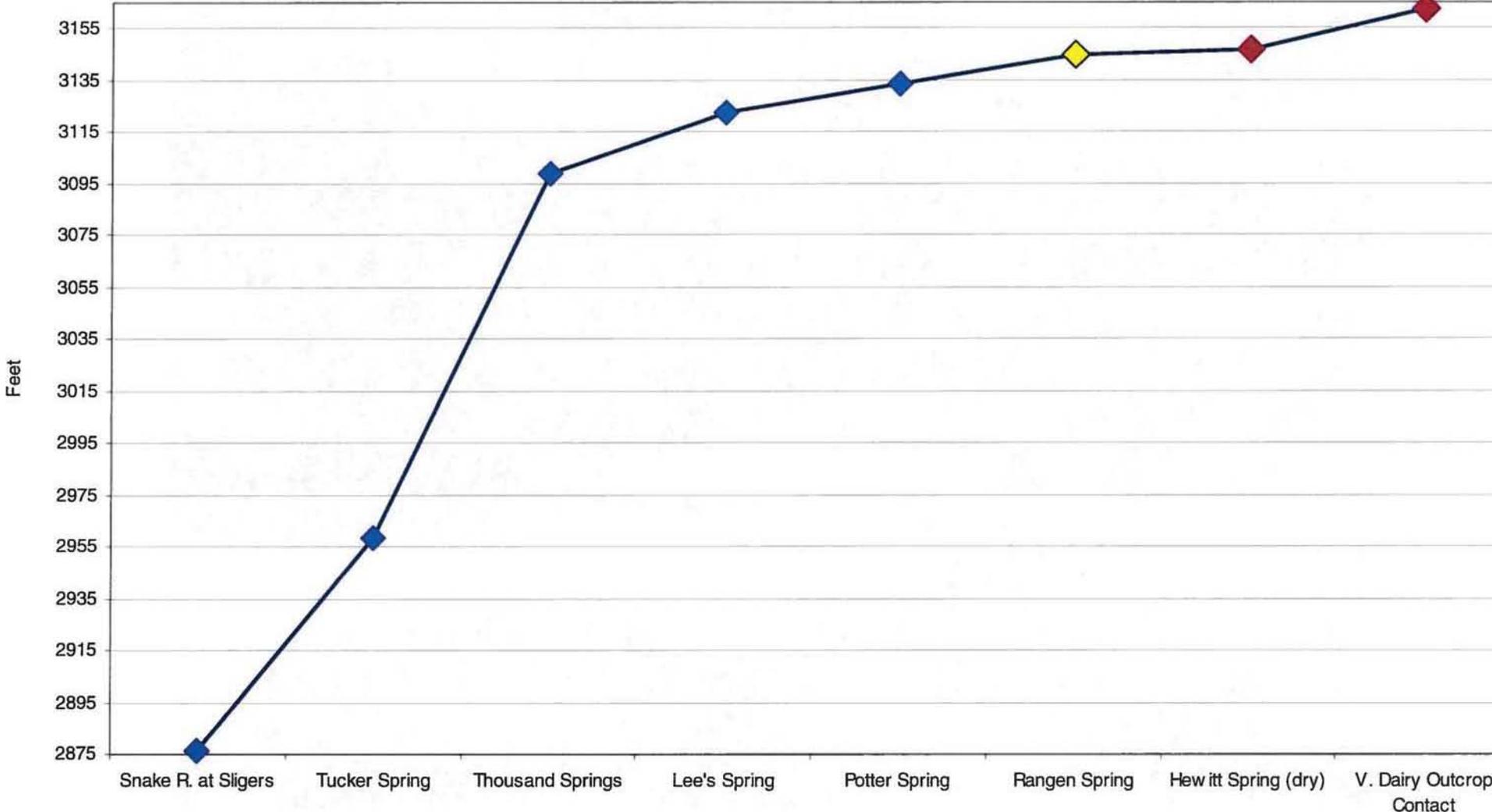


(vertical and horizontal are not to scale)

Outcrop example of a paleo-topographic low depression which groundwater may prefer to follow but this is a reverse geology of Rangen site and no groundwater is discharging here.

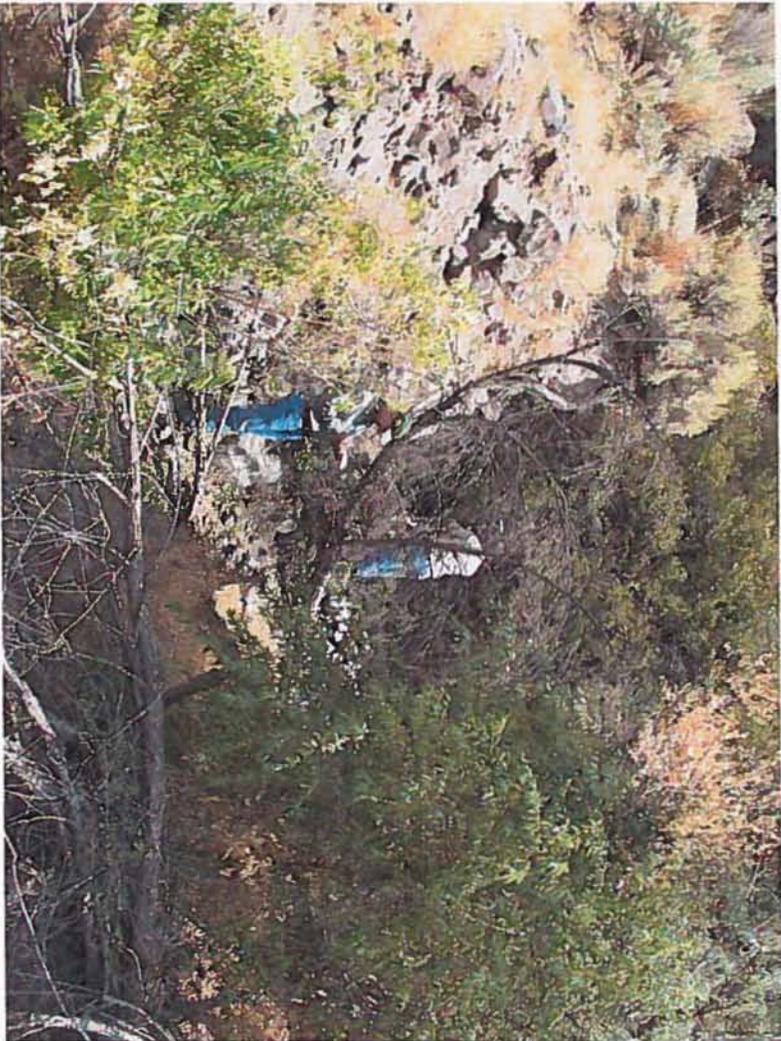


Elevations of springs and one outcrop contact showing how higher elevation springs are drying up.



Hewitt Spring (dry)

The groundwater table has dropped below the elevation of the spring.



**Rangen Spring – compare to Veenstra Dairy
Geologic outcrop.**

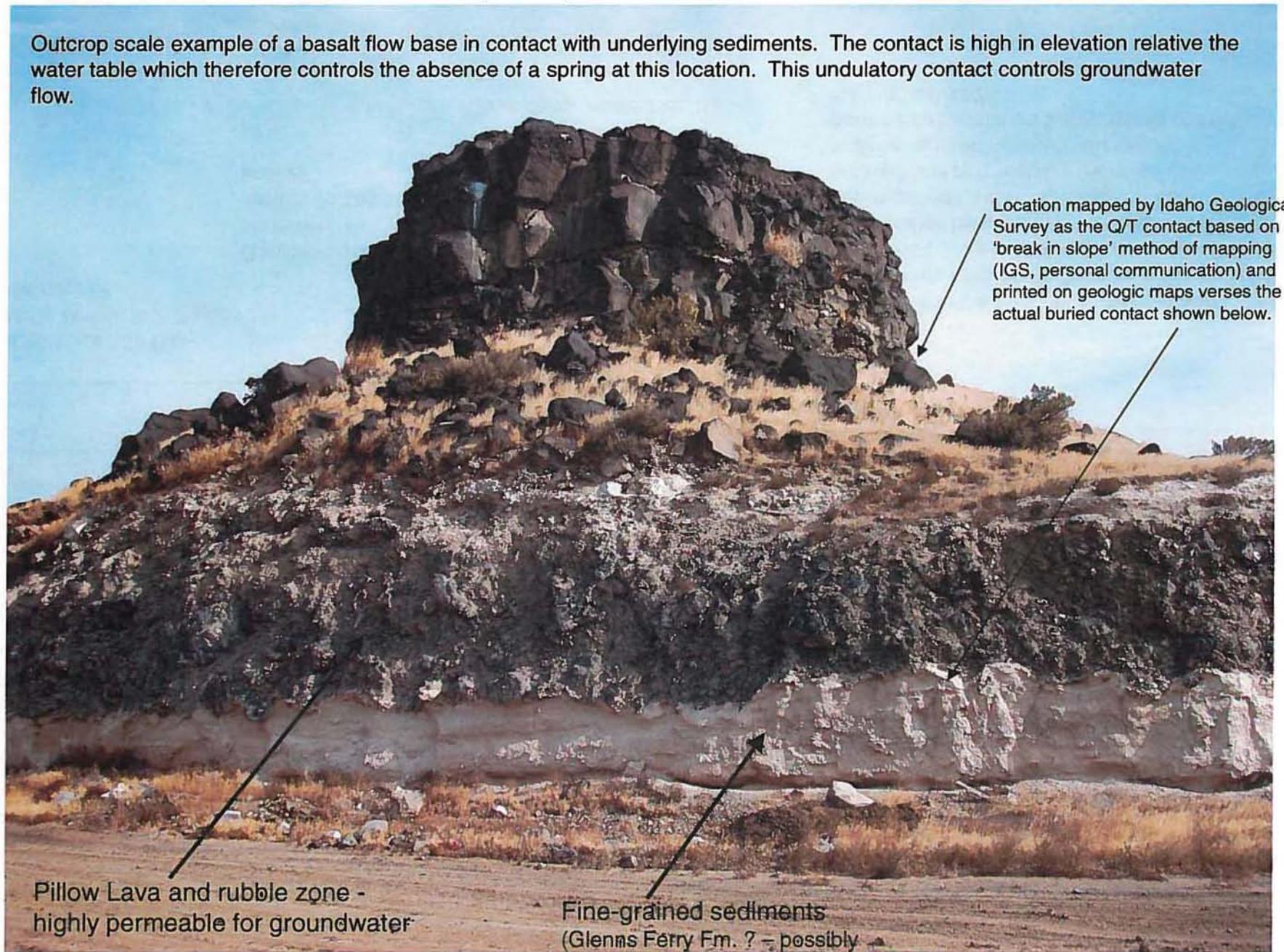
'Pillow Lava' –
formed when lava
flows into water.

Tunnel to enhance spring flow



Veenstra Dairy outcrop contact south of Vader Grade outcrop.

Outcrop scale example of a basalt flow base in contact with underlying sediments. The contact is high in elevation relative the water table which therefore controls the absence of a spring at this location. This undulatory contact controls groundwater flow.



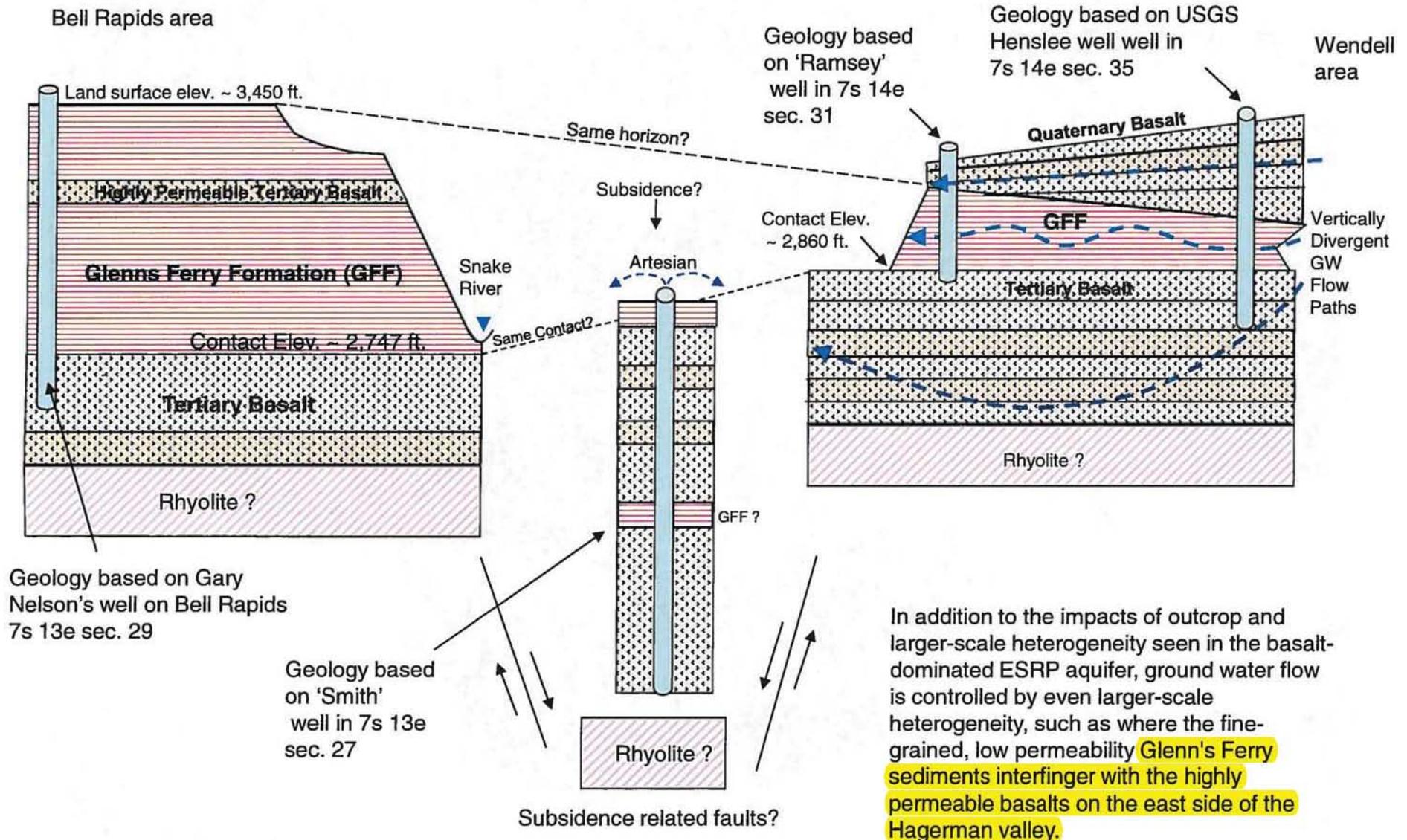
Location mapped by Idaho Geological Survey as the Q/T contact based on 'break in slope' method of mapping (IGS, personal communication) and printed on geologic maps versus the actual buried contact shown below.

Pillow Lava and rubble zone - highly permeable for groundwater

Fine-grained sediments (Glenns Ferry Fm. ? - possibly paleosol on top of GFF)

"East Meets West" – Geologic Transition Zone of the Eastern and Western Snake River Plain

(Conceptual Model)



Not to scale