

GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES MAP OF THE VINES HILL QUADRANGLE, MALHEUR COUNTY, OREGON

Geology and Mineral Resources Map of the Vines Hill Quadrangle, Malheur County, Oregon
By Howard C. Brooks

Funded jointly by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, the Oregon State Lottery, and the U.S. Geological Survey COGEO MAP Program as part of a cooperative effort to map the west half of the 1° by 2° Boise sheet, eastern Oregon



TIME ROCK CHART

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EXPLANATION

Qa1	<p>Althium (Pleistocene and Holocene) – Unconsolidated and unsorted to well-sorted deposits of gravel, sand, and silt. Mapped mainly in the flood plains of the Malheur River and Bulli Creek. Small, poorly developed deposits occur in the bottoms of some streams draining the West Bench.</p>
Q1s	<p>Landslide (Pleistocene and Holocene) – Includes a slump section of unit Tm over 2 m or long and up to 2,000 ft high on the west side of the Malheur River. The hummocky area west of the river is underlain mainly by the fragmentary debris of a landslide of unit Tm that is composed of a few blocks of andesite or basalt; the rest of the deposit is composed chiefly of rotated blocks of unit Tm.</p>
Q1tc	<p>Coluvium and alluvial fan deposits (Pleistocene, Pleistocene, and Holocene) – Alluvial fans and dips with consisting of unconsolidated gravel, sand, and silt. Also, extensive accumulations of windblown silt and sand on benches and ridge tops and in broad valleys. On the West Bench and in Little Valley, unit Q1tc mainly consists of well-sorted, light brown to tan fine-grained sand and silt. Subangular clasts are chiefly quartzite. Q1tc is up to 10 ft thick consisting partly of aeolian silt. Subangular clasts are chiefly quartzite. Q1tc is up to 10 ft thick consisting partly of aeolian silt. Subangular clasts are chiefly quartzite.</p>

Gravel deposits (Pliocene? and Pleistocene)—Mostly unconsolidated and poorly sorted gravel, sand, and silt on terraces and slopes above existing stream channels. Gravel is composed mostly of clasts from unit **Tm** but includes clasts of siliceous volcanic rocks, obsidian, and chalcodite. Chert is rare. Typically 5 to 20 ft thick but locally up to 40 ft thick. Caliche is common, occurring mostly in layered sequences a few inches to several feet thick and less commonly as a matrix cement.

QTI **Fluvial deposits (Pliocene and Pleistocene)**—Mostly unconsolidated to poorly consolidated, poorly to moderately sorted deposits of sand, silt, and gravel. Bedding in fine-grained deposits is visible locally. Gravel clasts are mostly andesite and basalt but include obsidian, rhyolite, limestone, and rare chaledony. Clasts typically are less than 2 in. in diameter and range up to 4 ft thick. These deposits may be relics of terraces of an ancestral Malheur River

Limestone (upper Miocene and Pliocene)—Lacustrine deposits of limestone; sandy and silty limestone; tuffaceous limestone; calcareous sandstone, siltstone, and tuff; and limestone-matrix conglomerate and breccia. Typical colors are medium to light gray, brownish gray, yellowish to reddish gray, and pale yellow. Beds range from a few inches to about 20 ft thick with cumulated exposures up to 100 ft locally as in the NW 1/4 of T₁R 43 E. Limestone is also present in the NW 1/4 of T₁R 20 N 20 E in some of the slopes along the eastern margin of the main exposure belt. Small clam and gastropod shells are abundant locally. Stromatolite and algal structures are visible in many outcrops. The limestone is depositational mainly on rocks of unit **T₁mb**, but in places it rests on unit **T₁**. Limestone matrix conglomerate and breccia are common in the NW 1/4 of T₁R 43 E. Clasts of limestone are common in **T₁mb** and in several places breccia fragments as much as 4 ft across appear to have been derived from unit **T₁mb**.

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Rhyolite (upper Miocene)—Gray to white quartz-plagioclase phyrre rhyolite exposed in the quadrangle only in a road cut in Sec. 34, T. 18 S., R. 43 E. Exposure is about 100 ft long. Spherulitic and locally flow banded and locally brecciated. Thin section shows less than 5 percent partially resorbed quartz and plagioclase phenocrysts in aphyric groundmass of quartz and K-feldspar. May be correlative with rhyolites of late Miocene age mapped by Ramp and Ferns (1989) 8 mi to the southeast in the northwest corner of the Double Mountain quadrangle.

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Older lacustrine sedimentary rocks (upper Miocene)—Siltstone, tuffaceous siltstone, tuff, and sandstone, usually poorly exposed and poorly indurated. Exposures in the western part of sec. 22, T. 18 S., R. 43 E., include light gray quartz-cemented arkosic sandstone beds from 4 ft to about 20 ft thick composed mainly of quartz and feldspar and minor biotite and other mafic minerals. Well-rounded chert pebbles are included locally. Parts of units **Tc** and **Tb** are lithologically similar and are distinguished mainly by stratigraphic position relative to flows of unit **Tdmv** and the local presence of arkosic sandstones in unit **Tol**. Base of the unit is not exposed. Exposed thickness is about 200 ft.

MAP SYMBOLS

	Contact—Approximately located
	Fault—Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed; ball and bar on downthrown side
	Strike and dip of beds
	Horizontal bed
	Location of whole-rock sample analyzed in Table 1
	Location of mineralized zone sample analyzed in Table 2

GEOLOGY

[illegible]

GROUND-WATER RESOURCES

General
Very little ground-water information is available for the mapped area. Approximately 70 water-well reports (well logs) from the mapped area are on file with the State of Oregon. Most of the well logs are from the West Bend, the Malheur River valley south of the West Bend, and Little Valley.
Most wells in the mapped area produce water from unit Q₂ gravels, sediments of unit T₂, lava flows and interbeds within unit T₁lm, or unit Q₁g terrace gravels. The reported well yields vary from place to place within each unit. This variation reflects differences between intended uses of wells as much as it does hydrology. The State of Oregon has been monitoring water levels in three wells, sections 2 and 3 of T 19 S, R 43 E, since 1982. These wells have shown no significant changes in water levels from 1982 to present.

Ground-water characteristics of map units

Unit Qal: There are records of 17 wells producing from unit Qal in the area, primarily in the eastern portion of the Malheur River valley and Bully Creek valley. Saturated gravels within this unit will yield moderate to large amounts of water to wells. Drillers report gravel or mixtures of sand and gravel ranging from 3 to 41 ft thick, generally being 10 to 20 ft thick. Wells producing from unit Qal are generally 30 to 50 ft deep. Most wells on record yield 15 to 30 gallons per minute (gpm), but a few wells yield 400 to 500 gpm. Static water levels in the alluvial valley are generally less than 10 ft below ground level.

Unit Q16: The ground-water characteristics of this unit are unknown.

Unit Q17: The ground-water characteristics of this unit are unknown. This unit is probably not saturated with water.

Unit Q18: The State of Oregon has records of 12 wells drilled on the West Bench. Driller logs indicated that sands and gravels of Unit Q18 range in thickness from 4 to 32 ft on the West Bench. This deposit is saturated, at least in part, in roughly half of the wells on file. In most of the wells, unit Q18 is so shallow that it is cased off and is not used as a source of water. Only three of the wells on file are deeper than 100 ft. Most of the wells on the bench produce water from underlying sediments of unit Tc. Of the three wells apparently producing from unit Q18, two produce 20 and 30 gpm, respectively, and one well is reported to produce 200 gpm. Much of the recharge to this unit may be coming from irrigation canal seepage.

Unit Q19: The ground-water characteristics of this unit are unknown.

Unit Tc: In the mapped area, there are approximately 25 wells that produce water from sediments of unit Tc. About half of these are on the West Bench, with the remainder in the broad Malheur River flood plain or in the area of unit Tc south of the flood plain. Wells producing from unit Tc range from 51 to 690 ft deep. Most are in the 100- to 250-ft range, and six are greater than 400 ft deep. Yields of most wells in unit Tc range from approximately 10 to 30 gpm. Six wells are reported to produce greater than 100 gpm, three of which produce greater than 500 gpm. Static water levels in unit Tc vary with wellhead elevation and range from less than 10 ft to 166 ft below ground level.

Unit Tlrm: The ground-water characteristics of this unit are unknown.

Unit Tlmv: There are records of nine wells on file with the State from the Little Valley area in the southwest part of the map. These include Tlms, Tlmv, Tlmw, Tlmx, Tlmz, and Tlmr. All of these wells appear to produce from the same aquifer. The water level in Tlmv ranges in depth from 290 to 430 ft, with all but two between 290 to 300 ft deep. Most of the wells appear to produce from the lower half of the unit. Tlmv sequence, although a few appear to produce from interbeds in that section. Depth to the lava reported for the various holes ranged from 33 ft to 265 ft. Production rates range from 2 to 25 gpm, with the exception of one that produces 400 gpm. The production rate of this well may be due to the fact that it is located in an artesian zone. It is probable that due to wellhead elevation differences and pressure differences in artesian zones.

Unit Tol: The ground-water characteristics of this unit are unknown.

Table 1. Whole-rock analyses, Vines Hill quadrangle, Malheur County, Oregon¹

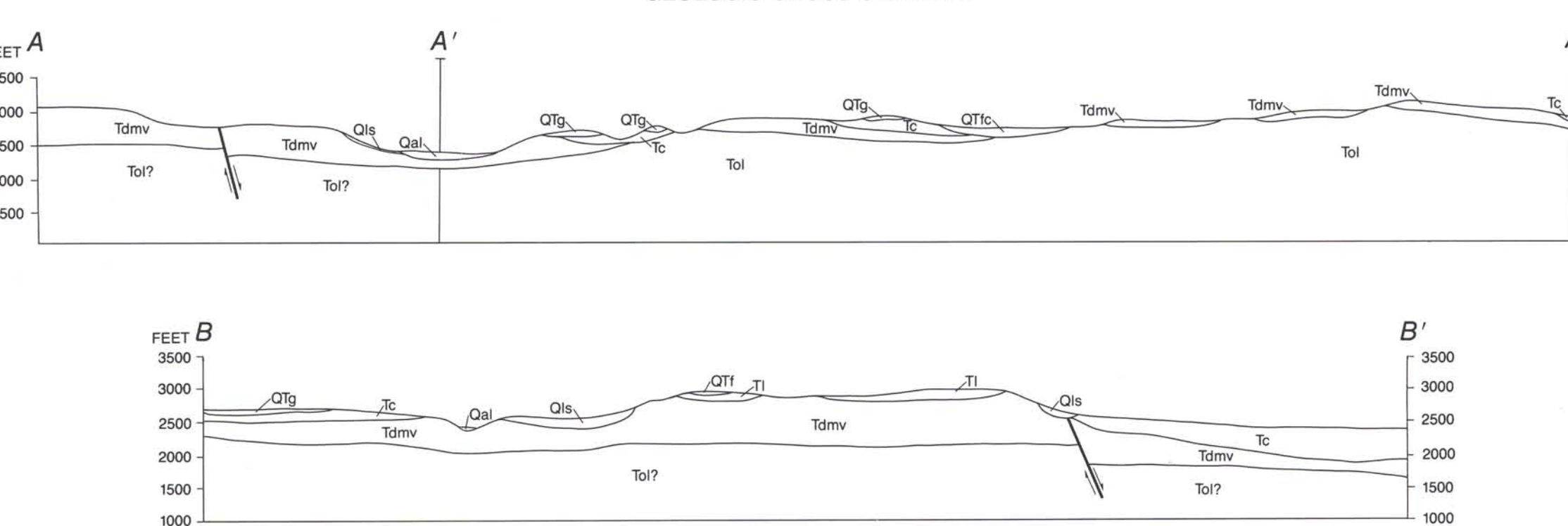
Laboratory	Material	Lot	1/4	1/4	1/4	Sec.	T ₅ (s)	R.E.(%)	UTM coordinates	Elev. (m)	Lithology	Map unit	Oxides (wt. percent)												Trace Elements (ppm)							
													SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	TiO ₂	Fe ₂ O ₃	MnO	CaO	MgO	K ₂ O	Na ₂ O	P ₂ O ₅	LOI	Total	Cr	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Hf	Ba	
A	X-103-13	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	38	18	436780N 436780E	2,700	Andesite	Tsmv	59.0	18.9	0.88	6.77	0.15	8.00	3.05	2.17	4.22	0.64	0.77	100.6	57	41	647	28	184	35	995	
B	X-103-18	NE	SE	SE	SE	SE	38	18	436754N 436754E	2,500	Andesite	Tsmv	59.3	16.2	0.85	6.36	0.14	8.07	2.92	2.31	3.71	0.42	0.31	98.2	30	32	614	30	192	16	965	
C	X-103-14	NE	NW	NW	NW	NW	4	19	436807N 436807E	2,460	Basaltic Andesite	Tsmv	55.0	16.0	1.34	8.73	0.14	6.27	3.28	2.06	3.68	0.73	1.77	99.9	39	34	567	30	251	38	1070	
D	X-103-15	NE	NW	NW	NW	NW	4	19	436807N 436807E	2,460	Basaltic Andesite	Tsmv	52.7	15.8	1.52	9.11	0.16	6.71	3.61	1.82	3.61	0.88	2.65	98.8	40	36	560	31	266	35	1050	
E	X-103-16	NE	SW	SW	SW	SW	4	19	436551N 436551E	2,900	Basaltic Andesite	Tsmv	53.6	16.5	1.51	9.06	0.26	6.54	3.25	1.92	3.92	0.81	1.31	99.2	46	42	611	22	236	43	1160	
F	X-103-17	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	4	19	436526N 436526E	2,870	Basaltic Andesite	Tsmv	53.3	16.2	1.49	9.11	0.20	6.57	3.27	1.94	3.92	0.79	1.70	99.1	48	48	600	32	251	39	1060	
G	X-103-12	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	7	19	436472N 436472E	2,300	Basalt	Tsmv	46.5	15.6	1.87	13.6	0.24	6.68	4.68	0.80	2.79	0.53	1.93	100.1	96	29	245	23	238	34	340	
H	X-103-12	NE	NW	NW	NW	NW	19	4	436343N 436343E	3,160	Basalt	Tsmv	55.0	16.2	1.13	8.34	0.19	6.20	3.58	1.86	3.92	0.69	1.39	98.7	40	23	628	30	229	15	1160	
I	X-103-13	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	20	19	436180N 436180E	3,140	Basaltic Andesite	Tsmv	54.9	16.4	1.45	8.29	0.17	6.39	3.31	1.98	3.97	1.70	1.54	99.4	35	26	603	41	260	31	936	
J	X-103-21	SE	NE	NE	NE	NE	19	4	436130N 436130E	2,940	Andesite	Tsmv	58.2	16.7	0.89	6.45	0.16	7.51	2.96	2.44	0.44	0.44	100.0	99.2	32	39	656	30	173	23	1370	
K	X-103-11	NW	SE	SE	SE	SE	21	19	436030N 436030E	2,940	Limestone	Ti	31.7	0.88	0.06	0.83	0.12	0.45	0.38	0.21	0.20	1.66	36.5	100.2	<10	14	293	<10	<10	<10	<10	171
L	X-103-19	NW	SW	SW	SW	SW	22	19	436037N 436037E	2,950	Limestone	Ti	25.6	0.75	0.05	0.47	0.11	39.3	0.48	0.21	0.20	1.62	30.2	100.5	<10	21	382	<10	<10	<10	<10	172
M	X-103-18	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	28	19	435960N 435970E	2,850	Limestone	Ti	29.0	1.58	0.10	0.69	0.07	36.2	0.55	0.32	0.37	1.58	29.8	100.4	<10	20	607	<14	<10	<10	<10	225

Table 2. Trace-element analyses, Vines Hill quadrangle, Malheur County, Oregon

No	Field no.	Laboratory	1/4	1/4	Time	T.S.	R.E.	UTM coordinates	Elev. (m)	Lithology	Map unit	Ag (ppm)	As (ppm)	Al (ppm)	Ca (ppm)	Cu (ppm)	Hg (ppm)	Pb (ppm)	Sb (ppm)	Ti (ppm)	Zn (ppm)	Bi (ppm)	Co (ppm)	Ga (ppm)	Se (ppm)	Te (ppm)	U (ppm)	Sr (ppm)
8	B-39-39	AKS-08	NW	NE	2	18	43	4505008 4505009	1000	Altered sandstone	Tm	0.001	0.01	1.1	0.77	0.10	0.19	0.52	0.34	0.8	0.38	<0.05	0.14	1.24	1.0	<0.5	0.02	<0.5
8	B-39-39	AKS-08	NW	NE	2	18	43	4505009 4505010	1000	Altered sandstone	Tm	0.001	0.01	1.1	0.77	0.10	0.19	0.52	0.34	0.8	0.38	<0.05	0.14	1.24	1.0	<0.5	0.02	<0.5
8	B-39-39	AKS-08	NE	SW	2	18	43	4505010 4505011	1000	Altered sandstone	Tm	0.002	0.01	1.1	0.77	0.10	0.19	0.52	0.34	0.8	0.38	<0.05	0.14	1.24	1.0	<0.5	0.02	<0.5
4	S-50-50	AKS-06	NE	SE	19	43	4505011 4505012	1000	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.016	0.03	<1	3.30	0.10	0.93	1.41	0.43	<0.5	1.1	<0.25	0.175	0.743	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0
4	S-50-50	AKS-06	NE	SE	19	43	4505012 4505013	1000	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.016	0.03	<1	3.30	0.10	0.93	1.41	0.43	<0.5	1.1	<0.25	0.175	0.743	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0	<0.0
6	B-39-48	AKS-09	SE	SE	19	43	4505014 4505015	1000	Altered sandstone	Tm	0.001	0.01	1.1	0.77	0.10	0.19	0.52	0.34	0.8	0.38	<0.05	0.14	1.24	1.0	<0.5	0.02	<0.5	
6	B-39-48	AKS-09	SE	SE	19	43	4505015 4505016	1000	Altered sandstone	Tm	0.001	0.01	1.1	0.77	0.10	0.19	0.52	0.34	0.8	0.38	<0.05	0.14	1.24	1.0	<0.5	0.02	<0.5	
6	B-39-48	AKS-09	NW	NW	22	43	4505016 4505017	2810	Altered sandstone	Ti	<0.014	0.014	1.1	6.19	0.10	1.93	1.11	0.488	0.5	7.52	<0.25	0.194	0.466	<0.1	<0.1	<0.6	0.8	
8	B-39-47	AKS-01	SE	SW	15	43	4505017 4505018	2810	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.002	0.02	1.9	7.120	0.10	1.93	1.11	0.488	0.5	7.52	<0.25	0.194	0.466	<0.1	<0.1	<0.6	0.8	
8	B-39-45	AKS-03	NW	NW	22	43	4505018 4505019	2810	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.002	0.02	1.9	7.120	0.10	1.93	1.11	0.488	0.5	7.52	<0.25	0.194	0.466	<0.1	<0.1	<0.6	0.8	
8	B-39-45	AKS-03	NW	NW	22	43	4505019 4505020	2810	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.002	0.02	1.9	7.120	0.10	1.93	1.11	0.488	0.5	7.52	<0.25	0.194	0.466	<0.1	<0.1	<0.6	0.8	
8	B-39-45	AKS-03	NW	NW	22	43	4505020 4505021	2810	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.002	0.02	1.9	7.120	0.10	1.93	1.11	0.488	0.5	7.52	<0.25	0.194	0.466	<0.1	<0.1	<0.6	0.8	
8	B-39-45	AKS-03	NW	NW	22	43	4505021 4505022	2810	Altered sandstone	Ti	0.002	0.02	1.9	7.120	0.10	1.93	1.11	0.488	0.5	7.52	<0.25	0.194	0.466	<0.1	<0.1	<0.6	0.8	

¹Gold, uranium, and tin analyses by Bondar-Clegg; other trace-element analyses by GS.

GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTIONS



Geology by Howard C. Brooks, Oregon Department
of Geology and Mineral Industries

Field work conducted in 1989

Map reviewed by M. L. Ferns, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and J. G. Evans, U.S. Geological Survey

Cartography by Allan Cartography