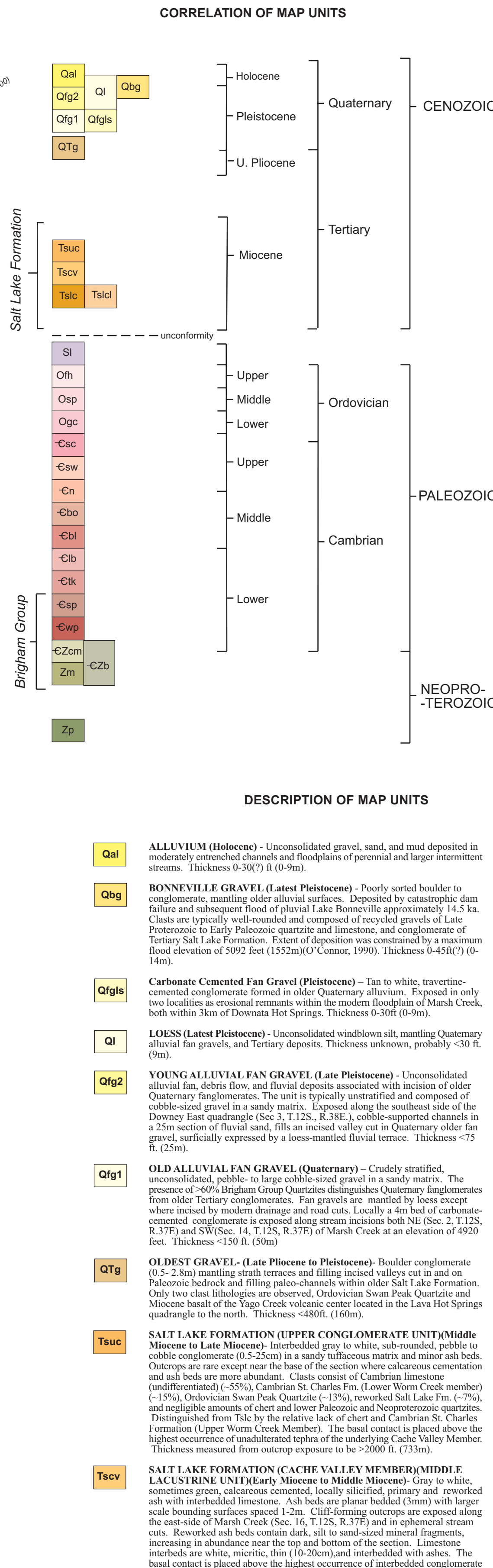


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DOWNEY EAST QUADRANGLE
IDAHO-BANNOCK COUNTY



Miocene Syntectonic Deposition and Extensional Deformation

The Middle Miocene to Pliocene Salt Lake Formation consists of conglomerate, lacustrine limestone, marl, fluvial and alluvial sediments, intercalated with primary and reworked rhyolitic fallout ash. The basal Salt Lake Formation lies unconformably on Cambrian through Permian rocks, and is overlain by the Oligocene and Miocene Wasatch-Cedar, Ordovician and Silurian strata, reflecting Mesozoic folding. The formation is laterally extensive, present throughout SE Idaho and N Utah and accumulated in response to local and regional subsidence associated with early extension of the northern Basin and Range Province (Trimble and Carr, 1963; Perkins et al., 1998; Janacek et al., 2002). Janacek and Evans (1999) propose that the Salt Lake Formation in the Cache Valley region of NW Utah was deposited in a tectonically dominated extensional system that experienced WSW extension from ~12–40 Ma (Janacek et al., 2002).

The oldest phase of extension, beginning ~12 Ma (Janecek *et al.*, 2002; Kruger *et al.*, 2002) in the Downey area is characterized by NW-striking faults (set 1) and deposition of the Salt Lake Formation. Remnants of set 1 faults are preserved as isolated hanging wall blocks in grabens and horsts of younger set 2 faults on the southern Portland Range (Fig. 1). The basal conglomerate unit of the Salt Lake Formation (Tslc) likely formed in response to incision of topography and accumulated quickly in a rigid, subsiding basin. Tephra dates from the middle unit (Tsk) constrains lacustrine deposition of the Salt Lake Formation from 11.8 Ma to 9.5 Ma (Perkins *et al.*, 1998) in southern Marsh Valley. The upper conglomerate unit in the RRSB likely accumulated from ~9.5 to ~4.5 Ma and records a time of decreased accommodation and integration of Neogene basins.

With cessation of the early phases of tectonism and a decrease in accommodation, infilling by the fluvial upper conglomerate unit (Tuc) of the Salt Lake Formation likely overfilled basins to the tops of the intervening ranges (Ore, 1982; Rodgers et al., 2003). Ordovician bedrock highs were beveled and Salt Lake strata were graded to a northward flowing master stream (Link et al., 1999). Lag concentrate of resistant Ordovician Swan Peak Quartzite boulders likely accumulated on pediment surfaces adjacent to buried or nearly buried Basin and Range mountains (Ore, 1999).

Fault set 4 includes the NW-striking fault that cuts Qfg1 west of Marsh Creek, north of Red Rock Pass, and an extensional anticline-syncline pair. The set is restricted to the *Qfg1* group and the region of overlap between the Portneuf Range-front fault and the Marsh Creek Headwaters fault. These faults are interpreted to reflect local deformation associated with development of a synthetic accommodation zone and break up of the relay ramp between the faults.