



PLATE 1 of 3
 Utah Geological Survey
 Geologic Map 180
 Geologic Map of the
 Moab and eastern part
 of the San Rafael Desert
 30' x 60' Quadrangles,
 Grand and Emery Counties,
 Utah, and Mesa County, Colorado
 UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 a division of the
 UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
 NATURAL RESOURCES
 in cooperation with the
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 COGEMAP Agreement
 No. 1454-92-A-1087
 STATEMAP Agreement
 No. 1434-96-BQAG-2007

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**GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE MOAB AND EASTERN PART OF THE SAN RAFAEL DESERT 30' X 60' QUADRANGLES,
 GRAND AND EMERY COUNTIES, UTAH, AND MESA COUNTY, COLORADO**
 by
 Hellmut H. Doelling
 Utah Geological Survey
 2002



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PLATE 2 of 3

Utah Geological Survey Geologic Map No. 180
 Geologic Map of the Moab and eastern part
 of the San Rafael Desert 30'x50' Quadrangles,
 Grand and Emery Counties, Utah,
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DESCRIPTION OF GEOLOGIC UNITS

- Quaternary Deposits**
- Qf** Artificial fill – Clay- to boulder-size material in tailings, railroad and road fill, and dams that are large enough to map at the 1:100,000 scale; locally as much as 21 meters (70 ft) thick; late Holocene.
 - Qal** Stream alluvium – Sand, silt, clay, granules, pebbles, and coarse cobbles adjacent to more active stream courses; unconsolidated, poorly to well-sorted channel-fill and low terrace deposits; thickness varies widely, but commonly less than 10 meters (33 ft) thick; Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Qam** Alluvial mud – Light- to medium-gray silt, clay, sand, and minor fragments of sandstone, mostly derived from members of the Cretaceous Mancos Shale; unconsolidated. Hills wanes in the softest parts of the Moab area; thickness less than 10 meters (33 ft); Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Qap** Pediment-mantle deposits – Poorly to moderately sorted, rounded to angular boulders, cobbles, pebbles, granules, sand, silt, and clay; cover bedrock surfaces between drainages as much as 120 meters (400 ft) above local base level; commonly less than 30 meters (100 ft) thick; mostly late Pleistocene.
 - Qaf** Alluvial-fan deposits – Poorly sorted, angular to subrounded gravel, containing cobbles and sparse boulders, in crudely bedded to unstratified granules, sand, silt, and clay matrix; cut-and-fill channel deposits; locally present; deposited at the foot of mountains, cliffs, and at the mouths of streams; thickness commonly less than 15 meters (50 ft); Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Qat** Terrace deposits – Cobbles, granules, pebbles, and silt, and clay adjacent to, but higher than, river, stream, and larger ephemeral stream courses; locally as high as 200 meters (650 ft) above present stream courses; generally contain clasts from distant upstream sources (metamorphic igneous, and chert clasts); thickness mostly 5 meters (16 ft) or less, but may be 20 meters (60 ft) or more in salt valleys; late to middle Pleistocene.
 - Qag** Alluvial gravel, undifferentiated – Clast sizes vary from deposit to deposit; no particular geomorphic form or location; thickness commonly 5 meters (16 ft) or less.
 - Qab** Basin-fill alluvium – Sand, silt, clay, granules, pebbles, and cobbles; may contain local lacustrine or eolian deposits; fills depressions created by salt dissolution in Pennsylvanian Paradox Formation; may be as much as 180 meters (60 ft) thick; mostly Pleistocene in age, commonly covered by Holocene unconsolidated deposits.
 - Qas, Qed** Tufa deposit – Mostly drab, light-yellow-gray, calcareous tufa, some yellow ocher to dusky red brown, porous, crudely laminated, locally thin bedded; locally contains trace fossils; formed by cold-water springs and geysers; thickness as much as 7.5 meters (25 ft); Holocene to middle Pleistocene.
 - Qea** Mixed eolian and alluvial deposits – Sand and silt of eolian origin interspersed with silt, sand, and gravel of fluvial origin; generally dominated by eolian deposits; commonly displays a well-developed caliche soil horizon at the top; thickness 10 meters (33 ft) or less; Holocene to middle Pleistocene.
 - Qes, Qod** Eolian deposits – Well-sorted sand and silt; deposited in sheets (Qes) and dunes (Qod); commonly fills hollows in sandstone outcrops or collects on the lee sides of cliffs or slopes; thickness 15 meters (50 ft) or less; mostly Holocene.
 - Qgt** Glacial till – Very poorly sorted, angular to subangular clasts of all sizes; larger clasts are commonly striated; fills U-shaped canyons in the La Sal Mountains, as much as 90 meters (300 ft) thick in lateral moraines; early Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Qmt** Talus and colluvium – Rock-fall blocks, boulders, smaller angular gravel, sand, and silt; deposited on slopes below cliffs and steep slopes; only larger deposits mapped; thickness generally 4.5 meters (15 ft) or less; Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Qms** Slumps and slides – Coherent to broken and jumbled masses of bedrock that have moved downslope due to gravity; most commonly associated with the Jurassic Brushy Basin Member of the Morrison Formation; varied thicknesses; Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Qcb** Bouldery colluvium – Large angular blocks covering slopes in La Sal Mountains; broken by freeze and thaw of hard rock units; may be as thick as 30 meters (100 ft); Holocene to late Pleistocene.
 - Q** Quaternary deposits, undivided (shown on cross sections only) – Mostly basin-fill deposits (Qab); Holocene and Pleistocene.
- Quaternary-Tertiary Deposits**
- QTal** Older alluvial-fan deposits – Sand, silt, granules, pebbles, cobbles, and sparse boulders deposited at the foot of the La Sal Mountains; thickness 60 to 90 meters (200-300 ft); early Pleistocene to Pliocene(?).
- Tertiary Rocks**
- Tg** Geyser Creek, Flaglomerate – Yellow-brown, light-brown, and light-gray conglomerate, sandstone, and siltstone derived from the La Sal Mountains; generally poorly sorted and weakly cemented with calcium carbonate; thickness as much as 305 meters (1,000 ft), but exposures are generally less than 92 meters (300 ft) thick; Pliocene(?).
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trachyte, peralkaline rhyolite, and mesan trachyte; all porphyritic with fine-grained to aphanitic ground mass (Ross, unpublished data, see 13 and 14); intruded at shallow depths; locally laccoliths, plugs, sills, and dikes; includes breccia pipes; emplaced 25 to 28 million years ago (Oligocene).

Cretaceous Rocks

- Kf** Farrer Formation – Interbedded light- to dark-brown, medium-grained, thin- to thick-bedded sandstone and pale-gray, green-gray, and brown mudstone and siltstone; ledge and slope former; lower contact gradational, placed above highest carbonaceous beds in the Nesden Formation; lower part preserved in the quadrangle; 70 to 204 meters (230-670 ft) thick; Campanian.
- Kn** Nesden Formation – Interbedded light- to dark-gray mudstone, carbonaceous shale, and coal and light- to dark-brown sandstone; slope-former with sporadic prominent ledges; coal beds generally less than 0.6 meters (2 ft) thick; lower contact at top of Sego Sandstone cliff; about 43 meters (140 ft) thick; Campanian.
- Ks** Sego Sandstone – Light-gray and yellow-brown sandstone and gray mudstone; sandstone is fine to medium grained, massive, and cliff-forming; mudstone is slope-former; displays hummocky bedding, cross-bedding, convolute bedding, ripple laminations, and bioturbation; contains trace fossils; contact with Buck Tongue of Mancos Shale is gradational, placed at the base of the first thick, medium-bedded sandstone bed; about 40 meters (130 ft) thick; Campanian.
- Kmv** Mesaverde Group (shown on cross sections only) – Includes Ferrer, Nesden, and Sego Formations; does not include lower Mesaverde contact of Castlegate and Blackhawk Formations.
- Kmb** Buck Tongue of Mancos Shale – Medium- to dark-gray marine mudstone to moderately sorted, rounded to angular boulders, cobbles, pebbles, granules, sand, silt, and clay; cover bedrock surfaces between drainages as much as 120 meters (400 ft) above local base level; commonly less than 30 meters (100 ft) thick; mostly late Pleistocene.
- Kc** Castlegate Sandstone – Pale yellow-orange and light-gray, cross-bedded sandstone interbedded with minor mudstone, carbonaceous shale, and siltstone; sandstone is fine grained, thin-bedded to massive, and cliff and bench forming; locally bioturbated, contains trace fossils; lower contact generally placed above highest carbonaceous shale bed in the underlying Blackhawk Formation; 18 to 20 meters (60-100 ft) thick; thinning eastward; Campanian.
- Kb** Blackhawk Formation – Pale yellow-orange to light-brown sandstone interbedded with mudstone, carbonaceous shale, and siltstone; sandstone is very fine grained, generally thick bedded, and cliff forming; lenticular carbonaceous shale and siltstone (1 ft) thick; locally intensely bioturbated, contains trace fossils, leaf imprints, and fish shark teeth; gradational with fine upper (Blue Gate) shale member of the Mancos Shale; contact is placed at the base of the first thick, medium-bedded sandstone; 9 to 40 meters (30-130 ft) thick, thinning eastward; Campanian.
- Km** Upper shale (Blue Gate) member of Mancos Shale – Mostly light- to dark-gray, marine, thinly laminated to thin-bedded, slope-forming shale, mudstone, and siltstone interbedded with subordinate yellow-brown to yellow-gray, mostly very fine- to fine-grained calcareous sandstone that crops out in several thin mappable (Kms) zones of subtle ledges and cliffs; the middle, mostly sandy part of the upper shale member that contains most of the ledges is the Prairie Canyon Member of Cole and others (1997); zone of thin-bedded, fine-grained sandstone at top; lower contact with Ferron Sandstone Member is gradational; about 1,020 meters (3,350 ft) thick; Campanian to Turonian.
- Km** Ferron Sandstone Member of Mancos Shale – Brown-gray to yellow-gray, marine, fine-grained sandstone, sandy mudstone, and carbonaceous shale; fissile to thin bedded; generally forms two sandstone cuestas with a slope of dark-gray to black carbonaceous shale between them; locally fossiliferous; lower contact is a subtle scour surface locally overlain by lenticular lag deposits of pebbly, medium- to coarse-grained sandstone; 15 to 40 meters (50-130 ft) thick; Turonian.
- Km** Tununk Shale Member of Mancos Shale – Light- to dark-gray, marine shale or mudstone; contains fine-grained sandy zones, especially near the top; slope-forming; locally contains concretionary Coon Springs Bed in the upper third of the unit; lower contact with Dakota is abrupt but conformable. The lower contact is an unconformity where the Dakota is missing (Western exposures) and marked by changes from green (Cedar City Fm.) to gray shale; 45 to 120 meters (145-390 ft) thick, generally thicker to west; Turonian to Cenomanian.
- Km** Mancos Shale and other formations, undivided – On cross sections, includes Buck Tongue of Mancos, Castlegate Sandstone, Blackhawk Formation, upper shale (Blue Gate) member, Ferron Sandstone Member, and Tununk Shale Member of Mancos Shale, as well as Dakota Sandstone. On map in the La Sal Valley area, includes lower part of upper shale, Ferron, and Tununk members.
- Kd** Dakota Sandstone – Yellow-gray to brown sandstone, conglomerate, sandstone, and claystone; commonly forms cliffs and ledges; commonly divisible in the east part of the quadrangle into upper and lower Cedar Mountain or Burro Canyon Formations; 0 to 37 meters (0-120 ft) thick, discontinuous in west part of quadrangle, thickens eastward; Cenomanian.
- Kd** Dakota Sandstone and Cedar Mountain Formation, undivided – Mapped in areas where they are too thin or where they are too difficult to separate accurately.
- Kd** Dakota Sandstone and Burro Canyon Formation, undivided – Mapped in areas where they are too thin or where they are too difficult to separate accurately.
- Kc** Cedar Mountain Formation – Drab olive-green to variegated mudstone and brown to gray sandstone, gritstone, conglomerate, and limestone; mudstone is slope former; other rock types form ledges; locally contains petrified wood; lower contact (unconformity) is placed at base of a prominent sandstone or conglomerate ledge or cliff above the

with local discontinuous partings; resistant and smooth weathering, but not as resistant as the Moab Member of the Entrada Sandstone; locally pecked with abundant small spherical holes (with diameters up to 10 centimeters) in outcrop; the lower contact is commonly eroded and contorted above the darker red-brown sandstone of the Dewey Bridge Member of the Carnel Formation; 43 to 152 meters (140-500 ft) thick, thinning eastward; Middle Jurassic.

Earthy and Slick Rock Members of the Entrada Sandstone, undivided – North of Tonnle graben and in scattered areas near the Green River where the two members could not be differentiated in mapping.

Entrada and Carnel Formations, undivided – Mapped in areas where the Carnel and Entrada Formations were not differentiated in mapping.

Dewey Bridge Member of Carnel Formation (member of Entrada Sandstone on previous maps) – Upper half is dark red, muddy, earthy, fine-grained sandstone; lower half is interbedded dark-red, red-brown, light-brown, and yellow-gray, fine- to medium-grained sandstone; upper half commonly has contorted, nodular, or indistinct bedding and locally contains white beds; upper half forms slopes or recesses between the overlying Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone and the lower half is more resistant, is commonly calcareous and cherty, and forms scabs on the anticline; locally contains rounded pebbles to 13-centimeter (5-inch) cobbles, but more exceeding 30 centimeters (1 ft) or more in diameter are common in the eastern part of the quadrangle; mostly quartzite, granite, felsite, gneiss, and schist clasts; matrix is poorly sorted, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, with grains of quartz, lithic fragments, mica, feldspar, and undifferentiated black minerals laminated to indistinct bedding; weathers to smooth irregular slopes or gentle ledges; lower contact is placed above a gray limestone ledge that contains Late Pennsylvanian (Virginites) fossils; 0 to 2,450 meters (0-8,000 ft) thick; missing over some salt-cored anticlines, thickest at the west edge of the Uncompahgre uplift; as much as 1,000 meters (3,300 ft) exposed; 75 meters (245 ft) of gray-white, cross-bedded intertongues with Tidwell siltstones; 40 to 90 meters (130-300 ft) thick; Lower Jurassic.

Glen Canyon Group – Navajo, Kayenta, and Wingate Formations, where exposures cannot be differentiated; combined Navajo, Kayenta, and Wingate Formations also shown on cross sections.

Triassic Rocks

- Tc** Chinle Formation – Red-brown sandstone, siltstone, conglomeratic sandstone, and mudstone; forms steep slope with Moenkopi Formation below; has basal member of quartzite gritstone or sandstone and mottled siltstone and sandstone beneath an unconformity; contains multiple intraformational unconformities adjacent to salt diapirs; lower contact with the J-2 unconformity of Phipps and O'Sullivan (1978), which is slightly angular; 0 to 275 meters (0-900 ft) or more thick, greatest thickness in rim synclines adjacent to

salt-cored anticlines and locally missing on anticlines; only 12 to 20 meters (40-100 ft) over Precambrian rocks on the Uncompahgre uplift to the northeast; Upper Triassic.

- Trn** Moenkopi Formation – Red-orange, chocolate-brown, and medium-brown sandstone, siltstone, and minor siltstone and conglomerate; generally divisible into two to four members, but are undivided on the map; lower contact is the T-1 unconformity of Phipps and O'Sullivan (1978), which is slightly angular and is found at the top of the more red-brown sandstone of the underlying Cutler Formation; total thickness is 0 to 400 meters (0-1,300 ft) or more, thinning regionally eastward and may be missing on the Uncompahgre uplift in the northeast and very thick in rim synclines adjacent to salt-cored anticlines; Middle (?) to Lower Triassic.
- Tr** Triassic formations (shown on cross sections only) – Chinle and Moenkopi Formations, undivided.

Permian Rocks

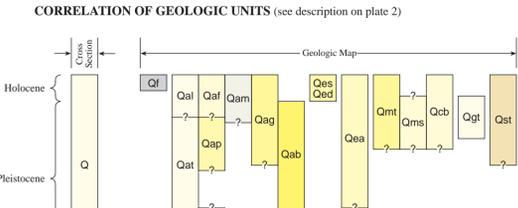
- Pc** Cutler Formation – Interbedded red-brown subarkose, arkosic, and calcareous sandstone and lavender-brown conglomerate; sandstone is fine to coarse grained and gritty in eastern exposures; less to high-angle cross-bedded, thin bedded to massive, and forms smooth and rounded ledges; conglomerate is mostly pebbles to 13-centimeter (5-inch) cobbles, but more exceeding 30 centimeters (1 ft) or more in diameter are common in the eastern part of the quadrangle; mostly quartzite, granite, felsite, gneiss, and schist clasts; matrix is poorly sorted, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, with grains of quartz, lithic fragments, mica, feldspar, and undifferentiated black minerals laminated to indistinct bedding; weathers to smooth irregular slopes or gentle ledges; lower contact is placed above a gray limestone ledge that contains Late Pennsylvanian (Virginites) fossils; 0 to 2,450 meters (0-8,000 ft) thick; missing over some salt-cored anticlines, thickest at the west edge of the Uncompahgre uplift; as much as 1,000 meters (3,300 ft) exposed; 75 meters (245 ft) of gray-white, cross-bedded intertongues with Tidwell siltstones; 40 to 90 meters (130-300 ft) thick; Lower Jurassic.
- P** Permian formations (shown on cross sections only) – Cutler Formation and up to 18 meters (60 ft) of Kaibab Formation and 130 meters (430 ft) of White Rim Sandstone that overlie the Cutler Formation in subsurface in the west part of the quadrangle; both pinch out to the east.

Pennsylvanian Rocks

- P** Honaker Trail Formation and Paradox Formation undifferentiated (mapped only in Salt Valley).
- Ph** Honaker Trail Formation – Interbedded sandstone, siltstone, limestone, and subarkose sandstone; limestone is commonly fossiliferous; the lower contact is not exposed, but the unit is juxtaposed against Paradox Formation caprock on the southwest flank of the Onion Creek salt-cored anticline; 0 to 1,225 meters (0-4,000 ft) or more thick, thickening eastward to the west edge of the Uncompahgre uplift, missing on the Uncompahgre uplift and over some salt-cored anticlines; maximum surface thickness is less than 300 meters (985 ft); Upper Pennsylvanian (Virginites-Missourian).
- Ppc** Paradox Formation caprock – Mostly light-gray, contorted gypsum with interlayered black and gray shale, thin cherty limestone, and sandstone; locally exposed in salt valleys and along salt-dissolution deformed bedrock; caprock is the residue after salt is dissolved from the Paradox Formation; up to 200 meters (650 ft) exposed and may reach a total of 250 meters (1,150 ft) in the subsurface.
- Pp** Paradox Formation (shown on cross sections only) – Interbedded evaporite, clastic, and carbonate rocks; evaporites include finely laminated halite, syvitic, carnallite, and anhydrite and may constitute as much as 85 percent of the formation; clastic and carbonate rocks are granitic and mafic; locally laminated to indistinct bedding; weathers to smooth irregular slopes or gentle ledges; lower contact is placed above a gray limestone ledge that contains Late Pennsylvanian (Virginites) fossils; 0 to 2,450 meters (0-8,000 ft) thick; missing over some salt-cored anticlines, thickest at the west edge of the Uncompahgre uplift; as much as 1,000 meters (3,300 ft) exposed; 75 meters (245 ft) of gray-white, cross-bedded intertongues with Tidwell siltstones; 40 to 90 meters (130-300 ft) thick; Lower Jurassic.
- M** Leadville Formation (shown on cross sections only) – Limestone and dolomite; 145 to 180 meters (480-600 ft) thick; not present on Uncompahgre uplift; Mississippian.
- DC** Devonian Cambrian formations (shown on cross sections only).

Precambrian Rocks

- Yq** Quartz pegmatite – Mostly fine- to coarse-grained quartz with feldspar; Middle Proterozoic.
- Yp** Amphibole gneiss – Composed of amphibole, biotite, feldspar, and quartz; exposed as dikes, sills, or plugs in Lower Proterozoic rocks so age relative to other Middle Proterozoic rocks is uncertain; Middle Proterozoic.
- Xt** Aplite and pegmatite – Aplite – Overall fine-grained, non-foliated granitic rock with varying amounts of quartz, K-feldspar, and plagioclase; locally cut by quartz veins and pegmatite dikes. Pegmatite – Shown near Coates Creek; medium- to coarse-grained, pink to white rock with varying amounts of quartz, K-feldspar, plagioclase, biotite, and muscovite. Both Middle Proterozoic.
- pC** Granite – Coarse-grained, porphyritic, generally non-foliated rock containing subequal amounts of quartz, K-feldspar, and plagioclase, with minor hornblende, biotite, and opaque minerals; mostly granite in composition, but includes some quartz monzonite and granodiorite; contains large pink K-feldspar crystals generally up to 8 centimeters (3 inches) in diameter; forms gray to pink-gray bouldery outcrops cut by pegmatite, aplite, and quartz dikes and veins; Middle Proterozoic.
- Yg** Biotite granodiorite – Gray to pink, fine- to medium-grained; composed of various amounts of plagioclase, K-feldspar, quartz, and biotite; age relative to granite (Yg) uncertain; Middle Proterozoic.
- Xd** Diorite, gabbro, and quartz diorite – Coarse-grained plutonic rock containing abundant plagioclase and hornblende, with lesser amounts of pyroxene, biotite and quartz; forms gray black to brown knobby outcrops; Lower Proterozoic.
- Xg** Granodiorite and quartz diorite gneiss – Quartz-plagioclase, with or without K-feldspar, gneiss with about 10 to 20 percent hornblende plus biotite; medium to coarse grained with weak to strong foliation; larger bodies form black to dark-gray bouldery outcrops; also occurs as smaller unmapped dikes in the biotite gneiss; Lower Proterozoic.
- Xb** Biotite gneiss, gneiss, and schist – Coarse-grained plutonic rock containing biotite, hornblende, garnet, and fine sillimanite; generally fine grained, well foliated, thinly layered, and opened to locally folded; locally migmatitic with medium-grained granitic dikes and segregations, and locally intruded by locally deformed dikes of granodiorite and quartz diorite gneiss; forms dark gray to black bouldery outcrops; Lower Proterozoic.



GEOLOGIC SYMBOLS

- CONTACT** – Includes contacts approximately located or inferred.
- FAULT** – Dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed. Bar and ball on down-thrown block.
- ANTICLINE** – Arrow shows plunge direction.
- SYNCLINE** – Arrow shows plunge direction.
- MONOCLINE** – Arrow shows plunge direction; T24S, R22E.
- STRUCTURAL CONTOUR** – drawn on top of Chinle Fm. (most of map) and on top of Cedar Mtn. Fm. (north area); contour interval 100 meters.
- Strike and dip of strata**
- Drill hole listed in table 1 and projected into cross-section line**
- Fault on cross section with arrow showing sense of relative movement**

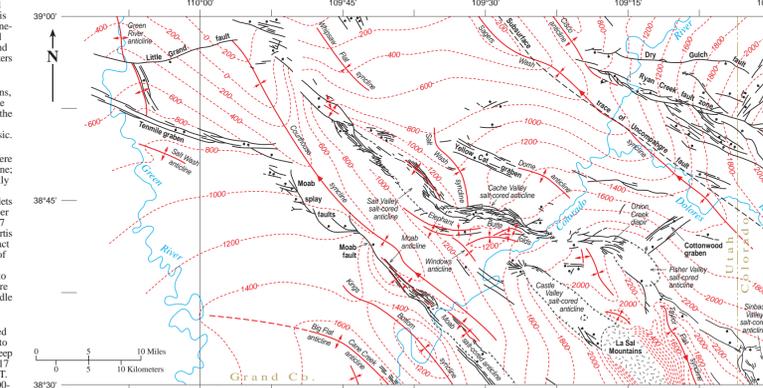


FIGURE 1. Principal structural features of the map area. Form contours (dashed) have a 200-meter interval. Datum is top of Chinle Formation.

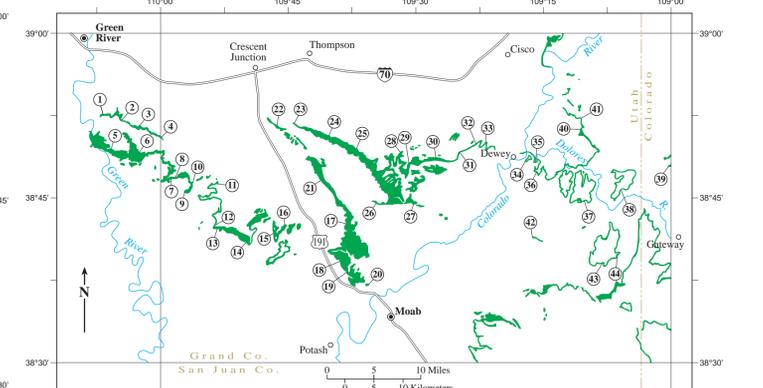


FIGURE 2. Outcrop map of interval between the Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone and the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. Circled numbers refer to columns correlated on figure 3.

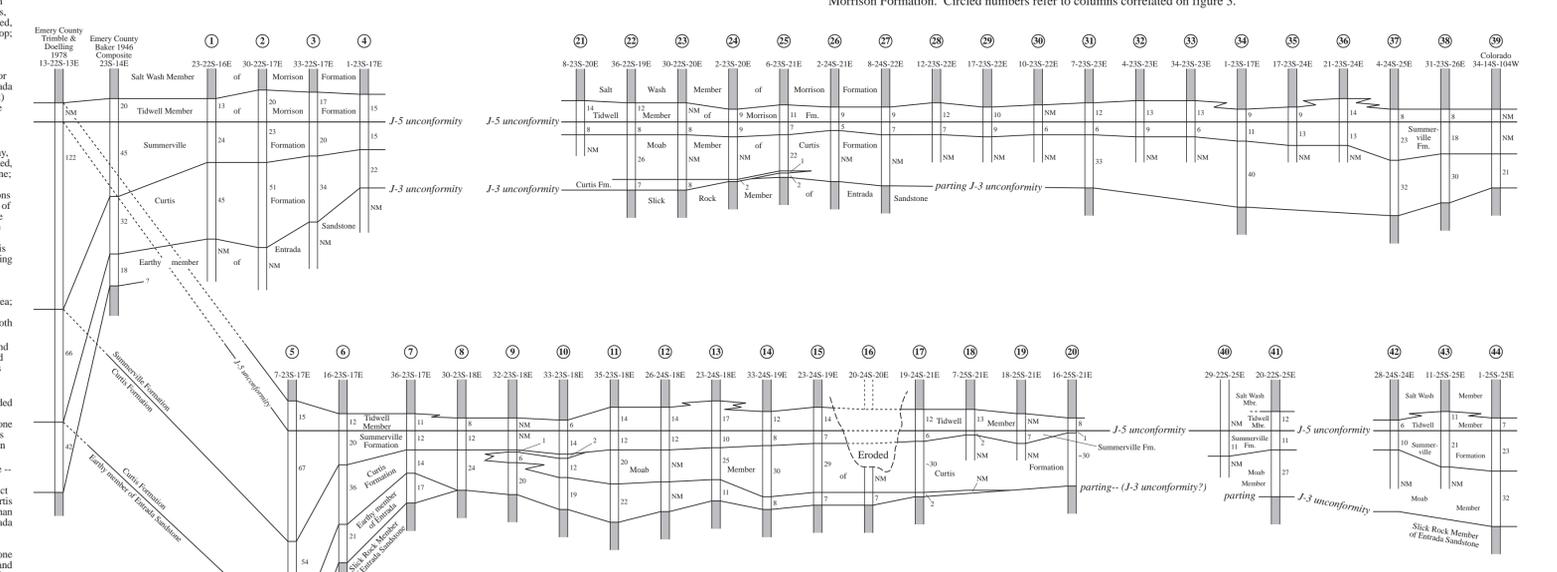


FIGURE 3. Correlation of interval between the Slick Rock Member of the Entrada Sandstone and the Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation across the map area. The approximate location of each measured section or column is shown on figure 2. The section, township, and range are given above each column. Numeric thicknesses are in meters; NM means not measured.

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