

Energy and Mines COLUMBIA

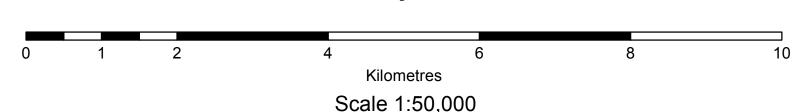




British Columbia Geological Survey Open File 2014-10 Geoscience BC Map 2014-06-05

Basal till potential of the Suscha Creek map area (NTS 093F/01), British Columbia

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Geology and data compilation by D. Sacco. Cartography by H. Arnold.

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

NOTE: Where map units are composed of multiple surficial materials, a compound map unit designator is used, separating more extensive materials from less extensive (e.g., for Tb.Tv, Tb is more extensive than Tv).

ORGANIC DEPOSITS: Largely saturated organic materials, consisting mainly of mosses, sedges, or other hydrophytic vegetation.

Undifferentiated organic deposits: Bogs, fens, and swamps; generally where shallow lakes have been infilled and in depressions along floodplains and abandoned meltwater

COLLUVIAL DEPOSITS: Materials deposited by direct gravity-induced movement; lithologic composition dependent on source material; typically poorly sorted, massive to crudely stratified

Colluvial blanket: Deposits greater than 2 m thick that mask subtle variations in substrate

surface but generally conform to underlying topography; typically on steep slopes. GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS: Poorly sorted to well sorted sand and gravel transported and

Gfv Glaciofluvial veneer: Deposits less than 2 m thick that conform to underlying topography.

deposited directly by glacial meltwater.

supraglacial channels.

GFb Glaciofluvial blanket: Deposits greater than 2 m thick that mask subtle variations in

Eskers: Sinuous ridges of stratified sand and gravel deposited in subglacial, englacial, or

BASAL TILL DEPOSITS: Diamictons eroded, transported and deposited at the base of an active

substrate surface but generally conform to underlying topography.

glacier. They are dense, massive and matrix supported. Matrix is typically composed of silt and clay with lesser amounts of sand. Clasts are often subangular to subrounded and can be faceted and

Tv Till veneer: Deposits less than 2 m thick that conform to underlying topography; predominantly in upland regions with isolated bedrock exposures.

Till blanket: Deposits greater than 2 m thick that mask subtle variations in substrate surface but generally conform to underlying topography; predominantly in areas of low relief.

Streamlined till: Flutings, drumlins, and the sediment (down ice) part of crag-and-tails.

Tu Undulating till: Loose, sandy diamicton commonly representing thinner deposits near the margins of widespread ice stagnation or in depressions where localized ice stagnation occurred. Consist of hillocks and hollows with slopes ≤ 15°.

Hummocky till: Loose sandy diamicton commonly representing thicker deposits and widespread ice stagnation. Consist of hillocks and hollows with slopes ≥ 15°.

BEDROCK: Lithology varies greatly across the map area and includes sedimentary, metamorphic, volcanic, and intrusive rocks of Permian to Quaternary age. Outcrop is generally limited to areas of

Undifferentiated bedrock: High-angle slopes in upland areas or in incised meltwater channels; may be susceptible to rock fall; hummocky, or undulating expressions are the result of glacial or meltwater erosion, or preferential erosion due to structural weaknesses; streamlined bedrock is the result of glacial erosion.

TILL SAMPLES (Labeled with sample number)

FIELD STATIONS O (Sacco et al., 2014)

BCGS OF 2014-15

GBC 2014-06-10

093G12

BCGS OF 2014-14 GBC 2014-06-09

093G05

093B13

093B12

 Matrix geochemistry (Sacco et al., 2014) Matrix geochemistry and mineralogy (Sacco et al., 2014)

Matrix geochemistry (Plouffe et al., 2001)

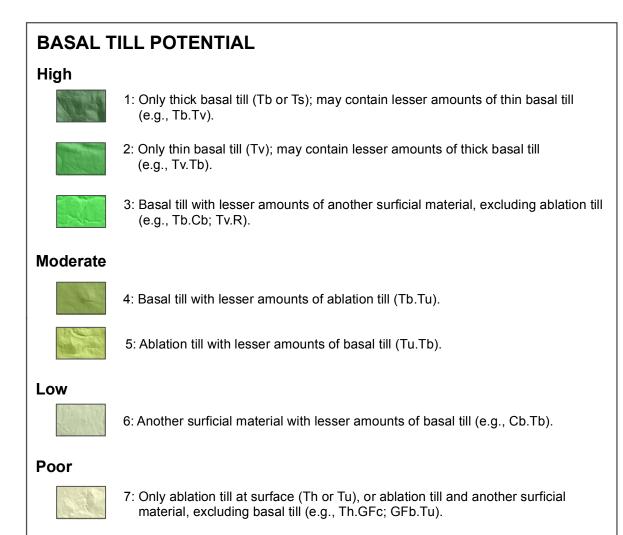
Provincial MINFILE database (Labeled with name and MINFILE number) Showing

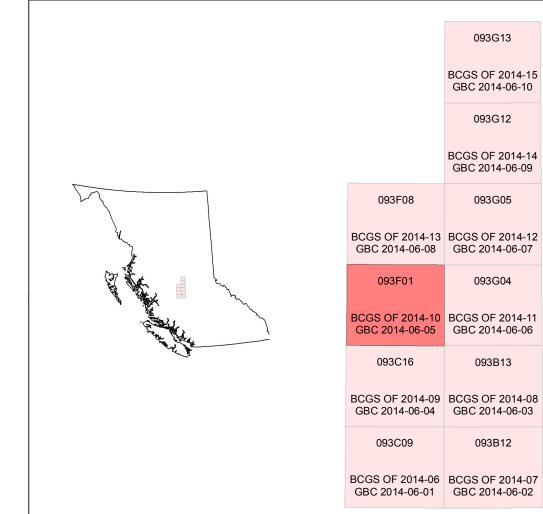
ICE-FLOW INDICATORS (Ferbey et al., 2013)

Bidirectional indicators

Drumlinoid or fluting Crag-and-tail Drumlin Striation or groove

Provincial Parks





Sacco, D., Ferbey, T., and Jackaman, W., 2014. Basal till potential of the Suscha Creek map area (NTS 093F/01), British Columbia. British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines, British Columbia Geological Survey Open File 2014-10, Geoscience BC Map 2014-06-05, scale 1:50 000.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

The Suscha Creek map area (NTS 093F/01) is in flat to gently rolling country of the Interior Plateau physiographic region. Mainly drift covered and with sparse outcrop (Holland, 1976), the area remains underexplored despite being underlain by the Stikine terrane island-arc assemblage, which has high potential for mineralization such as calc-alkalic Cu-Mo±Au and alkaline Cu-Au porphyries (Logan, 2013).

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

ICE-FLOW DIRECTION

down-ice direction (light purple). Note how the head of a dispersal train is offset, in the down-

The surficial geology of the Suscha Creek map area was included in mapping by Plouffe and Levson (2001) and Plouffe et al. (2004), concurrent with a till geochemical survey to assess mineral potential (Plouffe and Williams, 1998; Plouffe et al., 2001). This work was part of a larger project (Struik and MacIntyre, 2001) to better understand the tectonic context of central British Columbia and evaluate drift prospecting in a region with a complex ice-flow history (Levson, 2001a). Current work in the Suscha Creek

Resources for Exploration and Knowledge (TREK) project. Initiated in 2013, this project applies modern geochemical and geophysical methods to build on previous studies (Clifford and Hart, 2014; Sacco et al., The basal till potential map presented here is one of a

map area is part of Geoscience BC's Targeting

series of 10 maps (see inset map) that were completed for the planning and implementation | CROSS SECTIONS phases of the TREK geochemical program. Samples shown on these maps were collected for till matrix geochemical and mineralogical analysis; results will be released in future publications.

Surficial sediment geochemical and mineralogical anomalies can be used to locate buried bedrock mineralization. Sediments with a relatively simple transport and depositional history, such as basal tills, are better suited for mineral exploration. Basal till is ideal for assessing mineral potential because: 1) it is a common sediment in glaciated terrain; 2) it can be considered a first derivative of bedrock (Shilts, 1993) and therefore has a similar geochemical signature to its bedrock source; 3) its transport meet, determined by local ice-flow reconstructions; and 4) it vertical signature that is areally more extensive than the bedrock source (Levson, 2001b) Glacial transport and deposition of basal till produces a dispersal train, elongated down ice from its parent rock (Figure 1).

The purpose of this basal till potential map series is to assist in the design of exploration projects, and to guide surficial sediment geochemistry and mineralogy sampling programs, by samples can likely be collected and areas where sampling will be difficult or require different geochemical sampling protocols. Ice flow indicators compiled by Ferbey et al. (2013) are included in the maps to illustrate the general transport directions of basal till.

This mapping builds on earlier drift exploration potential maps developed by Proudfoot et al. (1995). Map unit definitions are based on conventions outlined by Deblonde et al. (2012). Map unit colours depict the potential occurrence of basal till; map unit labels include surficial materials and their topographic expression.

> Existing surficial geology, terrain, or soils and landform mapping data were reviewed and updated using digital air photo stereo-pairs in DAT/EM Summit Evolution photogrammetry software running in tandem with Esri ArcMap. New mapping emphasized the till facies best suited for geochemical and mineralogical analysis. We focused on distinguishing basal till (Figure 2) from ablation till (Figure 3) which, because of a more complex transport and depositional history, is illsuited for mineral exploration. This differentiation was based largely on interpretations of air photo stereo-pairs supplemented by sparse field data.

Basal till is eroded, transported and deposited at the base of an active glacier. It typically has a subdued surface expression that either follows underlying topography (as a blanket or veneer) or is streamlined in the direction of ice flow. It is a dense, unsorted, massive, matrix-supported diamicton, with a matrix consisting mainly of silt and clay with lesser amounts of sand (Figure 3). Vertical joint and subhorizontal fissility intersections can give basal till a blocky appearance. Clasts are mostly gravel-sized and subangular to subrounded, and are commonly striated. The transport path of basal till is relatively simple and short and can be established by measuring the azimuth of ice-flow indicators, also Figure 1. Model of clastic dispersal in basal till (modified from Miller, 1984). Highest values produced in the subglacial environment. Multiple (dark blue) define the head of a dispersal train at surface, and decrease exponentially in the ice-flow events can, however, create a more complex transport path, highlighting the importance

of ice-flow history reconstructions. Compared to basal till, the transport distance of ablation till is longer and the depositional history more complex. Ablation till consists of material transported within and on top of a glacier. It is deposited by passive melt out processes. Deposition of ablation till adjacent to remnant ice-blocks produces an irregular, undulating to hummocky topography. Ablation till is a less compact diamicton. It contains more gravel and has a sandier matrix (Figure 4). It can be massive to crudely stratified and may contain lenses of sorted sand and gravel. Formed by ice downwasting during deglaciation, ablation tills are typically exposed at the surface and can overlie basal tills.

Each mapped till unit is assigned a basal till potential rating. This is assignment is based on the spatial and genetic association of basal till with other surficial materials and their depositional



Figure 2. Basal till in vertical exposure. Note blocky appearance. Granule and coarser-sized clasts can be seen

environments. It should be noted that appropriate sample material might be found in low potential areas. For example, windows through an ablation till overlying a basal till, may be material, is unlikely to occur at surface in areas designated as 'none'.

North American Datum 1983

Universal Transverse Mercator Zone 10 North

Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) DEM, 3, arcsecond (90 m) resolution

High potential is assigned to units containing mainly basal till. The highest potential category (1) includes till blankets (>2 m thick) and streamlined till with some till veneer (<2 m thick). In these map units, samples can be collected from most exposures. In the second category of high potential (2), basal till veneers are predominant and likely include some bedrock exposures. In these areas, sample collection may be most productive down-ice from bedrock outcrop, where till might be sufficiently thick to avoid post-depositional surface processes such

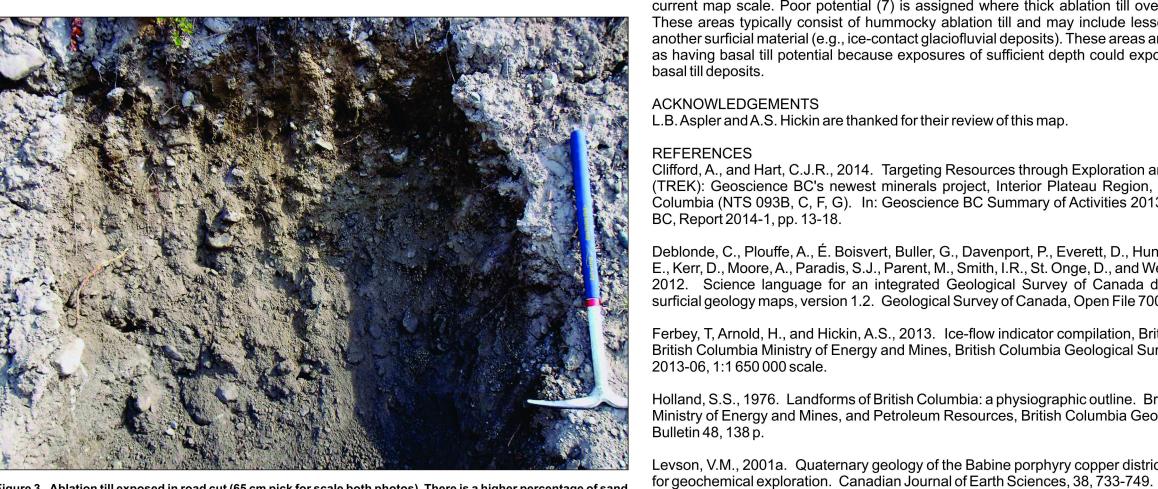


Figure 3. Ablation till exposed in road cut (65 cm pick for scale both photos). There is a higher percentage of sand and gravel, compared to a typical basal till (see Figure 2), and lower density.

as pedogenesis. High potential (3) map units are mostly basal till with lesser amounts of another surface material (excluding ablation till). Knowledge of the surface expression of this media, methods, and anomaly evaluation. In: McClenaghan, M.B., Bobrowsky, P.T., Hall,

Moderate potential is assigned to map units containing varying amounts of basal till and ablation till. These map units typically represent (4) thick basal till deposits in depressions or small valleys where ablation till has been deposited, or (5) near the margins of areally extensive ablation till map units where basal till may be found within a few metres of surface or in areas of higher elevation (i.e., where ablation till thins).

Low potential (6) is assigned to map units that are predominantly another surface material. These areas may include basal till deposits that are too small or discontinuous to resolve at the current map scale. Poor potential (7) is assigned where thick ablation till overlies basal till. These areas typically consist of hummocky ablation till and may include lesser amounts of another surficial material (e.g., ice-contact glaciofluvial deposits). These areas are still mapped as having basal till potential because exposures of sufficient depth could expose underlying

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Surficial material other than till.

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