





# **Surface Geology** Killdeer 100K Sheet, North Dakota

# by Edward C. Murphy 2003

#### **UNIT DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **QUATERNARY SYSTEM**

#### RECENT **OAHE FORMATION**

#### Qal Alluvium

Brownish gray to black sand, silt, clay, and lenses of gravel; floodplain deposits (typically less than 30 feet thick) along recent drainages. Not differentiated where it overlies Qac.

#### RECENT/PLEISTOCENE Qls Landslide Deposits

Variable mixture of strata and deposits that have slid to the base of steep slopes.

#### Qml Abandoned Mine Lands

Surface underlain by voids created by the underground mining of lignite. Collapse of the mine voids often creates sinkholes or depressions at the surface.

#### PLEISTOCENE

**COLEHARBOR GROUP** Qcg Glacial Deposits

### Grayish brown, sandy, silty, bouldery clay with lenses of sand and gravel (glacial till). May occasionally include thick deposits of glacial outwash. Generally preserved as a veneer in the uplands.

#### **Qcgh** Hummocky Glacial Deposits

Glacial deposits which have an irregular surface that contains numerous, small undrained depressions (hummocks). The hummocks are easily identified on aerial photographs.

#### Qac Proglacial Channels

Generally contain 50 to 200 feet of sand and gravel, silt, clay, and till (meltwater-channel fill). Overlain by Recent al luvium (Qal) of variable thickness. This map unit was created to distinguish between these very thick channel deposits and the moderate to thin deposits mapped as Qal. Some modern rivers and creeks, such as Branch Knife River and the eastern segments of Deep Creek and Knife River, flow entirely within the course of these proglacial channels. Others, such as the Knife River (in T. 142N., R94W.) and Deep Creek (in T.142N., R94&93W.), intercept them at right angles, carving more recent channels. Both the Branch Knife River and Deep Creek flow north within proglacial channels that were originally carved by earth flowing water south-flowing water.

#### Qact Proglacial Terrace Deposits

An isolated proglacial channel where the upper surface has remained relatively intact because modem streams cut across it but do not flow lengthwise through the old channel. As a result, the top of these deposits lies 20 to 30 feet above the surrounding Qac deposits. In most of the proglacial channels in the area, the original upper surface is preserved only in isolated terrace deposits (Qat).

#### Qsc Glacial Channels

Generally contain less than 50 feet of channel fill deposits (sand and gravel, silt, and clay) typically much narrower than the proglacial channels. Overlain by Recent alluvium of variable thickness.

#### Qat Terrace Deposits

Five- to 20-foot-thick layers of sand and gravel (consisting primarily of silcrete, chert, flint, agate, petrified wood, silts tone and, along the Green River, quartizite and porphyries) found beneath flat to gently undulating slopes adjacent to many of the major creeks and rivers.

#### Qg Sand and Gravel Deposits

Layers of sand and gravel found in two primary deposits; as glacial outwash draping over pre-existing topography or as sand and gravel derived primarily from Arikaree and Golden Valley strata, capping narrow, sinuous ridges.

#### **Qp** Pediment Deposits

Slopes inclined away from the Killdeer Mountains, capped with layers of gravel consisting primarily of carbonate and chert cobbles and gravel.

#### TERTIARY SYSTEM

#### MIOCENE-OLIGOCENE

Ta ARIKAREE FORMATION Buff-colored tuffaceous sandstone, siltstone, and fresh water carbonate.

#### EOCENE

Tc CHADRON FORMATION Sandy and pebbly mudstone and clayey sandstone.

#### EOCENE-PALEOCENE Tgv GOLDEN VALLEY FORMATION

**Camels Butte Member:** Alternating beds of yellowish brown to brown, micaceous sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, claystone, and lignite.

**Bear Den Member:** Brightly colored, kaolinitic claystone, mudstone, and sandstone typically overlain by a thin silicious bed (silcrete) or lignite.

#### **Tsb** SENTINEL BUTTE FORMATION

Alternating beds of grayish brown to gray sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, claystone, and lignite.

The unit description colors on the map will vary when compared to the colors in the legend. This is due to the shaded relief component of the map and the transparency of the geology layer overlying the shaded relief.

#### **Other Features**

Water

#### **Geologic Symbols**

In ferred (unknown) contact between two geologic units

The North Dakota Geological Survey compiled this map according to conventional cartographic standards, using

what is thought to be the most reliable information

available. The North Dakota Geological Survey does

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interpretations made from the map, or decisions based

thereon. This geologic map was funded in part by the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

----- Known contact between two geologic units ---- Approximate contact between two geologic units

Water - Intermittent

River/Stream Stream - Intermittent

Section Corner

- ----- County Boundary State Highway
- Paved Road
- ---- Unpaved Road

## Scale 1:100,000

Miles

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection Standard parallels 47° 00' and 47° 30' Shaded Relief - Vertical Exaggeration 9X 1927 North American Datum

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