Canyon County

Canyon County is entirely on the Snake River Plain, between the Snake River on the south and the foothills of the central Idaho Mountains on the north. Much of the county is underlain by Quaternary alluvium of the Boise River and Pleistocene gravel from glacial outwash. This gravel forms high benches above the Boise River.

Several normal faults run northwest through the county, parallel with the northern boundary of the western Snake River Plain. Miocene lake beds make up the foothills on the northern boundary of the county.

Quaternary basalt covers the southeastern section of the county. Miocene and Pliocene lake beds of the Glenns Ferry and Chalk Hills formation are found on the bluffs north of the Snake River.

Also see the report by Othberg and Gillerman on the geology of the Boise Valley.

P.K. Link, 10/02

Description of Units for Canyon County, Idaho

Qa Quaternary alluvial deposits
Qg Quaternary gravels; forming terraces above modern stream levels, mainly mapped on western Snake River Plain. Unit generally represents detrital glacio-fluvial systems.
Qs Quaternary surficial cover, including colluvium, fluvial, alluvial fan, lake, and windblown deposits. Included fluvеoline cover on Snake River Plain, (Snake River Group).
Qb Pleistocene basalt lava, 2 million to 12,000 years old, flows have some vegetation and surface weathering.
Tps Pliocene and Upper Miocene stream and lake deposits (Salt Lake Formation, Starlight Formation, Idaho Group).

Symbols

Geologic unit contacts with unit designation.

Normal fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.

Thrust fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.

Detachment fault: certain; dashed where approximately located; dotted where concealed.

Anticline: trace of axial plane: large arrow indicates direction of plunge.

Syncline: trace of axial plane: large arrow indicates direction of plunge.

Overturned anticline: trace of axial plane.

Overturned syncline: trace of axial plane.

Location of ISU Rockwalk rock from each county.

Cities

Feature location

Roads

Interstate Route

95 U.S. Route

1 State route