Gooding County

Gooding County is entirely on the Snake River Plain, north of the Snake River. Thus all the rocks are Miocene and younger, with Quaternary basalt covering most of the county.

In the north the Gooding City of Rocks, carved from Miocene rhyolite ignimbrites of the Twin Falls Volcanic Field, forms the south flank of the Mount Bennett Hills. A series of east-west normal faults cuts the Mount Bennett Hills, reflecting the rift-valley structure of the western Snake River Plain.

On the south, in the Snake River Canyon, are exposures of Miocene and Pliocene Glens Ferry Formation below the Quaternary basalt flows. Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, itself located on the west side of the Snake River in Twin Falls County, has its headquarters in Hagerman.

Malad Gorge, a narrow canyon cut by the Wood River in the last few hundred thousand years, is a unique feature of southern Gooding County.

P.K. Link, 9/02

Description of Units for Gooding 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.

Qrb
Recent basalt lava, less than 12,000 years old, lava flows are fresh, poorly vegetated, and show original flow geometry.

Qb
Pleistocene basalt lava, 2 million to 12,000 years old, flows have some vegetation and surface weathering.

QTg
Pleistocene and Pliocene gravels on western Snake River Plain (gradational with Qg unit; includes Tuana and Tenmile Gravels).

Tpf
Pliocene and Upper Miocene felsic volcanic rocks, rhyolite flows, tuffs, ignimbrites. (In Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills, this should be Tmf).

Tpb
Pliocene and Upper Miocene basalt (includes parts of Starlight Formation and Salt Lake Formation) (in Owyhee County and Mt. Bennett Hills, this should be Tmb).

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

U.S. Route

State route