

quadrangle, Tc generally rests disconformably on Tdt and locally Tsc locally contains thin poorly exposed monolithologic 2002 fills paleochannels cut into Tdt and Tb; rests in angular megabreccia of basaltic andesite and dacite (which probably unconformity on Thr in the south-central part of the quadrangle; represent rock avalanche deposits and massive debris flows) accumulated in a west-tilted half graben in the west-central part and thin andesite and basaltic andesite lavas. Thickness is as of the guadrangle. To may locally include thin deposits of Tct. much as 80 m. 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 feet FEET METERS Tcbb. and Tcbt. Thickness in the west-tilted half graben exceeds - 4000 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS Base map: U.S. Geological Survey Nelson SW 7.5' Quadrangle, Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) 1984 Bend in Section

Alluvial-fan deposits are mapped as allostratigraphic units differentiated on the basis of surface morphology, degree of pedogenic soil development, and inset topographic relations. These deposits are dominantly coarse-grained alluvium forming broad fanpiedmont complexes derived from the surrounding bedrock terrain of the Eldorado Mountains and the Highland and McCullough Ranges. Thickness is as much as 15 m. Clast lithologies are dominantly volcanic in the western part of Eldorado Valley and in the northern part of Piute Valley. Clasts of granite become dominant to the east in the eastern part of Eldorado Valley, where the alluvium is partially derived from the 16.6 Ma Searchlight pluton in the Eldorado Mountains. Alluvial-fan deposits composed predominantly of granitic clasts are shown by the stippled overprint pattern. Clasts of gneiss become more abundant to the

Alluvium of active and recently active washes Qa Pebble-cobble gravel to gravelly sand filling axial washes draining into Eldorado and Piute Valleys. Commonly characterized by anastomosing, fresh to slightly subdued, barand-swale microtopography; poorly consolidated; generally poorly sorted, except in areas with granitic provenance where decomposed granite (grus) is moderately well sorted; poorly to locally moderately stratified. Deposits include modern channel alluvium as well as adjacent areas of recently active (late moderately welded, rhyolitic ash-flow tuff; contains 15-35% Holocene) alluvium that may be subject to intermittent flooding subhedral to anhedral phenocrysts of sanidine and significantly

south in Piute Valley, where alluvium is partly derived from Early

Proterozoic gneiss of the southern McCullough Range.

Alluvial-fan deposits of Eldorado and Piute Valleys

Young alluvial-fan deposits Fan-piedmont and 10-25%, biotite 1% to 3%, augite <1% to 2%, and plagicalse interfluvial wash terrace remnants; pebble-cobble to <1% to 3%; ~1% titanomagnetite is ubiquitous; sphene is very boulder gravel; small pebble sand where dominated by grus. rare (e.g., one grain per 10 thin sections); by volume, sanidine Deposits are commonly thin (<2 m) veneers overlying older consistently makes up >62% of the total assemblage of alluvial-fan units; in the eastern part of Eldorado Valley, unit phenocrysts; sanidine phenocrysts range up to 5 mm in length, consists of broad anastomosing fan-piedmont remnants that may whereas the maximum size of other phenocrysts is typically 2 contain numerous small areas of undifferentiated, near-surface mm; lower poorly welded part generally has fewer phenocrysts Qf₃ deposits. Surfaces are inset slightly below (1-2 m) Qf₃ (~15%) than moderately welded zone (25-35%); lithic fragments deposits and are characterized by subdued bar-and-swale of basaltic andesite are common; thickness of white to pinkishmicrotopography, and incipient to moderately developed desert white basal nonwelded zone increases from 1 to 10 m to the pavement and rock varnish, except where granitic clasts north; basal nonwelded zone is thickest in the southeast 1/4 of predominate. Soils contain a 3-5 cm weak to moderately section 19 T27S R63E; locally includes a thin (<1m thick) leveloped Av, 15-30 cm weak to moderately reddened Bw, and vitrophyre above the basal nonwelded zone. In contrast to the 30 cm stage I Bk horizons. Geomorphic character and weak tuff of Bridge Spring, Tdt essentially lacks sphene, contains more degree of soil development indicate that the unit is early to mid-Holocene in age based on correlation with similar deposits in the biotite phenocrysts, locally contains coarser-grained sanidine Las Vegas Valley area (Bell and others, 1998).

Late Pleistocene alluvial-fan deposits Fan-piedmont topographic lows, including the west-tilted half graben in the boulder gravel. Deposits are poorly sorted; generally matrix syncline in the northwestern part of the quadrangle; also locally supported; poorly to moderately stratified. Clasts are subangular filled small paleochannels cut into Tb. Sanidine from two to subrounded and range up to 35 cm in length. Surfaces are samples in the quadrangle yielded 40Ar/39Ar dates of 15.00±0.04 inset several meters below older Qf₁ and Qf₂ deposits, and are $\,$ and 15.01±0.03 Ma. The age, composition, and stratigraphic flat with no remaining bar-and-swale microtopography; well-position strongly suggest a correlation with the 14.97±0.02 Ma developed desert payement and dark rock varnish. Soils are tuff of Mount Davis to the east in the Lake Mohave area (Faulds, very distinctive: 5-8 cm platy Av. 40-60 cm strongly reddened 1995; Faulds and others, 1995); reverse polarity. Thickness is as (7.5 YR) and prismatic argillic Bt, and 100 cm cemented stage III much as 70-100 m in west-central part of the quadrangle. Bk horizons. The unit is ubiquitous throughout most of Eldorado and Piute Valleys where it lies at generally shallow depths beneath the younger alluvium; the distinctive red Bt soil horizon

The Miocene) Pale-brown to reddish-brown or light-gray commonly crops out in shallow cuts and along road exposures. monolithologic megabreccia, pebble to bouldery conglomerate, In the southern and eastern parts of Eldorado Valley, numerous and minor volcaniclastic sandstone and nonwelded tuff; poorly to deposits forming a complex, anastomosing pediment system on typically with calcite cement. Megabreccia is primarily composed weathered volcanic bedrock. Based on the degree of soil of basaltic andesite but includes isolated lenses of Proterozoic dated in the Spring Mountains area at about 129 ka (Sowers, and Lombard, 1989); probable rock avalanche origin; gneiss in

remnants in the western part of Eldorado Valley and in the quadrangle. Sandstone and matrix of conglomerate consist Piute Valley; mainly cobble to boulder gravel composed of subangular, coarse-grained sand; conglomerate is generally predominantly of volcanic clasts and scattered granitic clasts. matrix supported and poorly sorted with subangular clasts; Deposits are poorly sorted: poorly to moderately stratified. commonly includes matrix supported boulder-size blocks of Surfaces are inset 10 m or more below older Qf₁ remnants: they basaltic andesite (derived from Thb), which probably originated are well dissected but contain relatively well preserved flat as debris flows. Tbc pinches out to north as lower nonwelded interfluvial surfaces containing local patches of well developed part of Tdt thickens, bracketed between 15.2 and 15.0 Ma. desert pavement and dark rock varnish. Soils are characterized Thickness is as much as 80 m. by a thick (>2 m) strongly cemented stage III to IV Bqkm horizons directly underlying remnant surfaces; Bt horizons have been stripped. Calcrete horizons form resistant platforms

Tuff of Bridge Spring (middle Miocene, 15.2 Ma)

Purplish-gray to light-gray, weathering pale-brown, beneath the remnant surfaces and are commonly visible on moderately to densely welded rhyolitic ash-flow tuff; contains 5aerial photographs, forming light-toned alluvial surfaces due to 15% anhedral to subhedral phenocrysts of sanidine and the presence of abundant white to light-gray calcrete fragments. significantly lesser amounts of biotite, augite, plagioclase (mainly Based on the degree of development of calcrete horizons, the oligoclase), and sphene (in typical order of decreasing

dissected fan-piedmont remnants disconformably ubiquitous; by volume, sanidine consistently makes up >80% of overlying youngest Tertiary rocks exposed in the quadrangle. No the total assemblage of phenocrysts; sanidine phenocrysts original fan surfaces preserved; remnants consist of rounded, range up to 3.5 mm in length, whereas the maximum size of linear digitate surfaces (ballenas) occurring topographically other phenocrysts is typically less than 1 mm; lithic fragments of above the younger alluvial fan surfaces by a few to tens of basaltic andesite are common: generally includes 0.5- to 4-m meters. Composed predominantly of sandy cobble-boulder thick vitrophyre at or near (within 2 m) base of densely welded gravel; includes both clast- and matrix-supported beds; section below which lies 1 to 6 m of basal, nonwelded tuff. In dominantly volcanic lithologies with a few scattered gneissic and contrast to the tuff of Mount Davis (Tdt), Tb has a lighter color, granitic clasts; subangular clasts dominate and range up to 2 m ubiquitous sphene, generally fewer phenocrysts, generally finerin length; poorly to moderately stratified, moderate to strong grained sanidine, and slightly less abundant biotite and silica- and carbonate-cementation of the matrix results in locally plagioclase. Sanidine from three samples in the quadrangle strong induration of the deposit, where in many outcrops it may yielded 40A r/39Ar dates of 15.21±0.04, 15.22±0.04, and be characterized as a fanglomerate. Ballena surfaces typically 15.26±0.04 Ma. The age, composition, and stratigraphic position contain stage IV laminar calcrete soils; the calcrete is 1-3 m thick strongly suggest a correlation with the tuff of Bridge Spring with laminar horizonation conforming to the slope of ballena (Anderson, 1971; Darvall, 1991) in the northern Eldorado surfaces indicating that the calcrete developed in the deposits Mountains; found throughout most of the map area, where subsequent to deep dissection of the original alluvial-fan appropriate part of the section is exposed; possibly erupted from surfaces. Occurrence of laminar calcrete fragments on ballena a caldera in the northern Eldorado Mountains (Gans and others, hillslopes produces white to light-gray outcrops visible on aerial 1994); reverse polarity; thickness is as much as 125 to 200 m in photography. In the Yucca Mountain region, similar ballena — the west-central part of the quadrangle deposits contain Bishop or Glass Mountain G volcanic ash, indicating that the deposits may be in the range of 0.7-1.1 Ma in age (Peterson and others, 1995). In the Spring Mountains area.

Bouldery lag deposit Lag deposit of undetermined Bridge Spring; boulders commonly exceed 1 m in length; found lithologies. Megabreccia of Proterozoic gneiss dominates in the only on ridge top in the southernmost part of the quadrangle. south-central part of the quadrangle on the east flank of the

Middle to late Miocene volcanic and sedimentary rocks

origin (e.g., Tlu), two regionally extensive ash-flow tuffs (15.2 Ma during the major episode of Tertiary extension. tuff of Bridge Spring [Tb] and 15.0 Ma tuff of Mount Davis [Tdt]) with a thin interval of megabreccia and conglomerate commonly between the tuffs (Tbc), and a capping sequence of conglomerate, sandstone, and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks (Tc and Tct). The middle to upper parts of this section (above Tb) are temporally correlative with the Mount Davis Volcanics to the east and northeast of the Nelson SW Quadrangle. The Mount Davis Volcanics of Anderson (1971) primarily consist of synextensional basalt and basaltic andesite lavas but also include sequences of conglomerate and monolithologi megabreccia, as well as the 15.0 Ma tuff of Mount Davis (Faulds 1995, 1996). The most complete sections crop out near the western margin of the Mount Davis Quadrangle (Faulds, 1995) and in the northern Eldorado Mountains northeast of Nelson. Nevada (Anderson, 1971, 1977). The Mount Davis Volcanics were deposited during Tertiary extension, as evidenced by welldeveloped growth-fault relations (i.e., tilt fanning) within the Mafic lavas temporally correlative with the Mount Davis

Volcanics, which are prevalent in the Eldorado and Black Mountains to the northeast and east, are not exposed within the Nelson SW Quadrangle. Such lavas do crop out, however, to the north of the quadrangle on the east flank of the northern Highland Range. A basalt flow from that area has yielded an 40Ar/39Ar whole-rock age of 12.79±0.22 Ma (Faulds and others, 2002). Tilts within the middle to late Miocene section range from ~35-40° in the tuff of Bridge Spring (Tb) to ~15° in capping basalt flows directly north of the quadrangle. This tilt fanning suggests that the middle to late Miocene section within the Nelson SW Tuffaceous sedimentary rocks (late Miocene)

Medium-grained, weakly indurated, noncalcareous tuffaceous sandstone and subordinate reworked nonwelded tuff and pebble conglomerate; confined to the northwestern part of the quadrangle, where it caps Tc; conglomerate is matrix supported and moderately sorted; sand grains are subrounded and consist of feldspar, clinopyroxene, and lithic fragments; more tuffaceous layers include pumice fragments; pebbles are subangular and consist of rhyolite (Thr), welded tuff (Tb and Tdt), and lesser basaltic andesite (Thb). Thickness is as much

Conglomerate and sandstone of the Highland

Range (middle to late Miocene) Pale brown to

gravish-brown, pebble-cobble conglomerate and lesser medium

to coarse-grained sandstone. Conglomerate is matrix and clast supported, moderately well stratified, and poorly to moderately sorted with subangular to locally subrounded clasts; clasts of Thr dominate in south-central part of the guadrangle, whereas clasts of Thb and Tha prevail in the northwest; clasts of Proterozoic gneiss are relatively sparse (<5%) in the central part of the quadrangle but increase in size and abundance toward the west. uggesting a source in the crystalline terrane of the southern volcaniclastic, matrix- to locally clast-supported, poorly to locally McCullough Range. Average clast size is less than 3 cm but moderately sorted pebble-cobble conglomerate and sandstone ranges to 35 cm; locally derived boulders of volcanic rock to 1.5 clasts are subangular and generally consist of rhyolite, dacite, m occur near bedrock exposures: 2 m long boulders of and basaltic andesite in varying proportions, but commonly Proterozoic gneiss occur near the western margin of the includes minor amounts of Proterozoic gneiss; volcanic clasts quadrangle more than 10 km from probable source areas in the range up to 20 cm in length, Proterozoic clasts to 30 cm; matrix southern McCullough Range; weakly to moderately indurated; of conglomerate and sandstone is medium to coarse grained silica cement dominates; minor calcite cement found locally; and consists of subangular to subrounded grains of lithic conglomerate supported by a coarse-grained sandy matrix with fragments, feldspar, quartz, and biotite; weakly to moderately subangular to lesser subrounded grains; sand grains largely indurated; noncalcareous to weakly calcareous; locally includes composed of lithic fragments and feldspar; bedding thickness beds of fine-grained sandstone or siltstone. Tsc locally consists typically ranges from 2.5 to 25 cm, but 1.5-m-thick beds were of cross-bedded white tuffaceous surge deposits, nonwelded cally observed; thicker beds are generally matrix supported ash-flow and air-fall tuffs to 2 m thick, reworked tuff, tuffaceous and probably represent debris flows. Sandstone is pale-brown to fine- to medium-grained sandstone, and tuffaceous matrixlight-gray, medium- to coarse-grained, and weakly to moderately supported conglomerate; nonwelded tuff contains 2-4% indurated with silica cement; contains sparse subangular phenocrysts of sanidine and lesser quartz, biotite, augite, and volcanic pebbles; grains are subrounded to subangular and plagioclase, as well as lithic fragments of basaltic andesite (Thb) composed primarily of lithic fragments, lesser feldspar, and and abundant pumice fragments; tuffaceous sandstone and minor quartz and mafic minerals. To locally includes 2- to 3-cm- matrix of tuffaceous conglomerate consist of glass shards and thick beds of very fine-grained sandstone and nonwelded, subrounded to subangular grains of feldspar, volcanic lithic generally reworked tuff to 4 m thick. In the western part of the fragments, and biotite. In the west-central part of the quadrangle,

lonwelded tuff breccia (middle Miocene) solated deposit of brecciated, white nonwelded tuff intercalated in Tobb; found only in the northwest corner of section 31 T27S R63E; interpreted as a rock avalanche deposit primarily because of its association with Tcbb; quartz, and accessory plagioclase and clinopyroxene.

Basaltic andesite breccia (middle Miocene) Lens-shaped bodies of massive monolithologic breccia of basaltic andesite intercalated in Tc; contains ~5% phenocrysts of plagioclase, aegirine-augite and augite, and apatite: generally poorly exposed except in steep cutbanks of washes: probably originated as rock avalanche deposits (cf., Yarnold and Lombard, 1989) derived from the higher terrain of the central Highland Range directly west of the quadrangle; y represent seismically induced ancient landslide: confined to the west-central part of the quadrangle; generally intercalated within conglomerate and sandstone in the lower part of Tc; one large body rests directly on Tdt at the base of Thickness of individual sheets is as much as 60 m; cumulative thickness is as much as 100 m

Tuff of Mount Davis (middle Miocene, 15.0 Ma) Pale-

reddish-brown, weathering dark-brown, generally

lesser amounts of plagioclase (mainly oligoclase), biotite, and augite; of the total rock volume, sanidine phenocrysts constitute and is darker colored. Tdt thickens northwestward in the quadrangle and appears to have accumulated in structuralremnants composed predominantly of pebble-cobble to hanging wall of the Highland fault and northeast-trending

dissected remnants occur within and beneath younger Qf4 moderately well stratified; poorly to moderately indurated development, this deposit is likely similar in age to deposits gneiss; mainly crackle and jigsaw breccia facies (cf., Yarnold megabreccia resembles Proterozoic bedrock in the southern McCullough Range rather than that in the northern Newberry Mid-Pleistocene alluvial-fan deposits Fan-piedmont Mountains (Ruppert and Faulds, 1998) or southeastern part of

Volcanic megabreccia and conglomerate (middle

unit is on the order of a few hundred thousands of years in age. abundance); of the total rock volume, sanidine phenocrysts typically constitute 5-15%, biotite <1% to 3%, augite 0-1%, and Early Pleistocene alluvial-fan deposits Deeply plagioclase <1 to 2% traces of sphene and titanomagnetite are

Megabreccia deposits (middle Miocene) The

section directly beneath the tuff of Bridge Spring and Sowers (1985) estimated similar deposits to be >730 ka based above the basaltic andesite lavas of Thb is largely composed of monolithologic megabreccia deposits. Breccia lithologies include basaltic andesite (Tlb), dacite-rhyodacite (Tld), and Proterozoic gneiss (Tlx). Individual megabreccia sheets are monolithologic 🔽 Quaternary age consisting of boulders of the tuff of 🔝 but a single section of TI may contain multiple sheets of different southern Highland Range, whereas megabreccia of volcanic rock prevails in the southern and western parts of the quadrangle. The megabreccia generally consists of crackle and iigsaw breccia facies (cf., Yarnold and Lombard, 1989). These The middle to late Miocene stratigraphy of the Nelson SW deposits probably originated as rock avalanches (essentially Quadrangle consists, in ascending order, of sandstone and landslides) induced perhaps by ground shaking associated with conglomerate (Tsc), megabreccia of probable rock avalanche earthquakes. Their 15.7 to 15.2 Ma age indicates deposition

> Megabreccia undifferentiated (middle Miocene) Undifferentiated lens of breccia containing several monolithologic sheets; breccia lithologies include basaltic andesite, dacite-rhyodacite, and Proterozoic gneiss; includes both crackle and jigsaw breccia facies; dacite clasts contain ~25% phenocrysts of plagioclase (17% of rock), oxyhornblende (5%), and biotite (3%); found only in the west-central part of the quadrangle. Thickness is as much as 115 m.

> Gneiss megabreccia (middle Miocene) Sheets of pale-reddish-brown to light-gray monolithologic breccia of orthogneiss that resembles Early Proterozoic gneiss exposed in the southeastern part of the quadrangle; generally poorly exposed; best exposures occur in cutbanks of washes (e.g., on north side of wash in west-central part of section 3 T28S R63E); a common lithology in Tlx consists of 60-65% quartz, 25-30% potassium feldspar, 10% hornblende (altered to chlorite), and traces of garnet and zircon; includes both crackle and jigsaw breccia facies; also includes blocks and thin megabreccia sheets of rhyolite, andesite, and porphyritic dacite; bracketed between 15.7 and 15.2 Ma. nickness is as much as 125 m

> Basaltic andesite megabreccia (middle Miocene) Sheets of light-grayish-brown to reddish-brown monolithologic volcanic breccia composed primarily o basaltic andesite (Thb), but rhyolite (Thr) and dacite (Thld) ocally dominate the lower part of the section; includes crackle and jigsaw breccia facies with negligible matrix; also ncludes matrix-supported breccia: matrix consists primarily of subangular sand-size grains of volcanic rock, feldspar, and biotite. Most of Tlb originated as rock avalanches, but matrixsupported deposits probably represent debris flows; bracket ed between 15.7 and 15.2 Ma; thickness ranges up to ~95 m.

> Dacite megabreccia (middle Miocene) Pale-reddish- or pinkish-gray dacite or rhyodacite monolithologic breccia and lesser pale brown, matrix and clast-supported pebble to cobble dacite conglomerate; dacite clasts contain 15-20% phenocrysts of plagioclase (andesine; 12-15% or rock), biotite (3-4%), oxyhornblende (1-2%), and races of zircon; possibly derived from ThId or ThIr; breccia probably originated as rock avalanche deposits. The dacite conglomerate is found only in section 16 T28S R63E; it is weakly indurated with calcite cement and has 2- to 15-cm thick beds, subangular clasts to 35 cm composed almost entirely of dacite with sparse andesite and basaltic andesite, and a coarse-grained sandy matrix. Tld is bracketed between 15.7 and 15.2 Ma. Thickness may locally approach 100 m.

Tsc Sandstone and conglomerate (middle Miocene)
Mainly pale-brown to purplish-brown or light-gray

Volcanics of the Highland Range (early to middle ■ Miocene) The volcanics of the Highland Range (Th) consist of a thick lower sequence of intermediate composition lavas (e.g., trachydacite and trachyandesite lavas of Thld and Thla, respectively), a middle interval of rhyolite lavas (Thr) contains ~15% phenocrysts of sanidine, lesser biotite and intercalated with nonwelded tuffs and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks (Tht), and an upper northward thickening sequence of basaltic andesite lavas (Thb). Thin sequences of rhyodacite (Thrd) and andesite (Tha) lavas locally occur between the middle siliceous interval and upper sequence of mafic lavas. Within the quadrangle, Th is bracketed between ~18.5 and 15.7 Ma. The overall thickness of the volcanics of the Highland Range locally exceeds 2.800 m.

> Upper mafic sequence, volcanics of the Highland Range (middle Miocene) The upper unit of basaltic andesite lavas (Thb) is relatively thin (<200 m) in the south but thickens appreciably northwestward, exceeding 1,200 m in thickness near the northwest margin of the guadrangle. Although a few basaltic andesite dikes crop out within the guadrangle, most of the basaltic andesite lavas were probably derived from a large volcanic center just to the northwest in the central Highland Range, as evidenced by an apparent preponderance of basaltic andesite intrusions in that area (Faulds, 1999, p. 31; Feuerbach and others, 1999). The thin sequences of rhyodacite and andesite lavas (Thrd and Tha) at the base of the mafic sequence are confined to the west-central part of the quadrangle. The rhyodacite lavas may have been derived from a rhyodacite plug (Trdi) in the northwest part of section 5 T28S

Thb Basaltic andesite lavas (middle Miocene) Light-to dark-gray basaltic trachyandesite and trachyandesite lavas, flow breccias, and agglomerate containing 15-35% phenocrysts of plagioclase (9-20% of rock; mainly andesine but includes some labradorite) to 3 mm, augite (7-17%) to 3 mm, 0-3% iddingsitized oliving, 0-1% hypersthene. 0-1% apatite, and accessory titanomagnetite; plagioclase usually constitutes ~2/3 of the phenocrysts, but some flows contain subequal amounts of plagioclase and augite; a few flows also contain traces of quartz, which may be xenocrystic includes a conspicuous layer of scoria in the NW1/4 of section 17 and SW¹/₄ of section 8. T28S R63E: lower part locally includes as much as 30 m of more andesitic or dacitic lavas that contain 20-25% phenocrysts mainly of plagioclase (andesine to 4.5 mm in length) and augite (to 2 mm) with lesser quartz (to 3 mm) and sparse biotite, hypersthene, ±sanidine (to 3 mm), and ±sphene; bracketed between 15.98±0.05 Ma and 15.66±0.08 Ma by 40Ar/39Ar whole-rock ages on lower and upper flows respectively in the westcentral part of the quadrangle, whereas the upper part of Thb directly northwest of the quadrangle has yielded 40Ar/39Ar whole-rock ages ranging from 16.5±0.06 to 16.03±0.07 Ma (Faulds and others, 2002); temporally correlative and lithologically similar to the lower part of the Patsy Mine Volcanics of Anderson (1971, 1977) and Fire Mountain volcanics of Faulds (1996). Thickness ranges from 35 m in the southern part of the quadrangle to greater than 1,200 m in the northwestern part.

Tha Andesite lavas (middle Miocene) Medium- to light-gray and reddish-gray porphyritic andesite lavas; contain phenocryst assemblages of either plagioclase (andesine), oxyhornblende, aegirine-augite, and biotite (central part of section 6 T28S R63E) or plagioclase (andesine), augite, subordinate quartz, and sparse biotite and sphene (eastern part of section 6 T28S R63E); confined to the west-central part of the quadrangle. Age is bracketed between ~16.0 Ma and 15.2 Ma. Thickness is as much as 55 m.

Rhyodacite-rhyolite lavas (middle Miocene)
Purplish-gray to medium-gray porphyritic trachyrhyodacite and rhyolite lavas. Thrd contains 30-35% phenocrysts mainly of plagioclase (probably oligoclase); subordinate sanidine, aegirine-augite or augite, quartz, minor biotite, and sparse sphene and apatite; greatly resembles the Frdi plug exposed in the northwest part of section 5 T28S R63E; largely confined to sections 29, 30, 31, and 32 T27S R63 but isolated unmapped flows of Thrd are found elsewhere within Thb. Age is bracketed between ~16.0 Ma and 15.2 Ma. Thickness is as much as 65 m.

Middle felsic sequence, volcanics of the Highland Range (middle Miocene) The intercalated rhyolite lavas and tuffaceous rocks (Thr and Tht) are thickest in the southwestern part of the guadrangle and appear to pinch out to the northwest and west. They are virtually absent from the central Highland Range directly west and northwest of the quadrangle. Although no rhyolite domes were identified, the thickness (>900 m) of the rhyolite lavas and tuffaceous rocks suggests a nearby source, perhaps a rhyolite dome complex now buried beneath the dikes and plugs (Tri) mapped in the southernmost part of the quadrangle may have been the source for some of the rhyolite Welded ash-flow tuff (middle Miocene, ~16 Ma)

Pale-brownish-gray, lithic-rich, poorly to moderately welded ash-flow tuff; contains 10-15% subhedral phenocrysts of sanidine (to 3 mm long), quartz (to 2 mm), plagioclase, and sparse biotite. Of the total rock volume, sanidine phenocrysts generally constitute ~5-8%, quartz 2-4%, plagioclase 1-2%, and biotite <1%. Lithic fragments of basaltic andesite and andesite are common and contain phenocrysts of clinopyroxene and/or hornblende. Thta was mapped only in section 6 T28S R63E directly beneath Thb, but it may be nore extensive, locally comprising perhaps a nonwelded ashflow tuff in the upper part of Tht elsewhere in the quadrangle Probably about 16 Ma on the basis of the 15.98 Ma age of the base of Thb. Thickness is as much as ~60 m. Tuffaceous sedimentary rocks and non-welded tuffs (middle Miocene) White to pale-yellowish-

brown air-fall and nonwelded ash-flow tuffs, surge deposits,

and tuffaceous conglomerate and sandstone commonly interfingering with Thr: locally includes a few thin rhyolite lavas; beds are generally 2 to 3 cm thick but commonly range from 1 to 30 cm thick; at least one nonwelded ash-flow tuff is as thick as 10 m; in order of decreasing abundance, nonwelded tuff contains 3-15% phenocrysts of sanidine and quartz with lesser plagioclase (mainly oligoclase), biotite, and observed in a few tuffs; nonwelded tuff also contains abundant pumice fragments and lithic fragments of basaltic andesite; feldspar and biotite phenocrysts are commonly altered to sericite and chlorite-iron oxides, respectively. Tuffaceous sandstone and conglomerate typically represent reworked tuffs; conglomerate contains varying amounts of subangular to locally angular clasts that usually range from 1 to 20 cm in length; Tht locally pinches out abruptly against rhyolite lavas and possibly eroded domes (e.g., peak at 1,319 m elevation along boundary of sections 7 and 8, T28S R63E); (e.g., northwest corner of section 8 T28S R63E); clasts in to 15.7 Ma. conglomerate are primarily flow-banded rhyolite and lesser dacite; locally includes a few thin layers (~2 m thick) of olagioclase-hornblende-biotite rhyodacite breccia that may represent rock avalanche deposits. In the southeastern part of section 6 T28S R63E, Tht progressively thickens northeastward across several northeast-dipping normal faults suggesting that Tht is synextensional and accumulated in up to 3 mm in length; pilotaxitic texture; margin marked by 30 growth-fault basins. Some sections of Tht display tilt fanning (e.g., western part of section 5 T28S R63E). Biotite from a nwelded tuff near the base of the section yielded an ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar date of 16.21±0.17 Ma. Age is bracketed between within the uppermost part of Tht directly south of the plug ~16.2 and 16.0 Ma; may correlate with the volcanics of Red probable age is ~16 Ma. Gap Mine (Faulds, 1995; Faulds and others, 1995) in the central Black Mountains to the east. Thickness is as much as

Rhyolite lavas (middle Miocene) Pale brownishgray, light-grayish-white, and pinkish- to reddishgray commonly flow-banded rhyolite and lesser trachydacite lavas; locally interfingers with the tuffaceous rocks of Tht; includes spherulitic and vitrophyric flows; contains 5-35% phenocrysts. Phenocryst assemblages in individual flows include (1) sanidine (to 6 mm) and lesser quartz (to 3 mm), plagioclase (oligoclase), and biotite; some with sparse sphene, augite, and/or oxyhornblende; (2) sanidine (to 3 mm) and lesser biotite, plagioclase, augite, and sphene; (3) plagioclase (oligoclase; to 5 mm) and lesser sanidine, biotite (to 4 mm), and aegirine-augite or augite; and (4) plagioclase goclase and some andesine), biotite, and lesser sanidine and augite. Assemblage #1 is most common: #4 is least calcite that clearly grew after guartz; some veins also include western part of section 3 and southeast part of section 4 T28S R63E. Plagioclase-rich, quartz-free varieties (# 3 and 4) appear to be more common in the southwesternmost part of the quadrangle (e.g., sections 7 and 18, T28S R63E). Conpart of section 29 T27S R63E. spicuous 2- to 6-m-thick vitrophyre occurs at the base of the section directly above Thlb in southern part of sections 4 and 5 and northern part of section 8 T28S R63E. Lower part of r locally includes thin rhyodacite or dacite flows containing phenocrysts of plagioclase, biotite, and clinopyroxene. Biotite ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar date of 16.26±0.15 Ma. The bulk of the section is bracketed between 16.26 and 16.21 Ma, but flows intercalated in the lower part of the Thb section may be as young s ~15.9 Ma; may correlate with the volcanics of Red Ga Mine in the central Black Mountains to the east (Faulds, 1995; Faulds and others, 1995). Thickness is as much as 620 m.

Highland Range (early to middle Miocene) The ower intermediate composition sequence of the volcanics of the Highland Range consist primarily of trachydacite, trachyandesite, and rhyodacite lavas. This sequence may correlate with the volcanics of Dixie Queen Mine in the Mount Perkins area of the central Black Mountains in northwestern rizona (Faulds and others, 1995), ~31 km east of the Nelson SW Quadrangle, as evidenced by similarities in stratigraphic section, suggesting deposition prior to any appreciable area but is only exposed in the southern part of the quadrangle. underlying 18.5 Ma Peach Springs Tuff (Tp) and 40Ar/39Ar dates on overlying rhyolite lavas in Thr. Biotite from a dacite lava within the volcanics of Dixie Queen Mine directly south of the quadrangle has yielded an 40Ar/39Ar date of 17.59±0.06 Ma. Trachydacite and trachyandesite lavas in the northern

have yielded 40Ar/39Ar dates ranging from 18.58±0.05 to lavas (Thlb), (2) sequences of trachyandesite lavas (Thla), (3) approaches and possibly exceeds 1,500 m.

Thib Biotite-rich trachydacite-trachyandesite lavas (early to middle Miocene) Medium-gray to reddish-brown trachydacite and/or trachyandesite lavas containing 15-20% phenocrysts of andesine plagioclase. augite, and biotite (in order of decreasing abundance), as well as accessory apatite, titanomagnetite, and possibly hypersthene; in contrast to ThId or ThIa, biotite and augite phenocrysts are typically nearly as common as plagioclase and are locally more abundant; pilotaxitic to hyalopilitic textures. Thickness is as much as 165 m.

Thla Trachyandesite-trachydacite lavas (early to middle Miocene) Light- to dark-gray trachyandesite and trachydacite lavas containing 20-30% phenocrysts of plagioclase (generally andesine), oxyhornblende, augite o aegirine-augite, biotite, and trace hypersthene and apatite (in typical order of decreasing abundance); the relative abundance of oxyhornblende, clinopyroxene, and biotite varies, but oxyhornblende or clinopyroxene are generally more abundant than biotite; pilotaxitic to trachytic textures prevail; plagioclase phenocrysts range up to 6.5 mm in length, clinopyroxene to 3 mm, and biotite to 2.5 mm; plagioclase and the mafic constituents are commonly partly to largely altered to sericite and chlorite-iron oxides, respectively; degree of alteration increases southward and southeastward toward the Searchlight pluton; commonly interfingers with Thld; distinguished from Thld by darker color, greater abundance of homblende or clinopyroxene less biotite, and presence of both homblende and clinopyroxene in most lavas; interfingers with the lower part of Thr in the southwestern part of the quadrangle. Overall thickness is as much as 415 m.

Thir Rhyodacite lavas (early to middle Miocene) White porphyritic rhyodacite or rhyolite lavas intercalated in ThId; contain ~35% phenocrysts of andesine plagioclase (to 5 mm), biotite (to 2 mm), and hornblende (to 2 mm); accessory minerals include titanomagnetite and apatite. Thickness is as much as 70 m.

Dacitic tuffaceous rocks (early to middle

Miocene) Reddish-brown to purplish-white bedded dacitic air-fall tuff; beds are 2-10 cm thick and consist of clasts and lapilli of Thld; found only in the south-central part of the quadrangle (southeast part of section 17 T28S R63E). Thickness ranges up to 100 m. Thid Dacite lavas (early to middle Miocene) Purplish-to reddish-gray, light-gray, reddish-brown, or rocks

greenish-gray trachydacite lavas containing 15-35% phenocrysts of plagioclase (andesine and lesser oligoclase). biotite, augite or aegirine-augite, oxyhornblende, and traces of hypersthene and apatite (in typical order of decreasing abundance); relative abundance of clinopyroxene and plagioclase and mafic constituents are commonly partly to largely altered to sericite and chlorite-iron oxides, and southeastward toward the Searchlight pluton; alteration the southeastern part of the quadrangle. is especially prevalent near the poorly exposed base of the section in the western part of section 13 and eastern part of section 14 T28S R63E, where abundant generally unmapped intermediate to felsic dikes cut ThId—small zones of color, greater abundance of biotite, less hornblende and clinopyroxene, and lack of either hornblende or clinopyroxene in some lavas; also includes isolated lenses of dark purplishing the southeasternmost part of the quadrangle. brown volcaniclastic sandstone that contains subangular to subrounded grains of largely sericitized feldspar (mainly lesser chlorite), quartz, and lithic fragments within a hematiterich matrix (e.g., overturned beds in northeast part of section

Peach Springs Tuff (early Miocene, 18.5 Ma) Poorly exposed, purplish-gray, moderately welded rhyolite tuff containing ~10-15% phenocrysts primarily of sanidine and plagioclase, with lesser biotite and sparse quartz and sphene; feldspars are largely altered to sericite; biotite is altered to iron oxides; intruded by several unmapped intermediate to felsion dikes; probably correlates with the 18.5 Ma Peach Springs Tuff (cf., Glazner and others, 1986; Nielson and others, 1990), as evidenced by stratigraphic position, lithology, and phenocryst assemblage; exposed only in the southeastern part of the

14 T28S R63E). Overall thickness of ThId is as much as 810 m.

Arkosic conglomerate (early Miocene) Poorly exposed, pale-brown to reddish-brown, poorly to moderately sorted, generally matrix supported arkosic pebble conglomerate at base of Miocene section; predates onset of videspread volcanism; clasts are subangular and consist of Proterozoic gneiss and small pebble size potassium feldspar grains; matrix consists of subangular coarse-grained sandstone composed of feldspar, quartz, and lithic fragments: noncalcareous; weakly indurated; intruded by several unmapped intermediate to felsic dikes; correlative with the conglomerate of Cottonwood Pass of Faulds (1995); exposed only in the southeastern part of the quadrangle. Tca is locally intercalated with ~19 Ma alkaline basalt flows elsewhere in the region clinopyroxene; sparse sphene and hornblende were also (Faulds and others, 1995). Thickness ranges up to ~30 m.

Basaltic andesite dikes (middle Miocene) North- to northwest-striking dikes of basaltic andesite, which contain 20-30% phenocrysts of plagioclase (12-15% of rock), augite (~10%), and subordinate iddingsitized olivine (0-3%). Groundmass consists of intergrown plagioclase and pyroxene laths. Confined to section 32 T27S R63E, where intruded along east-dipping normal faults that cut Tht; lithologically identical to boulders of rhyolite in such areas range up to 6 m in length typical Thb lavas; may have fed some Thb lavas; probably 16.0

Trdi Rhyodacite plug (middle Miocene) Isolated plug of light-gray porphyritic rhyodacite containing ~25% phenocrysts of plagioclase; lesser sanidine, quartz, augite, and biotite: and sparse oxyhornblende. Trdi has large sanidine phenocrysts to 1.1 cm in length; plagioclase phenocrysts range cm-thick rind of vitrophyre; intrudes Tht in northwest corner of section 5 T28S R63E; probably fed nearby Thrd lavas; probably also related to 2 m thick layer of unmapped rhyodacite breccia

Rhyolite intrusions (middle Miocene) Grayish-white to pinkish-white rhyolite dikes and plugs; flow-banding and/or spherulites characterize some intrusions; generally contain 2-10% phenocrysts of sanidine, quartz, and sparse biotite and plagioclase; sanidine and quartz commonly occur in subequal amounts, but sanidine dominates in some intrusions; some bodies lack quartz, biotite, or plagioclase; accessory minerals include titanomagnetite and hematite; in some dike feldspars and biotite are largely altered to sericite and chlorite, respectively.

Calcite veins (early to middle Miocene) Generall easterly striking grayish-white veins composed primaril of coarse-grained calcite and lesser quartz; quartz typically constitutes ~5-10% of the veins but locally approaches or exceeds 50%; guartz-rich veins contain long prismatic crystals of common. Frothy rhyolite (phenocryst type #2) crops out in the minor amounts of barite; veins are typically 2 to 4 m thick and commonly exhibit margin-parallel layering; some veins were clearly emplaced along faults; also includes one sizable travertine deposit along a northerly striking fault in the western Quartz veins (early to middle Miocene) Veins of

fine-grained quartz ranging from 30 cm to 1 m in width; locally vuggy; mainly chalcedony; abundant thin veinlets are locally found proximal to major veins; thin (5-30 cm thick) from the vitrophyre at the base of the section yielded an discontinuous and unmapped quartz veins locally occur along fault zones throughout the quadrangle.

Searchlight pluton (early to middle Miocene, 16.6±0.5 Ma) The Searchlight pluton is a 10 km thick quartz monzonite to granite pluton exposed in a large steeply west-tilted fault block in the southern Eldorado Mountains (Miller and others, 1995) 998a: Bachl, 1997, Bachl and others, 2001). The uppermost part of this fault block extends into the southern part of the Nelson SW Quadrangle, Paleomagnetic data indicate that the pluton is tilted at least 55° to the west (Faulds and others, 1998). The pluton is compositionally stratified with quartz monzonite (61-70 weight % SiO_o) in the shallow western part granite (69-75 weight % SiO₂) in the middle unit, and more mafic quartz monzonite (59-64 weight % SiO2) in the deeper eastern part (Bachl and others, 2001). U/Pb and 40Ar/39Ar data indicate that the age of the pluton is 16.6±0.5 Ma (J.S. Miller, unpublished position, composition, and age. The volcanics of Dixie Queen data). Part of the northern margin and roof of the upper quartz Mine are generally preextensional in the region. In the Nelson monzonite unit crops out in the southeastern part of the Nelson SW Quadrangle, the magnitude of tilting within ThI differs only SW Quadrangle and is here referred to as the upper Searchligh slightly (~10°) between the lower and upper parts of the pluton. Here, the upper Searchlight pluton invades Early extension. ThI is probably widely distributed throughout the section (up through the upper part of ThI). The average grain size in the pluton generally coarsens eastward within the The age of ThI is bracketed between 18.5 and ~16.2 Ma by the guadrangle from locally fine-grained phaneritic and more dominant porphyritic phases near the roof (Tsuf) in westernmos exposures to medium-grained (~3 mm) equigranular in the eas (Tsu). The pluton further coarsens east of the quadrangle, where

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Newberry Mountains ~8 km to the southeast of the quadrangle grain size commonly exceeds 5 mm (Bachl, 1997). An early Miocene brittle-ductile transition is nicely exposed in the pluton 16.75±0.26 Ma (Ruppert and Faulds, 1998). Thi locally to the east of the quadrangle. The floor of the pluton is exposed interfingers with the lower part of the felsic sequence in the in the Copper Mountain area, ~10 km east of the eastern margin volcanics of the Highland Range and is temporally correlative of the Nelson SW Quadrangle, where it was mapped as the with the lower part of the Patsy Mine volcanics of Anderson granitic pluton of Copper Mountain (Tgc) in the Mount Davis (1971). Within the Nelson SW Quadrangle, Thi is divided into Quadrangle (Faulds, 1995). The upper Searchlight pluton within (1) an upper unit of biotite-rich trachydacite and trachyandesite the quadrangle is divided into three units: (1) a porphyritic to phaneritic quartz monzonite near the roof (Tsuf), (2) a mediumsparse rhyodacite lavas (Thir), (4) an isolated exposure of grained equigranular quartz monzonite (Tsu), and (3) a quartz dacitic tuffaceous rock (ThIdt), and (5) thick sections of mainly monzodiorite (Tsud). Assuming a steep west tilt, the exposed trachydacite lavas (Thid). In cross section A-A' the sequence is thickness of the Searchlight pluton within the quadrangle shown as undifferentiated (Thl). The overall thickness of Thl approaches ~3.3 km.

> Upper Searchlight pluton, porphyritic phase (early to middle Miocene) Pale-reddish-brown to pale-greenish-gray porphyritic to locally phaneritic quartz monzonite consisting of potassium feldspar, plagioclase, and lesser quartz, hornblende, and biotite; accessory minerals include apatite, titanomagnetite, ±sphene, ±epidote, and ±clinopyroxene; the relative abundance of plagioclase and potassium feldspar, as well as hornblende and biotite, varies phenocrysts commonly constitute 30-40% of the rock feldspar phenocrysts commonly reach 4-6 mm in length feldspars and mafic constituents are generally partly to largely altered to sericite and chlorite-iron oxides respectively; Tsuf essentially represents the roof of the Searchlight pluton; contains small stoped blocks of Thid and This near pluton margin. Thickness is ~2.1 km.

Upper Searchlight pluton, equigranular quartz monzonite (early to middle Miocene) Light-gray to pinkish-gray, medium-grained equigranular quartz monzonite typically consisting of euhedral laths of andesine plagioclase (50-55%), anhedral to subhedral turbid potassium feldspar (generally orthoclase, ~20%), hornblende (10%), interstitial quartz (10%), biotite (5%), and accessory zircon, apatite, and sphene (rare); locally contains small pods and dikes of porphyritic granite consisting of potassium feldspar, plagioclase, and lesser biotite and hornblende; feldspars and mafic constituents in these pods and dikes are largely altered to sericite and chlorite-iron oxides, respectively; Tsu is slightly finer grained east of the southeast-dipping normal fault zone in the southeast corner of the quadrangle; exposures in the northern part of section 7 T28S R64E along the east edge of the quadrangle are more felsic and contain only minor hornblende and may be part of or transitional to the more silicic middle unit of the Searchlight pluton. Exposed thickness in the quadrangle is ~1.2 km.

Upper Searchlight pluton, monzodiorite phase (early to middle Miocene) Light to medium gray, medium-grained equigranular quartz monzodiorite consisting of euhedral laths of andesine plagioclase (35-40%), anhedral to subhedral potassium feldspar (mainly orthoclase, ~25%), interstitial quartz (~12%), anhedral hornblende (15-20%), subhedral biotite (5%), and accessory apatite and titanomagnetite; in contrast to Tsu, Tsud has a darker color, more hornblende, and less plagioclase; exposed only in the southeast corner of the quadrangle. Thickness is as much as

Miocene intrusions and Early Proterozoic metamorphic

XgTi Early Proterozoic orthogneiss and Miocene dikes (undifferentiated) Complex assemblage of poorly exposed reddish-brown to greenish-gray orthogneiss (Xg) laced with abundant intermediate to silicic Miocene dikes; dikes are rnblende varies; some lavas lack either clinopyroxene or more abundant than gneiss in some areas; includes granite and hornblende; pilotaxitic to hyalopilitic textures dominate; granodiorite dikes, which greatly resemble and may be plagical placed to phase of the Searchlight pluton: contact phenocrysts of mafic minerals rarely exceed 2.5 mm; a few with the Searchlight pluton (Tsu) is locally poorly defined flows, however, contain hornblende up to 6.5 mm long; because many dikes resemble the pluton and the margin of the pluton is locally cut by dikes; contact between Tsu and XgTi in such areas was defined by the presence of either Xg float or respectively, with degree of alteration increasing southward massive amounts of clear-cut dike rocks; XgTi crops out only in

Orthogneiss (Early Proterozoic) Mainly gray to greenish-gray, strongly foliated orthogneiss typically consisting of potassium feldspar (~60%), quartz (15-25%), silicification occur in this area; commonly interfingers with hornblende (0-20%), biotite (0-10%), and accessory garnet, Thia; locally includes minor trachyandesite lavas (Thia), titanomagnetite, and hypersthene (rare); mafic constituents are hiotite-rich trachydacite-trachyandesite lavas (ThIb) and commonly partially to largely altered to chlorite and rhyodacite lavas (Thlr); distinguished from Thla by lighter titanomagnetite; also includes minor amounts of pegmatitic gneiss and amphibolite, as well as a few unmapped, poorly exposed intermediate to silicic Miocene dikes. Xg crops out only

> stratigraphic and structural framework of the quadrangle and references cited

Lithologic contact Dashed where inferred or approximately

downthrown side; arrow near dip symbol shows trend of striae on fault surface or inferred slip direction; dashed where inferred or

Moderately to steeply dipping normal fault. Showing dip; ball on

__________ Mainly strike-slip fault Arrows on either side of fault indicate sense of strike separation; arrow near dip symbol shows trend of striae on

downthrown side: arrow near dip symbol shows trend of striae on

approximately located; queried where uncertain; dotted where

Gently dipping normal fault Showing dip; hachures on

fault surface or inferred slip direction; dashed where inferred or approximately located; dotted where concealed. _____ Syncline axial trace Dashed where inferred or approximately

Anticline axial trace Dashed where inferred or approximately located; dotted where concealed

Strike and dip of compaction foliation in ash-flow tuff

Strike and dip of flow banding or flow foliation in volcanic rocks Inclined 🍑 Vertical

Strike and dip of foliation in metamorphic rocks Alluvial fan deposits composed predominately of granitic clasts

Sample location for 40 Ar/39 Ar geochronologic determinatio Location of paleomagnetic site (see table 3 for data)

Sample location for geochemical analysis (see table 2 for data).

