MESOZOIC AND CENOZOIC HISTORY OF ALASKA

Compiled by Thomas G. Payne

This map is preliminary and has not peen edited or reviewed for conformity with U. S. Geological Survey standards and nomenclature.

(For continuity read from bottom to top of columns. Grouping of tectonic elements in columns is according to their occurrence in major geologic trends or provinces.)

	1. ARCTIC PLATFORM 2. ARCTIC OCEAN BASIN 3. BEAUFORT SHELF 4. BARROW ARCH	5. COLVILLE GEOSYNCLINE 6. UMIAT BASIN 7. CHUKCHI BASIN 8. MEADE ARCH 9. TIGARA UPLIFT 5-8. Marine and non-	10. ROMANZOF UPLIFT	11. BROOKS RANGE GEANTICLINE 12. KOBUK TROUGH 13. COLEEN BASIN	SEWARD UPLIFT	GEOSYNCLINE 16. HOGATZA UPLIFT 17. GALENA BASIN 18. KOTZEBUE BASIN 19. NORTON BASIN	20. RUBY GEANTICLINE 21. RAMPART TROUGH 22. YUKON FLATS BASIN 23. LOWER TANANA BASIN 24. INNOKO BASIN 25. BETHEL BASIN 20-21. Region of hills and	GEOSYNCLINE 27. GOODNEWS ARCH 28. EUREKA SEGMENT(OF 27) 29. KANDIK SEGMENT(OF 27) 30. NATION ARCH 31. EAGLE TROUGH		GEOSYNCLINE 40. NUTZOTIN SEGMENT (OF 39) 41. SEYMOUR GEOSYNCLINE 42. NUSHUGAK BASHN 39-41. Mountainous region.	GEANTICLINE 44. PRINCE OF WALES GEANTICLINE 45. COPPER RIVER BASIN 46. ADMIRALTY TROUGH	GEOSYNCLINE 48. SHELIKOF TROUGH 49. COOK INLET BASIN 47-48. Relatively low region;	50. SELDOVIA GEANTICLINE 50. Mountainous region	51. CHUGACH MOUNTAINS GEOSYNCLINE	52. CORDOVA GEANTICLINE 53. YAKATAGA GEOSYNCLINE 54. MIDDLETON SHELF 55. SHUMAGIN SHELF	56. ALEUTI TRENCI
	2-4. Marine deposition (Gubik fm.).	area marine and non- marine Gubik fm. in coastal plain; max. 200 ft. Glacial outwash, moraines terrace deposits in foothills Slight uplift; erosion.	region. Glaciation. Further uplift; erosion.	region. Glaciation. Further uplift; erosion. 12-13. A topographic	coastal plains, low mts. Glaciation in and near mt. areas. Extrusion of lava and tuff. Marine deposits in coastal plain terraces indicate slight uplift.	and low mts. Further up- lift; erosion. 17-19. Lowland basins.	low mts. Further uplift; erosion. 22–25. Lowland basins. Stream deposition; possibly marine in Bethel basin.	Glaciation in and near mts. Further uplift. Erosion.	mts. Glaciation in and near mts. Further uplift; erosion. 33. High mountainous region. Glaciation. Further uplift; erosion. Volcanics (Behm Canal) 35–38. Lowland basins. Stream deposition. Subsid. of 36.	42. Lowland. Deposition, in part marine. Slight up-lift of Quaternary beds.	Glaciation. Volcanism. Further uplift; erosion. 44. Glacial scouring of valleys latter drowned as fiords and straits. 45. Intramontaine basin. Nonmarine deposition, more than 500 ft. Uplift; erosion	shallow seaway, broad valleys, hills, and mts., including volcances. Extensive glaciation Volcanism. Slight uplift; erosion. 49. Lowland basin; party occupied by sea. Subsid. and deposition.	lying between higher Chugach and Kenai Mts. and lower belt of Mata- nuska geosyncline and Shelikof trough. Glacia- tion. Further uplift; erosion.	region. Extensive glacia- tion. Further uplift; eroslan.	sea, islands. Glaciation in mts. Further uplift; erosion. 54–55. Continental shelf, including submarine canyons, rocky shoals, and islands of Tert. rocks. Slight uplift; erosion. Probably little or no accum. of Quaternary seds.	Depth more to 2,500 fathom eastern part of than 3,500 fathom to 1,500 fathom t
Pliocene orogenesis	1-4. Little or no up- lift.	5-9. Mod. uplift in southern, little or no up- lift in northern area. Erosion.	10. Great uplift. Erosion.	11-13. Great uplift. Erosion.	14. Uplift. Erosion.	15-16. Uplift. Erosion. 17-19. Little or no uplift and erosion (*).	20-21. Uplift. Erosion. 22-25. Little or no uplift and erosion(/).	26-31. Uplift. Erosion.	32–34. Uplift. Erosion. 35–38. Possibly little or no uplift and erosion(x).	39–41. Great uplift. Erosion. 42. Little or no uplift and erosion (🗲).	43-46. Uplift; erosion.	47. Gentle def. of Miocene and Pliocene(?) beds. 47-48. Uplift; erosion. 49. Little or no uplift(/).	50. Uplift;erosion.	51. Great uplift; erosion	.53. Def. strong to north, gentle to south. North-dipping reverse faults. Uplift; erosion. 54. Gentle def. Little uplift.	of Quaternary sits. Seds. so across contine shelf and mov trench by slue
TERTIARY, OLIGOCENE THROUGH	2-4. Not reported. Possibly continued north-building of Beaufort shelf into Arctic Ocean basin.	5-9. Not reported (*). Pliocene reported in coastal plain probably is Quaternary.	10. Not reported. Continued erosion (?).	Erosion. Extrusion of lava and tuff.	in coastal plain probably	EXITOSION OF TOTAL AND TOTAL	20-25. Not reported(*). Extrusion of lava and tuff. 22-25. Possible subsid. and deposition(x).	26-31. Not reported(*). Extrusion of lava and tuff. 28. High-level, gold-bearing stream gravels, preserved in Rampart district, may be Pliocene.	32-33. High-level gravels in Fortymile and Eagle districts. Marine deposition in area of 32 indicated by transported Tert. fossils in Quaternary deposits near Fairbanks. Extrusion of lava and tuff. 34. Deposition of Nenana grave 33-38. Possible subsid. and deposition(y).	39. Differential uplift; non- marine deposition in basins (Nenana gravel). Extrusion of lava and tuff. 42. Possible subsid. and deposition(A). Miocene marine fossils reported.	43–46. Not reported(*). Extrusion of lava and tuff; several thous. ft. in Wrangell and St. Elias Mts. (Wrangell lava). 45. Possible subsid. and deposition(*).	47–48. Extrusion of lava and tuff. 48. Marine Miocene and Pliocene (?) deposits reported in southern part of trough (area of Pavlof and Herendeen Bays and Unga i.). Includes Unga conglomerate. 49. Possible subsid. and deposition(f).	50. Not reported. Erosion.	ton shelf. Glaciation in Pliocene. Source of ice depositing thick Pliocene marine	53-55. Marine deposition, Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene. Katalla, Poul Creek, Yakataga fms., max. 20,000 ft.(?) in 53. Pliocene marine glacial seds. 54. Shelf deposits continuous with but probably thinner than those in Yakataga geosyncline. 55. Shelf deposits continuous with those of Shelikof trough.	turbidity curi
Post-Eocene orogenesis (late Laramide)	1-4. Little or no def.	5-9. No evidence (*). Eroded to low plain.	10. No evidence (*). Eroded to surface of low relief.	Eocene beds. 11-13. Eroded to surface	bodies of Eocene	Eroded to surface of low relief.	21-25. Def. of Eocene; strong in Rampart trough, gentle in Bethel basin. Eroded to surface of low relief.	26-31. Mod. def. of Eocene beds. Eroded to surface of low relief.	32-33. Gentle def. of Eccene beds. 34. Strong def. along southern border; gentle def. to north. 32-38. Eroded to low relief.	39. Gentle to strong def. of Eccene deposits. Eroded to surface of low relief.	46. Gentle def. of Eocene deposits. 43–46. Eroded to surface of low relief.	48. Gentle def. of Eocene deposits. Eroded to surface of low relief.	50. No evidence(*). Eroded to surface of low relief.	51. No evidence(*).	52-55. No evidence(*). Eroded to surface of low relief.	
TERTIARY, EOCENE	2-4. Not reported. Possibly continued north-building of Beaufort shelf into Arctic Ocean basin	5-9. Not reported. Possibly deposited and removed.	10. Not reported. Continued elosion (?).	11. Not reported. Erosion. 12–13. Subsid. and nonmarine deposition.	14. Nonmarine deposition locally on St. Lawrence I., Seward Pen., Chukotskiy Pen.	17-19. Possible subsid. and deposition. Possibly present beneath	21-25. Subsid. and non- marine deposition. Eccene beds exposed in ar marginal to Rampart trough, Yukon Flats and Bethel basins.	26-31. Not reported except in Eagle trough and two very small bodies not shown on map. 31. Nonmarine deposition, few thous. ft.(?).	32-33. Nonmarine deposition in local basins; isolated remnants reported. 34. Nonmarine deposition; max. 4,000 ft. 35-38. Probable deposition(*).	local basins in Alaska Range area.	46. Nonmarine deposition; few thous. ft. Includes tuff and breccia. 45. Probable subsid. and deposition(/). Present beneath Quaternary(?).	48. Nonmarine deposition, few thous. ft. Kenai fm. Present beneath and marginal to Cook Inlet basin. Marine Eocene in southern part of trough. Eocene volcanics in some areas.	50. Not reported. Erosion.	seds. in Shelikof trough, Yakataga geosyncline.	53–55. Marine and nonmarine deposition, few thous. ft. Kush- taka and Tokun. fm. in area of 53, 55. Shelf deposits continuous with those of Shelikof trough.	
Paleocene(?) orogenesis arly Laramide)	1–4. Very gentle warping and tilting. Eroded to low plain.	5-9. Def.: strong in southern, mod. in central, gentle in northern area. 9. Uplift occurs exposing Pal. rocks. 5-9. Eroded to low plain.	10. Strong def. Uplift along south-dipping reverse faults. Eroded to surface of low relief.	faults. Eroded to surface	14. Def., including faulting. North- to north- east grain. Possibly further int. Eroded to surface of low relief.	def. Few small granitic	20. No evidence (*), Few small granitic intru- sives. Eroded to surface of low relief.	26–30. Strong def. Many small silicic to ultramafic intrusives. Mineralization. 30. Nation arch formed(?); erosion exposed Pal. and pre-C rocks. 26–30. Eroded to surface of low relief.	32–33. No evidence(*). Probably some small granitic intrusives. Eroded to surface of low relief.	39-41. Strong def., silicic to mafic int. Mineralization (?). Eroded to surface of low relief.		47. Mod. to strong def. Silicic to mafic int. (stocks, sills, dikes). Eroded to surface of low relief.	50. No evidence(*). Strong def. Indicated by def. of K3 rocks to north in 47 and to south in 51. Eroded to surface of low relief.	tion. Eroded to surface o	, 52. Probable strong def. (See 51). Granitic intrusives may be of this age. Eroded to surface of low relief.	
TERTIARY ALEOCENE(?)	2-4. Not reported. Possibly continued north- building of Beaufort shelf into Arctic Ocean basin.	6-7. Nonmarine Sagavan irktok fm. Contains ben- tonite, tuff. Max. 2,000 ft. 8. Little or no deposition on Meade arch.	10. Emerg. Little or no deposition.	seds. In Umiat and	14. Mostly emerg. and erosion. Nonmarine deposition in southern part of Chukotskiy Pen.	15-16. Not reported.	20. Continued uplift and erosion (?).	26-30. Not reported.	32–33. Probably continued up- lift and erosion.	39-41. Not reported.	43–44. Probably continued uplift and erosion. Source of seds. in Matanuska geosyncline(?).	47. Nonmarine deposition, max. 5,000 ft. Chickaloon fm. and Eska conglomerate of Matanuska Valley. Not reported elsewhere but possibly present.	50. Not reported. Pro- bably emergent; possible source of Paleocene seds. in Matanuska geosyncline	51. Not reported.	52. Continued uplift and erosion.	
Maestrichtian- Danian hiatus. Orogenesis (?).	1-4. Little or no def.	5–8. Slight emerg. and erosion in foothills province.	10. No evidence (*).	11. No evidence (*).	14. No evidence (*).	15-16. No evidence (*).	20. No evidence (*).	26-30. No evidence(*).	32-33. No evidence(*).	39-41. No evidence(*).	43-44. No evidence(*).	47. Little or no def. Probable emerg. and erosion.	50. No evidence(*).	51. No evidence(*).	52. No evidence(*).	
ERETACEOUS, TURONIAN THROUGH CAMPANIAN (K3)	 Continued subsid. Shelf composed of 4,000 ft. of K3 seds. built northward into Arctic Ocean basin. Not reported. 	6-7. Marine and non- marine Colville group. Contains bentonite, tuff. Max. 5,000 ft. 8. Little or no deposition on Meade arch.	10. Emerg. Little or no deposition.		14. Mostly emerg. and erosion. Nonmarine deposition in southern part of Chukotskiy Pen.	15-16. Not reported.	20. Uplift and source of seds. In Kuskokwim geosyncline.	26. Deposition, mostly marine. Several thous. ft. Includes lava and tuff. 27. Not reported. Emerg.; source of seds. in 26(?). 28–31. Not reported.	32–33. Probably continued uplift and erosion. Possibly a source of seds. in Alaska Range geosyncline.	39–40. Nonmarine deposition, including volcanics. Unconformably overlies Cantwell fm. in Alaska Range 41. Not reported.	43–44. Continued uplift and erosion. Source of seds. in Matanuska geo syncline(?).	47. Marine deposition, max. 5,000 ft. Matanuska and Chignik fms.	50. Not reported. Gean ticline probably emergent possible source of K3 seds in Chugach Mountains geosyncline.	many thous, ft. Valdez	52. Continued uplift and erosion(?). Source of K3 seds. of Chugach Mountains geosyncline(?).	
ate Cenomanian orogenesis	1, 2, 4. Little or no def.	5. Gentle folding in foothills province. Slight emerg., erosion.	10. No evidence (*).	11. No evidence (*).	14. No evidence (*).	15-16. No evidence (*).	20. No evidence (*).	26-27. Def., probably not strong. Emerg. and erosion. 28-30. No evidence(*).	32-33. No evidence(*).	39–40. Def. and erosion indicated in Alaska Range area. 41. No evidence(*).	43-44. No evidence(*).	47. No evidence(*).	50. No evidence(*).	51. No evidence(*).	52. No evidence(*).	
CRETACEOUS, ALBIAN AND CENOMANIAN (K2)	1. Platform destroyed by subsid. 2. Subsid.; shelf of thick K2 seds. built northward across Colville geosyncline. 4. Barrow arch positive thin accum.	5. Marine Torok fm., overlain by marine and nonmarine Nanushuk group. Max. 10,000 to 15,000 ft.	10. Probable thin deposi- tion. Area positive rela- tive to Colville geosyn- cline to west.		14. Continued uplift. Source of seds. in Koyuku geosyncline.	15-16. Ungalik, Berg- man, and Shaktolik fms; mostly marine. Non- marine Nulato fm. Several thous. ft.	20. Uplift and source of seds. in Koyukuk and Kuskokwim geosynclines.	26, 28-30. Marine and non-marine deposition. Several thous. ft. 27. Not reported. In part emergent and source of seds. in 26. 30. Not reported; possibly emergent.	32–33. Continued uplift and source of seds. In Kuskokwim and Alaska Range geosynclines.	39–40. Nonmarine deposition, several thous. ft. Cantwell fm. of Alaska Range 41. Not reported.	43-44. Continued uplift and erosion(?).	47. Marine deposition, few thous. ft. Kotsina conglomerate and Kennicott fm. of Chitina Valley. Not reported elsewhere. Nonmarine arkose fm. in Matanuska Valley may be of this age.	50. Not reported. Ge- anticline probably emer- gent.		52. Probable uplift and erosion. Source of conglomerate in Ellamar district(?). See 51.	
ate Neocomian- ptian orogenesis. Stratigraphic hiatus.	1. Emerg., erosion. Jmu and K1 absent at Cape Simpson and Barrow. 4. Tr, J, and K1 eroded on Barrow arch.	5. Mostly undeformed. Mod. def., emerg., and erosion along southern border.	10. Def., probably same as in Colville geosyncline Mafic int.(?).	11. Strong def. in northern part. Intense def., metam., granitic int., mineralization in southern part. Erosion.	14. Intense def., metam. granitic int., mineraliza- tion. East-grain. Erosion.	, 15–16. Intense def., metam., granitic int. Probably east-grain. Erosion.	20. Probably intense def. and metam. Large granitic intrusives in Melozi, Tozi, and Dall districts. Erosion.	26-30. Def., emerg., erosion. 28. Intense def., metam., granitic int., mineralization.	32-33. Intense def., batholithic int., and mineralization. Erosion.	39-41. Intense def., batho- lithic int., and mineraliza- tion. Erosion.	43-44. Def. and possibly further int. and mineralization.	47. Gentle def. Erosion.	50. No evidence(*).	51. Def. indicated by unconformity (see above).	52. Probable def. See 51.	
CRETACEOUS, NEOCOMIAN (K1)	Not reported. Possibly deposited and eroded (see above).	5. Marine Okpikruak fm. Max. 3,000 ft.	10. Part of Colville geosyncline. Okpikruak fm. probably deposited but thinner.	11. Continued uplift. Source of seds. in Colville and Koyukuk geosynclines.	14. Continued uplift. Erosion.	15-16. Marine Koyukuk group, including lava and tuff. Several thous. ft. Volcanics in Kiwalik- Buckland divide area.	20. Probable uplift and source of seds. in Kusko-kwim geosynclines.	26–30. Marine deposition. Several thous. ft. Kandik fm. in 29. 26–27. Includes lava and tuff.	32–33. Continued uplift and source of seds. in Kuskokwim, Alaska Range, and Seymour geosynclines.	39–41. Marine deposition. Few thous. ft.	43-44. Continued uplift and possible source of seds. in 39, 40, 41, 47.	47. Marine deposition, few hundred to few thous. ft. Nelchina limestone, Herendeen limestone.	50. Not reported. Geanticline possibly emergent and source of K1 and older Mesozoic rocks bordering Gulf of Alaska.	51. Not reported. Possible deposition.	52. Marine deposition. K1 rocks believed included in thick gray- wacke-slate-greenstone sequence (Orca group). See below.	,
iurassic orogene- sis: post-Portlandian post-Callovian post-Bathonian	1. Little or no def.	5. Mostly undeformed. Mod. def., emerg., erosion along southern border. Callovian and Portlandian phases recognized.	as in Colville geosynctine Mafic int.(?).	11. Def., gentle or mod. Ultramafic and mafic int. Erosion.		15-16. No evidence(*).	20. No evidence(*).	26–27. Probable def., emerg., and erosion. 28–30. No evidence(*).	32–33. Def.; first phase of batholithic int., mineralization. Uplift, erosion in middle and late Jurassic; source of seds. in Kuskokwim, Alaska Range, Seymour geosynclines.	or late Jurassic time.	43. Def., batholithic int., mineralization. 44. Possibly same as 43.	47. Def., gentle to mod. Three phases indicated by uncon- formities(see first column). Few intrusive bodies; related to batho- liths of Talkeetna geanticlinal belt.	sent Jurassic orogenesis. Silicic to ultramafic intru-	51. No evidence(*).	52. No evidence(*).	
JURASSIC (J), Lower (1) Middle (m) Upper (u)	hundred ft. Jmu not reported but possibly present.	Jimu. Max. 4,000 ft. Ji absent in south central and Jim absent in south- western part of area.		seds. in Colville geosyn- cline.	locally in Chukotskiy Pen. and possibly elsewhere. Mostly emerg. and erosion	covered.	and source of seds. in Kuskokwim and Koyukuk geosynclines.	26–27. Marine deposition, Jlmu. Includes lava and tuff. 28–30. Not reported but possibly present in 28, 29.	32. Not reported in Alaska. 33. Marine deposition, J1 (Laberge series). Reported in Canadian part of Coast mountains and in Yukon area to north.	Jimu. Several thous. ft. Skwentna volcanic group, Tordrillo fm. Treadwell slate, and Thane and Douglas I. volcanic groups.	middle and late J time; source of seds. in 39, 40, 41, 47.	10,000 to 20,000 ft. Volcanics in J1 (Talkeetna fm.). Jmu includes Tuxedni, Kialagvik, Chinitna, Shelikof, and Naknek	50. Marine and nonmar- ine Talkeetna fm., JI. Most volcanics. Jmu not reported; probably emer- gent with little or no Jmu deposition.	51. Possible deposition. Pre-K rocks not exposed.	52. Probable marine deposition. Jurassic rocks believed included in thick marine graywacke-slate- greenstone sequence (Orca group) bordering Gulf of Alaska.	
TRIASSIC (Tr), Lower (1) Upper (u)	1. Marine Tru. Platform facies. Less than 200 ft.	5. Marine Shublik fm. Few hundred ft. Mostly Tru; Trl present locally.	syncline.		14. Marine deposition locally in Chukotskiy Pen. on St. Lawrence I., and possibly elsewhere.		20. Not reported.	26–30. Marine deposition, Tru. 26–27. Includes lava and tuff. 28. Not reported; possibly present.	32. Not reported in Alaska. 33. Marine deposition, Tru. Reported in Canadian part of Coast Mountains.	39-41. Marine deposition, Tru. Few thous. ft. Volca- nics included in 41 and possi- bly in 39 and 40. Includes Nabesna limestone.	43-44. Marine deposition,	47. Marine deposition, Tru. Few thous. ft. Includes lava and tuff. Kamishak chert, Chitistone and Nizina limestones, Kusku- lana fm.	50. Marine deposition, Tru, few thous. ft. Includes lava and tuff.	51. Possible deposition. Pre-K rocks not exposed.	52. Not reported. Possible deposition.	
subsid subs	ergence meta sidence int. umulation max. ormation thous	m. – metamorphism – intrusion – maximum	ons used in Table and C ft feet fm formation fms formationseds sediments	mod m pre-€ - pr	_	- Peninsula	symbol is shown, deforme	ence of deformation in area where tion is known to have occurred in may have occurred in that area.	been deposited there topographically low	F SYMBOLS e Tertiary rocks have not been re and mostly or entirely eroded during much of Tertiary time, an Range and Brooks Range, may ha	uring Pliocene uplift. Large part and there is some evidence that in	ts of Álaska were terior Alaska,	Mod. def.:	open folds, with dips general open folds, with dips general	FORMATION illy less than 20 degrees; few or no tilly 20 to 60 degrees; some thrust fauverturned; dips steep and erratic; nur	ilts.