



Photo 16. Nelson Mountain Tuff (26.90 Ma).

A. Thick densely welded dacitic Nelson Mountain Tuff (26.90 Ma, Tnd), exposed in canyon of Cochetopa Creek, where crossing southwest rim of Cochetopa Park caldera. Weakly welded rhyolitic lower parts of the Nelson Mountain (Tnn) are poorly exposed beneath talus in lower left of image. Compaction foliation in densely welded dacite dips 10° - 15° into the caldera basin, probably the result of differential compaction over caldera-margin topography as thickness of the ignimbrite sheet increased within the caldera. View is to northeast (SC, CP), across caldera moat toward Cochetopa Dome (partly concealed by low early morning cloud cover).



B. Tree-covered ridge in middle distance is erosional remnant of distal nonwelded dacitic Nelson Mountain Tuff (Tndn) within Cochetopa Park caldera, lapping out against caldera-collapse landslide breccia consisting of monolithologic clasts of Fish Canyon Tuff (Tpbf). This relation demonstrates collapse of Cochetopa Park caldera early during eruption of the Nelson Mountain Tuff. View to north from Saguache Park access road (CP)