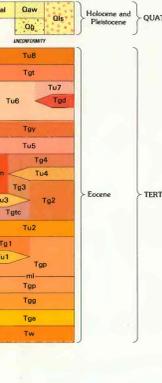


CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS



DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

Qal Alluvium—Alluvial sand, silt, and gravel. Mostly confined to stream valleys, but does not include alluvium (Qaw) in valley of White River. Mostly derived from nearby sources. May also include some slope wash from adjacent hills. Includes alluvial fan deposits from tributaries of the White River.

Qaw Alluvium in valley of White River—A mixture of rounded gravel from distant sources and mud, silt, sand, and gravel from nearby sources.

Qca Landslide deposits—Coherent to chaotic rock masses from local bedrock.

Qcb Terrace gravel deposits—Gravel patches at various levels above White River and Piceance Creek. Along White River, rounded pebbles and larger clasts are mostly siltstone and sandstone and quartzite; abundant basalt or other dark volcanic rock, and sparse granite and other crystalline or metamorphic rocks. Along Piceance Creek, clasts are mostly siltstone and sandstone and minor limestone. Maximum clast size about 1 ft (0.3 m). Clasts are locally cemented by calcite and form a resistant conglomerate. Locally terrace deposits are partly obscured by tillwash and colluvial material. Locally terrace thickness about 20 ft (6 m).

Qcc Uinta Formation (Eocene)—Mostly clastic sediments of a prograding deltaic complex that ultimately filled the Eocene lake in which the sediments of the Green River Formation were deposited. Generally southward-thinning wedges composed chiefly of sandstone and siltstone that interfinger with marlstones of the Green River Formation.

Qcd Unnamed tongue 8—Sandstone, conglomeratic sandstone, and conglomerate; mostly basal channel deposits. Some variably silty marlstone locally present in upper part. Sandstone is fine grained, light gray where quartzite, to greenish gray and brown where impure. Conglomeratic beds contain rounded chert pebbles and gray siltstone and concretions. Most of the sandstone beds are poorly cemented and nonresistant, but locally form resistant ledges where cemented by lime. Siltstone is medium brown to greenish brown and mostly argillaceous. Sandstone and siltstone become increasingly marly in southern part of quadrangle. Claystone beds, which predominate in upper part of unit, are commonly greenish brown or grayish green, variably silty, and locally sandy. The tongue is laterally equivalent to upper part of unnamed tongue 6 (Tu6). Thickness ranges from about 80 to 140 ft (24 to 43 m).

Qce Unnamed tongue 4—Sandstone and lesser amounts of siltstone, marlstone, claystone, and sparse limestone. Sandstone is light grayish brown, fine to medium grained, locally coarse grained, and massive or even bedded to crossbedded. Channel sandstone deposits from resistant chert locally and contain soft-rock fragments in lower part. Siltstone is light to medium brown and brownish gray, probably tuffaceous, variably marly, and locally argillaceous. Tongue contains several massive beds which are light gray to brownish gray and variably silty. Claystone is light grayish green, present at or near top of tongue and overlain by the Thirtymile Creek Tongue of the Green River Formation. Tongue 4 is equivalent to map unit Tu4 in the Barcus Creek quadrangle to the west (Hall, 1964). Thickness ranges from about 200 to 350 ft (60 to 107 m).

Qcf Unnamed tongue 5—Light to dark brown fine- to medium-grained sandstone and siltstone. Contains several marlstone beds. Sandstone and siltstone are variably tuffaceous, marly, and massive or even bedded. Contains sparse channel deposits. Forms continuous brown-weathering cliffs along Piceance Creek. Equivalent to map unit Tu5 in the Barcus Creek quadrangle to the west (Hall, 1964). Thickness ranges from about 80 ft (24 m) near Barcus Creek in the northwest to about 450 ft (137 m) near Piceance Creek in the southeast.

Qcg Unnamed tongue 4—Light to medium brown, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone and several conglomeratic channel deposits in western two-thirds of outcrop area. Contains mostly silty marlstone and very fine grained tuffaceous sandstone and siltstone in vicinity of Piceance Creek. Thickness ranges from 0 to about 120 ft (0 to 37 m).

Qch Unnamed tongue 3—Sandstone, siltstone, and marlstone. Sandstone is light to medium brown or light gray and very fine to medium grained. Includes several channel deposits. Siltstone is light brown, variably marly, and tuffaceous. Marlstone is light gray to light brown and locally silty. Equivalent to map unit Tu3 in the Barcus Creek quadrangle to the west (Hall, 1964). Thickness ranges from 0 to about 180 ft (0 to 55 m).

Qci Unnamed tongue 2—Mostly light to medium brown, very fine to medium-grained sandstone and lesser siltstone. Sandstone is massive or even bedded to crossbedded. Contains several channel deposits and a locally conglomeratic near base. Commonly forms resistant ledges and cliffs. Equivalent to map unit Tu2 in the Barcus Creek quadrangle to the west (Hall, 1964). Thickness ranges from about 40 ft (12 m) near Piceance Creek to about 300 ft (91 m) in north-central part of quadrangle.

Qcj Unnamed tongue 1—Mostly light to dark brown fine- to medium-grained sandstone. Some light gray to light brown marly siltstone and light-gray marlstone. Sandstone is mostly massive or even bedded to crossbedded and is locally imbricate, biotitic, and concretionary. Very strongly cemented by quartz, and is hard and resistant near mouth of Barcus Creek. Contains several channel deposits that have sharp disconformable basal contacts and basal conglomeratic beds containing well-sorted clasts. Equivalent to map unit Tu1 in Barcus Creek quadrangle to the west (Hall, 1964). Thickness ranges from 0 to about 240 ft (0 to 73 m) near mouth of Barcus Creek.

Qck Green River Formation (Eocene)—Sediments deposited in a variety of lacustrine environments.

Qcl Thirtymile Creek Tongue—Mostly very light gray carbonate rocks including marlstone and limestone, and lesser gray to greenish-gray variably calcareous or dolomitic claystone. Minor sandstone and siltstone. Limestone includes granular, oolitic, columnar, or algal, variably argillaceous. Marlstone and limestone beds are mostly bedded and resistant from stripped surfaces, especially in western part of quadrangle. Maximum thickness about 80 ft (24 m).

Qcm Dark Tongue—Mostly light gray to light brown marlstone. Locally contains one or two sandstone beds. Marlstone is variably silty to argillaceous in upper part. Lies thin northward and wedges out in south-central part of quadrangle. Thickness ranges from 0 to 60 ft (0 to 18 m).

Qcn Yellow Creek Tongue—Light gray to light brown marlstone, lesser marly siltstone; some granular sparsely oolitic limestone; minor sandstone. In northwestern part of quadrangle, contains a 1-ft (0.3-m) thick bed of very lean oil shale. Thickness ranges from about 10 to 70 ft (3 to 21 m).

Qco Unnamed tongue 1—Light brown marlstone that weathers to light gray. Contains a few thin, very low grade oil shale beds in eastern part of quadrangle. Sparsely very thin tubs. Thickness ranges from about 150 ft (46 to 60 m).

Tm Marlstone at Mace Canyon—Mostly light gray to light grayish-brown marlstone, variably silty, minor calcareous sandstone. Thickness ranges from about 10 to 60 ft (3 to 18 m).

Tg3 Unnamed tongue 3—Mostly light gray silty marlstone and several beds of light-brown sandstone with a few channel deposits. Thickness ranges from about 60 to 90 ft (18 to 27 m).

Tg2 Unnamed tongue 2—Light gray to light brown, variably silty, locally platy-weathering marlstone. Some thin light-gray sandstone beds. Contains at least one peritotipotential sandstone slump block. Unit contains several beds of very low grade oil shale and several very thin tubs near Piceance Creek. Thickness ranges from about 150 to 350 ft (46 to 107 m).

Tg1 Marlstone tongue at Trail Canyon—Light brown to light gray, variably silty, platy-weathering marlstone. Some light brown marly siltstone. Minor very fine to fine-grained light gray to light brown sandstone. Thickness ranges from about 60 to 200 ft (18 to 61 m).

Tg0 Unnamed tongue 1—Mostly marlstone, very light gray to light brownish gray, variably silty, locally platy-weathering. Minor siltstone and a few thin sandstone beds. Includes a 3- to 5-ft (1-m) thick bed of resistant granular limestone near top of tongue west of Yellow Creek. Merges with Parachute Creek Member in north-central part of quadrangle. Equivalent to map unit Tu1 in the Barcus Creek quadrangle to the west (Hall, 1964). Thickness ranges from about 40 to 200 ft (12 to 61 m).

Tp Parachute Creek Member—Dolomitic marlstone, oil shale, and some clay shale in lower part. Also contains several beds of marly siltstone, sparse sandstone, and numerous very thin beds of unconsolidated till. Marlstone is gray to light grayish brown. Oil shale is medium to dark brown. Both marlstone and oil shale weather light gray. Clay shale is brown to brownish gray. Member contains several zones of rich oil shale (see fig. 1, table 1, and separate section on oil shale). Member also includes potentially valuable deposits of calcite and dawsonite (Fife and Dyer, 1967). A detailed study in Piceance Creek area (Beard and Tucker, 1973, p. 28-32) shows that the marlstone and oil shale are dominantly dolomitic in mineral makeup of quartz, feldspar, calcite, anhydrite, and clay by varying proportions. Oil shale values decrease markedly from the center of the quadrangle northward, and the top of the Mahogany ledge oil shale zone, shown on map as ml, is only tentatively identified north of the T. 1. N. T. 2. N. line. Base of member is approximately the base of the R-2 rich oil shale zone (see fig. 1). Marlstone and oil shale are relatively resistant and form cliffs of basin rim. Thickness ranges from about 1,000 to 1,700 ft (300 to 520 m).

Tu8 Garden Gulch Member—Mostly thin-bedded, fusile to papery-weathering brown clay shale, locally dolomitic. Contains clay rich oil shale in upper part (R-1 rich oil shale zone). Weathers light brown to light gray. Contains a few thin beds of light-gray oolitic limestone near base. Also contains several very thin beds of unconsolidated till. Nonresistant; forms slopes. Thickness ranges from about 150 to 490 ft (49 to 149 m).

Tu7 Arenal Plate Member—Mostly brown-weathering, locally oolitic sandstone; several beds of light-brown-weathering oolitic or calcic limestone. Sandstone is fine to medium grained, massive to even bedded. Some brown to gray siltstone and variably silty claystone and shale. Shale is locally fusile. Sandstone and limestone beds are commonly resistant and form benches and cliffs. Thickness ranges from about 180 to 400 ft (55 to 122 m). Thin toward west on outcrop. Tongues out toward southwest in subsurface.

Tu6 Washach Formation (Eocene)—Mostly grayish-yellow, purple, and red claystone and some mudstone. Also contains light-gray to brown, fine to coarse-grained, locally conglomeratic, massive to crossbedded, channel sandstone, largely of fluvial origin. Also includes brown to gray, locally oolitic clay shale, some brown carbonaceous shale, and several beds of oolitic or calcic limestone, largely of paludal and lacustrine origin. Lowermost beds of the Washach Formation, which are Pliocene in age elsewhere, are not exposed in this quadrangle. Thickness about 1,800-2,000 ft (550-610 m). Maximum thickness of exposed rocks about 500 ft (152 m).

OIL SHALE AND ASSOCIATED MINERALS

Rich oil shale deposits underlie most of the quadrangle. Oil shale is present in the Parachute Creek and Garden Gulch Members of the Green River Formation, and all the named oil shale zones (fig. 1) are exposed. The Garden Gulch Member includes the rich R-1 zone and zone above it, as well as some oil shale below R-1. The Parachute Creek Member includes all oil shale zones above R-1. Figure 1 shows Fischer assay of yields and oil shale zones from core holes, three of which are in the Barcus Creek SE quadrangle. Fischer assays shown in this figure were made by the U.S. Bureau of Mines at Laramie, Wyo.

The information in table 1 is based on published maps by Pitman (1979) and Pitman and Johnson (1978) and on unpublished maps by Pitman (written communication, 1984). In general, oil-shale values and thicknesses for all the oil-shale zones decrease northward from the central or southeastern part of the quadrangle to the outcrop area along the basin rim. Table 1 shows resource figures for all the numbered oil-shale zones and the Mahogany zone. Resources for oil shale beds above the Mahogany zone, the B zone, and below the R-1 zone (see fig. 1) are not included in table 1. Oil-shale resources above the Mahogany zone are probably insignificant in the quadrangle, although Pitman and Donnell (1978) have shown the large resources are present farther south in the Piceance Creek basin. Oil-shale-bearing beds above the Mahogany zone are generally low grade and are within the intertonguing Uinta-Green River sequence in this quadrangle.

Closely associated with the oil shale in the quadrangle are potentially valuable deposits of the sodium minerals nahcolite and dawsonite. These minerals presumably would be produced commercially only as a byproduct of oil-shale production. Nahcolite (NaHCO₃) is a potential source of industrial soda ash and a gas scrubbing agent. Dawsonite (NaAl(OH)₄CO₃) is a potential source of aluminum. Both minerals occur in the saline facies of the Parachute Creek Member of the Green River Formation (Fife and Dyer, 1967; Dyer, 1974; Beard and others, 1974). The saline facies occupies the deeper parts of the northern Piceance Creek Basin. Most of the Parachute Creek Member in the Barcus Creek SE quadrangle lies within the saline facies. Stratigraphically, the nahcolite and most of the dawsonite lie below the base of a widespread leached zone (approximately 4- to 5-ft oil-shale zone level), from which the readily soluble nahcolite has been dissolved and removed, and above approximately the L-1 or R-2 oil-shale zone (Trudell and others, 1970; Beard and others, 1974; Dyer, 1974). Resource maps by Beard and others (1974) show that nahcolite resources range from about 300 million tons per square mile in the southeastern corner of the quadrangle to areas in the north and east; dawsonite resources range from about 120 million tons per square mile at the southwest corner of the quadrangle to less than 60 million tons in the north and east. The maps by Beard and others (1974) show the total nahcolite resources in the quadrangle to be about 4 billion tons and the total dawsonite resources to be about 3.8 billion tons.

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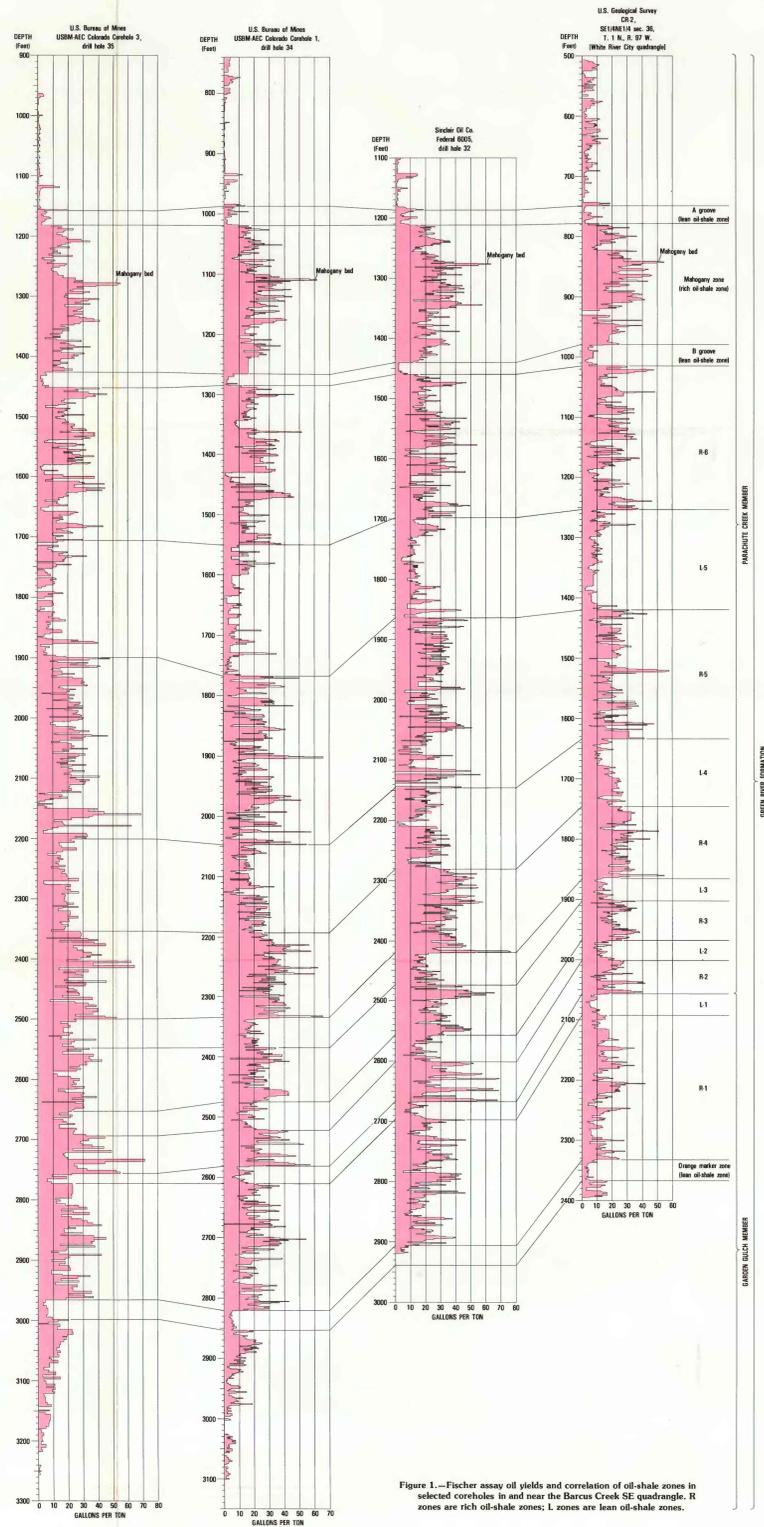


Figure 1.—Fischer assay oil yields and correlation of oil-shale zones in selected coreholes in and near the Barcus Creek SE quadrangle. R zones are rich oil-shale zones; L zones are lean oil-shale zones.

Table 1.—Oil-shale resources in the Barcus Creek SE quadrangle

Oil-shale zone	Thickness in feet	Approximate area in acres	Approximate total resources in billion tons	Map no.	Name	Location	Comments
Mahogany	180-240	10-20	50,000-100,000	1	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-1	<100-200	<10	<10,000-20,000	1	Two-finger	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-2	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	2	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-3	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	3	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-4	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	4	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-5	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	5	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-6	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	6	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-7	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	7	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-8	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	8	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-9	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	9	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-10	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	10	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-11	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	11	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-12	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	12	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-13	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	13	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-14	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	14	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-15	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	15	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-16	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	16	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-17	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	17	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-18	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	18	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-19	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	19	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-20	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	20	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-21	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	21	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-22	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	22	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-23	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	23	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-24	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	24	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-25	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	25	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-26	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	26	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-27	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	27	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-28	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	28	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-29	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	29	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-30	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	30	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-31	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	31	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-32	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	32	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-33	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	33	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-34	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	34	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-35	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	35	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-36	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	36	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-37	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	37	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-38	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	38	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-39	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	39	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-40	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	40	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-41	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	41	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-42	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	42	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-43	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	43	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-44	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	44	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-45	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	45	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-46	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	46	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-47	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	47	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-48	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	48	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-49	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	49	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-50	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	50	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-51	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	51	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-52	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	52	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-53	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	53	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-54	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	54	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-55	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	55	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-56	<100-150	<10	<10,000-15,000	56	Arenal Plate	R-1, R-2, R-3	Oil shale zone
R-57	<100-150	<10	<				