## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOG				TABLE IGEOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS [Footnotes and references are listed				MISCELLANEOUS MAP MF
	Castle Rock Conglomerate (Lee, 1902)	Dawson Arkose, upper part (Richardson, 1912)					Denver Formation, upper tongue (Cross, 1888)	
Geologie characteristics	Conglomerate	Arkosic sandstone facies	Conglomerate facies	Sandstone facies	ith individual beds having the characteristics listed below Claystone facies	Variegated (multicolored) claystone facies	Sandstone facies	Claystone facies
Thickness (maximum observed	Tér 40 ft (12 m)	Tda 75 ft (23 m) in individual beds; 250 ft (75 m) in zones where internal bedding is not distinguished.	65 ft (20 m)	'Tds 20 ft (6 m) in individual beds; 175 ft (53 m) in zones.			Tdes	40 ft (12 m) in individual beds.
in quadrangle)1 Color <sup>2</sup>	Very light gray to light grayish yellow.	Very light gray, light yellowish gray, and reddish brown to brownis red.	<sup>sh</sup> Very light gray to light yellowish gray.	Olive brown to medium reddish brown.	Olive gray, olive brown, and dusky yellow; some medium to dark gray		Medium grayish brown to yellowish brown.	
Texture								Medium gray to light yellowish brown.
Grain size (Rettijohn, 1957, p. 19)	Pebbles, cobbles, and boulders in medium sand matrix.	ciay balls of boulder size.	Fine sand matrix, containing pebbles, cobbles, and boulders as lar, as 4 ft (1.2 m) in maximum dimension.		Mostly clay and silt; local concretions of cobble size; some very fine sand.	Mostly clay and silt; some very fine to fine sand.	Clay, silt, and very fine to fine sand; locally pebbly, rarely conglomeratic.	Mostly clay and silt; some fine sand.
Sorting <sup>3</sup>	Poorly to moderately well sorted.	Moderately sorted; locally poor and chaotic. Equant quartz grains; tabular mica and feldspar grains.	Poorly sorted, chaotic deposition. Equant and oblate; some subspheroidal.	Well sorted. Equant quartz, tabular mica.	Poorly sorted; discontinuous, chaotic layers.	Poorly sorted.	Poorly sorted.	Generally poorly sorted. Some individual beds w
	Mostly subspheroidal; some tabular.	Subangular to subrounded.	Subrounded to well rounded.	Subangular to rounded.	Platy clay, equant silt, tabular mica. Clay-particle aggregates subrounded to well rounded.	Equant grain aggregates, platy grains. Clay-particle aggregates poorly to well rounded.	Equant quartz, tabular mica, bladed volcanic glass, minor constituents. Moderately well rounded.	Tabular and platy clay, equant quartz.
Grain surface	Smooth to pitted, dependent on grain lithology.	Most are smooth to slightly pitted.	Generally smooth. Some fragments are pitted where unstable mineral grains have been removed.	Generally smooth.	Particle surface unknownparticles are too small to ascertain surfaces by normal investigation.	Particle surface unknown.	Quartz grains commonly pitted; other grains mostly smooth.	Clay-particle aggregates poorly rounded, tabular
Composition, in order of abundance	Fragments of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks in clayey quartz-sandstone matrix.	Quartz, feldspar, mica, minor accessory minerals; clay and some iron-oxide and silica cement.	Quartz, feldspar, mica, and clay in matrix; granite, orthoquartzite gneiss, schist, arkose, sandstone, and quartz fragments.	e, Quartz, mica, clay, feldspar, minor accessory minerals; clay and iron-oxide cements.	Clay containing quartz silt and sand; common mica, some feldspar; clay and iron-oxide cements.	Clays: kaolinitic, illitic, mixed-layer, montmorillonitic. Quar some mica.		Clay surfaces unknown. nd Montmorillonitic and mixed-layer clay, quartz, m
Lithification attributes of fresh rock								
Type of cement	Iron oxide, clay, locally calcium carbonate, rarely silica.	Mostly kaolinitic clay; locally iron oxide; rarely silica; very rarely opaline silica.	Mostly kaolinitic and mixed-layer clay; some secondary silica.	Mostly kaolinitic clay, some montmorillonitic clay; local iron-oxi cement.	ide Mostly mixed-layer clays, some montmorillonitic clay, local iron-oxide cement.	Clay cement; see composition.	Commonly iron oxide and clay; calcium carbonate; rarely silica.	Clay; some iron oxide; rarely calcium carbonate.
Degree of cementation	Fair to poor; zones of iron-oxide or silica cementation are good.	Fair to poor; very good in beds cemented by iron oxide or silica.	Poor to fair.	Fair to poor; good in beds cemented with iron oxide.	Poor; fair in beds cemented with iron oxide.	Poor.	Variable; beds cemented with silica or iron oxide are well cement poor in beds cemented with clay.	ed; Poorly cemented throughout.
Compaction	Moderately well compacted. Moderately hard to very hard, dependent on type of cement and	Well compacted.	Moderately well compacted.	Well compacted.	Well compacted.	Moderately well compacted.	Moderately well compacted.	Well compacted while unweathered.
Hardness	degree of weathering.	Moderately soft; iron-oxide- and silica-cemented beds very hard. Mostly very friable; commonly may be crumbled in the fingers.	Moderately soft. Very friable; may be picked apart or crumbled in the fingers.	Generally soft to medium hard. Very friable when dry; commonly plastic when wet.	Mostly very soft. Clay-ironstone concretionary layers very hard.	Moderately hard when dry; very plastic when wet.	Soft to very hard, varying with type of cement.	Soft to very soft, varying with content of silt a
Friability Concretions	Moderately friable; large fragments may be picked from matrix.	Football-shaped concretions of fine-grained sandstone; pillow-shape		Scattered subspheroidal claystone concretions.	Very friable and crumbly when dry; very plastic when wet. Clay-ironstone concretionary layers common; some sandstone	Slightly friable and crumbly when dry; very plastic when wet.	Moderately to very friable; siliceous beds are not friable.	Very friable.
Fossil content	Very sparse; early Oligocene titanothere parts have been found in	clay concretions as large as 4 ft (1.2 m). Petrified wood very common.	Unknown.	Plant debris rare.	Plant debris common on bedding surfaces and throughout layers.	Unknown.	Clay-ironstone concretions rare. Unknown in this area; early Paleocene fossil mammals and reptiles	Common subspheroidal clay-ironstone concretions.
Significant variations	nearby areas. Contains some beds of coarse to very coarse boulder conglomerate;	Local beds of claystone and ironstone.	Interbeds of fine- to coarse-grained arkosic sandstone.	Local interbeds of arkosic sandstone and of claystone.	Local interbeds of sandstone.		found in the Littleton quadrangle to the west.	Vertebrate remains rare; plant remains scattered
Bedding	locally contains extremely large boulders.					Color and clay type change laterally and vertically.	Unknown.	Variations in color, and in silt and sand content
Quality and regularity	common; locally chaotic.	Moderately well bedded. Single beds persistent; interbeds present locally.	Chaotically bedded in irregular units of variable thickness. Individual beds as thick as 12 ft (3.6 m), crossbedded in steep-	claystone or pebble conglomerate.	f Commonly very poorly bedded. Individual beds distinguishable only where enclosed by other lithologies. Beds are irregular, commonly lenticular in large deposits.	most persist laterally. Beds are of variable thickness.	Well bedded. Single beds persistent; interbeds present locally.	Mostly obscurely bedded, poorly and irregularly b
Thickness, and shape or char- acter of bedding surfaces	Very thickly and unevenly bedded. Rolling uneven surfaces; unit commonly pinches and swells abruptly. Scour-and-fill channel structures common.	Thickly bedded to massive; individual beds generally 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m). Crossbedded, with tangential foresets; locally ripplemarked; irregular surfaces; channel fills common.	angle sets in lenticular beds. Wedge-shaped sets common.	Single beds as thick as 8 ft (2.4 m); thick to massive. Commonly crossbedded; as commonly even rhythmic bedding.	Single beds as thick as 25 ft (7.5 m). Some low-angle smoothly curving tangential foreset crossbedding. Bedding commonly obscure by fracturing or weathering.	As much as 20 ft (6 m) in single beds. Bedding surfaces uneven an rolling; no obvious internal bedding structures.	d Thick to very thick bedded, commonly 4-6 ft (1.2-1.8 m) in cross- bedded, irregular, and wavy-surfaced sets.	Thin individual beds, very thick sets of beds. S (1.2-2.4 m) thick; surfaces are irregular and wa
Prevalent orientation	Gentle dip northeastward; most channel-fill structures trend N. 5°-40° E.	Crossbedding dips mostly northeastward. Beds generally horizontal. Channel-fill structures trend mostly N. 5°-40° E.	Unit is generally horizontal; individual sets dip mostly northeastward.	<ul> <li>Unit is generally horizontal. Internal structures may dip gently northeastward.</li> </ul>	Unit is horizontal; some internal structures dip steeply northeast- ward.	Generally horizontal. Local gentle dip northeastward and eastward	. Very gentle dip, less than 2°, northeastward.	Very gentle dip, less than 2° northeastward.
Fracturing (joints are the only type of fracturing known in bedrock in the quadrangle. No faults were seen during fieldwork or photointerpretation)								
Pattern	Rectangular, planar; irregular X-shaped shear joints common on outcrops.	Rectangular in two major sets; planar.	Rectangular, planar.	Rectangular, commonly slightly curved. One major set, one minor set.	Rectangular and irregular, some polygonal. One major set, many minor sets.	Rectangular in both curved and planar sets.	Rectangular and planar, some X-shaped intersections.	Rectangular; planar and curved; incipient joints
Development	Well developed, but poorly preserved on vertical weathered outcrops well preserved on horizontal stripped surfaces.	; Well developed; best preserved in well-cemented individual beds.	Well developed but poorly preserved on weathered surfaces.	Moderately well developed; weathering rapidly obscures joints.	Very well developed; weathering along joints tends to reduce rocks to rubble very rapidly.	Well developed; incipient joints throughout.	Moderately well developed.	Moderately well developed, best preserved on weat Closely spaced jointing develops soon after expo
Prominence and distribution	Conspicuous on fresh exposures and persistent throughout beds, but difficult to observe. Shear fractures in beds commonly terminate upward from base within about 2 ft $(0.6 \text{ m})$ .	Major and conspicuous where preservation is good. Prevalent and persistent throughout individual beds.	Moderately conspicuous; best seen in fresh exposures on sides of ridges.	Generally inconspicuous except in beds cemented by iron oxide or i fresh exposures, but common throughout the unit.	n Generally very conspicuous and very abundant throughout the unit on all outcrops.	Conspicuous and prevalent throughout unit.	Prominent; lined with limonite or clay. Prevalent throughout some individual beds.	Subdued in unweathered or fresh exposure, very pro Commonly lined with limonite. Prevalent through
Extent Abundance	Wide extent. Major joints common; shear joints locally abundant.	Wide ranging, especially in highland areas. Highly fractured.	Probably throughout unit. Common; highly fractured.	Throughout unit. Moderately abundant.	Throughout unit. Very abundant; highly fractured with incipient joints.	Throughout unit.	Throughout unit.	Major joints extend throughout unit. Minor joints
Spacing	6-10 ft (1.8-3 m).	4-6 ft (1.2-1.8 m).	Generally 2-6 ft (0.6-1.8 m).	2-6 ft (0.6-1.8 m).		Very common; highly fractured. As close as 1/8 in (0.3 cm); generally 1-2 in (3-9 cm).	Common in all exposures. 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m) most common; rarely less than 2 ft (0.6 m).	Very abundant, Mostly less than 2 ft (0.6 m); incipient joints le
Orientation	N. 5°-25° W., 75°-90° NE.; N. 45°-65° E., 70°-90° NW.	N. 10°-17° W., 75°-90° NE.; N. 70°-90° E., 70°-90° NW.	Trend north-northwest to northwest. Not measured due to deep weathering.	Major set: N. 10°-15° W., 60°-90° NE.; minor set: N. 40°-70° E., 35°-80° NW.	Major set: N 10°-20° W dip not determined; minor sets trend in	Major sets trend north-northwest; minor sets trend in all direction		(1.3 cm). Major sets trend northeasterly and north-northwest
(strike and dip) Weathering								not measured.
Susceptibility	Moderately susceptible. Deeply weathered in coarsest grained deposits; moderately weathered	Moderately to highly susceptible. Clay-cemented deposits commonly are deeply weathered. Deposits	Highly susceptible. Deeply weathered and noncohesive in clay-cemented deposits; slightl	Moderately to highly susceptible.	Extremely susceptible. Deeply weathered in all exposures; weathers rapidly and slakes	Very susceptible. Deeply weathered throughout; slakes and falls apart rapidly when	Moderately susceptible. Moderately weathered along joints, bedding planes, and flat-lying	Extremely susceptible.
Degree	in medium-grained deposits.	cemented by iron oxide or silica are slightly weathered.	weathered in iron-oxide-cemented deposits.	Moderatery to deepry weathered. Tends to stake on exposure.	severely when freshly exposed.	freshly exposed.	Commonly 1-2 ft (0.3-0.6 m) below surfaces; as much as 3 ft (1 m)	beepig weathered on all exposures.
Depth	As deep as 5 ft (1.5 m).	Commonly deeper than 5 ft (1.5 m); rarely deeper than 10 ft (3 m).		Commonly deeper than 10 ft (3 m); locally deeper than 20 ft (6 m).	Commonly deeper than 25 ft (7.5 m).	Commonly deeper than 15 ft (4.5 m).	along joints.	Known as deep as 20 ft (6 m), probably greater loc
Internal controls	Fragment size, type of cement, jointing, extent of exposure.	Bedding configuration, type of cement, jointing, extent of exposure		Bedding configuration, type of cement, type of overburden. Mechanical disaggregation; minor shrinkage upon drying after	Jointing, type of cement, plant roots.	Jointing, shrink-swell capability, organic debris, plant roots.	Jointing, bedding, type of cement.	Jointing, strong shrink-swell capability of clays; mineralogy.
Туре	Mechanical disintegration.	Mostly mechanical disintegration, following chemical weathering of feldspars to clay.	Mechanical disaggregation.	saturation.	Shrinkage cracking when drying, and disaggregation.	Mechanical and chemical: removal of large grains by erosion, and clay alteration.	Mostly mechanical disintegration, some chemical.	Principally mechanical disintegration, owing to th clays.
Weathering products Color	Very light yellowish gray to white.	Light yellowish gray, light reddish tan, grayish orange pink.	Dark brown, dark reddish brown, medium yellowish brown.	Color generally lighter than in unweathered rocks.	Generally much lighter than unweathered rocks; commonly very light gray to light grayish brown.	Generally very light gray; commonly light shades of tan and green.	Generally yellowish brown to reddish brown, usually darker than fresh rock.	Dark to very light gray and light grayish brown.
Character of the weathered surface	Loose sandy boulder gravel.	Loose sandy pebbly gravel; noncohesive surficial deposit.	Loose sandy boulder gravel and noncohesive sand.	Noncohesive fine sand, covering smooth rounded bluffs and slopes.	Smooth slopes covered with disaggregated clay blocks.	Rubbly "popcorn" surface composed of blocky clay fragments with slight cohesion.	Small rectangular loose blocks of sandstone; loose noncohesive sand; rounded smooth bluffs and slopes.	Small rectangular blocks of claystone; "popcorn" s
Shape or size of weathered fragments	Medium sand to rounded rectilinear boulders.	Fine sand to coarse gravel; local pebbles and cobbles.	Well-rounded pebbles and cobbles as large as 4 in (0.1 m), and fine to medium loose sand.	Rounded to angular sandstone boulders and noncohesive sand grains.	Small crumbly blocks of clay; locally "popcorn" surface occurs; puffy ground in areas of expansive clays.	Rounded to blocky very fine to fine equant noncohesive aggregates of clay.	Angular to subrounded blocks of sandstone; loose sand.	Tabular clay-particle agglomerates with little co Incipient breakdown to loose clay and silt with ma
Physical changes	Loses hardness and cohesion.	Loses hardness and cohesion.	Loss of hardness and cohesion.	Loses hardness and cohesion; fine grains removed by water and wind.	Losos handnoss and schosion disconnected to some small in initiation	Loses hardness; shrinkage cracks appear; blocks disaggregate.	Loss of hardness and cohesion; andesite pebbles disintegrate.	pebble-sized blocks of clay. Loss of hardness and cohesion, destruction of bedd:
Chemical/mineralogical changes	Unknown.	Feldspar changes to clay; micas slowly decompose.	Oxidation of iron.	Oxidation of iron, decomposition of micas.	Local Na-K ion exchange suspected; slow decomposition of mica; iron oxidation.		Oxidation of iron and organic constituents.	Probable Na-K ion exchange; adsorption of water by
Soil-zone development	Thin stony gravelly sandy residual soil, calcareous, very porous; commonly less than 1 ft (0.3 m) deep.	Generally very thin stony and gravelly residual soil, very porous; depth commonly less than 1 ft (0.3 m).	Generally very thin sandy rocky residual soil, poorly developed. Fine grains mostly removed by wind. Depth 1-3 ft (0.3-1 m).	Sandy silty clayey calcareous residual soil, moderately porous; depth commonly 1-2 ft (0.3-0.6 m).	Clayey calcareous silty slightly sandy residual soil, locally stony; depth 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m). Strongly developed Cca zone.	<pre>oxidation and reduction. Clayey silty noncalcareous gummy residual soil; locally sandy; double as much as 10 ft (7 m); Conservationally locally sandy;</pre>	Loose thin stony sandy clayey silty calcareous acidic residual	of iron. Heavy dense gummy silty clay, calcareous, slightly
Interpreted origin of deposits	Alluvial fans and stream deposits, flowing southwest to northeast.	Alluvial fans, stream deposits, and flood-plain deposits, flowing from granite highland (to southwest) toward northeast.	Alluvial fan deposits.	Coalescing stream-channel deposits; local flood-plain deposits of silt and clay.	Flood-plain and swamp deposits in meandering-stream environment.	depth as much as 10 ft (3 m); Cca zone poorly developed. Flood-plain and swamp deposits in meandering-stream environment.	soil. Mostly 1-2 ft (0.3-0.6 m) deep. Alluvial fans, colluvium; some landslide deposits; coalescing	as deep as 10 ft (3 m). Alluvium, colluvium; local landslide deposits.
Mode of occurrence		Occurs throughout southern half of map area in very thick zones and					stream deposits.	Allaviam, collaviam, local landslide deposits.
Geographic distribution	Only in southern part of map area; highest unit in geologic section	In lowland: low flat-topped gently sloping ridges; in highland:	Single deposit in highland area, south part of map area.	Cyclic deposits in southeast three-quarters of map area.		Mostly in southern part of map area, south of County Line Road.	In northern part of map area.	Single beds interbedded with Dawson beds in souther map area; widespread in northern part.
Major landforms	Caprock of high mesas; bluffs, cliffs, and other abrupt slopes.	steeply sloping hills and sheer bluffs.	Caprock of highland mesa near south-central part.	Low flat to gently rolling hills and low-angle foreland slopes.	Low flat to gently rolling hills and low-angle foreland slopes.	Low-angle slopes between more erosion-resistant units.	Low hills and gently sloping ridges; low rounded bluffs.	Steep slopes where protected from erosion by overly units; low rills and valley slopes.
Dominant gradational agent	Stable in all known slopes excent where undermined by erosion.	Sheetwash; streamflow; local rockfalls.Stable in all known slopes, except where undermined by erosion or	Sheetwash, downslope creep, local rockfalls. Unstable due to weak, easily eroded cement and tendency to weather	Sheetwash and streamflow. Stable in all known slopes.	Sheetwash and streamflow; local landslides. Inherently unstable in slopes steeper than about 1:1; highly	Sheetwash and streamflow; local landslides. Moderately stable in all known slopes; inherently unstable when	Mostly streamflow.	Streamflow, sheetwash, landslides.
Stability of natural slopes General comments	Stable in all known slopes, except where undermined by erosion. Moderately permeable, moderate internal drainage. Furnishes large	quarrying. Moderately to highly permeable; springs commonly issue from bedding	to noncohesive pieces. Highly permeable, high internal drainage. Sheds loose rocks onto	Moderately permeable, low internal drainage. Weathered sandstone	Low permeability, low internal drainage. Very plastic when wet.	saturated.	Stable in all known slopes, except where undermined by erosion.	Unstable on slopes steeper than 1:1; inherently uns saturated. Colluvium on claystone is unstable on
	blocks of rock to colluvium on slopes below mesas. Disaggregates slowly after exposure. Water-trapping pothole "tanks" common on exposed bedding surfaces. Calcareous. Laminar particles, firm	surfaces and from contacts with claystone or fine-grained sandston interbeds. Thick zones on map are characterized by mostly arkosic pebbly sandstone with minor interbeds and lenses of claystone and fine-grained sandstone. Arkose is easy to moderately difficult to excavate, easy to crush, and commonly is used to surface secondary roads. High water table on north-facing slopes. Noncalcareous. Feldspar and petrified-wood content limit use as concrete aggre- gate. Easily trafficable when dry. Ponderosa pines and yucca plants flourish on unit.	e colluvium on slopes below outcrops. Local high iron-oxide content may cause corrosive ground water. Component rocks probably useful for crushed stone, decorative stone, building stone, or mortar sand. Noncalcareous. Disintegrates slowly after exposure.	becomes very soft and muddy when saturated. When wet, trafficability is very difficult to common wheeled vehicles; easily traffic- able when dry. Widespread aquifer. Slightly calcareous. Easily	L- Locally contains clay with critical swelling-pressure potential: Springs issue from upper surfaces where unit is overlain by		Moderately to highly permeable, moderate internal drainage. Commonly contains springs. Contains high percentage of volcanic rock fragments. Very calcareous, locally very heavily stained by iron oxide. Disaggregates rapidly on exposure. Locally contains expansive clay. Trafficability good to moderately difficult to common wheeled vehicles under all but most severe conditions. Local aquifer, but heavy iron-oxide content probably precludes culinary use. Not known to be commercially usable for construction materials.	pressure potential. Landslides are very common on by unit. Local aquiclude. Moderately to slightly When wet, untrafficable to common wheeled vehicles
		Planes from and the		1				S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOLOGIC MAP AND ENGINEERING DATA FOR THE HIGHLANDS RANCH QUADRANGLE, ARAPAHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, COLORADO

## TABLE I-- GEOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS OF BEDROCK UNITS

By

John O. Maberry and Robert M. Lindvall

1974

Colgrado (Highlande Rapel quad.). Xe 3 1818 00180443 2

JAN 27 1975

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MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDIES MAP MF-631 SHEET 2 OF 3