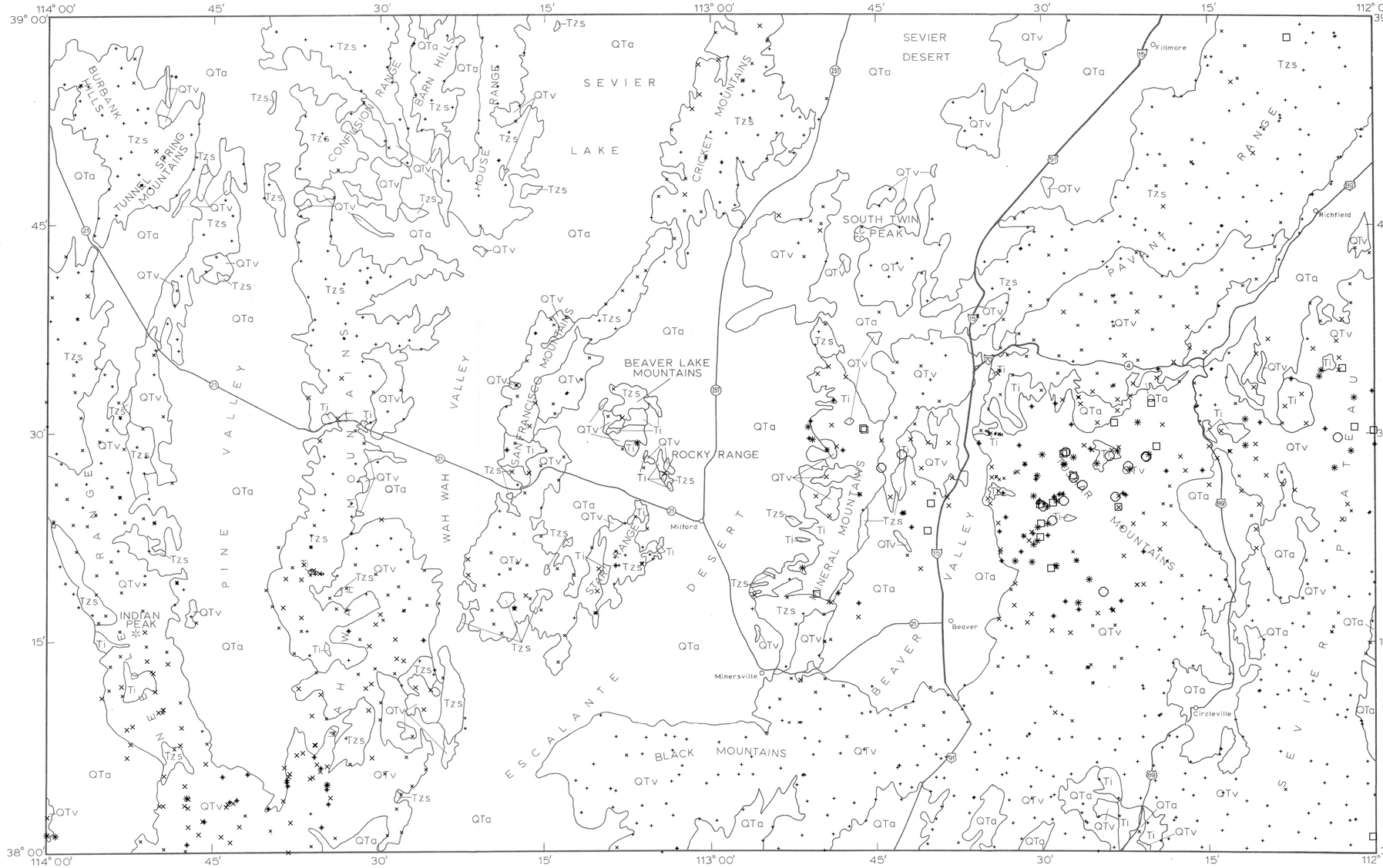
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MISCELLANEOUS FIELD STUDIES
MAP MF-2138-J
FOLIO OF THE RICHFIELD 1° X 2° QUADRANGLE, UTAH



Geology generalized from Steven and others (1978)

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MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF URANIUM IN STREAM-SEDIMENT SAMPLES, RICHFIELD 1° X 2° QUADRANGLE, UTAH

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INTRODUCTION

This map of the Richfield 1° x 2° quadrangle shows the regional distribution of uranium in the less-than-0.180-mm (minus-80-mesh) fraction of stream-sediment samples. It is part of a folio of maps of the Richfield 1° x 2° quadrangle, Utah, prepared under the Conterminous United States Mineral Assessment Program. Other published geochemical maps in this folio are listed in the references (this publication).

The Richfield quadrangle is located in west-central Utah and includes the eastern part of the Pioche-Marysvale igneous and mineral belt, which extends from the vicinity of Pioche in southeastern Nevada, east-northeastward for 155 miles into central Utah. The western two-thirds of the Richfield quadrangle is located in the Basin and Range province, whereas the eastern third is part of the High Plateaus of Utah, a subprovince of the Colorado Plateau.

Bedrock in the northern part of the Richfield quadrangle consists predominantly of Late Proterozoic and Paleozoic sedimentary strata that were thrust eastward during the Sevier orogeny in Cretaceous time onto an autochthon of Mesozoic sedimentary rocks located in the eastern part of the quadrangle. The southern part of the quadrangle is largely underlain by Oligocene and younger volcanic rocks and related intrusions. Extensional tectonism in late Cenozoic time broke the bedrock terrain into a series of north-trending fault blocks; the uplifted mountain areas were eroded to various degrees and the resulting debris was deposited in adjacent basins. Most mineral deposits in the Pioche-Marysvale mineral belt were formed as a result of igneous activity in middle and late Cenozoic time. A more complete description of the geology and a mineral-resource appraisal of the Richfield quadrangle appears in Steven and Morris (1984 and 1987).

The regional sampling program was designed to define broad geochemical patterns and trends that can be utilized along with geological and geophysical data to assess the mineral-resource potential for this quadrangle. Reconnaissance geochemical surveys are valuable tools in mineral exploration, especially when used in conjunction with data obtained from other earth science disciplines. Identifying specific exploration targets, however, generally involves additional, more detailed investigations.

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND PREPARATION

Stream-sediment samples were collected at 1,462 sites throughout the Richfield quadrangle. The sample sites are located along small, normally unbranched or first-order stream drainages that range from 1 to 2 miles in length and whose stream courses are 2 to 12 feet wide. Sample density within the bedrock areas is one sample per 3 square miles. Intermountain basins containing sediments were not sampled. Each sample is a composite of material collected at four or five sites (usually within 30 feet of each other) across and along the active stream channel. About 1 to 2 pounds of bulk sediments were collected from each site. The geochemical sampling was conducted by C.K. Lee, W.R. Miller, J.B. McHugh, R.E. Tucker, J.D. Tucker, and J.F. Guadagnoli.

The less-than-0.180-mm fraction of stream-sediment samples was prepared by drying the bulk sediment and sieving it to less than 0.180 mm. This fraction was then pulverized in a vertical ceramic-plate mill to a powder (less than 0.105 mm) and analyzed.

ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

For this study, uranium concentrations were determined by delayed neutron counting, which is a nuclear-activation analytical method for measuring uranium in a matrix without chemical processing; the analysis was conducted under the direction of H.T. Millard, Jr. A complete listing of analytical results appears in McHugh and others (1989). Ten-gram sample aliquots were used; results indicated detection limits of about 0.1 ppm. Analytical precision of (+ or -) five percent may be achieved for the determination of uranium at concentrations greater than about 1 ppm. A more detailed description of this analytical procedure appears in McKown and Millard (1987).

GENERATION OF MAPS

A computer-generated point-plot map for uranium in the less-than-0.180-mm fraction of stream-sediment samples was prepared using the computerized mapping programs within the U.S. Geological Survey's STATPAC system (VanTrump and Miesch, 1977). Uranium concentrations ranged from less than 0.36 to 251 ppm. Approximately 50 percent of the samples were within the range of background values; the remaining 50 percent are divided into six classifications that range from highly anomalous to very weakly anomalous. Each classification is represented by a symbol or size of symbol on the histogram (fig. 1). The least anomalous classification is shown only to indicate elevated values above background and not to indicate mineralization. The most anomalous classification represents one percent of the total population followed by less anomalous classification at approximately 2.5, 5, 10, 25, and 50 percent of the total population. Thus each succeeding classification contains approximately twice the population of the preceeding less anomalous classification.

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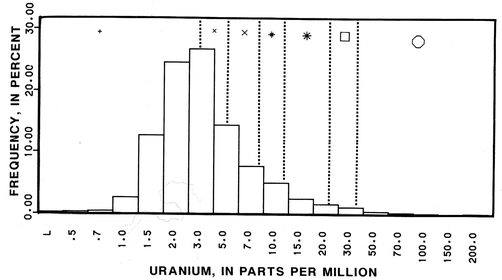

EXPLANATION

SAMPLE LOCALITIES FOR URANIUM

- ○ Highly anomalous value
- ✦ Moderately weak anomalous value
- □ Moderately high anomalous value
- × Weakly anomalous value
- ✳ Moderately anomalous value
- · Very weakly anomalous value
- + Nonanomalous value

Figure 1.--Histogram showing uranium concentrations in stream-sediment samples collected from the Richfield 1° x 2° quadrangle, Utah. Number of samples, 1,462; L, not detected at 0.36 ppm.

LIST OF MAP UNITS

QTa	Surficial deposits, undivided (Quaternary and Tertiary)
QTv	Volcanic rocks, undivided (Quaternary and Tertiary)
Ti	Intrusive igneous rocks, undivided (Tertiary)
Tzs	Sedimentary rocks, undivided (Tertiary to Late Proterozoic)
——	Contact

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