

Table 1.--Generalized stratigraphic section and water-bearing characteristics of aquifers in central-western New Mexico
 [Adapted and (or) modified from West (1959), Gordon (1961), Cooper and John (1968), Mercer and Cooper (1970),
 and Shomaker (1971).]

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Erathem	System	Series	Group	Stratigraphic Unit	Thickness		Generalized lithology	Generalized hydrologic characteristics	Remarks
					feet	metres			
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene		Alluvium	0- 200	0- 60	Valley-fill deposits of unconsolidated silt, clay, sand, and gravel.	Yields adequate quantities of water for stock and domestic supplies at many places and for irrigation locally. Yields are erratic.	Water is generally potable but usually is hard and contains a high proportion of sulfate ion (SO ₄ --).
		Holocene and Pleistocene		Basalt	0- 200(?)	0- 60	Dense to vesicular black basalt, extruded as lava flows of varying thickness and extent.	Yields adequate quantities of water for stock and domestic supplies at many places.	Extensive flows in North Plains "malpais" area.
				Alluvium	0- 100(?)	0- 30	Valley fill deposits of sand, gravel, silt, and clay.	Yields adequate quantities of water for stock and domestic supplies at many places and for irrigation in favorable localities in valley.	Pre-Holocene alluviated valleys in North Plains "malpais" area are generally untested.
		Pleistocene		Landslide debris	(?)	(?)	Unconsolidated surficial deposits consisting mainly of Chuska Sandstone in Chuska Mountains and Chinle Formation in Grants area.	Small amount of water yielded to springs in Chuska Mountains. Unknown in Grants area.	--
			Pediment	(?)	(?)	Veneer of unconsolidated gravel and sand deposited on stream-cut terrace surfaces.	Not known to yield any water. Deposits are usually very thin.	--	
	Tertiary	Pliocene (?)		Chuaka Sandstone	0-1,000+	300+	Gray to grayish-white, massive, crossbedded sandstone with some interbedded siltstone and shale.	Yields water to springs in the Chuska Mountains. No known wells penetrate this sandstone.	Outcrops only in the Chuska Mountains.
		Pliocene and Miocene		Basalt and other extrusive and intrusive igneous rocks	0-5,000+	0-1,500+	Extrusive and intrusive rocks of basaltic, andesitic and rhyolitic composition. Sheet flows, cinder cones, dikes, welded tuffs, ash falls, pumice, breccia, and vesicular basalts complexly interbedded.	Ground water encountered in small quantities in mineral exploration wells. Springs form at base of basalt flows (Cooper and John, 1968, p. 36-37).	Largely confined to Mount Taylor-Mesa Chivato area (Moench and Schlee, 1967, p.26-27).