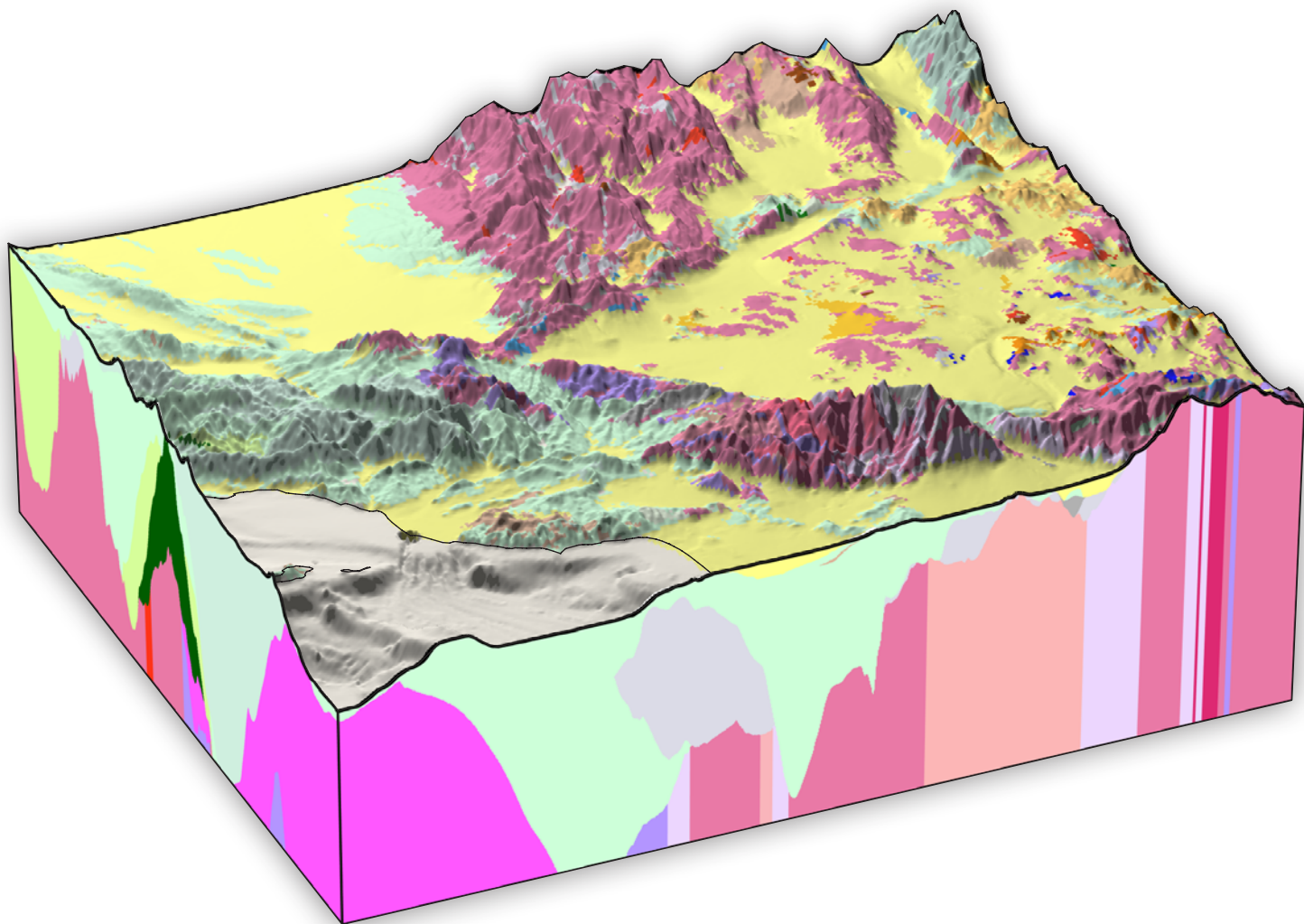


# 3D Geologic Framework for Use with the U.S. Geological Survey National Crustal Model, Phase 1—Western United States



Open-File Report 2019–1081  
Version 1.1, December 2019

**Cover.** Geologic cross sections through the geologic framework model in southern California. Unconsolidated materials in the valleys lie above Cenozoic and Mesozoic sandstones and other sedimentary rocks, which sit on top of igneous intrusions that extend vertically and have significant uncertainty in subsurface distribution. In many mountainous areas, igneous rocks are present at the surface.

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By Oliver S. Boyd

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Version 1.1, December 2019

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey**

**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
DAVID BERNHARDT, Secretary

**U.S. Geological Survey**  
James F. Reilly II, Director

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Datum

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Horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).  
Elevation, as used in this report, refers to distance above the vertical datum.

Conversion Factors

International System of Units to U.S. customary units

Multiply	By	To obtain
Length		
meter (m)	3.281	foot (ft)
kilometer (km)	0.6214	mile (mi)
Velocity		
kilometer per second (km/s)	0.6214	miles per second (mi/s)
kilometer per second (km/s)	3280.84	feet per second (ft/s)

Abbreviations

ASST	Average soil and sedimentary deposit thickness
CEUS	Central and eastern United States
GMNA	Geologic map of North America
NCM	National Crustal Model
SEVR	Sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks
SGMC	State Geologic Map Compilation
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WUS	Western United States

# 3D Geologic Framework for Use with the U.S. Geological Survey National Crustal Model, Phase 1—Western United States

By Oliver S. Boyd

## Abstract

A 3D geologic framework is presented here as part of the U.S. Geological Survey National Crustal Model for the western United States, which will be used to improve seismic hazard assessment. The framework is based on 1:250,000 to 1:1,000,000-scale state geologic maps and depths of multiple subsurface unit boundaries. The geology at or near the Earth's surface is based on published maps with modifications to remove discontinuities across state borders. Extrapolation of rock type and age in the subsurface is achieved by iterative stripping of units of a given age, nearest neighbor interpolation of the remaining units, and constraints on basement geology. The subsurface depth of the interfaces between units is determined by a range of models with varying quantity and quality of constraints. Bedrock depth is derived primarily from a proxy model with added geophysical constraint in some areas. The depths to the base of Cenozoic and Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks are constrained by geophysical methods in many areas. Elsewhere, a simple method is used to estimate their subsurface depth based on the distance to the edge of the geologic units. The remaining continental units are evenly distributed above, below, and between depending on age. The oceanic crust is treated as a simple four-layer model with the added complexity of subduction beneath the North American plate along the Cascadia subduction zone.

Refinements to this technique may be accomplished in future versions of the model with more specific information including the location of faults to produce discontinuities in geologic structure and additional information obtained from boreholes and geophysical studies. Further improvements to the geologic framework may be made by incorporating information from more local studies, for example, hydrogeologic studies.

## Introduction

Appreciable seismic hazard and risk are nearly ubiquitous across the United States (U.S.) as evidenced by large historic earthquakes along the San Andreas Fault, within the New Madrid seismic zone, and near Washington D.C. and seismically vulnerable structures built before modern building codes in the central and eastern U.S. A major factor in assessing seismic hazard is the ground motion produced by an earthquake, which is strongly influenced by the subsurface geology. For example, because of differences in mechanical properties, ground composed of poorly consolidated sediments typically undergoes greater intensity shaking than ground composed of bedrock such as granite or sandstone. Ground shaking within sedimentary basins may be of greater duration and amplitude relative to locations outside of these basins because of mechanical properties and wave focusing. Knowledge of the surface and subsurface geologic variations can be used to constrain, interpolate, and extrapolate geophysical data and estimate the three-dimensional (3D) geophysical structure across the U.S.

A U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Crustal Model (NCM) will assist with earthquake hazard estimates in the USGS National Seismic Hazard Model by supporting estimates of ground shaking in response to an earthquake. Improved hazard assessments may also be used for planning and risk assessments but are not intended for site-specific engineering applications. The NCM is composed of geophysical attribute-depth profiles on a 1-kilometer (km) grid from which can be extracted metrics needed for ground motion models (GMMs). Quantities of immediate interest are the time-averaged shear-wave velocity in the upper 30 meters (m) and the depths to 1.0 and 2.5 kilometers/second (km/s) shear-wave velocity. The NCM has the flexibility to provide additional metrics such as fundamental frequency, a fully frequency-dependent site response function derived from 1D, 2D, or 3D analyses, or 3D geophysical volumes for wavefield simulations. The NCM may also benefit other aspects of seismic hazard analysis including better accounting for path-dependent attenuation and geometric spreading and more accurate estimation of earthquake source properties such as hypocentral location, magnitude, focal mechanism, and stress drop.

Each geophysical profile within the NCM is based on subsurface geology, pressure, and temperature coupled with mineral and rock physics theory and porosity and attenuation models. The primary elements used to construct the NCM are: (1) depth

to bedrock and basement (Shah and Boyd, 2018); (2) 3D geologic framework (this report); (3) petrologic and mineral physics database (Sowers and Boyd, 2019); (4) 3D temperature model; (5) calibration of a porosity and attenuation model; and (6) validation. These elements make use of a host of geology, borehole, gravity, and seismic datasets to connect subsurface geological variability with geophysical attributes and seismic response.

Construction of the 3D geologic framework for the NCM requires information about the surface and subsurface geology that is continuous across state borders and fully spans the study area. The 3D geologic framework uses published maps of near-surface and basement geology and multiple primary subsurface layer boundaries including the depth to: (1) bedrock, (2) base of Cenozoic and Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (SEVR), (3) middle crust, and (4) Moho (Mohorovičić discontinuity). Phase 1 of model construction, the main subject of this report, covers the western United States (WUS) west of 100°W longitude. Phase 2 covers the central and eastern United States (CEUS) east of this longitude. Datasets for Phase 2 collected to date are shown here to illustrate progress made and potential problems. A data release accompanies this report (Boyd, 2019), which consists of geologic profiles on a regular grid across the western U.S.: <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9SBQENM>. Codes to produce geologic profiles are available at <https://code.usgs.gov/ghsc/nshmp/ncm/GeoFram>.

## Geology and Age of Rocks at or Near the Earth's Surface

Geologic maps showing dominant lithology and age at or near the Earth's surface are derived from the USGS State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC; Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) and the Geologic Map of North America (GMNA; Garrity and Soller, 2009). SGMC maps in the WUS have map scales ranging from 1:250,000 to 1:1,000,000, and the GMNA has a map scale of 1:5,000,000. The maps are distilled into a common set of 164 ages, spanning from the Holocene to Archean (table 1.1), and 209 lithologic types (table 2.1) composed of unconsolidated material and sedimentary, volcanic, metamorphic, and igneous rock types (see appendix 1 and 2 for age and lithologic data dictionaries).

The SGMC database is available as an esri geodatabase, shapefile, or tables of comma separated values; the shapefile is used here (Horton, 2017). Each polygon within the shapefile consists of multiple attributes including minimum and maximum age and up to three major and five minor rock types; in many cases, only one major rock type is specified, and the other entries are empty. The ages are derived from the FULL\_MIN and FULL\_MAX age fields in the age table, which are built from the definitions in the age table data dictionary with designations as fine as age based on the 2016 International Chronostratigraphic Chart (International Commission on Stratigraphy, 2016). There are several age entries in the shapefile that are not present in the data dictionary—these are mapped to data dictionary values (appendix 1). The rock type data dictionary used here (appendix 2) is derived from an earlier version of the State geologic map compilation consisting of 209 lithologic units.

The GMNA database is available as a shapefile. Each polygon within this shapefile also has a minimum and maximum age but only one rock type. GMNA ages are mapped into the SGMC data dictionary (appendix 1), and GMNA rock types are mapped into the rock type data dictionary used here (appendix 2).

Generally, analysis is performed on the minimum age field because it is assumed to represent the top of the geologic unit, though in most instances the choice is inconsequential because the minimum and maximum age field are the same. In some cases, however, the difference between these fields is significant. For example, granodiorite units in parts of the Sierra Nevada have a minimum age of Tertiary and maximum age of Lopingian, but the description is Mesozoic. For intrusive units with a large span in age, the description field is interrogated for a general unit age, which is then used for further analysis. In a few cases (0.04 percent of map area), igneous and metamorphic units have unknown age. In these cases, the age of the nearest unit with a similar rock type, either intrusive igneous or metamorphic, is assigned.

There are two cases in the SGMC shapefiles where minimum ages have labels that are older than maximum ages. In Virginia, some granites are assigned a minimum age of Mississippian and maximum age of Pennsylvanian (0.0004 percent of the NCM map area). In Oregon, some argillites are assigned a minimum age of Carnian and maximum age of Norian (0.004 percent of the NCM map area). These errors are corrected by simply switching the age labels.

Values within the shapefile polygons are rasterized onto a 1-km grid and several modifications are made in order to follow certain assumptions and to make the maps continuous across state and country borders. Units having a minimum age older than Miocene are assumed to be lithified, following studies that define units older than Miocene as the top of bedrock (for example, Gutentag and others, 1984; Pelletier and others, 2016). If the first major rock type is older than Miocene but is listed as an unconsolidated lithology, the other two major rock types are checked and the first that is lithified is chosen. If there are no other types or they are not lithified, the rock type that represents a lithification of the unconsolidated sediment is chosen. For example, silt becomes siltstone, sand becomes sandstone, and so forth.

Geologic discontinuities across state and country borders are removed by comparing age and lithology across the border and making algorithmic decisions to resolve the discrepancy. In many cases, unit contacts are continuous across state and country borders, but the lithology and age assigned to the unit are not. In many such cases, differences are generally subtle where on

one side a slightly different lithology is chosen, or a more specific age is assigned. When contacts are not continuous, this usually results from differences in resolution where a mapped unit is subdivided by one state geologist and is not by the other.

Modifications to the geologic maps are typically made to the unit on the side of the border that has a smaller mapped area, which minimizes changes that are made to the geologic maps and has the effect of reducing the resolution in that area when differences in resolution across a border are present. Basic exceptions to this rule were made after visual inspection of the maps in order to maximize continuity (see appendix 3).

A few of the original map units, about 0.04 percent of the NCM project area, have no age assigned. Most of these are from the GMNA in western Canada and to a lesser extent in western Mexico. In these cases, the age of the nearest similar lithology is used. Additionally, generic rock types such as sedimentary, igneous, volcanic, and metamorphic, are replaced with more specific lithologies of the same type by comparison with nearby units having the same age. The resulting National-scale geologic age and lithology maps are shown in figures 1 and 2, of which the western parts are used for the Phase 1 analysis.

## Lithology and Age of Subsurface Layers

### Oceanic Crust

Oceanic crust is generalized as being composed of at least four lithologic layers: unconsolidated sediment, basalt, gabbro, and peridotite (see fig. 7.4 in Brown and Mussett, 1981). Sedimentary rock units may also overlay the basalt layer. The age of the crust is taken from Müller and others (2008) and is needed to assess the geotherm in the oceanic crust.

### Continental Crust

The NCM subsurface continental geology is essentially an extrapolation of geology at the Earth's surface, whereby depositional and extrusive volcanic units, ordered by age, are iteratively stripped, and the distribution of remaining units, which are either older or intrusive, is interpolated. The extrapolation of intrusive and Proterozoic and Archean units, however, is limited by the basement geology map constructed by Whitmeyer and Karlstrom (2007). Initially, only the vertical ordering of layer age and lithology is determined, without regard to the depth of each unit. At a later stage, with bedrock and basement layer depths in hand, depths are assigned, and the 3D geologic framework model is completed (see section "Layer Elevation").

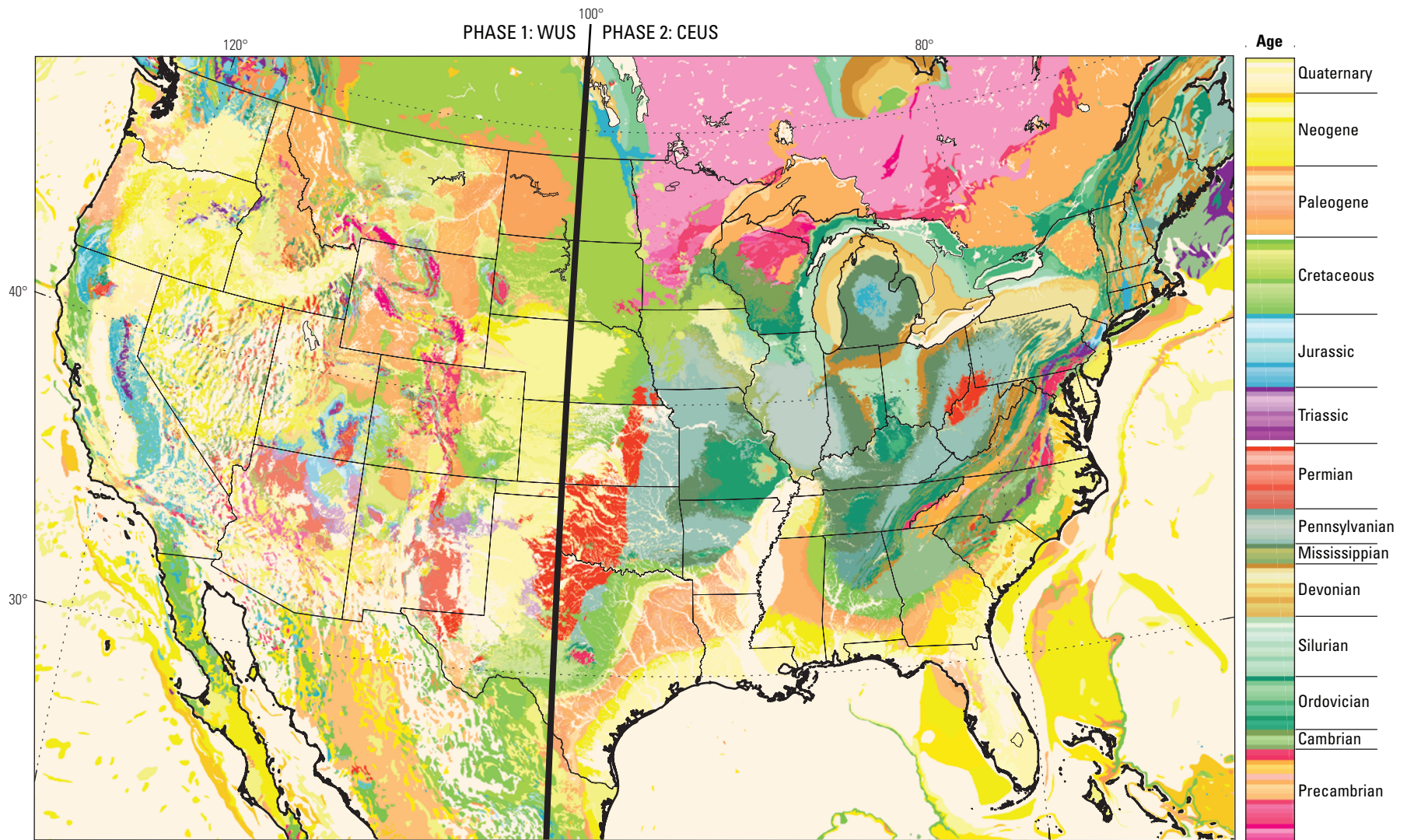
More specifically, the initial subsurface age and lithologic layer models are constructed using an iterative nearest-neighbor interpolation. Non-intrusive geologic units (for example, Holocene alluvium), ordered by median age, are iteratively stripped. The first units to be stripped are Holocene deposits having a median age of 6 thousand years (ka) and the last, Paleoproterozoic, having a median age of 3.4 billion years. After units of a given age are stripped, nearest-neighbor interpolation is used to estimate the distribution of the remaining geologic units; remaining units grow uniformly in all directions to fill in the gaps. This produces a crystal-like patchwork of remaining units, which is obviously unnatural, but is a reasonable choice given no other constraints on the subsurface distribution of geologic units.

Age within the lower crust and lithospheric mantle is assumed to be that of the overlying material but the lithology is assumed to be pyroxenite in the lower crust and peridotite in the mantle (Wilshire, 1990).

This approach can be improved upon with better resolved ages of materials at the Earth's surface and greater a priori knowledge of subsurface geology, as can be obtained from drill holes and geophysical studies including seismic reflection and refraction, gravity, and aeromagnetism. For example, one limitation of the method used in this report is that two lithologies with the same mapped age that meet in the subsurface will meet along a vertical boundary and not overlap. It may be that one unit is older than the other and should lie below. Or, the two units were in fact deposited at the same time and the boundaries interfinger, producing a series of prograde and retrograde depositional sequences. Note also that because of the nearest-neighbor interpolation, the boundary will be equidistant from the outcrops of the respective units, which is unlikely to be the actual case.

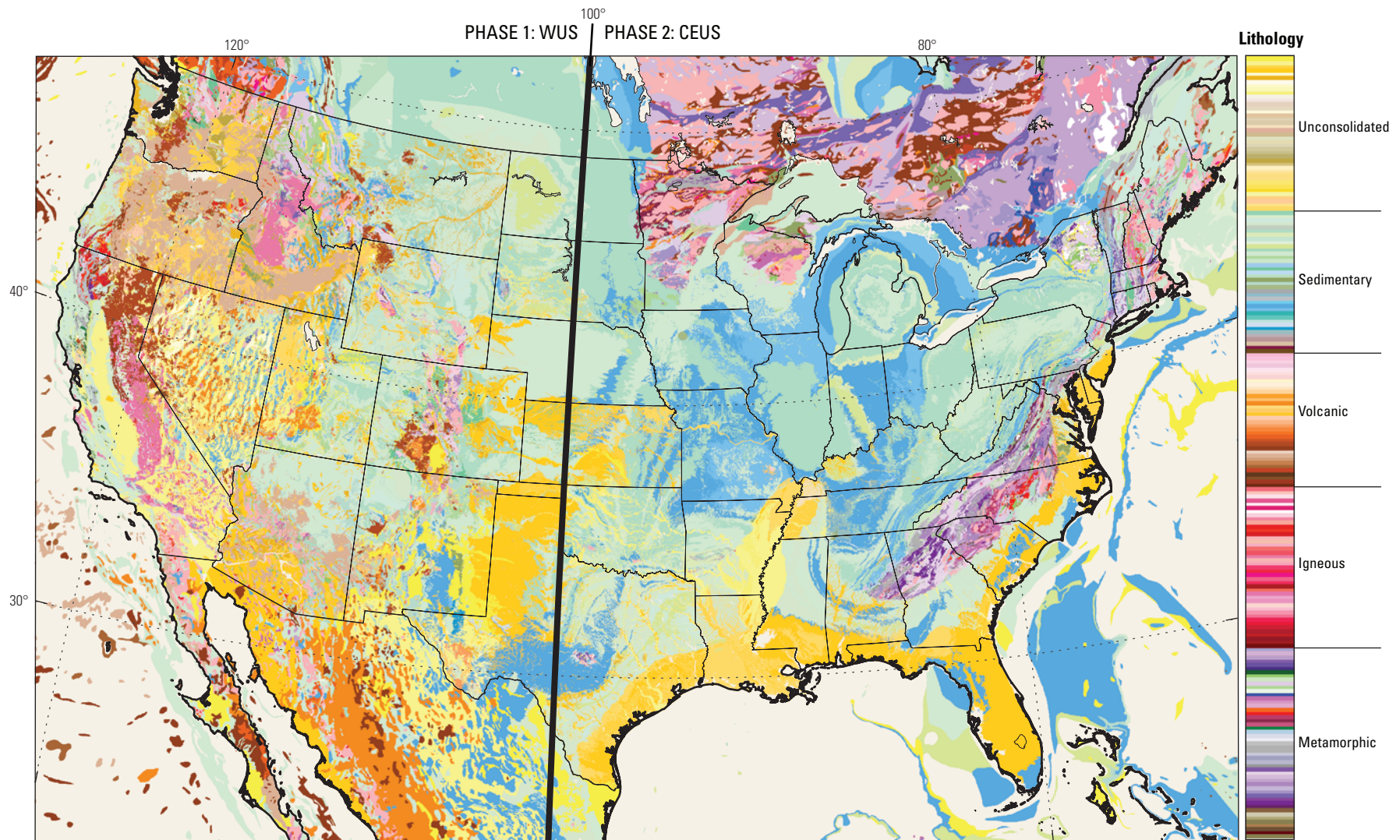
All age distinctions from the geologic maps are retained to be able to properly order geologic units in the subsurface. All rock distinctions are also retained to be able to fully account for potential geophysical variability in the subsurface, which includes variability due to mineral physical properties (Sowers and Boyd, 2019) as well as variability that will be actualized after calibration of porosity and attenuation models.





**Figure 1.** Merged geologic map of the United States and southern Canada and northern Mexico, showing, in most cases, the minimum age, as derived from the minimum age fields in the Geologic Map of North America database (Garrity and Soller, 2009) and the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC; Horton and others, 2017; Horton, 2017). For intrusive units with a large span in age, the description field in the SGMC is used for a general unit age. In a few cases, igneous and metamorphic units have unknown age. In these cases, the minimum age field of the nearest unit with a similar rock type, either intrusive igneous or metamorphic, is assigned. Note that state maps compiled in the SGMC for several states around the Great Lakes show only bedrock geology, such that young glacial deposits are underrepresented on this map. Colors are taken from the Red-Green-Blue color code according to the Commission for the Geologic Map of the World (<https://www.ccgm.org>). WUS, western United States; CEUS, central and eastern United States.





**Figure 2.** Dominant mapped lithology of the United States and southern Canada and northern Mexico. Note that state maps compiled by the State Geologic Map Compilation (Horton and others, 2017; Horton, 2017) for several states around the Great Lakes show only bedrock geology, such that young glacial deposits are underrepresented on this map. Lithologic colors are adapted from Moyer and others (2005) (and can also be found at <https://mrdata.usgs.gov/catalog/lithrgb.txt>, last accessed Oct. 2018. WUS, western United States; CEUS, central and eastern United States).

## Subsurface Layer Depth and Elevation

### Oceanic Crust

For much of the oceanic crust, the basalt layer is assumed to lie directly below the unconsolidated sediment layer whose top is defined by the gridded General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (Weatherall and others, 2015; GEBCO, 2018), a global 30 arc-second elevation model. The thickness of the unconsolidated sediment layer in the oceans is defined by Whittaker and others (2013). In Cascadia, where the Juan de Fuca slab subducts beneath the North American plate, the top of the basalt layer is defined by Slab2 (Hayes and others, 2018). The basalt layer is assumed to be 2 km thick, the gabbro beneath, 5 km (see fig. 7.4 in Brown and Mussett, 1981), and the peridotite layer extends to the base of the model.

### Continental Crust

#### Layer Depth

Within the continental extent of the NCM, bedrock and basement depth surfaces of a given age or lithologic distinction serve to pin the depths of those layers within the 3D geologic framework. Depositional layers of intermediate age are evenly distributed between younger and older units, whereas intrusive, Proterozoic, and Archean units extend down to the base of the upper crust. Algorithmic details of the process of assigning layer depths are discussed in subsequent sections.

Following Shah and Boyd (2018), who compiled data from multiple sources to produce maps of the depth to bedrock and basement in the WUS, bedrock is defined as the depth to the base of unconsolidated sediment, that in many cases, is assumed to be the depth to pre-Miocene strata (see for example, Pelletier and others, 2016). In the study of Shah and Boyd (2018), basement, however, has two definitions. In much of the WUS, it is defined as the depth to pre-Cenozoic strata (see for example, Saltus and Jachens, 1995); in eastern parts of the WUS and much of the CEUS, it is the depth to Proterozoic and Archean rocks (see for example, Marshak and others, 2017). In this report, basement is referred to as either the base of Cenozoic or Phanerozoic SEVR.

Because of the change in definition of basement in Shah and Boyd (2018), their basement surface is discontinuous and not defined in all areas of the WUS. In this report, minor improvements are made to the work of Shah and Boyd (2018), and the bedrock and basement surfaces are extended over the full extent of NCM continental crust west of  $-100$  degrees longitude. Preliminary results for Phase 2 in the CEUS appear in the following figures but are not detailed in this report and are subject to change.

#### Depth to Top of Bedrock Layer

The depth to the top of bedrock is constructed from multiple studies (table 1; fig. 3), which make use of topographic, gravity, and (or) well data. The primary WUS depth to bedrock surface is from Shah and Boyd (2018). Other datasets that supplement this surface include the thickness of Quaternary sediments from the San Francisco Bay Area geologic model (Aagaard and others, 2010), the depth to bedrock layer from Branscombe and others (2017) in Canada's Alberta Province, and the average soil and sedimentary deposit thickness (ASST) model of Pelletier and others (2016) in Mexico, most of Canada, and much of the CEUS, which is the same background model used in Shah and Boyd (2018). In the oceans, the thickness of unconsolidated sediments is constrained to be zero where hard rock crops out.

#### Depth to Top of Basement Layers

The differences in definition of the depth to basement between the WUS and CEUS would cause unrealistic discontinuities in subsurface geology if simply stitched together. Regrettably, neither the depth to the base of Cenozoic SEVR nor the depth to the base of Phanerozoic SEVR has been mapped at all locations across the WUS. Continuous extensions of each of these representations of depth to basement across the western U.S. are thus needed to estimate geophysical parameters that vary continuously within geologic layers. To achieve this goal, an algorithm was developed to assign relative thickness of subsurface geologic units based on the closest distance to the edge of each unit, which is found during each iteration of stripping as described in the prior section "Lithology and Age of Subsurface Layers." These distances are used for two purposes: (1) to distribute layers above bedrock, between the top of bedrock and the base of Cenozoic SEVR, and between the base of Cenozoic SEVR and the base of Phanerozoic SEVR; and (2) to determine the depth to the base of Cenozoic and Phanerozoic SEVR where they are undefined in Shah and Boyd (2018).

For the depth to the base of Cenozoic SEVR in regions where it was not determined in Shah and Boyd (2018)—the hashed regions in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, the Colorado Plateau, the CEUS, Mexico, and Canada outlined by the heavy

**Table 1.** Datasets used to produce bedrock and depth to the base of Cenozoic and Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (SEVR) surfaces in western North America.

[Km, kilometer; WUS, western United States; CEUS, central and eastern United States; NCM National Crustal Model]

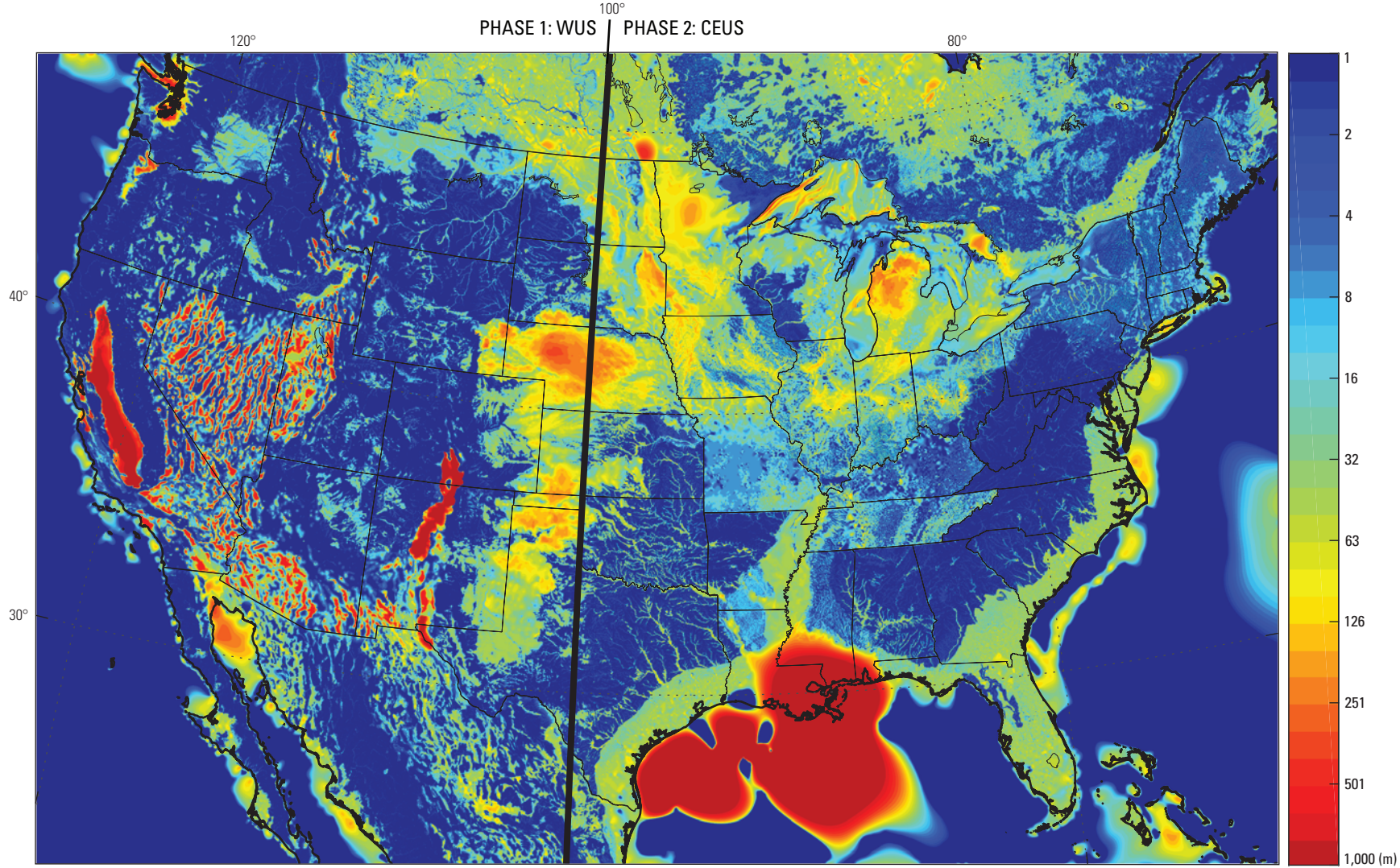
Surface	Region	Dataset	Smoothing standard deviation (km)
Top of bedrock	WUS	Shah and Boyd (2018)	No smoothing
	Alberta, Canada	Branscombe and others (2017)	No smoothing
	San Francisco Bay Area	Aagaard and others (2010)	No smoothing
	Western Canada, Mexico	Pelletier and others (2016)	No smoothing
Base of Cenozoic SEVR	WUS	Shah and Boyd (2018)	5
	Alberta, Canada	Branscombe and others (2017)	In elevation
	San Francisco Bay Area	Aagaard and others (2010)	2
	Southern California	Shaw and others (2015)	2
	Pacific, Western Canada, Mexico	Mooney and Kaban (2010)	20
	Central North America	Closest distance	5
Base of Phanerozoic SEVR	CEUS	Marshak and others (2017)	In elevation
	Alberta, Canada	Branscombe and others (2017)	In elevation
	Parts of WUS, central Canada	Mooney and Kaban (2010)	20
	WUS	Closest distance	5
Mid Crust	Continental crust	Pasyanos and others (2014)	50
Moho	NCM except ocean crust	Pasyanos and others (2014)	50

dashed line in figure 4—the sum of the closest distances to the edge of non-intrusive Cenozoic units is smoothed and the square root of this value is scaled. The smoothing function is Gaussian with a variable standard deviation equal to two-thirds of the closest distance at each location thereby maintaining the location of the unit edge and smoothing out the artefacts produced by the algorithm. This method is straightforward, yielding zero depth where intrusive and Mesozoic and older rocks crop out at the surface and greatest depth at the greatest distance from the edge of Cenozoic deposits. The square root is an arbitrary choice that produces a relatively realistic pattern of deposition of Cenozoic strata. A smoothly varying map of scaling factors is constructed to produce a maximum depth of about 10 km in Oregon and Washington as observed for the thickness of Cenozoic strata in this region (Saltus, 1993), Cenozoic thicknesses that are similar to values from Shah and Boyd (2018) in the Basin and Range, and Cenozoic thicknesses that are similar to those observed for basins along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

The depth to the base of Cenozoic SEVR is further modified by including multiple models both within and outside the WUS. In the WUS, additional models include the base of Cenozoic SEVR from the San Francisco Bay Area (Aagaard and others, 2010) and southern California (Shaw and others, 2015) geologic models. In Canada's Alberta Province, the depth to Cretaceous sedimentary rock from Branscombe and others (2017) is used. And in parts of the Pacific and Mexico, what is assumed to be the base of Cenozoic SEVR from Mooney and Kaban (2010) is used. This assumption is based on the studies used to produce that model in the WUS, for example, Jachens and Moring (1990) in the Basin and Range. In Mooney and Kaban (2010), however, much of the model is based on Frezon and others (1983), which is not documented well enough to determine the age of the rock above basement but appears to be depth to Proterozoic and Archean between the Appalachians and Rockies and depth to Mesozoic elsewhere.

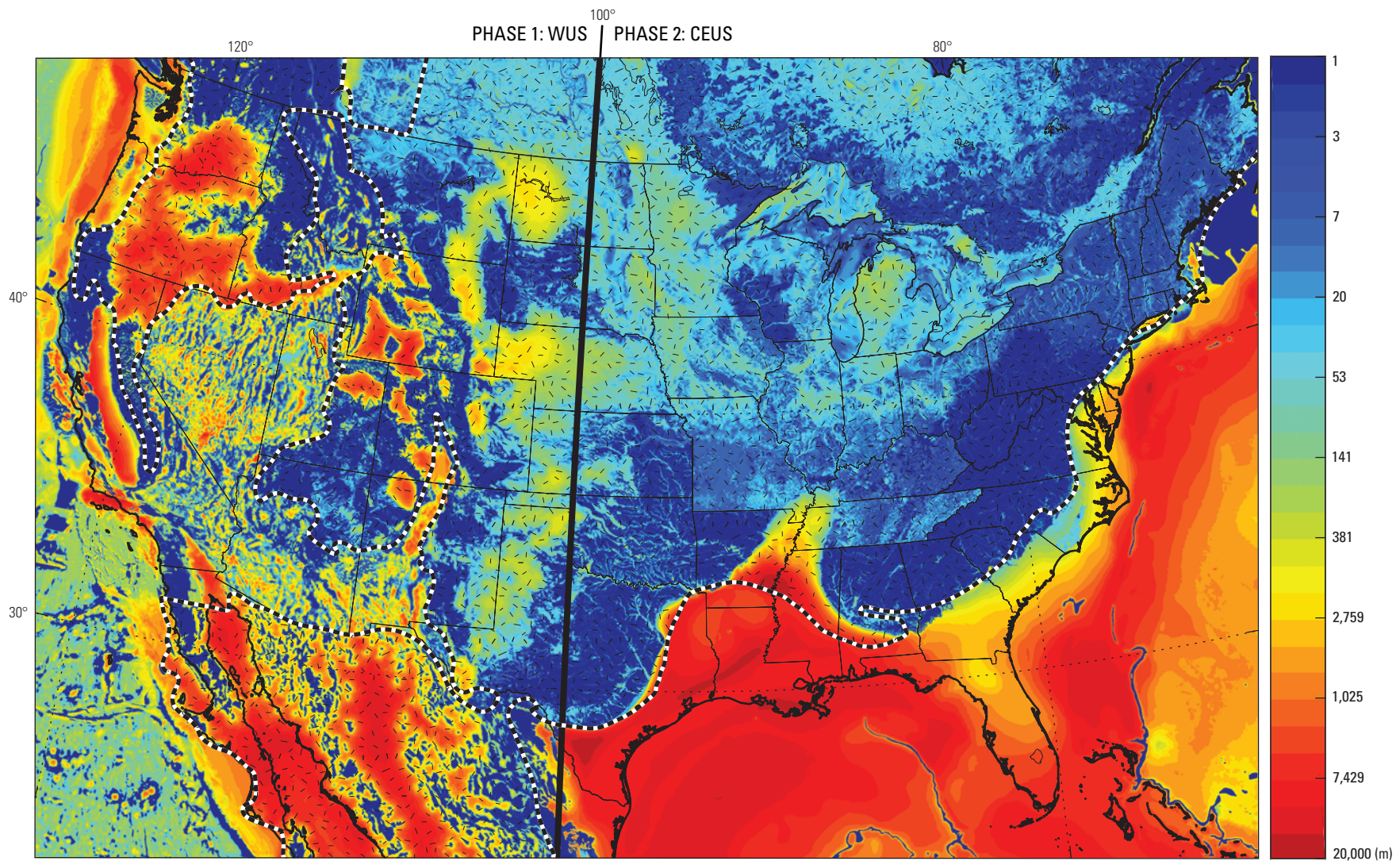
The depth to the base of Phanerozoic SEVR where it was not determined by Shah and Boyd (2018), which is indicated by the hashed region outside of the heavy dashed line in the CEUS in figure 5, is resolved through a method similar to that used for the depth to the base of Cenozoic SEVR by smoothing the sum of closest distances to the edge of non-intrusive Phanerozoic units, and scaling the square root of this sum. The scaling values are the same as those used for the Cenozoic SEVR surface with the exception that in the far WUS in Washington, Oregon, western Nevada, and California where the distances are controlled by igneous outcrops rather than older Proterozoic rock, the Phanerozoic scaling values are a factor of 8 greater than the Cenozoic to account for the increase in time over which deposition could occur. Note, however, that where this method has been applied, particularly in the WUS, an exceptional amount of tectonism since the Proterozoic continues to this day (Dickinson, 2004). This surface is undoubtedly far more varied than depicted here, and its depth is highly uncertain.





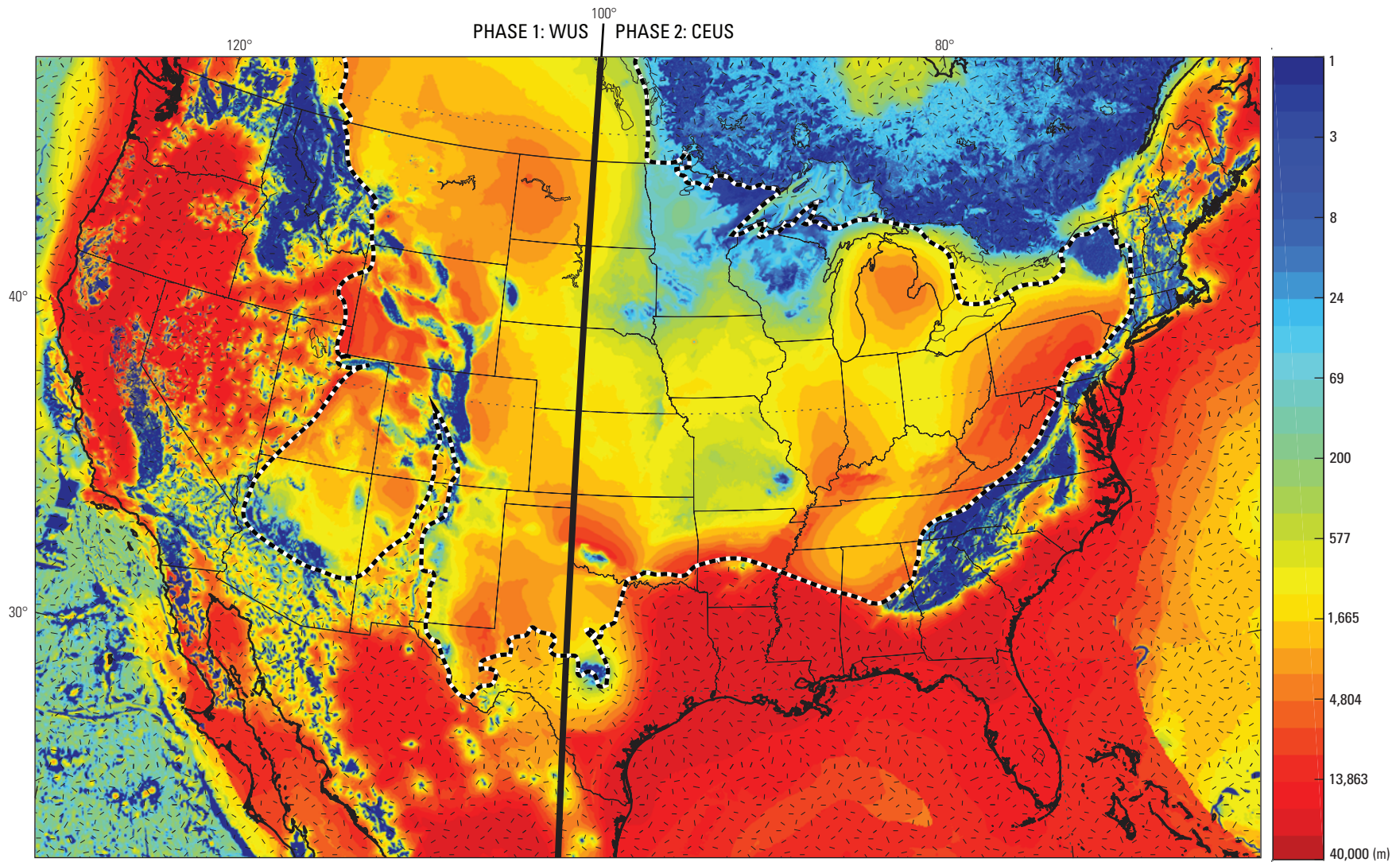
**Figure 3.** Map of depth to bedrock. The region of the United States in Phase 1 is from Shah and Boyd (2018) with several modifications including additional datasets offshore and in Canada, Mexico, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Bedrock depths in the Phase 2 region are still under development and subject to change. WUS; western United States; CEUS, central and eastern United States; m, meters.





**Figure 4.** Map of thickness of Cenozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (SEVR). The hashed region demarcates the areas in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, northern California, the Colorado Plateau, and central North America where the closet distance to intrusive or Mesozoic and older outcrop method was used to derive Cenozoic SEVR thickness. Outside of this line, the Shah and Boyd (2018) model was modified with thickness of Cenozoic SEVR maps in Canada, Mexico, the San Francisco Bay Area, and southern California. Depth to the base of Cenozoic SEVR in the Phase 2 region is still under development and subject to change. WUS; western United States; CEUS, central and eastern United States; m, meters.





**Figure 5.** Map of thickness of Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (SEVR). Dashed line demarcates the hashed area outside of central North America where the closet distance to intrusive or Proterozoic and Archean outcrop method was used to derive the base of Phanerozoic SEVR. Within this line, the Shah and Boyd (2018) model was modified with thickness of Phanerozoic SEVR maps in parts of the U.S. and Canada. Depth to the base of Phanerozoic SEVR in the Phase 2 region is still under development and subject to change. WUS; western United States; CEUS, central and eastern United States; m, meters.

Like the depth to the bottom of Cenozoic SEVR, additional datasets are combined with the work of Shah and Boyd (2018), which is based on Marshak and others (2017). These additional datasets include the depth to Proterozoic and Archean basement from Alberta's 3D Provincial Geologic Framework Model (Branscombe and others, 2017), and the depth to, presumably, Proterozoic and Archean basement from Mooney and Kaban (2010) in central Canada and in a small area adjacent to Marshak and others (2017) in eastern Idaho and northern Utah.

### Depth to Top of Lower Crust and Moho

The depth to mid-crustal layer boundaries and the Moho are estimated on a 1-degree global grid by Pasyanos and others (2014) using surface wave dispersion in the frequency band 5–40 millihertz (mHz). The mid-crustal boundaries are simplified by averaging the boundaries between upper and middle crust and middle and lower crust so that there is a single boundary between upper and lower crust. The depth to the Moho is further refined using the conterminous U.S. Moho depth map of Buehler and Shearer (2017), which combines Pn arrival times, the seismic P-wave phase that travels along the Moho, at USArray stations and the crustal velocities of Shen and Ritzwoller (2016).

### Layer Elevation

Geologic profile layer contacts in the NCM are specified in elevation. Therefore, datasets that are provided as depth to the layer boundary are converted to elevation. The Alberta surfaces (Branscombe and others, 2017) and Proterozoic/Archean surface (Marshak and others, 2017) are provided in elevation. All others are provided as depth. Conversion to elevation is achieved by subtracting these layer depths from smoothed versions of the GEBCO elevation model. The smoothing kernel is Gaussian with variable standard deviation chosen to approximately match the spatial frequency content, or roughness, of the original surface (table 1). The smoothing is only applied to the base of Cenozoic and Phanerozoic SEVR surfaces to prevent young geomorphic features from being mapped onto older subsurface contacts.

Datasets composing a given surface (for example, thickness of Cenozoic SEVR) are combined in such a way as to minimize discontinuities moving from one to the other. If necessary, each surface from a given source is extrapolated over the entire study area using nearest neighbors. A weight is assigned to this surface equal to 1 where it is used and 0 elsewhere. This binary weight map is then smoothed with a Gaussian kernel having a standard deviation of 10 km. The surfaces are then combined in a weighted average. For example, the base of Phanerozoic SEVR surface elevation is equal to

$$(w_{MK}e_{MK} + w_M e_M + w_B e_B + w_{CD} e_{CD}) / (w_{MK} + w_M + w_B + w_{CD}) \quad (1)$$

where

$w$  is weight,  
 $e$  is elevation,

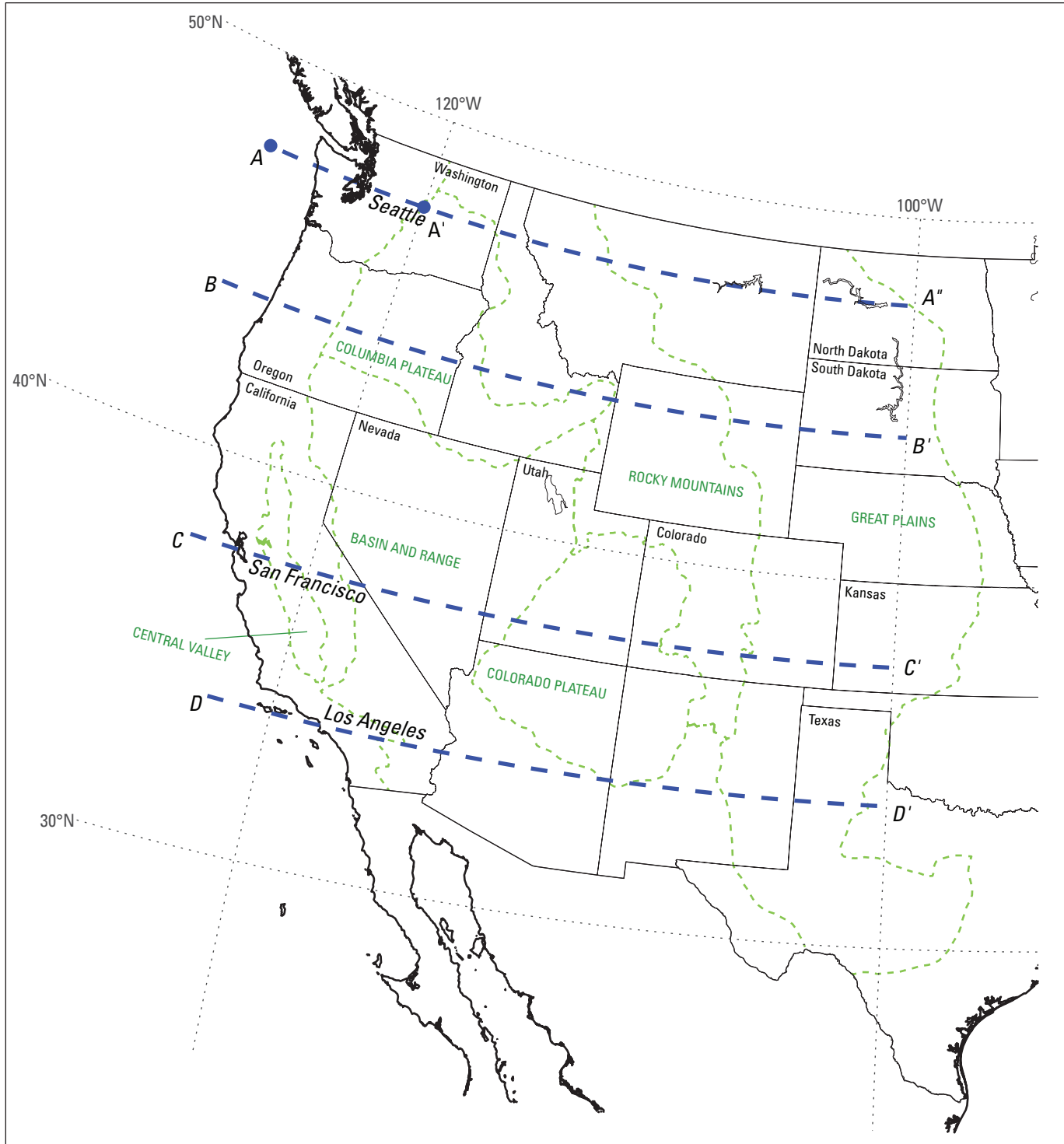
and the subscripts MK, M, B, and CD refer to Mooney and Kaban (2010), Marshak and others (2017), Branscombe and others (2017), and closest distances, respectively.

Because the weights quickly go to zero outside of the region in which a particular model is kept, the final map is not strongly sensitive to how the constituent maps are extrapolated.

During construction of the geologic profiles, it may be the case that units are 'missing,' as alluded to earlier, where a bedrock unit is present at the surface but depth to bedrock is greater than zero. In such cases, Holocene residuum is inserted between the surface and bedrock. Similarly, there are instances when the bedrock and base of Cenozoic SEVR surfaces do not coincide but there are no Cenozoic rock units identified from extrapolating units at the Earth's surface. In such cases, Tertiary sedimentary rock is inserted. If Mesozoic or Paleozoic layers are 'missing,' Mesozoic metasedimentary rock is inserted. After the initial geologic framework is constructed, these inserted units are compared to the surrounding material. If a geologic unit in the layer of interest in a neighboring profile has been assigned (not by insertion), the value from the neighboring profile is used for the inserted unit. This procedure resolves 96 percent of the inserted units, leaving 0.4 percent of the 117 million units in the 3D geologic framework inserted.

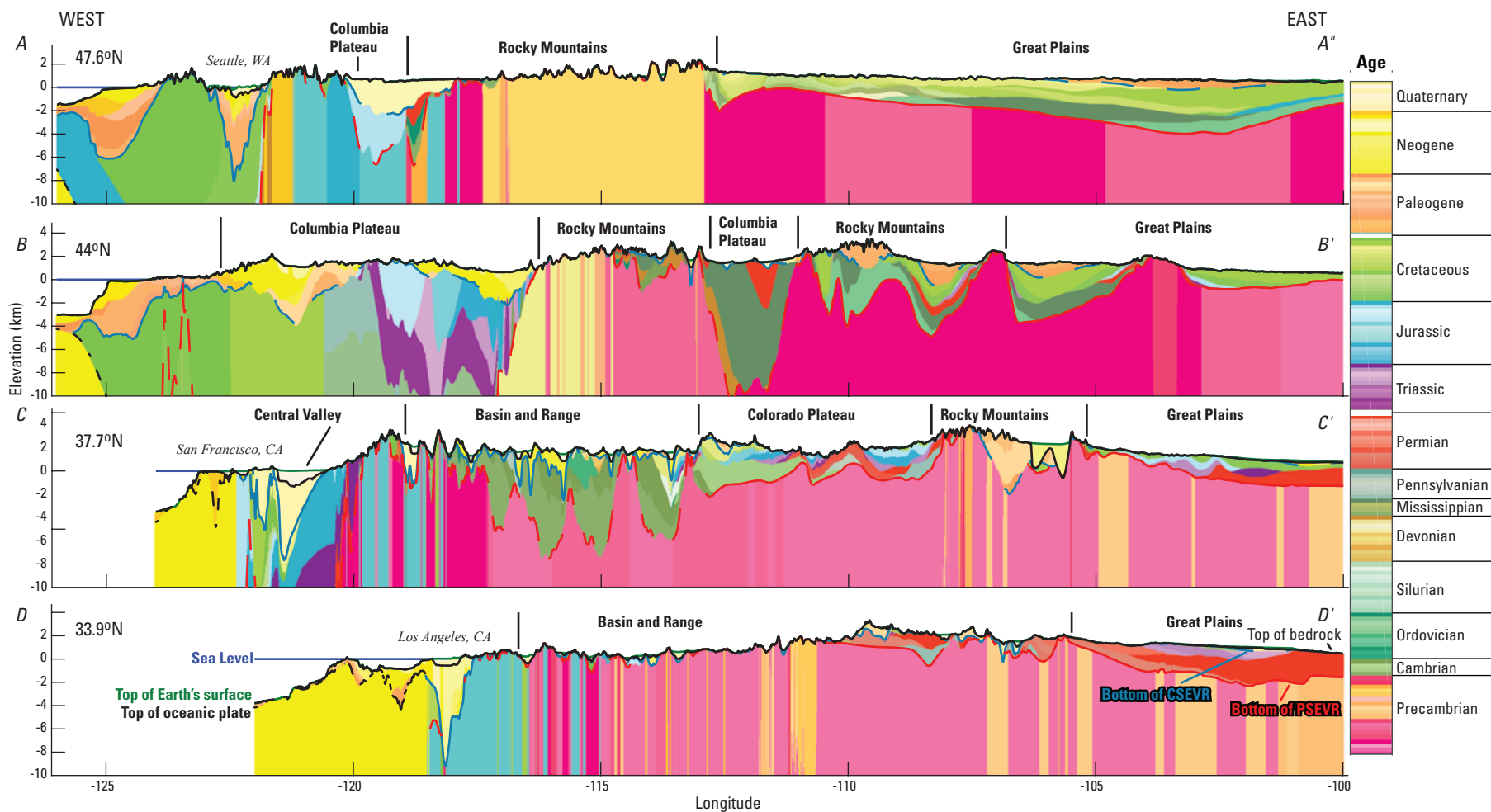
## Model Cross Sections

Four east-west cross section locations are shown in figure 6. In figure 7, the modeled age is shown, and in figure 8 the lithology is shown as examples of the geometry and level of complexity of the 3D framework. From north to south, the cross

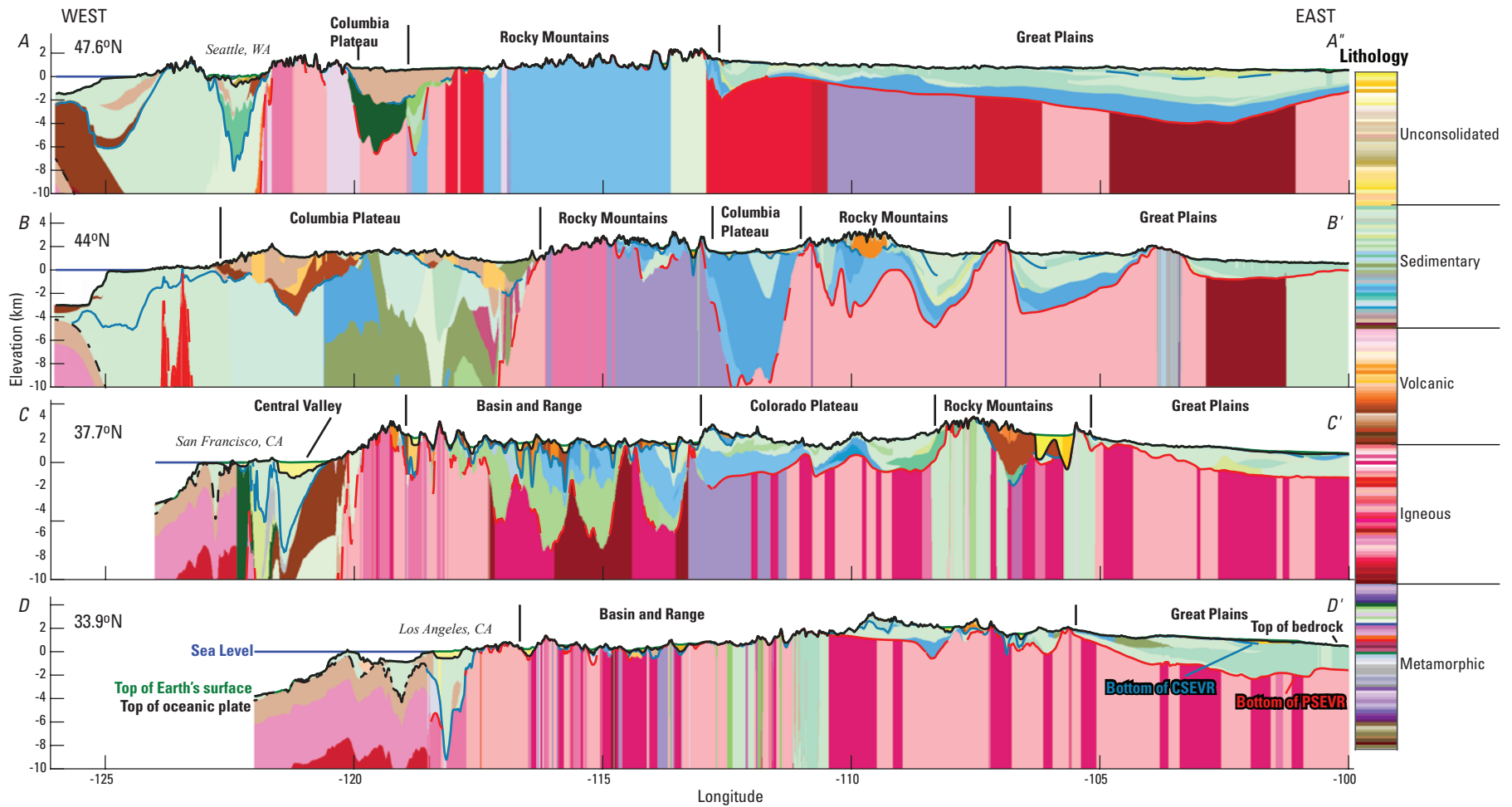


**Figure 6.** Cross-section profile locations in the United States. Physiographic provinces outlined using green dashed lines are adapted from Fenneman and Johnson (1946). Blue dashed lines indicate the profile locations, from north to south, seen in figures 7 and 8. The cross sections in figure 9 lie along the northernmost profile between A and A'.





**Figure 7.** Cross-sections of subsurface age in the United States. Profile locations, from north to south, are shown in figure 6. The green line is the top of the Earth's surface, the blue line is sea level, the black line is the top of bedrock, the solid or dashed navy-blue line is the bottom of Cenozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (CSEVR), the solid or dashed red line is the bottom of Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (PSEVR), and the orange line is the top of the oceanic plate. Dashed lines indicate depths determined from the closest distance to the edge of either Cenozoic or Phanerozoic non-intrusive units. Younger rocks lying beneath older rocks are igneous intrusions. Vertical exaggeration approximately 20 times.



**Figure 8.** Cross-sections of subsurface lithology in the United States. Profile locations, from north to south, are shown in figure 6. The green line is the top of the Earth's surface, the blue line is sea level, the black line is the top of bedrock, the solid or dashed navy-blue line is the bottom of Cenozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (CSEVR), the solid or dashed red line is the bottom of Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (PSEVR), and the orange line is the top of the oceanic plate. Dashed lines indicate depths determined from the closest distance to the edge of either Cenozoic or Phanerozoic non-intrusive units. Younger rocks lying beneath older rocks are igneous intrusions. Vertical exaggeration approximately 20 times.

sections are: *A–A'*, Washington to North Dakota through Seattle; *B–B'*, Oregon to South Dakota through the Columbia Plateau; *C–C'*, San Francisco, California, to western Kansas, crossing through the Central Valley of California, the Basin and Range in Nevada and Utah, the Colorado Plateau in Utah and Colorado, and across the Rockies in Colorado into the Great Plains; and finally, *D–D'*, Los Angeles, California, to Texas, passing through the southern Basin and Range and Great Plains.

Significant geologic complexity exists in the geologic framework in the Basin and Range province of the WUS and simplifies considerably moving east of the Rocky Mountains. Algorithmically, the decrease in complexity is due to a decrease in the range of geologic units at the Earth's surface, which translates into less variability in the subsurface. To some extent, this is an artefact of the processing where geologic units that do not crop out at the surface are not modeled in the subsurface.

Other artefacts from the algorithms used to produce the geologic model, as discussed in the section “Lithology and Age of Subsurface Layers,” can also be seen in these cross sections. Igneous intrusions and geologic units in the Proterozoic and Archean basement extend vertically to the mid crust. Rock types of the same age meet at vertical contacts. For example, in the uppermost cross section *A–A'*, near  $-105.5^{\circ}\text{W}$ , Late Cretaceous shale to the west sits adjacent to Late Cretaceous sandstone to the east (figs. 7 and 8).

To gain a better appreciation for more local features, cross sections through Seattle, Washington, highlighting the Seattle Basin and subducting Juan de Fuca plate (section *A–A'*) are presented in figure 9. Large earthquakes have occurred at the interface between the Juan de Fuca and the North American plates at the top of the subducting slab, and the geometry of overlying rocks and sediment are expected to contribute to significantly greater earthquake ground motions in the Seattle Basin (Frankel and others, 2007). Relative to the current seismic model for Cascadia (Stephenson and others, 2017), originally published in 2007 with updates published in 2017, the geologic framework presented here includes surface topography, an updated map of the depth to bedrock (Shah and Boyd, 2018), primarily from Eungard (2014) in the Puget Sound, an updated map of the top of the subducting plate (Hayes and others, 2018), and additional lithologic layering where beneath Seattle, Pleistocene glacial drift overlies Miocene sandstone and Eocene basalt and arkose within the basin, which overlies Cretaceous argillite in the basement. These improvements may lead to more accurate estimates of earthquake ground motion in the Seattle area but will at least result in a greater appreciation of the epistemic uncertainty in modeled ground motions.

Geologic profiles at locations not coinciding with grid nodes are estimated using cubic interpolation. More specifically, a geologic profile is constructed using the 4 neighbors surrounding the point of interest, and layer boundaries for the layers within this profile are extracted from each of the 16 neighboring grid nodes. Cubic interpolation is then applied to the elevations of these boundaries yielding layer boundaries at the location of interest. The effect of this smoothing is minimal in figures 7 and 8 but has a much greater effect in figure 9.

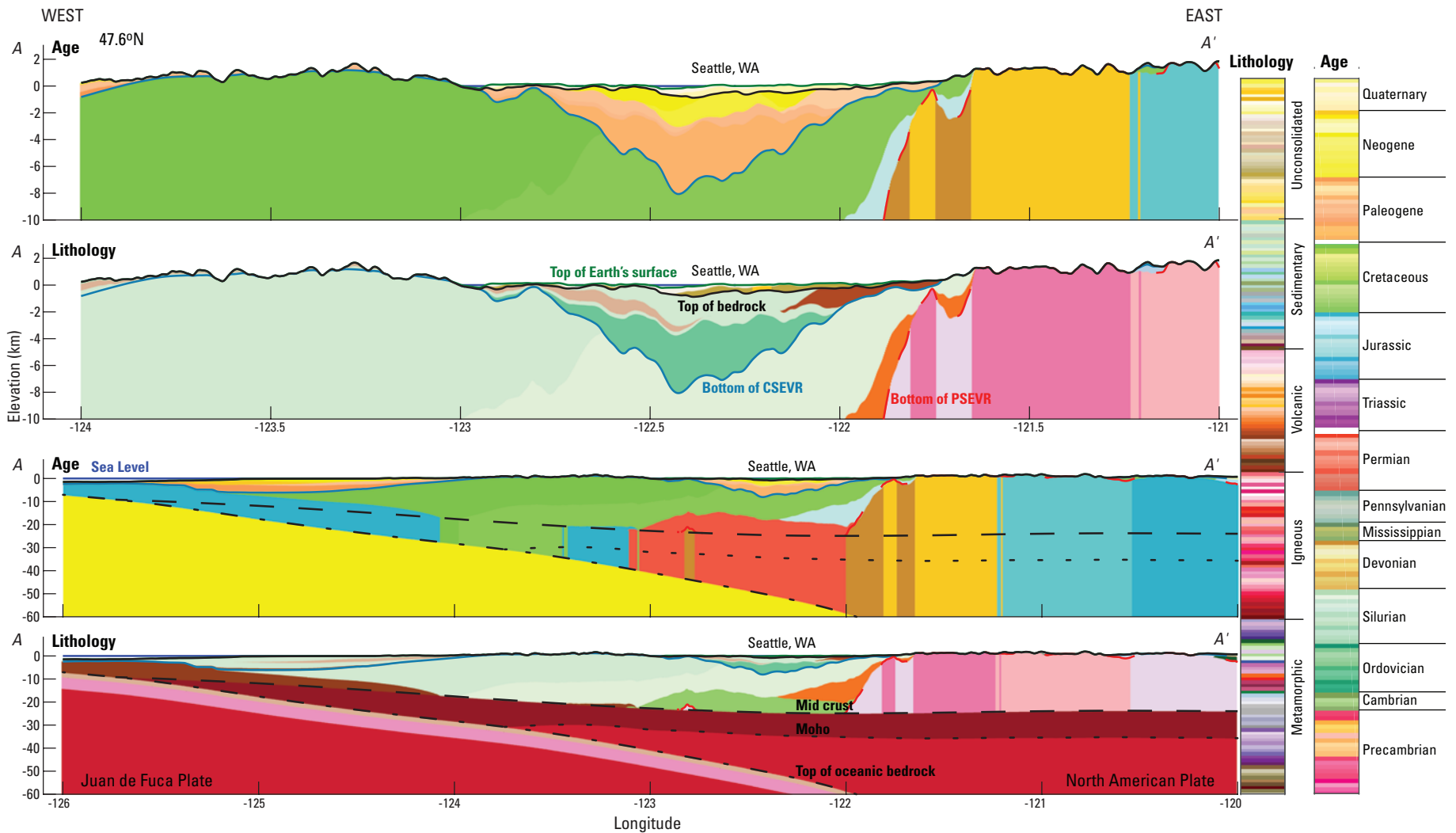
## Discussion

The models and methods presented in this report result in a geologic framework that produces 3D subsurface geology that is very similar to other geologic models. This is understandable given that, for example, surfaces within the Bay Area (Aagaard and others, 2010) and southern California (Shaw and others, 2015) models are used as input for the NCM, and similar input surfaces are used both in the NCM and in the Seattle model (Stephenson and others, 2017). There are important differences, however. For example, the Bay Area model includes faults that separate geologic units along near-vertical boundaries.

It is important to recognize the limitations of the NCM geologic framework, both in the underlying models and in the algorithms used to build the framework. These limitations are partly responsible for observed and expected differences with existing data and models.

For instance, while application of the Pelletier and others (2016) ASST model helps to achieve continuity in this surface across the boundary of the Shah and Boyd (2018) model, bedrock depths from the state compilations in Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky appear deeper (fig. 3). Adding the Pelletier and others (2016) regolith model helps to resolve this discrepancy, which suggests that the difference may be related to regolith above more competent rock not contained in the average soil and sediment thickness model. Additional research is recommended in Phase 2 of the project to better understand this issue. It is therefore possible that the next version of the NCM bedrock model in the WUS and CEUS may be deeper in some areas after resolving this discrepancy.

Further, the Pelletier and others (2016) ASST model is capped at 50 m. Shah and Boyd (2018) resolved this issue by removing capped values and then using minimum curvature to deepen these areas. As well, bedrock in other areas in the WUS may be too shallow but not necessarily hit the 50-m cap. In Oregon, for example, these areas include the Grande Ronde Basin, the Ontario-Vale area, the Klamath Basin, Goose Lake, Summer Lake, Alvord Basin grabens, and the Harney Basin. This may be partially reflected in the fact that the Pelletier and others (2016) models were calibrated primarily with CEUS well data. Differences between CEUS and WUS basin tectonics and geometry may also play a part.



**Figure 9.** Cross sections through Seattle, Washington, highlighting the Seattle Basin in the upper two cross sections and the subducting Juan de Fuca plate in the lower two. The green line is the top of the Earth's surface, the blue line is sea level, the black line is the top of bedrock, the navy-blue line is the bottom of Cenozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (CSEVR), the dashed red line is the bottom of Phanerozoic sedimentary and extrusive volcanic rocks (PSEVR), the dashed black line is the mid crustal contact, the black dotted line is the Moho, and the orange line is the top of the Juan de Fuca plate. Dashed Cenozoic and Phanerozoic SEVR indicate the regions where depth was determined by the closest distance method. Vertical exaggeration in the upper two cross sections is 3 times; there is no vertical exaggeration in the lower two cross sections.

Like the bedrock model, some discrepancies exist between the basement model presented here and the true thickness of Cenozoic SEVR. For example, the depth to basement (thickness of Tertiary sediments) in the Big Hole valley in western Montana is up to 5 km thick as confirmed by drilling (Constenius, 1988), but the model from Shah and Boyd (2018), based on a broader regional gravity study in this area, is about half as deep.

Algorithmically, the method of producing subsurface geology presented here may produce reasonable stratigraphic sections in that younger depositional units lie above older, but the methods can lead to obvious problems. As stated previously, two lithologies of the same age will meet at a vertical boundary in the subsurface. In reality, this boundary is likely not vertical but may dip if one lithology is distinctly older than the other, or it may interfinger as the Earth's surface conditions oscillate during deposition (for example, transgressions and regressions in sea level). Furthermore, the lateral position of this boundary is highly uncertain, as it was determined by the most basic interpolation method of nearest neighbors.

Another problem is that igneous intrusions extend vertically in this model but may have come up through the crust along a tortuous path and leave a series of unmodeled dikes and sills. Consequently, the subsurface position of intrusive and neighboring units becomes very uncertain with increasing distance from the outcrop.

With respect to unmodeled features, the method of extrapolation applied here may miss geologic units that do not crop out but are surely present in the subsurface. Insertion of 'missing' units will only go so far. Moreover, faults and the discontinuities in geology produced by them, as is considered, for example, in the Bay Area model, are also not explicitly modeled, except as present as discontinuities in depth to bedrock and basement maps.

These issues can be addressed in future refinements of the NCM by incorporating additional detailed studies, for example, hydrogeologic studies, where researchers have been able to use a variety of direct and indirect methods to observe the subsurface and build better constrained 3D geologic models. These more detailed regional models could, in fact, be inserted directly into the NCM if rock age and type definitions as well as unit contact elevations at the boundary are consistent between the NCM and the regional model.

In terms of seismic hazard and ground motions from earthquakes, the greatest influence will be that of the shallow velocity gradient and the depth to bedrock where potentially large impedance contrasts between unconsolidated sediment and rock can trap a significant amount of seismic energy thereby increasing both shaking duration and amplitude. Impedance contrasts between various types of igneous and metamorphic rocks at greater depth are unlikely to be as significant for the purpose of estimating earthquake ground motion. However, long wavelength variations in velocity, attenuation, and density from perturbations in composition and temperature will have a second order effect on ground motion hazard, through path-dependent seismic attenuation, geometric spreading, and "the Moho Bounce" observed in earthquake ground motions at roughly 50 to 100 km epicentral distance in the CEUS.

These assertions regarding aspects of the model that influence ground motions will need to be tested to determine how much effort should be put into improving various parts of the geologic framework for the purpose of improving seismic hazard estimates. Furthermore, estimates of the uncertainty in model parameters must be part of this process to fully appreciate the sensitivity to model components.

## Conclusions

The 3D geologic framework for the NCM in the WUS is composed of geologic units defined by 164 possible ages (table 1.1) and 209 possible lithologies (table 2.1). Continental upper crustal geology is extrapolated from geology at or near the Earth's surface constrained by maps of basement geology and the depth to bedrock and basement. Lower crustal and lithospheric mantle geology is assumed to have a pyroxenite and peridotite composition, respectively, with depths provided by published models. Oceanic geology is a simpler multi-layer model consisting of sediment, sedimentary rock, basalt, gabbro, and peridotite that subducts beneath the Pacific Northwest.

The framework is limited in several ways including: (1) mapping of the subsurface extent of geologic units is obtained by nearest neighbor interpolation; (2) two lithologies of the same age will meet along a vertical planar boundary; and (3) the framework does not account explicitly for geologic units that do not crop out, realistic geometries of subsurface intrusive bodies (dikes, sills, and magma chambers), or the effects of faults on the continuity of subsurface bodies.

Many of the limitations of this framework are expected to result in secondary influences on earthquake ground motion. The primary influence will result from the depth to bedrock, which, while uncertain in some areas, is adequately modeled in much of the WUS. This framework is a key component of the NCM and can lead to improved estimates of earthquake ground motion and reduced risk from earthquakes.



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## Appendix 1. Age Dictionary and Mapping

**Table 1.1.** Age dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on that in Horton and others (2017).

Index	Age Name	Age-name alternates
1		Phanerozoic
2	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic	Pre Mesozoic Pre-Mesozoic Pre-Cretaceous
3	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary	
4	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary–Holocene	Pre Cenozoic Pre-Cenozoic Pre-Cenozoic undivided Holocene
5	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary–Pleistocene	
6	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary–Pleistocene–Late-Pleistocene	
7	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary–Pleistocene–Middle-Pleistocene	
8	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary–Pleistocene–Calabrian	
9	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Quaternary–Pleistocene–Gelasian	
10	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary	
11	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene	Neogene
12	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Pliocene	
13	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Late-Pliocene–Piacenzian	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Late-Pliocene
14	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Early-Pliocene–Zanclean	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Early-Pliocene
15	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Miocene	
16	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Late-Miocene	
17	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Late-Miocene–Messinian	
18	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Late-Miocene–Tortonian	
19	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Middle-Miocene	
20	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Middle-Miocene–Serravallian	
21	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Middle-Miocene–Langhian	
22	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Early-Miocene	
23	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Early-Miocene–Burdigalian	
24	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Neogene–Early-Miocene–Aquitainian	
25	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene	Paleogene
26	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Oligocene	
27	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Late-Oligocene–Chattian	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Late-Oligocene
28	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Early-Oligocene–Rupelian	

**Table 1.1.** Age dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on that in Horton and others (2017).—Continued

Index	Age Name	Age-name alternates
		Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Early–Oligocene
29	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Eocene	
30	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Late–Eocene–Priabonian	Upper Eocene Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Late–Eocene
31	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Middle–Eocene	Middle Eocene
32	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Middle–Eocene–Bartonian	
33	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Middle–Eocene–Lutetian	
34	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Early–Eocene–Ypresian	Lower Eocene Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Early–Eocene
35	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Paleocene	
36	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Late–Paleocene–Thanetian	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Late–Paleocene
37	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Middle–Paleocene–Selandian	
38	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Early–Paleocene–Danian	Phanerozoic–Cenozoic–Tertiary–Paleogene–Early–Paleocene
39	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic	
40	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous	
41	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous	Upper Cretaceous Late Cretaceous
42	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous–Maastrichtian	
43	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous–Campanian	
44	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous–Santonian	
45	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous–Coniacian	
46	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous–Turonian	
47	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Late–Cretaceous–Cenomanian	Mid-Cretaceous Middle Cretaceous
48	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous	Lower Cretaceous Early Cretaceous
49	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous–Albian	
50	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous–Aptian	
51	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous–Barremian	
52	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous–Hauterivian	
53	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous–Valanginian	
54	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Cretaceous–Early–Cretaceous–Berriasian	
55	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic	
56	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Late–Jurassic	Upper Jurassic Late Jurassic

**Table 1.1.** Age dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on that in Horton and others (2017).—Continued

Index	Age Name	Age-name alternates
57	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Late-Jurassic–Tithonian	
58	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Late-Jurassic–Kimmeridgian	
59	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Late-Jurassic–Oxfordian	
60	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Middle-Jurassic	Middle Jurassic
61	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Middle-Jurassic–Callovian	
62	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Middle-Jurassic–Bathonian	
63	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Middle-Jurassic–Bajocian	
64	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Middle-Jurassic–Aalenian	
65	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Early-Jurassic	Lower Jurassic
66	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Early-Jurassic–Toarcian	
67	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Early-Jurassic–Pliensbachian	
68	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Early-Jurassic–Sinemurian	
69	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Early-Jurassic–Hettangian	
70	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic	
71	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Late-Triassic	
72	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Late-Triassic–Rhaetian	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Jurassic–Late-Triassic–Rhaetian
73	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Late-Triassic–Norian	
74	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Late-Triassic–Carnian	
75	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Middle-Triassic	
76	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Middle-Triassic–Ladinian	
77	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Middle-Triassic–Anisian	
78	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Early-Triassic	
79	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Early-Triassic–Olenikian	
80	Phanerozoic–Mesozoic–Triassic–Early-Triassic–Induan	
81	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic	
82	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian	
83	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Lopingian	Upper Permian
84	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Lopingian–Changhsingian	
85	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Lopingian–Wuchiapingian	
86	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Guadalupian	
87	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Guadalupian–Capitanian	
88	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Guadalupian–Wordian	
89	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Guadalupian–Roadian	
90	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Cisuralian	Lower Permian
91	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Cisuralian–Kungurian	
92	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Cisuralian–Artinskian	
93	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Cisuralian–Sakmarian	
94	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Permian–Cisuralian–Asselian	

**Table 1.1.** Age dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on that in Horton and others (2017).—Continued

Index	Age Name	Age-name alternates
95	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous	
96	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Pennsylvanian	
97	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Late-Pennsylvanian	Upper Pennsylvanian
98	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Late-Pennsylvanian–Gzhelian	
99	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Late-Pennsylvanian–Kasimovian	
100	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Middle-Pennsylvanian–Moscovian	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Middle-Pennsylvanian
101	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Early-Pennsylvanian–Bashkirian	Lower Pennsylvanian
102	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Mississippian	
103	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Late-Mississippian–Serpukhovian	Upper Mississippian Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Late-Mississippian
104	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Middle-Mississippian–Visean	
105	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Early-Mississippian–Tournaisian	Lower Mississippian Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Carboniferous–Early-Mississippian
106	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian	
107	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Late-Devonian	Upper Devonian
108	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Late-Devonian–Famennian	
109	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Late-Devonian–Frasnian	
110	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Middle-Devonian	Middle Devonian
111	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Middle-Devonian–Givetian	
112	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Middle-Devonian–Eifelian	
113	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Early-Devonian	Lower Devonian
114	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Early-Devonian–Emsian	
115	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Early-Devonian–Pragian	
116	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Devonian–Early-Devonian–Lockhovian	
117	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian	
118	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Pridoli	
119	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Ludlow	
120	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Ludlow–Ludfordian	
121	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Ludlow–Gorstian	
122	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Wenlock	
123	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Wenlock–Homerian	
124	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Wenlock–Sheinwoodian	
125	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Llandovery	Lower Silurian
126	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Llandovery–Telychian	

**Table 1.1.** Age dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on that in Horton and others (2017).—Continued

Index	Age Name	Age-name alternates
127	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Llandovery–Aeronian	
128	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Silurian–Llandovery–Rhuddanian	
129	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician	
130	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Late-Ordovician	Upper Ordovician
131	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Late-Ordovician–Hirnantian	
132	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Late-Ordovician–Katian	
133	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Late-Ordovician–Sandbian	
134	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Middle-Ordovician	Middle Ordovician
135	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Middle-Ordovician–Darriwillian	
136	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Middle-Ordovician–Dapingian	
137	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Early-Ordovician	Lower Ordovician
138	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Early-Ordovician–Floian	
139	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Ordovician–Early-Ordovician–Tremadocian	
140	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Cambrian	
141	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Cambrian–Furongian	Upper Cambrian
142	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Cambrian–Middle-Cambrian	Middle Cambrian
143	Phanerozoic–Paleozoic–Cambrian–Early-Cambrian	
144	preCambrian	
145	preCambrian–Proterozoic	Proterozoic
146	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Neoproterozoic	Late Proterozoic
147	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Neoproterozoic–Ediacaran	
148	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Neoproterozoic–Cryogenian	
149	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Neoproterozoic–Tonian	
150	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Mesoproterozoic	Middle Proterozoic
151	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Mesoproterozoic–Stenian	
152	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Mesoproterozoic–Ectasian	
153	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Mesoproterozoic–Calymmian	
154	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Paleoproterozoic	Early Proterozoic
155	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Paleoproterozoic–Statherian	
156	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Paleoproterozoic–Orosirian	
157	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Paleoproterozoic–Rhyacian	
158	preCambrian–Proterozoic–Paleoproterozoic–Siderian	
159	preCambrian–Archean	Archean

**Table 1.1.** Age dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on that in Horton and others (2017).—Continued

Index	Age Name	Age-name alternates
160	preCambrian-Archean-Neoarchean	Late Archean
161	preCambrian-Archean-Mesoarchean	Middle Archean
162		preCambrian-Archean-Paleoarchean Early Archean
163		preCambrian-Archean-Eoarchean
164		preCambrian-Hadean

## Appendix 2. Lithology Dictionary and Mapping

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garritty and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
1	Unconsolidated material	Unconsolidated deposit Unconsolidated
2	Alluvium	Alluvial deposits
3	Silt	Fine detrital
4	Sand	Coarse detrital
5	Flood plain	
6	Gravel	Boulders
7	Levee	Dam
8	Delta	
9	Alluvial fan	
10	Alluvial terrace	Terrace deposits
11	Lake or marine sediment	Lake or marine deposit (non-glacial)
12	Playa	
13	Mud flat	
14	Beach sand	
15	Terrace	
16	Eolian material	Eolian
17	Dune sand	
18	Sand sheet	
19	Loess	
20	Volcanic ash	
21	Mass wasting material	
22	Colluvium	
23	Mudflow	
24	Lahar	
25	Debris flow	
26	Landslide	
27	Talus	

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
28	Glacial drift	Glacial deposits
29	Till	
30	Moraine	
31	Stratified glacial sediment	
32	Glacial outwash sediment	
33	Outwash	
34	Sub/supra glacial sediment	
35	Glaciolacustrine sediment	Glaciolacustrine
36	Glacial marine sediment	
37	Biogenic material	Biogenic sediment
38	Peat	
39	Coral	
40	Residuum	
41	Clay	Clay or mud Mud Marl
42	Sedimentary rock	Sedimentary
43	Clastic rock	Clastic
44	Mudstone	
45	Claystone	Marlstone
46	Bentonite	
47	Shale	Phosphatic shale
48	Black shale	
49	Oil shale	
50	Argillite	
51	Siltstone	Siltstone mudstone Diatomite
52	Fine grained mixed clastic rock	Fine grained mixed clastic
53	Sandstone	Sandstone mudstone



**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
54	Arenite	
55	Orthoquartzite	
56	Calcarenite	
57	Arkose	
58	Wacke	
59	Graywacke	
60	Medium grained mixed clastic rock	Medium grained mixed clastic Mixed clastic
61	Conglomerate	Conglomerate sandstone Conglomerate mudstone
62	Sedimentary breccia	
63	Coarse grained mixed clastic rock	Coarse grained mixed clastic
64	Olistostrome	
65	Melange	
66	Carbonate rock	Carbonate
67	Limestone	Coquina Chalk
68	Dolostone	Dolostone (dolomite)
69	Mixed carbonate/clastic rock	Mixed clastic/carbonate
70	Mixed volcanic/clastic rock	Mixed clastic/volcanic
71	Phosphorite	
72	Chemical	Chemical sedimentary rock
73	Evaporite	Salt Anhydrite Gypsum
74	Chert	
75	Novaculite	
76	Banded iron formation	Iron formation
77	Exhalite	

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
78	Coal	Lignite
79	Mixed coal/clastic rock	
80	Volcanic rock	Volcanic rock (aphanitic) Volcanic Hypabyssal Undivided volcanic rocks
81	Glassy volcanic rock	
82	Obsidian	
83	Vitrophyre	
84	Pumice	
85	Pyroclastic rock	Pyroclastic
86	Tuff	
87	Welded tuff	
88	Ash flow tuff	
89	Ignimbrite	
90	Volcanic breccia	Volcanic breccia (agglomerate)
91	Lava flow	
92	Bimodal suite	
93	Felsic volcanic rock	Felsic volcanic Felsic hypabyssal Felsic rocks Felsic and intermediate rocks Felsite
94	Alkali feldspar rhyolite	Alkali rhyolite Hypabyssal felsic alkaline
95	Rhyolite	Hypabyssal rhyolite
96	Rhyodacite	
97	Dacite	Hypabyssal dacite
98	Alkali feldspar trachyte	
99	Trachyte	Hypabyssal trachyte Quartz trachyte

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
100	Quartz latite	Hypabyssal quartz trachyte
101	Latite	Hypabyssal quartz latite
102	Intermediate volcanic rock	Hypabyssal latite
103	Trachyandesite	Intermediate rocks
104	Andesite	Hypabyssal andesite
105	Mafic rock	Hypabyssal basaltic andesite
106	Trachybasalt	Mafic rocks
107	Basalt	Mafic volcanic rock
		Mafic volcanic rocks
		Mafic volcanic
		Mafic hypabyssal
108	Tholeiite	
109	Hawaiite	
110	Alkaline basalt	Hypabyssal mafic alkaline
		Alkaline mafic rocks
111	Alkalic volcanic rock	Alkalic volcanic
		Alkaline rocks
112	Phonolite	
113	Tephrite	Tephrite (basanite)
		Basanite
114	Ultramafitite	Ultramafitite (komatiite)
115	Volcanic carbonatite	
116	Plutonic rock	Plutonic rock (phaneritic)
		Plutonic
117	Aplite	

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Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
118	Porphyry	
119	Lamprophyre	
120	Pegmatite	
121	Granitoid	
122	Charnockite	
123	Alkali feldspar granite	Alkali granite (alaskite) Alkali feldspar granite Alaskite Alkali granite Leucocratic granitic
124	Quartz monzodiorite	
125	Monzodiorite	
126	Quartz diorite	Quartz diorite
127	Diorite	Dioritic
128	Diabase	
129	Granite	Granitic Undivided granitic rocks Rapakivi granite
130	Peraluminous granite	
131	Metaluminous granite	
132	Subaluminous granite	
133	Peralkaline granite	
134	Granodiorite	
135	Tonalite	
136	Trondhjemite	
137	Alkali feldspar syenite	Alkali syenite Quartz alkali feldspar syenite
138	Quartz syenite	
139	Syenite	Syenitic Syenogranite Syenite, monzogranite
140	Quartz monzonite	
141	Monzonite	Monzogranite

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garrity and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
142	Gabbroid	
143	Quartz monzogabbro	
144	Monzogabbro	
145	Quartz gabbro	
146	Gabbro	Gabbroic
147	Norite	
148	Troctolite	
149	Anorthosite	
150	Alkalic intrusive rock	
151	Nepheline syenite	Foid syenite Foidal syenitic
152	Ultramafic intrusive rock	Ultramafic rock Ultramafic Komatiite Mafic and ultramafic rocks
153	Peridotite	
154	Dunite	
155	Kimberlite	
156	Pyroxenite	
157	Hornblendite	
158	Intrusive carbonatite	
159	Metamorphic rock	Metamorphic
160	Hornfels	
161	Eclogite	
162	Greisen	
163	Skarn	
164	Calc silicate rock	Calc silicate rock
165	Serpentinite	
166	Metasedimentary rock	Metasedimentary Metaclastic
167	Meta argillite	Metasandstone Metagraywacke
168	Slate	

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garritty and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
		Metasiltstone
169	Quartzite	
170	Metaconglomerate	
		Meta conglomerate
171	Marble	
		Metacarbonate
172	Metavolcanic rock	
		Metavolcanic
		Metaigneous
		Metaintrusive
		Volcanic gneiss
173	Felsic metavolcanic rock	
		Metagranite
		Metaanorthosite
		Metatonalite
		Metatrandhjemite
174	Metarhyolite	
		Meta rhyolite
175	Keratophyre	
176	Intermediate metavolcanic rock	
		Metadacite
		Metaandesite
177	Mafic metavolcanic rock	
		Metagabbro
		Metapyroxenite
		Metadiabase
		Metadiorite
		Metaperidotite
		Metadunite
178	Metabasalt	
		Meta basalt
179	Spilite	
180	Greenstone	
181	Phyllite	
182	Schist	
183	Greenschist	
184	Blueschist	
185	Mica schist	
		Muscovite schist

**Table 2.1.** Lithology dictionary and indexes with alternate names present in either the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC, Horton, 2017; Horton and others, 2017) or Geologic Map of North America (GMNA, Garritty and Soller, 2009) databases. Dictionary based on the Geologic Map Unit Classification, version 6.1, from Johnson (2002).—Continued

Index	Rock type	Rock type alternates
186	Biotite schist	
187	Pelitic schist	
188	Quartz feldspar schist	
189	Calc silicate schist	Calc silicate gneiss
190	Amphibole schist	
191	Granofels	
192	Gneiss	
193	Felsic gneiss	
194	Granitic gneiss	Muscovite gneiss Undivided gneissic rocks
195	Biotite gneiss	
196	Mafic gneiss	
197	Orthogneiss	
198	Paragneiss	
199	Migmatite	
200	Amphibolite	Hornblende gneiss
201	Granulite	
202	Tectonite	
203	Tectonic melange	
204	Tectonic breccia	Breccia Impact breccia
205	Cataclasite	
206	Phyllonite	
207	Mylonite	
208	Flaser gneiss	
209	Augen gneiss	
210	Indeterminate	
211	Ice	
212	Water	
213	Hydrothermally altered	

## Appendix 3. Exceptions to Geologic Map Modification Rules

The following exceptions were made to the geologic map modification rules to maximize continuity of the final maps.

1. In cases where unconsolidated sediment is on one side of the state or country border and rock is on the other, no change is made. This is done with the knowledge that where the bedrock depth map indicates that bedrock is not at the surface, the algorithm that builds the geologic profile will insert an unconsolidated sedimentary layer that will be smooth across the state or country border. This inserted unit will then be resolved upon comparison with unconsolidated units in the neighboring state or country.
2. The Idaho state map is the most recent in the State Geologic Map Compilation (SGMC), and because all the neighboring states have a smaller scale (greater detail), the default is choosing unit ages and lithology in Idaho. This increases continuity at the expense of detail in the neighboring states along Idaho's state border.
3. The State map of Colorado is preferred over neighboring states except for New Mexico simply because this choice produces the greatest continuity.
4. Several small changes are made by hand because they were not identified in the automatic algorithm. For six sedimentary rock units in the Geologic Map of North America (GMNA) map in Canada at the border with Montana and North Dakota, they are changed to the more specific SGMC sedimentary rock types. Several Miocene siltstone units in southwest Nebraska are changed to Holocene silt to match the units in Kansas, which are subsequently changed by the automatic algorithm to Quaternary sand to match units in Colorado. A Selandian sandstone in northwest Montana is changed to Paleocene claystone to match the unit in North Dakota. Lastly, one unusual change is made in Canada across the border with Montana. A strip of Devonian mafic rock was changed to Visean limestone because of the continuity in this unit across the border and no mafic rocks are identified in this part of northern Montana.



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