

430 - ON SITE DEPOSITIONAL CONTEXT

This is an entry designed to convey information regarding the depositional processes involved in the creation of the immediate landform surrounding the site.

1. AEOLIAN - Wind-transported materials, including wind-blown sands, wind-blown silts and wind-carried volcanic ash.
2. ALLUVIAL PLAIN - The gently sloping or flat surfaced fill of wider canyons and valleys beyond the toes of alluvial fans coming in from side drainages, and above stepped terrace systems and/or the actual flood plain. In valleys, alluvial plains may have been originally formed as lake beds and are here distinct from extant lakes or playas; they may also be underlain by pediments. When valleys contain rivers or large streams, alluvial plains are often the step or top of the highest terrace and may represent the oldest surface. In canyons, alluvial plains are formed when successive terrace-forming episodes have filled the canyon bottom with alluvial deposits to the same elevation, rather than having formed a series of terrace steps and risers of varying elevations. Although alluvial plains created by streams often contain gravels, Holocene deposits (post-ice age) are usually finer-grained silty and sandy materials. Alluvium - Fine grained, well sorted deposition transported and deposited by running water.
3. CLIFF - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
4. COLLUVIUM - Rock and soil which is moving down, or has been deposited at the foot of steep slopes and cliffs, transported mainly by gravity, rather than water transport. The steep slopes of mountains are usually mantled with colluvium, often resting at the angle of repose. Individual particles move when lubricated with water and/or when tipped by the expansion and contraction of the soil during freeze-thaw and wetting and drying cycles. Colluvium is relatively loose, incoherent and poorly sorted (particles are of many different sizes). Talus is a distinct form of colluvium defined elsewhere.
5. DELTA - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
6. DUNE - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
7. FAN - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
8. FLOODPLAIN - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
9. LANDSLIDE - A mass of rock and/or soil which has fallen or slid downslope. The edges of a landslide are along its lateral margins; the toe of the slide is its distal end (see SLUMP).

10. MARSH - A shallow lake or pond, or a shallow portion of a larger lake which is filled with sedges, tules, rushes, and other marshy vegetation. Marshes contain standing water most all of the year.
11. MORaine - The detritus deposited by a glacier at its terminus and along its lateral edges. Like colluvium, moraines are composed of unsorted and poorly consolidated material. Moraines from mountain glaciers are usually linear features, but can also form a generally lumpy terrain of relatively large areal extent.
12. OUTCROP - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
13. PLAYA - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).
14. RESIDUAL - Soil material formed in place, presumably from the same rock on which it lies.
15. SHORE FEATURE: EXTANT LAKE - A beach, bar, spit, or wave-cut terrace which is being acted upon by water at present.
16. SHORE FEATURE: EXTINCT LAKE - A beach, bar, spit, or wave-cut terrace of a lake standing higher than presently exists.
17. SLUMP - The downward slipping of a mass of rock or soil moving a unit, usually with a backward motion.
18. STREAM BED - The bottom of the channel of a river or stream, wherein sediment is being actively moved downstream.
19. STREAM TERRACE - The relatively flat, horizontal, or gently sloping surface in a canyon or valley bottom made of alluvial materials deposited by a stream or river in times past. In some cases, successive depositional episodes have filled a valley or canyon with alluvial deposits to varying elevations, creating a series of terrace steps, the highest one of which the oldest and the lowest one of which is the youngest. Thus, the surface or step of a terrace is a depositional feature while the riser vertical component is erosional.
21. TALUS - See Secondary Landform Definitions (420).