

Quaternary Fault and Fold Database of the United States

As of January 12, 2017, the USGS maintains a limited number of metadata fields that characterize the Quaternary faults and folds of the United States. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the [interactive fault map](#).

West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone, Craig Mountain section (Class A) No. 802c

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Synopsis

General: The West Grande Ronde Valley fault forms the western margin of a large graben system that confines the Grande Ronde Valley in northeastern Oregon. The graben is formed in Miocene and Pliocene volcanic rocks, and is floored by a thick sequence of Neogene and Quaternary alluvial sediments. The Grande Ronde Valley may be a pull apart basin related to displacement along a regional scale right-lateral strike-slip fault system. The West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone is divided into sections herein; from north to south, these are the Mount Emily, La Grande, and Craig Mountain sections. All of these sections form steep, en echelon range fronts, which are intermittently marked by tonal contrasts, linear depressions, range front facets, spurs, and scarps. Most fault studies in the region infer late Pleistocene and perhaps Holocene displacement on the Mount Emily and La Grande sections, and somewhat older late Quaternary displacement on the Craig Mountain section.

	<p>Sections: This fault has 3 sections. The West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone is divided into three sections herein, slightly modified from the divisions of Simpson and others (1993 #3596); from north to south, these are the Mount Emily section, the Grande section, and the Craig Mountain section.</p>
<p>Name comments</p>	<p>General: The fault zone along the western margin of the Grande Ronde Valley was originally mapped by Hampton and Brown (1964 #3491), and later summarized by Walker (1979 #3576). Parts of the fault zone north of La Grande were named the Ruckel Ridge and Indian Rock faults (Kienle and others, 1979 #3728); faults near La Grande were named the Mount Emily, La Grande, Foothill Road, and Hot Lake faults (Barrash and others, 1980 #3570), and the La Grande fault (Geomatrix Consultants Inc., 1989 #1310). The fault traces included herein were informally grouped as the West Grande Ronde Valley fault by Simpson and others (1993 #3596). Faults along the west side of the Grande Ronde Valley have been included in numerous reconnaissance Quaternary fault investigations and compilations (Kienle and others, 1979 #3728; Army Corps of Engineers, 1983 #3480; Geomatrix Consultants Inc., 1989 #1310; and others, 1990 #3733; Pezzopane and Weldon, 1993 #149; Pezzopane, 1993 #3593; Simpson and others, 1993 #3596; 1995 #3593; Madin and Mabey, 1996 #3575; Personius, 1998 #3508; Wood, 1999 #4042).</p> <p>Section: This section consists of the Craig Mountain segment of the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone of Simpson and others (1993 #3596) and Personius (1998 #3508) and the Hot Lake fault of Barrash and others (1980 #3570).</p> <p>Fault ID: This structure is part of fault number 13 of Pezzopane (1993 #3544) and fault number 68a of Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593).</p>
<p>County(s) and State(s)</p>	<p>UNION COUNTY, OREGON</p>
<p>Physiographic province(s)</p>	<p>COLUMBIA PLATEAU</p>
<p>Reliability of location</p>	<p>Good Compiled at 1:100,000 scale.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Location of fault from ORActiveFaults (http://www.oregongeology.org/arcgis/rest/services/Public/ORActiveFaults/MapServer downloaded 06/02/2016) attributed to 1:100,000-scale compilation of Ferns and others (2001 #5135).</p>
<p>Geologic setting</p>	<p>The West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone forms the western margin of a large graben system that forms the Grande Ronde Valley. The graben is formed in volcanic rocks of the Miocene Columbia River Group and the Mio-Pliocene Powder River volcanic group and is floored by a thick sequence of Neogene and Quaternary alluvial sediments (Hampton and Brown, 1964 #3491; Walker, 1979 #3576; Barrash and others, 1980 #3570).</p>

	<p>#3570; Ferns and Madin, 1999 #5160, Ferns, 2001 #5135; Van Tassell and others 2000 #5166). Numerous northwest-trending faults are present throughout the region; some workers attribute graben formation to a pull apart basin related to displacement along a regional scale right-lateral strike-slip fault system (Gehrels and others, 1980 #3774). However, no evidence of significant lateral displacement in the Quaternary has been found along the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone (Ferns and Madin, 1999 #5160).</p>
Length (km)	This section is 10 km of a total fault length of 48 km.
Average strike	N49°W (for section) versus N19°W (for whole fault)
Sense of movement	<p>Normal, Right lateral</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Faults in this section are mapped as a normal or high-angle faults (Hampton and Brown, 1964 #3491; Walker, 1979 #3576; Barrash and others, 1980 #3570; Walker and MacLeod, 1991 #3646; Pezzopane, 1993 #3544; Simpson and others, 1993 #3596; Ferns and others, 2001 #5135). Some workers attribute formation of the Grande Ronde graben to a pull apart basin related to displacement along a regional scale right-lateral strike-slip fault system, and horizontal striations have been observed on some faults in the area (Gehrels and others, 1980 #3774). However, no evidence of significant lateral displacement in the Quaternary has been found along the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone (Ferns and Madin, 1999 #5160).</p>
Dip Direction	<p>NE; SW</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> No dip measurements have been published, but Ferns and Madin (1999 #5160) used mapped outcrop patterns to estimate dips of 60-70° E. on the Mount Emily section [802a]. Simpson and others (1993 #3596) and Geomatrix Consultants Inc. (1995 #3593) modeled the West Grande Ronde Valley fault as a 70° dipping normal fault in their analyses of paleo-earthquake magnitudes. Dip can be estimated from the mapped trace of the fault and the intersection of the fault in the Magma-LaGrande No. 1 well near Hot Lake. The fault is intersected in the well at a depth of 503 m (Barrash and others, 1980 #3570), suggesting a dip of 68–70°.</p>
Paleoseismology studies	
Geomorphic expression	<p>The Craig Mountain section forms a steep, en echelon, linear range front along the west flank of Craig Mountain. The fault is intermittently marked by linear fronts and numerous springs; Hot Lake hot springs is located near the northern end of the section. The geomorphic expression of the Craig Mountain section may suggest a lower rate of faulting than the La Grande section faults (Simpson and others, 1993 #3596), but numerous landslide complexes bury the mountain front (I.P. Madin, pers. comm. 2001), which may mask evidence of young faulting.</p>

Age of faulted surficial deposits	<p>Faults in the Craig Mountain section offset volcanic rocks of the Miocene Columbia River Group and Mio-Pliocene Powder River volcanic field (Ferns and others, 2001 #5135). Offsets in Quaternary surficial deposits have not been clearly demonstrated but scarps may be present in landslide deposits of unknown age (Simpson and others, 1993 #3596; Ferns and others, 2001 #5135) at the northern end of the section.</p>
Historic earthquake	
Most recent prehistoric deformation	<p>latest Quaternary (<15 ka)</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Simpson and others (1993 #3596) did not find evidence of repeated late Quaternary displacement on the Craig Mountain section. Pezzopane (1993 #3544) and Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593) infer middle and late Quaternary (<70 ka) displacement on the Craig Mountain section. Weldon and others (2002 #5648) infer latest Quaternary displacement on this part of the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone; their age estimate is reported herein until further studies are conducted.</p>
Recurrence interval	
Slip-rate category	<p>Less than 0.2 mm/yr</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Displacement of Miocene Columbia River basalts across the Craig Mountain section is about 730 m southeast of Hot Lake (Barrash and others, 1980 #3570); such offset data suggest low rates of long-term slip. Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593) use offset data from Simpson and others (1993 #3596) to estimate rates of 0.01–0.05 mm/yr for all of the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone. Rates may be higher than those estimated by Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593) because Van Tassel and others (2000 #5161) used regional mapping and well data to calculate a subsidence rate of 0.2 mm/yr for the last 9 Ma for the southwestern part of the La Grande basin.</p>
Date and Compiler(s)	<p>2002 Stephen F. Personius, U.S. Geological Survey Kathleen M. Haller, U.S. Geological Survey</p>
References	<p>#3570 Barrash, W., Bond, J.G., Kauffman, J.D., and Venkatakrishnan, R., 1980, Geology of the La Grande Area, Oregon: State of Oregon, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Special Paper 6, 47 p., 5 pls., scale 1:24,000.</p> <p>#5160 Ferns, M.L., and Madin, I.P., 1999, Geologic map of the Summerville quadrangle, Union County, Oregon: State of Oregon, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Geologic Map Series GMS-111, 23 p. pamphlet, 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000.</p>

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1 pl.

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