

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](#).

East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone (Class A) No. 803

Last Review Date: 2016-03-21

citation for this record: Personius, S.F., compiler, 2002, Fault number 803, East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone, in Quaternary fault and fold database of the United States: U.S. Geological Survey website, <https://earthquakes.usgs.gov/hazards/qfaults>, accessed 12/14/2020 01:59 PM.

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| Synopsis | The East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone forms the eastern margin of a large graben system that forms 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 an extensional basin related to displacement along a regional scale right-lateral strike-slip fault system. The southern third of the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone forms a steep linear range front, from Mount Fanny north to Mount Harris. The fault trace is marked in this area by intermittent fault scarps in Quaternary deposits. North of Mount Harris the range front decreases in height and linearity, and the fault projects across the Grande Ronde River as a series of discontinuous scarps, tonal lineaments, and linear drainages. The most active, southern third of the fault zone may have moved as recently as the latest Pleistocene or Holocene. |
| Name | The fault zone along the eastern margin of the Grande Ronde Valley was originally |

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| comments | <p>mapped by Hampton and Brown (1964 #3491), and later summarized by Newcor (1970 #3761) and Walker (1979 #3576). The fault trace as included herein was informally named the East Grande Ronde Valley fault by Simpson and others (19 #3596). Faults along the east side of the Grande Ronde Valley have been included in numerous reconnaissance Quaternary fault investigations and compilations (U.S. Corps of Engineers, 1983 #3480; Geomatrix Consultants Inc., 1989 #3546; Pezzopane and Weldon, 1993 #149; Pezzopane, 1993 #3544; Simpson and others, 1993 #3596; Geomatrix Consultants Inc., 1995 #3593; Madin and Mabey, 1996 #3575; Person and others, 1998 #3508; Wood, 1999 #4042; Weldon and others, 2002 #5648).</p> <p>Fault ID: This structure is part of fault number 13 of Pezzopane (1993 #3544) or fault number 68b of Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593).</p> |
| County(s) and State(s) | UNION COUNTY, OREGON |
| Physiographic province(s) | COLUMBIA PLATEAU |
| Reliability of location | <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> |
| Geologic setting | The East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone forms the eastern margin of a large graben system that forms the Grande Ronde Valley. The graben is formed in Miocene and Pliocene volcanic rocks, and is floored by a thick sequence of Neogene and Quaternary alluvial sediments (Hampton and Brown, 1964 #3491; Walker, 1979 #3576; Walker and MacLeod, 1991 #3646; Ferns and others, 2001 #5135). 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). |
| Length (km) | 50 km. |
| Average strike | N35°W |
| Sense of movement | <p>Normal</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Although horizontal striations and other evidence of horizontal displacement have been observed on faults in the region (Hampton and Brown, 1964 #3491; Gehrels and others, 1980 #3774), no evidence of significant lateral displacement has been described along the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone.</p> |

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| | (Ferns and Madin, 1999 #5160) or the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1983 #3480; Geomatrix Consultants Inc., 1989 #3546; Pezzopane, 1993 #3544; Simpson and others, 1993 #3596; Geomatrix Consultant 1995 #3593; Personius, 1998 #3508), so herein the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone is assumed to be a normal fault. |
| Dip Direction | SW; NE <i>Comments:</i> No dip measurements have been published, but Simpson and others (1993 #3596) and Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593) modeled the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone as a 70° dipping normal fault in their analyses of paleo-earthquake magnitudes. Map and well data along the West Grande Ronde Valley fault zone (Barrash and others, 1980 #3570; Ferns and Madin, 1999 #5160) support a 60–70° dip. |
| Paleoseismology studies | |
| Geomorphic expression | The East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone forms a steep, linear range front from Mount Fanny north to Mount Harris. The fault trace is marked in this area by discontinuous fault scarps on Quaternary deposits (Simpson and others, 1993 #3596; Personius, 1998 #3508). North of Mount Harris, the range front decreases in height and linearity, and the fault projects across the Grande Ronde River as a series of discontinuous scarp-tonal lineaments, and linear drainages (Simpson and others, 1993 #3596). Simpson and others (1993 #3596) divided the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone into three segments, the Cove, Mount Harris, and Rhinehart segments, based on apparent differences in geomorphic expression. However, these segments are only 12–15 km long, could rupture together (Simpson and others, 1993 #3596), and are not based on detailed paleoseismic investigations, so herein these segments are discussed together. |
| Age of faulted surficial deposits | Hampton and Brown (1964 #3491) map a short fault in Quaternary colluvium about 1 km north of Cove, but this feature is probably a landslide headscarp (Personius, 1998 #3508). Simpson and others (1993 #3596) described low scarps, typically less than 1 m in height, on late Pleistocene alluvial deposits, and locally higher scarps on older deposits. Personius (1998 #3508) measured surface offsets of 6–11 m in late Pleistocene alluvial deposits, but he found no evidence of faulted Holocene alluvium. |
| Historic earthquake | |
| Most recent prehistoric deformation | latest Quaternary (<15 ka) <i>Comments:</i> Simpson and others (1993 #3596) and Personius (1998 #3508) described fault scarps on late Pleistocene alluvial deposits, and Personius (1998 #3508) used fault-scarp morphology to infer that some scarps along the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone may be latest Pleistocene in age. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (1983 |

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| | #3480), Pezzopane (1993 #3544), Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593), and Weldon and others (2002 #5648) show the southern third of the fault as having late Pleistocene or Holocene displacement. |
| Recurrence interval | |
| Slip-rate category | <p>Less than 0.2 mm/yr</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Hampton and Brown (1964 #3491) estimate about 1,200 m of displacement of 15–17 Ma (Walker and MacLeod, 1991 #3646) Columbia River basalts across the East Grande Ronde Valley fault; such offsets suggest low rates long-term slip. No Quaternary slip-rate data are available for the East Grande Ronde Valley fault zone, but the relatively small scarps on late Pleistocene deposits suggest low rates of Quaternary slip. Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. (1995 #3593) used estimated rates of 0.05–0.005 mm/yr in their analysis of earthquake hazards associated with the fault.</p> |
| Date and Compiler(s) | <p>2002</p> <p>Stephen F. Personius, 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> <p>#5135 Ferns, M.L., Madin, I.P., and Taubeneck, W.H., 2001, Reconnaissance geologic map of the La Grande 30' x 60' quadrangle, Baker, Grant, Umatilla, and Union Counties, Oregon: State of Oregon, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Reconnaissance Map Series RMS-1, 1 pl., scale 1:100,000.</p> <p>#3774 Gehrels, G.E., White, R.R., and David, G.A., 1980, The La Grande pull-apart basin, northeastern Oregon: Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs v. 12, no. 3, p. 107.</p> <p>#3546 Geomatrix Consultants, Inc., 1989, Seismotectonic evaluation of Mann Crater and Mason Dam sites: Technical report to U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, under Contract 6-CS-81-07310, 118 p., 2 pls., scale 1:250,000.</p> <p>#3593 Geomatrix Consultants, Inc., 1995, Seismic design mapping, State of Oregon: Technical report to Oregon Department of Transportation, Salem, Oregon, under</p> |

Contract 11688, January 1995, unpaginated, 5 pls., scale 1:1,250,000.

#3491 Hampton, E.R., and Brown, S.G., 1964, Geology and ground-water resources of the Upper Grande Ronde River Basin Union County, Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1597, 99 p., 6 pls.

#3575 Madin, I.P., and Mabey, M.A., 1996, Earthquake hazard maps for Oregon: Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Geological Map Series: GMS-100, 1 sheet.

#3761 Newcomb, R.C., 1970, Tectonic structure of the main part of the basalt of the Columbia River Group Washington, Oregon, and Idaho: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations I-587, 1 sheet, scale 1:500,000.

#3508 Personius, S.F., 1998, Surficial geology and neotectonics of selected areas of western Idaho and northeastern Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 771, 25 p.

#3544 Pezzopane, S.K., 1993, Active faults and earthquake ground motions in Oregon: Eugene, Oregon, University of Oregon, unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, 208 p.

#149 Pezzopane, S.K., and Weldon, R.J., II, 1993, Tectonic role of active faulting in central Oregon: *Tectonics*, v. 12, p. 1140-1169.

#3596 Simpson, G.D., Hemphill-Haley, M.A., Wong, I.G., Bott, J.D.J., Silva, W.J., Lettis, W.R., 1993, Seismotectonic evaluation, Burnt River Project Unity Dam, Burnt River Project Thief Valley Dam, northeastern Oregon: Final Report prepared for U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 167 p., 2 pls.

#3480 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1983, The Dalles and John Day Lakes earthquake and fault study—Design memorandum 26: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, 66 p., 19 pls.

#3576 Walker, G.W., 1979, Reconnaissance geologic map of the Oregon part of the Grangeville quadrangle, Baker, Union, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties, Oregon: Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Map I-1116, 1 sheet, scale 1:250,000.

#3646 Walker, G.W., and MacLeod, N.S., 1991, Geologic map of Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey, Special Geologic Map, 2 sheets, scale 1:500,000.

#5648 Weldon, R.J., Fletcher, D.K., Weldon, E.M., Scharer, K.M., and McCrory, 2002, An update of Quaternary faults of central and eastern Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 02-301 (CD-ROM), 26 sheets, scale 1:100,000.

#4042 Wood, S.H., 1999, Quaternary faulting in southwest Idaho and adjacent Oregon: Friends of the Pleistocene field trip guide, September 24-26, 1999, Appendix 9, p. 1-5.

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