

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 Bank fault (Class A) No. 876

Last Review Date: 2002-05-28

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Synopsis	The northwest-striking East Bank fault lies in the Portland basin, which may be a lateral pull-apart basin in the forearc of the Cascadia subduction zone; the fault lies a few km east of and is parallel to the Portland Hills fault [877], which forms the southwestern margin of the basin. The East Bank fault has been mapped as a high angle normal fault with a down-to-the-southwest displacement direction, but down-to-the-northeast reverse displacement with a right-lateral strike-slip component is consistent with tectonic setting, mapped geologic relations, aeromagnetic data, and microseismicity in the area. No fault scarps on surficial Quaternary deposits have been described along the fault trace, and the fault is mapped as buried by latest Pleistocene Missoula flood deposits, but recently acquired shallow seismic-reflection suggests probable down-to-the-northeast offset of unconformities, paleochannels, and sediments associated with flood deposits at several locations across the East Bank fault.
Name comments	The East Bank fault was first mapped by Madin (1990 #4067) and Beeson and others (1991 #4048) and informally named after the east bank of the Willamette River by Blakely and others (1995 #4021). The fault may be part of the Portland Hills-Clackamas River structural zone of Beeson and others (1985 #4022; 1989 #4023).

	is included in the Portland Hills fault zone of Blakely and others (1995 #4021).
County(s) and State(s)	MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON
Physiographic province(s)	PACIFIC BORDER
Reliability of location	Good Compiled at 1:24,000 and 1:50,000 scale. <i>Comments:</i> Location of fault from ORActiveFaults (http://www.oregongeology.org/arcgis/rest/services/Public/ORActiveFaults/Map8 downloaded 06/02/2016) attributed to Madin (2004 #7779) and Madin and others (2008 #7781).
Geologic setting	The northwest-striking East Bank fault lies in the Portland basin, which may be a lateral pull-apart basin in the forearc of the Cascadia subduction zone (Beeson and others, 1985 #4022; Beeson and others, 1989 #4023; Yelin and Patton, 1991 #4020; Blakely and others, 1995 #4021; Blakely and others, 2000 #4333), or a piggyback synclinal basin formed between antiformal uplifts of the Portland fold belt (Unruh and others, 1994 #3597; Unruh and others, 1994 #4007). The East Bank fault lies a few kilometers east of and is parallel to the Portland Hills fault [877], which forms the southwest margin of the Portland basin.
Length (km)	29 km.
Average strike	N46°W
Sense of movement	Reverse, Right lateral <i>Comments:</i> The East Bank fault is mapped as a high-angle normal fault with a down-to-the-southwest displacement direction (Madin, 1990 #4067; Beeson and others, 1990 #4048). Blakely and others (1995 #4021) used aeromagnetic data to infer a north-south dipping reverse geometry for the fault. However, shallow seismic reflection data indicate down-to-the-northeast displacements that are inconsistent with a northeast-dipping reverse fault (Pratt and others, 2001 #5136). The East Bank fault is modeled as a 70° northeast-dipping reverse to vertical fault in the earthquake hazards analysis of Wong and others (1999 #4073; 2000 #5137). Reverse displacement with a right-lateral strike-slip component is consistent with the tectonic setting, mapped geologic relations, and microseismicity in the area (Beeson and others, 1989 #4023; Yelin and Patton, 1991 #4020; Blakely and others, 1995 #4021; Blakely and others, 2000 #4333).
Dip Direction	NE <i>Comments:</i> Blakely and others (1995 #4021) use aeromagnetic data to infer a

	<p>northeast-dipping reverse geometry for the fault, and Wong and others (1999 #402000 #5137) modeled the East Bank fault as a 70° northeast-dipping reverse to vertical fault in their earthquake hazards analysis of the Portland metropolitan area. Dip direction from Blakely and others (1995 #4021) and Wong and others (1999 #4072000 #5137); shallow seismic reflection data indicate down-to-the-northeast displacement (Pratt and others, 2001 #5136).</p>
Paleoseismology studies	
Geomorphic expression	<p>Little geomorphic evidence of this fault exists, because the Portland basin was extensively scoured and buried by debris from the latest Pleistocene Missoula flow. Shallow seismic-reflection data suggest that the East Bank fault may lie south of the trace inferred by Madin (1990 #4067) and Beeson and others (1991 #4048), and may influence the location of a paleochannel of the Columbia River near its confluence with the Willamette River (Pratt and others, 2001 #5136). No other geomorphic evidence of this fault has been described.</p>
Age of faulted surficial deposits	<p>The East Bank fault offsets Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group volcanic rock and Miocene to Pliocene sedimentary rocks of the Troutdale Formation (Madin, 1990 #4067; Beeson and others, 1991 #4048). No fault scarps on surficial Quaternary deposits have been described along the fault trace, and the fault is shown as buried by latest Pleistocene flood deposits (Madin, 1990 #4067; Beeson and others, 1991 #4048). However, recently acquired shallow seismic-reflection data across the East Bank fault at several locations suggests probable offset of unconformities, paleochannels, and sediments associated with the 15.3–12.7 ka Missoula floods (Pratt and others, 2001 #5136).</p>
Historic earthquake	
Most recent prehistoric deformation	<p>middle and late Quaternary (<750 ka)</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Madin (1990 #4067) and Beeson and others (1991 #4048) show the East Bank fault as buried by Missoula flood deposits; however, shallow seismic-reflection data suggest probable offset of unconformities, and paleochannels, and sediments formed during the 15.3–12.7 ka Missoula floods (Pratt and others, 2001 #5136). The assigned age category is from ORActiveFaults (http://www.oregongeology.org/arcgis/rest/services/Public/ORActiveFaults/MapServer downloaded 06/02/2016).</p>
Recurrence interval	
Slip-rate	Less than 0.2 mm/yr

category	<p><i>Comments:</i> Cross sections from Beeson and others (1991 #4048) suggest 60–120 m down-to-the-west vertical displacement of Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group volcanic rocks, and 60–90 m of vertical displacement of Miocene-Pliocene Trout Formation rocks across the East Bank fault; no estimates of strike-slip displacement have been published, but such vertical displacements indicate low rates of long-term slip. Pratt and others (2001 #5136) used shallow seismic-reflection data to infer 2 m of vertical offset in 15.3–12.7 ka Missoula flood related sediments across several strands of the East Bank fault. Wong and others (1999 #4073; 2000 #5137) used estimated slip rates of 0.05–0.4 mm/yr in their analyses of the earthquake hazards associated with the East Bank fault, but did not document the basis for these estimates. Given the lack of significant geomorphic expression along the fault, the lower rate herein considered more likely.</p>
Date and Compiler(s)	<p>2002 Stephen F. Personius, U.S. Geological Survey</p>
References	<p>#4022 Beeson, M.H., Fecht, K.R., Reidel, S.P., and Tolan, T.L., 1985, Regional correlations within the Frenchman Springs member of the Columbia River Basalt Group—New insights into the middle Miocene tectonics of northwestern Oregon Oregon Geology, v. 47, no. 8, p. 87-96.</p> <p>#4023 Beeson, M.H., Tolan, T.L., and Anderson, J.L., 1989, The Columbia River Basalt Group in western Oregon—Geologic structures and other factors that control flow emplacement patterns, <i>in</i> Reidel, S.P., and Hooper, P.R., eds., Volcanism and tectonism in the Columbia River Flood-Basalt Province: Geological Society of America Special Paper 239, p. 223-246.</p> <p>#4048 Beeson, M.H., Tolan, T.L., and Madin, I.P., 1991, Geologic map of the Portland quadrangle, Multnomah and Washington Counties, Oregon, and Clark County, Washington: State of Oregon Geological Map Series GMS-75, 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000.</p> <p>#4333 Blakely, R.J., Wells, R.E., Tolan, T.L., Beeson, M.H., Trehu, A.M., and Lill, L.M., 2000, New aeromagnetic data reveal large strike-slip (?) faults in the northern Willamette Valley, Oregon: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 112, p. 1233-1238.</p> <p>#4021 Blakely, R.J., Wells, R.E., Yelin, T.S., Madin, I.P., and Beeson, M.H., 1995, Tectonic setting of the Portland-Vancouver area, Oregon and Washington—Constraints from low-altitude aeromagnetic data: Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 107, no. 9, p. 1051-1062.</p> <p>#4067 Madin, I.P., 1990, Earthquake-hazard geology maps of the Portland metropolitan area, Oregon—Text and map explanation: State of Oregon, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Open-File Report 0-90-2, 21 p., 8 pls., scale 1:24,000.</p>

1:24,000.

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