

STATE OF ARKANSAS
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Bekki White, State Geologist and Director

COUNTY GEOLOGIC REPORT 062

GEOLOGIC REPORT
OF
PIKE COUNTY

by
Daniel S. Rains
and
William D. Hanson

Little Rock, Arkansas

2017

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PREFACE

This report is an accompaniment to the 1:50,000 scale geologic map of Pike County, Arkansas. The 1:50,000 scale geologic map is a mosaic of smaller scale geologic maps, printed at a 1:50,000 scale. Underlined terms are defined in glossary. This publication is available on CD, on paper, and on Arkansas Geological Survey’s website: www.arkansas.gov/agc/agc.htm

Geologic Report of Pike County, Arkansas

Introduction

Pike County is located in southwestern Arkansas (Fig. 1), has a population estimated at 10,824 and an approximate area of 600.62 mi² (1556 km²) (US census 2010). The county is situated between latitude coordinates 34.350179° and 34.943026°, and longitude coordinates -93.94° and -94.37° (Plate 1). The highest elevation is about 1,780 ft. (542 m) above sea level, and occurs on Hogpen Mountain in the northwestern part of the county (Langley 7.5 min. quadrangle). The lowest elevation, approximately 240 ft. (73 m) above sea level, is located at the confluence of Antoine River and Wolf Creek in the southeast (Piney Grove 7.5 min. quadrangle). Surface water is abundant in Pike County. Major surface drainages include Little Missouri River- which feeds the 7,000 acre Lake Greeson-, Caddo and Antoine rivers, and Saline and Wolf creeks. The primary transportation route in and out of Pike County is US Highway 70.

The remainder of the county is fairly accessible using state highways 8, 19, 26, 27, 29, and 84. At this time, there is no railroad access to Pike County.

Physiographic Provinces of Arkansas

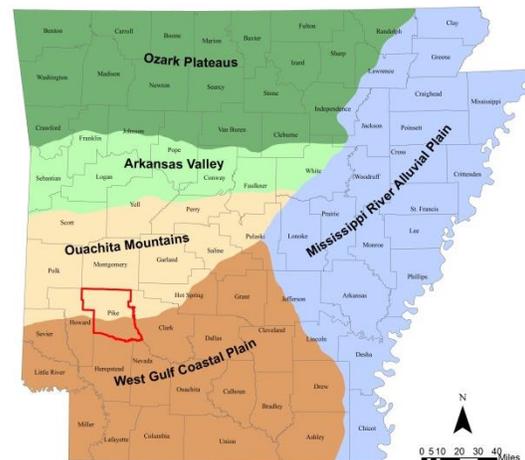


Figure 1: Location of Pike County. Also shown are the physiographic provinces of Arkansas

Pike County is roughly divided between two physiographic provinces: the Ouachita Mountains in the northern part of the county and the West Gulf Coastal Plain in the south (Fig. 1). The rock types exposed in these provinces are primarily sedimentary, but there are small bodies of igneous rock

exposed as well (Plate 1). The history of Pike County's rocks spans a long range of time.

Rocks of the Ouachita Mountains region of northern Pike County are between 488 and 299 million years old (Paleozoic Era). At that time southern Arkansas was an abyss where sediment accumulated in oceanic environments up to thousands of meters deep. Sandstone, shale, novaculite, and chert bedrock formed from this sediment.

Around 300 million years ago, pressure from colliding plates in the earth's crust caused the bedrock to compress, deform, and fracture eventually raising it above sea level. Exposed above sea level, these folded beds of rock were slowly eroded into the ridges and valleys we see today. The prominent ridges are typically erosion-resistant rock, such as sandstone or novaculite, while the valleys are mostly easily-erodible rock, such as shale.

This period of erosion lasted about 150 million years and left a gap in the geologic record known as an unconformity. An unconformity is a period of time for which

there is no representative rock. In Pike County, numerous unconformities are represented in the rock record, but only two of them represent extensive time spans (Fig. 2). At approximately 146 million years ago (Cretaceous Period), southern Arkansas including southern Pike County, subsided below sea level as the Gulf of Mexico was forming. At that time, sediment

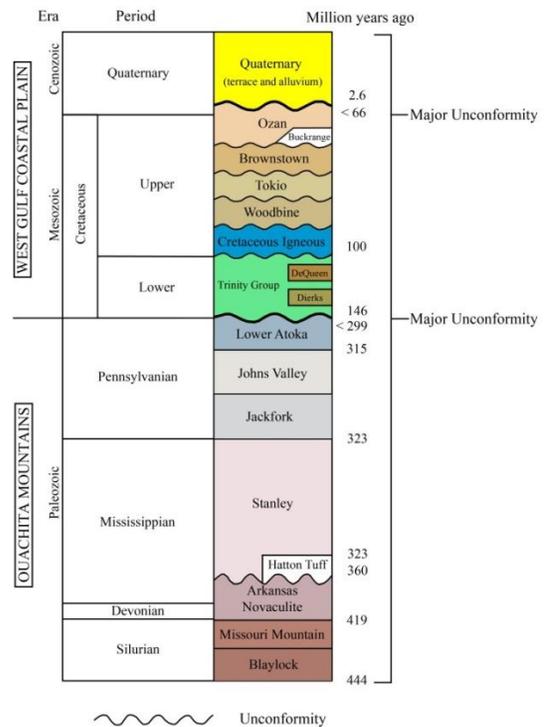


Figure 2: Stratigraphic column of Pike County

accumulated in a shallow sea that covered southern Arkansas. Eventually, that sediment became rock, but, unlike the older Paleozoic-era rock which was folded and faulted, the Cretaceous rock is still in flat layers (with the exception of the igneous rock which is not layered). This type of unconformity, where the younger strata are in a contrary orientation to the older strata, is known as an angular unconformity.

Cretaceous rock layers of southern Pike County typically strike east-west and dip gently to the south at about 1°. Unlike the older Paleozoic rocks, which are very hard, the Cretaceous rocks are, for the most part, poorly consolidated and therefore erode easily. Geologists divide Cretaceous rocks of Arkansas into lower and upper units at a minor unconformity that took place around 100 million years ago (Fig. 2). Both the upper and lower Cretaceous rocks were deposited in shallow nearshore marine environments between 146 and 66 million years ago. The Lower Cretaceous rocks consist mostly of cross-bedded sandstone, but include two

intervals of fossiliferous limestone, interbedded gypsum, and a gravel unit, at the base. Upper Cretaceous rocks are of variable lithology notably including a diamond-bearing volcanic pipe known as a diatreme, but consist mostly of sand, clay, gravel, chalk, tuff, and marl.

The younger and second major unconformity in Pike County is still developing as the entire county has been above sea level, and subject to erosion, since the end of the Cretaceous Period: 66 million years ago. On this erosional surface, Quaternary (2.6 million years ago to present) sediment is being deposited today. The Quaternary “rock” units on the Geologic Map of Pike County (Plate 1) are not true rocks. They are sediment that has recently accumulated in stream valleys. Quaternary alluvium consists of sand, silt, clay, and gravel, deposited in floodplains and channels of modern streams. Quaternary terrace deposits have the same composition as alluvium, but were deposited in older higher-elevation floodplains and channels that streams occupied in the past.

Stratigraphy

Paleozoic (470 - 299 million years ago)

The Silurian aged (444 – 416 million years ago) Blaylock Formation is the oldest rock formation that is exposed at the surface in Pike County. It consists of tan to gray, fine- to medium-grained sandstone interbedded with black fissile shale. It rarely contains graptolite fossils and trace fossils. The Blaylock Formation is exposed in northern Pike County (Plate 1).

Also of Silurian age, the Missouri Mountain Formation was conformably deposited on the Blaylock Formation. It consists of shale interbedded with conglomerate, as well as novaculite and sandstone. Few identifiable fossils have been recovered from this unit. The Missouri Mountain Formation crops out in northern Pike County (Plate 1).

The Arkansas Novaculite was deposited, conformably, on the Missouri Mountain Formation between the Devonian Period and the Early Mississippian Period

(416 to 347 million years ago). Three divisions of the Arkansas Novaculite are generally recognized. The lower division is white massive novaculite with some interbedded gray shale near the base. The middle division is greenish to dark-gray shale, interbedded with many thin beds of dark novaculite. The upper division is white, thick-bedded, and commonly calcareous. The Arkansas Novaculite crops out across northern Pike County (Plate 1). Though not mined in Pike County, novaculite is an important commodity quarried for application as an abrasive.

The Stanley Formation rests unconformably on the Arkansas Novaculite and spans part of the Mississippian age (about 347 – 318 million years ago). It's the most extensively exposed bedrock in Pike County (Plate 1). The Stanley is composed predominantly of grayish-black to brownish-gray shale with lesser amounts of thin-bedded to massive, fine-grained, gray to brownish-gray, feldspathic sandstone, dark green to black tuff (the Hatton Tuff), and chert. After

weathering, the sandstone is generally porous and brown and the shale is olive-gray.

The Jackfork Formation conformably overlies the Stanley Shale. It is Early Pennsylvanian age: 323 to 315 million years ago. It consists of thin- to medium-bedded, fine- to coarse-grained, brown, tan, or bluish-gray quartzitic sandstone with lesser amounts of brown silty sandstone, and charcoal-colored shale.

The Johns Valley Formation rests conformably on the Jackfork Formation. It was deposited during the Pennsylvanian Period, between 318 and 299 million years ago. It is composed of black shale with numerous intervals of brownish sandstone. It also contains small amounts of gray-black siliceous shale, and chert. The Johns Valley locally contains exotic boulders thought to have been deposited by mass wasting events.

The youngest Paleozoic rock in Pike County, the lower part of the Atoka Formation, was also deposited, conformably,

during the Pennsylvanian age. The lower Atoka is a sequence of marine, mostly tan to gray silty sandstones, and grayish-black shales. Some rare calcareous beds and siliceous shales are known.

Cretaceous (146 – 66 million years ago)

The Lower Cretaceous Trinity Group has a wide range of lithologies: sand, gravel, clay, limestone, gypsum, and celestine. It is primarily composed of fine- to medium-grained, cross-bedded, white to red sandstone that is locally barite cemented. Clay of the Trinity Group though not abundant, is tan, light-gray, gray, and brown. The base of the Trinity Group is called the Pike Gravel and contains abundant gravel, mostly in the size range of 1 to 6 in. (2 – 15 cm). Above the gravel horizon and interbedded with the sandstone intervals are two limestone members: the Dierks Limestone and the DeQueen Limestone. The Dierks Limestone is 30 – 60 ft. (9 – 18 m) of fossiliferous limestone interbedded with green and gray calcareous clay. The oyster fossil *Ostrea franklini* (Fig. 3) is common in the

Dierks Limestone (Miser and Purdue, 1929). The DeQueen Limestone consists of up to 100 ft. (30 m) of interbedded fossiliferous limestone, calcareous clay, gypsum, and celestine. *Cassiope branneri* (Fig. 4) and *Ostrea franklini* are common fossils in the DeQueen Limestone. The DeQueen Limestone Member is also known for its dinosaur tracksites, though none have been discovered in Pike County. Asphalt-impregnated sands and gravels, when present in the Trinity Group, are found below the DeQueen Limestone.

Cretaceous igneous intrusions are composed of three main rock types: lamproite breccia tuff, lamproite lapilli tuff and Maar Epiclastics. The breccia tuff is composed of fragments of lamproite and other rock types. The lapilli tuff is largely composed of volcanic ash and dust and the epiclastic rock was formed from the mixing of the igneous rock types with the local sedimentary rock when the igneous rock was emplaced. In addition to the large diamondiferous Prairie Creek pipe located at Crater of Diamonds State Park,

numerous smaller intrusive bodies, some of which are diamondiferous, have been mapped east of the town of Murfreesboro. Other intrusive bodies may, as of yet, be undiscovered.

Crater of Diamonds State Park visit:

http://www.geology.ar.gov/pdf/crater_diamond_sps_06_2024_8.pdf



Figure 3: *Ostrea franklini*. Found in the Dierks and DeQueen Limestone Members



Figure 4: *Cassiope branneri* fossils collected from the Tokio Formation

The Woodbine Formation, also of Late Cretaceous age, rests unconformably on the Trinity Group. It is approximately 200 ft. (61 m) thick and consists of gravel, water-lain tuff, sand, and clay. The gravel is found at the base of the unit and can be up to 60 ft. (18 m) thick, but, is generally 20 ft. (6 m) thick. The average clast is about 2 in. (5 cm) in diameter, sub-rounded to rounded, and composed of chert or novaculite (Fig. 8). Some highly-altered igneous pebbles have also been noted in the basal gravel. The water-lain tuff is cross-bedded and blue to green on freshly broken surfaces. Weathering of the tuff produces distinctive, red, waxy clay.

The Tokio Formation rests unconformably on the Woodbine Formation and consists of clay, sand, and gravel. A gravel unit at the base of the formation is approximately 30 ft. (9 m) thick and consists of sub-rounded to rounded grains ranging from pebble to cobble-sized (Fig. 5). The average grain is about 1 in. (2.5 cm) in

diameter and is typically composed of novaculite, chert, quartz, sandstone, or quartzite. The clay of the Tokio Formation is dark gray to almost white. The dark gray clay is fossiliferous and contains the gastropod *Cassiope branneri* (Fig. 4), as well as plant fragments, and plant and shell impressions. Some of the lighter-colored clay beds are altered volcanic ash known as kaolinite. The clay content of the unit increases westward. Sandstone of the Tokio Formation is fine- to medium-grained, sub-rounded to rounded, and cross-bedded. Glauconite and ilmenite are accessory minerals in the sandstone. The Tokio Formation is about 300 ft. (91 m) thick.



Figure 5: Gravel pit in the Tokio formation

The Brownstown Formation rests unconformably on the Tokio Formation and consists of fossiliferous, gray to dark gray marl and sandy marl. The most recognizable fossil in this unit is the oyster *Exogyra ponderosa* (Fig. 6). The Brownstown Formation, in Pike County, is about 250 ft. (76 m) thick.



Figure 6: *Exogyra ponderosa*

The Ozan Formation rests unconformably on the Brownstown Formation. It is marl, sandy marl, glauconitic marl, and sand. The Buckrange Sand Member, at the base of the unit, is about 20 ft. (6m) thick. This sandy interval contains glauconite, phosphate nodules, black chert, and shark's teeth. Marls of the Ozan Formation are dark

gray and fossiliferous. Notable fossils include *Exogyra ponderosa* and *Ostrea falcatta* (Fig. 7) (Dane, 1929). Teeth and bones of the mosasaur, a large extinct marine reptile, have also been identified in the Ozan (Fig. 8 and 9). The Ozan Formation is approximately 200 ft. (61 m) thick.



Figure 7: *Ostrea falcatta*



Figure 8: Tooth of a mosasaur, an extinct marine reptile



Figure 9: Vertebrae of a mosasaur

Tertiary and Quaternary (66 million years ago to present)

All units in the county that are younger than Cretaceous, the Tertiary and Quaternary units, consist of unconsolidated sand, silt, clay, and gravel.

Mineral Resources

Current Mining

Currently, crushed stone, shale, and sand and gravel are the main industrial minerals being extracted in Pike County. Several Paleozoic units, including the Jackfork, Stanley, and Atoka formations, are suitable for producing crushed stone. Crushed stone is used in aggregate for road

construction. Other uses include Rip Rap and ballast. Sand and gravel are intermittently mined in Pike County for local use. They are used as filler or in aggregate, though crushed stone is preferable for aggregate. Shale is used as fill material and as top dressing for secondary roads.

In addition to sand and gravel, crushed stone, and shale, Pike County has the distinction of having the only active diamond mine in the United States: Crater of Diamonds State Park. It's also the only place in the world where visitors, for a modest fee, are allowed to prospect for diamonds and keep what they find (Fig. 10). The diamonds were emplaced together with a volcanic lamproite pipe around 100 million years ago (Cretaceous Period). The volcanic pipe is believed to have violently erupted from the earth's mantle to its surface, a little south of present day Murfreesboro. The pipe is weathered, where it is exposed, and the diamonds are found in the soil formed by this weathering, on top of the intrusion. Several smaller igneous intrusions of similar age and

composition have been identified northeast of Crater of Diamonds State Park (Plate 1). Some of these smaller igneous bodies were prospected for diamonds, but, concentrations were determined to be sub-economic.

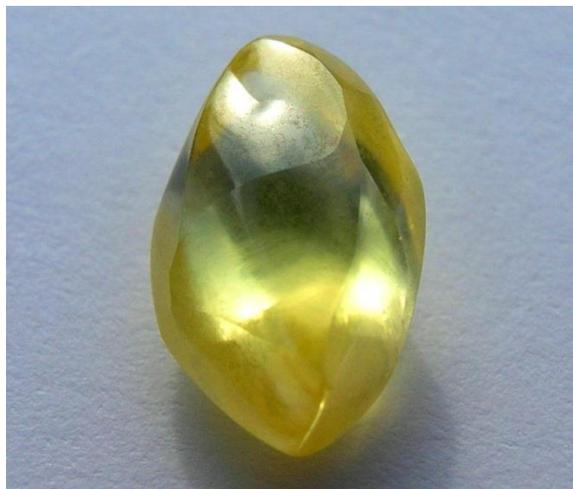


Fig. 10: 2.4-carat yellow diamond found at Crater of Diamonds State Park, 2009

Historical Mining

Naturally-occurring asphalt, also known as bitumen, is a thick, tacky, dark-colored to black mix of hydrocarbons that is concentrated when volatile compounds evaporate from crude oil. Asphalt has been identified in 4 parts of Pike County, but the only place it has been mined commercially is south of Pike City, southeastern Pike County (Plates 1 and 2). That operation was active

from 1903 to 1906 and produced 4,815 tons of asphalt, which was used to pave roads in the Little Rock area (Stroud et al., 1969). Deposits occur in sandy beds of the Trinity group, between the Dierks Limestone and Pike Gravel members (Fig. 2).

Gypsum is a mineral consisting of calcium sulfate dihydrate ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) that has several important applications in construction, including the production of wall-board, plaster, and portland cement (Sharpe and Cork, 2006). Pike County, despite boasting the largest known bed of gypsum in Arkansas—12 feet (3.6 meters) thick and located at Plaster Bluff—has no active gypsum mines. As of the writing of this report, all gypsum mines in Pike County have been reclaimed. In the 1950s and 1960s, a company called Highland, operated a small gypsum mine in southwest Pike County, producing gypsum for the manufacture of cement, most of which was used for local construction (Stroud et al., 1969).

Manganese was mined sporadically in Pike County during the early 20th century. It's

typically found in fractures and joints associated with faults and folds in the basal Upper Arkansas Novaculite. Factors that have limited manganese production in the county include high phosphorous content, inconsistent ore grade, and irregular ore body geometry (Stroud et al., 1969).

Cinnabar (Fig. 11), the principal ore of mercury, is found in an east-west-trending belt across central Pike County that extends into Howard County, to the west, and Clark County, to the east. It's found in the Pennsylvanian Jackfork Formation, on the western end of the belt, and in the Mississippian Stanley Formation, on the eastern end. Deposits are located in fractures associated with the axes of folds as well as in fault gouge, quartz veins, and disseminated crystals in sandstone intervals (Williams, 1959). Seven of Pike County's mercury mines yielded greater than 500 76-lb (34.5 kg) flasks of mercury. The Parker Hill mine (Plate 2, sec. 1, T7S, R26W) was the most prolific of the mines, with 2,400 flasks extracted (Stroud et al., 1969). For the most

part, activity ended by 1946 due to the richest ore having been depleted. Many of the old mine sites were flooded when Narrows Dam was constructed on the Little Missouri River to create Lake Greeson, between 1948 and 1950 (U.S. Army Corp of Engineers).



Fig. 11: Cinnabar (mercury ore) on quartz, Pike County, Arkansas (approximately .5 in. or 1.25 cm long)

Tripoli is a product that's used in the abrasives industry for grinding, polishing and sharpening. In Pike County, it forms as a result of weathering of the upper Arkansas Novaculite near its contact with the Stanley Formation. Once crushed, it's composed of microscopic angular quartz grains and is typically white to cream-colored (Stroud et al.,

1969). Mining of tripoli in Pike County has been sporadic and most of it has taken place in the northwest.

Other resources have been noted in the county but have never been commercially developed. Barite, which is utilized by the oil and gas industry in drilling mud, occurs throughout the county in multiple settings. There are veins and lenses of quartz with high barite contents in the Stanley Formation. Weathered shale from the same formation, locally, contains high-grade barite boulders. The igneous rocks of Pike County are locally mineralized with small barite veinlets.

Clay is another resource that's abundant in Pike County but hasn't been produced commercially. Beds of high purity kaolin, 18 - 64 in. (.5 – 1.6 m) thick, are exposed between the towns of Delight and Murfreesboro interbedded in the Tokio Formation (Fig. 12) (Herold and Heyl, 1942). Other types of clay, suitable for a variety of commercial purposes, are found throughout Pike County associated with shale of the Stanley Formation.

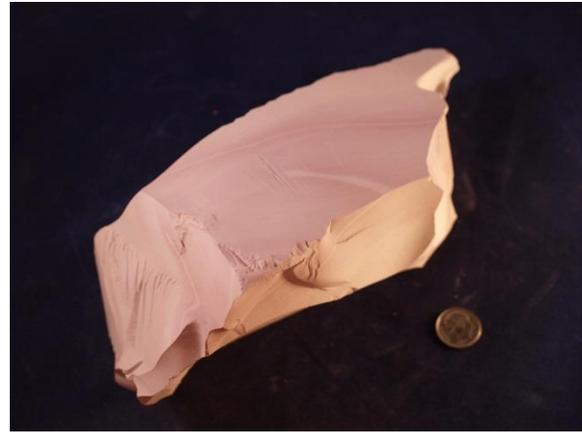


Fig. 12: Lavender kaolin clay of the Tokio Formation is prized for its beauty

Uranium was discovered in Pike County during the 1950s in the lower part of the Trinity Group (Howard et al., 1997). The discovery site is known as the Rankin Prospect. The uranium is found in carbonized wood fragments, interspersed in a silt interval, and is a product of alteration. Assays of the carbonized wood have yielded uranium concentrations as high as 24 percent. The specific uranium bearing minerals present have not been determined (Williams, N.F., 1959).

Water Resources

Surface water is the most important source of fresh water in Pike County. The majority comes from Lake Greeson, the only

large-scale water impoundment within the county. It's located on the Little Missouri River and regulated by Narrows Dam which also produces hydroelectricity. Other types of surface water resources include rivers, streams, springs, and ponds. The Caddo River satisfies the water demands of citizens in northeast Pike County.

Groundwater is an important Pike County fresh water resource, locally. Because the county's geology is complex and varies greatly by region, it's difficult to broadly characterize the ground water resources. Water well records indicate, in the Ouachita Mountains, the deformed and fractured bedrock provides groundwater in quantities suitable for domestic wells. Likewise, unconsolidated sand and gravel units in the West Gulf Coastal Plain are adequate for domestic needs. "Dry holes" are rare in Pike County though a few have been drilled, mostly in the West Gulf Coastal Plain. A typical well, in Pike County, is less than 250 ft. (76.2 m) deep and produces between 2 and 40 gallons (8 and 151 L) of water per

minute. To access water well reports for a specific area in Pike County, or any other Arkansas county, visit:

<http://geology2.ar.gov/water/WaterWellDownload/TR/Pike>

Fossil Fuel

The potential for fossil fuel extraction from the bedrock of Pike County, Arkansas is low. During the 1980s, Shell Exploration and Production Company drilled several wildcat wells, one of which was the Arivett well, Pike County. It was designed to test the hydrocarbon reservoir potential of two rock formations: the Mississippian/Devonian Arkansas Novaculite, and the Ordovician Big Fork Chert (subsurface only in Pike County). Results found three oil and gas shows in the entire Paleozoic rock section. They reported that the Arkansas Novaculite, in Pike County, is thermally over-mature and has low porosity—both unfavorable conditions for hydrocarbons. They suggested that the oil and gas which was generated in those rock formations in the past, migrated out of the area prior to deformation of the Ouachita

Mountains. Deformation of the Ouachitas would likely have created traps to capture the hydrocarbons, but, by the time the traps were created the hydrocarbons had escaped from the system (Godo et al., 2014).

Shell drilled another wildcat well in neighboring Clark County, Arkansas, to the east. The Rex Timber well was drilled to test the hydrocarbon potential of the Mississippian Jackfork and Pennsylvanian Stanley formations – both of which are found in Pike County. Those formations were also unfavorable as hydrocarbon reservoirs due to a lack of effective reservoir seals, and various porosity-inhibiting changes that the rocks have, apparently, undergone since their initial deposition (Godo et al., 2008).

Geohazards

Geohazards are risks that stem from geologic conditions and can threaten life, health, and property. Some occur rapidly, such as landslides, and their effects are local. Other types of geohazards, such as earthquakes, may affect an entire region.

There are also more subtle and insidious geohazards. Expansive soils don't injure or kill people, but nevertheless over a period of time, can inflict property damage with significant cultural and financial impacts.

Flash floods occur when a large amount of rain falls quickly in an area with relatively narrow valleys causing stream-levels to rise to flood stage, typically for a brief period of time. Though their affect is local and short-lived, they can do a lot of damage quickly. The Ouachita Mountain section of northern Pike County, due to its elongate, narrowly-spaced ridges, is prone to flash flooding.

In central Pike County, many of the old cinnabar trenches and prospect holes have not been reclaimed. The tailings piles and pits, which contain small cinnabar specimens the miners disgarded, are attractive to rock and mineral collectors. However, they are also a falling hazard, particularly to the more accident-prone rock enthusiasts, and unsuspecting hikers.

Landslide potential is relatively low in Pike County, however, in areas that are underlain by shale or other poorly consolidated rock or sediment, the likelihood of landslide is higher. A good natural defense against landslides is vegetation. Stripping land of vegetation exacerbates slope instability and should be avoided when possible.

Pike County is not a region that most would consider earthquake prone, but some seismic events have been recorded in and around the area. In Pike County itself, only one seismic event has been reported. A magnitude 3 – 3.9 earthquake occurred, a little southwest of the town of Glenwood, in April, 1938.

In neighboring Clark County, to the east, there were 7 earthquakes in a two-day period in 1974. That series of seismic events is known as the Arkadelphia swarm, for its location south of the town of Arkadelphia. Magnitudes of those events ranged from 1.6 – 4.2. Those are not tremendous earthquakes but, people in eastern Pike County, 10 – 15

miles (16 – 24 km) west of the epicenters, may certainly have felt the shaking. There's no record of damage in Pike County from those earthquakes. The likelihood of a catastrophic earthquake in the Pike County area is very low.

Calcareous clays such as those found in the Brownstown and Ozan formations and parts of the Trinity Group, have the potential to shrink and swell. The foundations of buildings that are built on those marl units may be vulnerable to cracking and settling. It's advised that you consider the shrink/swell capacity of the soil on your property before constructing new structures. In some cases, it may be worth extra expense or effort to take steps, during construction, to mitigate the problems posed by expansive soils.

Finally, a significant geohazard threat to Pike County is the pollution of the water supply. Both groundwater and surface water are vulnerable to contaminants ranging from industrial sources, such as the Pegasus oil pipeline or agricultural runoff, to domestic contaminants, such as automotive and

household chemicals. Fresh water is a necessity for every person, plant, and animal in the county. Proper handling and disposal of waste and other potential contaminants and good agricultural and industrial practices are significant defenses against water pollution.

For additional information concerning the mineral commodities of Arkansas please refer to the agency's website: www.geology.ar.gov/minerals/mining_map.htm, and for more information about groundwater in Arkansas: www.geology.ar.gov/water/aquifer.ht

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Glossary of terms

Aggregate – crushed stone.

Alluvium – unconsolidated material deposited by flowing water in streams and rivers.

Asphalt – a brown to black, viscous, liquid hydrocarbon.

Barite – a mineral composed of barium sulfide.

Bedrock – the solid rock beneath the soil and loose sediment.

Calcareous – Containing significant calcium carbonate.

Chalk – a soft earthy, typically-white limestone, comprised primarily of the skeletons of microscopic marine organisms.

Chert – A hard dense sedimentary rock composed primarily of microscopic quartz crystals.

Consolidated – having undergone the process by which loose earth materials become firm and competent.

Cross-bedded – Arrangement of strata, inclined at an angle to the main stratification, that forms in flowing water due to the current.

Crust – The outermost layer of the earth.

Diatreme – a breccia-filled volcanic pipe formed by a gaseous explosion.

Feldspathic – said of a rock or mineral aggregate containing feldspar.

Fossiliferous – Containing fossils.

Karst – A type of landscape that forms in limestone, dolostone or gypsum by dissolution of bedrock, and characterized by sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage.

Limestone – A sedimentary rock composed primarily of the mineral calcite.

Marl – Marine sediment composed of a mixture of clay and calcite.

Mass Wasting – A general term for the downslope movement of soil and rock material under the direct influence of gravity.

Massive – Said of a rock that lacks bedding: homogenous.

Novaculite – A sedimentary rock composed, almost entirely, of microcrystalline silica, notable for its density and hardness, and similar to chert.

Physiographic province – A region of which all parts are similar in geologic structure and climate and which has had a unified geomorphic history; its relief features differ significantly from those of adjacent regions.

Sandstone – A sedimentary rock largely composed of sand-sized grains.

Sediment – loose, solid, clastic material.

Sedimentary – A type of rock composed of sediment that has been lithified.

Shale – A type of sedimentary rock that is typically laminated, and composed primarily of clay particles.

Siliceous – said of a rock that contains abundant silica.

Strata – Layers of rock.

Terrace – A level surface above a river's floodplain that represents the dissected remnants of an abandoned floodplain, formed at an earlier time in the stream valley's evolution.

Thermally over-mature – said of a rock that has been exposed to high temperatures unfavorable for hydrocarbon generation.

Tuff – A general term for consolidated pyroclastic rock.

Unconsolidated – Sediment that is not cemented together.

West Gulf Coastal Plain – A physiographic province in southwestern Arkansas characterized by a south-sloping plain of gently-rolling hills.

Wildcat well – An exploratory well drilled for oil or gas on a geologic feature that hasn't been previously proven productive.

Many of the above definitions are taken in part or paraphrased from "Dictionary of Geological Terms", third edition, American Geological Institute, 1984.

Geologic Map of Pike County, Arkansas

Geology by Boyd R. Haley, William D. Hanson, Charles G. Stone, Benjamin F. Clardy, and Jennifer R. Perkins

2016

Digital Compilation by Daniel Rains

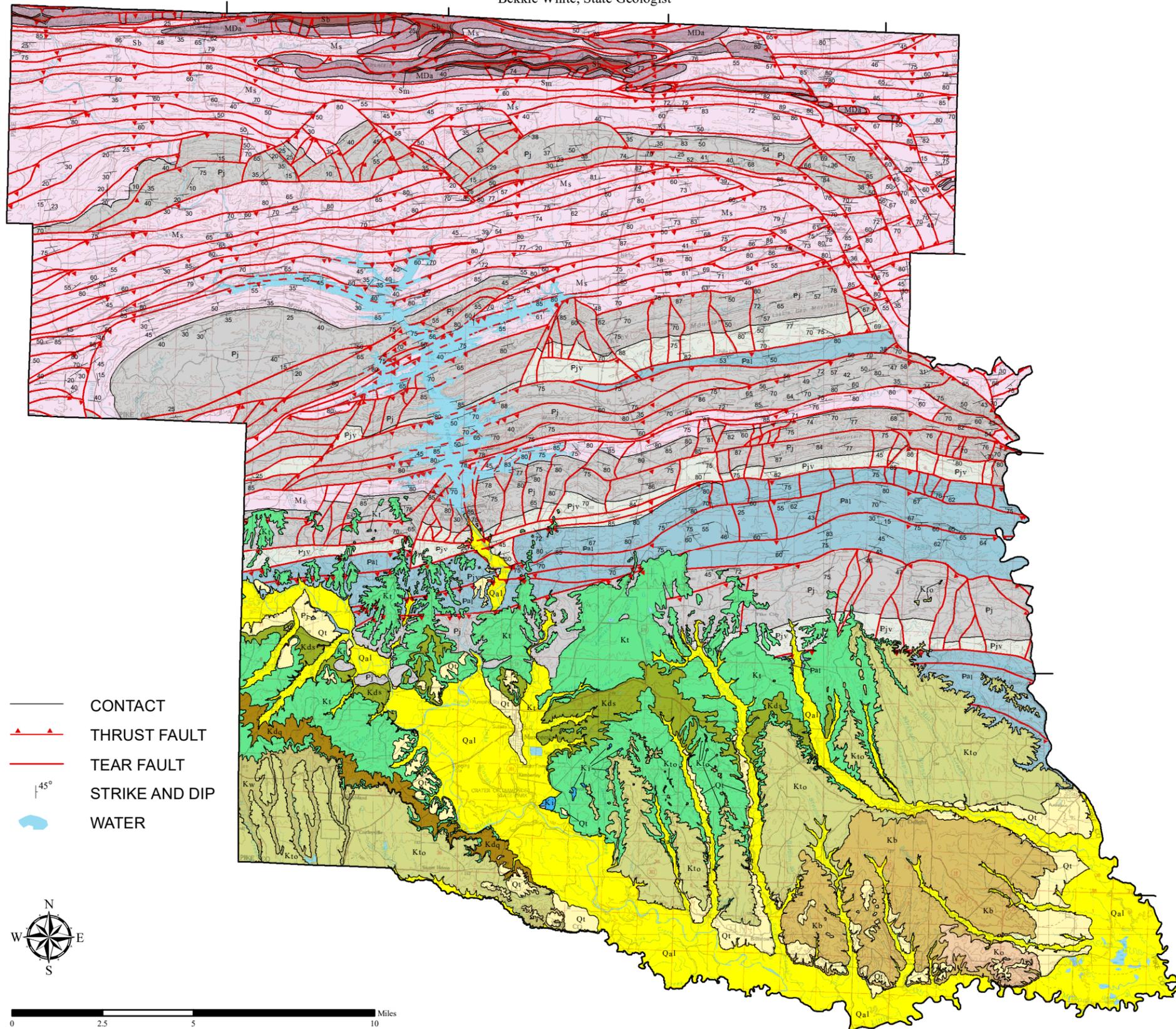
Arkansas Geological Survey

Bekkie White, State Geologist

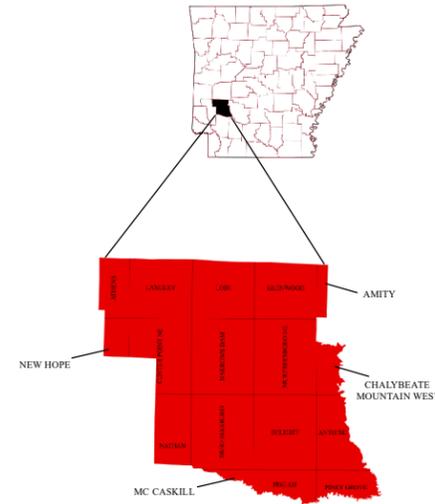
Digital County Geologic Map

Pike County, Arkansas

CGM-AR-62



- Qal** Alluvium (*Quaternary*) – Variably sized gravel overlain by unconsolidated sand, silt, and clay.
- Qt** Terrace Deposit (*Quaternary*) - Generally grade from basal gravel to silt and clay at the top.
- Ko** Ozan Formation (*Upper Cretaceous*) - Sandy marl, marl, and sandy glauconitic marl.
- Kb** Brownstown Marl (*Upper Cretaceous*) - Dark-gray calcareous clay, marl, sandy marl, fossiliferous limestone, gravel and sand.
- Kto** Tokio Formation (*Upper Cretaceous*) - Cross-bedded sand, gravel, gray clay, and volcanic ash.
- Kw** Woodbine Formation (*Upper Cretaceous*) - Water-laid, cross-bedded tuffs, tuffaceous sands, gravel, and red and gray clay.
- Ki** Igneous Rock (*Cretaceous*) – Lamproite: breccia, tuff, and magmatic varieties. Locally diamond-bearing. Greenish-black. Weathers reddish-brown.
- Kt** Trinity Group (*Lower Cretaceous*) - Sand, gravel, clay, limestone, asphalt, and evaporite deposits. Members exposed include the Dierks Limestone Lenticle and the De Queen Limestone Member.
- Kdo**
- Kds**
- Pal** Atoka lower (*Pennsylvanian*) - A sequence of marine, mostly tan to gray silty sandstones and grayish-black shales.
- Pjv** Johns Valley Formation (*Pennsylvanian*) - Consists of black shale with numerous intervals of brownish sandstone.
- Pj** Jackfork Formation (*Pennsylvanian*) - Thin to massive-bedded, fine to coarse-grained, brown, tan, or bluish-gray quartzitic sandstone with subordinate brown silty sandstones and gray-black shale.
- Ms** Stanley Formation (*Mississippian*) - Composed predominantly of grayish-black to brownish-gray shale, with lesser amounts of thin to massive-bedded, fine-grained, gray to brownish-gray feldspathic sandstone, dark green to black tuff and black chert.
- MDa** Arkansas Novaculite (*Mississippian-Devonian*) – White to dark-colored, locally calcareous novaculite interbedded with shale.
- Sm** Missouri Mountain Formation (*Silurian*) - Shale interbedded with conglomerate, novaculite, and sandstone.
- Sb** Blaylock Formation (*Silurian*) - Consists of tan to gray, fine- to medium-grained sandstone interbedded with black fissile shale.



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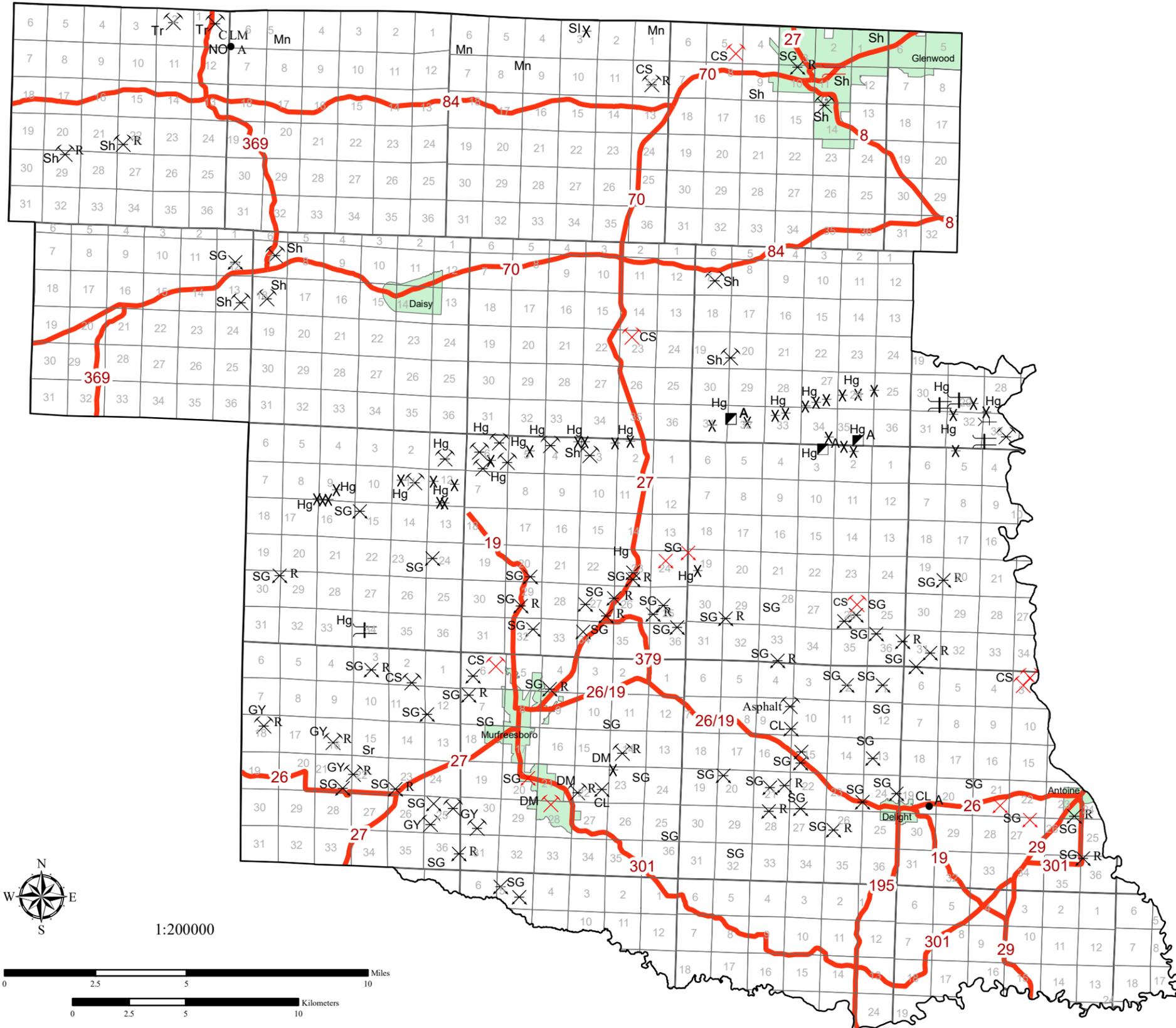
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Pike County Mineral Commodities

Compiled by Daniel S. Rains
2017
Arkansas Geological Survey
Bekki White, State Geologist



Symbols

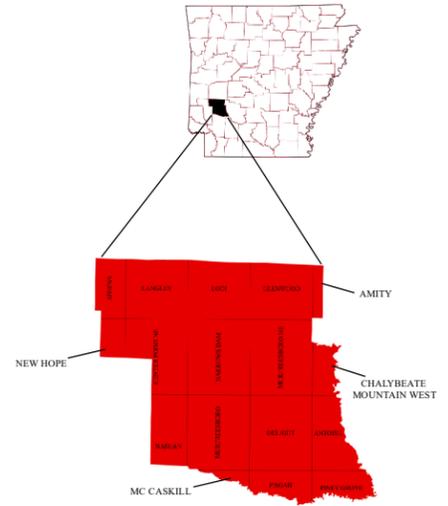
- Adit, Abandoned
- CLM, Abandoned
- Cut, Abandoned
- Deposit, Abandoned
- Mine/Quarry, Abandoned
- Mine/Quarry, Active
- Mine/Quarry, Reclaimed
- Pit, Abandoned
- Pit, Active
- Pit, Intermittent
- Pit, Reclaimed
- Prospect, Abandoned
- Shaft, Abandoned
- Highway

Commodities

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Asphalt | Asphalt |
| Clay | CL |
| Crushed Stone | CS |
| Diamond | DM |
| Gypsum | GY |
| Maganese | Mn |
| Mercury | Hg |
| Novaculite | NO |
| Sand and Gravel | SG |
| Shale | Sh |
| Slate | Sl |
| Strontium | Sr |

References

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