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**MAJOR FINDINGS**

- Mapping of the quadrangle has resulted in the following improvements to our understanding of the geology of the area:
  - It provides the first geologic map of the area published at a scale of 1:24,000.
  - Lidar (laser swath mapping) has provided the means for improved geomorphologic interpretation of the landforms in the area, thus allowing more accurate mapping of surficial glacial units, especially those relating to the Everson interstadial period and the relative sea level high stand (sea level maximum) associated with that period.
  - A new radiocarbon (<sup>14</sup>C) age estimate constrains the age of nonglacial and overlying glacial sediments on the east side of Camano Island.
  - The combination of lidar and shoreline oblique aerial photographs of the shoreline bluffs (provided by the Washington Department of Ecology) has allowed us to more accurately locate geologic units exposed in the bluffs.

**GEOLOGIC SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The map area is covered by 1000 to 3100 ft of glacial and nonglacial sediment (Jones, 1999; Mosher and others, 2000; Johnson and others, 2001) above Missouan(?) bedrock (Johnson and others, 1996). The Whidbey Formation is the oldest named sedimentary unit exposed in the map area. Booth and others (2004, Fig. 2) correlate the Whidbey Formation to marine oxygen-isotope stage 5 (~125–80 ka). (Stage numbers and corresponding ages used in this report are as defined in Morrison, 1991.) We did not identify deposits of the Possession Glaciation (stage 4 or ~80–60 ka) (Booth and others, 2004). We mapped some deposits of the Olympia nonglacial interval (stage 3 or ~60–20 ka) which they are poorly exposed in the northern part of the map area, based primarily on mapping by Dragovich and others (2002, 2005), who mapped this unit in the adjoining Utsalady and Crescent Harbor quadrangles just north and northwest of the map area, where the Olympia nonglacial deposits are well exposed in north-facing bluffs at Utsalady Point.

We mapped mostly Fraser Glaciation deposits (Armstrong and others, 1965) on upland surfaces and along most bluffs, and mass wasting features along the remaining bluffs. The Fraser Glaciation correlates to stage 2 (~28–10 ka) (Booth and others, 2004). Advance outwash of the Vashon Stade (within the Fraser Glaciation) began to bury the Puget lowlands in the map area by a succession of events that began with grounded ice retreat alongside calving basins that defined the northern margins of large proglacial lakes (Thornson, 1980; Porter and Swanson, 1998; Booth and others, 2004). Meltwater-driven incision of (typically relict) valleys that dissect the fluted uplands of western Camano Island and southern Whidbey Island (see section 1) is noted southwest of the map area by Polenz and others, 2006) indicates that as ice retreated at the end of the Vashon Stade, parts of the islands were largely ice free, no longer submerged beneath ice-dammed lakes, and not yet inundated by the Everson marine water. We did not recognize a similar record of incision in the map area, however, and it is therefore not clear whether the Everson marine seawater incursion was also preceded by ice free conditions on the east side of Camano Island. Instead, ice may have persisted there until close to the time of the Everson marine high stand.

The Everson seawater incursion raised the sea level in the area to the glaciostatic limit (maximum relative sea level elevation), which caused strandlines, delta fans, and shore terraces to form at that elevation. These features are discontinuous and relatively subtle in the map area, but we feel that careful consideration of lidar-based hillshade images permits their recognition. Based on this and the similar but more strongly developed geomorphic record in nearby areas to the west and south (Polenz and others, 2005, 2006, 2009; Schasse and others, 2009), we place the glaciostatic limit at about 180 to 190 ft (at the southern quadrangle boundary) to between 225 and 240 ft at the north end of the quadrangle, which is consistent with Thornson (1980, 1981; Dethier and others, 1995); Easterbrook (2003); and Kovanov and Slaymaker (2004).

Marine shells at Lake Carpenter (south of the map area) suggest that the Everson Interstadial seawater incursion began before 4.616 <sup>14</sup>C yr B.P., and freshwater gytja (organic-rich lake-bottom sediment) from the same site suggests that it ended before 13,600 <sup>14</sup>C yr B.P. (Andersen and others, 1994), but that timeline conflicts with the apparent persistence of the Puget ice lobe in the central Puget Lowland through at least 13,800 <sup>14</sup>C yr B.P. (Booth and others, 2009; Porter and Swanson, 1998), and various workers have favored or implied other dates for the start and (or) end of the incursion (Easterbrook, 1966a,b; Swanson, 1994; Dethier and others, 1995; Blunt and others, 1987; Porter and Swanson, 1998; Booth and others, 2004; Kovanov and Slaymaker, 2004; Polenz and others, 2005). The above age estimates lack radiocarbon reservoir corrections, for which we refer interested readers to Hutchinson and others (2004).

Drumlines formed by southward ice flow overprinted with marine landforms (Kovanov and Slaymaker, 2004), such as terraces (typically unit Ogpm), delta fans (unit Ogpm), and strandlines (unit Ogpm) (characteristic but subtle benches that are paleo-beach berms at various elevations, which record successively lower elevations of the local sea level as glacial rebound took place (Carlstad, 1992; Easterbrook, 2003; Kovanov and Slaymaker, 2004) that expose a discontinuous, diverse, and mostly thin (0–15 ft) cover of lodgment till above thick sheets of apparent advance outwash sand (s170) in a valley on southern Whidbey Island, 6 mi southwest of the map area). We agree with Polenz and others (2006) that the valleys were cut by meltwater because: 1) valley formation required surface runoff in excess of that in the modern environment, 2) the valleys terminate at the marine limit, and 3) the valleys lack active stream channels. On southern Whidbey Island, Polenz and others (2006) noted, in addition, that some of these valleys include dry, closed depressions where mass wasting from valley sidewalls has locally elevated the valley floor.

**STRUCTURE**

Landslide scars mapped with subtle northwest-trending landforms, and several large, arcuate landslide scars, which we have mapped with the aid of lidar, appear to attest to tectonic activity in the northwest corner of the map. These features continue westward into the adjoining Camano quadrangle (and northward into the Utsalady and Crescent Harbor quadrangles and west into the Possession and Fraser quadrangles). These large, older landslides were later cut by a north-west-trending drainage of Everson Interstadial age, suggesting that the landslides occurred in late Pleistocene time. The associated landslide scars are situated within an area bracketed by segments of the Utsalady Point fault zone, where offshore seismic-reflection data and geologic mapping suggest that deformation is distributed across a broad zone (Johnson and others, 2001, 2004; Dragovich and others, 2005). We chose not to map the area affected by any of these slides as landslides (except for the Utsalady Point fault zone), most features because we believe that the late glacial environment that prevailed when these slides occurred was more conducive to landsliding than the modern environment. We see little reason to expect that even a strong shallow-crustal earthquake on the Utsalady Point fault would result in any landsliding in the modern environment. Nevertheless, we note that the slides dominated the stratigraphic and hydrologic order of the area, and consequently, these areas may continue to be subject to an elevated slide hazard relative to unaffected but otherwise similar areas nearby.

Johnson and others (2001) mapped an unnamed apparent strand of the Utsalady Point fault in the northwest end of the map area. Dragovich agrees that the fault is present in the area and appears to extend across the Utsalady quadrangle into our map area (see Dragovich, Wash. Div. of Geology and Earth Resources [DGER], year 2001 field notes and oral comm., 2007). We therefore extend the strand into the Camano quadrangle as shown by Johnson and others. Data gathered during trenching of the Utsalady Point fault on northern Whidbey Island, including an earthquake (M 5.4–7) that caused surface offset between AD 1550 and 1850, and perhaps an additional event of similar size (1100 to 2200 years ago (Johnson and others, 2003, 2004). Johnson and others (2001) noted that, together with the Strawberry Point and Devils Mountain faults, the Utsalady Point fault composes a west-trending, active, "complex, distributed, transpressional deformation zone."

With the possible exception of the above mentioned landslide scars, our fieldwork did not reveal specific tectonic fault strands. We note, however, that the lack of recognized fault scars does not necessarily reflect a lack of surface-deforming fault events, but could result from diffusion of fault deformation in extensive, thick deposits that appear to dominate the uplands in the map area.

**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

- Quaternary**
  - Qm** **Marine deposits**—Mostly soft, silty, olive gray to gray silt and clay and bluish gray clay, commonly with lenses and layers of peat, and other organic material, deposited in a saltwater or brackish marsh (estuarine or lagoonal) environment; deposits occur near highest tide levels and are covered with sub-tidal vegetation or floated logs (particularly at Elger Bay). Many of these deposits (at the north end of Port Susan) have been converted to agricultural use by construction of levees. Contacts between marsh and Silligluamish River deltaic deposits (unit Qa) are commonly gradational or masked by agricultural modifications.

**Holocene**

- Hf** **Fill**—Clay, silt, sand, gravel, organic matter, rip-rap, and debris placed to elevate and reshape the land; includes engineered and nonengineered fills, shows where fill is readily verifiable, relatively extensive, and appears sufficiently thick to be geotechnically significant.
- Hb** **Beach deposits**—Sand and cobbles; may include boulders, silt, pebbles, and clay; pebbles and larger clasts typically well rounded and abraded, mostly well sorted; loose, derived from shore bluffs and underlying deposits and (or) carried in by longshore drift.
- Qs** **Alluvium and estuarine deposits**—Sand, silty sand, silt, clay, and clay; loose and soft; sand is fine to very fine grained; sand and silt are gray to olive gray; bluish gray silt with various admixtures of organic materials; levees have covered parts of the map area underlain by these deposits to agricultural use; unit consists of deltaic deposits near the mouth of the Silligluamish River in the northeast corner of the map area.
- Qm** **Marsh deposits**—Mostly soft, silty, olive gray to gray silt and clay and bluish gray clay, commonly with lenses and layers of peat, and other organic material, deposited in a saltwater or brackish marsh (estuarine or lagoonal) environment; deposits occur near highest tide levels and are covered with sub-tidal vegetation or floated logs (particularly at Elger Bay). Many of these deposits (at the north end of Port Susan) have been converted to agricultural use by construction of levees. Contacts between marsh and Silligluamish River deltaic deposits (unit Qa) are commonly gradational or masked by agricultural modifications.

**Holocene to Late Pleistocene**

- Qp** **Peat**—Organic and organic-rich sediment, typically in closed depressions; includes peat, muck, silt, and clay in and adjacent to wetlands; may locally grade down to and include the freshwater equivalent of unit Qm; not shown where field data indicate fewer than 2 ft of peat.
- Qm** **Mass wasting deposits**—Boulders, gravel, sand, silt, clay, and diamicton; generally an unsorted mix, but locally stratified; typically loose; shown along mostly colluvium-covered or densely vegetated slopes that are demonstrably unstable or appear potentially unstable; locally contains landslides and underlying units that either we could not map confidently or are too small to show at map scale.
- Qs** **Landslide deposits**—Gravel, sand, silt, clay, and boulders in slide body and toe; includes exposure of underlying units in scarp areas; angular to rounded clasts; unsorted; generally loose, unstratified, broken, and chaotic, but may locally retain primary bedding; commonly includes liquefaction features; deposited by mass-wasting processes other than soil creep and foot heave; distinguished from unit Qm by presence of unambiguous landslide features. Absence of a mapped slide does not imply absence of sliding or hazard. All shoreline bluffs in the map area are subject to episodic landsliding and bluff retreat, but many slides are too small to show, and most slide deposits are quickly removed by beach wave action.

**Pleistocene Glacial and Nonglacial Deposits**

We used stratigraphic position, organic content, radiocarbon dating, and provenience data to separate glacial from nonglacial deposits. Provenience was inferred from stratigraphic relations, age data, and sand-grain and gravel class composition as observed petrographically and in the field. Glacial deposits are dominated by northern provenience materials and therefore contain little or no glacial Peat detritus (0–5%) and include "significant" granitic and metamorphic lithic clasts (Dragovich and others, 2005). Nonglacial deposits are distinguished by eastern provenience. We found some petrographic indications of possible ancestral Skagit and (or) Silligluamish River provenience (hypstherne, hornblende, and possibly Gravel Peat dacite) (Dragovich and others, 2005; Polenz and others, 2005; Joe Dragovich, DGER, oral comm., 2006; Peterson, 2007).

**DEPOSITS OF THE FRASER GLACIATION (PLEISTOCENE)**

**Undivided Fraser Glaciation**

- Ogpa** **Recessional outwash**—Mostly sand, but includes lenses and beds of pebble-gravel, silt, sparse clasts of diamicton, and minor clay; gravelly facies tend to occur lower in the unit; loose; variably rounded, poorly to well sorted in most exposures; structures to moderately stratified with medium to thick beds; forms either valley fill or relict, late glacial meltwater valleys or terraces above Everson Interstadial marine shorelines; interfingers with adjoining Everson marine deltaic deposits (unit Ogpm, Fig. 1); queried where assignment to this unit is uncertain due to limited exposures or inaccessibility. This unit typically dates to Everson time but is assigned to the broader Fraser glacial period because some deposits (notably where above Everson sea level) may date to the Vashon Stade.
- Ogpi** **Recessional, stratified ice-contact deposits**—Sandy gravel, sand, and cobbles; gravel, silt, clay, gravel, and diamicton and patchy stratified proximal outwash deposits; loose to compact; poorly exposed in a few road cuts. Characteristic morphology includes hummocky topography and elevated terraces interpreted from lidar imagery. Lateral ice buttressing is required to produce these elevated deposits.
- Ogpa** **Ablation till**—Unsorted, unstratified, and heterogeneous melt-out deposit of sand, silt, clay, gravel, and diamicton and patchy stratified proximal outwash deposits; loose to compact; typically marked by diverse and locally irregular poly-tops.

**Everson Interstadial**

- Ogpm** **Everson Glaciostatic drift, undivided**—Clayey to silt diamicton with variable content of gravel clasts; also includes silt, clay, and sand; contains sparse shells; generally marl, dark gray where unweathered, mostly weathers to buff, but ranges to olive gray, ash gray, or white; commonly forms dry, vertical face with failure-prone, vertical desiccation cracks with dark brown staining; best exposures along east shores of Triangle Cove and Livingston Bay; massive to rhythmically bedded, commonly with sharp upper and lower, unit-bounding unconformities (Domack, 1984); mostly loose and soft, but locally hard and compact. May resemble till (Domack, 1982, 1984; Domack and Lawson, 1985), but in general, till lacks fossils and glaciostatic drift has a finer-grained, smoother-feeling matrix, is less compact, and more likely to be stratified. Unit is sea-floor sediment and consists mostly of glacial flour. Its textural diversity reflects proximity of the ice front (Domack, 1983; Dethier and others, 1995).

- Ogpm** **Glaciostatic deltaic outwash deposits**—Sand, and sand-gravel mixtures with minor interlayered silt and silty sand; generally loose; most deposits are at least a few tens of feet thick; forms a marine delta-turbidite complex (Carlstad, 1992; Polenz and others, 2005) with a horizontally bedded, sandy sea-floor facies, an overlying delta-front foreset-bedded facies, and a capping deltaic topset, channelized facies.
- Ogpa** **Ice-contact kame deposits**—Sand, gravel, and silty sand; loose to medium dense; gray to tan; locally reddish brown; gravel clasts up to 3 in. diameter; shape of unit suggests a kame terrace deposited approximately 10 to 15 ft thick. A blue-gray sandy silt containing scattered clam shells and organic debris directly underlies this unit. An atomic mass spectrometry (AMS) radiocarbon analysis of a marine shell from the underlying unit yielded a date of 13,380 ± 40 yr B.P. (Table 1, loc. 2) suggesting an Everson age for this unit.

**Landslide Deposits**

- Ogmv** **Landslide deposits**—Till and outwash sand and gravel; identified as landslide based on surface morphology; field relations, a low slope angle (c.5%), and apparent advance age of feature (subdued morphology) cause us to suspect the Everson Interstadial slide event that formed an elevated medium slide hazard.

**Vashon Stade**

- Ogvs** **Till**—Typically unweathered, unsorted mixture of clay through boulder-size material (diamicton) deposited directly by ice; includes extensive areas of compact (advance outwash?) sand, compact, well-developed facies resemble concrete; locally ranges to loose in ablation till (also separately mapped as unit Ogpa) and well-sorted in some sand-dominant facies; erratic boulders common on surface; gray where fresh; oxidizes yellowish brown; permeability very low in bedrock diamicton; loose or loose facies; most commonly matrix supported; cobbles and boulders commonly faceted and (or) striated; may include flow banding; typically forms vertical faces in coastal bluffs; locally resembles unit Ogpm (see that unit). Most till deposits have had their surface fluted by overriding ice and form a patchy and seemingly randomly distributed cover that varies from 0 to at least 100 ft thick (as reflected in some water well records), with 2 to 30 ft most common. Cleft exposures along the west shore of Whidbey Island about 7 mi southwest of the map area reveal that even where well developed and thick, lodgment till may locally pinch out across short distances, even in the center of a well-formed drumlin (Unit Ogvs lies stratigraphically between overlying units Ogpm and Ogpm and underlying units Qpa and Qpm). Regional age data appear to constrain the age of the unit to ca. 18 ka and the onset of the Everson Interstadial. Unit Ogvs may include unrecognized exposures of older till.

- Ogvs** **Advance outwash**—Locally bouldery pebble to cobble gravel, sand, and some layers and lenses of silt and clay; may contain till fragments; gray to grayish brown and grayish olive; clasts typically well rounded, well sorted and clean, except in ice-proximal deposits; compact, mostly well stratified; very finely to very thickly bedded; contains plane and graded beds, cut-and-fill structures, trough and ripple crossbeds, and foresets; maximum thickness may exceed 200 ft in the map area (as reflected in some water well records); deposited as proglacial (fluvial and deltaic) sediment; complex sections tend to coarsen upward; overlain by unit Ogpa along a sharp contact, and stratigraphically above units Qa and Qa; Estimated age of the unit is ~18 to at least 20 ka. Locally divided into:

- Ogvs** **Advance outwash sand**—Mostly lacustrine sand with layers of silt, well-stratified; gray; thick exposures display well-developed crossbedding and cut-and-fill structures that are typical of this unit; locally coarsens upward into gravel; thickness is typically 80 ft; thick and extensive in subsurface, with maximum estimated thickness of approximately 200 ft; commonly forms angle-of-repose slopes along drainages and coastal bluffs. Unit is the most widespread lithology of advance outwash in the map area and includes the Esperance Sand and possibly the Lawson Clay. Unit was not recognized by us in our mapping.

- Ogvs** **Vashon Drift, undivided**—Composite of units Ogvs and Ogpa (or Qpa). Unit consists of gray till and gravelly drift overlying gray, unstratified, unsorted sandy gravel exposed in bluffs east of Elger Bay (Columnar Section 1) where map scale or exposure does not support stratigraphic division into the above listed constituent units.

**GLACIAL DEPOSITS OF UNKNOWN AGE (PLEISTOCENE)**

- Oguk** **Outwash of unknown age (line unit and line unit only)**—Iron-oxide-stained sand and gravel with prominent north-west-dipping foreset beds in bluff exposures at Camano Island State Park, northeast of the boat launch (Fig. 1), unconformably overlain by unit Ogpa?; age unknown. Unit is exposed for approximately 0.3 mi—disappearing to the north in a landslide and obscured to the south by dense forest cover. It may be a glacial outwash deltaic deposit of Everson Interstadial (late Fraser) age, or may represent outwash from an earlier glaciation. If eroded, then covered by glacial outwash deposits.

**DEPOSITS OF THE OLYMPIA NONGLACIAL INTERVAL (PLEISTOCENE)**

Armstrong and others (1965) defined the "Olympia Interglaciation" as the "climatic episode immediately preceding the last major glaciation, and associated with it 'nonglacial' till and 'nonglacial' sand drift." We associate those strata with stage 3 (~60–20 ka) but avoid the label "Olympia Interglaciation" because stage 3 is not a true interglacial period (as defined in Fig. 1 of Morrison, 1991).

**Nonglacial Deposits**

- Ocu** **Nonglacial deposits**—Sand, silt, laminated silty clay, pebbly sand, organic sand, and minor lenses and layers of pebble gravel; light gray to brown. The unit is poorly exposed in the map area but well-exposed throughout the map area in coastal bluffs at Utsalady Point, just northwest of the northwest corner of the quadrangle, where geometry and a mix of the above lithologies suggest variable depositional environments within fluvial channels, flood plains, and possibly lakes of an alluvial plain (Johnson and others, 2001; Dragovich and others, 2005). Sparse, fine-grained organic matter disseminated within sandy silt beds at Utsalady Point yielded radiocarbon dates of 21,100 ± 150 and 15,190 ± 220 <sup>14</sup>C yr B.P. (Johnson and others, 2001), although Johnson and others questioned the validity of one or both of these age estimates.

**INTERGLACIAL DEPOSITS OF THE WHIDBEY FORMATION (PLEISTOCENE)**

- Ocw** **Whidbey Formation (columnar section and line unit only)**—Sand, silt, and clay with minor peat layers and lenses of fine gravel; mostly weathered to a muted light yellowish gray in unweathered faces; includes flood plain and channel-sand facies; flood plain facies typically well stratified with silt and clay; slightly oxidized; channel-sand facies typically clean, gray, coarse grained, and cross-to bedded. Dacite clasts are a common component of sand and gravel facies and reflect an eastern provenience. The unit is mapped only at the base of bluffs on the east side of Elger Bay, where a 10-ft-thick section is exposed for about 700 ft. Vashon Drift (unit Ogpa) lies in unconformable contact with this unit (Columnar Section 1), which has yielded two radiocarbon age dates (see section 1), locs. 1 and 3). A peat from this unit yielded an age of ~35,700 yr B.P. (Easterbrook, 1968), and more recently wood from this unit yielded a finite AMS date of 38,840 ± 700 <sup>14</sup>C yr B.P. (Kathy Troost, Univ. of Wash., written comm., 2006). Although these ages suggest that the nonglacial beds at east Elger Bay could belong to the Olympia nonglacial period, we believe that they belong to the Whidbey Formation because:

nonglacial sediments at Lowell Point (on the west side of Elger Bay in the adjoining Langley quadrangle) yielded an infinite <sup>14</sup>C age of ~45,210 <sup>14</sup>C yr B.P. and an optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) age of 124.8 ± 4.2 ka. The sediments at these two localities are only a mile apart and each hosts dacite; nonglacial sand unconformably overlain by glacial diamicton. On the basis of their close geographic proximity, their similar petrology, and similar geologic setting, and considering that the finite radiocarbon age is close to the upper detection limit of the radiocarbon dating method and that this single, ostensibly finite <sup>14</sup>C age estimate stands in contrast with two infinite radiocarbon age estimates and the 124 ka OSL age, we believe the data favor a Whidbey age for the nonglacial sediments at these two localities.

**UNDIVIDED PRE-FRASER NONGLACIAL DEPOSITS (PLEISTOCENE)**

- Oca** **Pre-Fraser nonglacial deposits, undivided (line unit only)**—Sand, silt, and clay, compact; well stratified; resembles units Qa and Qa; reflects flood plain setting; poorly exposed near beach level for about 150 ft (0.5 mi south of Driftwood Shores) in an area of mass-wasting bluffs. Unit lies stratigraphically below Fraser glacial deposits, but its age and association are otherwise unresolved. It is most likely to be stage 3 (Olympia nonglacial) on the basis of its geologic setting.

**UNDIVIDED QUATERNARY DEPOSITS**

- Qc** **Pleistocene deposits, undivided**—Locally includes sand, gravel, diamicton, silt, clay, and peat; loose to compact; well stratified to massive; composed of glacial and (or) nonglacial deposits; ranges in age from coastal bluff exposures east of Elger Bay from Everson glaciostatic outwash deltaic deposits (unit Ogpm) that are exposed in the upper bluffs to Whidbey Formation (unit Qa) exposed near base of the bluffs (Columnar Section 1); shown along coastal bluffs where map scale does not allow for more detailed subdivision (Fig. 1).

**GEOLOGIC SYMBOLS**

- Contact—long dashed where approximately located, short dashed where inferred; queried where uncertain
- - - Fault, unknown offset, inferred—queried where uncertain
- Geologic unit too narrow to show as a polygon at map scale
- Landslide scarp—hachures point downslope
- Arrow showing direction of landslide movement
- Strand line (former shoreline)
- Age-date sample site, radiocarbon
- Figure location
- Columnar section location

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