Late Tertiary Volcanism

Reading:

DNAG volume G3, Ch. 7

Main Divisions

- Two principal time divisions with an important break
- Oligocene until Mid-Miocene (15-17 Ma)
- Mid-Miocene to present (<15 Ma)

Volcanic Overview

- Alaska
- Canada
- USA
- Mexico





Canada

Magmatism active 22 to 8 Ma

Edziza Volcanic Field (4) Garibaldi Volcanic Field (5) Pemberton Belt (6) Anahim Belt (7) Vancouver Island (8)



Washington

- Large composite granodiorite plutons
- Tatoosh Pluton (18 to 14 Ma)
 –Beneath Mt. Rainier
- Snowqualamie Batholith (20 17 Ma)
 North of Mt. Rainier
- Ellensberg Fm (17 to 14 Ma)
 - Flood basalts (Columbia Plateau Basalts)

Washington

- Snowqualamie Batholith
- Tatoosh Pluton
- Ellensberg Fm (17 to 14 Ma Columbia Plateau)



Northern to Central Oregon

- Magmatism from 18 to 8 Ma
- Lavas and related volcaniclastic sediments
- Calc-alkaline pyroxene andesites and basalts



Central Nevada

- Stratovolcanoes 17-12 Ma
- Alta and Kate Peak Fms
- Pyroxene andesite and hornblende pyroxene andesite lavas



Southern Oregon and Northern California

- Western Cascade volcanism ended about 17 Ma
- Magmatic arc to the east largely buried by younger rocks



East Central California & Northwest Nevada

Andesitic to dacitic calc-alkaline magmas

Lavas and breccias of the Mehrten Fm in Sierras



Southwest Nevada & Eastern California

- Predominantly andesitic lavas
- Yerington Tonopah (21 to 15 Ma)
 - Mono Lake (13 to 8 Ma)
 - Silver Peak Range (16 to 11 Ma)
- Calc-alkali to rhyolite stratovolcanoes
 Tonopah and Goldfield (20 Ma)
- Calc-alkaline andesite and dacite
 - Death Valley through the Mojave
 - 17 to about 12 Ma

Lake Mead Area

Calc-alkali magmatism

Patsy Mine Volcanics (15 to 12 Ma)

Overlain by rhyodacite tuff and pluton

Hamblin Cleopatra stratovolcano (13 Ma)

Basaltic volcanism Younger than 10 to 12 Ma



Lower Colorado River Trough

- Predominantly basaltic to bimodal basalt-rhyolite volcanism
- Associated with high-angle Basin and Range faulting



Coastal Southern California

Calc-alkaline intermediate rocks (20 to 12 Ma) extends into Mexico

Santa Monica Mts.

16 to 13 Ma Conejo volcanics

Malibu coast fault 15 Ma Zuma Volcanics San Clemente 16 to 13 Ma



Coastal Southern California

- Santa Catalina
 - 19 Ma quartz diorite stock
 - 15 to 13 Ma rhyodacite
- Palos Verdes Hills
 - 15 Ma andesite and basalt



Mexico

- · South of the Mexican border
 - 20 to 15 Ma
 - Basalt and andesite
- Gulf of California
 - 22 to 8 Ma calc-alkaline basalts and rhyolites

General Migration of Volcanism

- Waves of volcanic intensity
- Movement from center of B&R outward



Summary

- A major change in magmatic patterns occurred in mid-Miocene (21 and 17 Ma)
- Andesitic calc-alkali centers extended from Canada to the southern tip of Nevada
- A gap of 300 to 400 km from Nevada to Mexico
- The belt continued southward in to Mexico east of the continental margin arc
- A belt of basalts or bimodal basalt-rhyolites accompanied a zone of widespread extension

Interpretation

- Pre Miocene volcanism in the cordillera followed a wide arc
- Mid-Miocene calc-alkaline volcanism establishes a linear continental margin arc
- Magmatic gap in the mid-Miocene arc
 - Located where subduction had ceased
 - Followed contact of Pacific and North American Plates