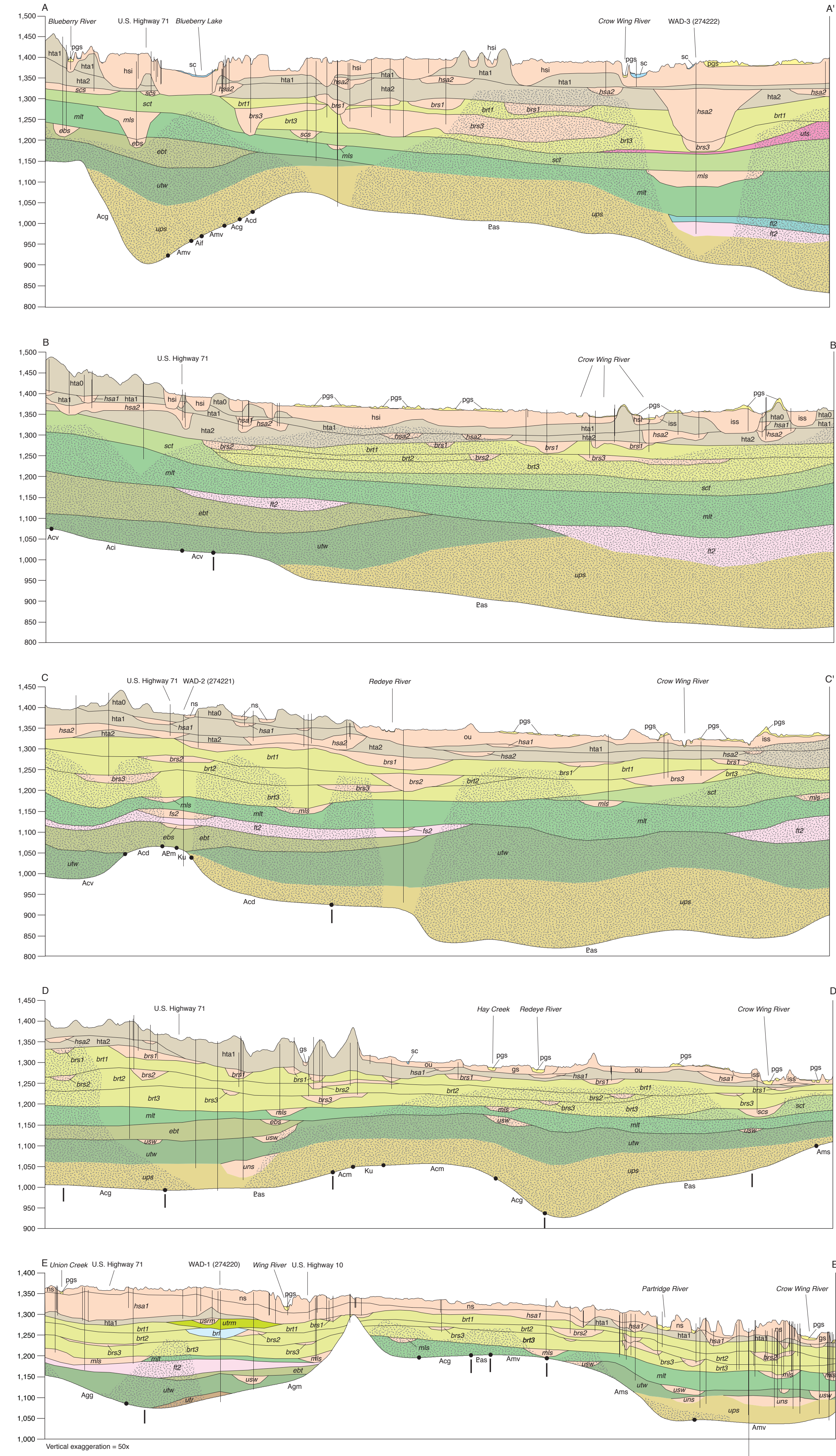


QUATERNARY STRATIGRAPHY

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CROSS SECTION SYMBOLS

Geologic contact—Approximate. No-line boundaries are shown between unit tops and surrounding Quaternary units due to insufficient data.

Bedrock contact—Contact point shown at the base of the Quaternary deposits with the associated bedrock map unit label from Plate 2, *Bedrock Geology*.

Bedrock fault

Drill hole—The top of the drill hole may not coincide with the cross section surface elevation line because the drill hole may be located near (commonly within 0.3 mile [0.5 kilometer]) but not on the cross section line, and therefore may have a slightly different surface elevation. Minnesota Geological Survey unique well numbers are given for rotary-sonic drill holes with stratigraphic logs provided in Figures 5 through 7.

Speculative area—Denotes the area below the depth of water wells and thus where identification of unit boundaries and sand bodies is highly speculative. Areas corresponding to unit boundaries and sand bodies is highly speculative. Areas corresponding to unit boundaries and sand bodies is shown on Plate 5, *Sand-Distribution Model*.

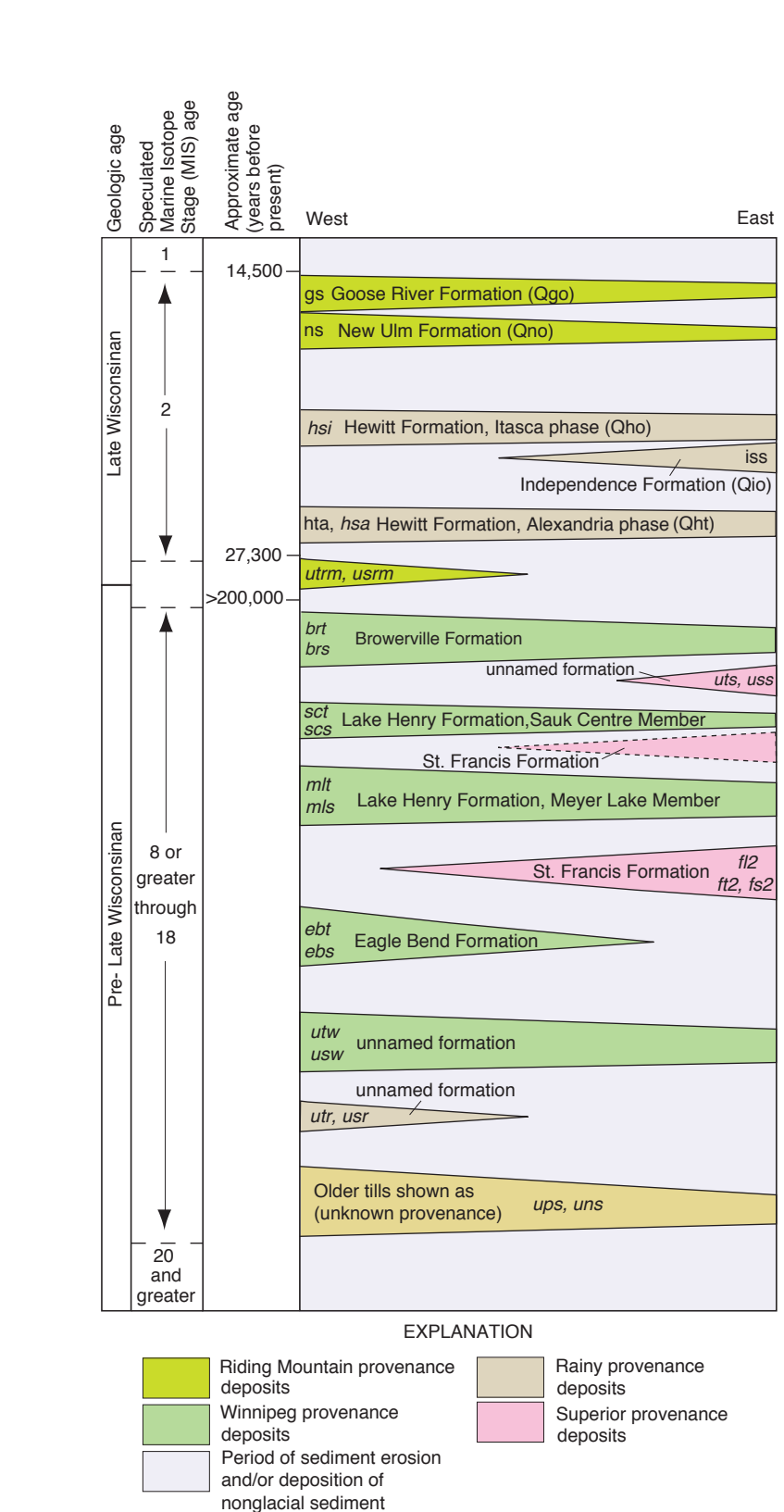


Figure 2. Location of major provinces and the distribution of ice-lobe materials at the land surface. Glacial sediments derive their distinct material content from bedrock and sediment found in the region of their source areas. The extent of Riding Mountain and Winnipeg provinces Des Moines- and Koochiching- and associated sublobe deposits is shown in green. The surface extent of the Rainy province Wadena-, Brainerd-, and Rainy-lobe deposits is shown in shades of brown. The extent of Superior-lobe deposits is shown in pink. Moraines are indicated by the dotted or dashed lines. Wadena County is outlined in black.

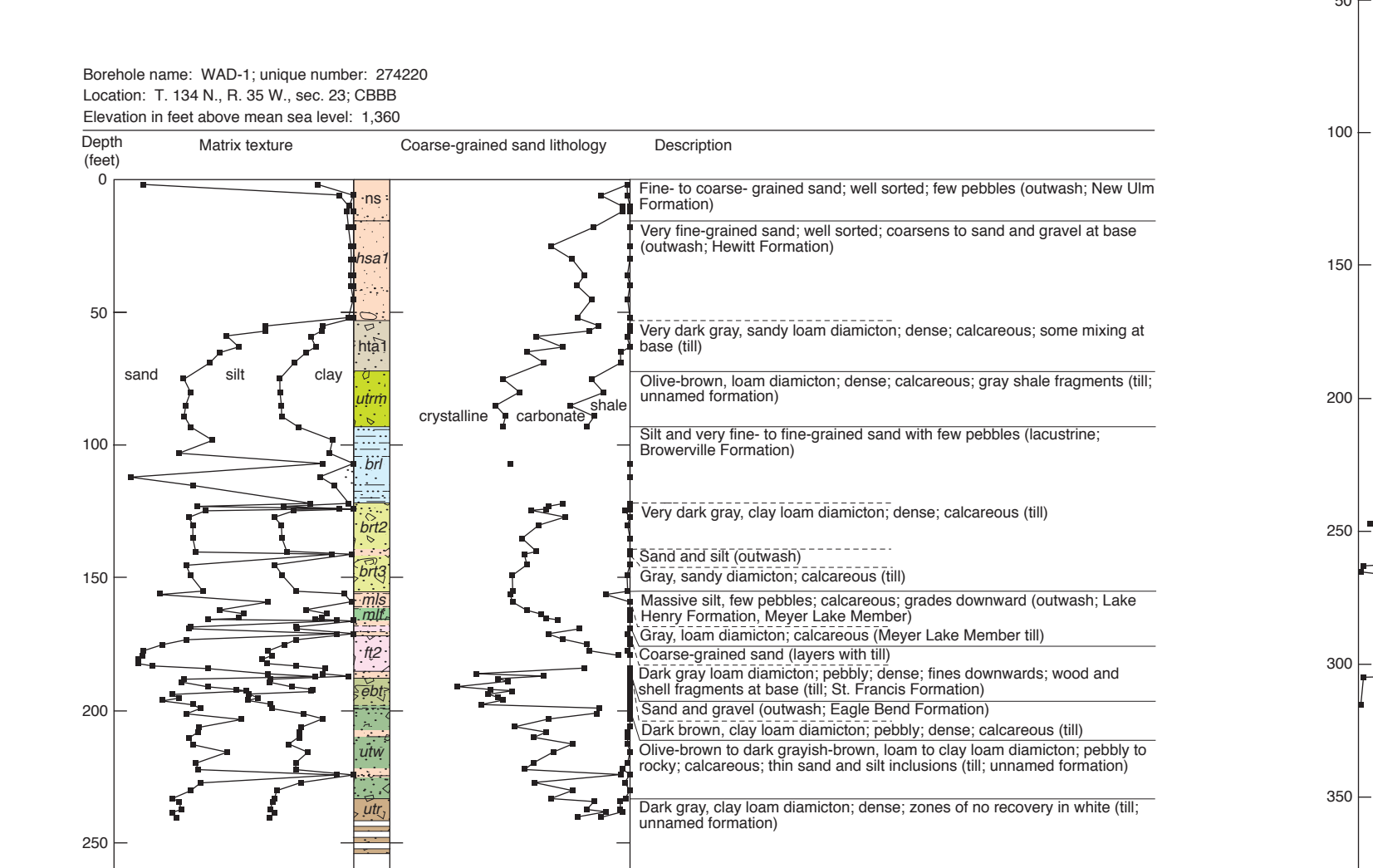


Figure 3. Stratigraphic position of sand and gravel bodies depicted in the cross sections and figures. By convention, the name designations of sand and gravel bodies are associated with their underlying till. On the cross sections, tills and associated sands of the Hewitt and Brownville Formations are subdivided into multiple layers. These layers are identified by ascending numbers from the surface down. Colors represent provenance from which the sediments were derived. Multiple formations from the same provenance are distinguished by shades of the base color. Gray text indicates units found in the regional stratigraphy but not encountered in drill holes in Wadena County. Associated surficial map unit labels are shown, where appropriate, beneath the stratigraphic unit boxes and labels.

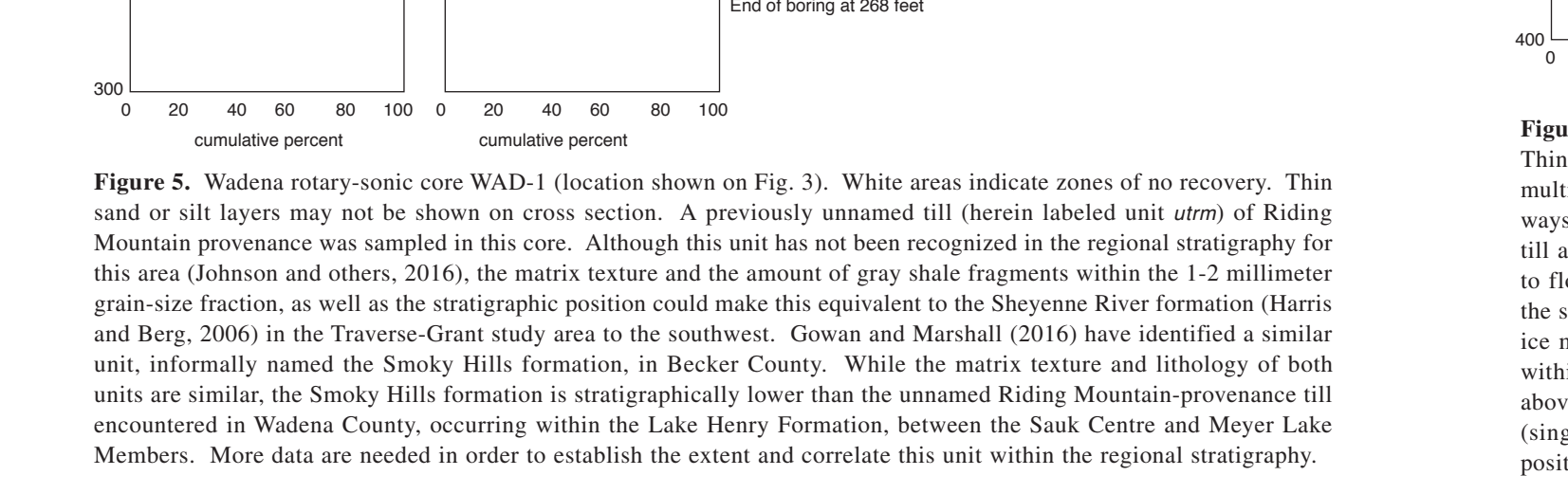


Figure 4. Ternary diagram showing matrix texture (less than 2-millimeter size fraction) of till samples from the rotary-sonic cores in Wadena County using the U.S. Department of Agriculture textural classification system.

INTRODUCTION

This Quaternary Stratigraphy plate shows the unconsolidated materials expected to be encountered between the land surface and bedrock surface in Wadena County (Fig. 1, 2). Cross sections A-A' through E-E' are representative of 49 cross sections (Fig. 3) that were constructed to create a three-dimensional model of the Quaternary deposits of Wadena County. The major sand and gravel bodies from this model are depicted on Plate 5, *Sand-Distribution Model*; the full model and all the cross sections used to develop it can be accessed through the digital files of the Minnesota Geological Survey. The Quaternary geologic units (Fig. 4) shown on the cross sections were defined from interpretation of new data collected through this study and from existing data from previous investigations (see Index to Previous Mapping on *Surface Geology* for references to adjacent mapping projects). These units are used in the rotary-sonic drill core log completed as part of the Otter Tail Regional Hydrologic Assessment by the Minnesota Geological Survey (Harris and Knabbe, 1999), a rotary-sonic drill core log described and sampled by the Minnesota Geological Survey but completed for another agency in eastern Becker County (Gowan and Marshall, 2016), water-well drillers' logs and cuttings samples collected from rotary-sonic cores completed for this project as shown in Figures 5 through 7, their locations are shown on Figure 3. Water well drillers' logs and cuttings samples collected from rotary-sonic cores completed for this project are shown in Figures 5 through 7, their locations are shown on Figure 3. Water well drillers' logs and cuttings samples collected from rotary-sonic cores completed for this project are shown in Figures 5 through 7, their locations are shown on Figure 3.

By convention, the name designations of depicted sand and gravel bodies are associated with their underlying till, except for those at the land surface and those that intersect the lowermost unknown units (Fig. 4). However, sand and till units are likely an admixture of material from immediately above or below the named unit. For example, sand unit Br is composed chiefly of outwash sediment laid down as the glacier depositing unit (Riding Mountain province) retreated. However, it may also include proglacial meltwater deposits from the advance of ice that deposited the overlying unit (Hewitt Formation). Where a particular stratigraphic unit is absent from the section, the units immediately above and below that missing unit likely include eroded remnants that are not shown. Table 1 shows the correlation of units mapped in Wadena County with those mapped in adjacent Todd (Knabbe and Meyer, 2007) and Becker (Gowan and Marshall, 2016) Counties, where correlations can be made. Not all units were found in all three counties. This variation in stratigraphy between counties likely reflects the position of former ice margins. For example, the Red River lobe, which deposited the Goose River Formation in Becker County, did not enter Wadena County. However, meltwater streaming from that ice margin flowed eastward across Wadena County and deposited outwash of the Goose River Formation till (gs unit) on Plate 3. Alternatively, units may be absent from the regional stratigraphy as a result of erosion. The Brownville Formation occurs in Wadena and Todd Counties, but is absent in Becker County, where it may have been eroded.

Unit **hsa** is a discontinuous layer that is shown in west to east; provenance (Fig. 2), and related unit labels from the cross sections for Wisconsin and pre-Wisconsin glacial deposits. The age column and deposit drawings are schematic and not to scale. Multiple advances of an individual formation are not shown. Dashed lines indicate units found in the regional stratigraphy but not encountered in drill holes in Wadena County. Matrix texture Stage (MIS) correlations were estimated using figures in Jennings and others (2006). See Figure 2 in Meyer (2015) for a discussion of the radiocarbon dates and sources; modified from Meyer (2015).

Figure 5. Wadena rotary-sonic core WAD-1 (location shown on Fig. 3). White areas indicate zones of no recovery. Thin sand and silt layers may not be shown on cross section. A previously unnammed till (here labeled unit *ut*) of Riding Mountain province was sampled in this core. Although this unit has not been recognized in the regional stratigraphy for this area (Johnson and others, 2016), the matrix texture and the amount of gray shale fragments within the 1-2 millimeter grain-size fraction, as well as the stratigraphic position make this equivalent to the Sheyenne River formation (Harris and Knabbe, 2006) in the Traverse-Giant study area to the southwest. Gowan and Marshall (2016) have identified a similar unit, informally named the Smoky Hills formation, in Becker County. While the matrix texture and lithology of both units are similar, the Smoky Hills formation is stratigraphically lower than the unnamed Riding Mountain-provenance till encountered in Wadena County, occurring within the Lake Henry Formation, between the Sauk Centre and Meyer Lake Members. More data are needed in order to establish the extent and correlate this unit within the regional stratigraphy.

Figure 6. Wadena rotary-sonic core WAD-2 (location shown on Fig. 3). White areas indicate zones of no recovery. This sand or silt layer may not be shown on cross section. The Hewitt Formation till has been subdivided into multiple units on the cross sections based on sand lenses within the core. This sequence can be interpreted in two ways: these sands represent former water flow in small tunnels within the ice (such as a single event leaving behind till and isolated sand bodies); or the sands represent a shift in the ice margin position, which allowed meltwater to flow in front of the ice, depositing sand and gravel outwash. This was followed by a readvance of ice from the same provenance that deposited another layer of similar till on top of the sand and the process repeated as the ice margin shifted (multiple events leaving behind layers of similar tills separated by sand bodies). The sands within the Brownville Formation till were most likely deposited by a combination of both processes described above—a small isolated sand bodies (many too small to show on the cross sections) existing within the main till body (single event) and larger, more widespread sand layers laid down in front of the ice margin as the ice shifted position (multiple events).

Figure 7. Wadena rotary-sonic core WAD-3 (location shown on Fig. 3). White areas indicate zones of no recovery. This sand or silt layer may not be shown on cross section. The Hewitt Formation is thick in this core (over 185 feet [56 meters]), and is mostly outwash composition of sand and gravel. Sand and gravel between 188 to 219 feet (57 to 66 meters) contains minor amounts of gray shale and Cretaceous limestone and is, therefore, attributed to the Brownville Formation. A single sample from a thin (less than 1 foot [0.3 meter]) thick till unit is also interpreted to be part of the Brownville Formation. It is possible that this unit could be part of the unnamed Riding Mountain provenance unit (*un*) that was identified in core WAD-1. However, this single sample contains only 9 percent shale fragments, whereas the samples from core WAD-1 have an average of 17 percent shale fragments in the 1-2 millimeter very coarse-grained sand fraction (Table 2).

Figure 8. A. Ternary diagram showing matrix texture (less than 2-millimeter size fraction) of till samples from the rotary-sonic cores in Wadena County using the U.S. Department of Agriculture textural classification system. B. Ternary diagram showing lithologic composition of the very coarse-grained (1-2 millimeter) sand fraction in samples from the rotary-sonic cores in Wadena County. C. Ternary diagram showing the amount of light, or felsic grains (granite, gneiss, quartzite, and quartzite), red grains (basalt, graywacke, and other metamorphic rocks), and red grains (volcanic and sandstone) within the crystalline category shown in Figure 8B.