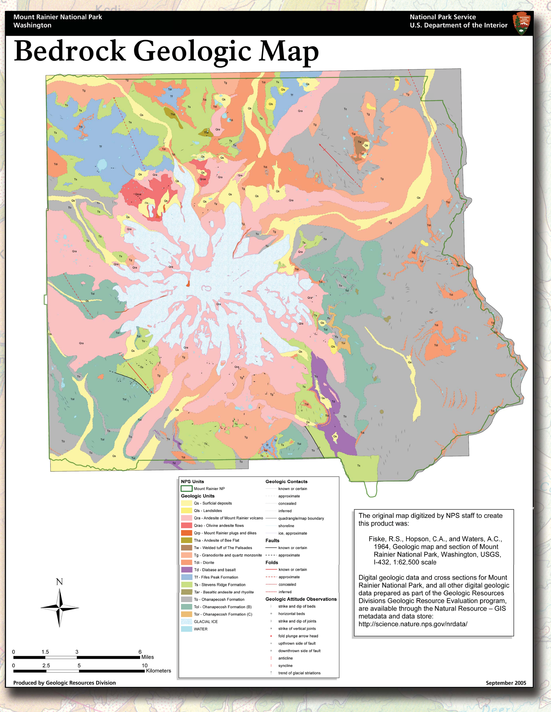
Types of Maps

Bedrock and Surficial Geology

Geologic maps convey information about local and regional geologic setting and are produced to depict surficial or bedrock materials. GIS-based geologic maps allow parks to integrate geologic information with other spatial data, facilitating science-based decision making in units of the National Park System.



Bedrock geologic maps depict the distribution of solid rock formations where exposed on the land surface or buried by younger surficial deposits. Bedrock units are identified on the basis of their rock type (igneous - sedimentary - metamorphic), age, or composition. Bedrock maps are useful for understanding the geologic setting and history of an area. Park managers use bedrock geologic maps in decision making on topics such as infrastructure development and geologic hazards.

Surficial geologic maps show unconsolidated materials including stream, lake, glacial, coastal, wind blown, and slope deposits. Surficial geologic maps are critical to understanding the recent geologic history of an area, such as interpreting frequency and magnitude of local geologic events. These maps are particularly useful to resource managers who would like to examine relationships between geology and vegetation, soils, or past human land use patterns. The GRE Program provides these maps to parks when they are available.