

GRAND JUNCTION GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NOVEMBER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018

*Please note the meeting is a week earlier than usual because of
Thanksgiving*

Joint meeting with the CMU Geology Students

7:30 PM

Sacomanno Lecture Hall

(In the Wubben-Science Building)

John Hodge

GJGS Member

Grand Junction, Colorado

Will Speak On

**“Quaternary fluvial history of the Cactus Park
and lower Kelso Gulch areas, Delta County,
Colorado”**

Guests Are Always Welcome

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Quaternary fluvial history of the Cactus Park and lower Kelso Gulch areas, Delta County, Colorado

John Hodge

Cactus Park and Kelso Gulch are located approximately 12 kilometers west of Delta, Colorado, along the lower northeastern slope of the Uncompahgre Plateau in Delta County, Colorado. Cactus Park is a relatively flat, approximately 0.25 square kilometer area drained by an unnamed canyon to the east and by lower Kelso Gulch to the north. While upper Kelso Gulch drains to the northeast, directly down the dip slope of the Uncompahgre Plateau, the portion of Kelso Gulch below Cactus Park drains to the north, oblique to the regional dip.

Previous research and recent field mapping conducted in the process of creating a geologic map of the area indicate a three-phase fluvial history of the area: Phase one involved a stream or small river, possibly paleo-Roubideau Creek, draining a portion of the Uncompahgre Plateau through Cactus Park and lower Kelso Gulch. Phase two involved the capture and diversion of the Uncompahgre River through Cactus Park and lower Kelso Gulch. Phase three involves the abandonment of the Cactus Park area by the Uncompahgre River, landslide damming of lower Kelso Gulch, alluvial deposition in Cactus Park, and the development of the modern drainage through Cactus Park and lower Kelso Gulch.

The chronology of this history is aided by the presence of a deposit of Lava Creek B ash of Yellowstone Caldera origin in lower Kelso Gulch and the resulting calculated incision rate of the Gunnison River.