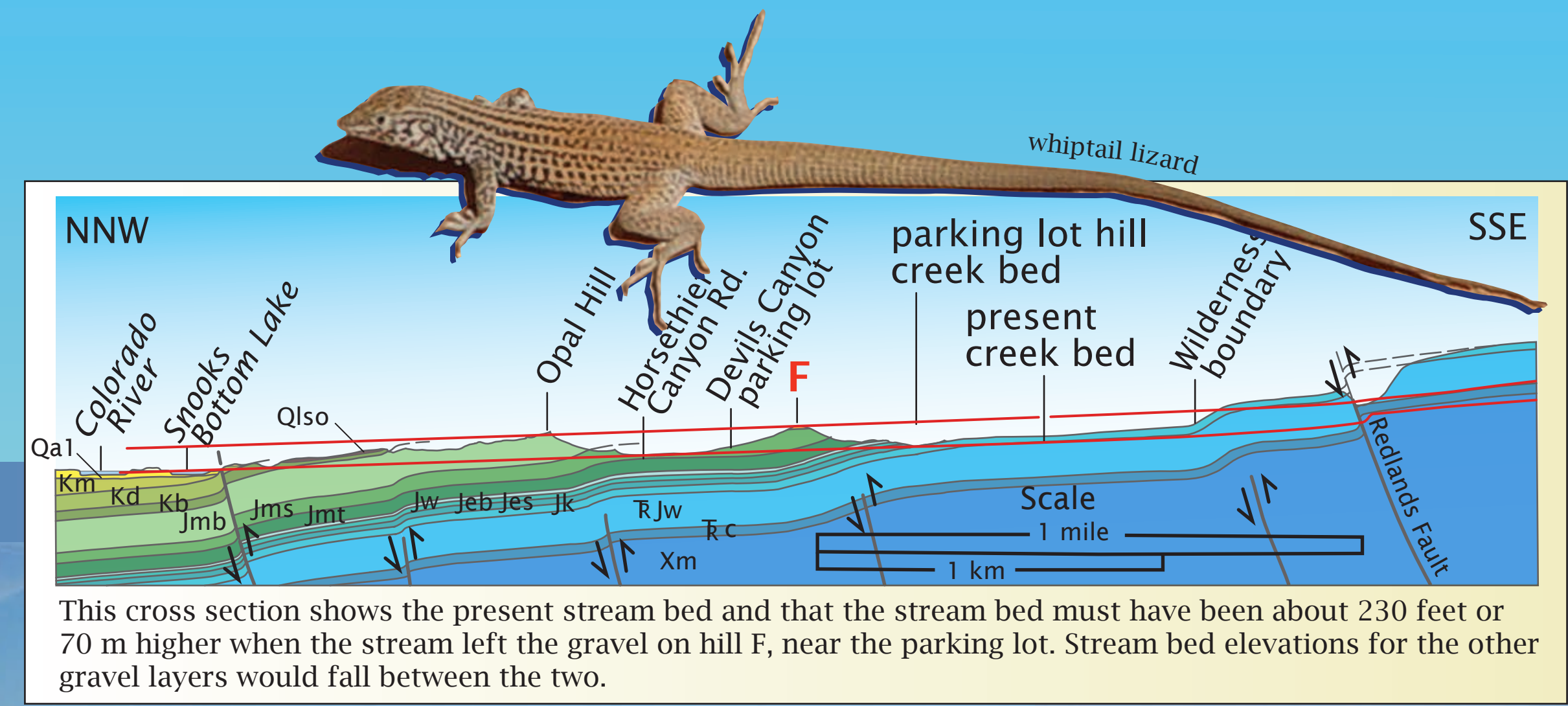


# 22. Gravels Left High Above the Channel

The view looking southwest over lower Devils Canyon shows several rounded hills of gravel, now far above the channel. Though the stream here is ephemeral and only flows steadily in the spring, it also carries the floods from summer cloudbursts that grind the channel downward. As they have cut, they have left behind hills and layers of gravel, each a record of an earlier time. Some of them are described below.

If you compare all the gravel deposits, you'll see three things: the higher ones have less Precambrian rock, flash flood deposits are poorly sorted compared to stream deposits, and rocks become better rounded as they are carried farther downstream.



limestone  
green sandstone from Morrison Formation  
1' / 30cm

**A.** The highest gravel contains mostly sandstone. It formed just as the canyon was starting to be cut into Precambrian rock. These angular rock pieces have not been carried far. There are also pieces of limestone, a very soft rock.

Precambrian metamorphic rock  
1' / 30cm

**B.** A little lower than A, this contains a larger proportion of dark, harder Precambrian rock, including some boulders.

6" / 15cm

**C.** Lower than A and B, this mound of gravel contains more Precambrian rocks and the pieces are better rounded.

2' / 61cm

**D.** Just above stream level, these deposits, which include large, poorly rounded boulders, were heaped along the outside curve of the creek during a flash flood.

2' / 61cm

**E.** This pile of alluvium was also left by a flash flood. The boulders of Precambrian rock are witness.

sandstone  
1' / 30cm

**F.** This one has boulders of sandstone and only a few of Precambrian rock. Like A, it formed when the stream had only cut a small way into the harder rock. Left on top of this hill, it tells us Devils Canyon's creek once flowed straight, instead of around the hill.

1' / 30cm

**G.** Gravel that has been carried further has become much better rounded than it was at A.

