

Quaternary Fault and Fold Database of the United States

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Bartlett Springs fault system, Round Valley section (Class A) No. 29b

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Compiled in cooperation with the California Geological Survey

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Synopsis

General: The Bartlett Springs fault system is a major northwest-trending zone comprised of discontinuous, steeply dipping dextral strike-slip faults associated with the San Andreas fault system. The Bartlett Springs fault system can be mapped for at least 120 km from the southern side of Round Valley southeast to near Clear Lake. North of Round Valley, Herd (1978) suggested that the Lake Mountain fault may be the northern continuation of the Bartlett Springs fault system, indicating a total length of about 165 km. Lienkaemper (2010) mapped Holocene active traces of the Bartlett Springs fault system that extend for approximately

175 km. Traces of the Bartlett Springs fault system locally are delineated by geomorphic evidence of latest Pleistocene and Holocene strike-slip displacement, especially in the vicinity of Lake Pillsbury (dePolo and Ohlin, 1984; Taylor and Swan, 1986; Swan and Taylor, 1991; Bryant, 1993). The Lake Pillsbury area also is characterized by a somewhat broad, linear zone of microseismicity with focal-plane solutions that are predominantly dextral strike-slip (Dehlinger and Bolt, 1984; Castillo and Ellsworth, 1993). Taylor and Swan (1986) excavated and logged trenches across traces of the Bartlett Springs fault zone in the Lake Pillsbury area. Here they documented evidence of Holocene displacement. Taylor and Swan (1986) reported that stratigraphic relations exposed in one of their trenches can be interpreted to represent at least 3 faulting events. Taylor and Swan (1986) reported that the most recent fault rupture event occurred from 300 to 1000 yrs ago, based on their observation that the fault affects the modern soil. Swan and Taylor (1991) reported a Holocene slip rate of 1 to 2 mm/yr for the fault zone near Lake Pillsbury. Lisowski and Prescott (1989) reported a creep rate of 8 mm/yr for the 1985–1989 period near Round Valley. This 8 mm/yr creep rate at Round Valley was neither well-constrained nor supported by additional measurements (Lienkaemper, 2010). GPS measurements near Covelo (in Round Valley, but not on the original Lisowski and Prescott array site) indicate a creep rate of 0.4 ± 1.49 mm/yr near Covelo in the Round Valley region (McFarland and others 2016). Lienkaemper (2010) reported that fault creep occurs across six GPS or alignment arrays established in 2005 across traces of the Bartlett Springs fault system. Two array sites have recorded creep rates measured for the period 2005–2015 (Lake Pillsbury array 3.21 ± 0.12 mm/yr) and 2007–2015 (Huntington Creek array 2.22 ± 0.55 mm/yr) (Lienkaemper, 2010; McFarland and others, 2016) across the Bartlett Springs fault zone.

Sections: This fault has 4 sections. dePolo and Ohlin (1984) designated four segments for the fault system: from north to south, they are the Elk Creek fault (after CDWR, 1969), the Hot Springs shear zone (after Etter, 1979), the Chalk Mountain segment, and the Wilson fault [35] (after Lawton, 1956). Taylor and Swan (1986) divided the Bartlett Springs fault system into 6 segments from the area east of Clear Lake (north of the Wilson fault [35]) north to Round Valley, based on differences in geomorphic expression of the fault zone. These segments, from north to south include the Elk Creek, Coyote Rocks, McLeod

Ridge, Twin Valley, Reister Rock, and Chalk Mountain. Lienkaemper (2010) identified two ≥ 2.5 km stepovers along the Bartlett Springs fault system: an extensional stepover near the southern end of the Bartlett Springs fault near Wilson Valley and a compressional stepover where Salmon Creek drains into the Middle Fork of the Eel River. An extensional step at Lake Pillsbury is about 2 km wide. The majority of mapping along the Bartlett Springs fault system is detailed reconnaissance in nature and very little data exists to characterize paleoseismic behavior and delineate paleoseismic segments. For this compilation, the Bartlett Springs fault system has been grouped into four principal sections and include, from north to south, the Lake Mountain section [29a] (after Herd, 1978), the Round Valley section [29b], the Elk Creek section [29c], and the Bartlett Springs section [29d].

**Name
comments**

General: The Bartlett Springs fault system is comprised of discontinuous northwest-trending, steeply dipping faults that form a zone at least 1.5 km and possibly greater than 3 km wide. The Bartlett Springs fault system, as considered in this compilation, consists of the Lake Mountain fault zone, Round Valley fault zone, Etsel Ridge fault, Updegraff Ridge fault, and Bartlett Springs fault zone. The Bartlett Springs fault zone was first recognized by Clark (1930) as an essentially continuous zone of faulting, but was not named by him. Irwin (1960) first mapped a northwest-striking fault zone south of Lake Pillsbury, but did not name the fault. Maxwell (1974) and Etter (1979) mapped a zone of faults between Lake Pillsbury and Round Valley. Etter (1979) referred to this zone as the Hot Springs shear zone. Bolt and Oakeshott (1982) first used the name Bartlett Springs thrust fault for a structure that is associated with the unnamed fault of Irwin (1960) and the Hot Springs shear zone of Etter (1979). McLaughlin and Nilsen (1982) first used the name Bartlett Springs fault zone for the northwest-trending zone of discontinuous faults extending from the Wilson fault [35] of Lawton (1956) northwest to Herd's (1978) Lake Mountain fault zone. The Lake Mountain fault zone was first mapped and named by Herd (1978). Traces of the Round Valley fault zone were first mapped by CDWR (1966). Jayko and others (1989) mapped a northwest-trending zone of faults along the western side of Round Valley and was first to name the Round Valley fault zone. The Etsel Ridge fault was mapped and named by Jayko and others (1989). Bryant (1993) proposed the name Updegraff Ridge fault for the zone of northwest striking faults on the eastern side of Updegraff Ridge.

	<p>Section: The Round Valley section extends from the northern end of Updegraff Ridge southeast to a right-releasing bend in the vicinity of the confluence of the Eel River and Elk Creek. The Round Valley section includes the Round Valley fault zone, Etsel Ridge fault, and Updegraff Ridge fault.</p> <p>Fault ID: Refers to numbers 78 (Lake Mountain fault zone), 90 (Round Valley fault zone), 91 (Etsel Ridge fault), and 92 (Bartlett Springs fault zone) of Jennings (1994) and Jennings and Bryant (2010), and numbers C6 (Bartlett Springs fault), C7 (Round Valley fault), and C8 (Lake Mountain fault) of WGNCEP (1996).</p>
<p>County(s) and State(s)</p>	<p>MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA TRINITY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA</p>
<p>Physiographic province(s)</p>	<p>PACIFIC BORDER</p>
<p>Reliability of location</p>	<p>Good Compiled at 1:24,000 scale.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Location of principal active traces based on air photo interpretation of 1:12,000-scale aerial photographs by Lienkaemper (2010). Additional locations based on digital revisions to Jennings (1994) using original mapping by Jayko and others (1989) and dePolo and Ohlin (1984) at 1:100,000 scale; local fault traces mapped by the CDWR (1966, 1969) are at 1:24,000 scale.</p>
<p>Geologic setting</p>	<p>The Bartlett Springs fault system is a major northwest-trending zone of steeply dipping, discontinuous Quaternary-active faults in the north-central Coast Ranges. This fault system has been reported to be from 1.5 km wide (McLaughlin and others, 1990; dePolo and Ohlin, 1984) to more than 3 km wide (Etter, 1979). Taylor and Swan (1986) interpreted the Bartlett Springs fault system to be an immature zone of dextral shear related to evolution of the San Andreas fault system. Herd (1978) inferred that a system of principally dextral strike-slip faults east of the San Andreas fault zone [1] defined an intracontinental plate boundary east of Cape Mendocino. The Bartlett Springs fault system considered for this compilation extends for about 175 km from the northern end of the Lake Mountain fault zone (Herd, 1978; Kelsey and Carver, 1988) southeast to east of Clear Lake.</p>

	<p>The Bartlett Springs fault zone may complexly join with the Hunting Creek-Berryessa fault zone [35] along the Wilson fault [35] of Lawton (1956). The Bartlett Springs fault system has been variously described as a thrust fault related to the Coast Range thrust (Bolt and Oakeshott, 1982), a dextral-normal oblique fault (McLaughlin and others, 1990), and as a predominantly dextral strike-slip fault (dePolo and Ohlin, 1984; Dehlinger and Bolt, 1984; Clark, 1983; Taylor and Swan, 1986). The Bartlett Springs fault system occupies a topographic low nearly coincident with a narrow belt of Franciscan mélange and ultramafic rocks (dePolo and Ohlin, 1984). Cumulative dextral slip is not known, but the juxtaposition of different rock units of the Franciscan Complex suggests a significant strike-slip component. McLaughlin and others (1990) speculated that perhaps tens of kilometers of dextral strike-slip displacement has occurred on the fault system. Maximum vertical offset could be more than 1.5 km (southwest side down) east of Clear Lake, based on estimates of the total thickness of the Pliocene-Pleistocene Cache Formation (McLaughlin and others, 1990).</p>
Length (km)	This section is 75 km of a total fault length of 160 km.
Average strike	N40°W (for section) versus N23°W (for whole fault)
Sense of movement	<p>Right lateral, Normal</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Style of displacement is inferred, based on association with the Lake Mountain fault zone [29a] to the north and other sections of the Bartlett Springs fault system to the south, and based on the fault's geomorphic expression (Lienkaemper, 2010; Bryant, 1993). Amount of total dextral slip is unknown. Fault zone locally consists of east-striking, down-to-north normal faults at the southern end of Round Valley, which is a pull apart basin (dePolo and Ohlin, 1984; Bryant, 1993). Lisowski and Prescott (1989) reported that as much as 8 mm/yr of dextral creep (period from 1985–1989) was observed near Round Valley, based on trilateration network data. Lienkaemper (2010) reported that this creep-rate was not well-constrained and additional measurements did not support the reported rate. Near Covelo McFarland and others (2016) recorded a dextral creep rate of 0.4 ± 1.49 mm/yr for the period 2008-2015.</p>
Dip Direction	<p>V</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Dip angles are not known, but the generally linear</p>

	<p>strike of the principal active traces suggests near vertical dip. Minor normal faults bordering the southern end of Round Valley presumably dip steeply to the north or vertical, based on mapping of geomorphic features by dePolo and Ohlin (1984).</p>
Paleoseismology studies	
Geomorphic expression	<p>Round Valley fault zone delineated by weakly pronounced to distinct linear scarps, linear and dextrally deflected drainages, aligned notches and saddles (Lienkaemper, 2010). The Updegraff Ridge fault west of Round Valley is mostly concealed by massive landslide deposits. Local geomorphic evidence of latest Pleistocene displacement along a strand of the Updegraff Ridge fault includes a subdued linear trough and two dextrally deflected drainages (Bryant, 1993). The Etsel Ridge fault lacks geomorphic features indicative of late Pleistocene and Holocene strike-slip displacement (Bryant, 1993). Evaluation of fault recency based on geomorphic expression is difficult along the Round Valley section because of the exceptionally rapid rates of erosion and mass wasting (dePolo and Ohlin, 1984; Bryant, 1993).</p>
Age of faulted surficial deposits	<p>Round Valley fault zone offsets Mesozoic rocks of the Franciscan Complex. Quaternary deposits are sparse in the area. Jayko and others (1989) locally mapped Quaternary fluvial terrace deposits juxtaposed against Franciscan Complex rocks along the Round Valley fault zone, but individual traces including the Etsel Ridge fault just north of Round Valley are locally concealed by Quaternary alluvium.</p>
Historic earthquake	
Most recent prehistoric deformation	<p>latest Quaternary (<15 ka)</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Timing of most recent paleoevent is not known. Weak to moderate geomorphic expression of fault suggests latest Pleistocene to Holocene displacement (Lienkaemper, 2010). Alignment array surveys indicate that strands of the Round Valley fault zone are creep active (0.4 ± 1.49 mm/yr near Covelo; McFarland and others 2016). A fence of unknown age crossing the fault is dextrally offset 140 ± 48 mm (Lienkaemper, 2010).</p>
Recurrence interval	

<p>Slip-rate category</p>	<p>Between 1.0 and 5.0 mm/yr</p> <p><i>Comments:</i> Slip rate is based on structural association with the Elk Creek section [29c] of the fault zone (see discussion of slip rates for that section).</p>
<p>Date and Compiler(s)</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>William A. Bryant, California Geological Survey</p>
<p>References</p>	<p>#4907 Bolt, B.A., and Oakeshott, G.B., 1982, Seismic and tectonic evaluation for Scott Dam and vicinity: Unpublished report for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco, California, 31 p.</p> <p>#4908 Bryant, W.A., 1993, Bartlett Springs fault zone, Lake and Mendocino Counties, California: California Division of Mines and Geology Fault Evaluation Report FER-236, scale 1:24,000.</p> <p>#4909 California Department of Water Resources (CDWR), 1966, Areal geology, Round Valley drainage tunnel: Unpublished map, scale 1:24,000.</p> <p>#4910 California Department of Water Resources (CDWR), 1969, Areal geology, Elk Creek tunnel: Unpublished map and cross sections, scale 1:24,000.</p> <p>#5281 Castillo, D.A., and Ellsworth, W.L., 1993, Seismotectonics of the San Andreas fault system between Point Arena and Cape Mendocino in northern California—Implications for the development and evolution of a young transform: <i>Journal of Geophysical Research</i>, v. 98, no. B4, p. 6543-6560.</p> <p>#4912 Clark, B.L., 1930, Tectonics of the Coast Ranges of middle California: <i>Geological Society of America Bulletin</i>, v. 41, p. 747-828.</p> <p>#4913 Clark, J.T., 1983, San Andreas sense faulting, northern California Coast Ranges, California: <i>Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs</i>, v. 15, no. 5, p. 418.</p> <p>#5230 Dehlinger, P., and Bolt, B.A., 1984, Seismic parameters along the Bartlett Springs Fault Zone in the Coast Ranges of northern California: <i>Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America</i>, v. 74, p. 1785-1798.</p>

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