

The IAFI Puget Lobe Chapter monthly newsreel:

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This month, the Newsreel continues with a trip to the South Fork Skokomish River at the Great Bend of Hood Canal. Last month we dove up FS23 to the Kame Terrace at the top of the grade to look at the kettles on the terrace. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to go further.

This month we will follow FS2340 up to the High Steel Bridge* and continue toward Denny Ahl Hill and the esker fields.

From the High Steel Bridge, the tour will continue towards "Colonnade Hill", and circle north towards Denny Ahl Hill, a nunatak during the Fraser Glaciation, to what is "identified" as an esker field.

Here are numerous eskers of various types including one that formed along the side of Denny Ahl Hill, and in the same vicinity is one that climbs over a hill. Yes, eskers are formed by going from high to low pressure, not necessarily gravity like rivers.

* Note: there is another high steel bridge to the south of Grisdale over Vance Creek. It is, like the High Steel Bridge on FS2340, a remnant of the logging industry, and crosses over Vance Creek. There have been injuries climbing on it (ignoring safety concerns and common sense). So don't! Just a reminder that the High Steel Bridge on FS2340 is used by area Search and Rescue for training. You wonder!

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Below are some mileage and approximate driving time from the intersection of US101 and points of interest.

When you turn west off US101 at the bottom of Purdy Canyon (coming north from Shelton) or south on US101 at the George Adams Fish Hatchery (W. Skokomish Valley Road) you will be entering the Skokomish River Valley. The Skokomish River has two forks, the south and the north forks. Our travels will follow the South Fork. Interestingly, the current South Fork has been down cut since end of the Fraser Glaciation. The “original” south fork* has not been found.

Mileage	Time	Elevation	Location	Comments
0	0	0	US101 at Great Bend	Turn west at Fish Hatchery
8.5	18 min	1,379 ft	FS23 – FS2340 Intersection	Turn right onto gravel road

On FS 2340 we visit

High Steel bridge
Colonade Hill

Dennie Ahl Hill area

Old logging railroad bridge
Remnants of Colonnade /
pillow basalt
Remnants of Eskers

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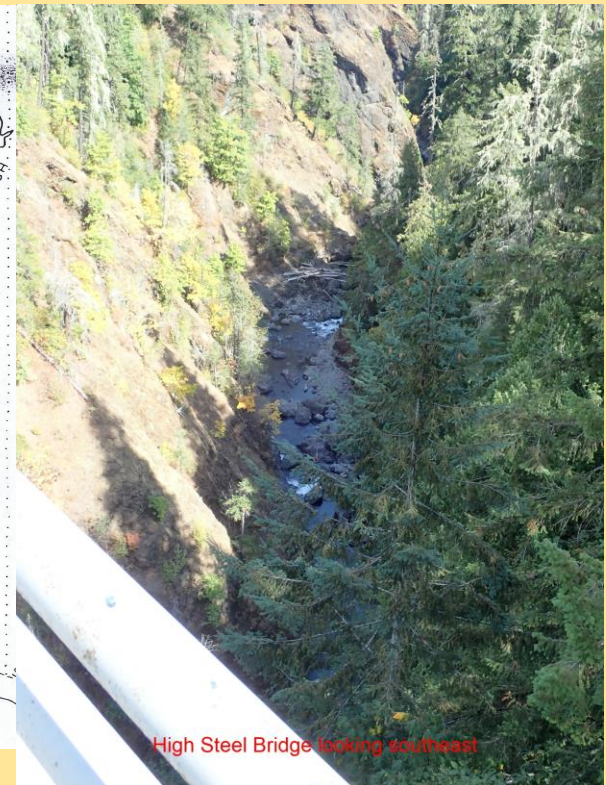
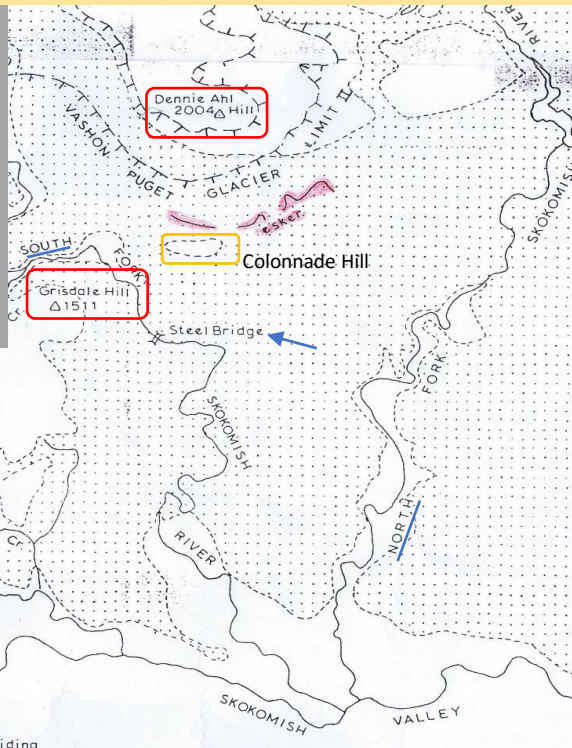
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On FS2340 we head towards Dennie Ahl Hill. Along the way we stop and walk across the High Steel Bridge to appreciate the power of the South Fork of Skokomish River.

The South Fork Skokomish River has cut this canyon since the Fraser Glaciation termination.

Note that Dennie Ahl Hill (2,004 ft) was not covered by ice. And Grisdale Hill (1,511 ft) does not show glacial deposits. Dennie Ahl is acknowledged as being a Nunatak.

“Colonnade Hill” does not show glacial deposits; but does show the effects of being scraped by ice and outwash.

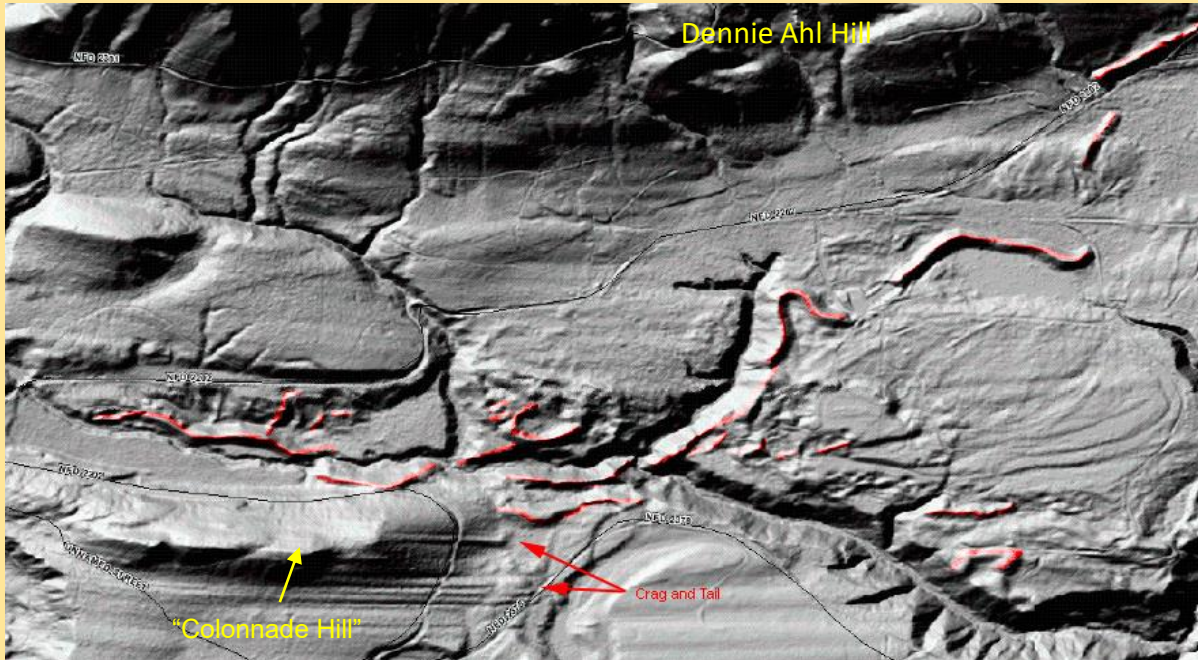


Courtesy of W. Long, USFS, 1978. Shows Springs... Now know as Double Bluff

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“Colonnade Hill” and relationship to esker field



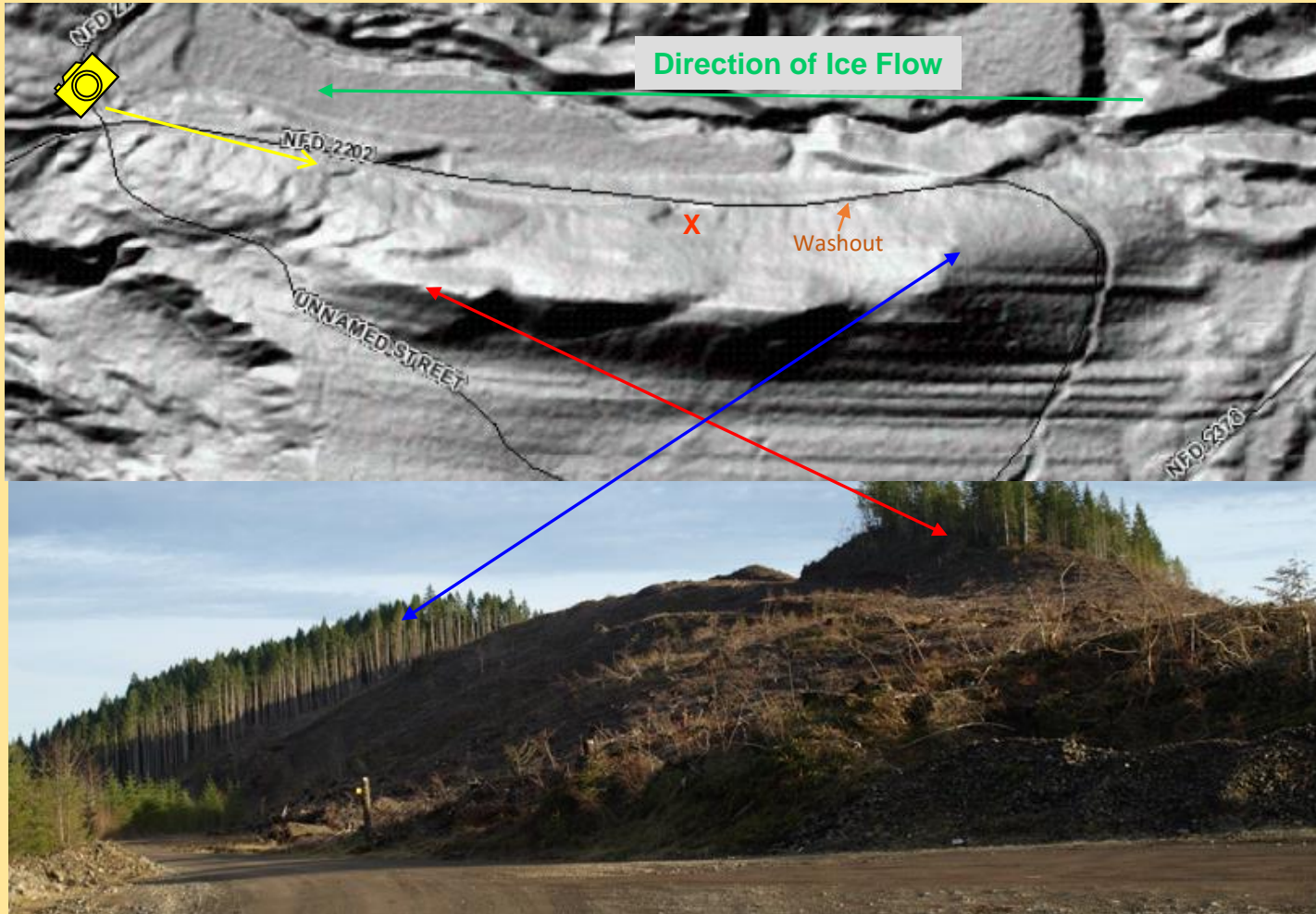
“Colonnade Hill” is so named because of the Colonnades at the base, and the appearance of pillow basalt at the base.

The red lines indicate eskers

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Colonnade Hill



The red "X" near the top center locates a borrow pit exposing the colonnades and pillow basalt on the next slide.

Note the washout on the north side of "Colonnade Hill". You need to take the left-hand road at the junction just south of the hill.

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The three bottom framed pictures are enlargements of the areas where the arrows are pointing to.

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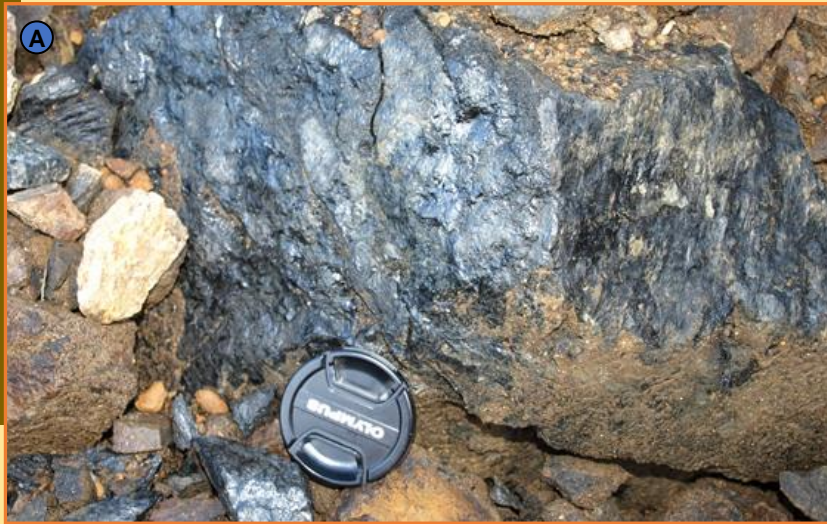
- After logging the upper slopes, “rip-rap” was placed along the bottom of this area by Sep2010. Notice that the colonnade features are very pronounced.



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- Two interesting types of basalt were mixed within the rip-rap.
 - “glasslike basalt” suggesting rapid cooling
 - basalt cobble within a matrix of basalt suggesting the cobble (or pillow basalt) is older than the flow/sediment that encompassed it.
 - The rip-rap no longer exist.



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This area is used as a “borrow pit” with most of rip-rap and loose material removed by Sep2021. On the previous slide, notice that the colonnade features are very pronounced. Compare to cooling effect on the basalt to the right and to the left.



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Sep 2011



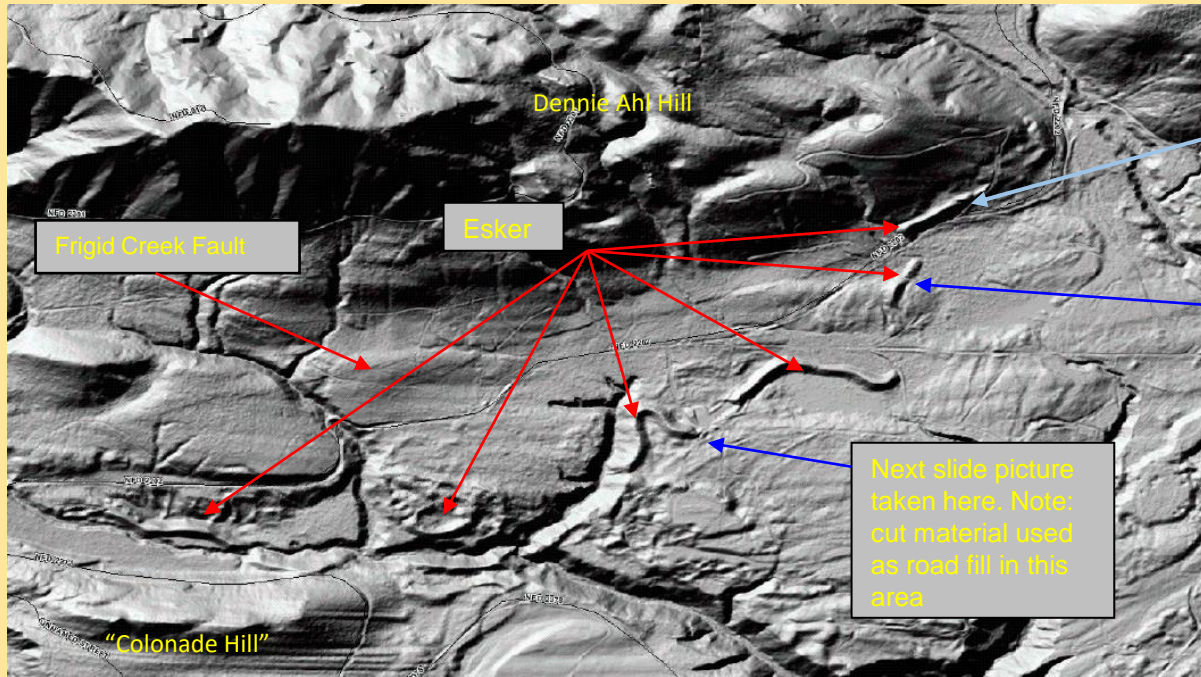
Aug 2021

Therefore, we document geological phenomena and features – in this case the 56my old Crescent Formation which erupted these features.

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Now a look at Fraser Glaciation esker locations to the south of Dennie Ahl Hill:



This esker appears to be on the side of Dennie Ahl. It is!

This esker appears to climb over a small hill. It does!

Alternate explanation: It is moulin fill. It might be.

All eskers and other recessional features have not been noted, just the easy ones to get to.

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This Esker is large and as sinuous. The cut has been used as road material.

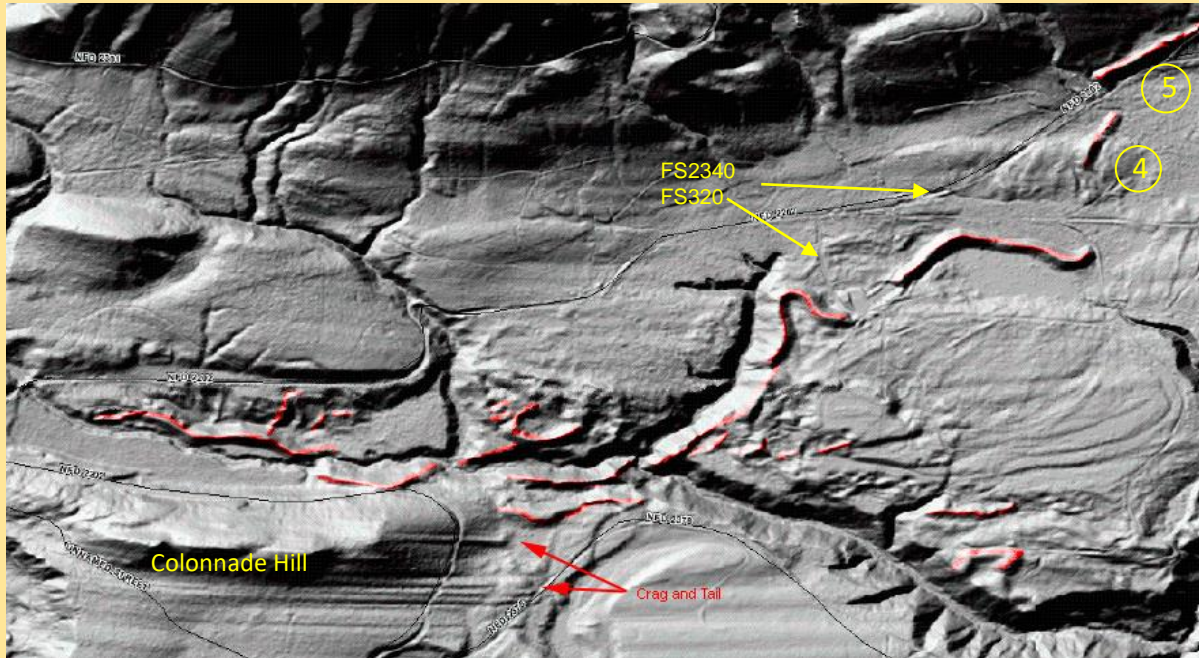


See “U” shaped esker on previous page. This portion of the esker has been used as a “borrow” pit

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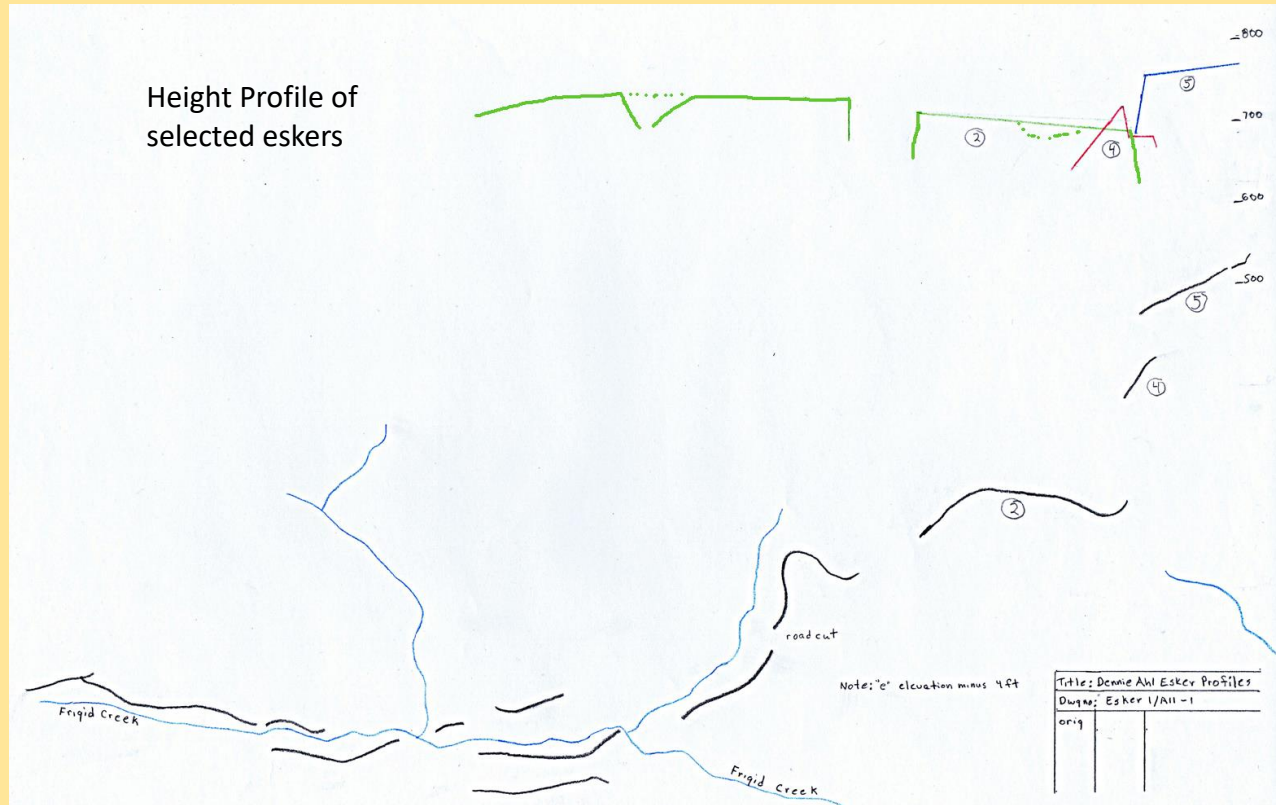
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Lidar of the esker field with eskers 4 and 5 identified in upper right-hand corner.



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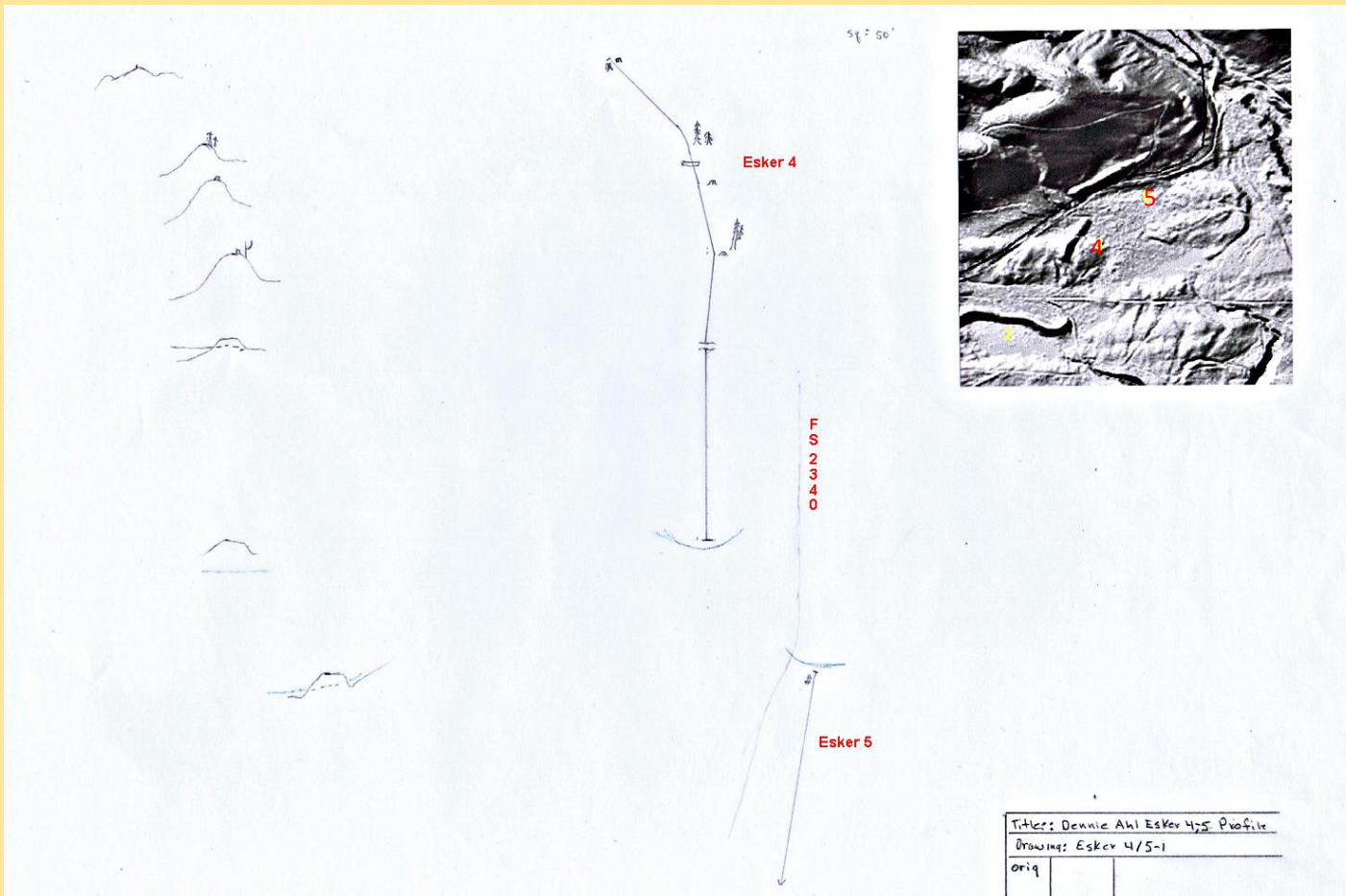
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A trace of the major eskers below Dennie Ahl Hill

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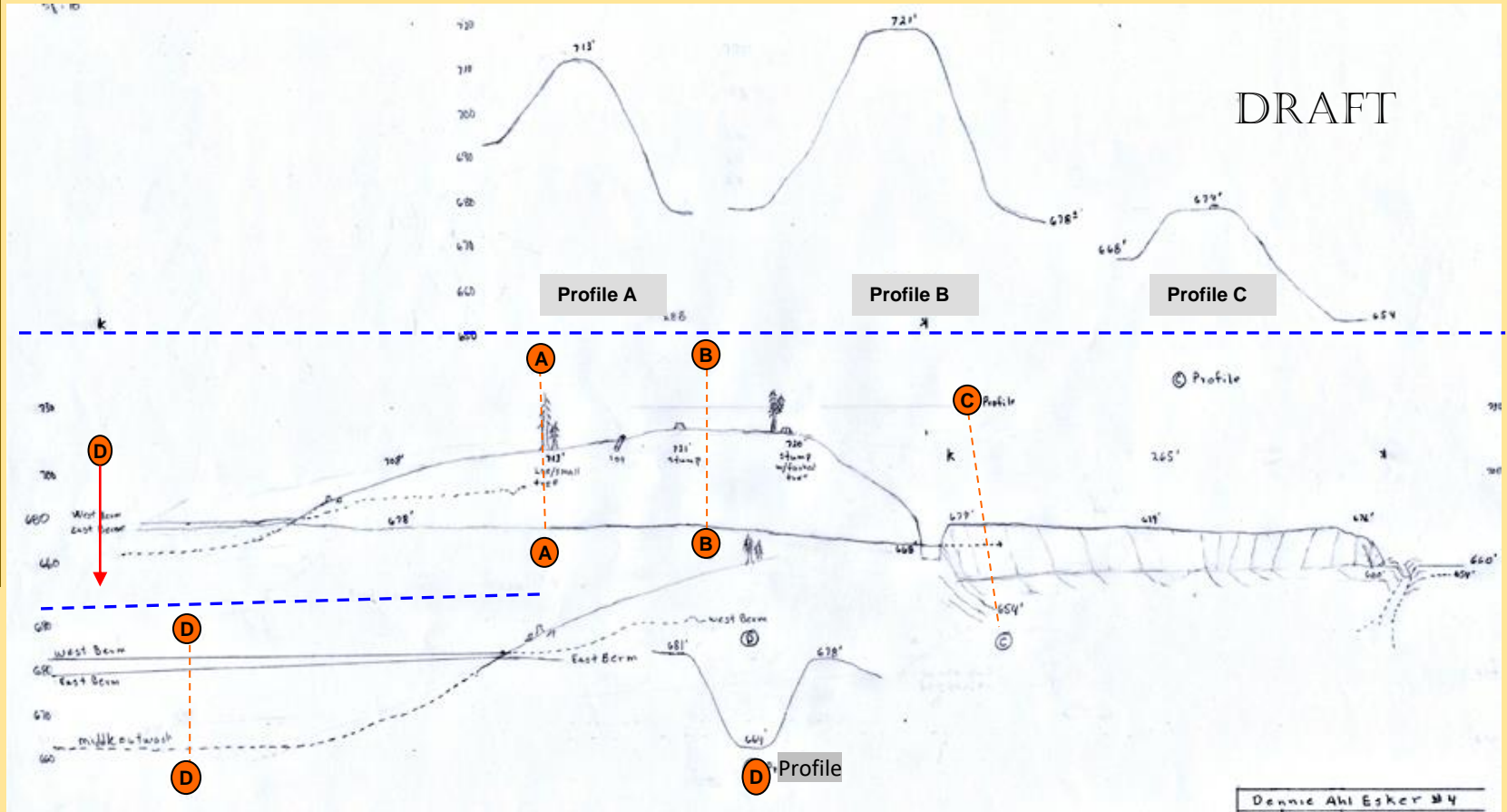


Drawing of esker 4 and 5 with height profile at selected points. Blue lines are waterways.

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A quick look at Esker 4 – the one that appears to run over a high spot.

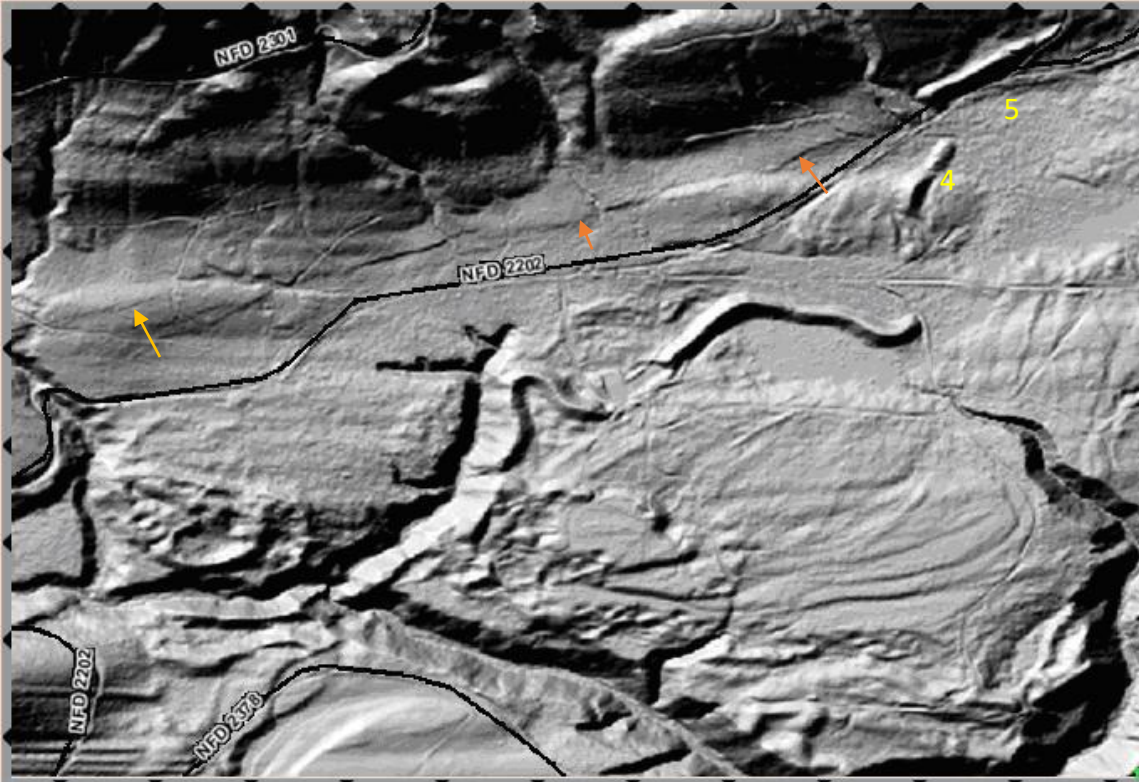


Esker 4 looking west (towards FS2340 which is on the other side of Esker 4) from the east side

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A quick look at the Frigid Creek Fault:



The faint line shown above “NFD 2202” or FS2340 is the Frigid Creek Fault. It crosses FS2340 in the upper right and continues. For reference esker 4 and 5 are identified.

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Well, we ran out of time and will continue with Chapter 12 in January. On our way back to FS23 we will look at the beginning of the outwash channel on the east side of “Colonnade Hill” originating from the ice sheet/glacier snout and flowing south until the South Fork of the Skokomish River bisected it. When the South Fork bisected the outwash channel near the High Steel Bridge, the South Fork “followed” the outwash channel. And you will see remnants of it on the bluffs overlooking the river. If time allows, you will also see the outwash channels that formed to the east towards the North Fork.

Enjoy tonight’s presentation and come back for the Jan lecture.