

# DIGITAL MAPPING TECHNIQUES 2024

The following was presented at DMT'24  
May 13 - 16, 2024

The contents of this document are provisional

See Presentations and Proceedings  
from the DMT Meetings (1997-2024)

<http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/info/dmt/>

Integration of Surficial Mapping Protocols (SUMP) with GeMS to standardize mapping from inception to final map product

By Karl Backhaus (New York Geological Survey)

At the NYSGS, a set of Surficial Mapping Protocols (SuMP) was enacted to define and establish rules for mapping in order to ensure consistency in data collection, mapping strategies, and map development. This set of standards was designed to complement GeMS, and the concurrent implementation of each streamlines the mapping process from the field map and notebook (SuMP) to the digital map and geodatabase (GeMS).





# Integration of Surficial Mapping Protocols (SuMP) with GeMS to standardize mapping from inception to final map product

**Karl J. Backhaus**

Museum Scientist 1/Quaternary Research and  
Mapping Geologist

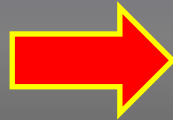
GeMS Coordinator

New York State Museum - Geological Survey



# What is the New York State Geological Survey?

*New York State Education  
Department*



*New York State Office of Cultural  
Education AKA NYS Museum*



*Research and Collections  
Division*



# 2024 NYSM - GS Mapping Program Staff



**Karl Backhaus**  
Quaternary Geologic  
Mapping/GIS Specialist



**Dr. Andrew Kozlowski**  
Director  
Curator QLM



**Dr. Andrew Cliff**  
Sed/ Structural Mapping  
Curator of Bedrock Core



**Dr. Joseph Gonzales**  
Hard Rock Mapping  
Curator of Minerals/Gems



**Hailey Forgeng**  
Mineralogy/Petrology  
Hard Rock Mapping



**Julia Rogerson**  
GIS - Minerals  
Mapping



**Richard Frieman**  
Geologic Mapping  
Bedrock Core  
Collection Manager



**Avery Blake**  
GIS - Minerals  
Mapping



**Sean Grassing**  
- Assistant  
Geologist



STATEMAP



GLGMC



EarthMRI



# History of Mapping at the NYSGS

Began on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1836 with the four chief Geologists horsemen:

Eastern Region – William W. Mather

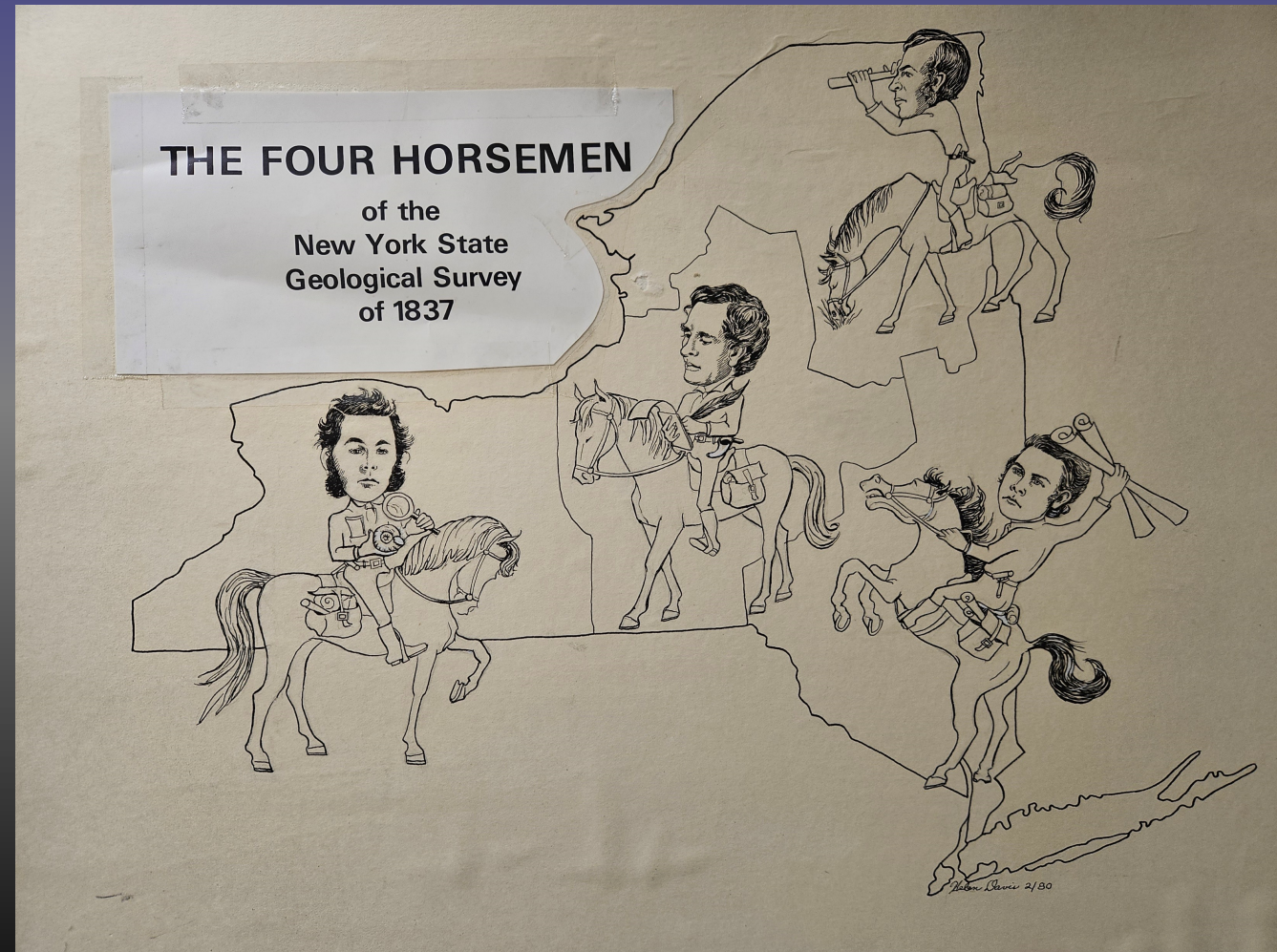
Northern Region – Ebenezer Emmons

Central Region – Timothy Conrad <- Replaced by L. Vanuxem

Western Region – Lardner Vanuxem <- Replace by J. Hall

At the time the New York Geological and Natural History survey was looking for.....

# COAL!



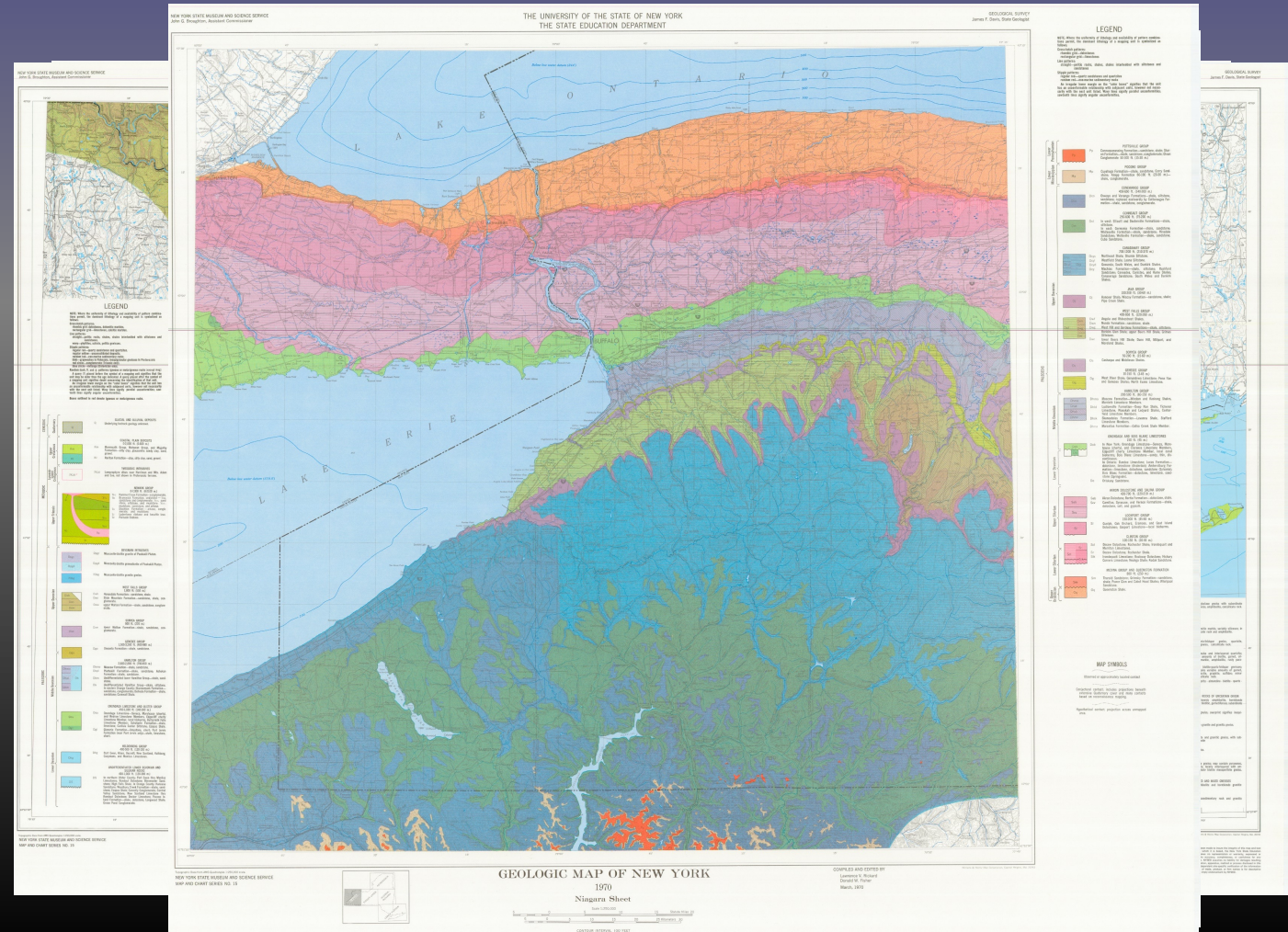


# Map and Chart Series No. 15

## Geologic Map of New York State

Published in five sheets in 1970

Adirondacks  
Hudson-Mohawk  
Lower Hudson  
Finger Lakes  
Niagara



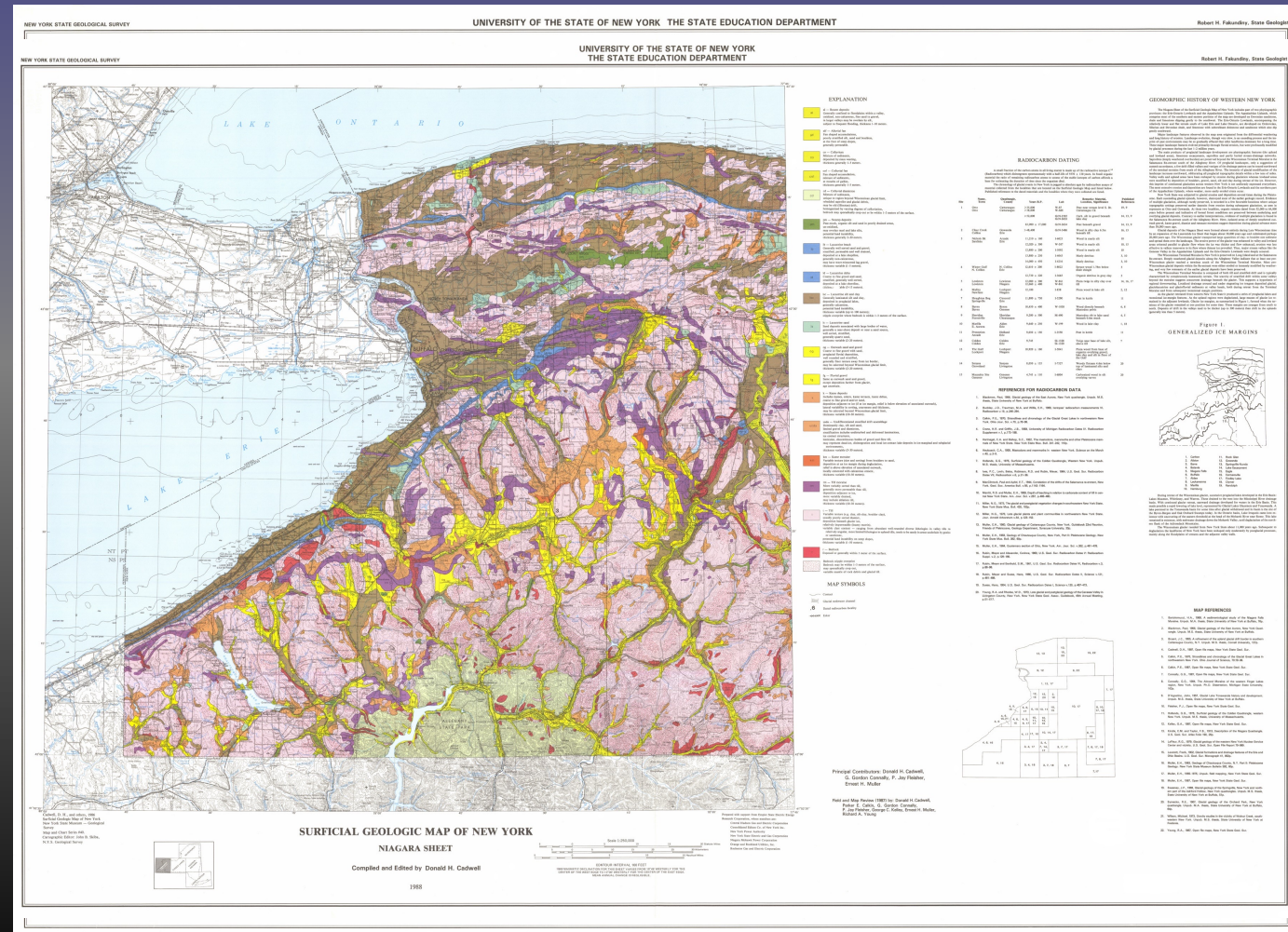


# Map and Chart Series No. 40

## Surficial Geologic Map of New York State

Published in five sheets from 1986 to 1991

Adirondacks  
Hudson-Mohawk  
Lower Hudson  
Finger Lakes  
Niagara





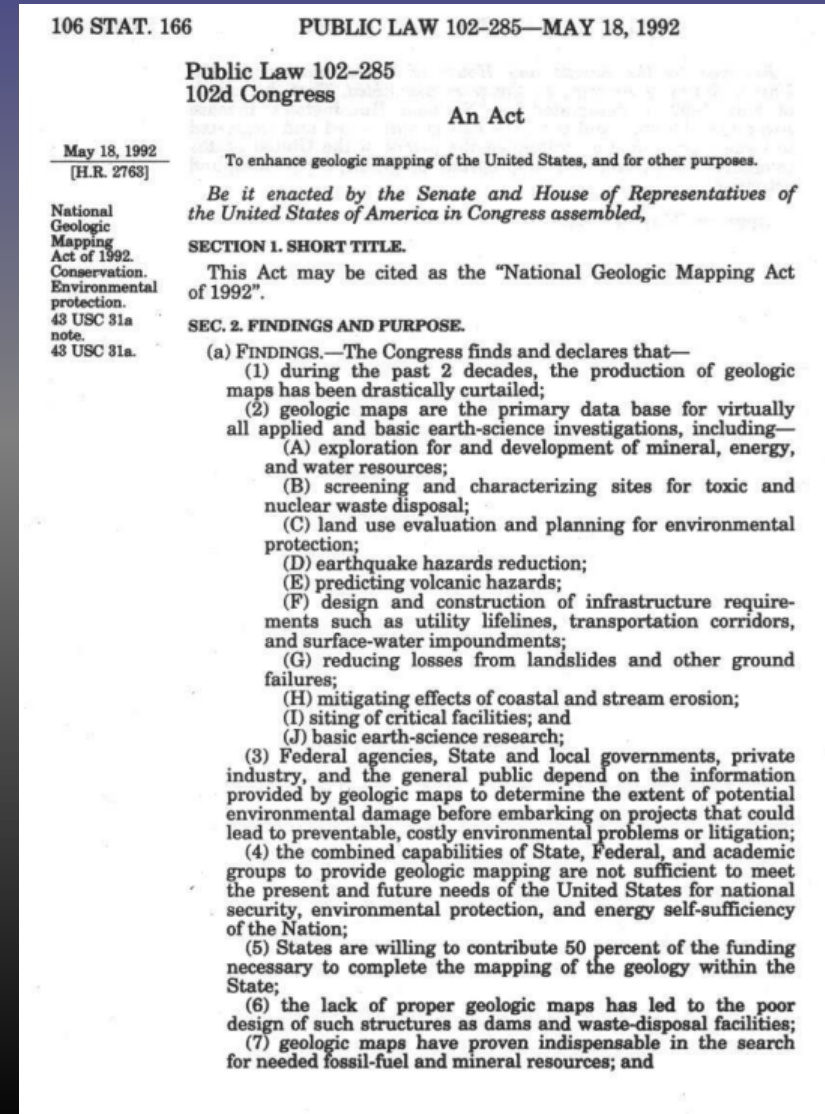
# STATEMAP and the NYSM - GS

Geologic Mapping in NYS funded  
by the act since 1993

Over 200 geologic maps published  
or conducted by direct funding from  
STATEMAP

Mapped over a one- or two-year  
grant cycle

Published digital and/or paper map  
end product





**So what are the Surficial  
Mapping Protocols (SuMP) at the NYSGS?**



# Surficial Mapping Protocols (SuMP)

Created in 2019 as an Open-File Report

Used specifically for surficial geologic mapping

Set minimum requirements for mapping:

- 1). Minimum quantity of stops and soil samples
- 2). Descriptive notes at each stop
- 3). Field summary AKA debriefing report
- 4). Data Cataloging
- 5). Lithology/Digitization Standardization
- 6). GeMS Compliant Data

## **NYSM/NYSGS Surficial Mapping Standards (SMS) for Geologic Map Production and Data Collection**

Dr. Andrew L. Kozlowski,  
New York State Geological Survey Director  
June 2019

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework to guide the production of geologic maps and/or the collection of geologic data. This document is the outgrowth of recognition that mapping staff come and go from the mapping program. In some cases, this is the result of internships, volunteers or graduate student projects ending in other cases professional staff move on to better career or perhaps different career opportunities. What remains is the construct of staff productivity and to that end there needs to be a record of productivity. Museums are institutions that archive artifacts and data, that data needs to be organized and readily available to future researchers internal or external. In our case the principal product we make is geologic maps and supporting data, geologic cross sections, lithostratigraphic logs, geophysical data, open file reports etc.

Our mission as the Geologic Survey is as follows: The NYSGS is to conduct geologic research, evaluate mineral resources and geologic hazards of the State of New York, and make the data and advice derived from that research available to State agencies, the educational community, and the public for the health, safety, and economic welfare of the citizens of the State. Responsibilities of the NYSGS include maintaining a comprehensive inventory of the geologic resources, conducting research into the characteristics of, and processes operating in, the earth's crust, and making the resulting geologic knowledge readily available. The guiding principles require that the work of the NYSGS be synoptic and comprehensive throughout the State, be applicable to addressing the geologically related issues facing the citizens of the State and be assembled in useable formats. Descriptions of various aspects of the State's geology are presented in the Museum Bulletin, Memoir, Map & Chart, Miscellaneous Publications, and Circular series publications. Ongoing research projects are summarized annually in open-file reports.

The individual geologic maps produced through this program may be regarded as individual projects. Further, the mindset should be adopted that the map being made may be the last opportunity to accurately depict the geology for the given map area, particularly considering the digital format that ultimately results from our efforts. It is highly unlikely that anyone will have the time, ability or resources to invest that you presently are afforded to construct the geologic maps and conduct research. The end user will almost always want the shapefile or database, so that they may plug this data into there project. Hence, the need for emphasis on accuracy and detail in the maps we produce and data we collect. Also, critically important the need for documentation.

The ensuing pages will outline procedures and protocols to be followed. while I expect them to be followed whenever possible the purpose of this is to outline expectations and act as a

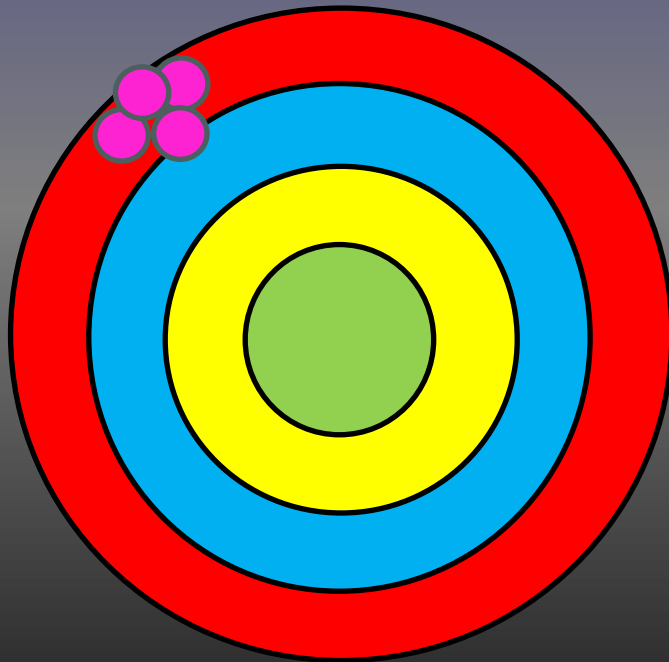
# One reasoning behind the SuMP

Coverage

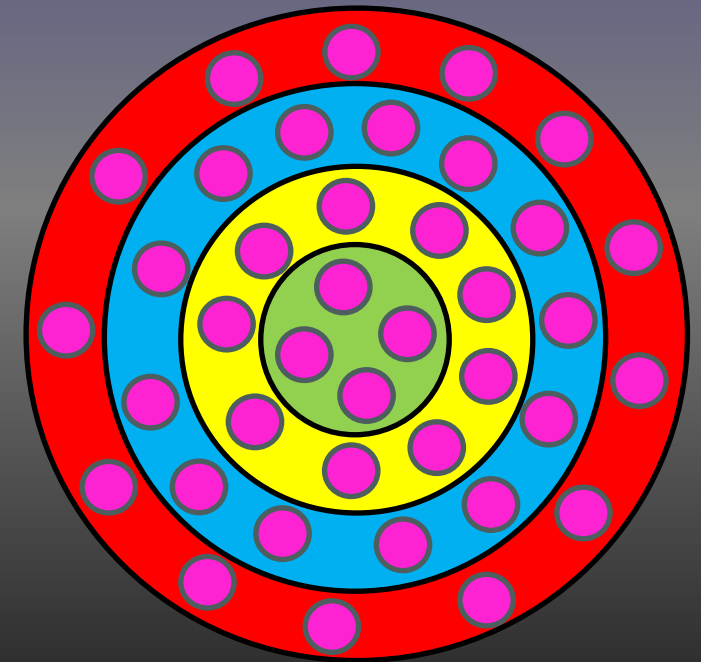
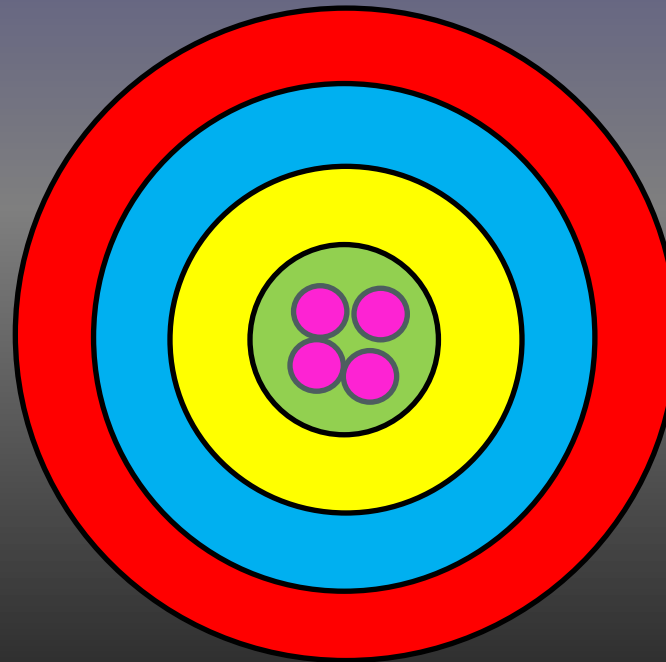
AKA

Quantity

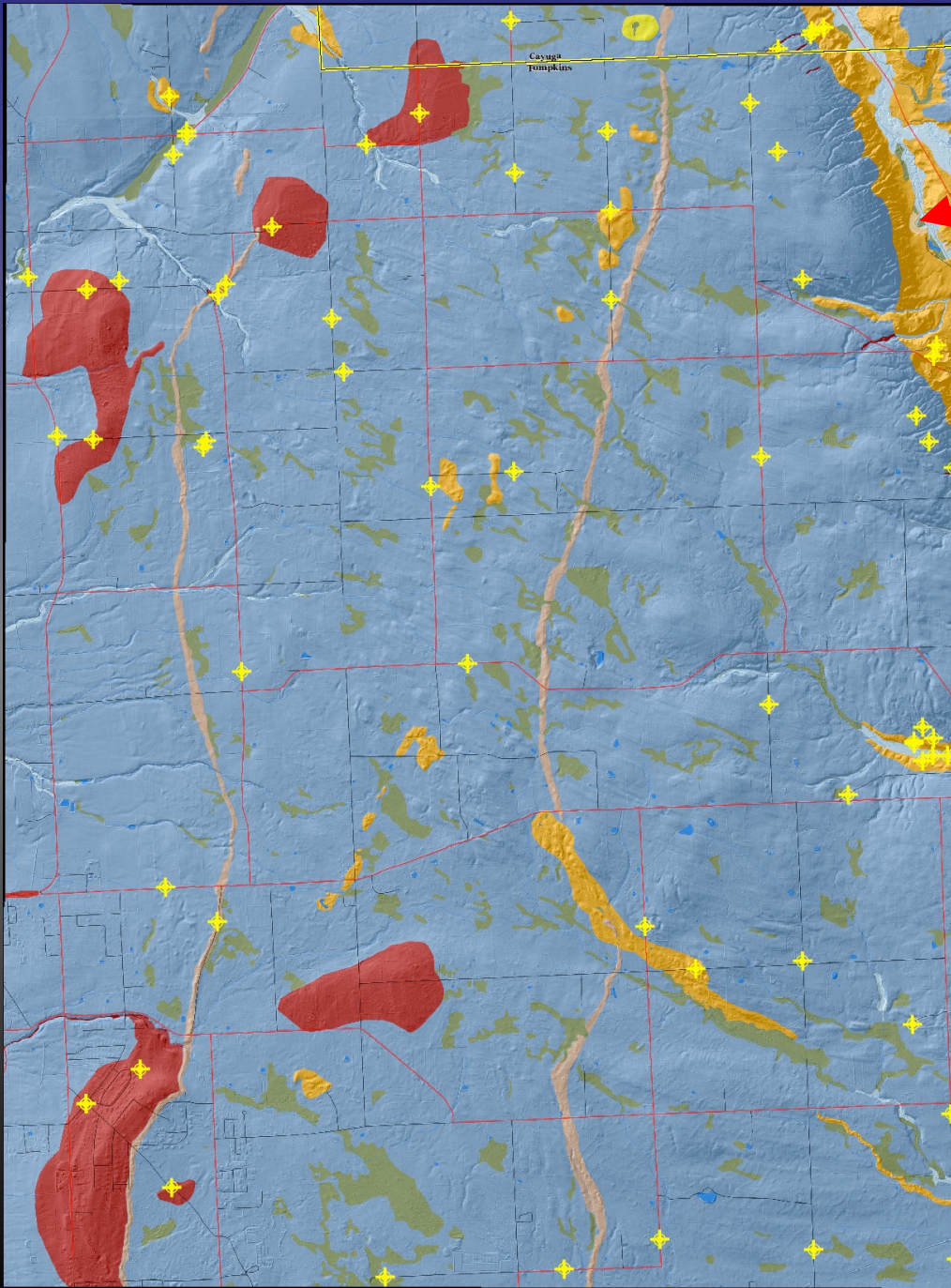
Precision



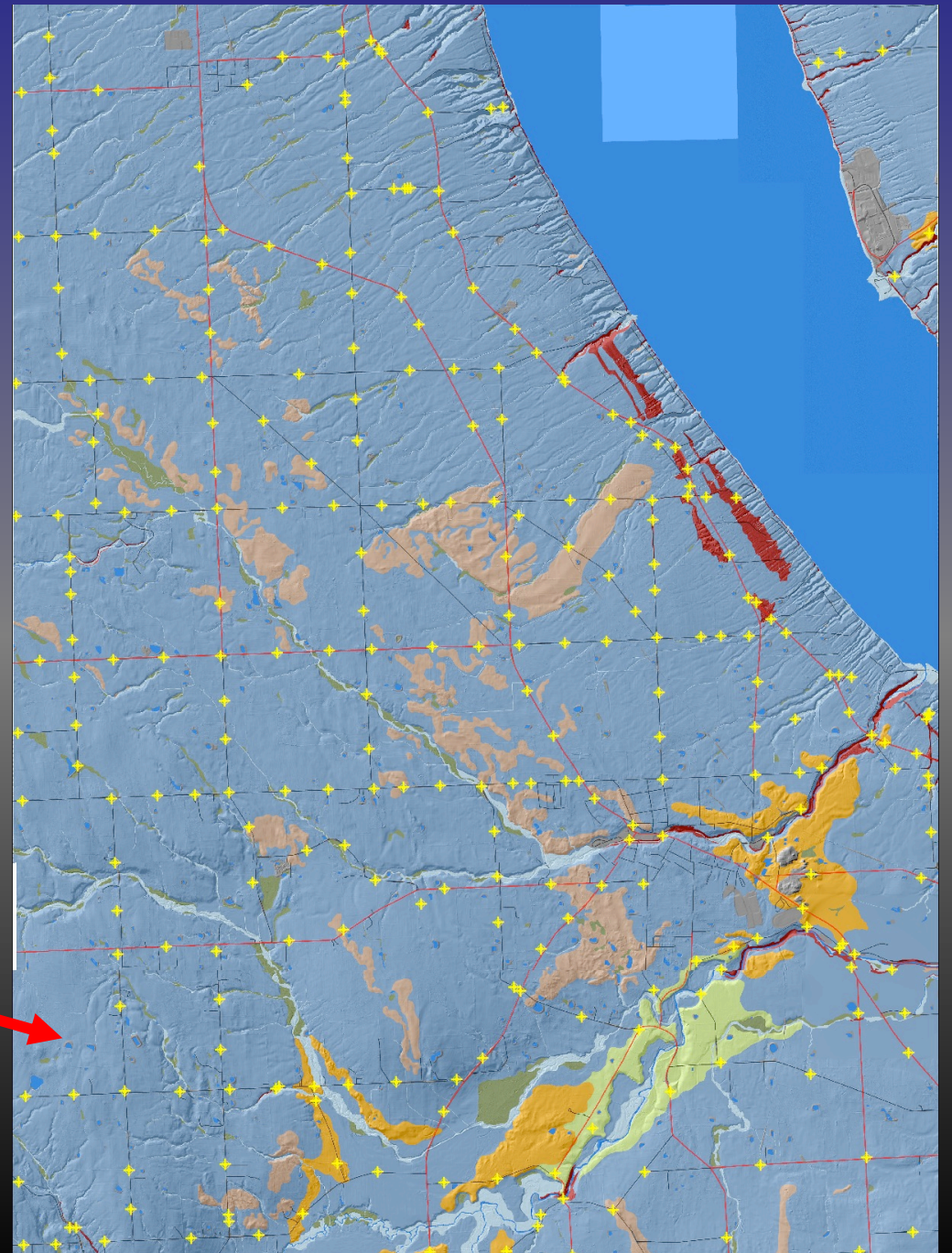
Accuracy



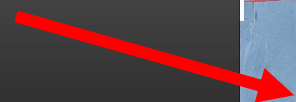




Before



After





# Geologic Mapping Schema (GeMS)

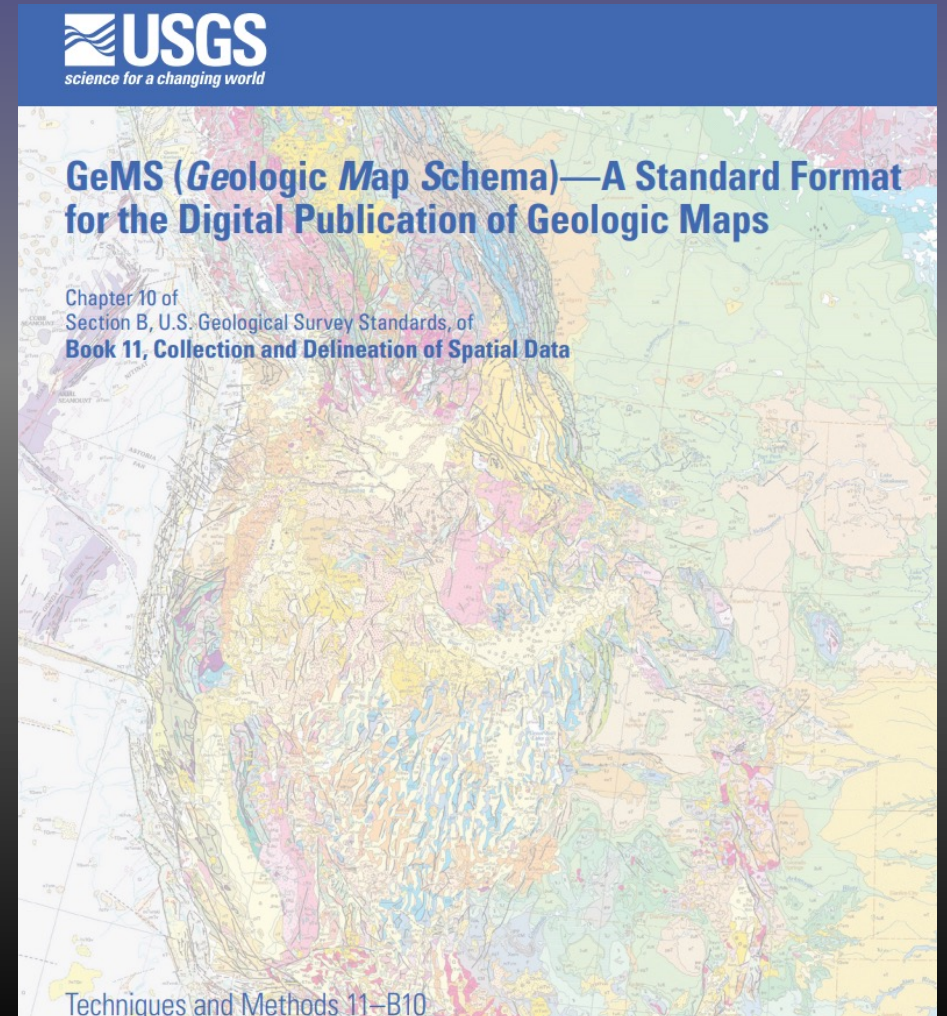
Started in 2009 as **NCGMP09**

Continued development and renamed

First set of true nationwide, NCGMP funded GIS standards for deliverables

Standards for:

- 1). Polygons, Polylines, Points
- 2). Metadata
- 3). Database files
- 4). Deliverable directories, folders and images



# How to these coalesce?

## SuMP is the field mapping component

Standards for field work and data logging for all mapping projects conducted by the NYSGS

Data standards allow for fluid transitions from one geologist to the next

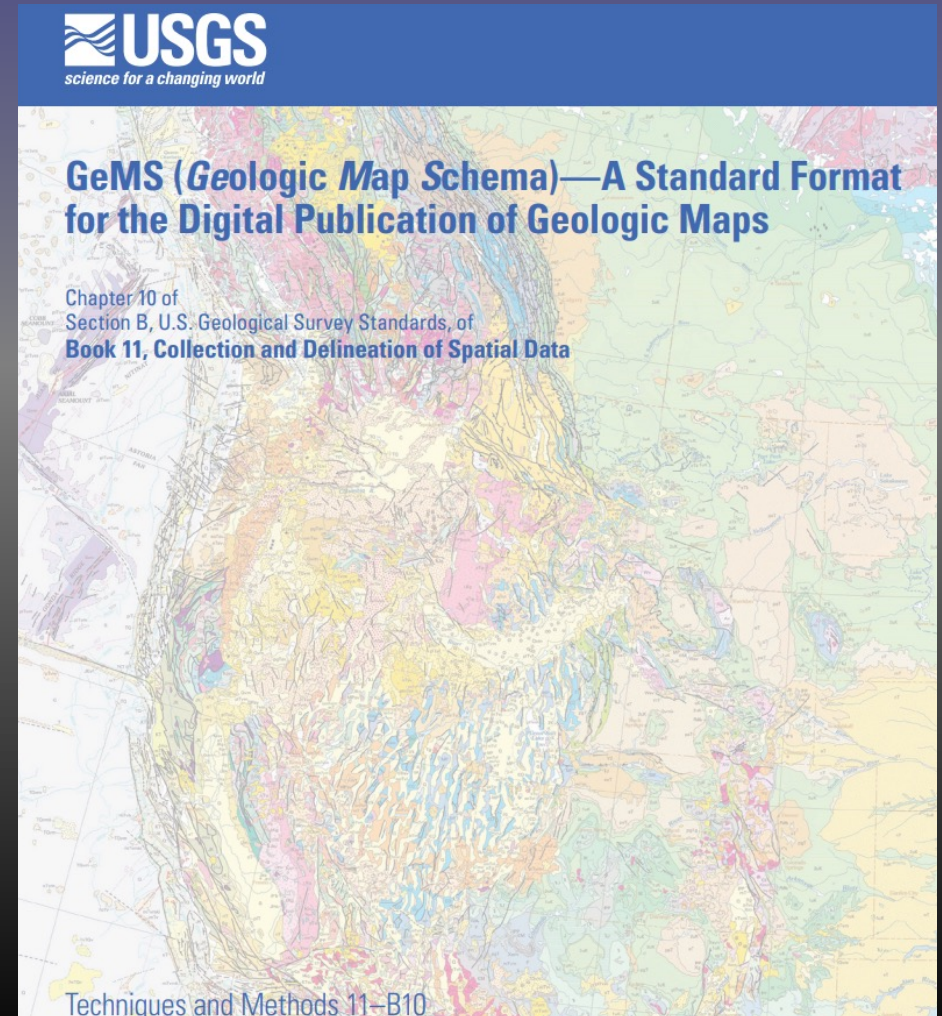
Allows for ease of use for cartography and large-scale mapping projects

## GeMS is for the office

Cartographic and GIS standards for all mapping products produced by NYSGS for the USGS

Data standards allow for workflow development for ease of use and compilation for large projects.

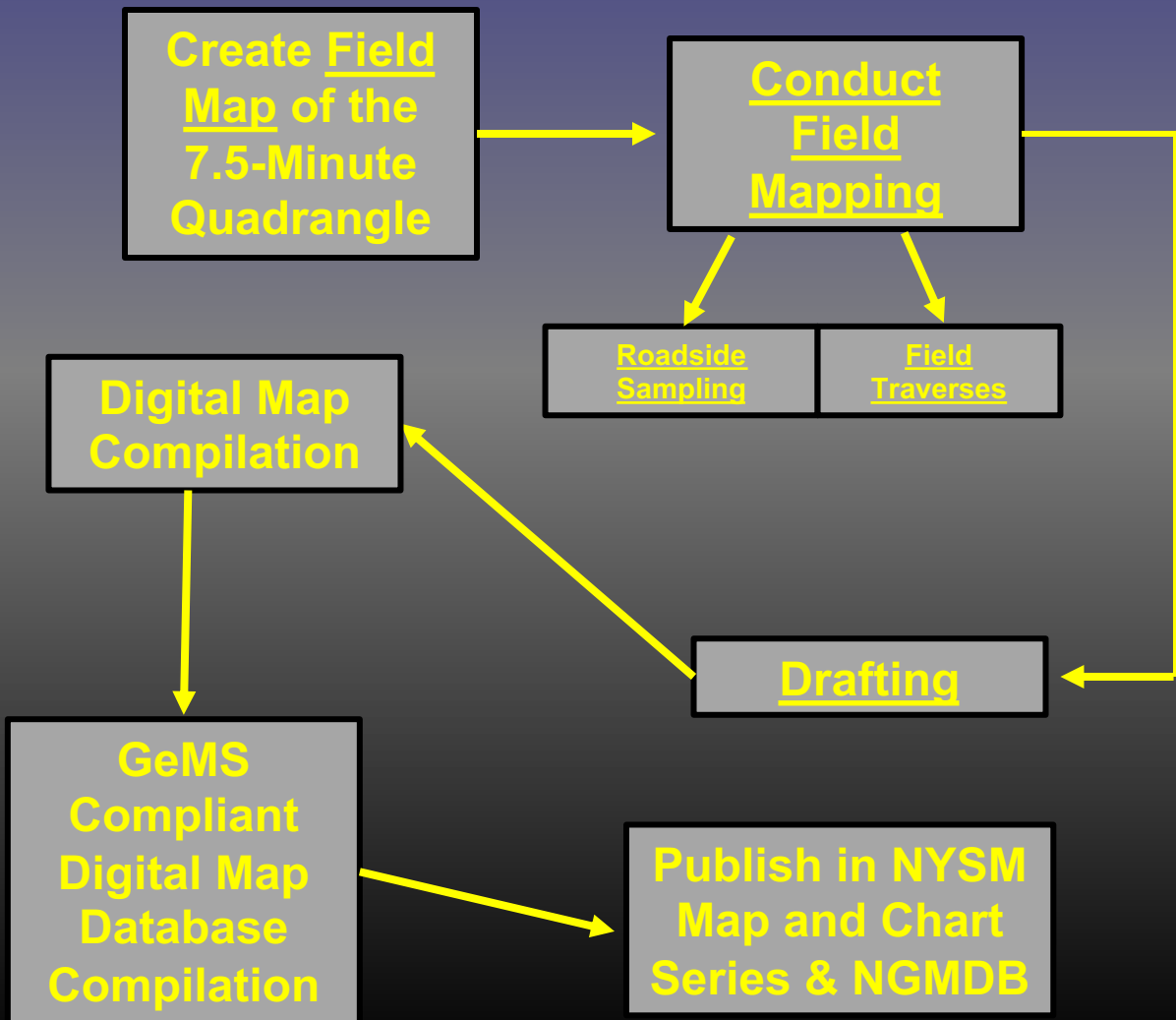
Allows for ease of use for cartography and large-scale mapping projects (sounds familiar!)



**What is our workflow for conducting geologic mapping?**



# Process of Geologic Mapping



The background features a geologic map titled 'SURFICIAL GEOLOGY OF THE PORT L LEWIS AND ONEIDA CO' by Karl J. Backhaus and 2022. To the right is a file directory tree for a project named 'NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1'. The tree includes folders for 'Submittal', 'database', and 'shapefile', along with various data files and metadata. To the far right is a 'MINUTE QUADRANGLE, EW YORK' document with a 'DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS' section and a 'CROSS-SECTION A-A'' diagram.

**File Directory Tree:**

- NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1\_Submittal
  - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1
    - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_database
      - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1.gdb
        - GeologicMap
          - CartographicLines
          - ContactsAndFaults
          - GeologicLines
          - MapUnitPolys
          - Stations
        - DataSources
        - DescriptionOfMapUnits
        - GeoMaterialDict
        - Glossary
      - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1.mxd
      - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_shapefile
        - DataSources.csv
        - DataSources.txt
        - DescriptionOfMapUnits.csv
        - DescriptionOfMapUnits.txt
        - GeoMaterialDict.csv
        - GeoMaterialDict.txt
        - Glossary.csv
        - Glossary.txt
        - GM\_CartographicLines.shp
        - GM\_ContactsAndFaults.shp
        - GM\_GeologicLines.shp
        - GM\_MapUnitPolys.shp
        - GM\_Stations.shp
        - logfile.txt
      - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1.jpg
      - NY\_2022\_PortLeyden\_1-metadata.xml
      - PortLeyden\_namescheck.xlsx

**MINUTE QUADRANGLE, EW YORK**

# Award Number G22AC0029

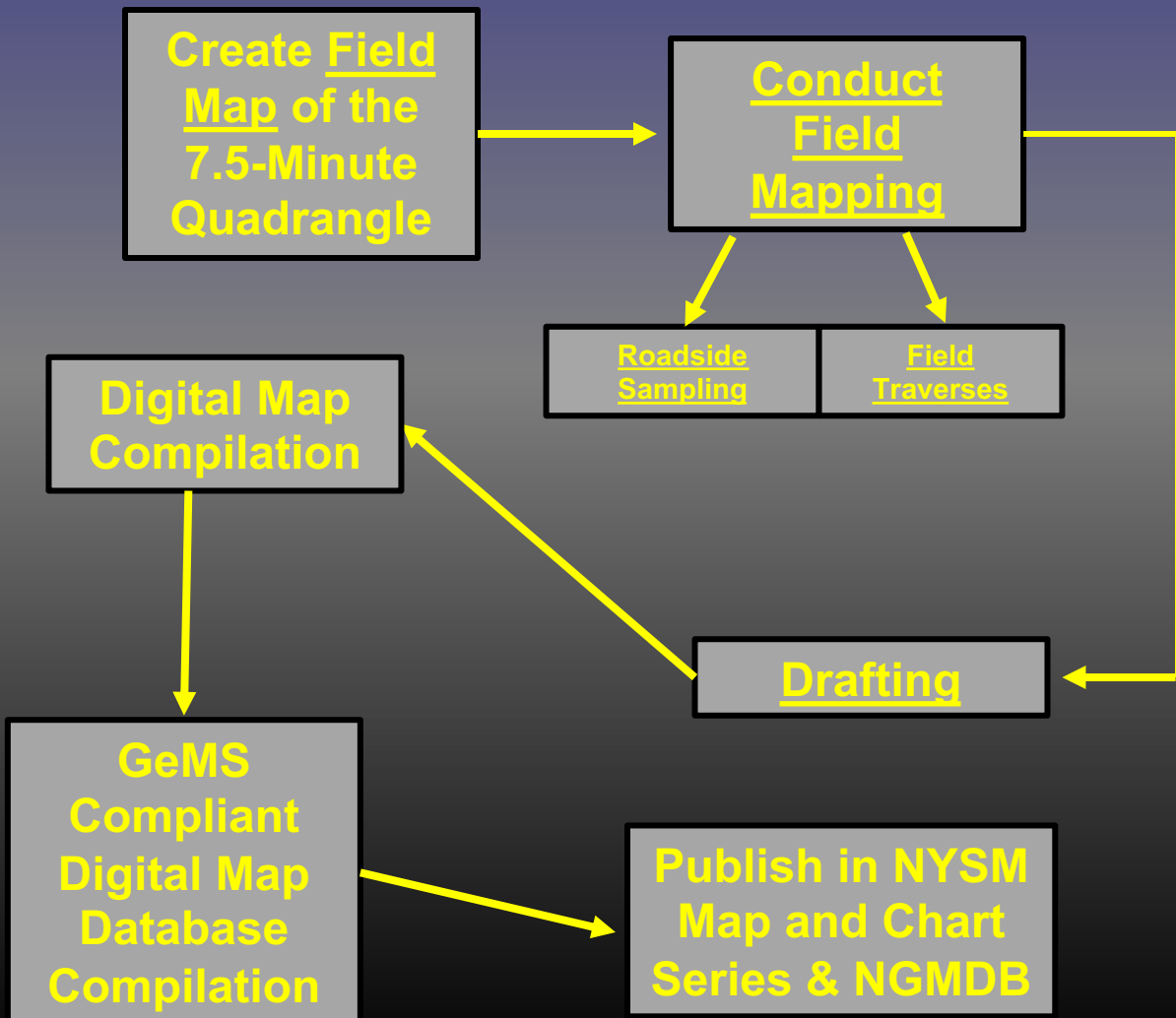
**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

Cross-section A-A' and Quadrangle Elevation diagrams are also visible.

11/14/2020

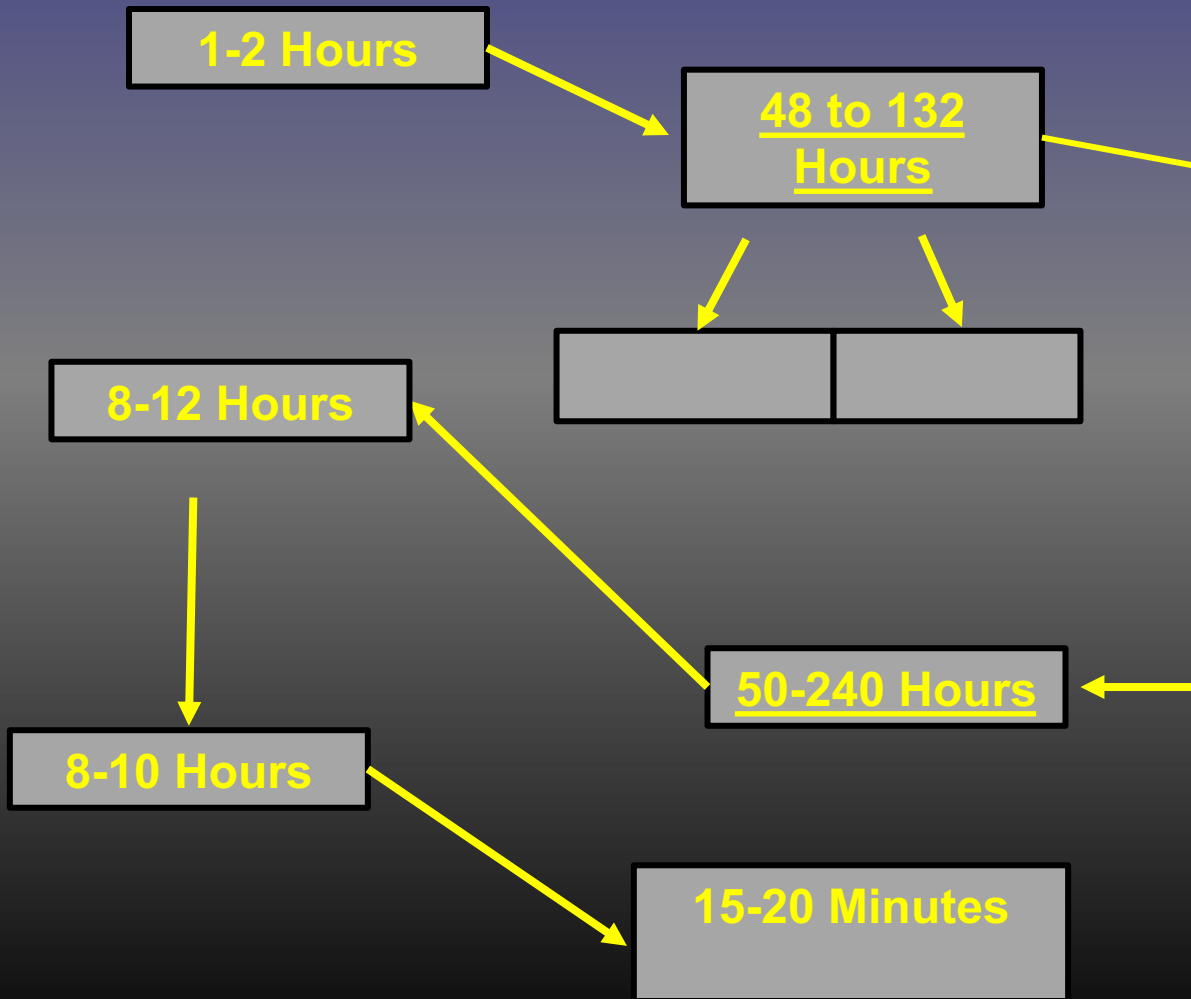


# Process of Geologic Mapping



The screenshot shows the USGS AASG National Geologic Map Database Product Description Page for the 'Surficial Geology of the Port Leyden 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Lewis and Oneida Counties, New York'. The page includes a navigation menu with options like Home, Catalog, Lexicon, MapView, TopoView, New Mapping, Geochronology, Standards, and Comments. The main content area provides general information about the map, including the title, author(s) (Backhaus, K.J., and Forng, H.M.), publishing organization (New York State Geological Survey), series and number (Map and Chart Series 175), larger work (Lewis County Surficial Geologic Mapping Project), publication date (2023), map scale (1:24,000), cross section (Yes), and coordinates (North Latitude: 43° 37' 30" N (43.6250), South Latitude: 43° 30' 0" N (43.5000), East Longitude: 75° 15' 0" W (-75.2500), West Longitude: 75° 22' 30" W (-75.3750)). A map preview is shown, along with a list of download options: Print Optimized PDF (N/A), Compressed TIFF (N/A), Browse Graphic (N/A), and Google Earth KMZ (N/A). A note at the bottom states: 'NOTE: Images shown may not constitute the entire publication; see below for publisher links.'

# Timing of the Process of Geologic Mapping



Surficial Geology of the Port  
Leyden 7.5-Minute Quadrangle:

Field Map Creation: 2 hours

Field Work: 72 Hours

Drafting: 240 Hours

Final Map Compilation: 5 Hours

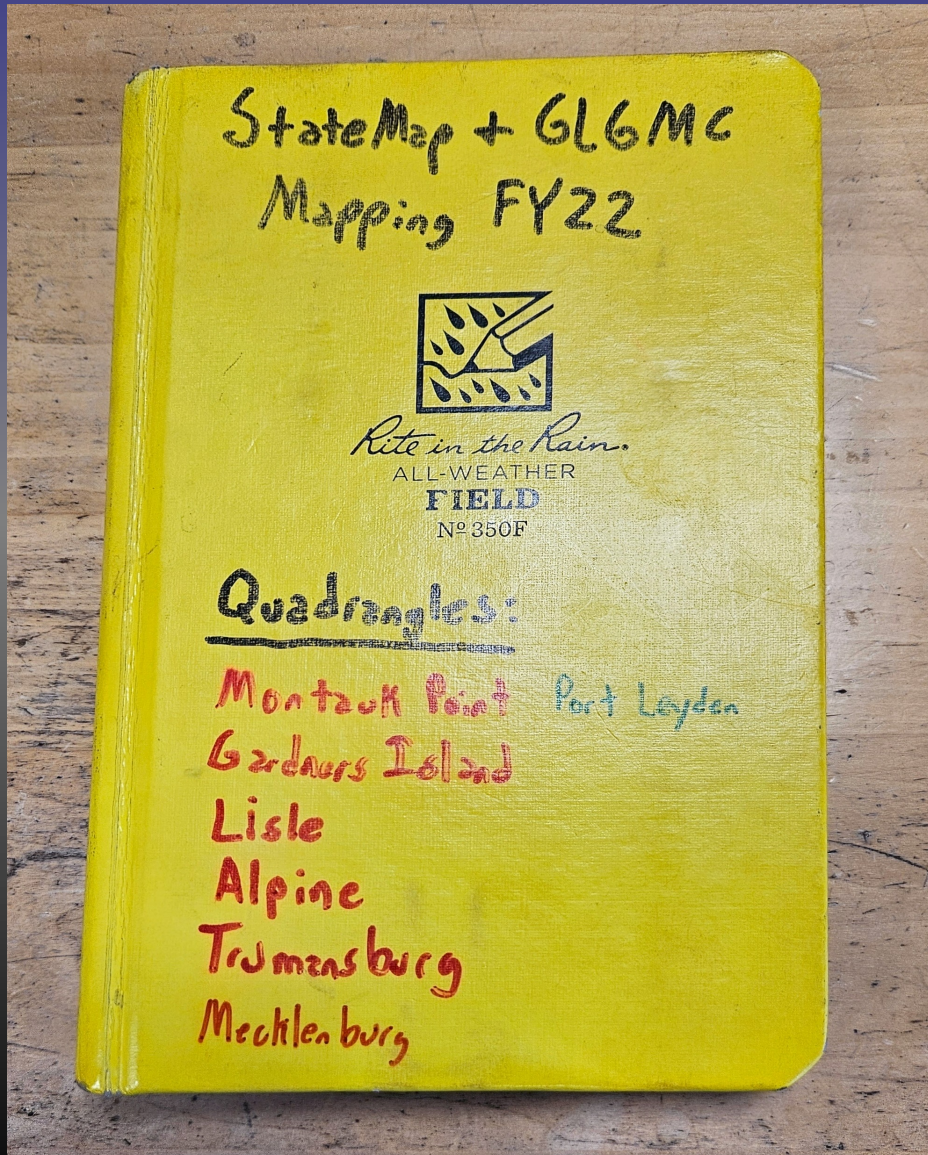
GeMS Compilation: 6 hours

Publishing: 10 Minutes

Total: 325.6 Hours



# Start to finish through SMS and GeMS



## 1). Field Work

GeMS Final Geodatabase



MapUnitPolys	required
OrientationPoints	as-needed
OverlayPolys	as-needed
Stations	as-needed
DataSources	required
DescriptionOfMapUnits	required
GeoMaterialDict	required
Glossary	required
MiscellaneousMapInformation	optional
RepurposedSymbols	as-needed
StandardLithology	optional



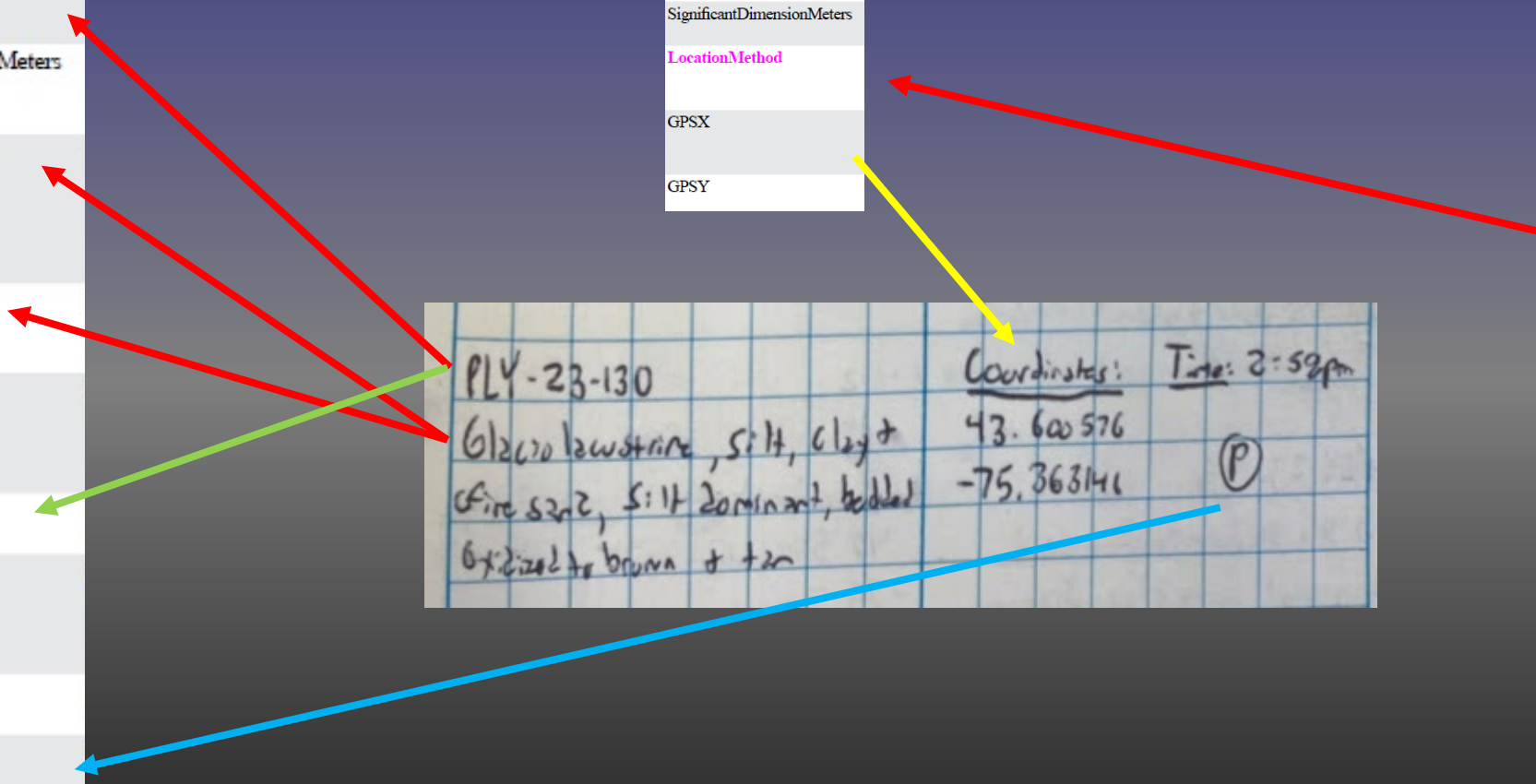
# Start to finish through SMS and GeMS

[See also, tables 20, 21, 25]

Field name
FieldID
LocationConfidenceMeters
ObservedMapUnit
MapUnit
Symbol
Label
PlotAtScale
DataSourceID
Notes
Stations_ID

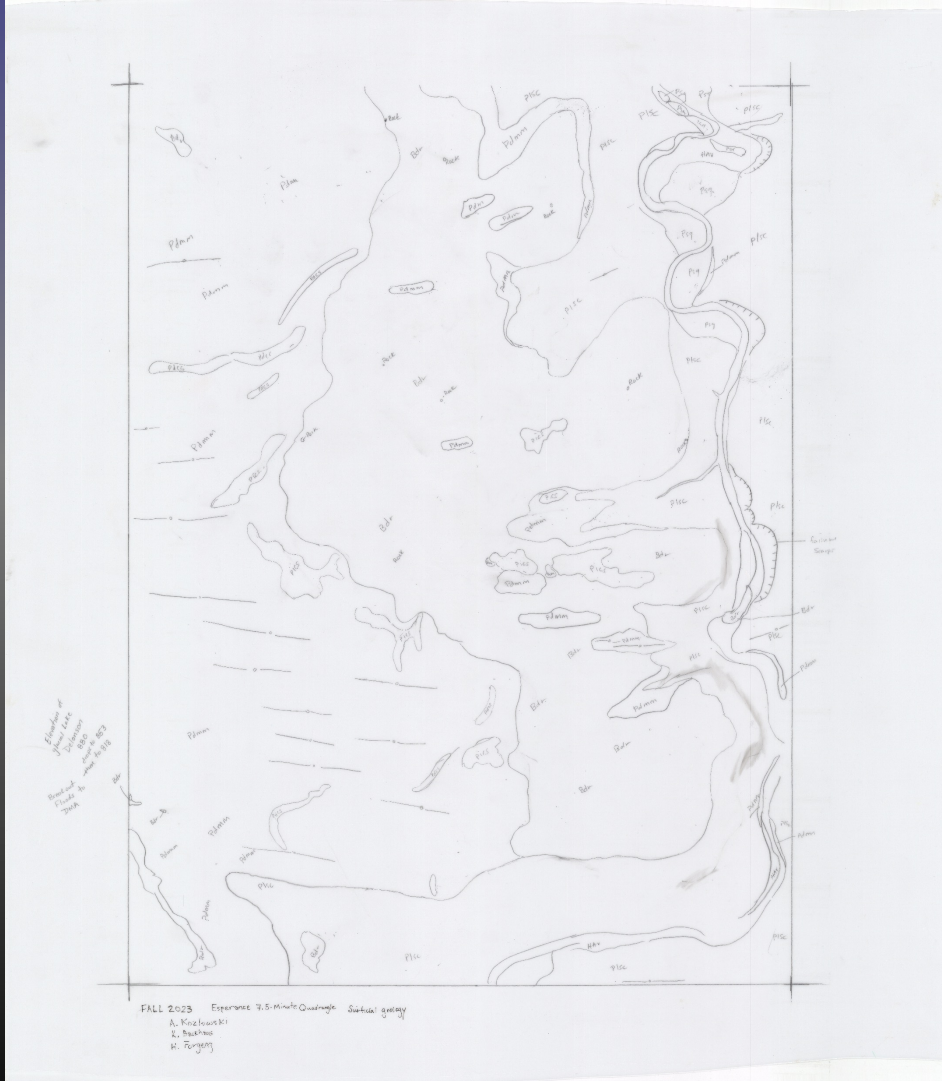
TimeDate
Observer
SignificantDimensionMeters
LocationMethod
GPSX
GPSY

PLY-23-130	Coordinates:	Time: 2:52pm
6120 lowstrata, silt, clay +	43.600576	
cfire silt, silt dominant, bedded	-75.363146	(P)
oxidized to brown + tan		





# Start to finish through SMS and GeMS



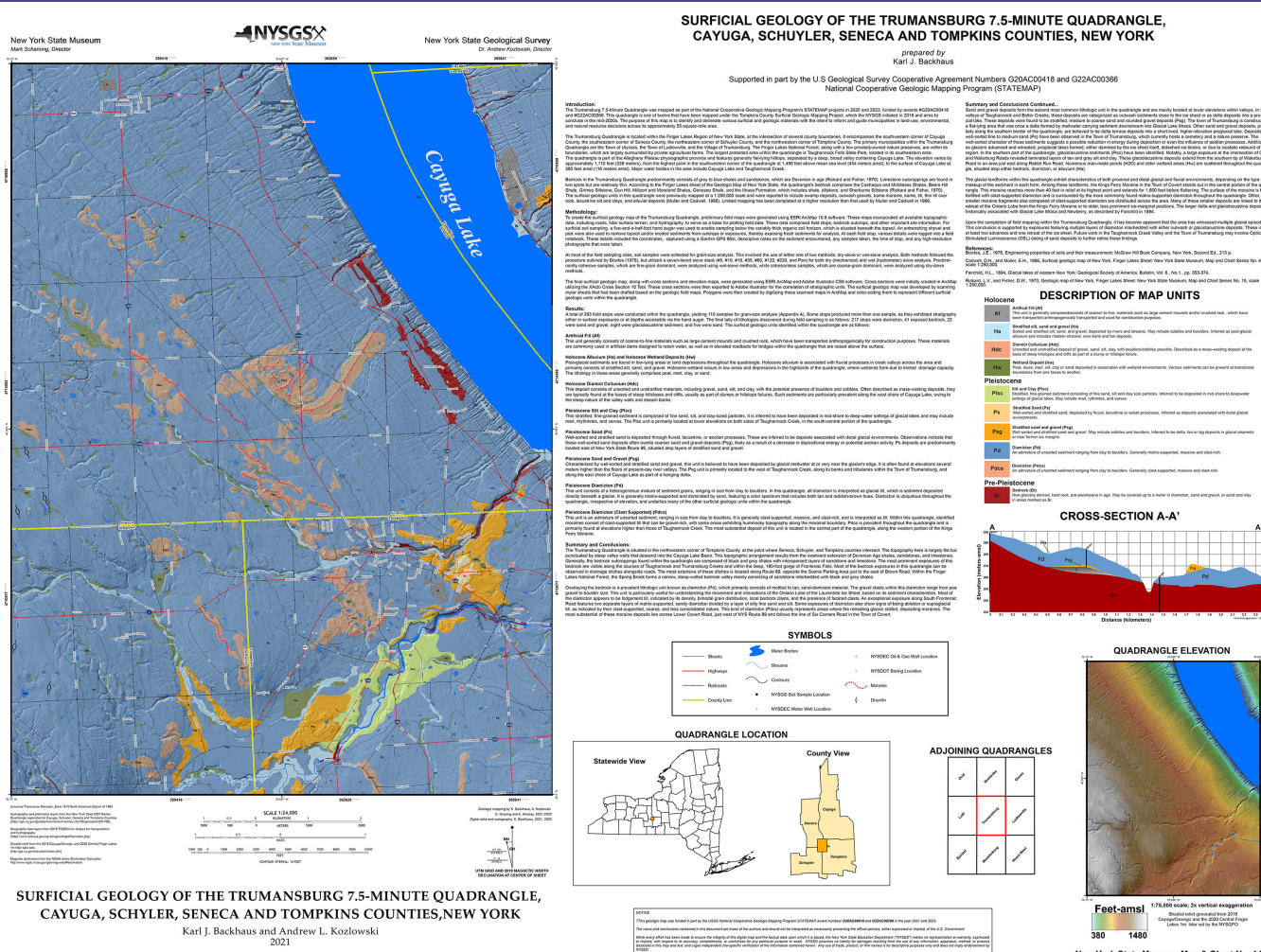
1). Field Work

2). Drafting

GeMS Final Geodatabase		
example.gdb		
CorrelationOfMapUnits		optional
CMULines		optional
CMUMapUnitPolys		optional
CMUPoints		optional
CrossSectionA		optional
CSAContactsAndFaults		optional
CSAMapUnitPolys		optional
CSAOrientationPoints		optional
GeologicMap		<b>required</b>
CartographicLines		as-needed
ContactsAndFaults		<b>required</b>
DataSourcePolys		as-needed
FossilPoints		as-needed
GenericPoints		as-needed
GeochronPoints		as-needed
GeologicLines		as-needed
MapUnitLines		as-needed
MapUnitOverlayPolys		as-needed
MapUnitPoints		as-needed
MapUnitPolys		<b>required</b>
OrientationPoints		as-needed
OverlayPolys		as-needed
Stations		as-needed
DataSources		<b>required</b>
DescriptionOfMapUnits		<b>required</b>
GeoMaterialDict		<b>required</b>
Glossary		<b>required</b>
MiscellaneousMapInformation		optional
RepurposedSymbols		as-needed
StandardLithology		optional

# Start to finish through SMS and GeMS

## GeMS Final Geodatabase



### 3). Digitization

- example.gdb
- CorrelationOfMapUnits optional
- CMULines optional
- CMUMapUnitPolys optional
- CMUPoints optional
- CrossSectionA optional
- CSAContactsAndFaults optional
- CSAMapUnitPolys optional
- CSAOrientationPoints optional
- GeologicMap required
- CartographicLines as-needed
- ContactsAndFaults required
- DataSourcePolys as-needed
- FossilPoints as-needed
- GenericPoints as-needed
- GeochronPoints as-needed
- GeologicLines as-needed
- MapUnitLines as-needed
- MapUnitOverlayPolys as-needed
- MapUnitPoints as-needed
- MapUnitPolys required
- OrientationPoints as-needed
- OverlayPolys as-needed
- Stations as-needed
- DataSources required
- DescriptionOfMapUnits required
- GeoMaterialDict required
- Glossary required
- MiscellaneousMapInformation optional
- RepurposedSymbols as-needed
- StandardLithology optional



# Start to finish through SMS and GeMS

- GeologicMap
  - CartographicLines
    - · Cross-Section Line
  - GeologicLines
    - Type
      - Drumlin
      - << Esker
      - Moraine
  - ContactsAndFaults
    - Type
      - contact
      - map boundary
      - waterline
  - MapUnitPolys
    - MapUnit
      - Af
      - Br
      - Ha
      - Hdc
      - Hw
      - Pd
      - Pdcs
      - Pics
      - Plsc
      - Psg
      - h2o
- DataSources
- DescriptionOfMapUnits
- Glossary

4). Database Compilation

3). Digitization

2). Drafting

1). Field Work

## GeMS Final Geodatabase

example.gdb

- GeologicMap
  - CartographicLines **as-needed**
  - ContactsAndFaults **required**
- GenericPoints **as-needed**
- GeochronPoints **as-needed**
- GeologicLines **as-needed**
- MapUnitPoints **as-needed**
- MapUnitPolys **required**
- OrientationPoints **as-needed**
- Stations **as-needed**
- DataSources **required**
- DescriptionOfMapUnits **required**
- GeoMaterialDict **required**
- Glossary **required**

# Start to finish through SMS and GeMS

5). Final Project Folder

4). Database Compilation

3). Digitization

2). Drafting

1). Field Work

## GeMS Final Geodatabase

The screenshot displays a file explorer view of a geodatabase named 'example.gdb'. It contains several folders and data sources with their respective dependency statuses:

Item	Dependency Status
GeologicMap	required
CartographicLines	as-needed
ContactsAndFaults	required
GenericPoints	as-needed
GeochronPoints	as-needed
GeologicLines	as-needed
MapUnitPoints	as-needed
MapUnitPolys	required
OrientationPoints	as-needed
Stations	as-needed
DataSources	required
DescriptionOfMapUnits	required
GeoMaterialDict	required
Glossary	required



# Final GeMS Submittal Folder Tree

NY\_2022\_Callicoon\_1\_Submittal

NY\_2022\_Callicoon\_1  
Callicoon\_namescheck.xlsx  
Callicoon\_Surfacial\_FY22\_GeMS.gdb-Valid...  
Callicoon\_Surfacial\_FY22\_GeMS.gdb-Valid...  
NY\_2022\_Callicoon\_1\_TransmittalLetter\_....  
NY\_2022\_Callicoon\_GeMS\_checklist.pdf

NY\_2022\_Callicoon\_1 - database  
NY\_2022\_Callicoon\_1 - shapefile  
Callicoon\_Surfacial\_FY22\_GeMS-metadat...  
MC112\_Callicoon.jpg  
MC112\_Callicoon.pdf

Callicoon\_Surfacial\_FY22\_GeMS.gdb  
resources  
MC112\_Callicoon.mxd

DataSources.csv  
DataSources.csv.xml  
DataSources.txt  
DescriptionOfMapUnits.csv  
DescriptionOfMapUnits.csv.xml  
DescriptionOfMapUnits.txt  
GeoMaterialDict.csv  
GeoMaterialDict.csv.xml  
GeoMaterialDict.txt  
Glossary.csv  
Glossary.csv.xml  
Glossary.txt  
GM\_CartographicLines.cpg  
GM\_CartographicLines.dbf  
GM\_CartographicLines.prj  
GM\_CartographicLines.sbn  
GM\_CartographicLines.sbx  
GM\_CartographicLines.shp  
GM\_CartographicLines.shp.xml  
GM\_CartographicLines.shx  
GM\_ContactsAndFaults.cpg  
GM\_ContactsAndFaults.dbf  
GM\_ContactsAndFaults.prj  
GM\_ContactsAndFaults.sbn  
GM\_ContactsAndFaults.sbx  
GM\_ContactsAndFaults.shp

00log.txt  
a000000a.gdbindexes  
a000000a.gdbtable  
a000000a.gdbtblx  
a000000a.spx  
a000000b.gdbindexes  
a000000b.gdbtable  
a000000b.gdbtblx  
a000000b.spx  
a000000c.freelist  
a000000c.gdbindexes  
a000000c.gdbtable  
a000000c.gdbtblx  
a000000c.spx  
a000000d.gdbindexes  
a000000d.gdbtable  
a000000d.gdbtblx  
a000000d.freelist  
a000000e.gdbindexes  
a000000e.gdbtable  
a000000e.gdbtblx  
a000000f.freelist

NYSGS21.ldb  
NYSGS21.style



# DRIFT THICKNESS OF WAYNE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Karl J. Backhaus  
2023

## Introduction

Beginning in 2019, under the guidance and funding provided by the United States Geological Survey - Great Lakes Geological Mapping Coalition (award G20AC00401), the New York State Museum - Geological Survey began a statewide effort to conduct geologic mapping of bedrock elevations throughout New York. Wayne County, of western New York, lies entirely in the Erie-Ontario Lowlands physiographic province. The county is surrounded by four adjacent counties: Cayuga, Monroe, Ontario and Seneca. Wayne County is also located along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Surficial and subsurface bedrock point data and maps were compiled from publicly available sources, vetted, and organized into a comprehensive geospatial database. A technical workflow was developed to categorize the overall geology and differentiate between the underlying bedrock and overlying unconsolidated sediments. The resulting bedrock elevation map provides a detailed representation of bedrock topography across Wayne County. This map is useful for various applications, including geological studies, engineering and construction, natural resource management (such as water or mineral resources), and environmental studies.

## Methodology

A total of 827 bedrock control points were used to delineate bedrock topography in Wayne County. These points consisted of 782 water wells, 13 engineering boreholes, 12 exploratory boreholes, 11 bedrock field stops, six known bedrock outcrops and three oil and gas wells. These data were compiled from a variety of public sources and imported into ESRI's ArcMap 10.8 software platform. Ground surface elevations for all control points were extracted from a compilation of three separate digital elevation models (DEM) which were resampled to match a 1-meter LIDAR DEM cell size. Bedrock elevations were calculated at each location by subtracting the depth-to-bedrock from the ground surface elevation. 50-foot bedrock elevation contours were auto-generated and manually refined through a multi-step quality control process to resolve any interpolation errors. The finalized contours were converted into a 1-meter raster, using the "Topo to Raster" tool, that represents county-wide bedrock topography. Lastly, the "Raster Calculator" tool is used to subtract the surface elevation from the bedrock elevation to determine the thickness of the drift in the county.

## Summary

The New York State Museum - Geological Survey has developed a detailed Drift Thickness Map for Wayne County. This map represents a compilation of various surficial and subsurface bedrock data sources, analytical methods, and quality control procedures. The resulting bedrock elevations reveal a range of distinct geological features including a variety of Paleozoic bedrock erosional profiles, and evidence of past glaciation. These characteristics are likely the result of a variety of functions including bedrock stratigraphy, structural deformation, and erosional processes such as past glaciation and fluvial geomorphology. This map is significant for applications in geological research, engineering, natural resource management, and environmental studies. Continued research and work on subsurface geology will provide additional data and insight and enhance the geologic framework of bedrock geology throughout New York State.

## Explanation

- Data Point
- 50ft Drift Thickness Contour
- 100ft Drift Thickness Contour
- Highway
- Wayne County Line
- Adjacent County
- Water Body

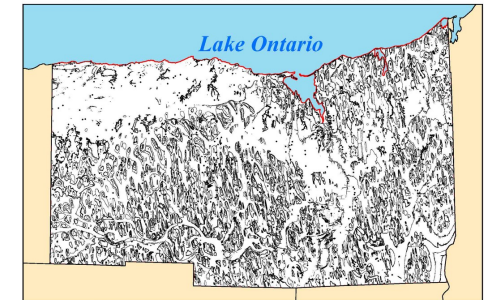
## Drift Thickness

### Feet Thick

- 0 - 20
- 20 - 40
- 40 - 60
- 60 - 80
- 80 - 100
- 100 - 120
- 120 - 140
- 140 - 160
- 160 - 180
- 180 - 200
- 200 - 220
- 220 - 240
- 240 - 260
- 260 - 280
- 280 - 320

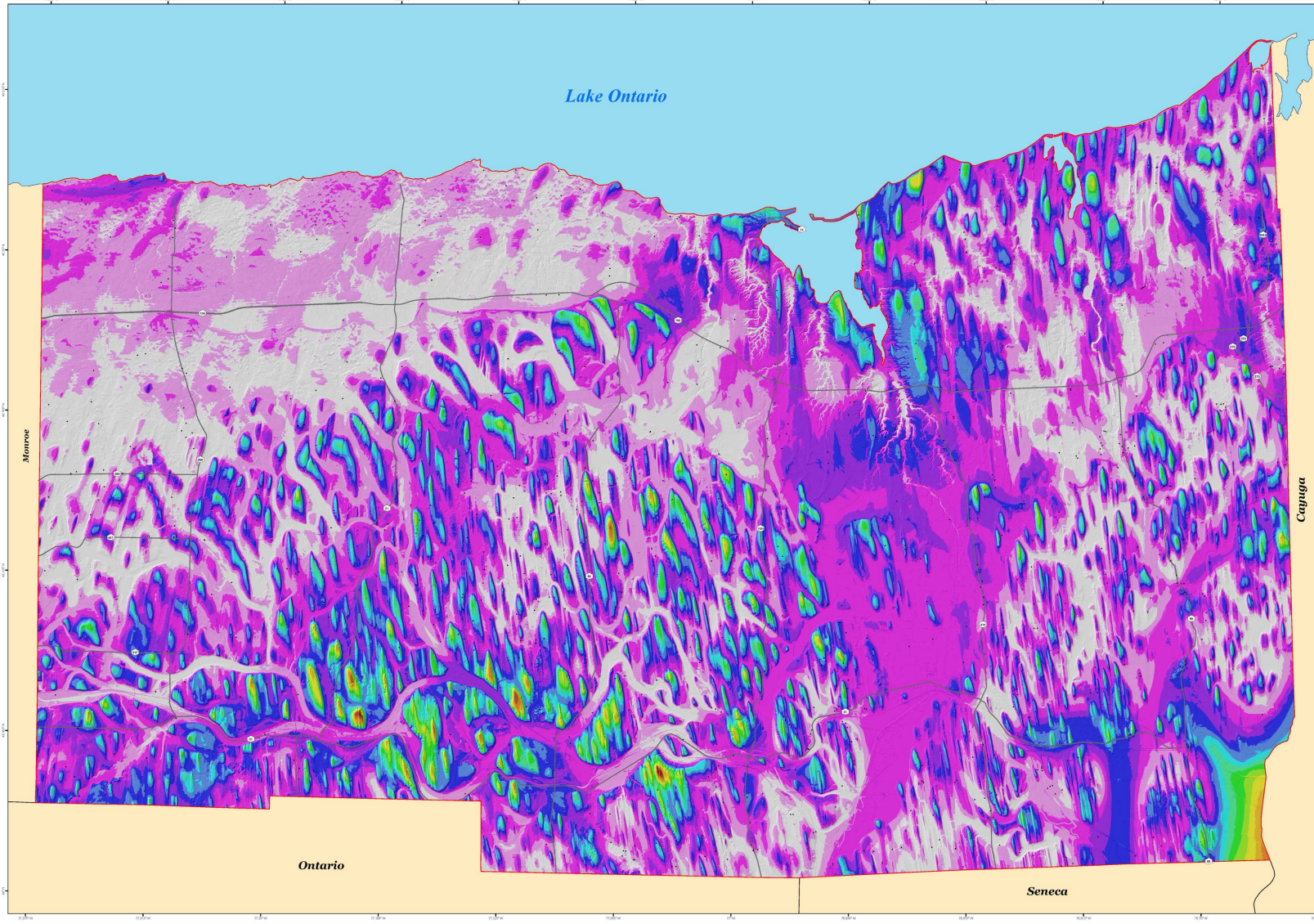


## DRIFT THICKNESS CONTOUR MAP



New York State Museum Map & Chart No. 167  
ISSN: 0097-3793 ; ISBN: 978-1-55557-421-5

New York State Museum Map & Chart No. 193  
ISSN: 0097-3793 ; ISBN: 978-1-55557-447-5



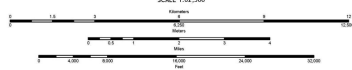
Digital Data and Cartography by K. Backhaus and B. Bird, 2016-22

Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18 N North American Datum of 1983

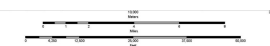
Geographic area and topography data obtained from the NYSGS Clearinghouse (<http://nysgs.ny.gov/>)

Shaded relief from Seneca Watershed 2m, Great Lakes Oswego 1m, and Cayuga/Oswego Counties 1m lidar data sets by NYSGS (<http://nysgs.ny.gov/elevation/index.cfm>)

SCALE 1:62,500



Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18 N North American Datum of 1983  
Geographic area obtained from the NYSGS Clearinghouse (<http://nysgs.ny.gov/>)



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# Map and Chart Series Today

Over 180 published maps to date from #1 to #232

45 in the past year!

## Most recent update:

- 20 county bedrock topography and drift thickness maps
- Two Surficial 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps
- Some unpublished maps are undergoing refinement

## Undergoing Final Review:

Ten more county Bedrock Topography and Drift Thickness maps

Bedrock Geology of the White Plains 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Westchester County, New York by *Leo M. Hall*

Surficial Geology of the Altamont 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Albany and Schenectady Counties, New York by *Sean P. Grasing*

Glacial Landforms of Cayuga County, New York by *Andrew L. Kozlowski, Karl J. Backhaus and Brian C. Bird*

**Questions?**

**Thank you!**