## The Valley of Turtle Cove Cross-Section Diagram

leaving deposits on the valley floors. A grassland environment dominated, with about 15 to 20 inches of rain per year.

PGB Middle Mountain B B Sheep Rock E Rattlesnake Mountain John Day Goose Rock South South Day South South Day South South South South Day South South

**GOOSE ROCK -**

These former ocean bottom deposits were formed a few dozen miles off the continental coastline when most of Oregon was under water. Well-rounded and diverse rocks in the matrix of Goose Rock suggest the source of the deposits as a large river emptying into the ocean about 90 million years ago.

CLARNO GROUP -

These layers were formed 54 to 37 million years ago from ash fall, mudflows, and lava deposits from local volcanic sources. A near-tropical forest, with many vines, covered the land during this warm time period. Rainfall may have been as much 100 inches per year.

JOHN DAY GROUP These layers were formed
primarily from ashfalls from
the Ancestral Cascade
Mountains from 39 to 18
million years ago. The
temperate climate contained
deciduous hardwood forests
covering the land. Grasses
made their appearance late
during this period. Rainfall
might have been about 40
inches per year.

PICTURE GORGE BASALT (PGB) GROUP - The 17 layers in the gorge are part of the massive Columbia River Flood Basalts formation. The Picture Gorge Basalt Group issued as lava floods from extensive cracks in the earth about 16 million years ago. They cover an area of about 2,500 square miles.

MASCALL FORMATION These layers are ashfall
from volcanoes to the
east, south, and west,
active about 15 to 12
million years ago. The
climate was dryer than
before, with about 25
inches of rain per year.
Savannas dominated
the area.

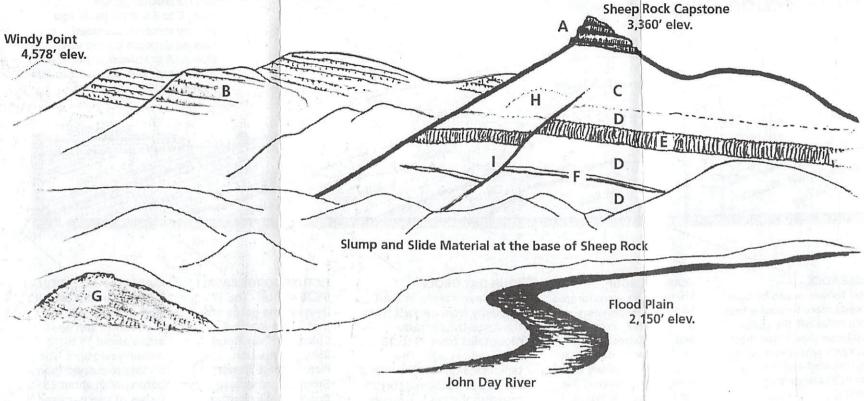
**RATTLESNAKE GROUP -**

From 8 to 6 million years ago nearby mountains eroded,

- A. Location of Blue Basin (with hiking trails)
- B. Massive fault lines running east-west for dozens of miles, separating block faults
- C. Location of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center and James Cant Ranch

- D. Picture Gorge, carved by the John Day River and Rock Creek
- E. Flat mesa topped by the Rattlesnake Ignimbrite layer (with radio antenna)
- F. Location of Mascall Formation Overlook

## SHEEP ROCK DIAGRAM



- A. Sheep Rock capstone remnant of Picture Gorge Basalts layers, 16 million years in age (mya)
- B. Ridgelines topped by Picture Gorge Basalt layers, lava floods 16 mya, originally horizontal.
- C. Tan and pink claystones of the Kimberly Formation, 25 to 28 mya.
- D. Green claystones of the Turtle Cove Formation, 28 to 33 mya.
- E. Brownish Picture Gorge Ignimbrite layer, superheated pyroclastic flow, 28.7 mya.
- F. Whiteish Blue Basin Tuff layer, heated ashfall deposit, 28.9 mya.
- G. Red claystones of the Big Basin Formation, 33 mya and older.
- H. Curved line with pink claystones below indicate an erosional unconformity, early deposits that eroded into a hill and the hill covered by later deposits.
- I. Small fault line running diagonally through the peak; note the disconnected layers on each side of the fault line.