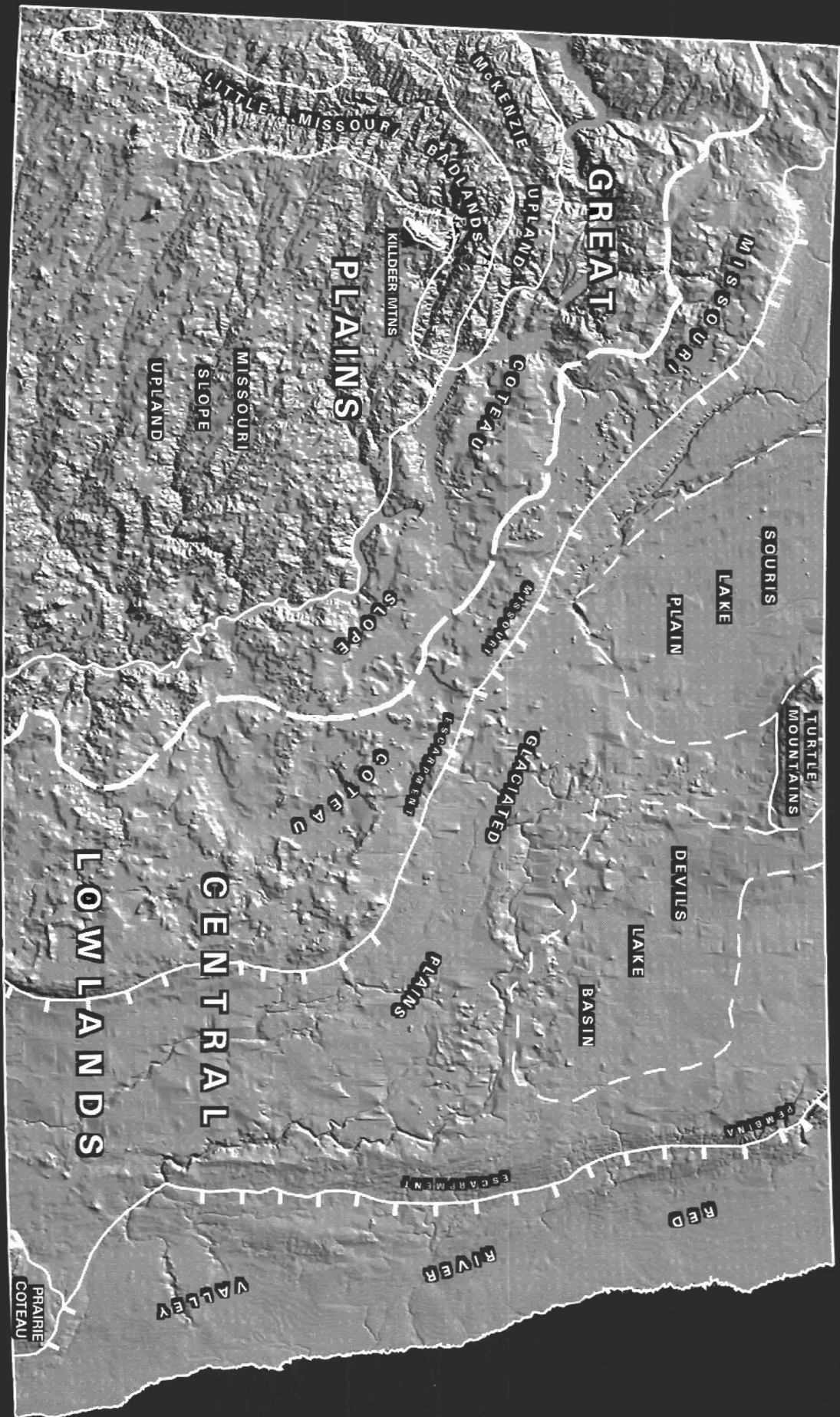


Physiographic Regions of North Dakota

North Dakota Geological Survey

Ryan P. Waldkirch



CENTRAL LOWLAND

Red River Valley: Flat plain resulting from sedimentation on the floor of glacial Lake Agassiz; more than 95 percent of the area is gently sloping with local relief less than 25 feet in most places.

Pembina Escarpment: Steep, glacially-modified escarpment that marks the boundary between the Red River Valley and the Glaciated Plains.

Glaciated Plains: Rolling, glaciated landscape; more than 80 percent of the area is gently sloping with local relief generally less than 100 feet in most places, but ranging up to 300 feet in some places.

Devils Lake Basin: Closed drainage basin with drainage to Devils Lake; topography is mainly typical of the Glaciated Plains.

Souris Lake Plain: Flat to gently sloping plain resulting from sedimentation on the floor of glacial Lake Souris; the surface has been considerably modified by wind action.

Prairie Coteau and Turtle Mountains: Hummocky, glaciated irregular plains that resulted from the collapse of superglacial sediment; gentle slopes characterize 50 to 80 percent of the area and local relief ranges from 300 to 500 feet.

Missouri Escarpment: Steep, glacially modified escarpment that marks the boundary between the Glaciated Plains and the Missouri Coteau.

Missouri Coteau: Hummocky, glaciated irregular plains that resulted from collapse of superglacial sediment; gentle slopes characterize 50 to 80 percent of the area and local relief ranges from 100 to 300 feet.

GREAT PLAINS

Coteau Slope: Rolling to hilly plains east of the Missouri River that have both erosional and glacial landforms; gentle slopes characterize 50 to 80 percent of the area and local relief ranges from 300 to 500 feet.

Missouri Slope Upland: Rolling to hilly plains except in badlands areas and near prominent buttes; gentle slopes characterize 50 to 80 percent of the area and local relief ranges from 300 to 500 feet; upland surface is generally 200 to 400 feet higher than the McKenzie Upland and slopes upward to the west.

McKenzie Upland: Rolling to hilly plains except in badlands areas and near prominent buttes; evidence of glaciation near the Missouri River; gentle slopes characterize 50 to 80 percent of the area and local relief ranges from 300 to 500 feet.

Little Missouri Badlands: Rugged, deeply eroded, hilly area along the Little Missouri River; gentle slopes characterize 20 to 50 percent of the area and local relief is commonly over 500 feet.