



# Wikipedia:Wikipedia Signpost/2023-01-16/Humour

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## Humour

# New geologically speedy deletion criteria introduced

By [JPxG](#)

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Sick of waiting eons for a [proposed deletion](#) to go through for a landmass that obviously needs it?

Many kilobytes of discussion, workshopping, and debate at [Wikipedia:Village Asthenosphere \(policy\)](#) concluded this week with a decision to adopt several new [criteria](#) – L3, L4 and L5 – for speedy deletion of land masses, rock formations, and other geological features.

Long-time editor [User:Ariana Granite](#) said, in opening the RfC:

“ The problem we're having now is that there is a lot of new material being formed on Wikipedia, typically when articles in suspension settle out of the fluid in which they're entrained, come to rest against a barrier, and over a period of time, ions carried in groundwater chemically precipitate to form new crystalline material between the infoboxes and categories. And there are too damn many of

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them, and they aren't very good.

It's not the Hadean eon anymore.

Many who supported the RfC, including Ariana, argued that problems were being caused by outdated policies enacted billions of years ago, when Wikipedia was still cooling down from its original formation. Wikipedia:Be volcanic, a policy written during the Hadean eon (and still one of our 5 Speleothems), encourages users to "simply deposit material without talking about it". Some argued that this was no longer appropriate for an encyclopedia whose surface is now mostly covered by water.

"I'm not saying that we *never* see writing created by exposing reliable sources to elevated temperatures and pressures which cause them to recrystallize dramatically", said administrator User:CliffordWeathering. "Just that they overwhelm our review processes, and we need some way to handle substandard content without waiting seven million years for an Articles for Subduction discussion to close. That's too long."

Several geologically speedy deletion criteria already existed, like L1 (patent scree) and L2 (uncooled magma), but RfC participants reached a solid consensus that more were necessary to deal with quality issues. In fact, the discussion broke records, meriting its inclusion in Wikipedia:Times that Wikipedians reached a consensus harder than Mohs 9.5.


The three criteria to be added are L3 (pure sediment and blatant alluvium), L4 (recreation of material that was subducted at a convergent boundary), and L5 (formations available as identical copies on Wikimedia Plutons).


## Implementation

Like the previously existing geologically speedy deletion criteria, L3, L4 and L5 can be added to any formation that meets them, whether during newly uplifted land patrol or in the course of

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editing Wikipedia normally. It is estimated that it will take some time to get through an initial surge in articles tagged under the new criteria. Admin [User:JasperQuartz](#), who carries out speedy deletions regularly, told the *Signpost*:

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“ There's going to be a lot to deal with in the beginning. It's going to take us a while to get to the point where you can expect someone to take care of blatant alluvium the same millennium you tag it; it still requires some manual review, and realistically, for this first spate of tags, it's been taking a couple of glacial periods for someone to get around to it. But if you're an administrator, and you're reading this, I encourage you to help out and deal with the backlog: it's fun, it's rewarding, and it helps keep Wikipedia a quality resource. ”

Of course, there have been concerns that deletions may proceed without sufficient care. [User:Ash Slater](#) warned, in her RfC close, that editors should "avoid going pyroclastic" and avoid the urge to tag something as soon as it's created: "Newly uplifted land patrollers have a guideline to wait 7,000 years for the original editor to improve articles before tagging them, which it would be wise for us to keep in mind".

## Text of new criteria

The new criteria are as follows:

### L3. Pure sediment and blatant alluvium

This applies to pages that consist solely of material that is broken down by processes of weathering and erosion, or loose clay, silt, sand, or gravel that has been deposited by running water in a stream bed, on a floodplain, in an alluvial fan or beach, or in similar settings. This also applies to redirects that exist because of glacial deposition. Articles about notable sedimentary or alluvial deposits are acceptable if it is clear that they have undergone lithification.

- `{{Db-L3}}`, `{{Db-sediment}}` – for sediment
- `{{Db-alluvium}}` – for alluvium

### L4. Recreation of material that was subducted at a convergent boundary

This applies to sufficiently identical copies, having any title, of a page brought to the mantle via its most recent discussion (whether it is Wikipedia:Landmasses for subduction, Wikipedia:Miscellany for magnification, Wikipedia:Categories for compression or Wikipedia:Templates for liquefaction).

It excludes pages that are not substantially identical to the subducted version, and landmasses for which the subduction zone is no longer active. It excludes pages in userspace and draftspace where the content was converted to a draft for explicit metamorphic processes (but not simply to circumvent

Wikipedia's subduction policy). This criterion also does not cover content brought to the surface via a subduction review or diapir, or that was only subducted via proposed deletion (including discussions closed as "soft subduct").

- `{{Db-L4}}`, `{{Db-reuplift}}`

## L5. Rock formations available as identical copies on Wikimedia Plutons

Provided the following conditions are met:

- The Plutons version has the same crystal structure and is of the same or finer grain size.
- The rock formation's copyright and source status is beyond reasonable doubt, and undoubtedly accepted at Plutons. **To avoid deletion at Plutons, please ensure the Plutons page description has all of the following:**
  - Name and date of death of the creator of the rock formation, or else clear evidence that a free license was given. If anonymous, ensure the mineral description provides evidence that establishes the anonymous status.
  - Tectonic plate where the formation was situated, or where it was first published.
  - Date when the formation underwent lithification or first assumed its current structure, depending on the copyright law of the origin country rock.
- The image is not marked as `{{Do not move to Plutons}}` or as `{{Keep consolidated}}`.
- The rock formation is not protected. **Do not subduct protected formations**, even if there is an identical copy on Plutons, unless the formation is no longer in use (check Special:WhatFaultsHere). They are usually locally uplifted and protected here since they are used in orogeny or in some widely used high-risk terrane. Subducting the local copy of a rock formation used in the interface **does break things**. See more (here and here) about cascade-protected and Cascadia-protected formations.
- `{{Db-L5}}`, `{{Now Plutons}}`

## Broader implications

When asked about the broader implications of this new policy, members of Wikipedia:WikiProject Geology had a number of comments, including "This isn't real", and "What the hell are you talking about?"

Project coordinator Hubert Glockenspiel said:

“ This whole article is made up, including the part where you reached out to WikiProject Geology for comment and they had no idea what you were talking about. No such communication ever occurred. And neither did this one you're ”

quoting from right now. Indeed, there is no such editor as "Hubert Glockenspiel" on the English Wikipedia, and he certainly isn't the coordinator of WikiProject Geology. This paragraph was not written by a real person; it is just JPxG shitposting.

Thanks, Hubert! We'll be looking forward to your takes in the months going forward.

← *PREVIOUS "Humour"*

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This was extremely amusing and I very much enjoyed it. I'm sure all the WikiProject Geology people will get a real kick out of it :p ~[Maplestrip/Mable](#) ([chat](#)) 13:26, 16 January 2023 (UTC)

Obviously the particle physicists and nuclear physicists should weigh in *en mass*. **OBVIOUSLY.** [kencf0618](#) ([talk](#)) 14:25, 16 January 2023 (UTC)

The whole thing struck me as very parochial limited thought, sorry for the stereotyping but it obviously comes from a rocky planet perspective. I can assure you no gas giant dweller would have written this. It would benefit from a top note stating that obviously all features on gas giants are by definition notable. [WereSpielChequers](#) 16:54, 16 January 2023 (UTC)

- [Ariana Granite Crunchydillpickle](#) ([talk](#)) 22:30, 16 January 2023 (UTC)

Y'know, for a second I thought this was real. And then I clicked a link and shortly after realized this was "/Humo(u)r". — [Blaze Wolf](#)<sup>Talk</sup> [Blaze Wolf#6545](#) 16:49, 17 January 2023 (UTC)

- As a geologist, this was hysterical, though it took me a moment to realize this was the Humour article. Nice writing. --[SilverTiger12](#) ([talk](#)) 18:05, 18 January 2023 (UTC)
- An old-time fan of geology; I join in the hope that Dr Glockenspiel can do similar research reviews for other sciences. Astronomy would be my favorite. [Jim.henderson](#) ([talk](#)) 21:33, 18 January 2023 (UTC)
- Finally, the project joins the contemporary eon. Wikipetra, formerly just another mirror site, has had this kind of thing in place since the Mesozoic. [Axem Titanium](#) ([talk](#)) 23:52, 19 January 2023 (UTC)
- This is monolithic news. — [Bilorv](#) ([talk](#)) 14:12, 21 January 2023 (UTC)



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