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# Tips for EKAS Geomorphology Interns

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## ***Be Prepared***

Prepare for the field by looking at the aerial photographs in stereo and by studying Jay's morphostratigraphic map. For reference in the field during your day's work, copy from the *Morphostratigraphic Unit* (MU) boundaries onto a separate print-out (It is hoped that during the 2000 field season you can print these out without having to copy lines your self). Some of the MUs will be more important to note (and hence follow with rigor in mapping your GUs) than others for plotting the GU boundaries. Changes in bedrock, for example in areas covered by thick layers of alluvium, may not have as much impact on artifact movement whereas a break in slope, the age of an alluvial fan, or the location of the alluvial/colluvial boundary might be more significant. Remember that you are mapping GUs, not recreating the morphostratigraphic map.

## ***Defining GUs***

When defining GUs, all of the categories in the form do not need to be completely consistent throughout a unit. Define the GUs in regard to the dominant processes that are acting on the artifacts (whether they be geologic or anthropogenic). GUs can cross field boundaries / modern land use and moderate changes in soil color and slope if the dominant processes are consistent, but changes in any of the categories might be guideposts that something different is going on. If in doubt, differentiate between units if it is at no great expense to the time and efforts of your team. We can lump the GUs later.

## ***Know When to be a Zealot***

You will be briefed on areas that will require more careful positioning of GUs, and hence DUs, on the EKAS landscape. In some areas, modern boundaries imposed by land use, e.g., field boundaries, require us to make adjustments that "violate" our first principle. It is permissible to shift or zig-zag some GU boundaries to conform to field boundaries, and hence reduce generating DUs that are potentially insignificant small, odd-shaped, and hence difficult to survey.

## ***Get the Big Picture***

When you are mapping GUs adjacent to those of another GI, it is important to walk out your unit boundaries with that person. You must coordinate unit boundaries and share your observations to get a sense of the larger landscape features. Even though your GU map is aligned with your team's DUs, it is your

responsibility to maintain consistency with adjacent team GUs (and by extension, DUs).

## ***Walk This Way***

Advise the team leader as to your preferred direction for walking a field. This might be done in the cases where a *Discovery Unit* (DU) crosses a *Geomorphologic Unit* (GU) boundary and you want to get subtract data. The direction of walking may make the unit more walkable and it might also better distinguish the sub-tract differences. For example, position walker's paths along the length of a gully instead of across it. Your desired direction may not always be feasible due to land use. For artifact visibility reasons, it is best for fieldwalkers to walk down the rows of an orchard or along the furrows of a plowed field.

## ***Maintain Contact with Team Leader***

You should stay in constant contact with the team leader and have a good sense of the team's progress. Touching base with the Team Leader about every hour in the field is recommended as teams can move away from where you last *thought* they were. This frequency will depend on the group you are attached to. You'll get a feel for it. More or less contact will depend upon how clearly the GUs and DUs were laid out in afternoon prior to field walking.

## ***Be Opportunistic***

Whenever possible take a look into holes dug into the ground and cuts/scarps for roads or terracing. These places give you a very good idea of the depositional nature of the unit as well as the nature of soil profile development, e.g., the stage of soil carbonate formation.

## ***Teach Geomorphology to Your Team***

Let the team leader and team know what you see going on in the big picture geomorphologically. It is important to keep everyone informed. Your team mates will be, in return, good suppliers of information, perhaps noticing features or changes in landscape that you missed.

## ***Patiently Describe the Rocks They Bring***

Team leaders and field walkers are naturally curious about what you see in the landscape. Typically they have general questions of geological nature, such as identifying rocks that might have possibly been used as ground stones. The rock might be a distantly sourced volcanic rock, not likely from the local limestone or marine terrace deposits.