Coastal Bluffs

Classification and Mapping of Maine's Coastal Bluffs

Coastal bluffs are areas of steep shoreline that form in bedrock, sediment, or a combination of both. They are characterized by their steepness, the type of material they are composed of, and their proximity to the ocean. Coastal bluffs are typically formed by the process of erosion, which causes the bluff to retreat over time. Coastal bluffs can be classified into different types based on their characteristics.

Types of Bluffs Along Maine's Coast

1. Ledge Bluff: A ledge bluff is a bluff that is composed of bedrock, typically granite or gneiss. Ledge bluffs are often characterized by a steep, vertical face and a lack of vegetation.
2. Armored Bluff: An armored bluff is a bluff that is covered with a layer of materials, such as seawall or riprap, to protect the underlying material.
3. Mixed Bluff: A mixed bluff is a bluff that is composed of both bedrock and sediment. These bluffs are often characterized by a combination of features, such as a steep, vertical face and a flat, vegetated top.
4. Unmapped Bluff: A bluff that has not been mapped for bluff type.

Limitations of the Data

The data on Maine's coastal bluffs is not intended to be the sole basis upon which specific land-use decisions are made. The data should be used in conjunction with other information and consultation with geotechnical engineers. The data is not intended to be the sole basis upon which specific land-use decisions are made. The data should be used in conjunction with other information and consultation with geotechnical engineers.

Classification of Coastal Bluffs

Types of Bluffs:

- Ledge Bluff
- Armored Bluff
- Mixed Bluff
- Unmapped Bluff

Bluff Materials:

- Bedrock
- Sediment

Slope:

- Steep
- Gentle

Vegetation:

- Bare Sediment
- Grass
- Shrubs
- Mature Trees

Map Resolution:

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
SCALE 1:24,000

Resources of Information:

- True North, 1994. Coastal bluffs erode episodically. Some bluffs may not change much over many years, even if the rate of erosion appears high. Coastal bluffs erode episodically. Some bluffs may not change much over many years, even if the rate of erosion appears high.

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