

The Claron Formation is a geologic unit that was deposited in southwestern Utah during the Eocene Epoch, between 56 and 33 Ma. The Claron consists of two members: the lower pink member and the upper white member; both consist of alternating layers of clastic and carbonate sedimentary rocks, representing the varying depositional environments in the Eocene as southwestern Utah experienced climatic and tectonic changes. In the early period of deposition, the Sevier and Laramide orogenies shed larger clasts from the uplands, forming the basal conglomerate layers. As the climate shifted into the warmer Eocene Epoch, ancient lakes formed allowing for the deposition of sandstone, siltstone, and shale, and the precipitation of limestone. Basin and Range deformation has uplifted the Claron, forming faults and other geologic structures over time, creating the High Plateau region of Utah. Major rivers continue to dissect the plateaus, further segmenting the Claron and creating some of the spectacular scenery in our National Parks.