1. Study Sites

In the unglaciated upland landscape of the southern Sierra Nevada Range, we chose sites at low (~220 m) and high elevations (~2990 m) that were soil mantled, displayed similar average gradients (Table DR2), and were underlain by similar granitic rocks. The high elevation site, Whitebark (WB), is located 2 km from Kaiser Pass within a subalpine Canadian vegetative zone. Traveling NE from Fresno, the mountains at Kaiser Pass are the first expression of the Sierra Crest in this region, which then drops to less than 2000 m elevation before rising again to around 4000 m in the bedrock dominated region west of Owens Valley. The low elevation site, Blasingame (BG), in the oak grassland vegetative zone, is located southeast of Millerton Lake, approximately 30 km from Fresno, CA.

At each site, soil pits were excavated every 20 meters along downslope transects. Soil exposures displayed clear boundaries between soils and the saprolite layer, and at both BG and WB gopher burrows had disturbed the soil/saprolite boundary (Figure DR1). We dug beneath the soil/saprolite boundary to accurately characterize local soil thickness and to collect saprolite for chemical analyses. Figure DR2 shows downslope topographic profiles and the variation of soil thickness along the two sampled hillslopes. Soil depth at BG increases from 6 to 75 cm with increasing distance from the hillcrest. Soil depths at WB do not vary systematically downslope, however the variation shown in Figure DR2 suggests the potential for roughly uniform soil thickness or slightly increasing thicknesses downslope at this site. We note that the lack of a clear soil production function (decreasing soil production rate with increasing soil thickness) at WB in Figure 2B of the manuscript is due to three data points, and that Figure DR2 suggests soil thicknesses at these same sample locations may not be at steady state.

Hillslopes at the two sites are low gradient <20deg and show evidence of gopher burrowing within soil pits and at the ground surface. Burrow holes exposed at the surface lead to transit channels that are between 15-150 cm deep. The BG hillslopes selected for this study have thick grass cover with patchy blue oak cover. Outcropping rock makes up <5% the land surface. Based on field observations, gopher burrowing appears to be the dominant soil transport mechanism active at BG (e.g., Black and Montgomery, 1991). The WB hillslope selected here is sparsely vegetated and small Conifers dot the landscape. Outcropping tors cover <10% of the landsurface and shallow rills (~1/2 m deep) run downslope with an average spacing between 10 and 20m.

2. Measuring Soil Production Rates from Cosmogenic ¹⁰Be

We sampled the top-most 2 cm layer of saprolite immediately beneath soil. These samples were processed at Dartmouth College to isolate the beryllium fraction in quartz, following methods outlined by Heimsath et al. (Heimsath et al., 1999). Samples were spiked with a known concentration of ⁹Be, and the ratio of ¹⁰Be: ⁹Be was measured by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry at Lawrence Livermore and Purdue Laboratories to determine the concentration of in-situ produced ¹⁰Be. We calculated surface denudation rates, or soil production rates assuming local steady state soil thickness, following methods of Balco et al. (2008), and applying a topographic and soil-depth corrections for spallogenic nuclide production. In-situ ¹⁰Be concentrations and derived soil production rates are provided in Table DR1.

3. Determining Physical Erosion and Chemical Weathering Rates

Theoretical Framework and Equations

Changes in soil mass, expressed as the product of soil density (ρ_{soil}) and soil thickness (h), reflects the balance between soil production (P_{soil}), erosion (E) and weathering (W_{soil}), such that:

$$\rho_{soil} \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = P_{soil} - E - W_{soil}, \qquad (Equation DR1)$$

where rates are in units tons $\text{km}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$. If soil thickness (*h*) is constant over time, then the rate of soil mass loss equals the rate of soil production:

$$if \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = 0,$$

$$P_{soil} = E + W_{soil}$$
(Equation DR2)

Riebe et al. (2003) developed a method to calculate chemical weathering rates in actively eroding terrains by coupling a mass balance approach using immobile elements in weathered residuum (Brimhall and Dietrich, 1987) to rates of landscape lowering derived from cosmogenic radionuclides (CRNs). Fractional enrichment of an immobile element in parent material and the weathered product can be used to calculate relative mass loss due to chemical weathering. Riebe (2001) termed this the chemical depletion fraction (CDF). Using zirconium as the conservative element, the CDF is calculated as:

$$CDF = \left(1 - \frac{[Zr]_p}{[Zr]_w}\right).$$

Where the subscript 'p' reflects the parent material concentration and 'w' denotes the concentration in the weathered product. The chemical depletion fraction due to soil weathering (soil relative to saprolite), saprolite weathering (saprolite relative to rock), or total weathering processes (soil relative to rock) can be calculated. We term these respective depletions fractions CDF_{soil} , $CDF_{saprolite}$ and CDF_{total} .

(Equation DR3)

Soil weathering from equation 2 can then be calculated as the product of the soil production rate and the fraction of this rate due to chemical processes:

$$W_{soil} = P_{soil} * \left(1 - \frac{[Zr]_{saprolite}}{[Zr]_{soil}} \right) = P_{soil} * CDF_{soil} .$$
 (Equation DR4)

The Erosion rate (*E*) is the difference between soil production and weathering rates:

$$E = P_{soil} - W_{soil}.$$
 (Equation DR5)

Assuming all regolith, including soil and saprolite, displays a local steady-state thickness over timescales of production, then the saprolite weathering rate is:

$$W_{sap} = P_{soil} * \left(\frac{[Zr]_{saprolite}}{[Zr]_{rock}} - 1 \right).$$
 (Equation DR6)

It is important to note that equations (4-5) differ from ones presented by Riebe et al (2003) in the assumption that CRN derived rates reflect soil production, and not total denudation in regions mantled by saprolite.

Sampling and Laboratory Methodology

Saprolite and soil were sampled at various depths for trace element chemistry. Unweathered bedrock was sampled where available, from beneath soil pits or from outcropping tors. One to three inches of the outside of the sampled rock were removed by rock saw to avoid weathering rinds. All samples were oven dried at 115°C for 48 hours, and homogenized by pulverizing in a tungsten carbide mill to less than 250 µm. Approximately 40g of pulverized material was subsampled for XRF analysis. We pulverized sample before subsampling in order to obtain as representative a bulk sample as possible, and avoid bias due to oversampling of fines or gravels. Zirconium concentrations in rock, saprolite and soil were measured by pressed pellet XRF at Keene State University (Keene, NH) and ALS-CHEMEX (Reno, NV). These data are used in conjunction with equations presented above to calculate the total CDF, soil CDF, soil weathering, saprolite weathering, and physical erosion rates (Table DR2).

4. Fallout Radionuclides ²¹⁰Pb and ¹³⁷Cs and Diffusion-Like Soil Mixing

Sampling and Laboratory Methodology

Soil profiles were sampled at a 2 cm resolution from the surface to the soil/saprolite interface by carefully removing the soil layer by layer with a spatula from a 15x15 cm² area. Samples were oven dried at 115°C for 48 hours to remove moisture, and dry sieved with a 2 mm mesh. Soil fines (<2 mm) were then packed into a container of known volume and geometry, and the activity of short-lived radionuclides was measured by gamma ray spectroscopy. Data for activity profiles are provided in Table DR3. Nuclide inventory is measured in Becquerels/cm² as the depth weighted sum of nuclide activity. Within some soils, we additionally sampled at low resolution (5-10 cm) and used these samples to measure bulk soil inventory. Inventory measurements are provided in Table DR5.

Transport processes and Relevant Timescales

Steady state profiles of ²¹⁰Pb provide insight into mixing and soil transport over short timescales (10^2 - 10^3 years). The depth distribution of ²¹⁰Pb in soils can be described by the steady-state solution to the advection-diffusion equation (e.g., He and Walling, 1997; Kaste et al., 2007):

$$A(z) = A_0 * \exp\left[\frac{V - \sqrt{V^2 + 4\lambda D}}{2D}(z)\right].$$

Where 'A(z)', is the nuclide activity at a specific depth (in Bq cm⁻³), ' A_0 ' is the activity at the surface, 'V' is the downward advection velocity due to leaching (cm y⁻¹), ' λ ' is radioactive decay (y⁻¹), and 'D' is a diffusion like mixing coefficient (cm² y⁻¹). Advection rates have previously been measured using the depth of concentration of weapons-derived ¹³⁷Cs, which was delivered to soils as a thermonuclear bomb product between 1950 and 1970, peaking in 1964 (e.g., Kaste et al., 2007). We were unable to determine clear subsurface peaks in ¹³⁷Cs activity profiles that correspond to this delivery. Instead, we calculated diffusion-like mixing coefficients by assuming advection plays a minimal role in subsurface nuclide redistribution. Nuclide activity profiles were converted to percent-inventory profiles by dividing activity at depth by the measured inventory for that pit. We then modeled a best fit diffusion equation to each profile by minimizing the sum of residuals. Figure DR3 shows measured profiles and best-fit models for each site.

Sample Name	¹⁰ Be Concentration (atoms g ⁻¹) ¹		Sample Depth (cm)	Depth Shielding Factor	Topo Shielding Factor	Soil Production Rate (t km ⁻² yr ⁻¹)			
Blasingame (36.96° latitude, 220 m elevation at crest)									
BG-0	187403	±	34399	6	0.96	1.00	66.2	±	14.4
BG-1	90282	±	3745	25	0.80	0.99	126.4	±	9.9
BG-2	107038	±	7076	27	0.82	0.99	104.9	±	10.1
BG-3	132701	±	5745	40	0.70	1.00	69.2	±	5.5
BG-4	93307	±	2265	45	0.67	1.00	93.3	±	6.4
BG-5	136789	±	4587	53	0.62	1.00	59.8	±	4.4
BG-6	131622	±	5941	75	0.51	0.99	51.2	±	4.2
White Bark (37.28° latitude, 2991 m elevation at crest)									
WB-0	581657	±	17376	53	0.61	1.00	70.5	±	6.0
WB-1	578575	±	48527	64	0.55	1.00	65.1	±	7.6
WB-2	801896	±	32260	70	0.52	1.00	34.2	±	3.1
WB-3	367081	±	13488	110	0.35	1.00	66.1	±	5.8
WB-4	824462	±	19688	75	0.49	1.00	40.2	±	3.4
WB-5	688245	±	18081	75	0.50	1.00	48.7	±	4.1
WB-6	1081770	±	25628	60	0.57	0.99	35.0	±	3.0
WB-7	406837	±	13257	90	0.43	0.98	71.4	±	6.1
WB-8	789064	\pm	30516	80	0.47	1.00	40.0	±	3.6

 Table DR1:
 ¹⁰Be derived Soil Production Rates

¹ Samples for cosmogenic analysis were processed at Dartmouth College to isolate the beryllium fraction in quartz and then run on an accelerator mass spectrometer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Purdue Prime Laboratory to determine concentrations of ¹⁰Be. We used a production rate of 5.1 atoms ¹⁰Be/g quartz/yr and scaled ¹⁰Be concentrations for soil depth, slope, topographic shielding, latitude and altitude (Dunne et al., 1999; Gosse and Phillips, 2001; Lal, 1991).

Sample Name	Soil Depth (cm)	Curvature $(m^{-1})^{\underline{1}}$	Slope (°)	[Zr] soil (ppm)	[Zr] sap (ppm)	CDF soil	CDF Sap ²	CDF total ²	$\frac{W_{soil}}{(t \text{ km}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1})}$	W_{sap} (t km ⁻² y ⁻¹)	E (t km ⁻² y ⁻¹)
Blasingame (220 m elev; 36 cm; 16.6 °C) ³											
LD-0	6	-0.030	1.4	120	130	0.00	0.53	0.50	0.0	75.4	66.2
LD-1	25	-0.027	15.4	103	111	0.00	0.45	0.41	0.0	104.8	126.4
LD-2	27	-0.005	18.5	105	81	0.23	0.25	0.42	24.4	34.4	80.5
LD-3	40	-0.005	15.9	129	64	0.50	0.05	0.53	34.9	3.8	34.3
LD-4	45	0.002	10.1	134	79	0.41	0.23	0.55	38.5	27.5	54.8
LD-5	53	-0.019	6.4	130	81	0.38	0.25	0.53	22.7	19.7	37.1
LD-6	75	-0.012	2.6	139	124	0.11	0.51	0.56	5.5	53.4	45.7
Mean	39	-0.014	10.1	123	96	0.23	0.32	0.50	18.0	45.6	63.6
Std err	8	0.005	2.6	5	10	0.08	0.07	0.02	6.1	13.2	12.1
Whitebark (2991 m elev; 107 cm; 3.9 °C) ³											
WB-0	53	0.000	0.8	182	148	0.18	0.36	0.48	13.0	39.5	57.5
WB-1	64	-0.002	3.6	185	154	0.17	0.38	0.49	10.9	40.7	54.2
WB-2	70	-0.005	6.4	168	215	0.00	0.56	0.43	0.0	43.1	34.2
WB-3	110	0.000	7.1	180	95	0.47	0.00	0.47	31.3	0.0	34.8
WB-4	75	-0.009	9.5	178	155	0.13	0.39	0.47	5.1	25.4	35.1
WB-5	75	-0.004	13.1	223	126	0.44	0.25	0.57	21.2	15.9	27.5
WB-6	60	-0.005	18.8	166	112	0.32	0.15	0.43	11.4	6.4	23.6
WB-7	90	0.000	15.1	234	142	0.40	0.33	0.59	28.3	35.1	43.2
WB-8	80	0.006	7.8	160	138	0.14	0.31	0.41	5.7	18.0	34.3
Mean	75	-0.002	9.1	186	143	0.25	0.30	0.48	14.1	24.9	38.3
Std err	6	0.001	1.9	9	11	0.05	0.05	0.02	3.6	5.3	3.8

Table DR2: Chemical Weathering and Erosion

^LCurvature measured as the laplacian of elevation from 8m gridded LiDAR data; slope measured from 2m gridded LiDAR data.

²Sap CDF and Total CDF calculated using measured zirconium concentrations in rock of 61 ppm at BG and 95 ppm at WB.
 ³Study site (elevation at hillcrest; avg. annual precipitation; avg. annual temperature). Climate data from PRISM online database (Prism-Database).

~ 1		¹³⁷ Cs			²¹⁰ Pb		~ 1		¹³⁷ Cs			²¹⁰ Pb	
Sample Depth ¹	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>	Sample Depth ¹	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>
BG-0-1							BG-2						
1	7.50	11	11	28.86	23	23	1	8.27	16	16	51.98	53	53
3	8.34	12	24	33.23	27	51	3	11.90	22	38	32.06	32	85
5	12.38	19	42	29.65	24	75	5	6.32	12	50	12.28	12	97
7	12.75	19	61	4.17	3	78	7	3.22	6	56	0.68	1	98
9	7.10	11	72	13.47	11	89	9	2.90	5	61	0.00	0	98
11	8.41	13	85	8.92	7	96	11	2.15	4	65	0.00	0	98
13	7.43	11	96	0.00	0	96	13	2.46	5	70	0.00	0	98
15	2.87	4	100	4.59	4	100	15	5.89	11	81	0.00	0	98
17	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	17	1.50	3	84	0.00	0	98
<u>BG-0-2</u>							19	3.76	7	91	0.00	0	98
1	7.42	15	15	17.67	44	44	21	2.51	5	95	0.00	0	98
3	7.93	16	31	11.85	29	73	23	1.47	3	98	0.00	0	98
5	10.66	21	52	5.32	13	87	25	0.97	2	100	0.00	0	98
7	7.96	16	68	0.00	0	87	27	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	98
9	6.01	12	80	0.97	2	89	29	0.00	0	100	0.97	1	99
11	4.46	9	89	4.45	11	100	31	0.00	0	100	0.97	1	100
13	3.38	7	95	0.00	0	100	<u>BG-4</u>						
15	2.38	5	100	0.00	0	100	1	6.81	17	17	13.46	30	30
17	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	3	8.62	22	39	12.70	29	59
<u>BG-1</u>							5	10.17	26	65	15.18	34	93
1	6.49	11	11	13.97	37	37	7	6.49	17	82	3.00	7	100
3	5.97	10	21	5.26	14	51	10	4.55	12	93	0.00	0	100
5	7.23	12	34	5.83	15	66	12	1.50	4	97	0.00	0	100
7	6.97	12	45	7.17	19	85	14	1.00	3	100	0.00	0	100
9	7.52	13	58	2.04	5	91	17	0.08	0	100	0.00	0	100
11	5.55	9	68	3.08	8	99	19	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
13	4.27	7	75	0.00	0	99	21	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
15	2.85	5	80	0.41	1	100	<u>BG-5</u>						
17	4.03	7	87	0.00	0	100	1	7.21	11	11	43.26	50	50
19	4.18	7	94	0.00	0	100	3	17.75	28	39	28.92	33	84
21	1.91	3	97	0.00	0	100	5	13.02	20	59	10.55	12	96
23	0.80	1	98	0.00	0	100	7	9.74	15	75	0.00	0	96
25	0.01	0	98	0.00	0	100	9	6.46	10	85	1.96	2	98
27	0.13	0	99	0.00	0	100	11	4.20	7	91	0.00	0	98
29	0.50	1	100	0.00	0	100	13	1.94	3	94	0.00	0	98
31	0.27	0	100	0.00	0	100	15	2.55	4	98	1.76	2	100
21	1.91	3	97	0.00	0	100	17	0.00	0	98	0.00	0	100
23	0.80	1	98	0.00	0	100	19	0.00	0	98	0.00	0	100
25	0.01	0	98	0.00	0	100	21	0.40	1	99	0.00	0	100
27	0.13	0	99	0.00	0	100	23	0.63	1	100	0.00	0	100
29	0.50	1	100	0.00	0	100	25	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100

 Table DR3:
 BG Fallout Radionuclide Profiles

		¹³⁷ Cs		2	²¹⁰ Pb		~ .		¹³⁷ Cs			²¹⁰ Pb	
Sample Depth ¹	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>	Sample Depth ¹	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv ²	Cum % <u>3</u>	Bq/ mm ³	% Inv <u>²</u>	Cum % <u>3</u>
WB-0							WB-4						
1	20.69	38	38	162.04	86	86	1	28.13	52	52	71.24	61	61
3	18.86	34	72	26.88	14	100	3	19.37	36	87	46.47	39	100
5	2.24	4	76	0.00	0	100	5	6.82	13	100	0.00	0	100
7	2.56	5	81	0.00	0	100	7	0.03	0	100	0.00	0	100
9	3.51	6	87	0.00	0	100	9	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
11	4.81	9	96	0.00	0	100	11	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
13	1.66	3	99	0.00	0	100	13	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
15	0.06	0	99	0.00	0	100	15	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
17	0.12	0	100	0.00	0	100	<u>WB-6</u>						
19	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	2	20.45	23	23	115.01	59	59
21	0.11	0	100	0.00	0	100	4	27.98	31	53	37.91	20	79
23	0.12	0	100	0.00	0	100	6	31.34	35	88	41.25	21	100
25	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	8	10.13	11	99	0.00	0	100
27	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	10	0.75	1	100	0.00	0	100
29	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	12	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
31	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	14	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
<u>WB-2</u>							16	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
1	25.77	29	29	163.80	32	32	<u>WB-8</u>						
	26.38	29	58	154.41	31	63	2	7.65	11	11	51.94	23	23
5	24.69	27	85	168.30	33	96	4	11.34	16	27	102.93	46	69
7	7.71	9	93	19.17	4	100	6	13.27	19	46	69.53	31	100
9	5.67	6	100	0.00	0	100	8	10.45	15	61	0.00	0	100
11	0.21	0	100	0.00	0	100	10	10.50	15	76	0.00	0	100
13	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100	12	17.02	24	100	0.00	0	100
15	0.00	0		0.00	0		14	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100
							16	0.00	0	100	0.00	0	100

Table DR4: WB Fallout Radionuclide Profiles

¹Average sample depth. Each sample is ~2 cm thick. ²Percent inventory measured as ratio of activity to total nuclide inventory.

³Cumulative inventory measured as 100%-percent inventory. The depth at which 95% of the inventory is obtained corresponds to the 'Profile Depth' shown in figure 3A of the manuscript.

	²¹⁰ Ph	¹³⁷ Cs	Upslope Contributing				
Sample ¹	Inventory	Inventory	Area	Slope			
1	(Bq/m^2)	(Bq/m^2)	(m^2)	(°)			
WB-0	3778	1096	0	0.8			
WB-2	10114	1808	40	6.4			
WB-4	2354	1087	80	9.5			
WB-6	3883	1813	120	18.8			
WB-8	4488	1405	160	7.8			
WB-1 Bulk	9804	2048	20	3.6			
WB-2 Bulk	5776	2875	40	6.4			
WB-3 Bulk	8540	2776	60	7.1			
WB-4 Bulk	6193	2530	80	9.5			
WB-8 Bulk	2092	808	160	7.8			
BG-0-1	2458	1336	0	1.4			
BG-0-2	805	1004	0	1.4			
BG-1	755	1174	20	15.4			
BG-2	1979	1066	40	18.5			
BG-4	887	784	80	10.1			
BG-5	1729	1278	100	6.4			
^{\perp} Inventories are calculated from profiles shown in Table DR4, and bulk soil samples (noted by 'Bulk').							

Table DR5: Nuclide Inventories

Transect ¹	Survey Area	Burrowing Activity ²	²¹⁰ Pb 95% Depth ³	137 Cs 95% Depth 3	Mixing Coefficient ³
	(m^2)	(m^2/km^2)	(cm)	(cm)	(cm^2/y)
BG 20m	154	9362	11	21	0.37
BG 60m	162	5983	6	16	0.26
BG 100m	172	4723	5	13	0.13
BG downslope	240	8643	-	-	-
WB 40m	82	3897	5	9	0.19
WB 80m	82	3330	3	5	0.17
WB 120m	82	4906	6	8	0.18
WB downslope	240	3286	-	-	_

Table DR6: Burrowing Activity and Mixing

¹ Transects at each site include one run downslope from the hillcrest, and three contour-parallel transect at a defined equally spaced distance downslope. Hillslope lengths

a defined, equally-spaced distance downslope. Hillslope lengths ² Burrowing activity calculated as a ratio of the surface area of exposed burrows to the ground area surveyed

surveyed. ² Fallout radionuclide and mixing coefficient data obtained from equivalent downslope pit. These are: BG 20m (BG-1); BG 60m (average BG-2 & BG-4); BG 100m (BG-5); WB 40m (WB-2); WB 80m (WB-4); WB 120m (WB-6).

Figure DR1:

Image from a soil pit at Blasingame. Note the clear, irregular soil saprolite boundary. It has been actively disrupted by gopher burrowing, a soil production mechanism at this site.



Figure DR2:

(A,B) Profiles of elevation (black line) and soil depth (grey diamonds) for sampled hillslopes. (C,D) Topographic map of study sites and surrounding hillslopes. DEM from 1 m gridded Lidar provided by NCALM. Lines represent 20 m elevation contours. (E,F) Photos at each site. BG photo taken looking south from an adjacent hillcrest and WB photo taken looking downtransect (SW) from WB hillcrest.



Figure DR3:

Downslope activity profiles of 210 Pb show distinct patterns at elevation extremes, especially at hillcrests. Coefficients of Diffusion were calculated following model of Kaste et al, (2007), however in this study we assume down profile advection is minimal. Profile data is shown by black circles with error bars. Modeled best-fit diffusion profiles are shown with grey line. Two profiles were captured at one low elevation hillcrest BG-0 (~2m apart).



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