



**Figure 9.** Depositional model for Fruitland Formation coal seams in the San Juan basin (modified from Ayers et al., 1994, after Ayers et al., 1991b). Swamps are bounded by abandoned shoreline sands at the northeast and fluvial channel-fill sands at the northwest. (a) Peat is deposited behind abandoned and foundered Pictured Cliffs shoreline sandstones, as well as in flood basins between Fruitland rivers. (b) Intermittently high subsidence rates north of the structural hinge line result in shoreline stillstands, allowing aggradation of the coastal plain. Peat swamps overspread abandoned shoreline and fluvial channel-fill sandstone complexes south of the active shoreline to form extensive deposits.