

^{AV}The Giant Continuous Oil Accumulation in the Bakken Petroleum System, Williston Basin*

Stephen A. Sonnenberg¹

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Conclusions

- A “giant” continuous accumulation is present in the Bakken and Three Forks of the Williston Basin.
- Sophisticated completion technology and geological factors have a large impact on productivity.
- Sweetspots influenced by hydrocarbon generation, pore overpressure, inferred oil saturations and productivity, net pay, facies, natural fractures, etc.
- Optimal completion design depends on area and field maturity:
 - 40-stage completions may not be economic in low-productivity areas.
 - Simpler (cheaper) completions may be preferable for infill wells at late development stage.
- Multistage hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling are game changers for tight oil systems.

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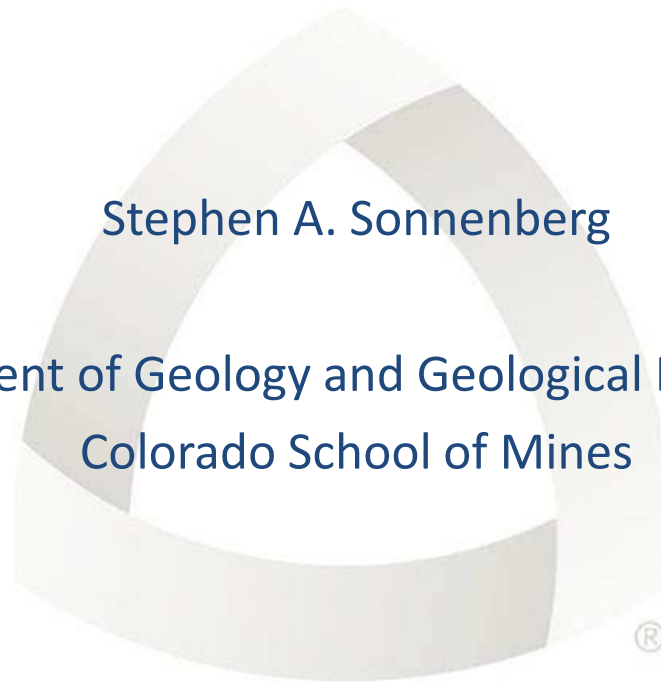
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North American shale plays (as of May 2011)



Current shale plays

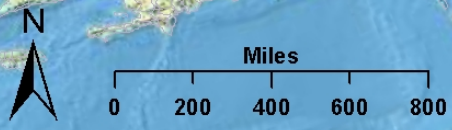
Stacked plays

- Shallowest / youngest
- Intermediate depth / age
- Deepest / oldest

* Mixed shale & chalk play
 ** Mixed shale & limestone play
 *** Mixed shale & tight dolostone-siltstone-sandstone play

Prospective shale plays

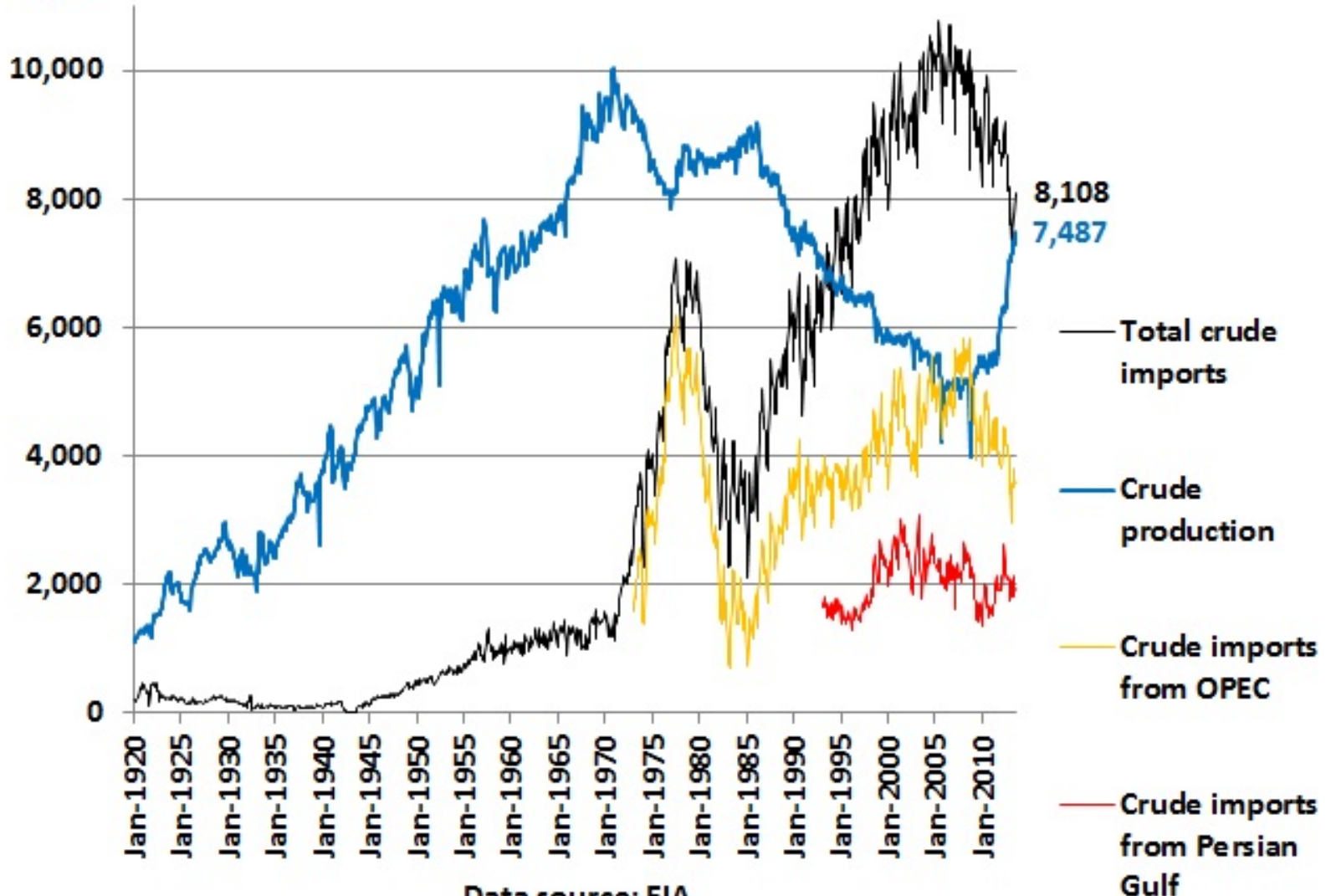
Basins



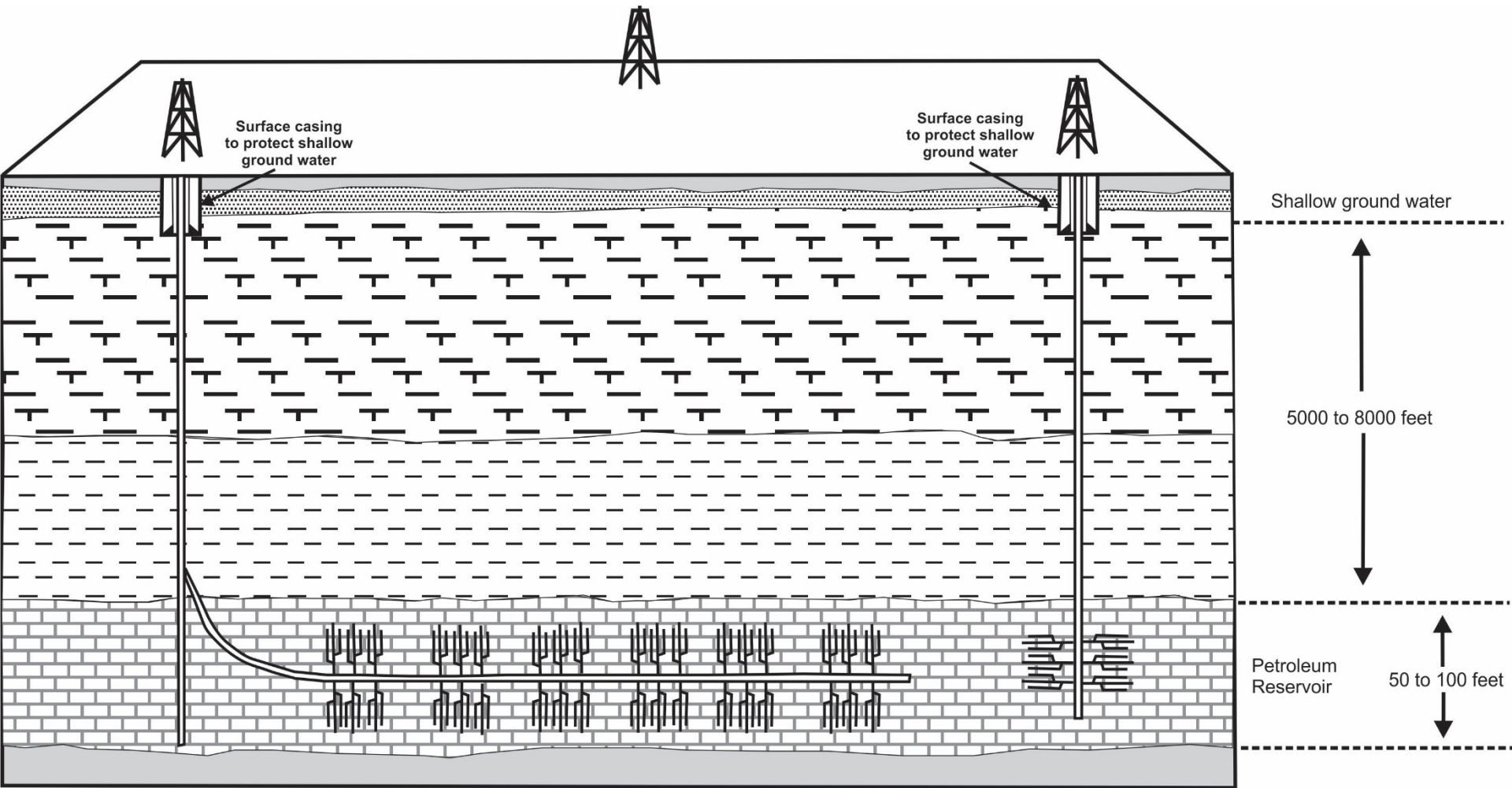
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration based on data from various published studies. Canada and Mexico plays from ARI.
 Updated: May 9, 2011

US crude oil imports and production

kb/d



Data source: EIA



Horizontal well with multistage hydraulic fracture stimulation

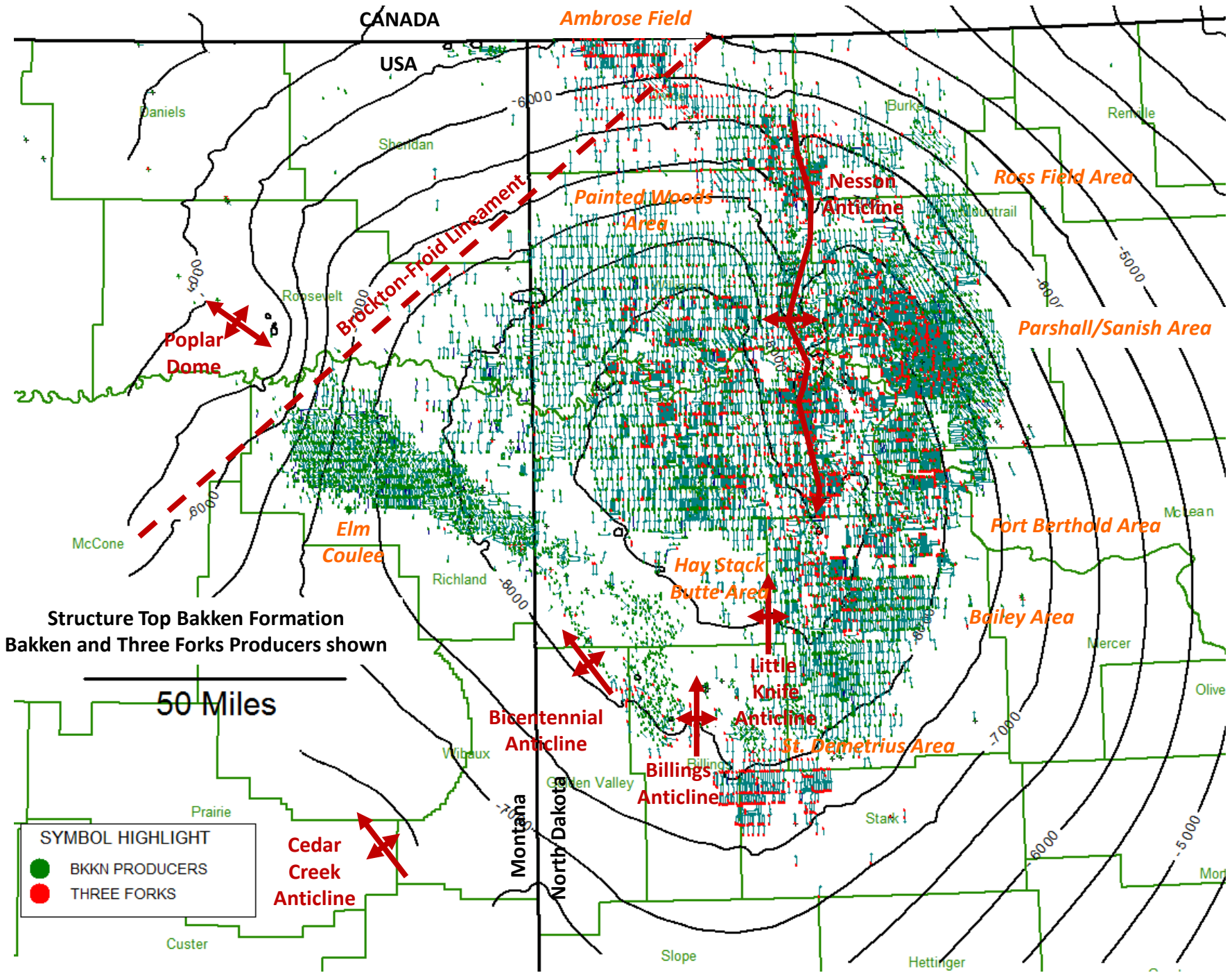
Typical vertical well with hydraulic fracture stimulation

Horizontal versus Vertical Wells
Highly diagrammatic

Meissner, 1978

“Relationship between source-rock maturity, hydrocarbon generation, geopressuring and fracturing suggest an opportunity in exploration for unrecognized and unlooked-for “unconventional” accumulations of potentially very large regional extent”





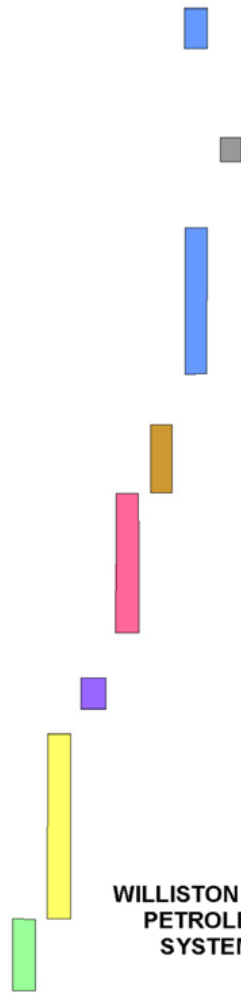
Structure Top Bakken Formation
Bakken and Three Forks Producers shown

50 Miles

SYMBOL HIGHLIGHT

- BKN PRODUCERS
- THREE FORKS

SEQUENCE	SYSTEMS	LITHOLOGY	ROCK UNITS	THICKNESS FT (m)
ABSAROKA	TRIASSIC		SPEARFISH	750 (225)
	PERMIAN		MINNEKAHTA	40 (12)
			OPECHE	400 (120)
			BROOM CREEK	335 (100)
	PENNSYLVANIAN		AMSDEN	450 (135)
		TYLER	270 (80)	
KASKASKIA	MISSISSIPPIAN		OTTER	200 (60)
			KIBBEY	250 (75)
		MADISON	CHARLES	2000 (600)
			MISSION CANYON	
			LODGEPOLE	
	DEVONIAN	Upper Devonian	BAKKEN	145 (45)
			THREE FORKS	240 (75)
			BIRDBEAR	125 (40)
			DUPEROW	460 (140)
			SOURIS RIVER	350 (105)
		Middle Devonian	DAWSON BAY	185 (55)
			PRAIRIE	650 (200)
			WINNIPEGOSIS	220 (65)
			ASHERN	180 (55)
TIPPECANOE	SILURIAN	INTERLAKE	1100 (335)	
		STONEWALL	120 (35)	
		STONY MTN.	200 (65)	
	ORDOVICIAN	RED RIVER	700 (215)	
		WINNIPEG GRP.	405 (125)	
SAUK	CAMBRO - ORD	DEADWOOD	900 (270)	
	PRECAMBRIAN			



USGS 2013 Bakken PS Assessment

7.4 BBO

6.7 TCFG

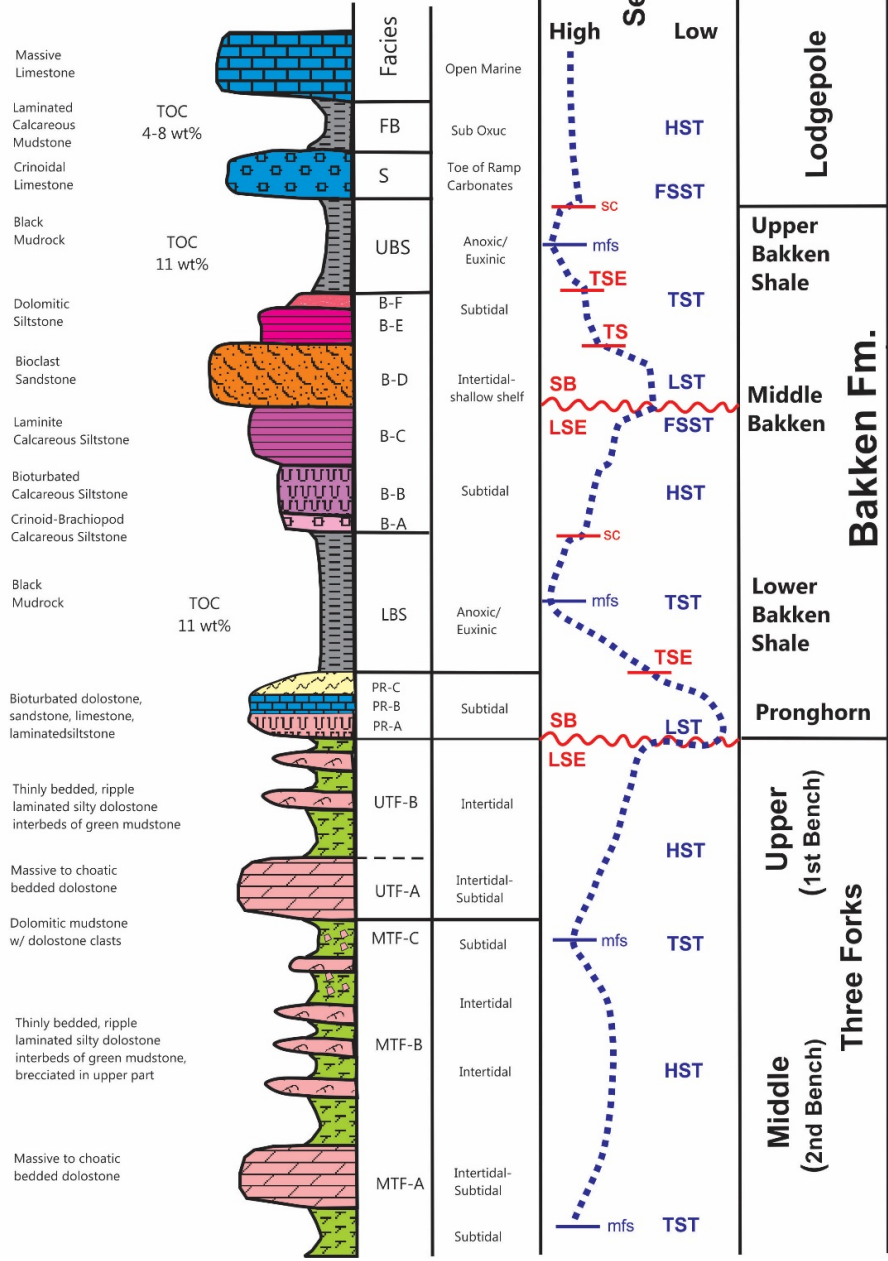
WILLISTON BASIN
PETROLEUM
SYSTEMS

Modified from LeFever 1992; Anna, 2009

Unconventional, Continuous Tight Oil Accumulations

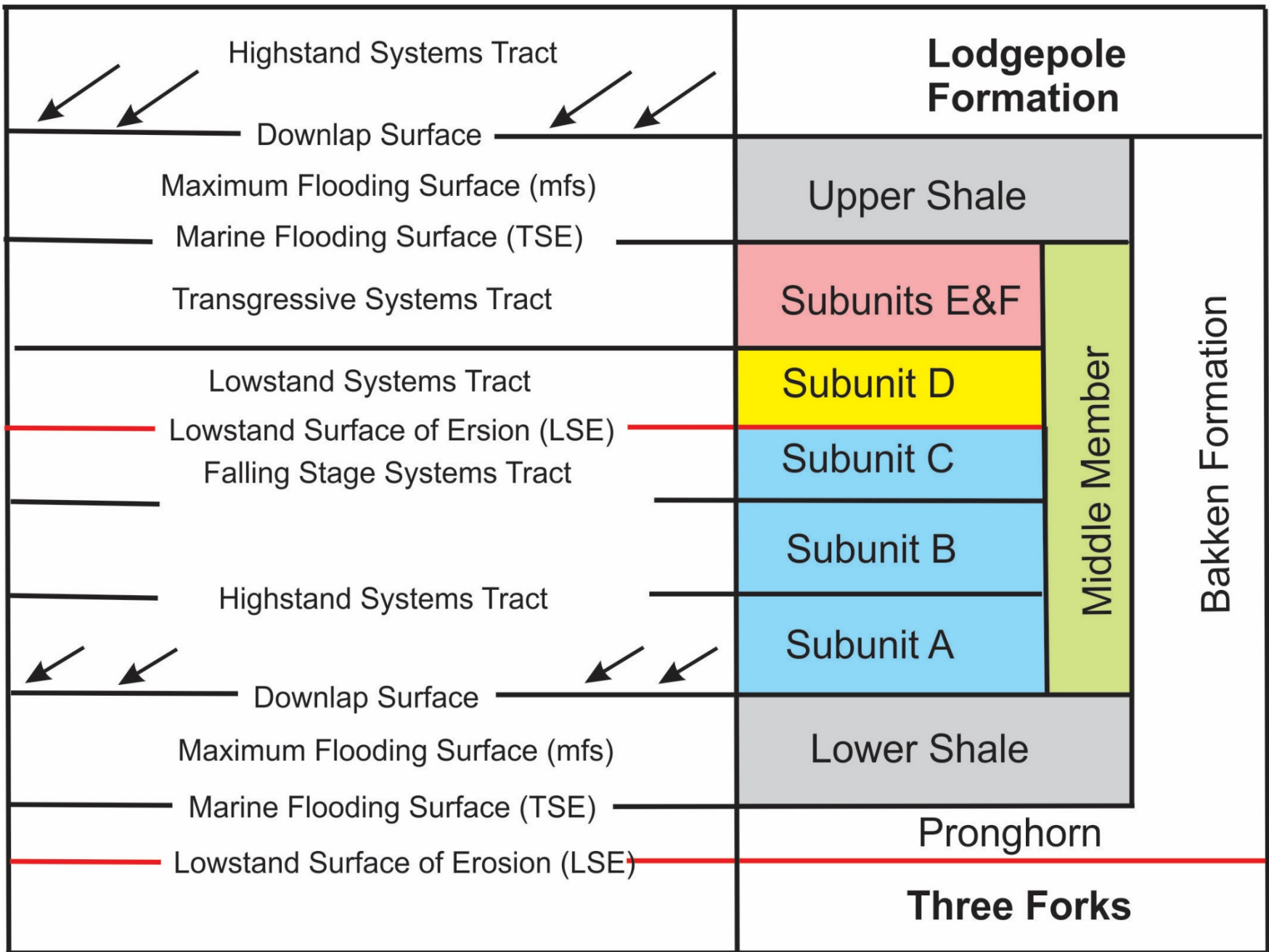
- Pervasive accumulations that are hydrocarbon-saturated
- Not localized by buoyancy
- Abnormally pressured (high or low)
- Commonly lack downdip water
- Updip contact with regional water saturation
- Low-permeability and low-matrix porosity reservoirs
- Reservoirs may be single or vertically stacked
- Commonly enhanced by fracturing
- Associated with mature source rocks that are either actively generating or have recently ceased generation
- Hydrocarbons of thermal origin
- Fields have diffuse boundaries
- Inverted Petroleum Systems

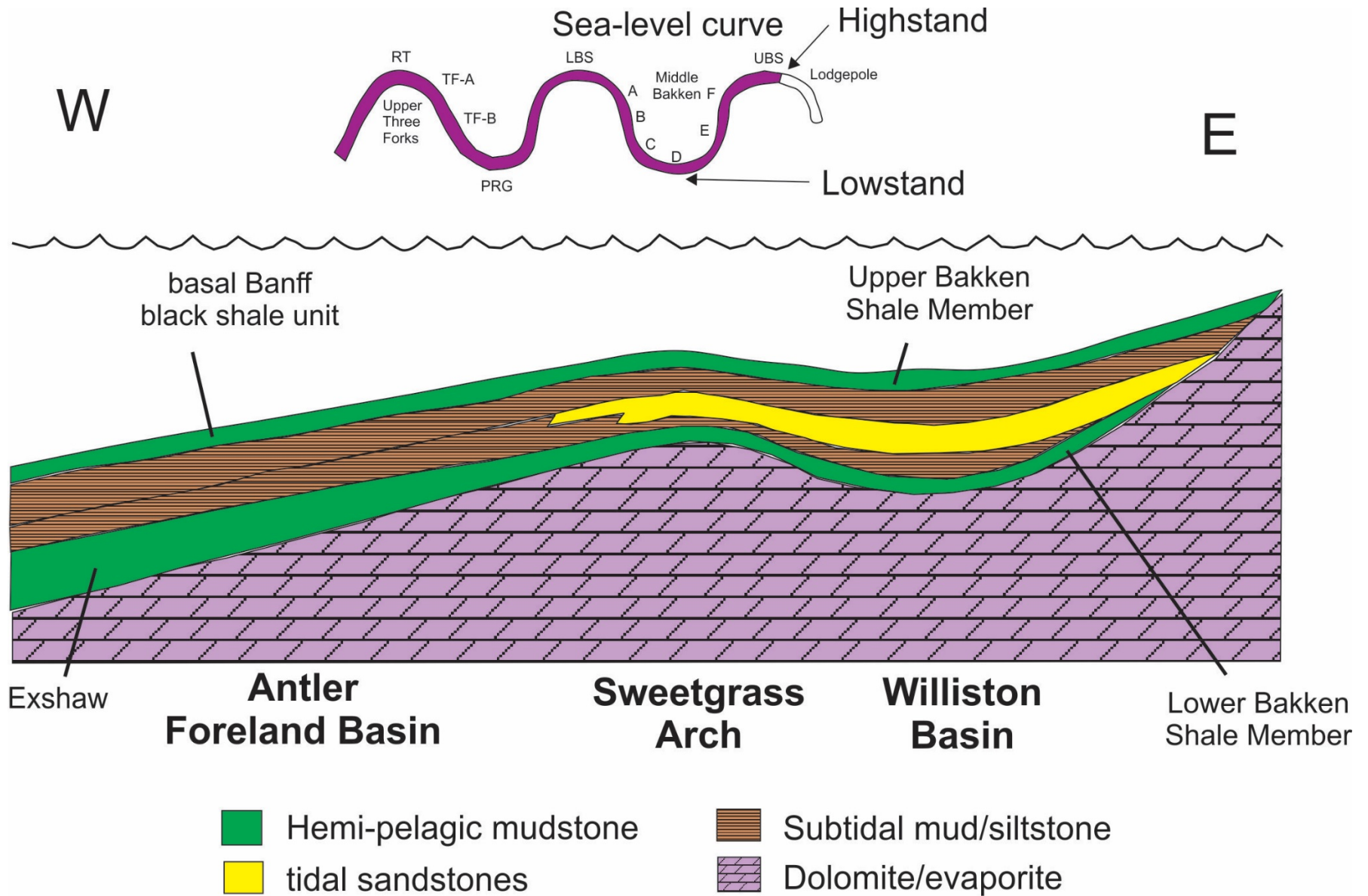
50 ft



Mississippian

Devonian



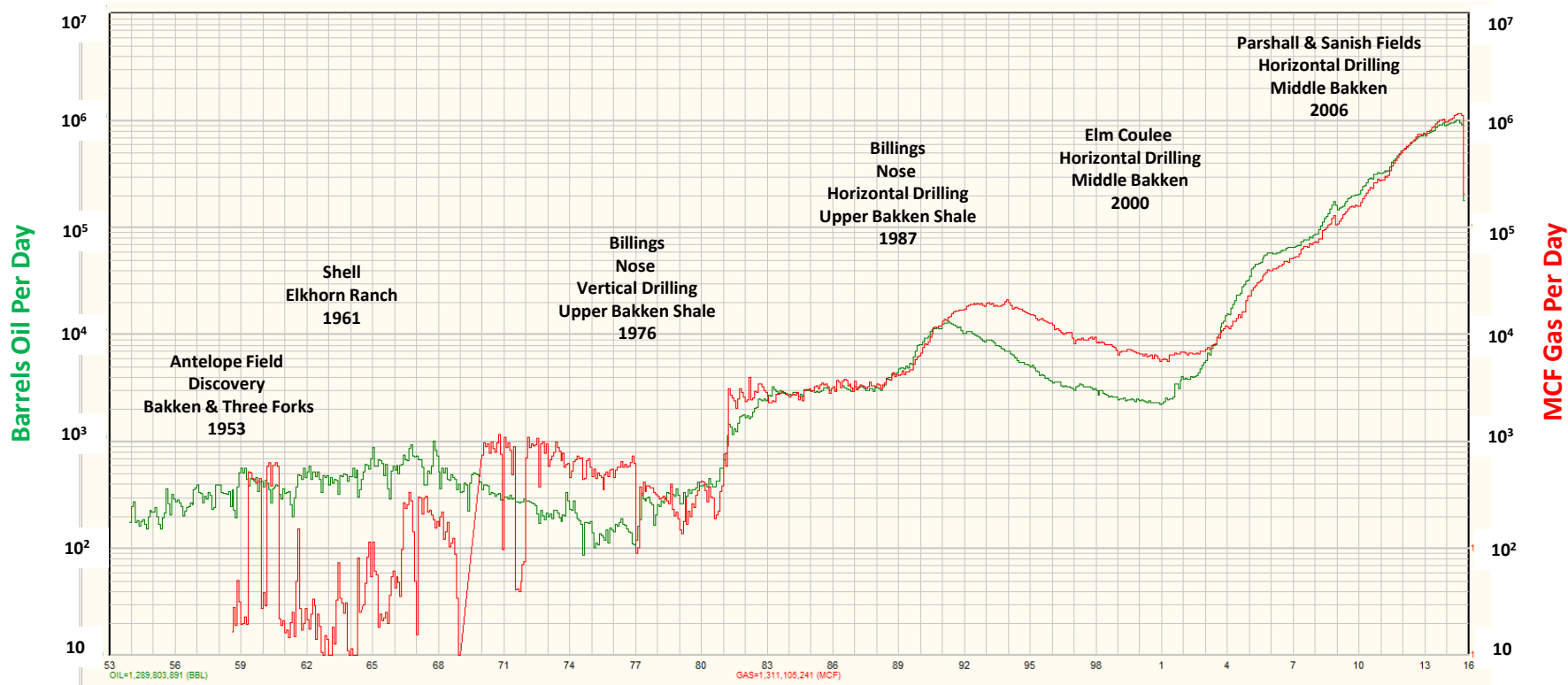




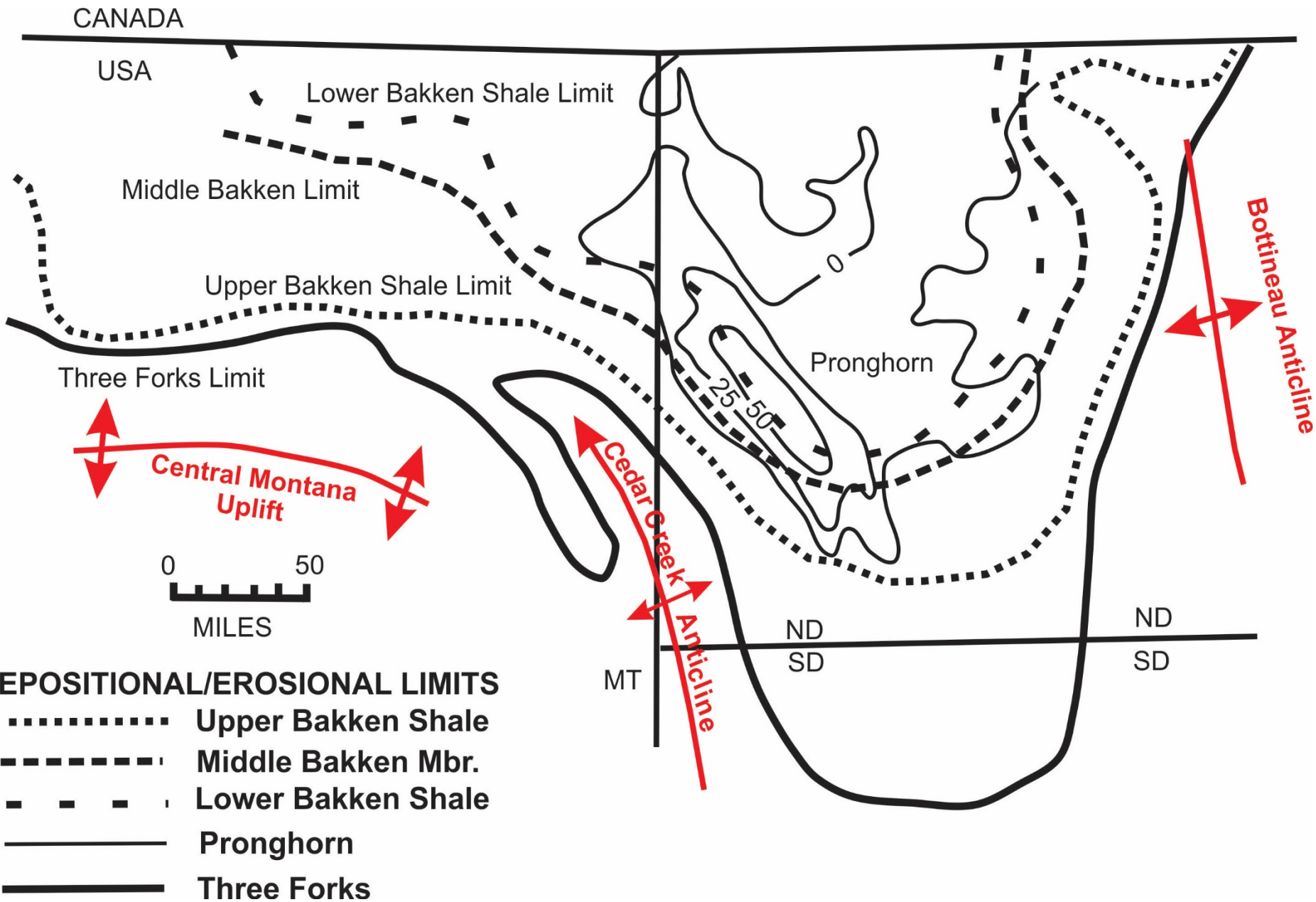
Late Devonian-Early Mississippian black shales (360 Ma)

Bakken Petroleum System Basics

- Upper & lower black shales
 - 'World Class' Source Rocks
 - Hard, siliceous, pyritic, fissile, organic-rich
 - TOC's average wt. 11%
 - High OM indicates anoxic conditions (amorphous-sapropelic OM)
 - HC Generation: 10 to 400 B bbl oil
- Middle member (target of horizontal drilling)
 - Dolomitic siltstone to a silty dolomite
 - Low porosity and permeability
- Upper & Middle Three Forks dolostones (target of horizontal drilling)
- Pronghorn dolostones (new target!)
- Abnormal pressure and hydrocarbon generation (> 0.5 psi/ft)



Total US Williston Basin
 Bakken and Three Forks
 1,289,803,891 BO
 1,311,105,241 MCFG



CANADA

USA

Lower Bakken Shale Limit

Middle Bakken Limit

Upper Bakken Shale Limit

Three Forks Limit

Pronghorn

25-50

Central Montana Uplift

Cedar Creek Anticline

Bottineau Anticline

0 50

MILES

DEPOSITIONAL/EROSIONAL LIMITS

- Upper Bakken Shale
- - - - Middle Bakken Mbr.
- . - . Lower Bakken Shale
- Pronghorn
- Three Forks

MT

ND

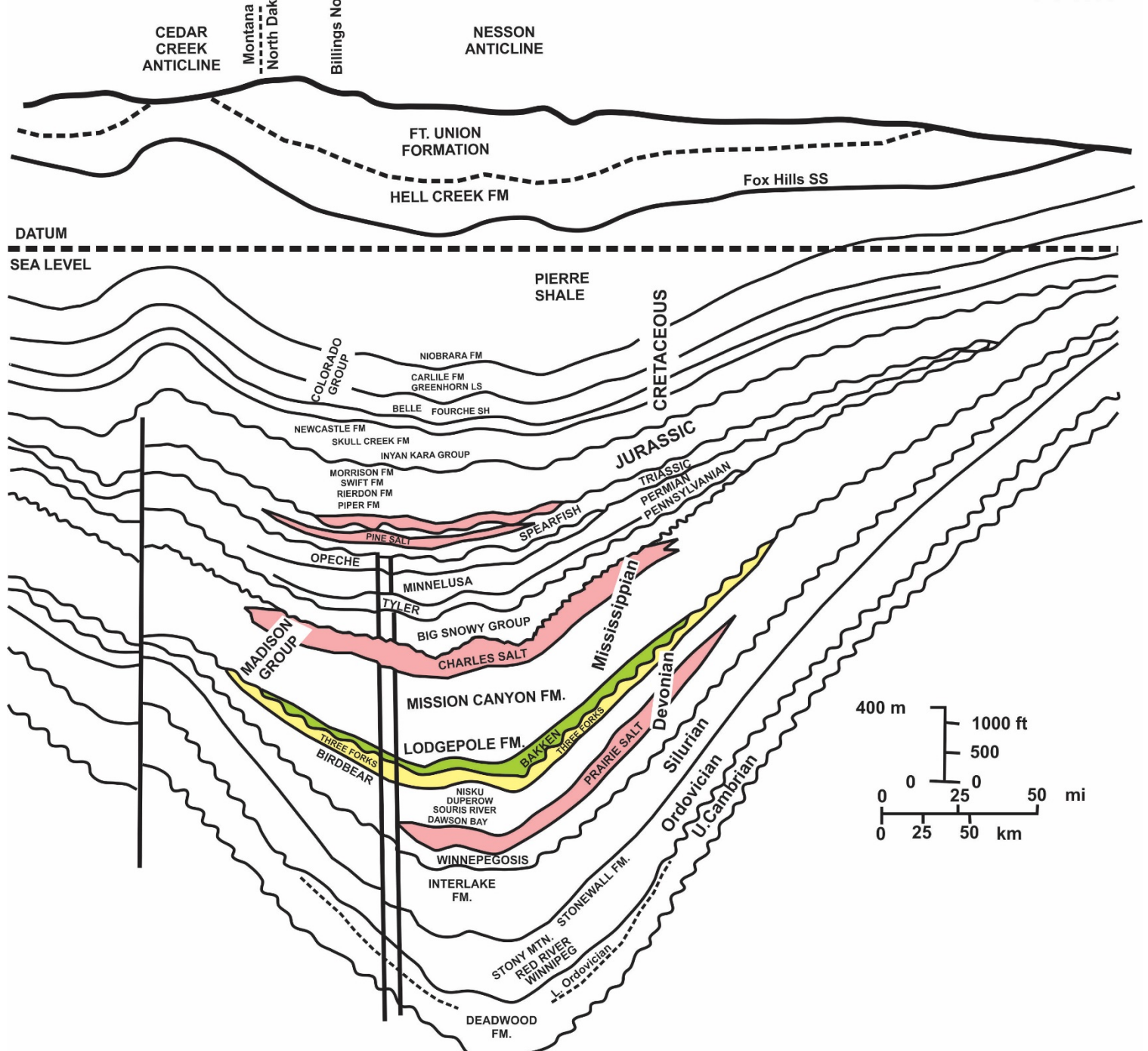
SD

ND

SD

Southwest

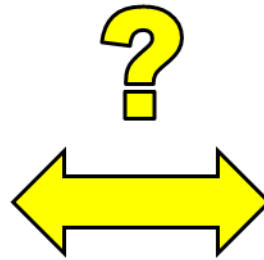
Northeast



What factors influence productivity?

GEOLOGY

- Reservoir quality
- Reservoir thickness
- Oil & water saturations
- HC generation potential
- Maturity
- Overpressure
- Structure and lineaments
- Regional stress regime
- Mechanical stratigraphy
- Natural fractures
- Migration
- Traps

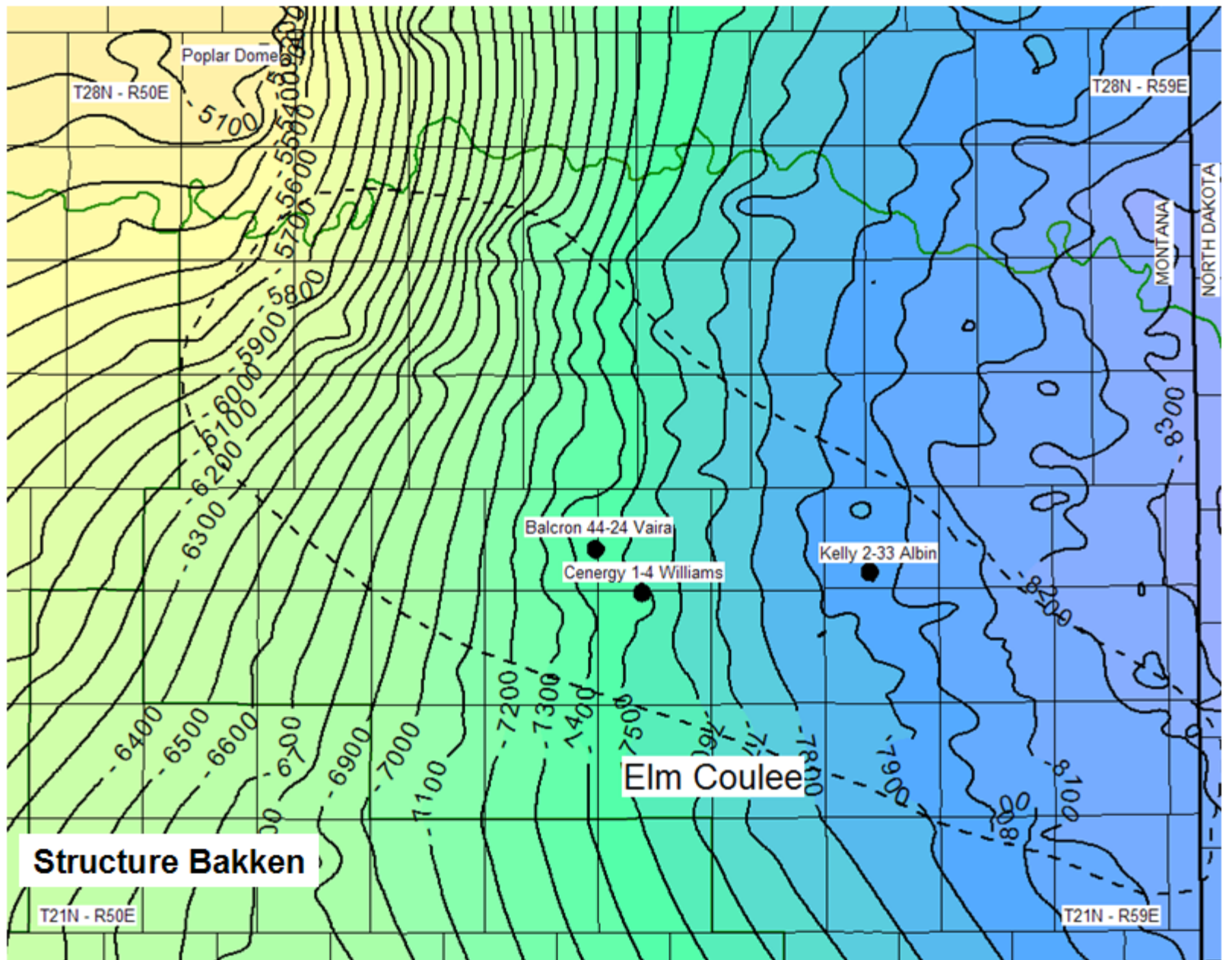


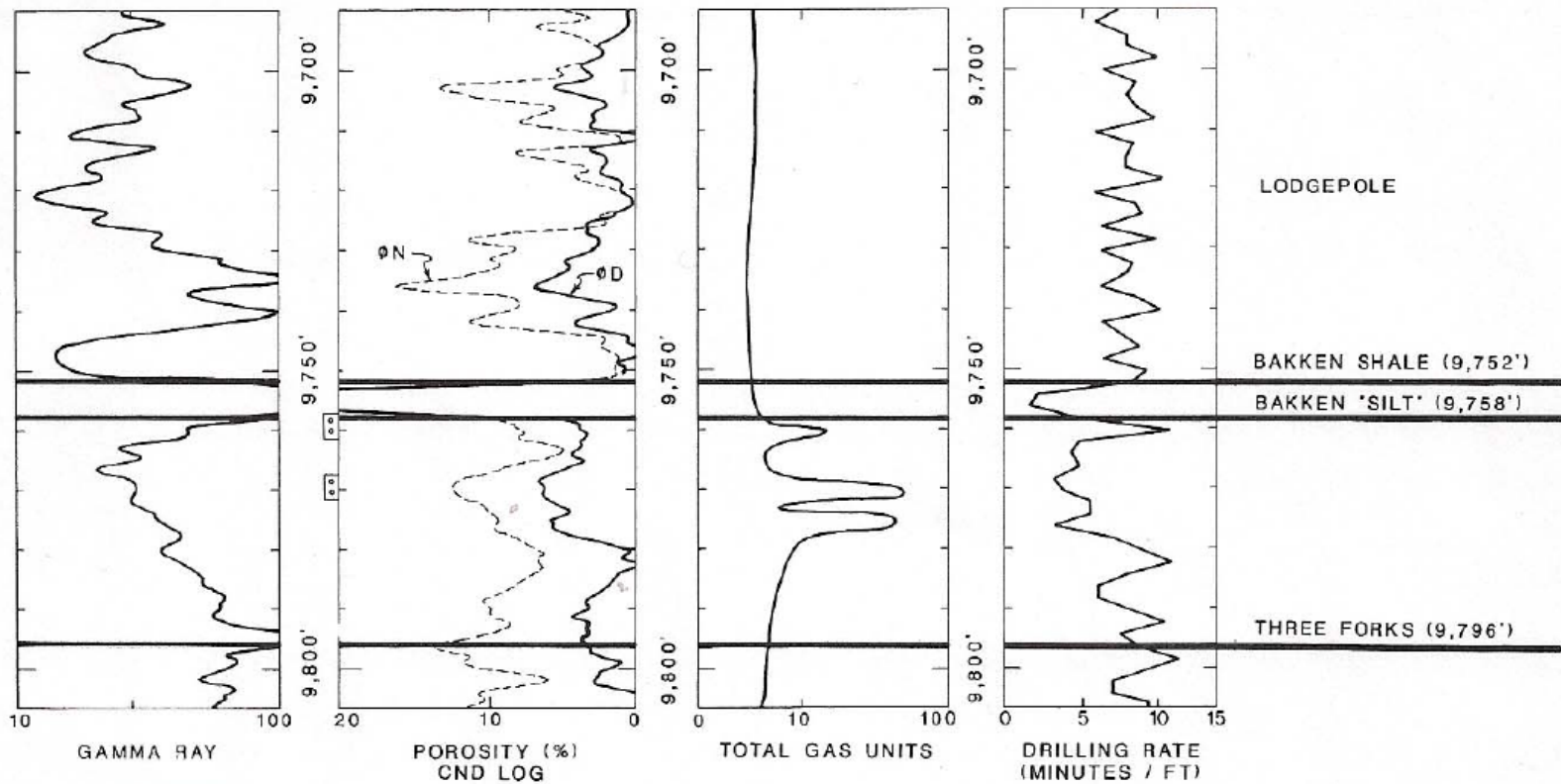
TECHNOLOGY

- Well type
- Lateral length
- No. of hyd. fracturing stages
- Proppant volume & type
- Proppant loading
- Fluid volume & type
- Fluid / proppant ratio
- Injection rate
- Treatment pressure
- Choke size
- Plug & perf; sliding sleeves
- Well spacing

Elm Coulee

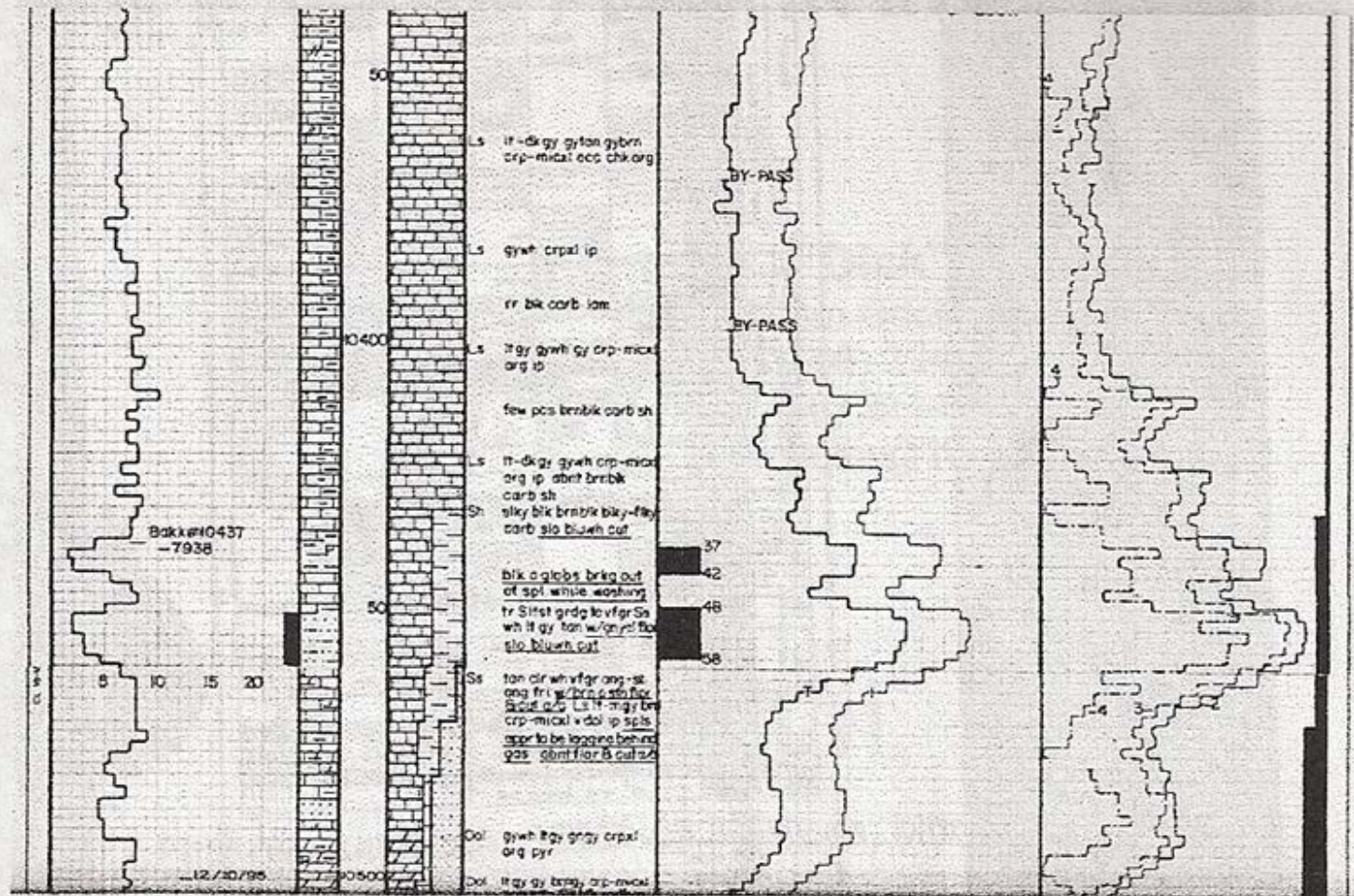






Log suite, BN 9-27, Richland Co., MT (Cramer, 1991)
 Note mud log shows in Middle Bakken.

KELLY / PROSPECTOR ALBIN-FLB 2-33 MUD LOG



From Findley, 2005

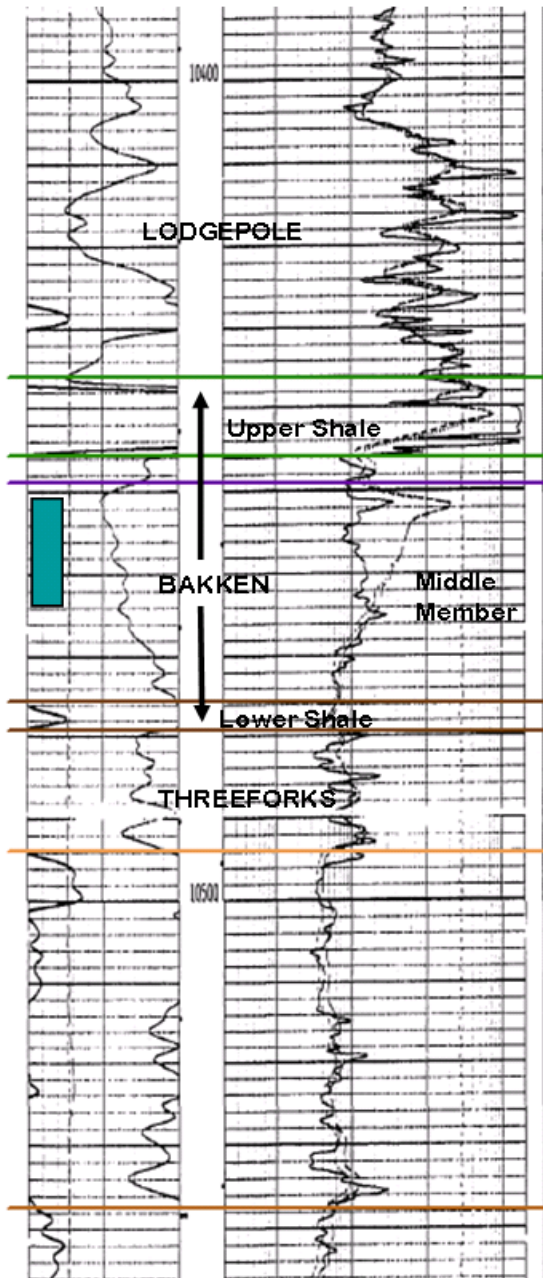
**Kelly/Prospector
(Enerplus Resources)
Albin Flb 2-33
Sec. 33-24N-57E**

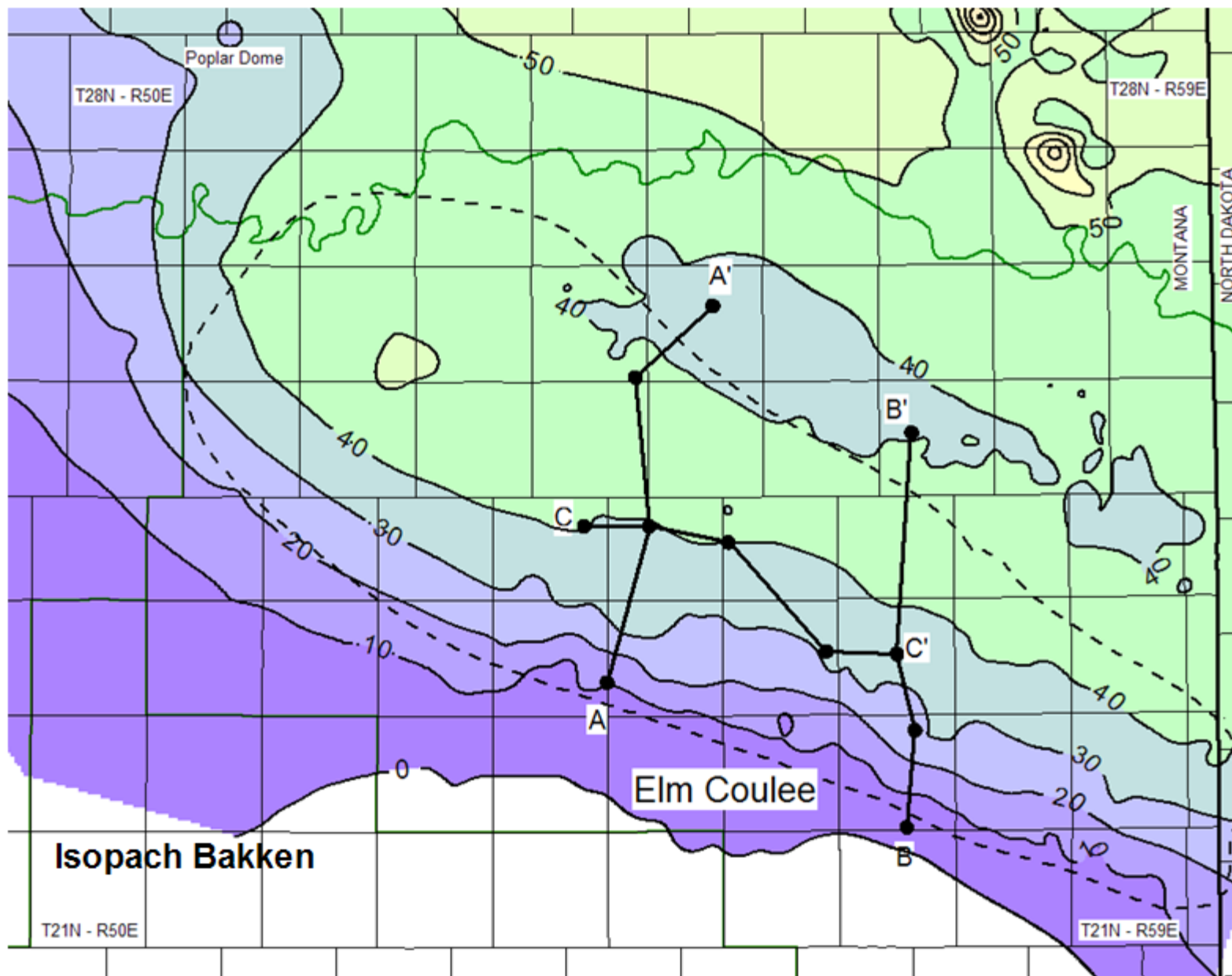
**Pfs: 10,451-463
IP: 73 BOPD**

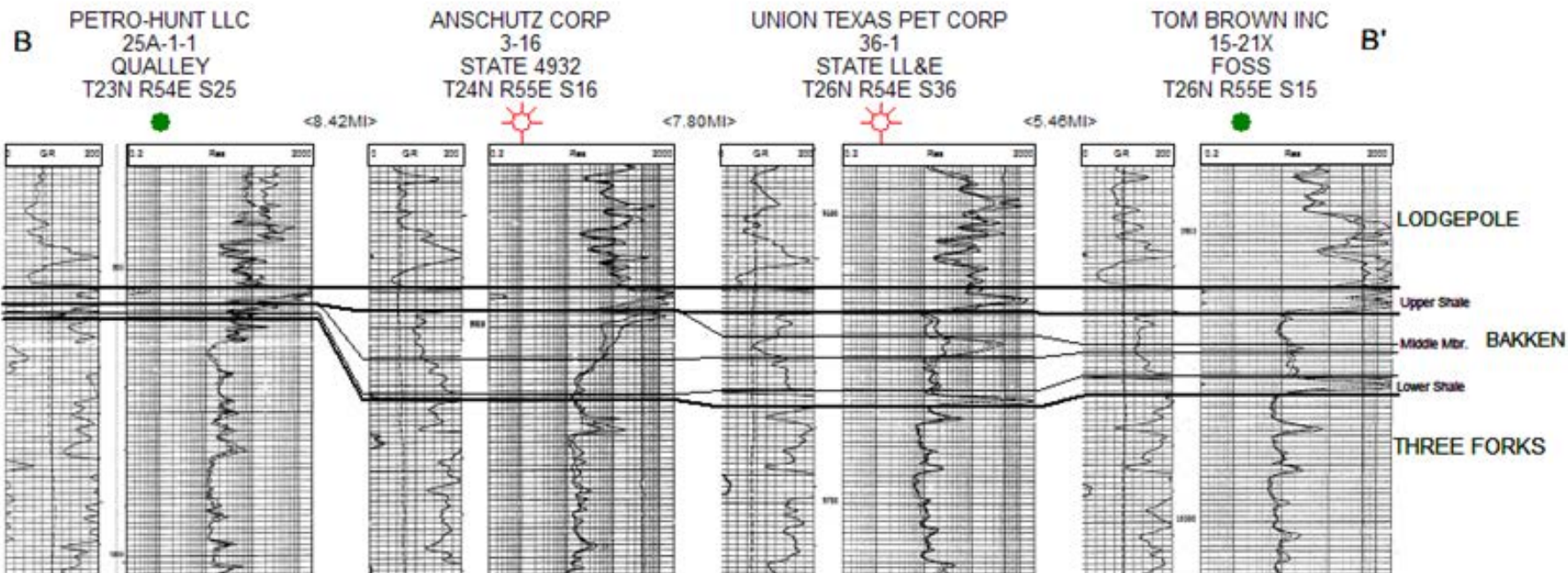
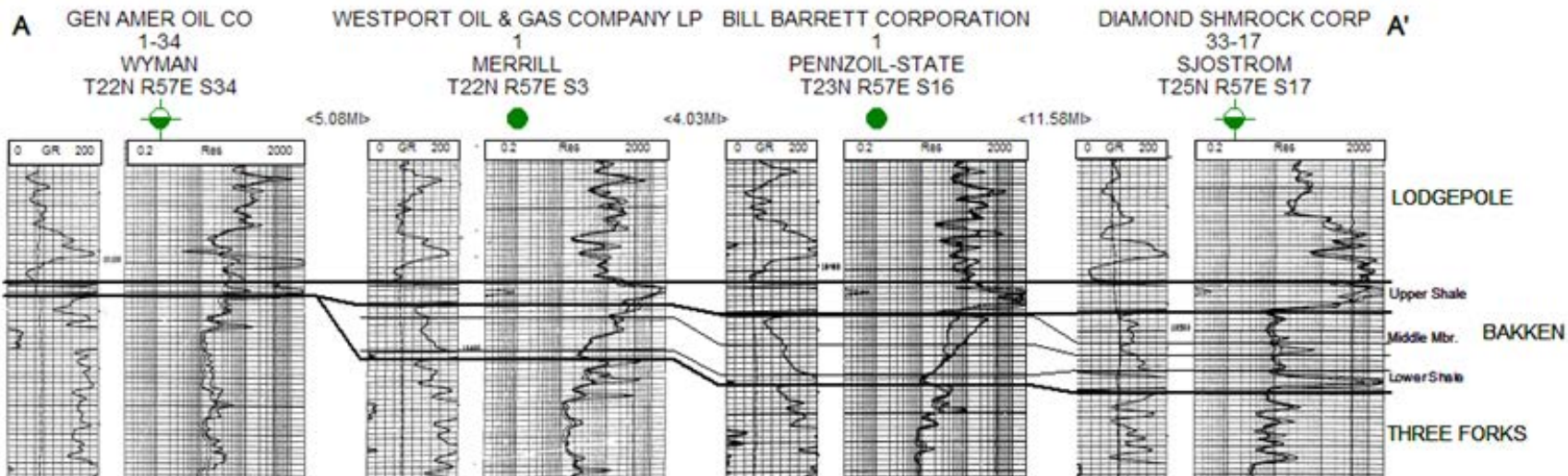
**Flowed 2,191 barrels oil in the first
30 days beginning March 20, 1996**

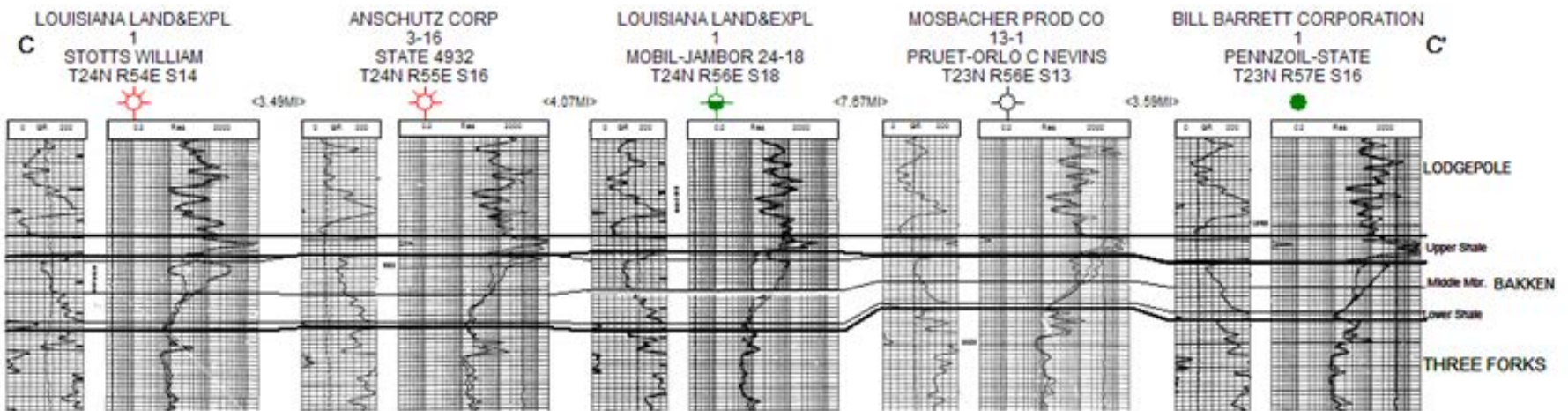
**Treatment:
Water sand frac with 80,260 gallons
water & 151,800 lbs sand**

**Cum: Cum:
92,119 BO; 56,607 MCFG; 10,674 BW**







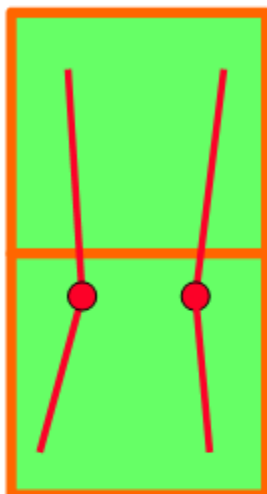


Middle Bakken Reservoir Data

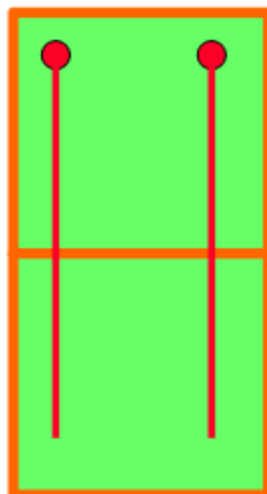
- Formation type: Fractured Silty Dolomite
- Vertical Depth: 8,500' to 10,500'
- Vertical thickness: 8' to 14'
- Porosity: 8 to 10%
- Permeability: 0.05 md average
- Oil Saturation: 75% average
- Spacing Units: Primarily 640 to 1280 acres
- Stimulation: Gelled water, sand frac
- Initial Production: 200 to 1900 BOPD; 100 to 900 Mcfd
- Oil Gravity: 42° API @ 60°F
- Bottom hole temp: 240°F
- GOR: 500 CFG/Bbl
- Oil in Place (BO/section): 5,000 MBO
- Primary Recovery Factor: 10%
- Primary Oil Recovery: 500 MBO
- Well Cost: ~ \$4,500,000

Well Spacing Units & Patterns

1280s

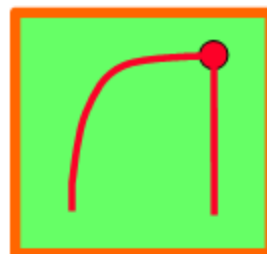


"Bow tie"
Dual laterals

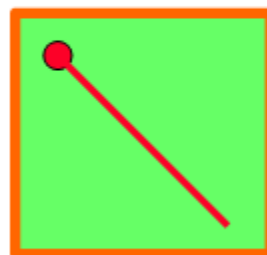


Long single
laterals

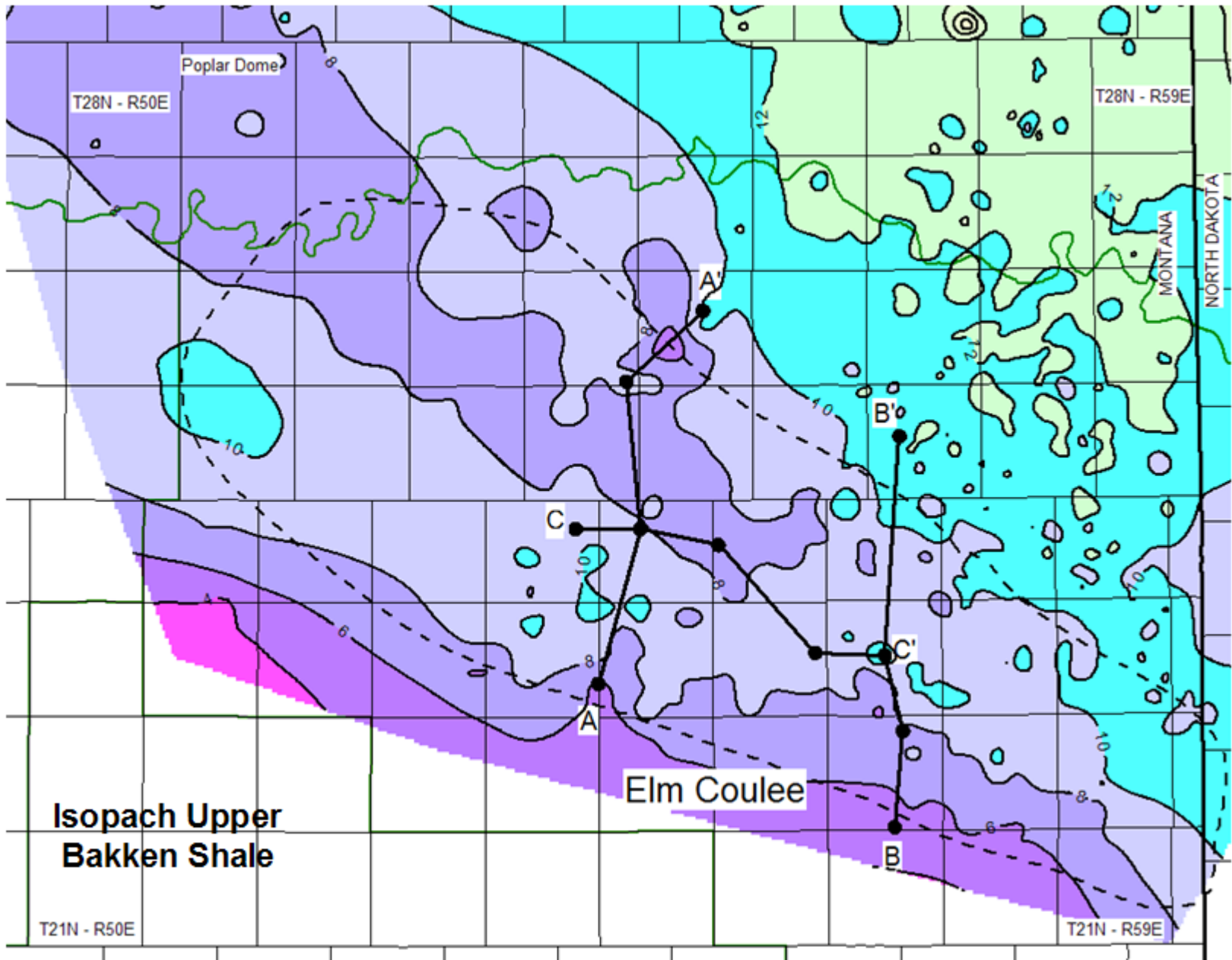
640s

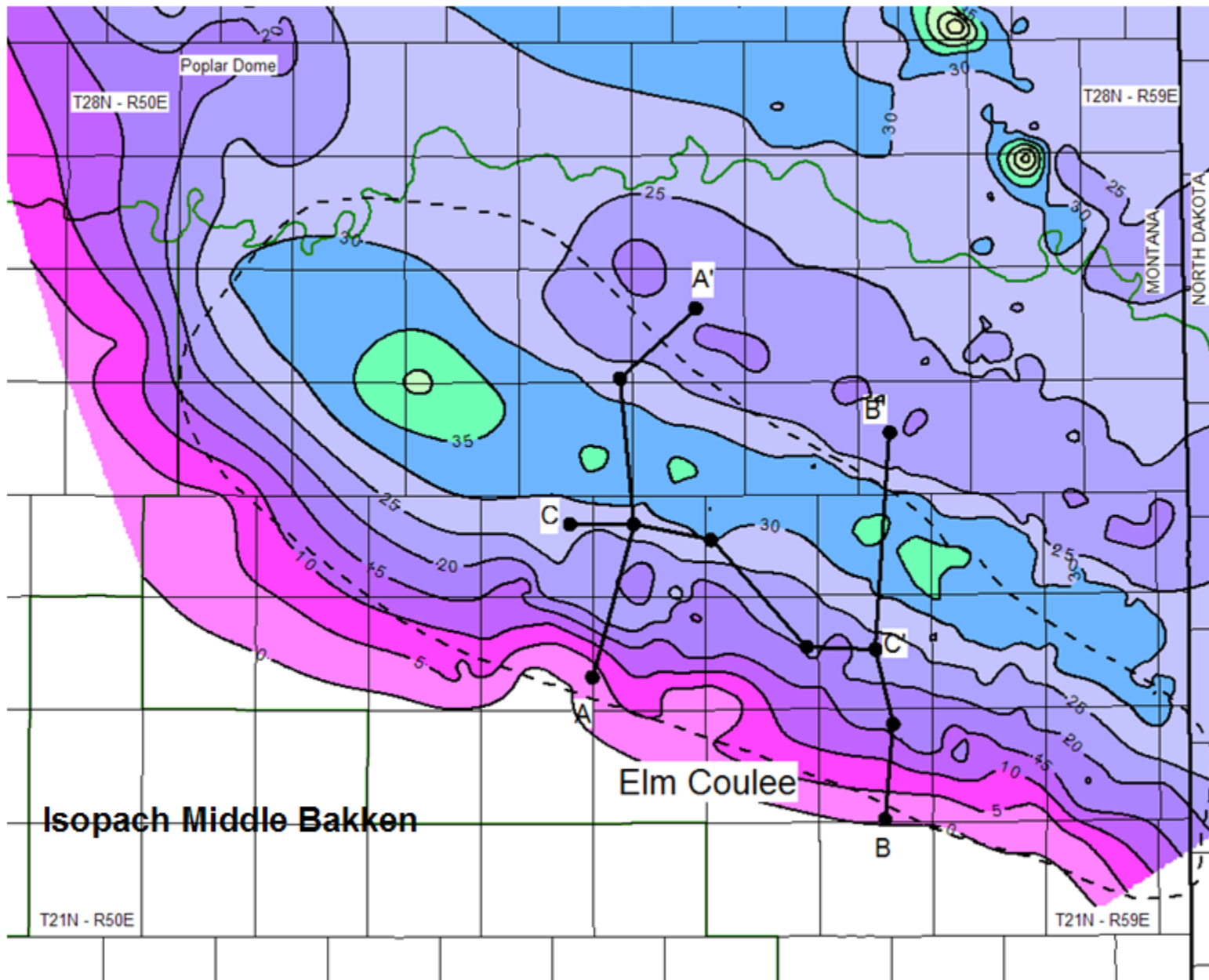


"Bird foot"
Dual laterals



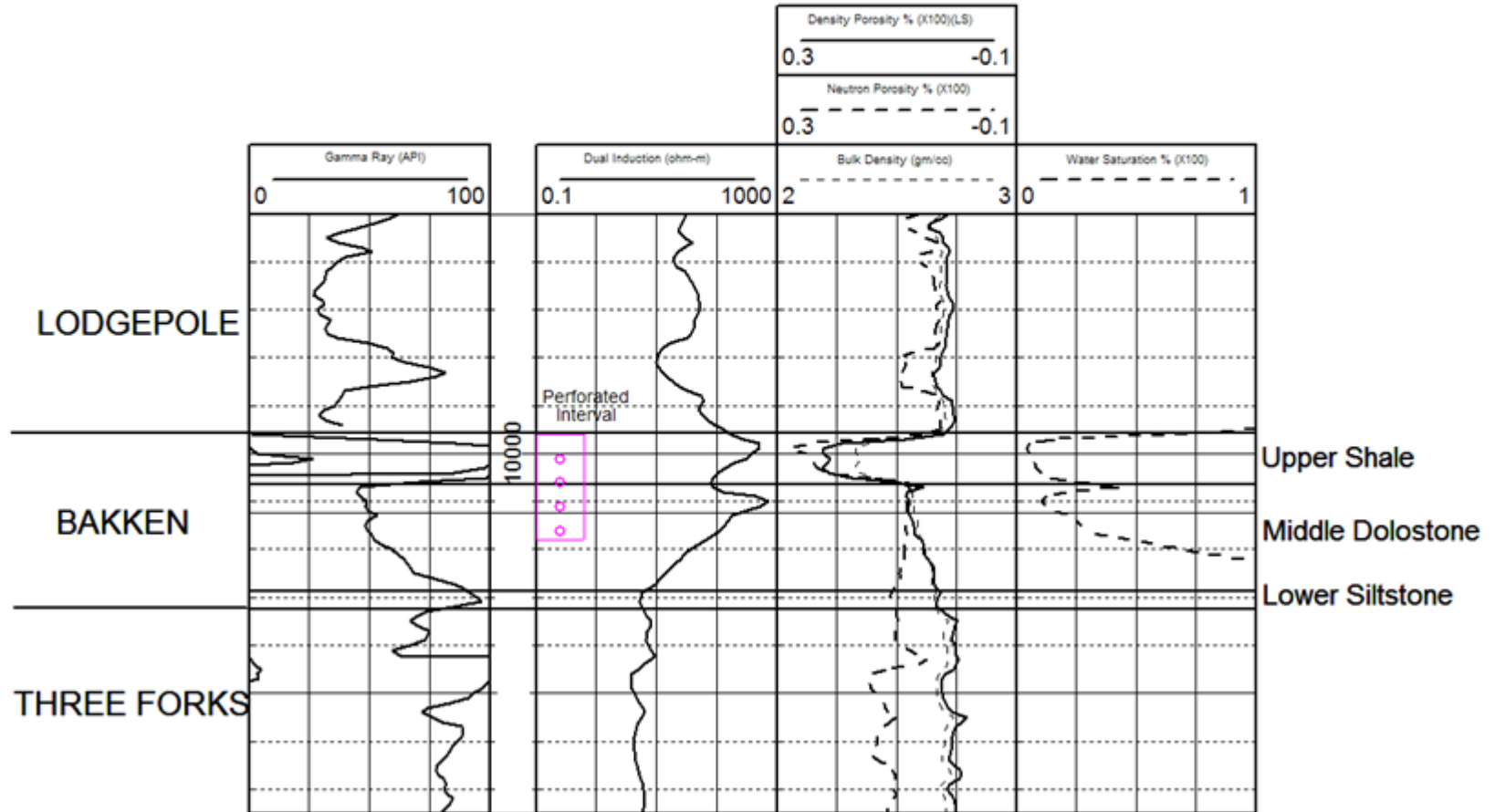
Single
section
laterals





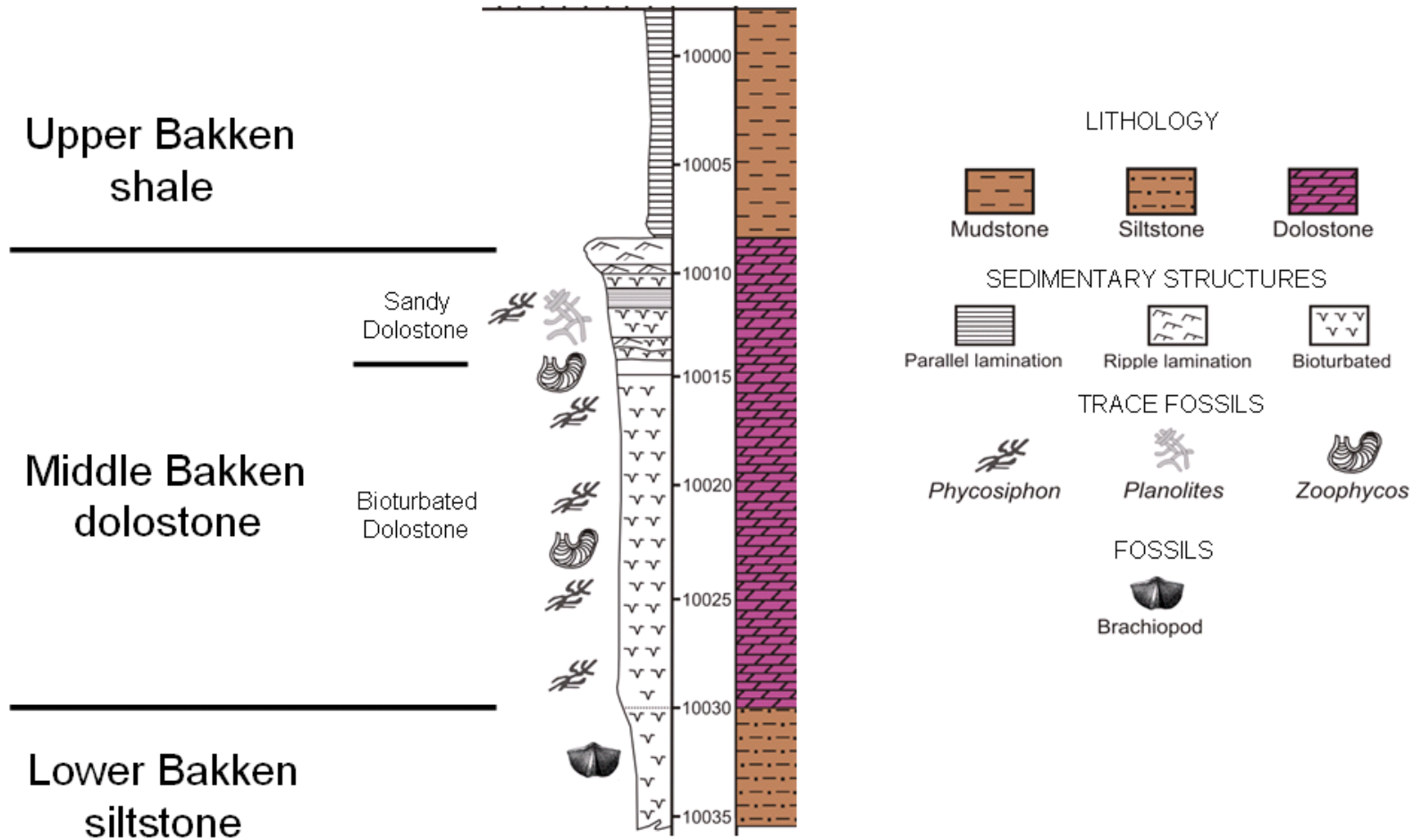
Balcron 44-24 Vaira

(Sec. 24-T24N-R54E, Richland County, Montana)

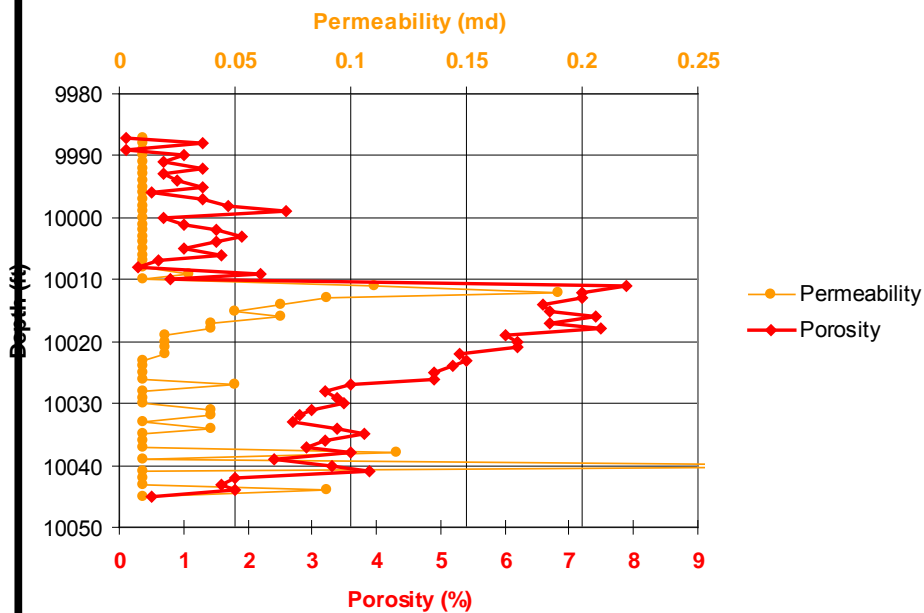


IP: 83 BOPD and 61 MCFD

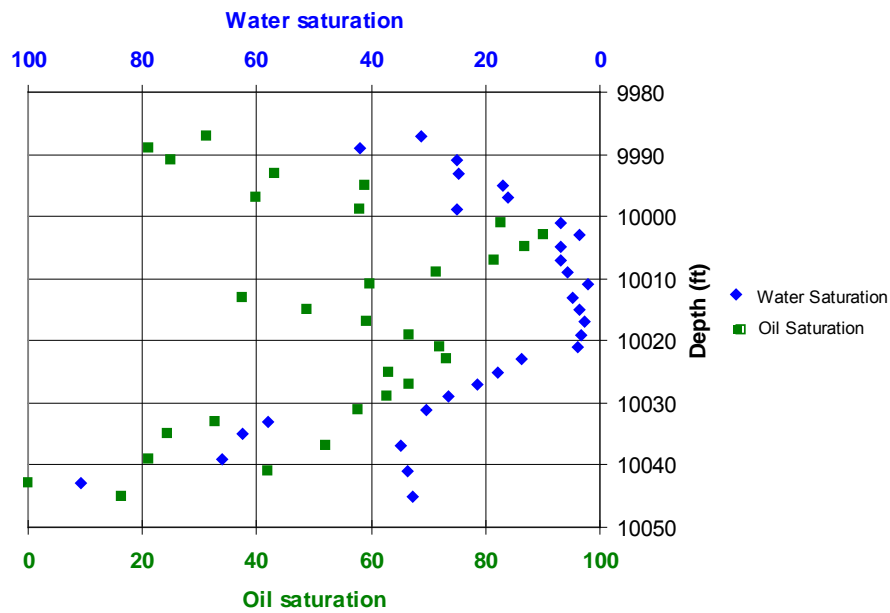
Core description of the Balcron #44-24 Vaira



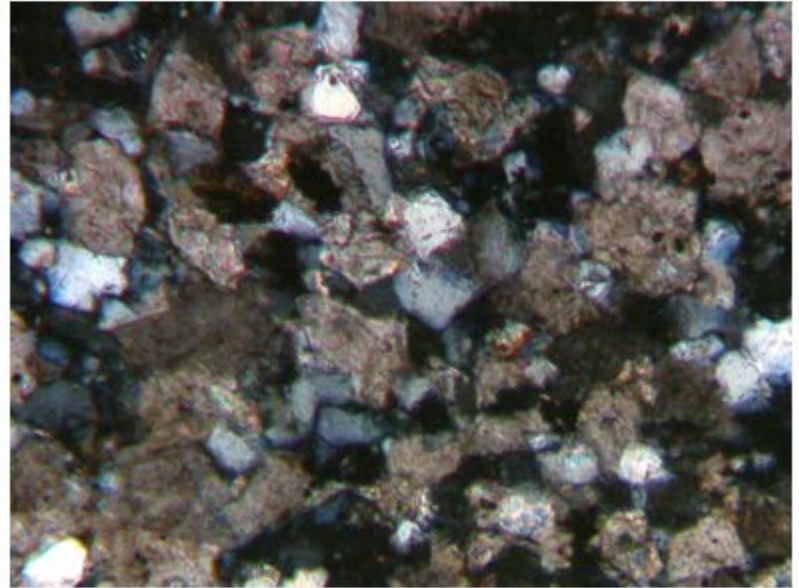
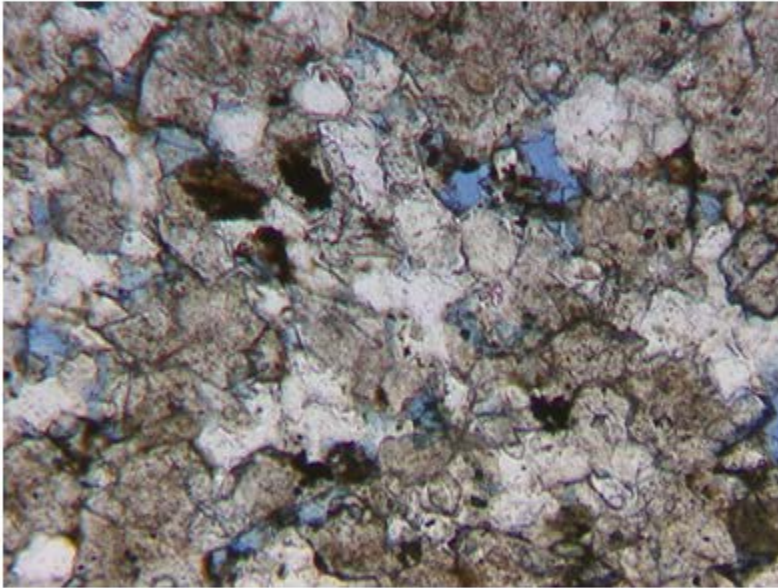
Vaira 44-24



Vaira 44-24

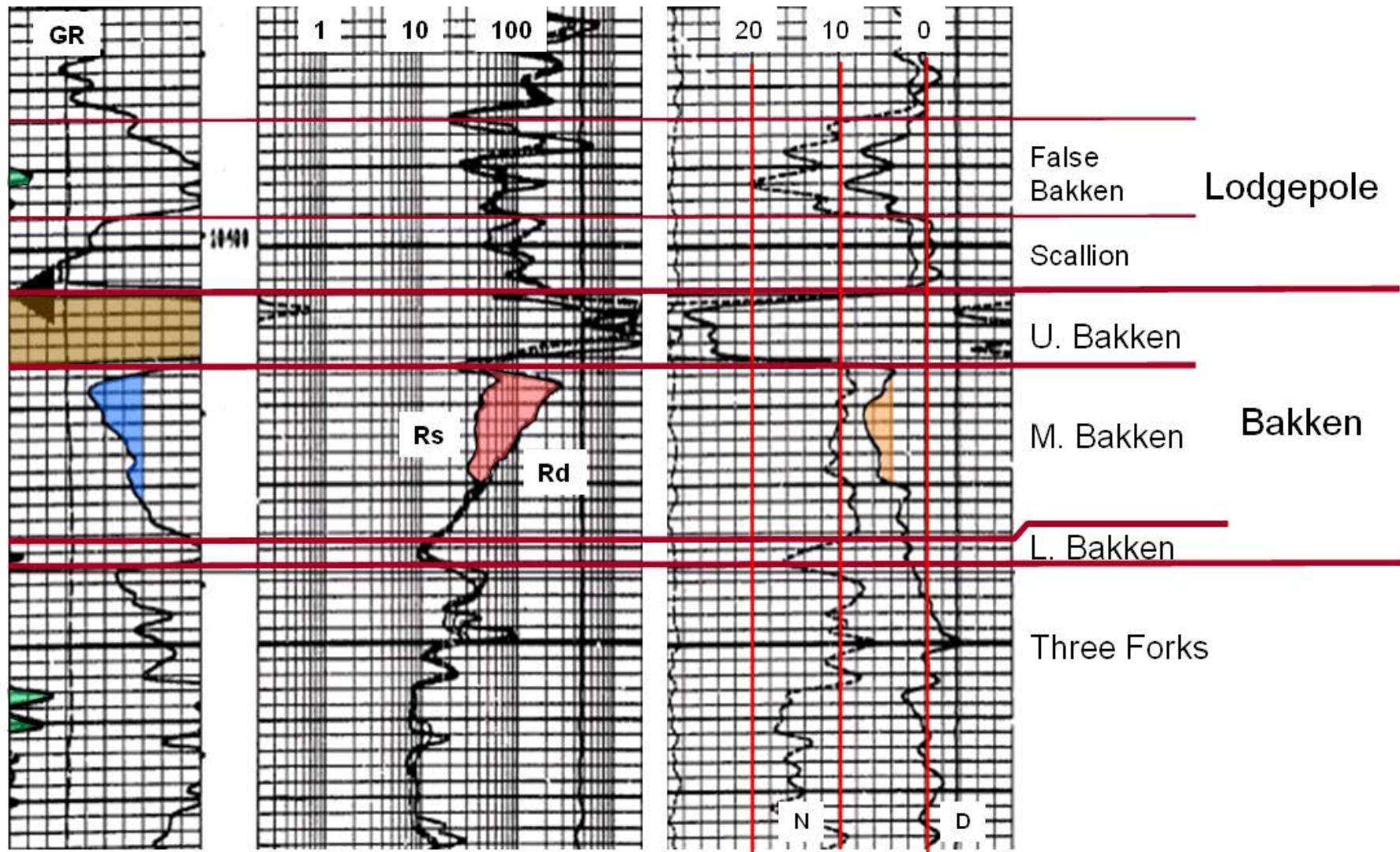


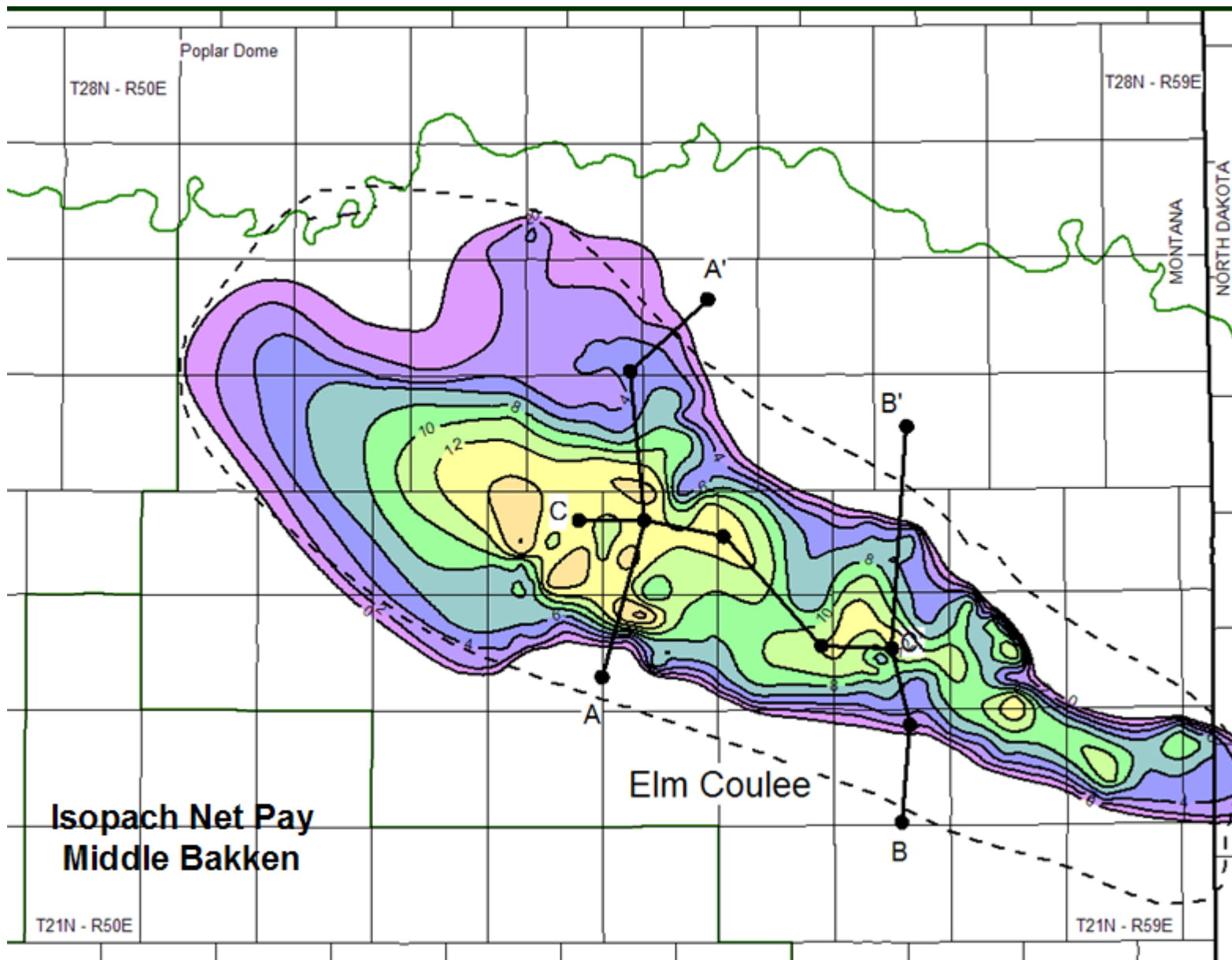
Vaira - 10011



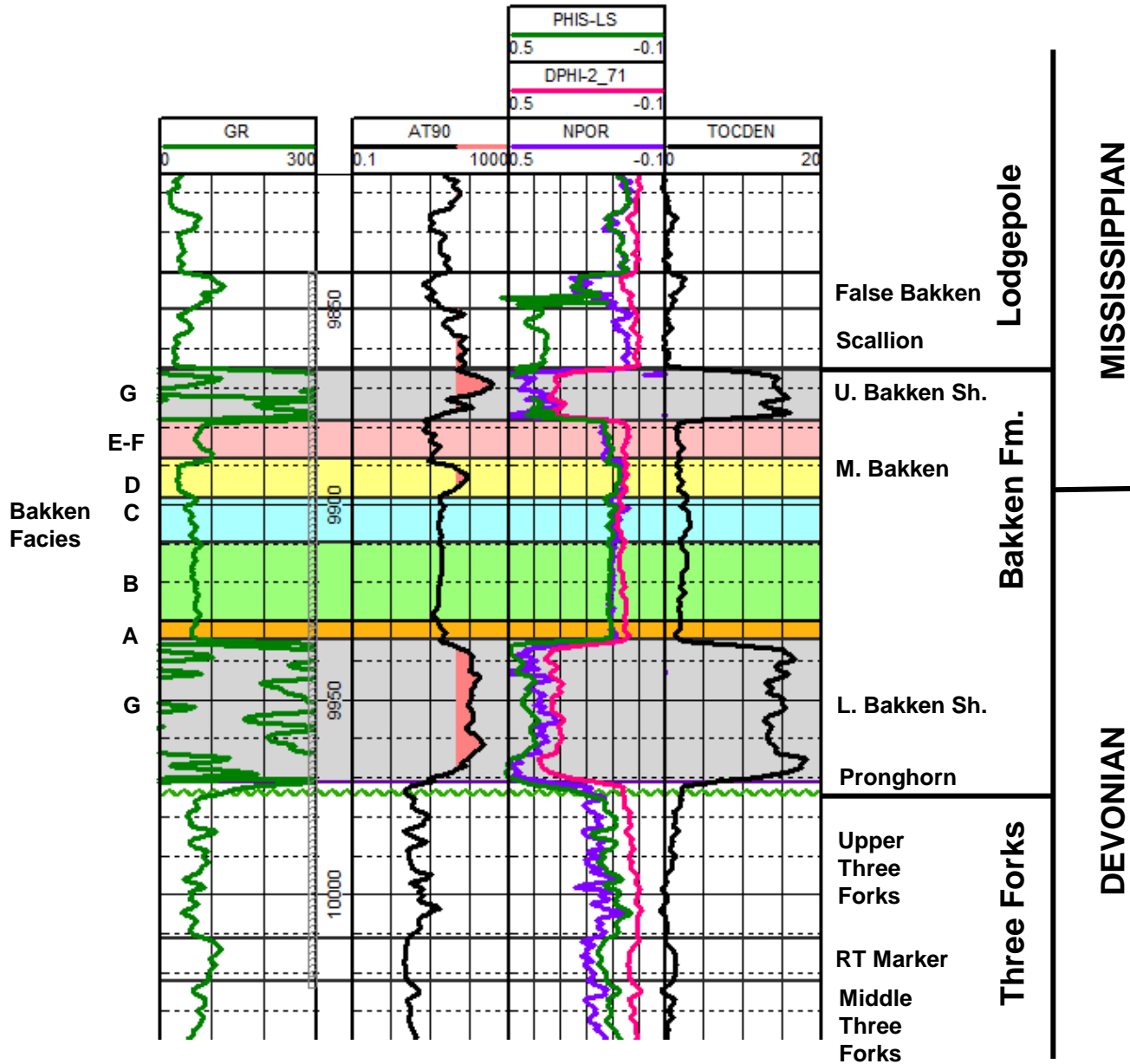
0.5 MM

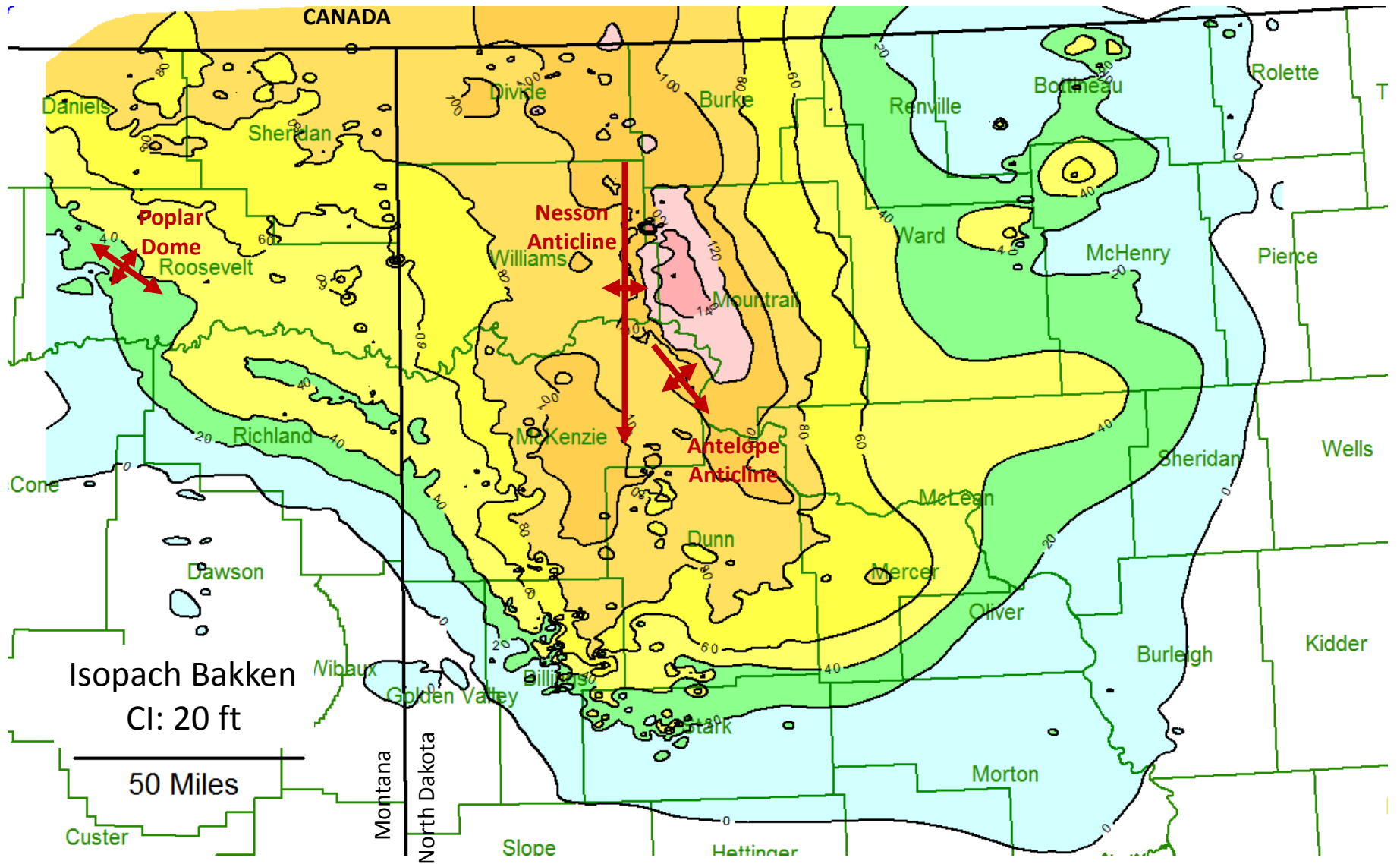
Bakken Type Log
Richland County, Montana
Sec. 16-T23N-R57E





WHITING OIL & GAS
 BRAAFLAT
 11-11H
 T153N R91W S11
 SANISH





CANADA

Poplar

Dome
Roosevelt

Nesson
Anticline

Antelope
Anticline

Isopach Bakken
CI: 20 ft

50 Miles

Montana

North Dakota

Slope

Hettinger

Rolette

Boutreau

Burke

Renville

Sheridan

Divide

Daniels

Williams

Ward

McHenry

Pierce

Richland

Mountrail

Wells

Cone

McKenzie

McLesn

Sheridan

Dawson

Dunn

Mercer

Kidder

Mibaux

Golden Valley

Stark

Oliver

Burleigh

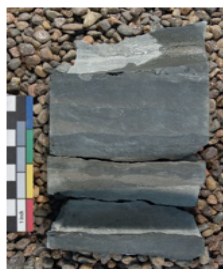
Morton

Custer

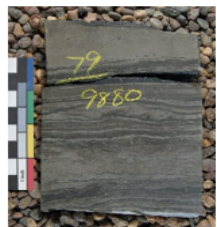
Upper Bakken Shale



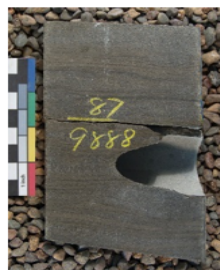
Facies G-9896 ft



Facies F-9880 ft



Facies E-9880 ft

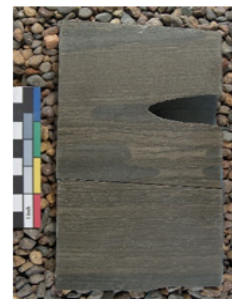
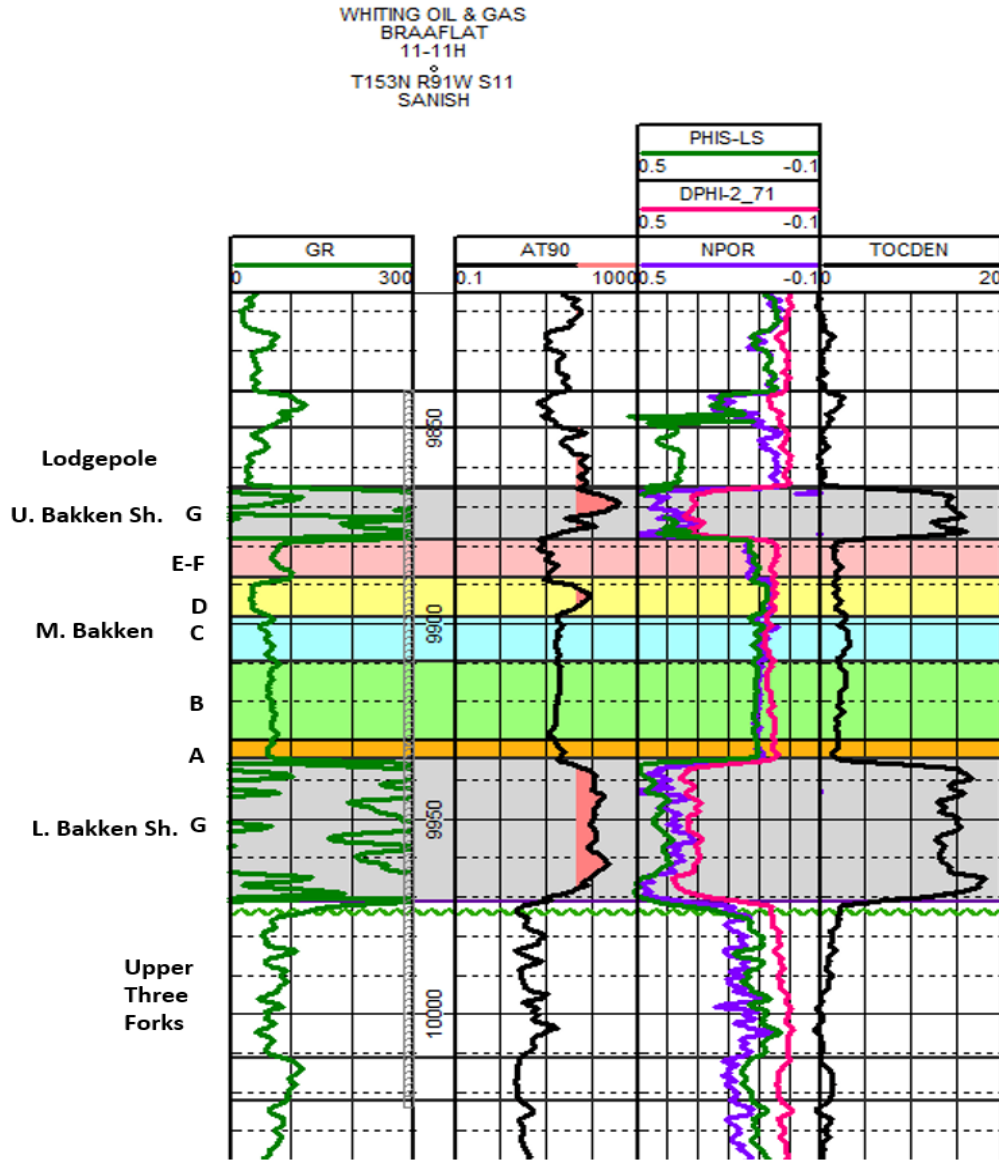


Facies D-9888 ft

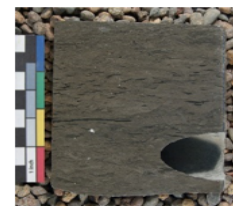
F

E

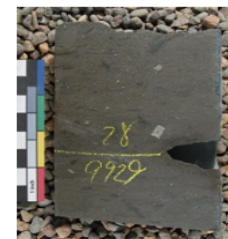
D



Facies C-9888 ft



Facies B-9909 ft



Facies A-9929 ft



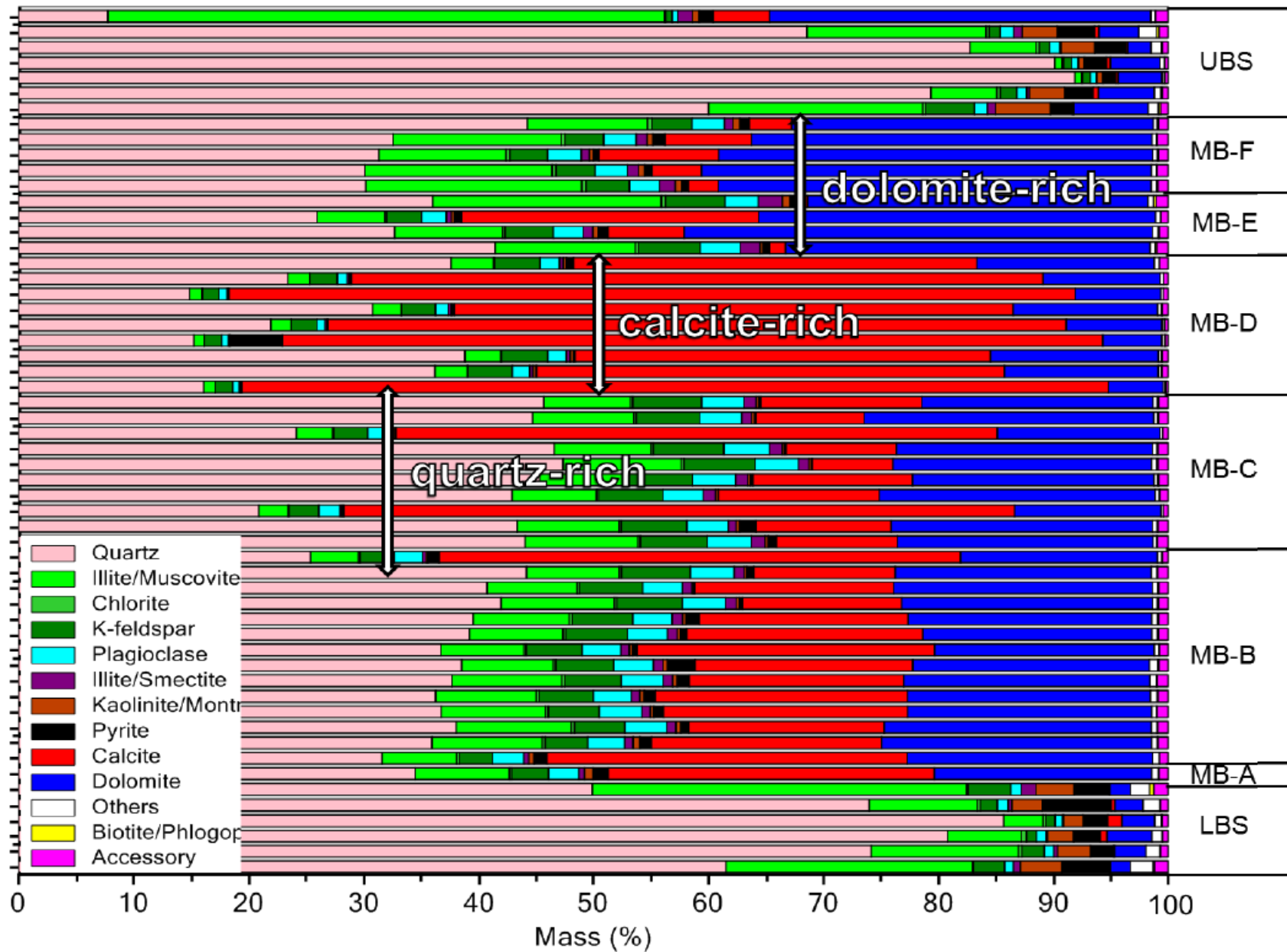
Facies G-9932 ft

C

B

A

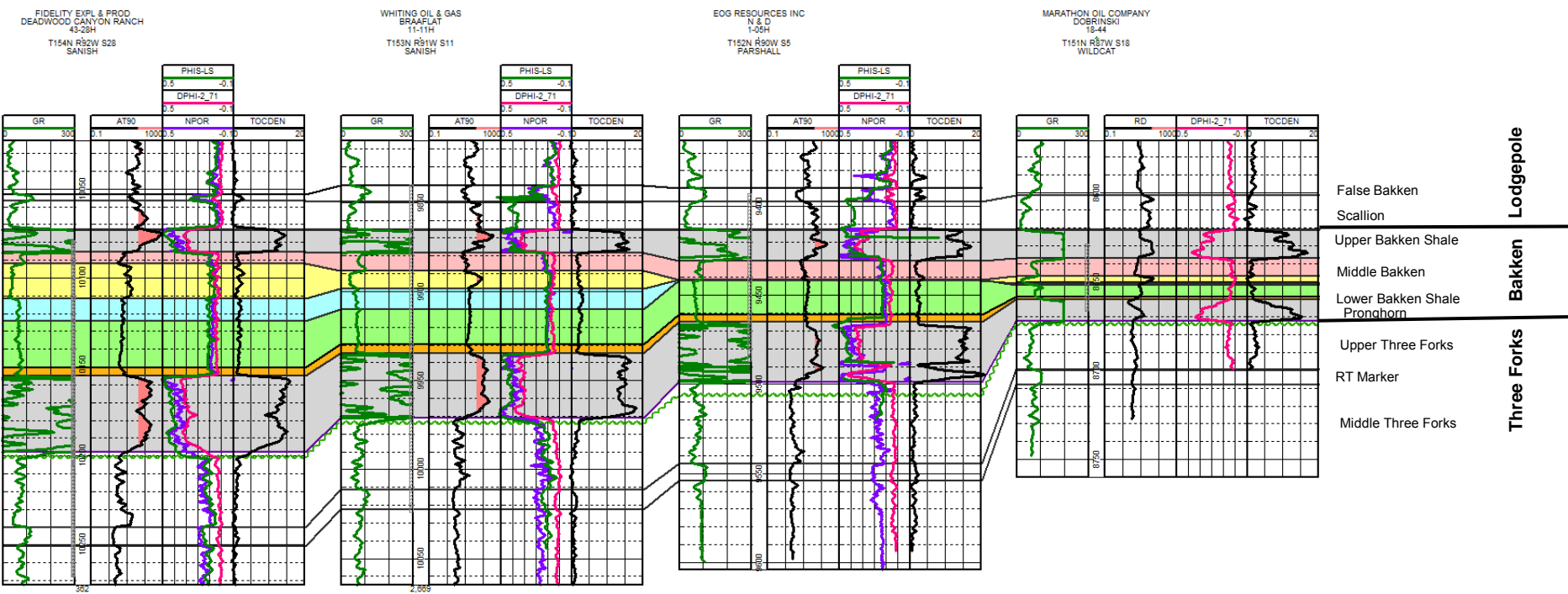
Lower Bakken Shale



Sanish Field

Parshall Field

Non-productive



Source Beds:
 Mature

Overpressured

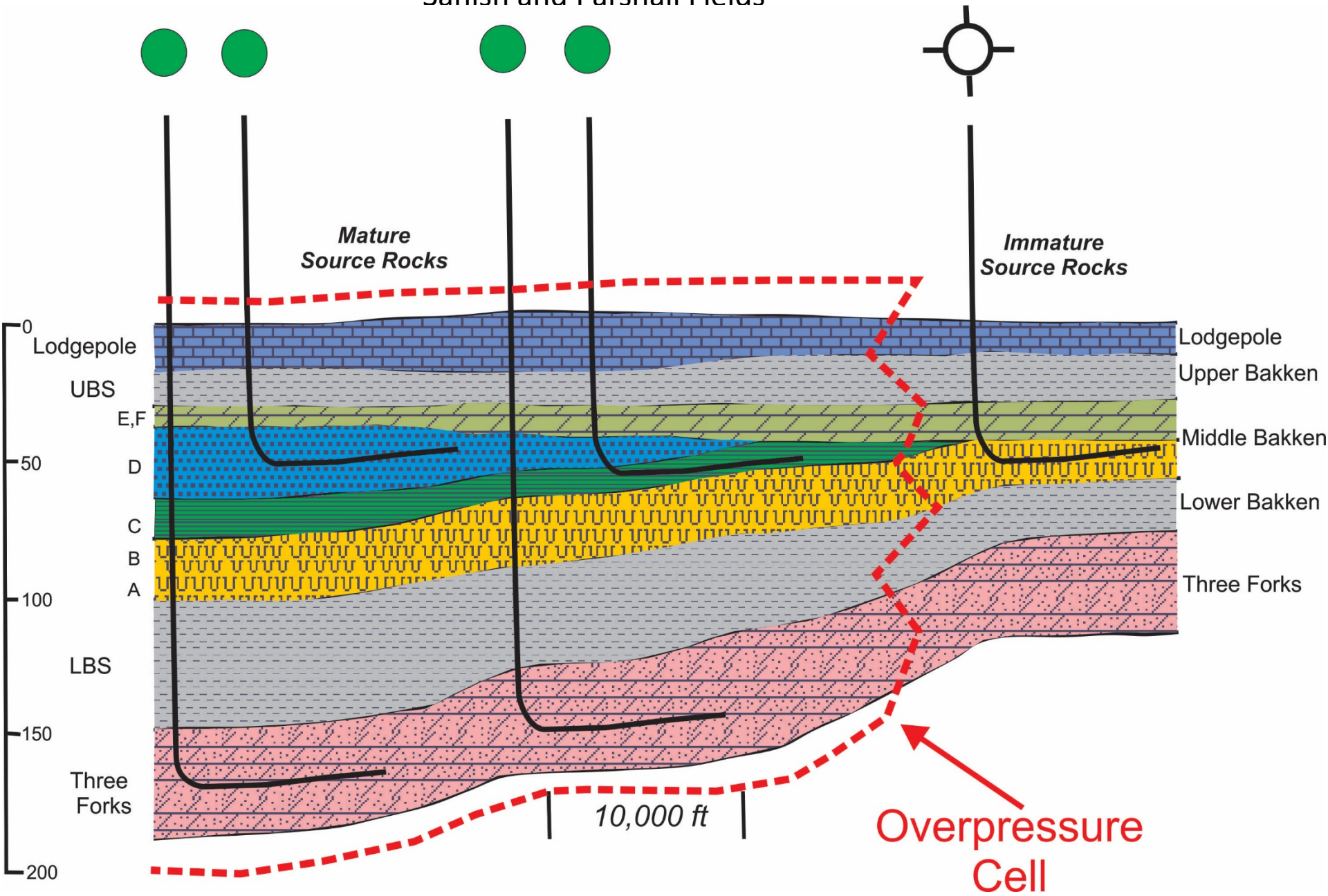
Source Beds:
 Marginally mature

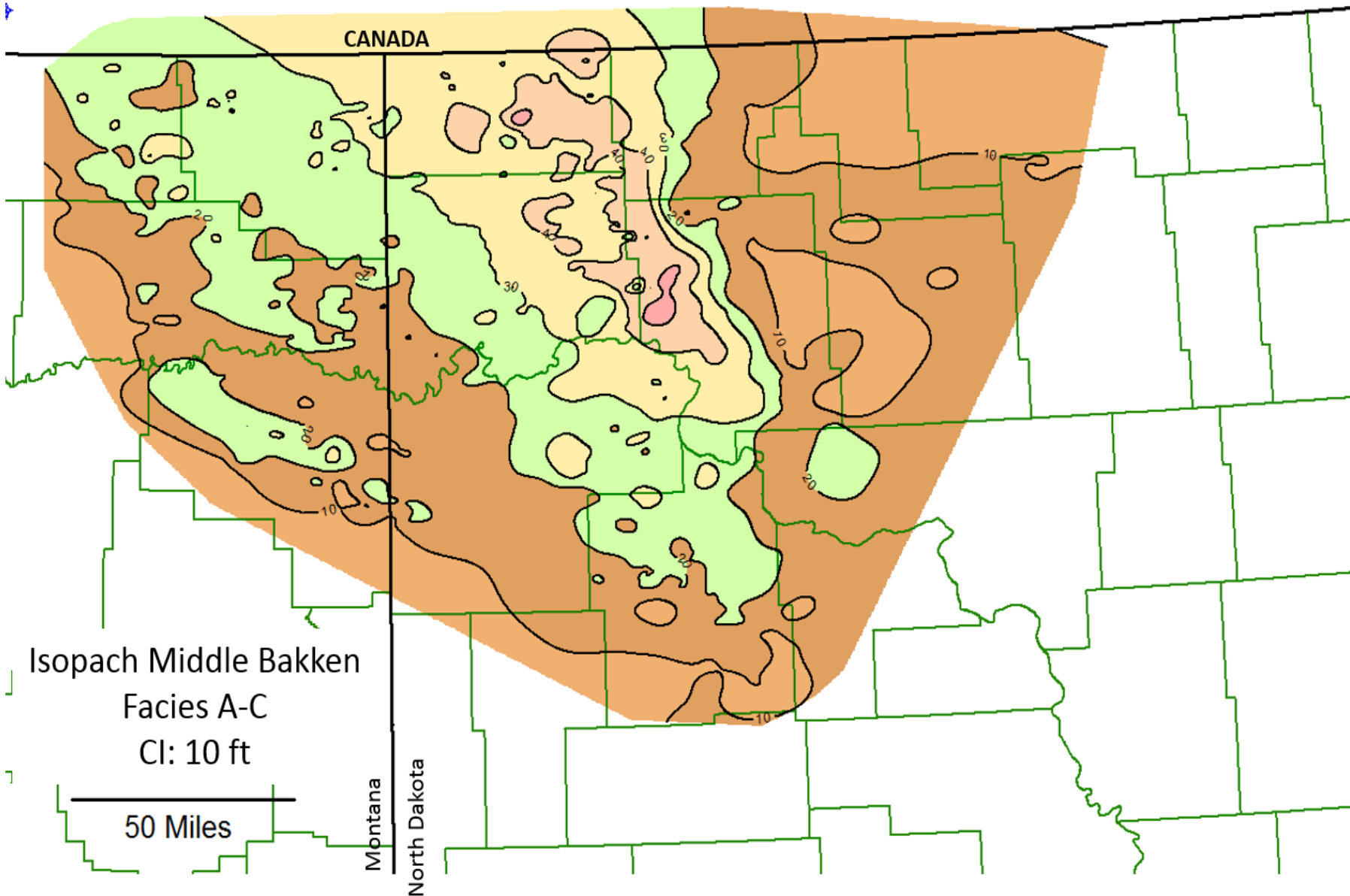
Highly over3pressured

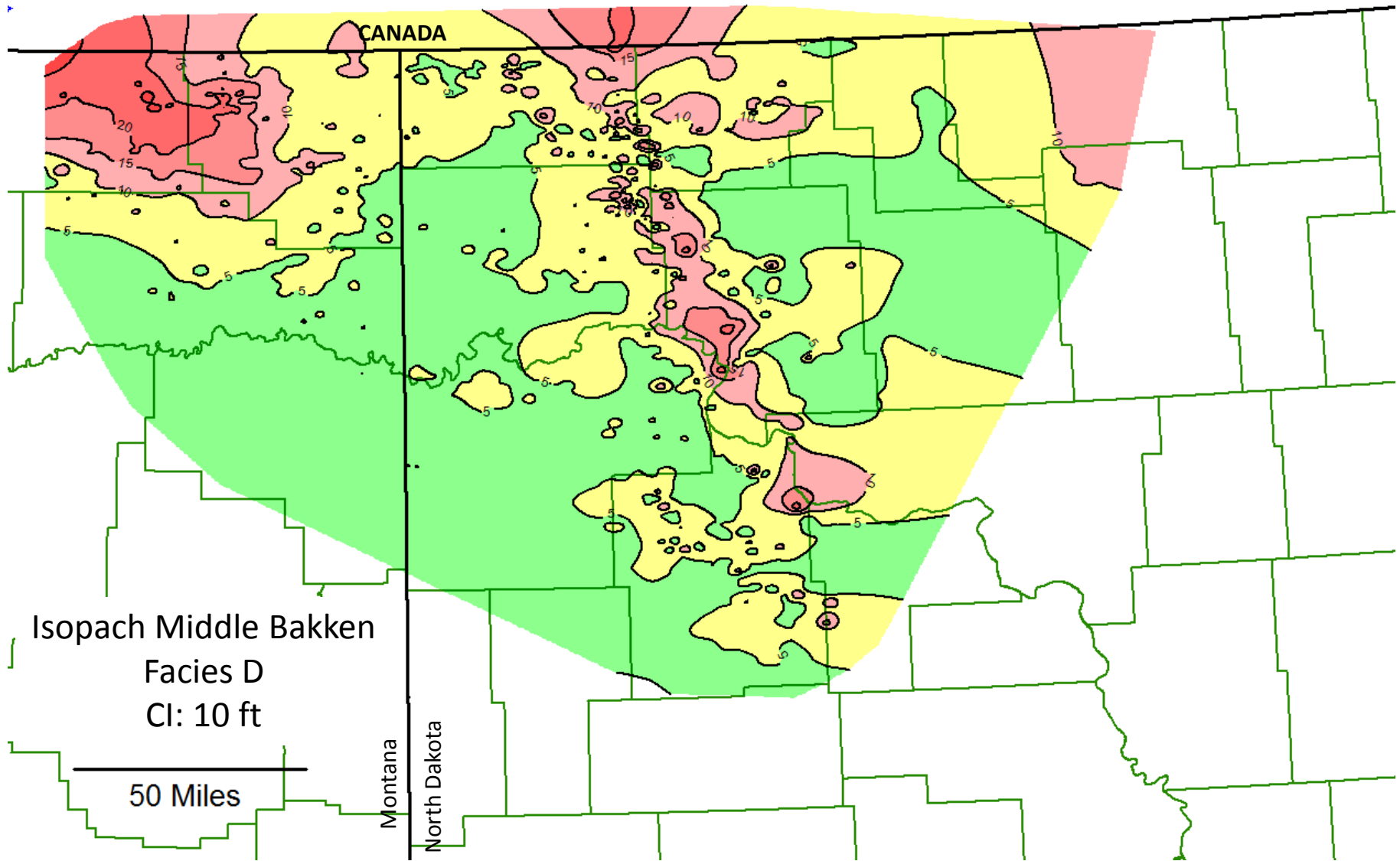
Source Beds:
 Immature

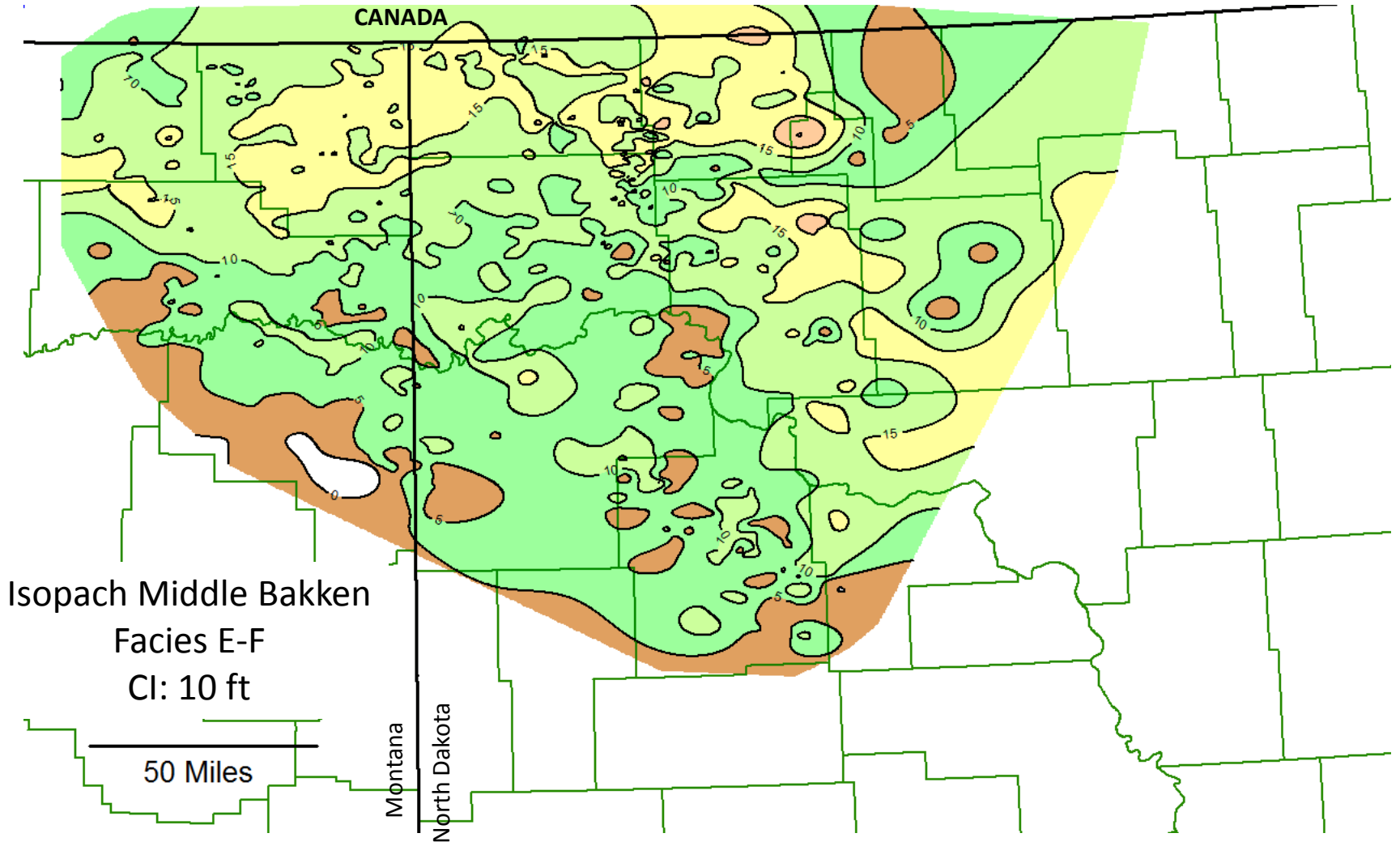
Normally pressured

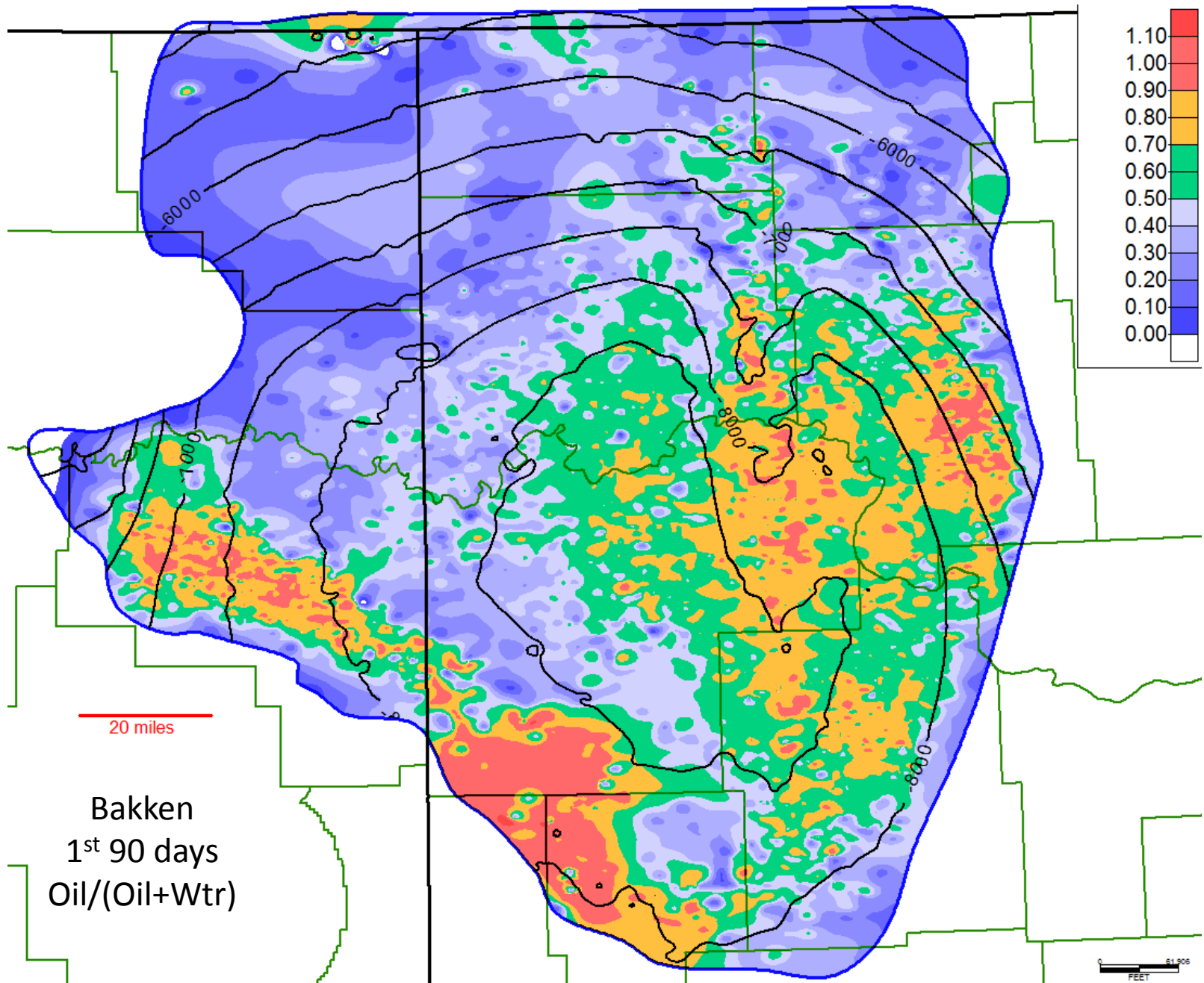
Sanish and Parshall Fields

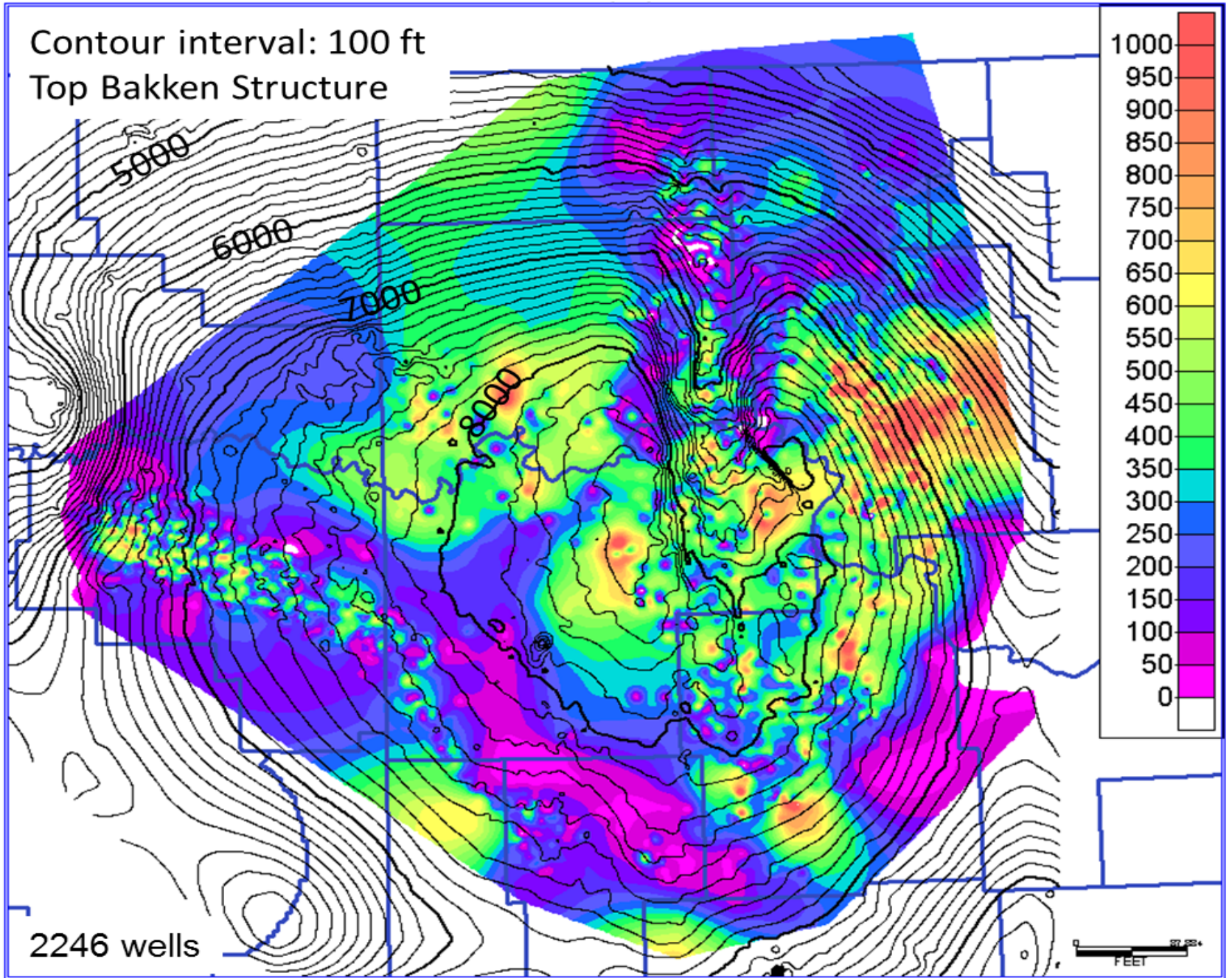




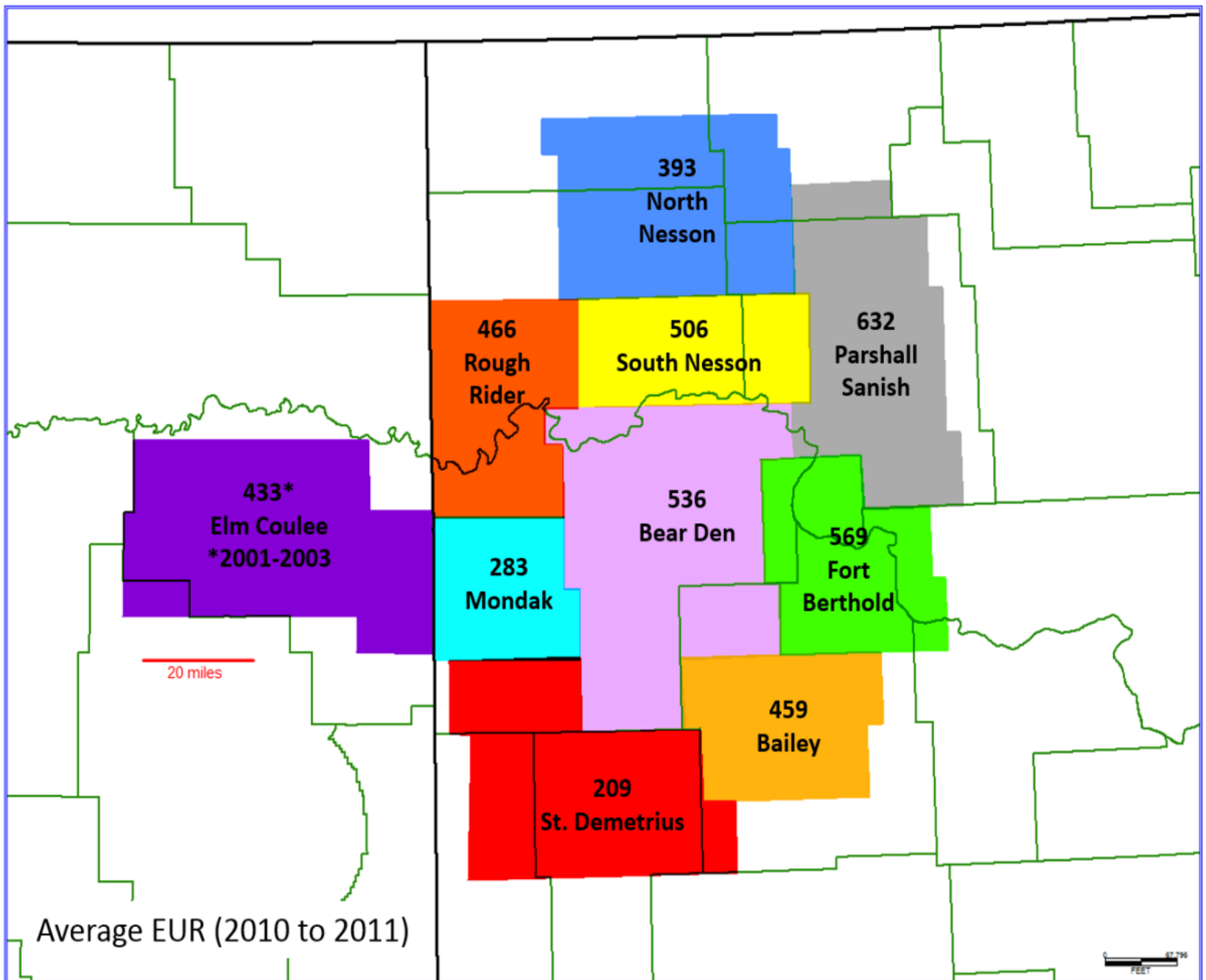






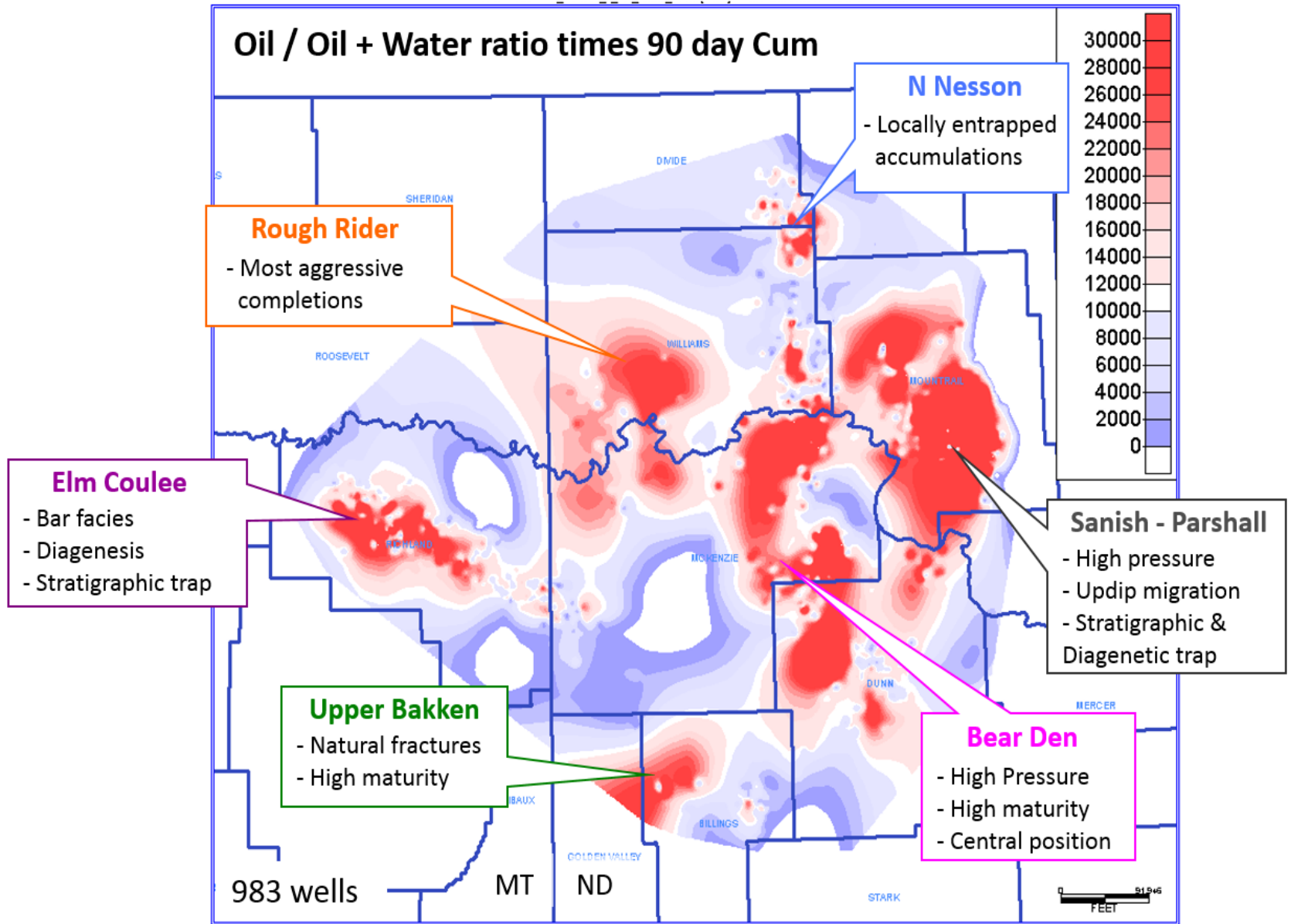


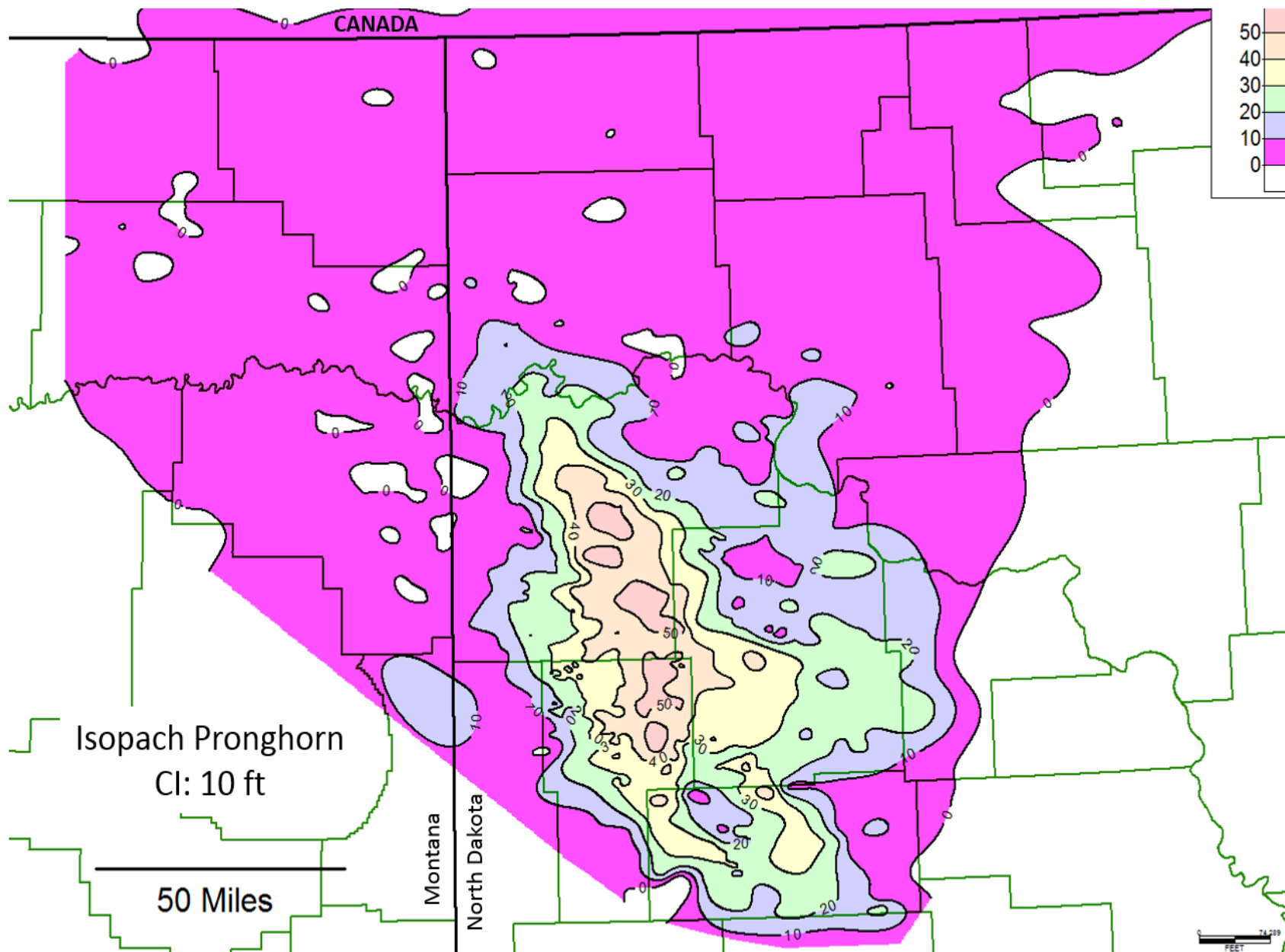
From Theloy, 2013



From Theloy, 2013

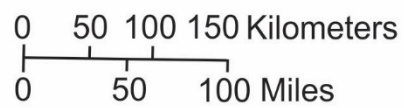
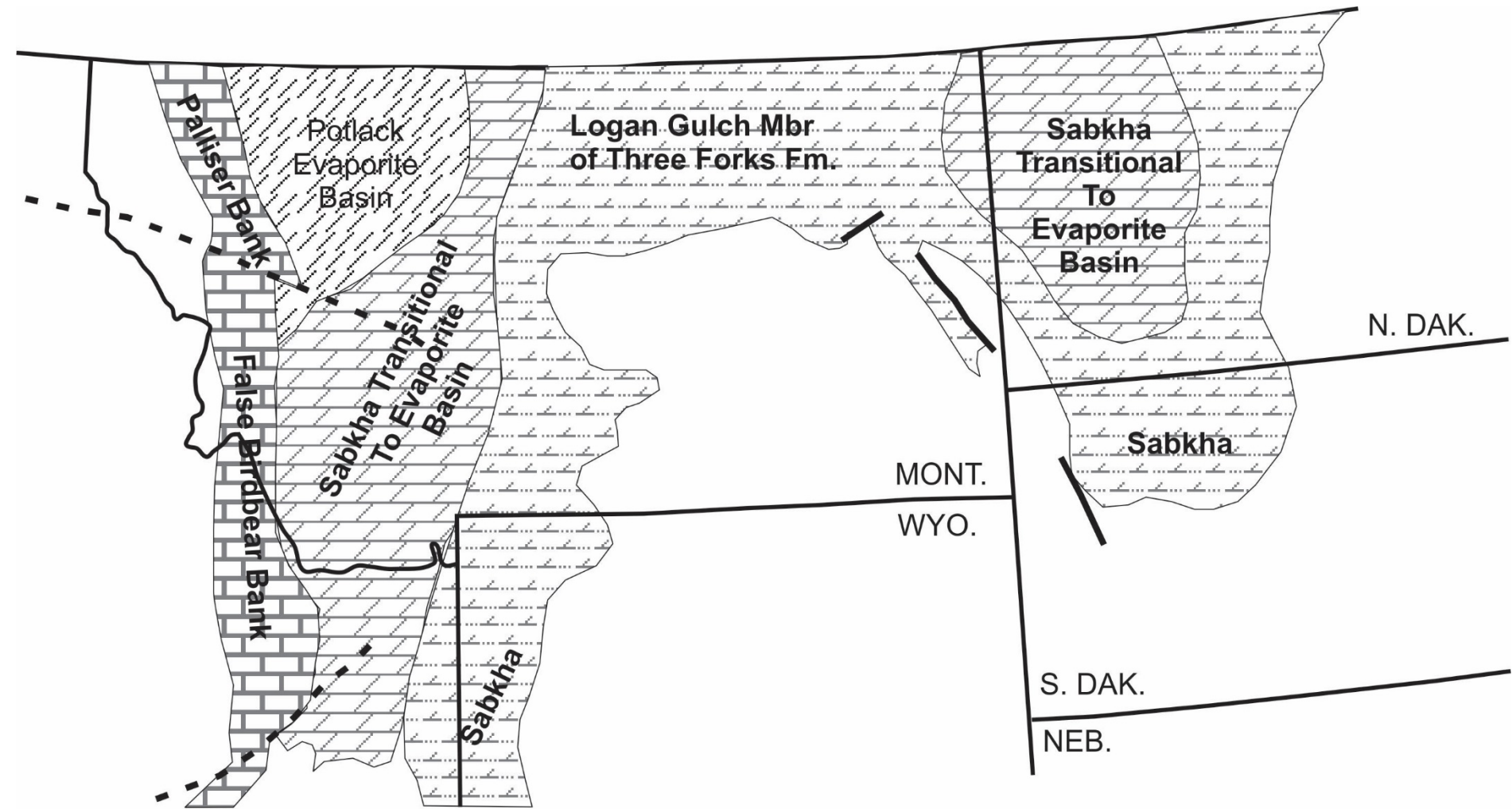
Oil / Oil + Water ratio times 90 day Cum









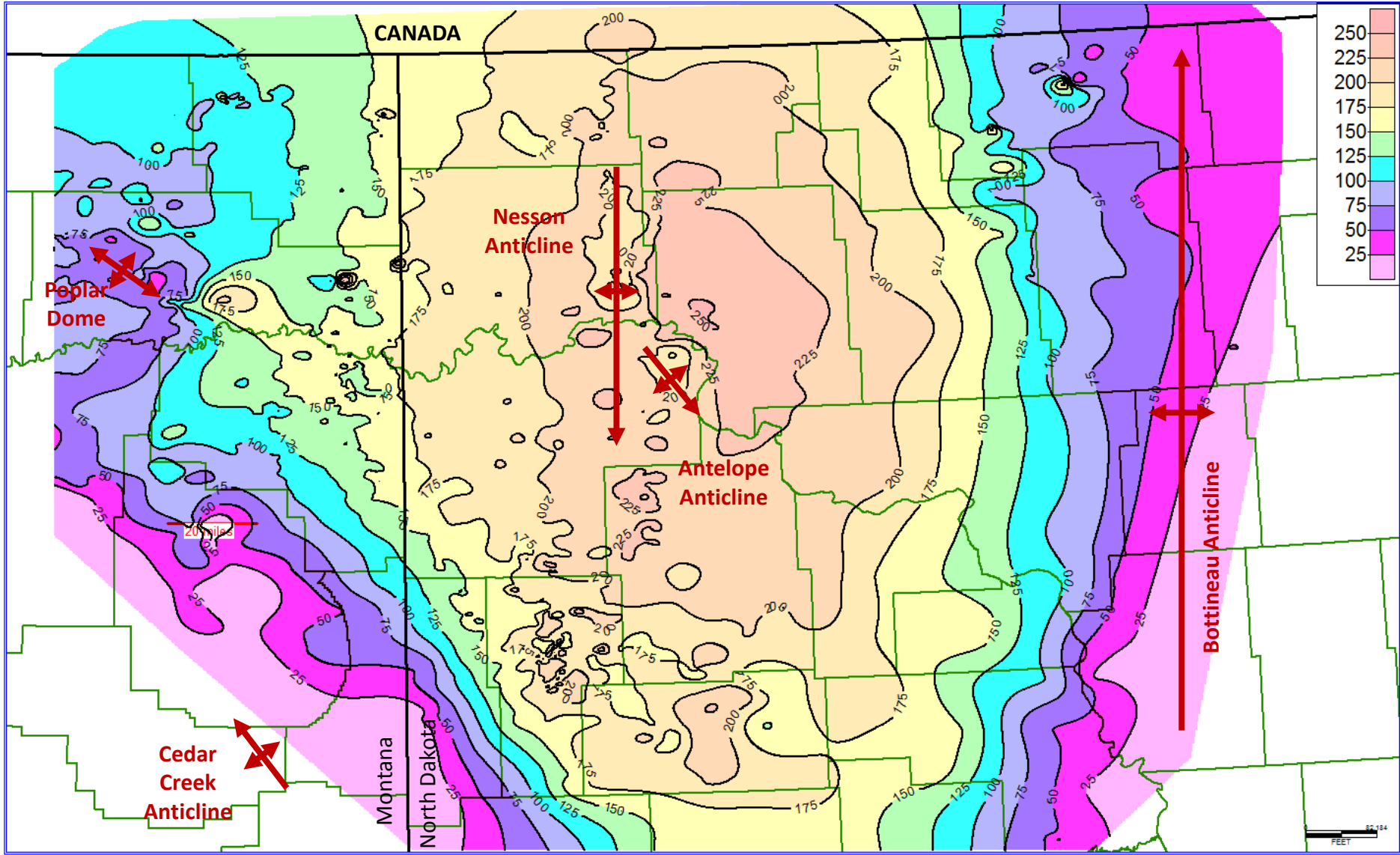
SERIES	STAGE	Conodont Zones	Ma	Stratigraphy		
				Central Montana	North Dakota	
EARLY MISS.	KINDERHOOKIAN	crenulata	356?	Lodgepole	Lodgepole	
		sandbergi		Cottonwood Canyon	U.Bakken Sh	
		duplicata			?	
		sulcata			? ?	
LATE DEVONIAN	FAMENNIAN	praesulcata	361	Sappington	Middle Bakken	
		expansa	365			
		postera	366.5	L. Sh	L.Bakken Sh	
		trachytera	367.5	Trident	Pronghorn/Sanish	
		marginifera	368.5			
		rhomboidea	370		Three Forks	
		crepida	370.5	Logan Gulch	Three Forks	
		triangularis	372.5			
		FRASNIAN	linguiformis	376		
			rhenana	376.5		
				379	Birdbear Mbr. Of Jefferson Fm.	Birdbear Mbr. Of Jefferson Fm.

modified from Sandberg et al., 1988; Hartel et al., 2012



-  Limestone, nodular, deep to shallow bank
-  Dolomite, peritidal to supratidal, micrite, anhydrite, siltstone
-  Supratidal siltstone and dolomite
-  Supratidal anhydrite, minor carbonate rocks

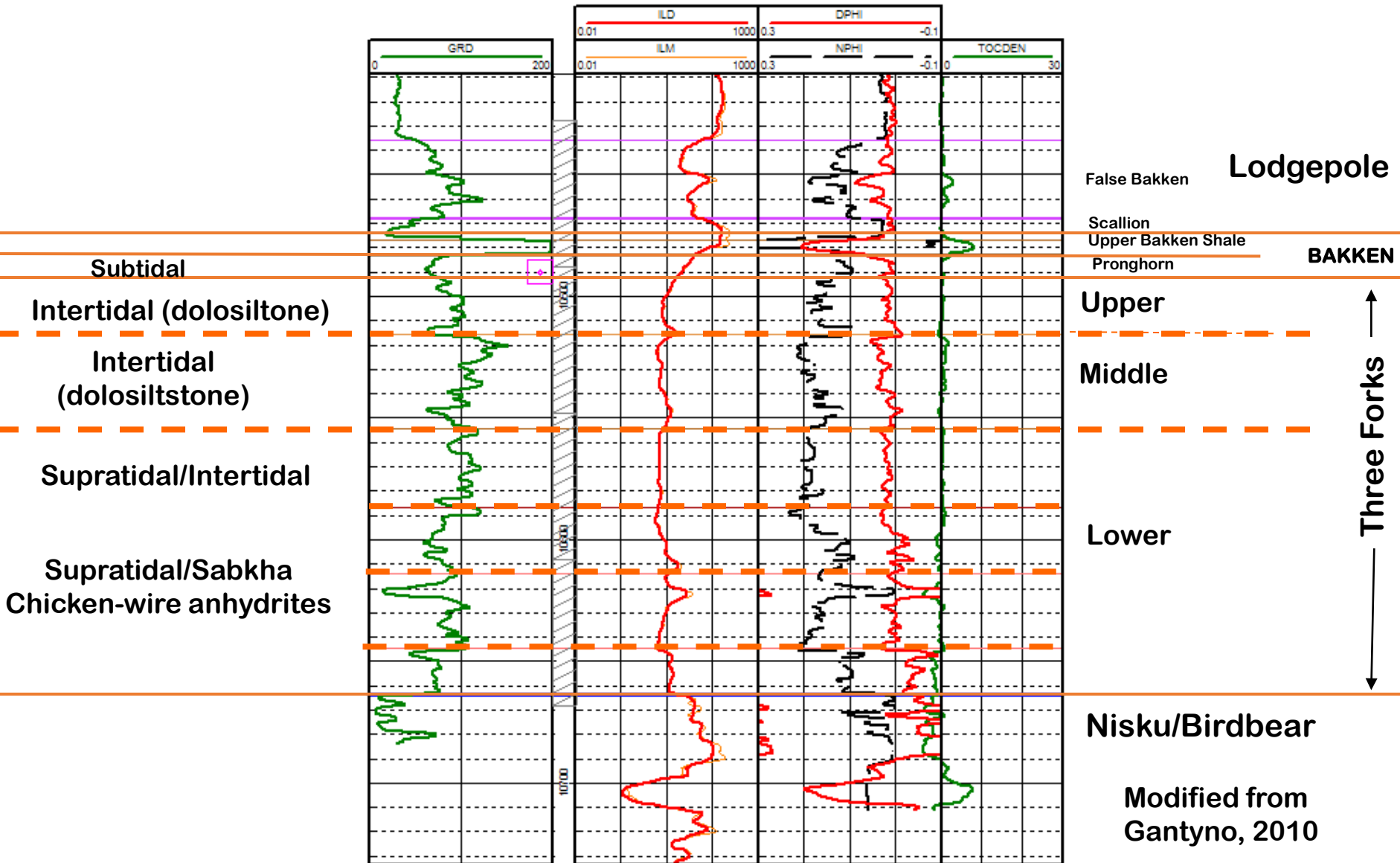
Modified from Sandberg et al., 1988



MAXUS EXPL CO
SHORT-FEE
31-3



T142N R102W S3



False Bakken **Lodgepole**

Scallion
Upper Bakken Shale **BAKKEN**
Pronghorn

Subtidal

Intertidal (dolosiltone)

Intertidal
(dolosiltstone)

Supratidal/Intertidal

Supratidal/Sabkha
Chicken-wire anhydrites

Upper

Middle

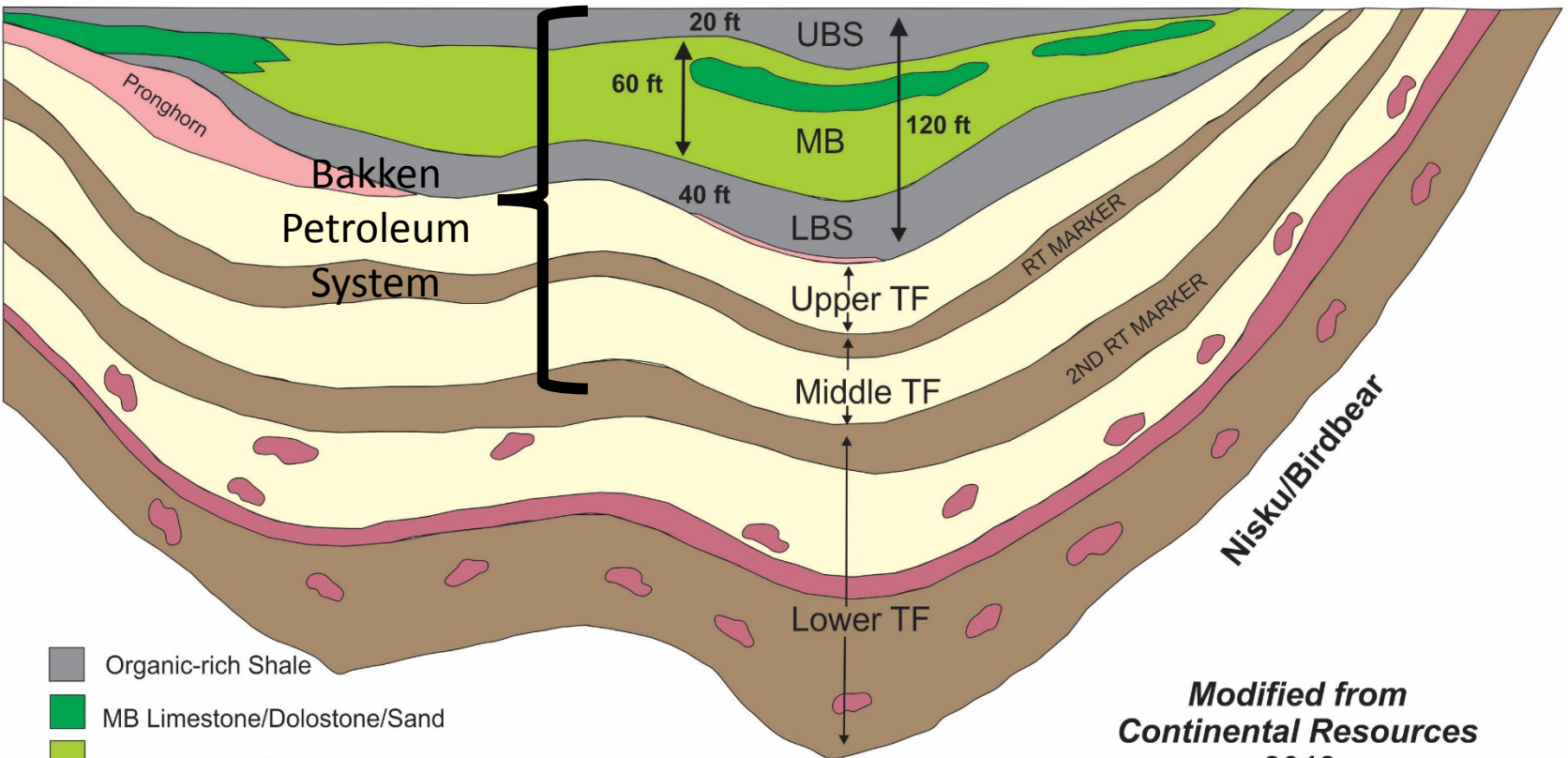
Lower

Three Forks

Nisku/Birdbear

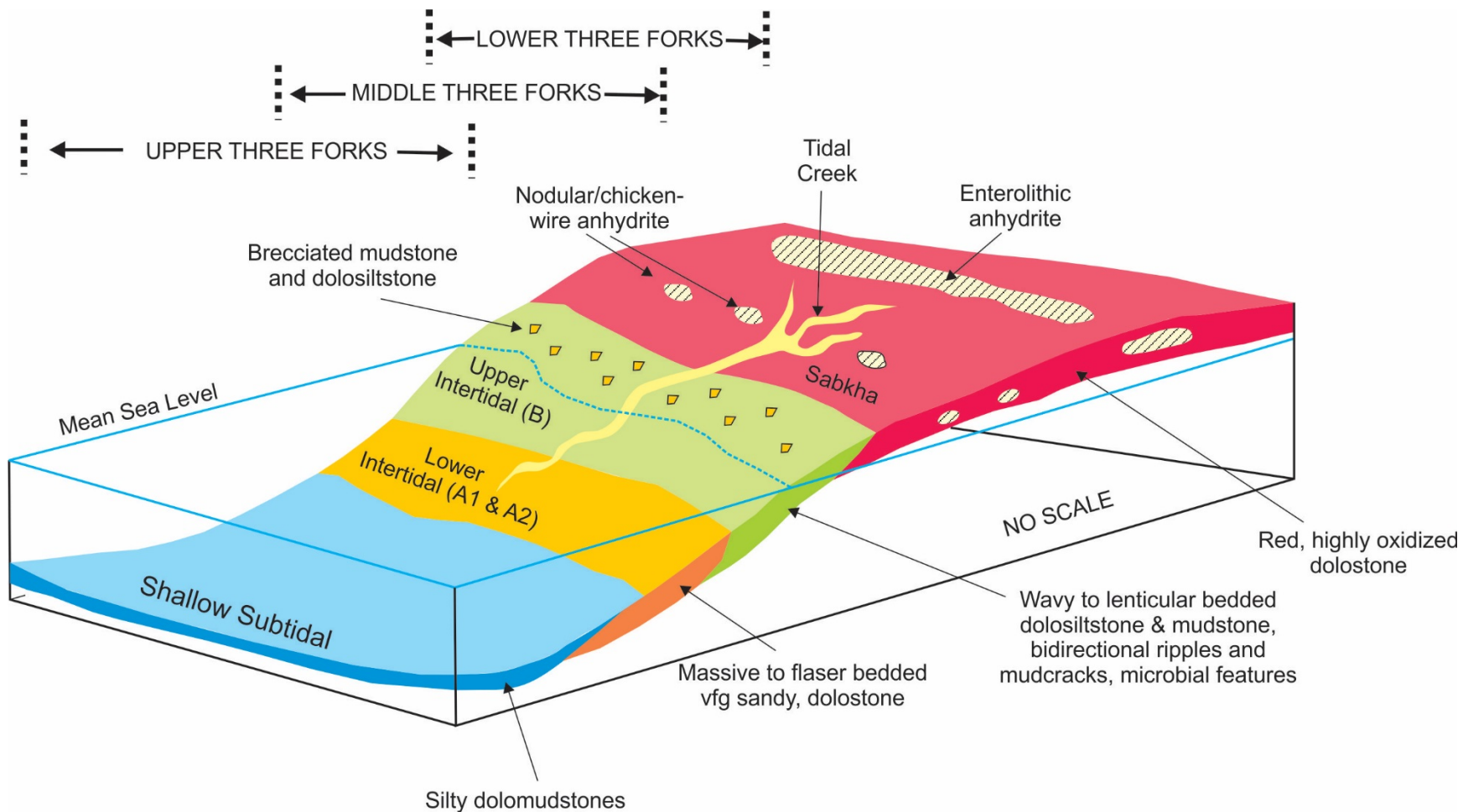
Modified from
Gantyno, 2010

SW NESSON ANTICLINE Lodgepole NE

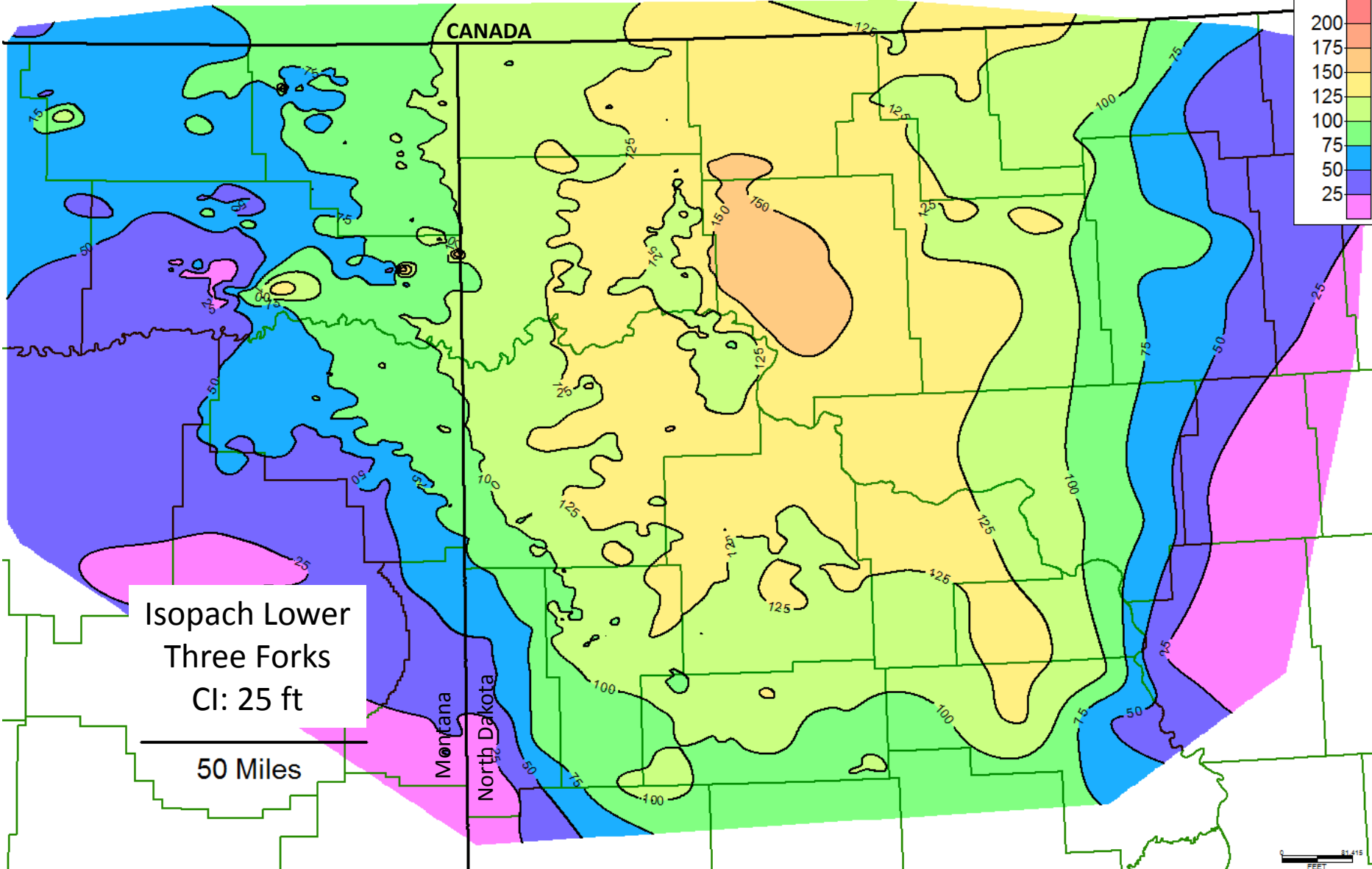


- Organic-rich Shale
- MB Limestone/Dolostone/Sand
- MB Limestone/Dolostone
- Pronghorn Dolomite/Sand
- Three Forks Dolostone
- Anhydrite
- Red/Gray Dolosiltstone & Shale

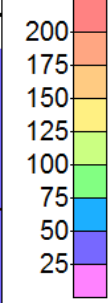
*Modified from
Continental Resources
2013*



Modified from Dumoncaux, 1984; Berwick; 2009; Gantyno, 2010; Franklin and Sonnenberg, 2012



CANADA



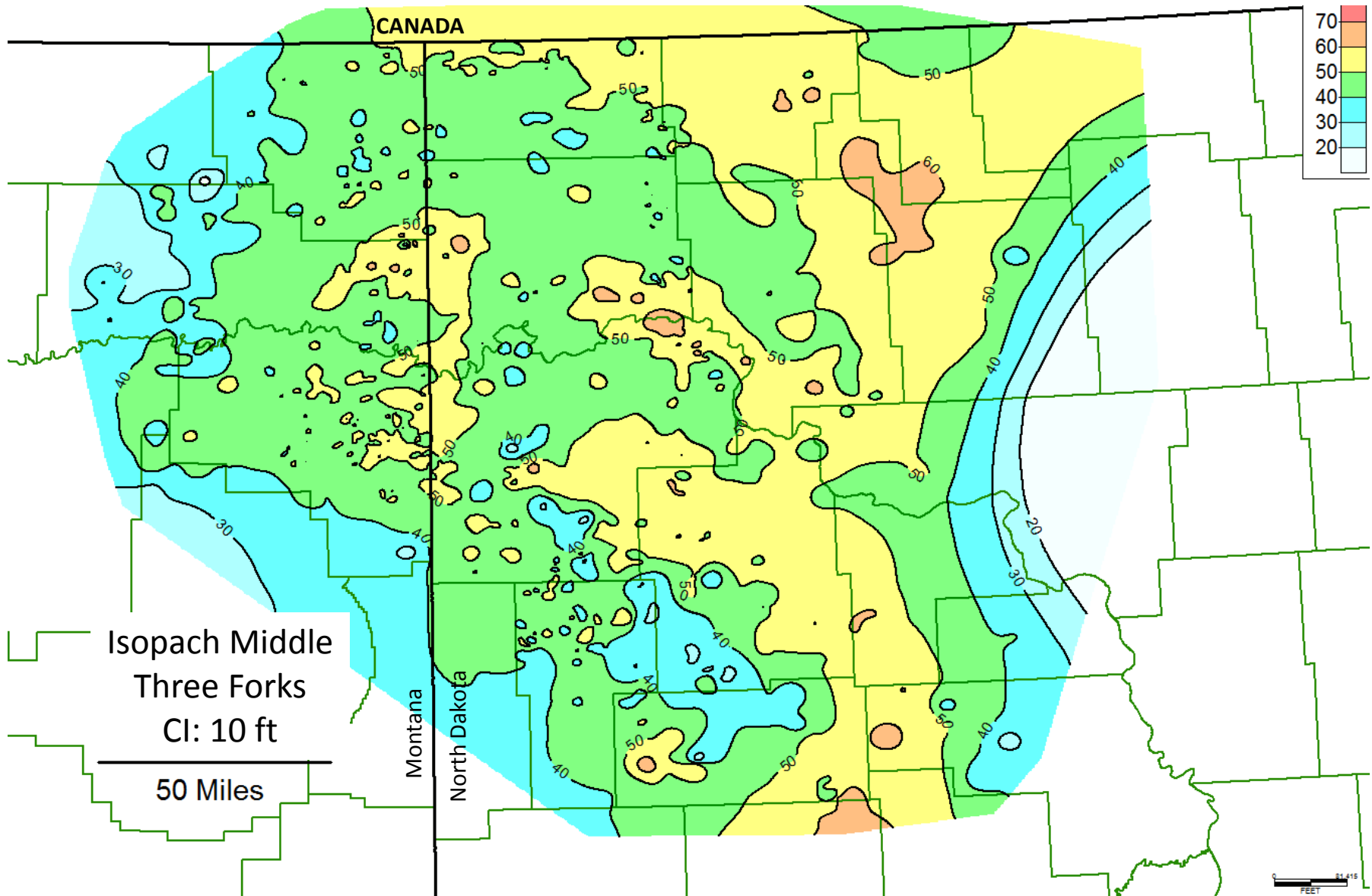
Isopach Lower
Three Forks
CI: 25 ft

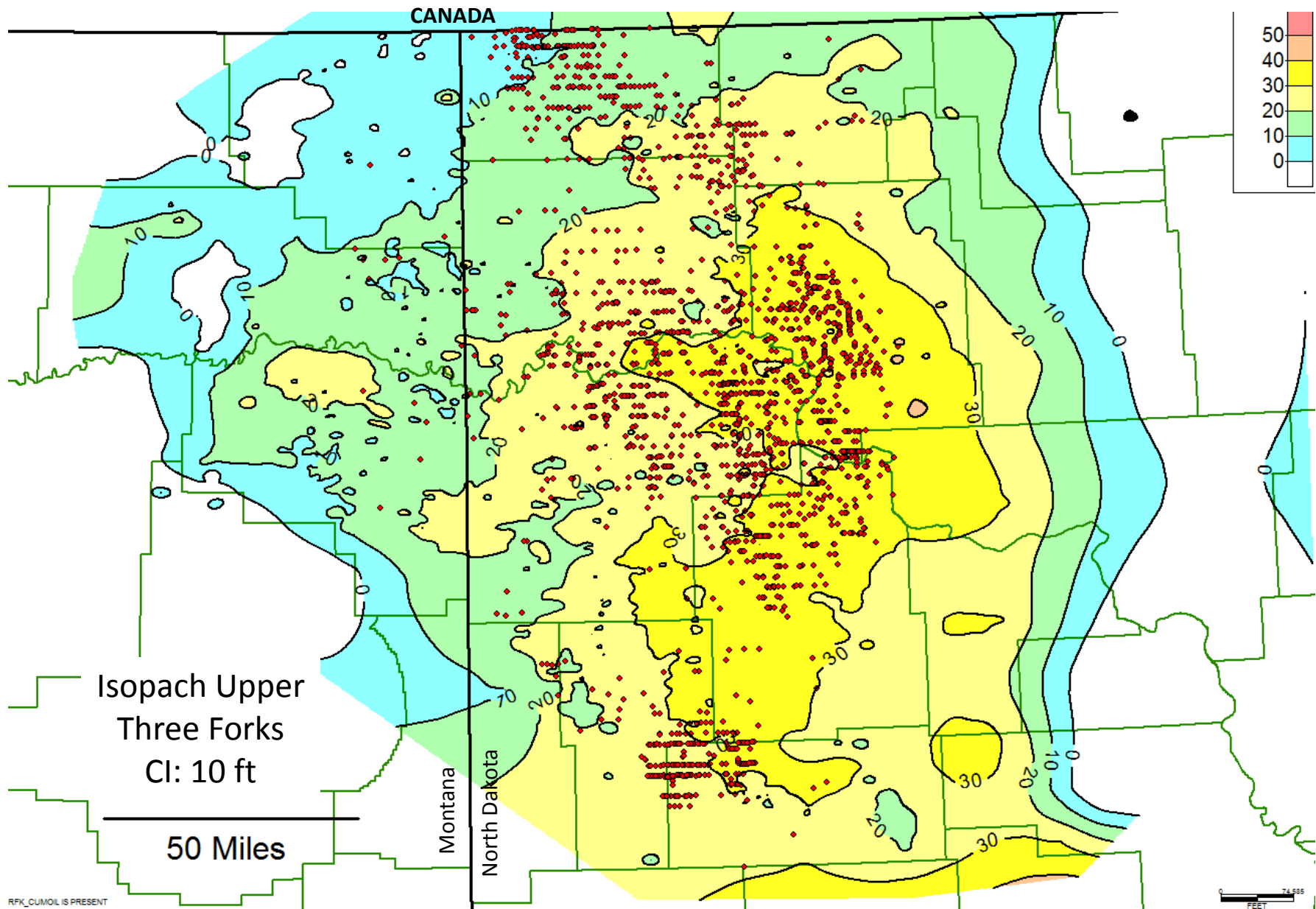
50 Miles

Montana

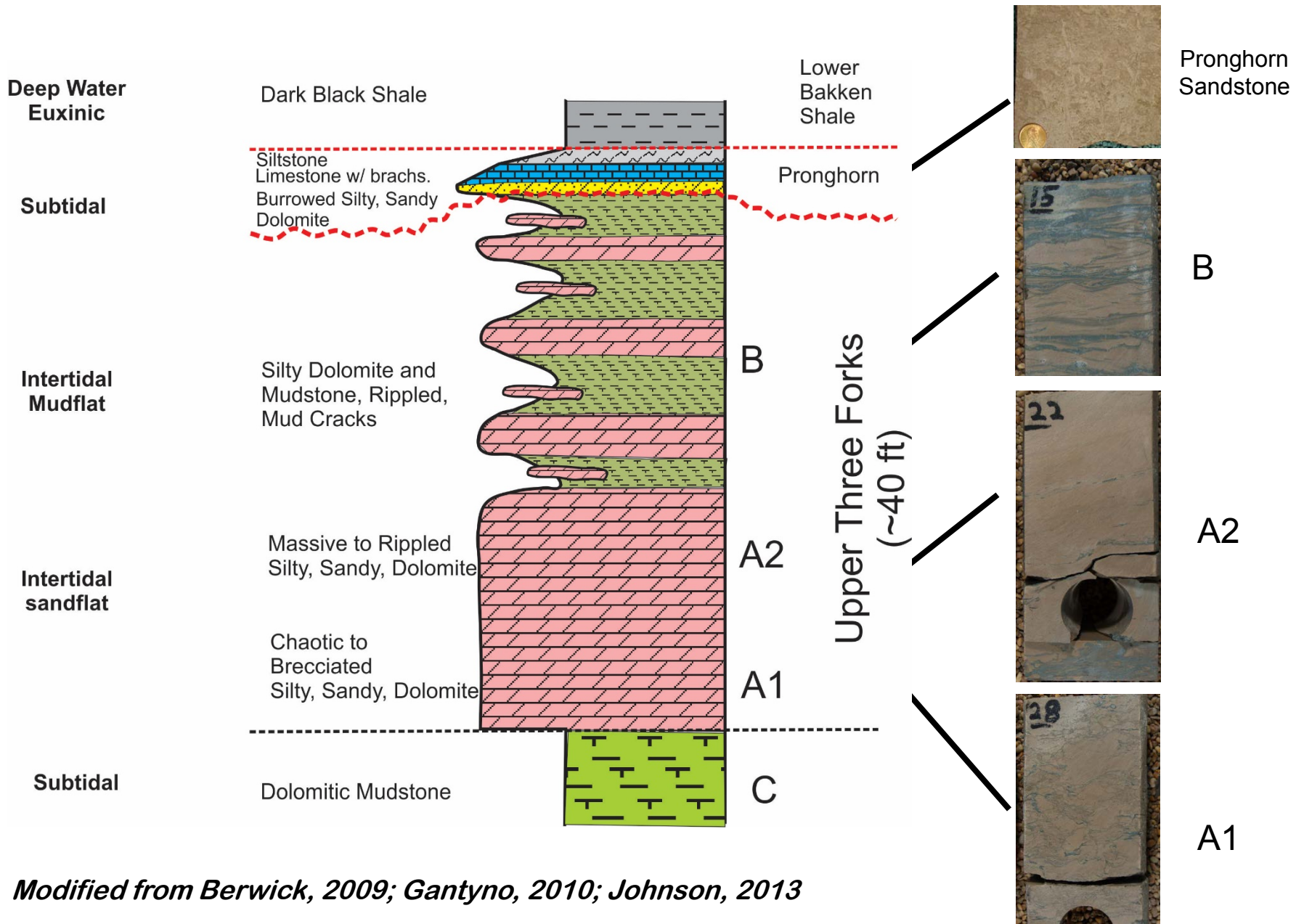
North Dakota

0 25.415 FEET

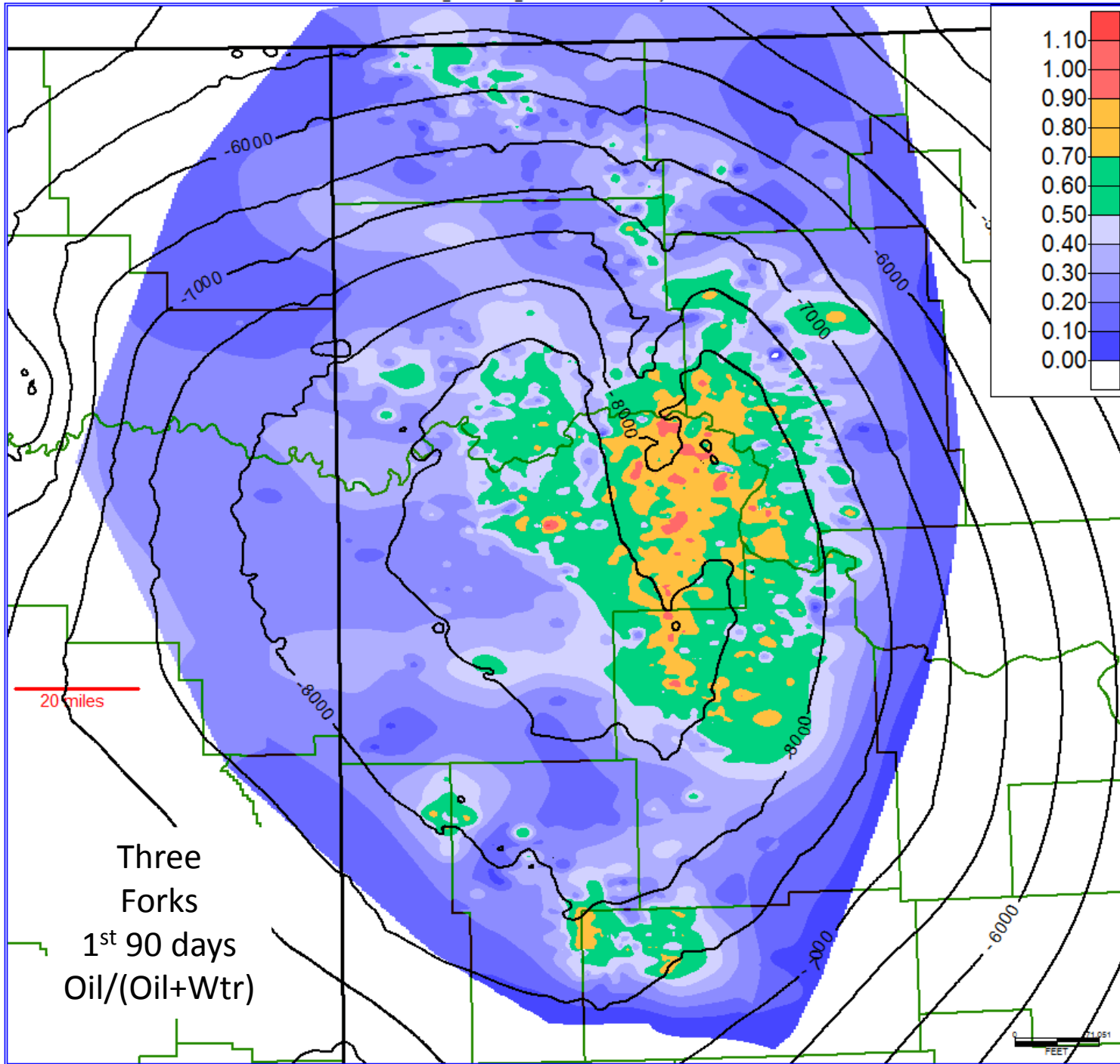


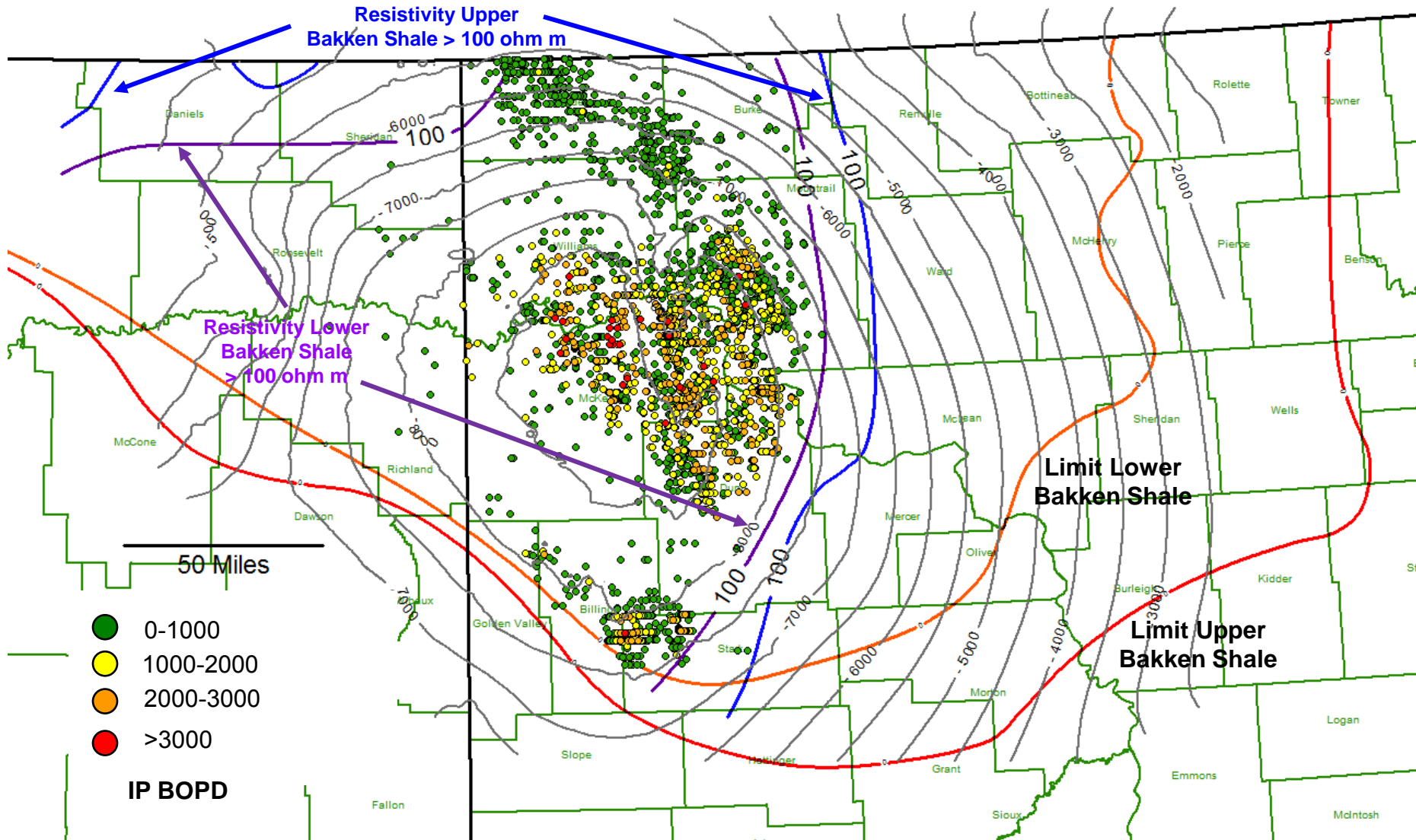


RFK_CUMOL IS PRESENT



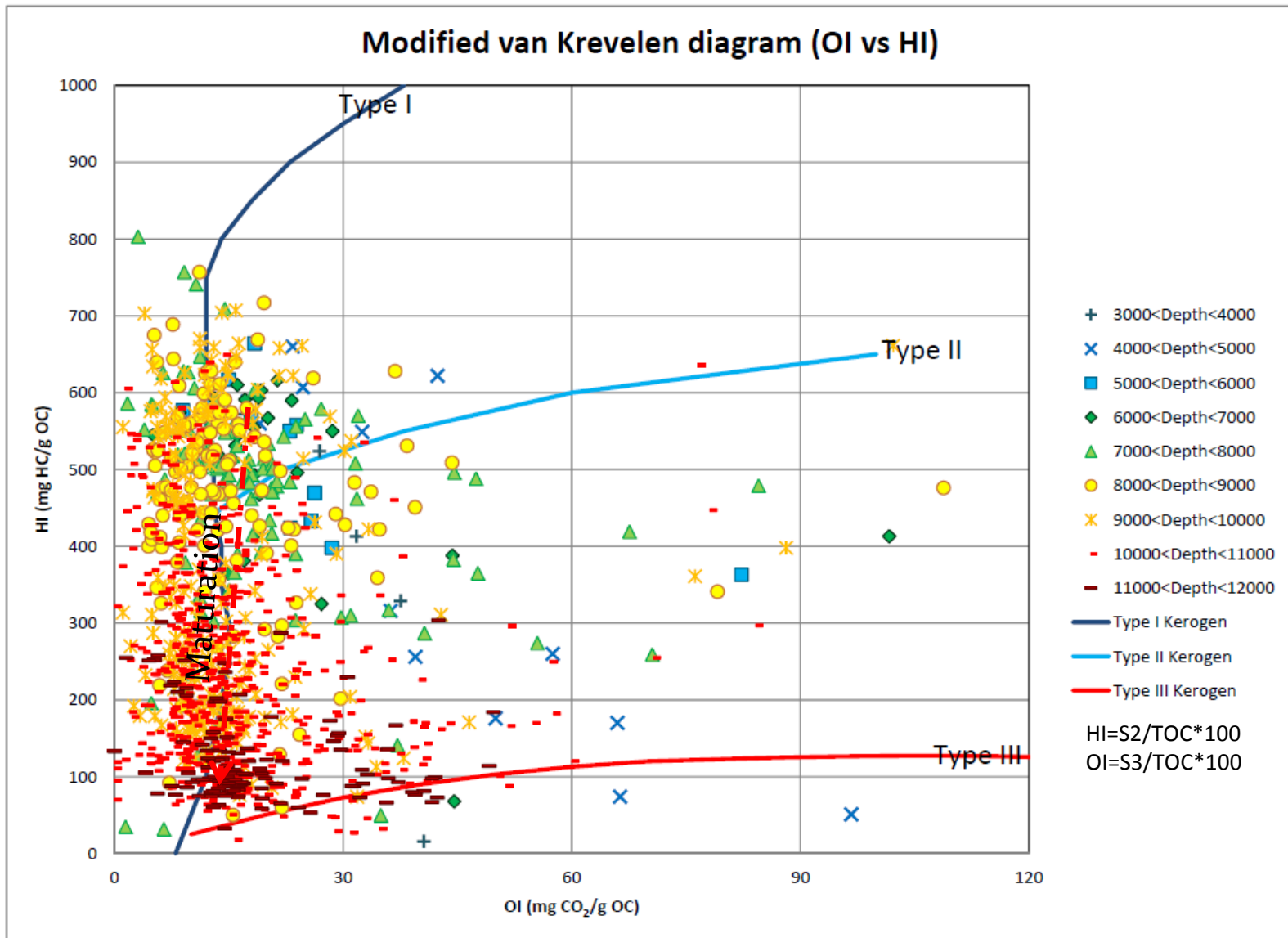
Modified from Berwick, 2009; Gantyno, 2010; Johnson, 2013



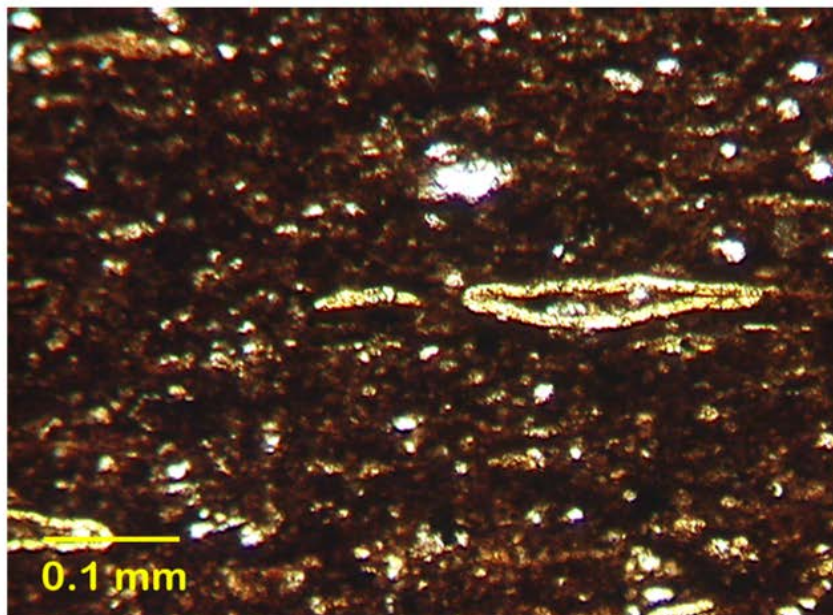


Structure Bakken, Bakken Shale Resistivity and Three Forks IP Map

Results – Kerogen type (majority Type I/II)

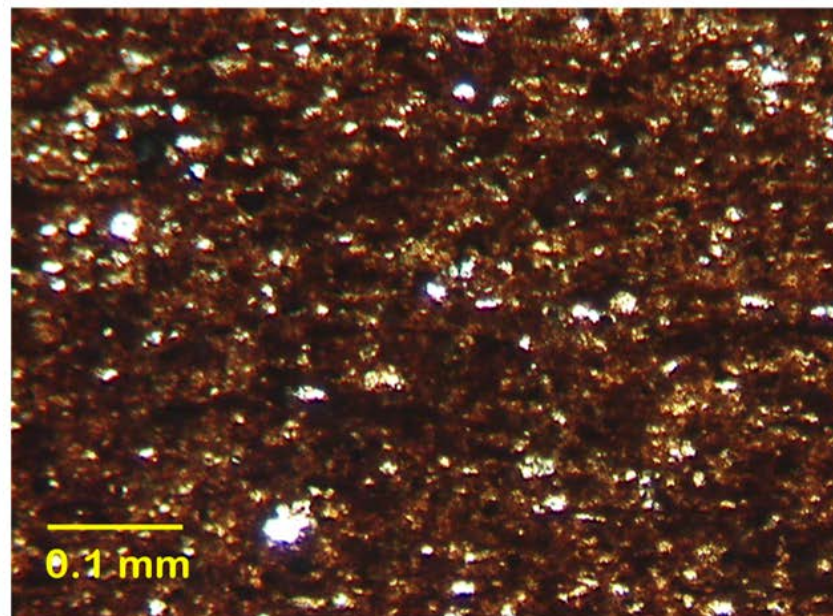






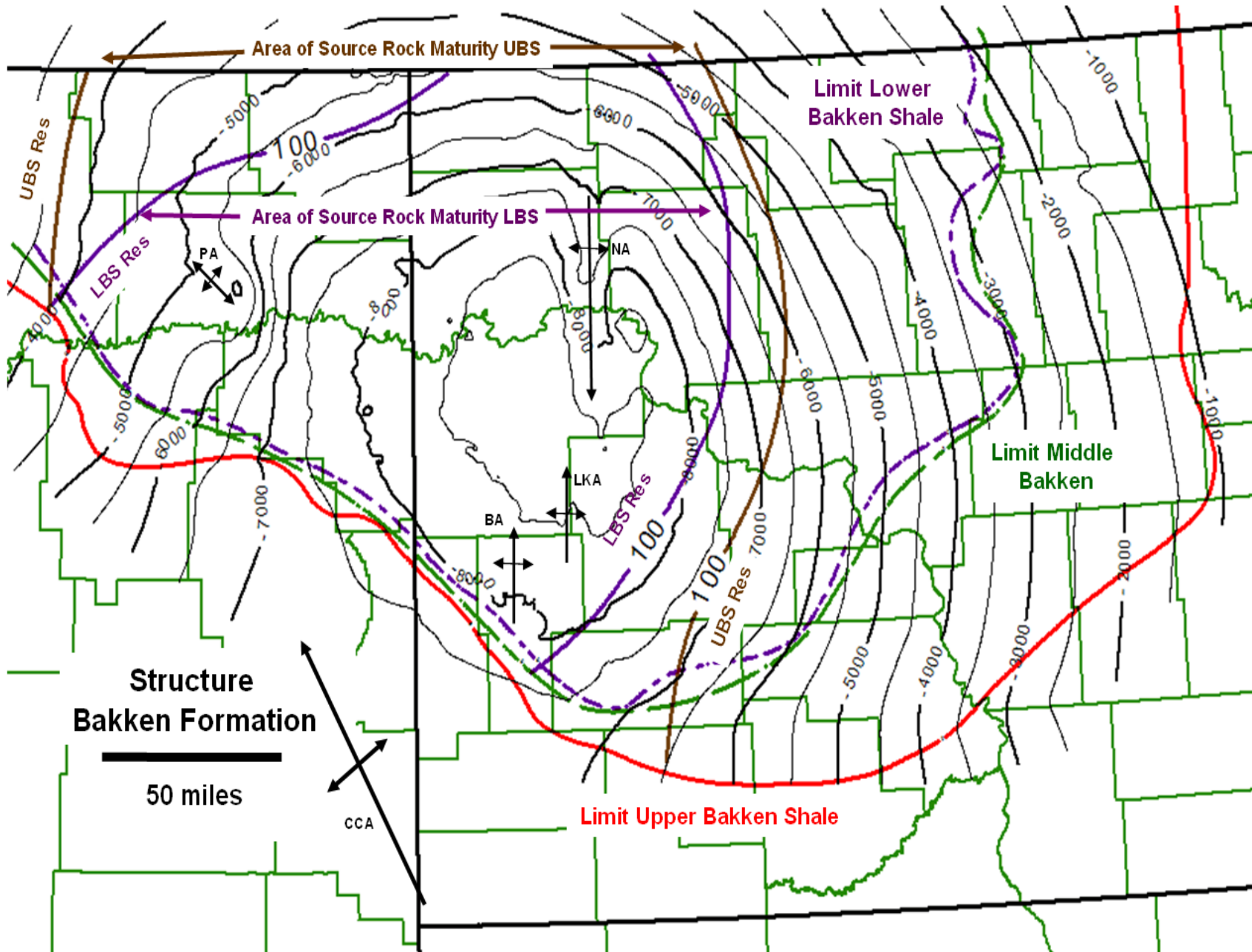
Braaflat 9940
Sec. 11-T153N-R91W
Lower Bakken Shale

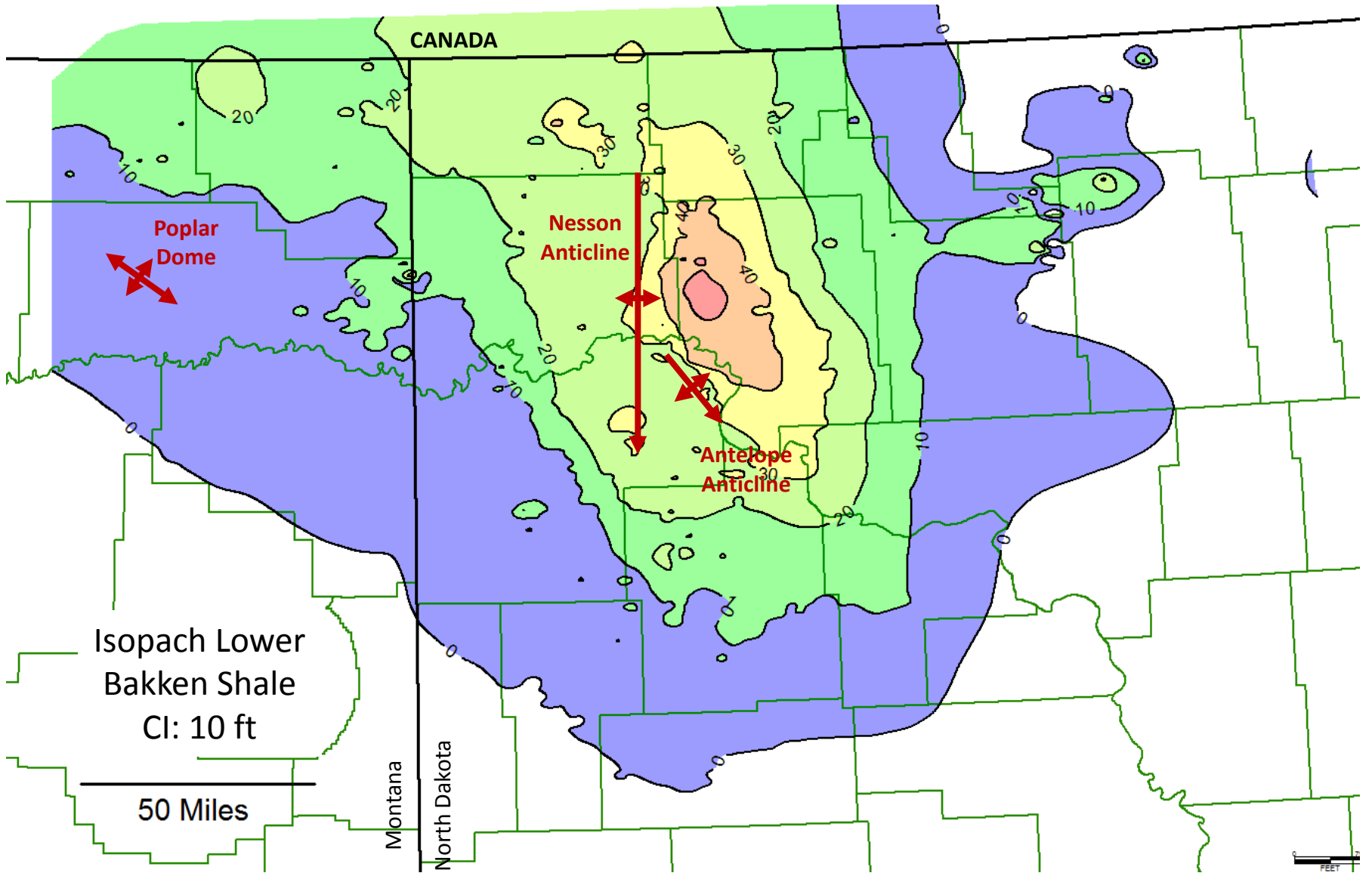
TOC 15.6
Tmax 435
HI 669
PI 0.06



Braaflat 9864 ft
Sec. 11-T153N-R91W
Upper Bakken Shale

TOC 14.5
Tmax 435
HI 656
PI 0.05





CANADA

Poplar Dome

Nesson Anticline

Antelope Anticline

Isopach Lower Bakken Shale
CI: 10 ft

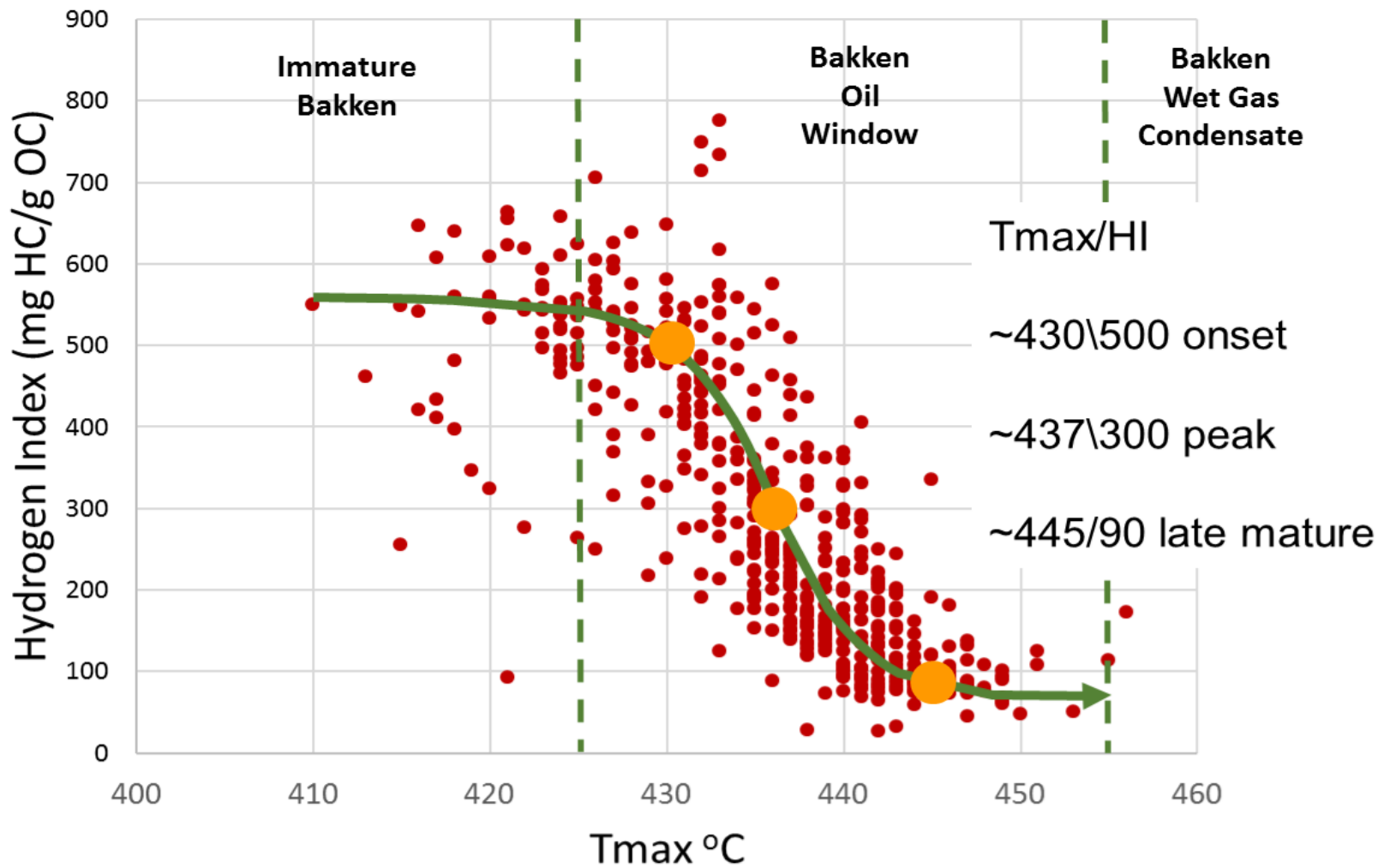
50 Miles

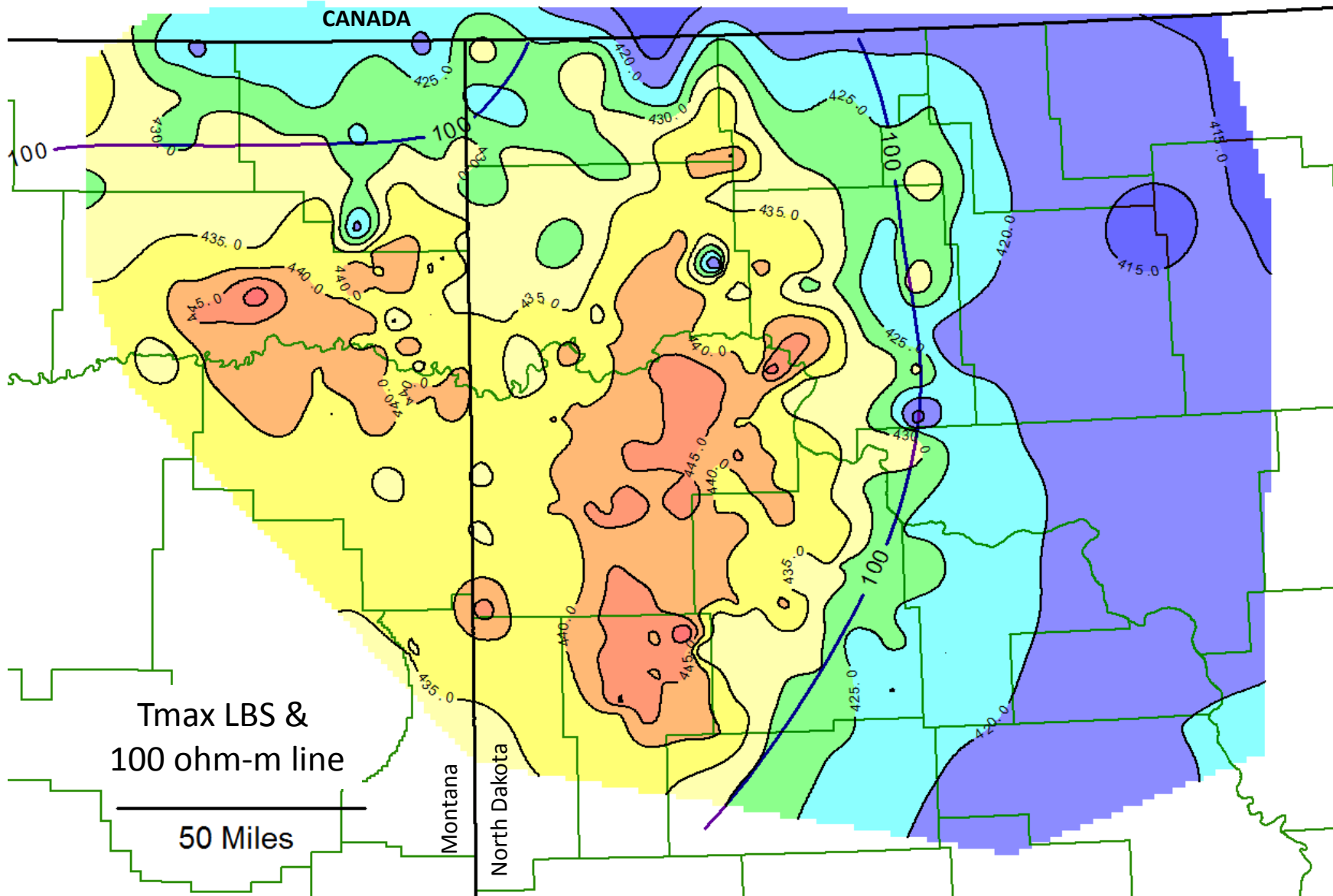
Montana

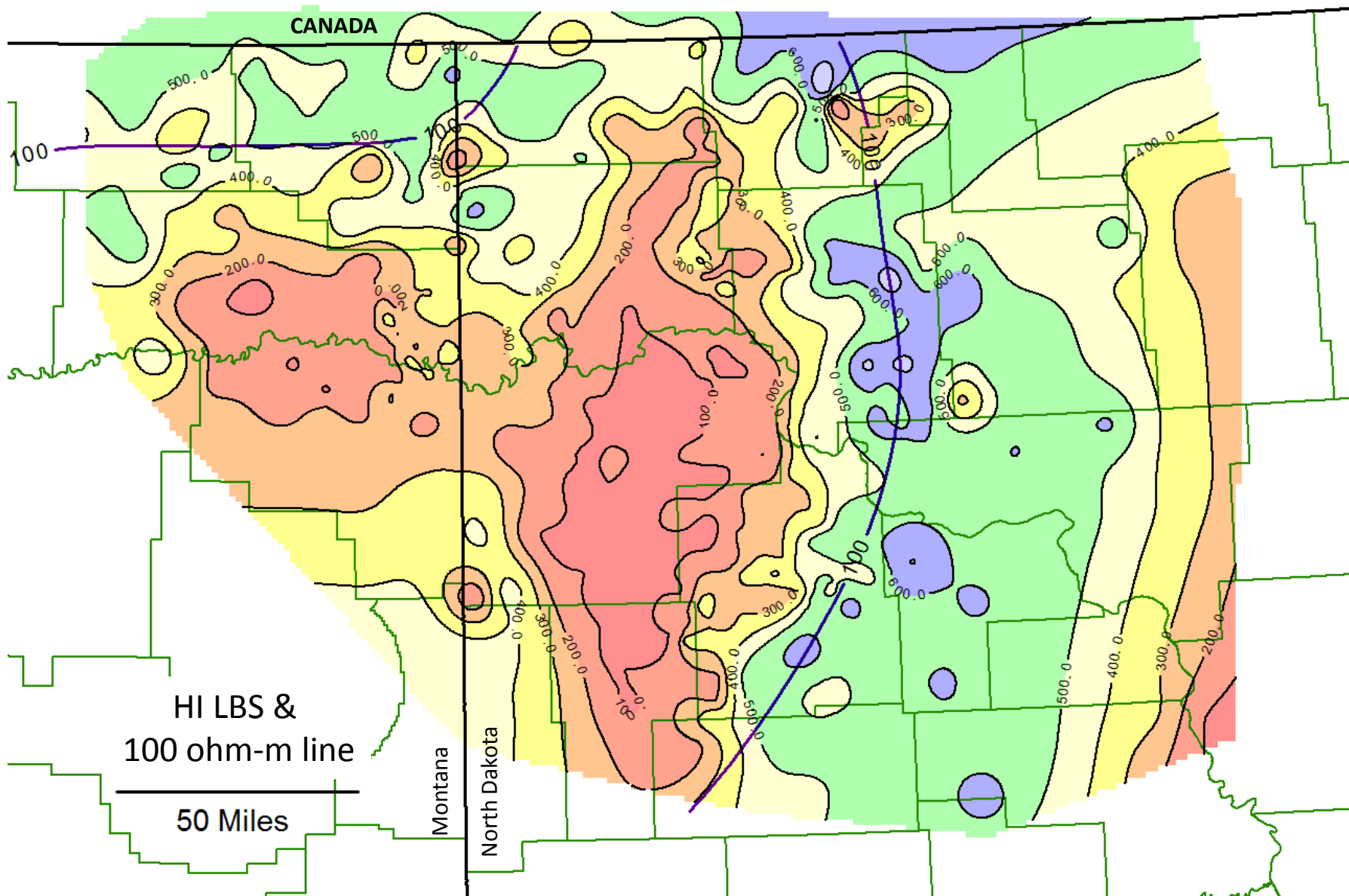
North Dakota

FEET

Lower Bakken Shale







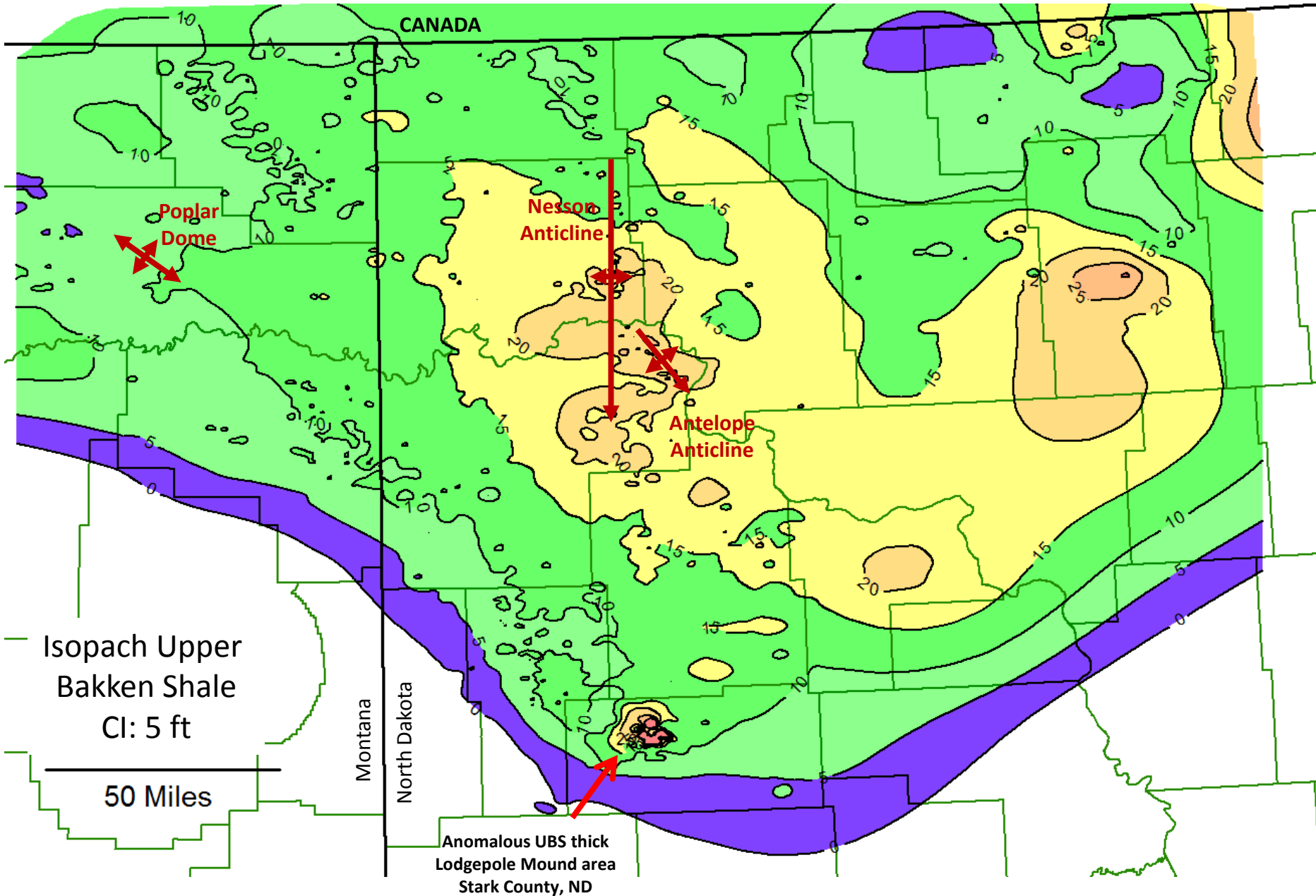
HI LBS &
100 ohm-m line

50 Miles

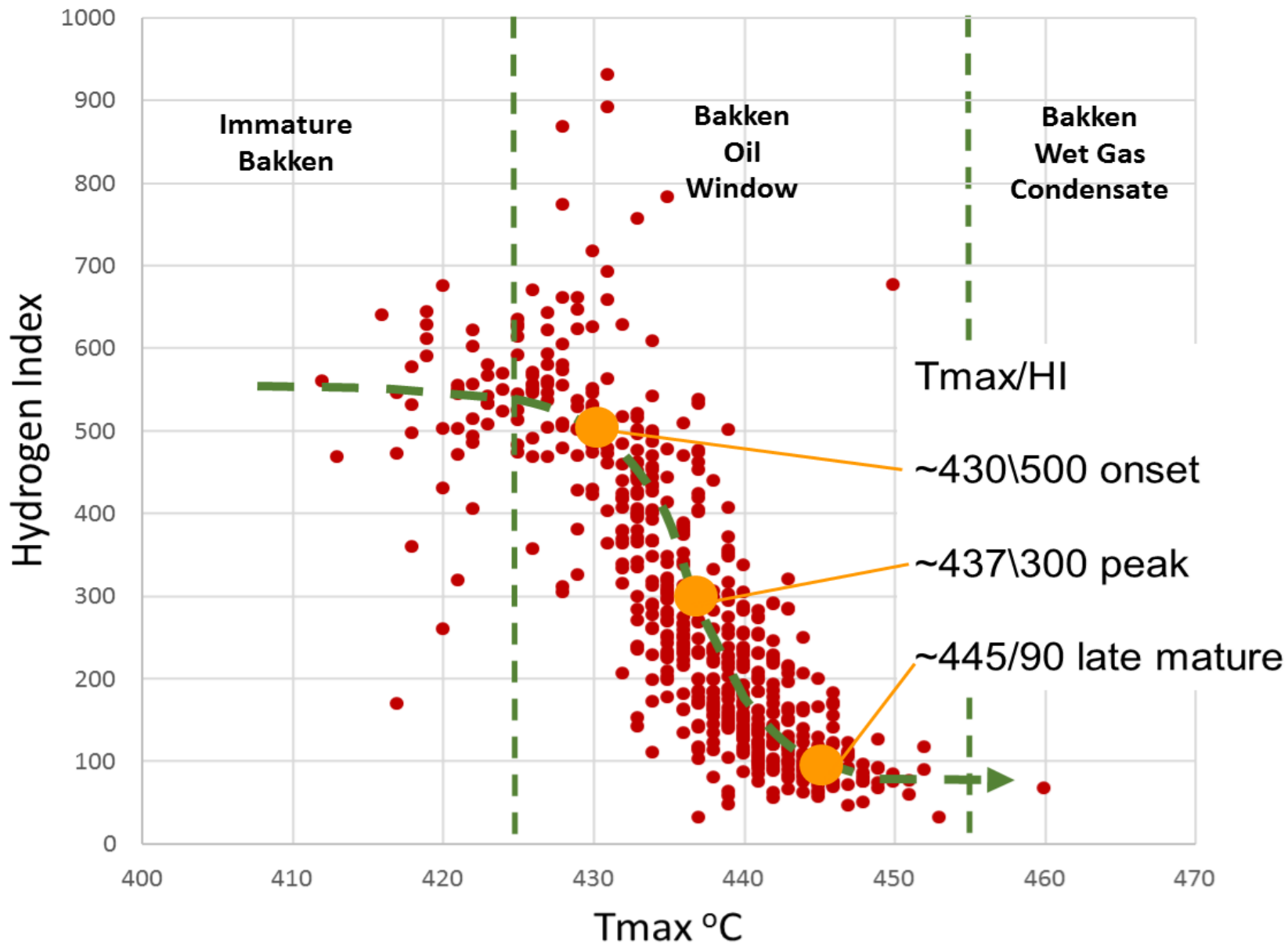
Montana

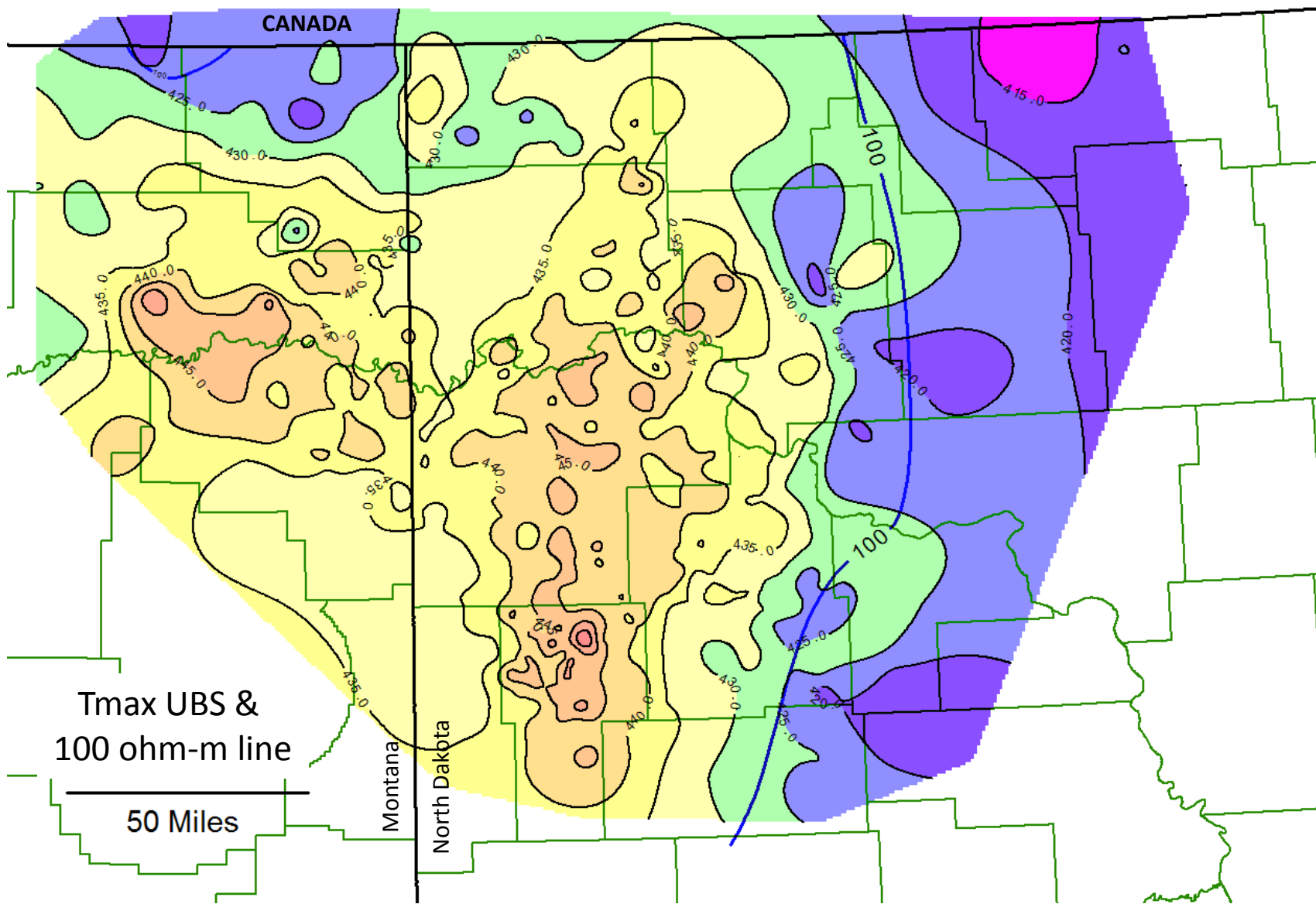
North Dakota

HI - LBS



Upper Bakken Shale

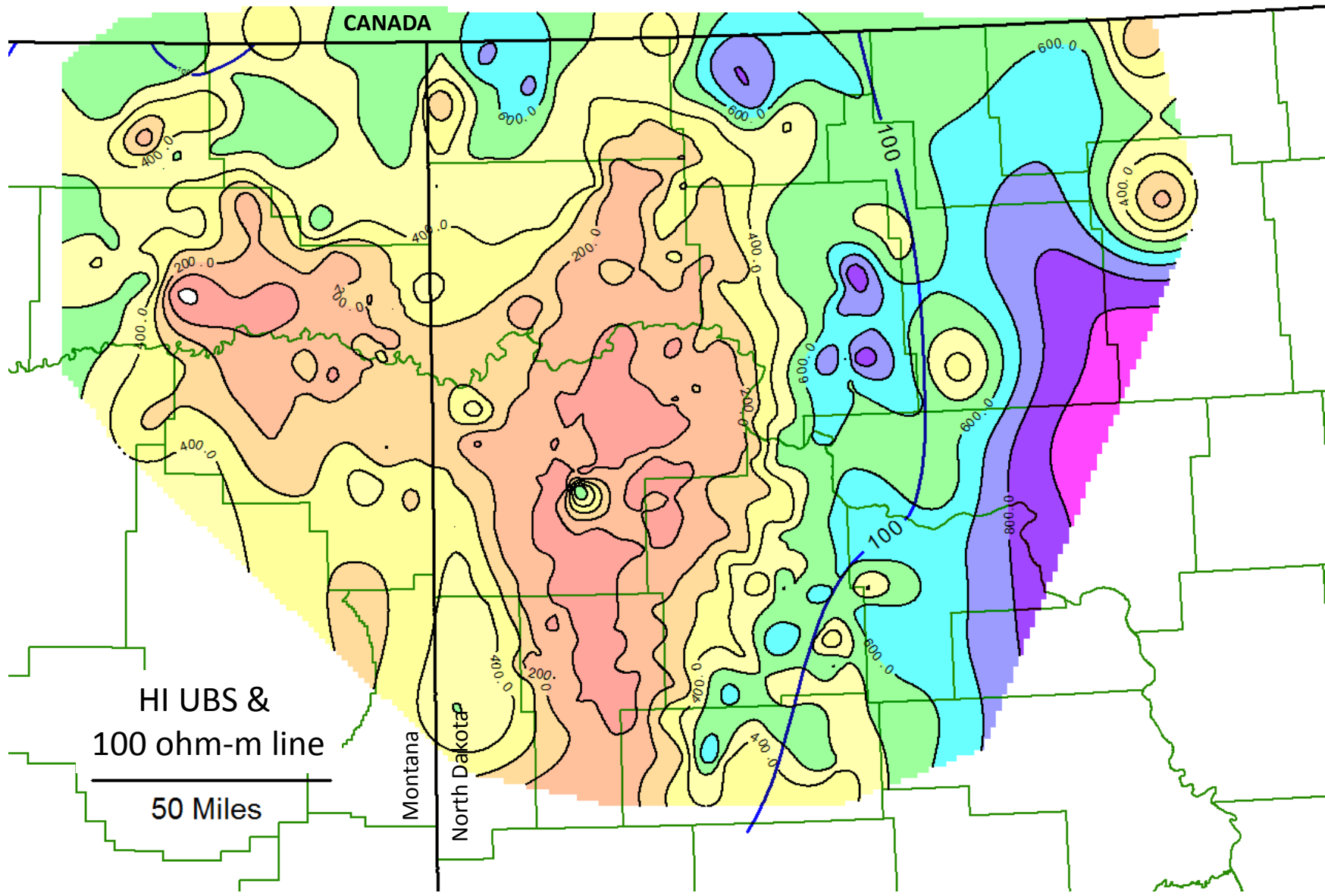




Tmax UBS &
100 ohm-m line

50 Miles

Tmax – UBS & 100 ohm-m line



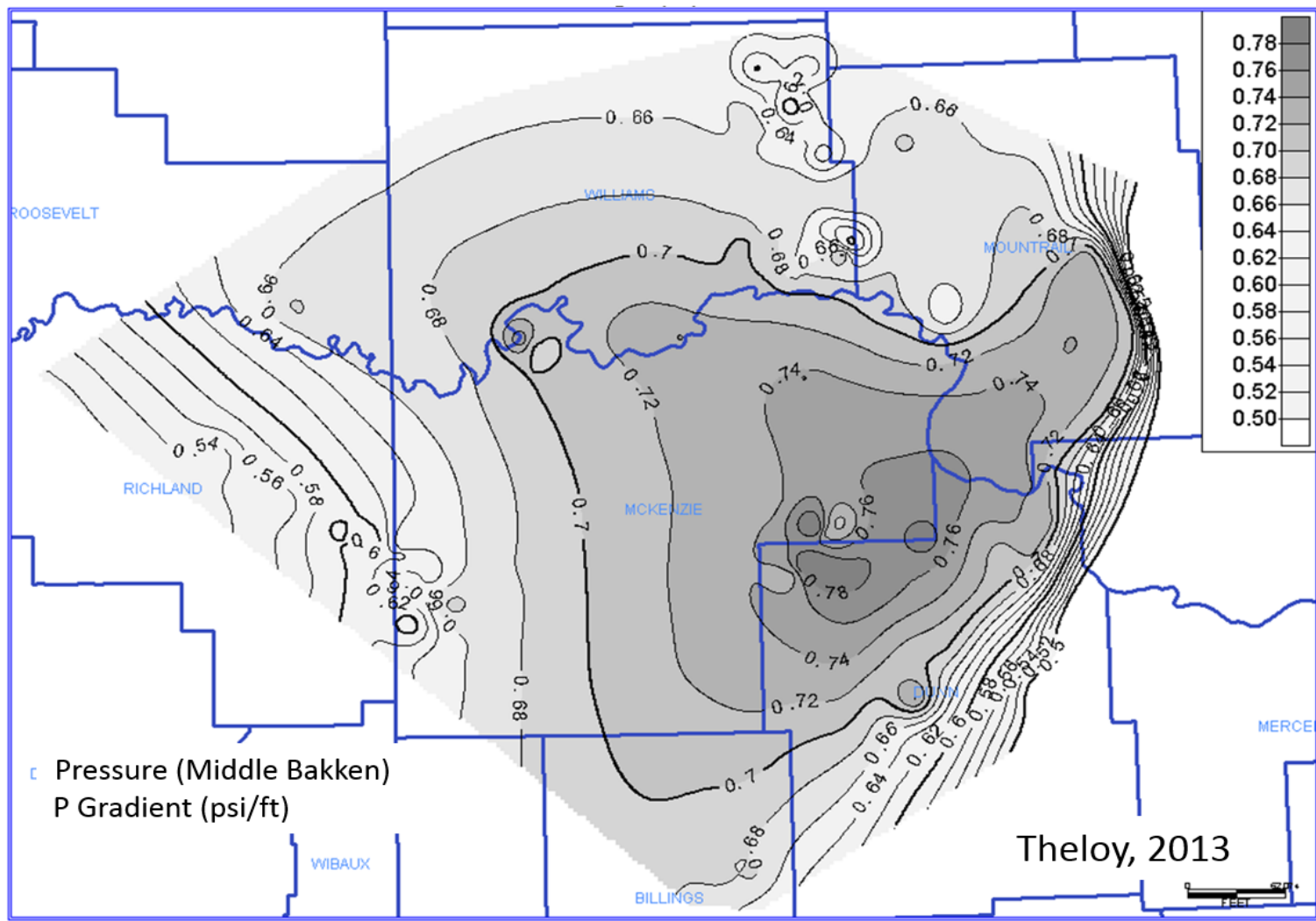
HI UBS &
100 ohm-m line

50 Miles

Montana

North Dakota

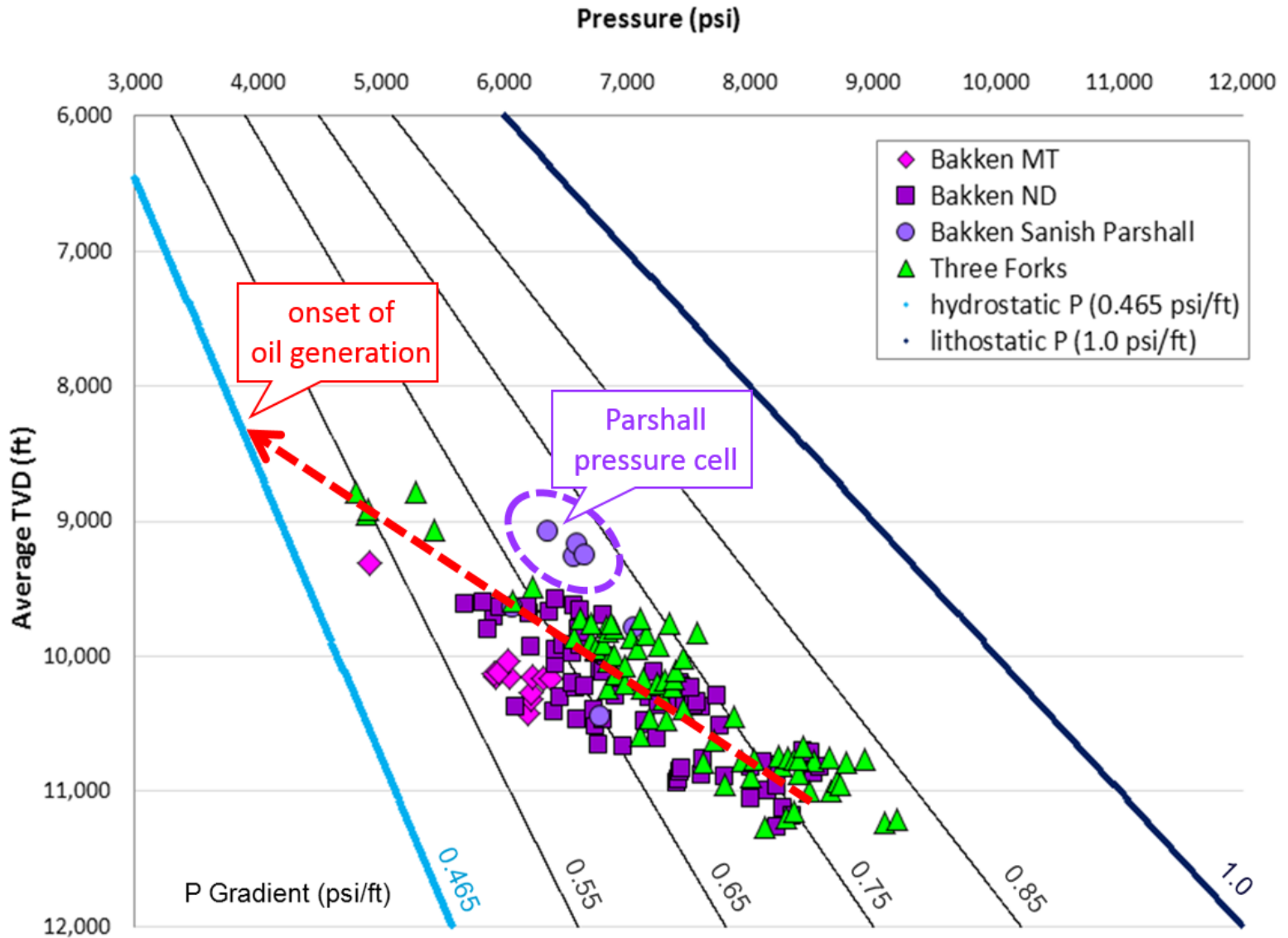
HI - UBS



92 BHP and DFIT data points + 6 hydrostatic points at eastern margin + 6 Sanish-Parshall points

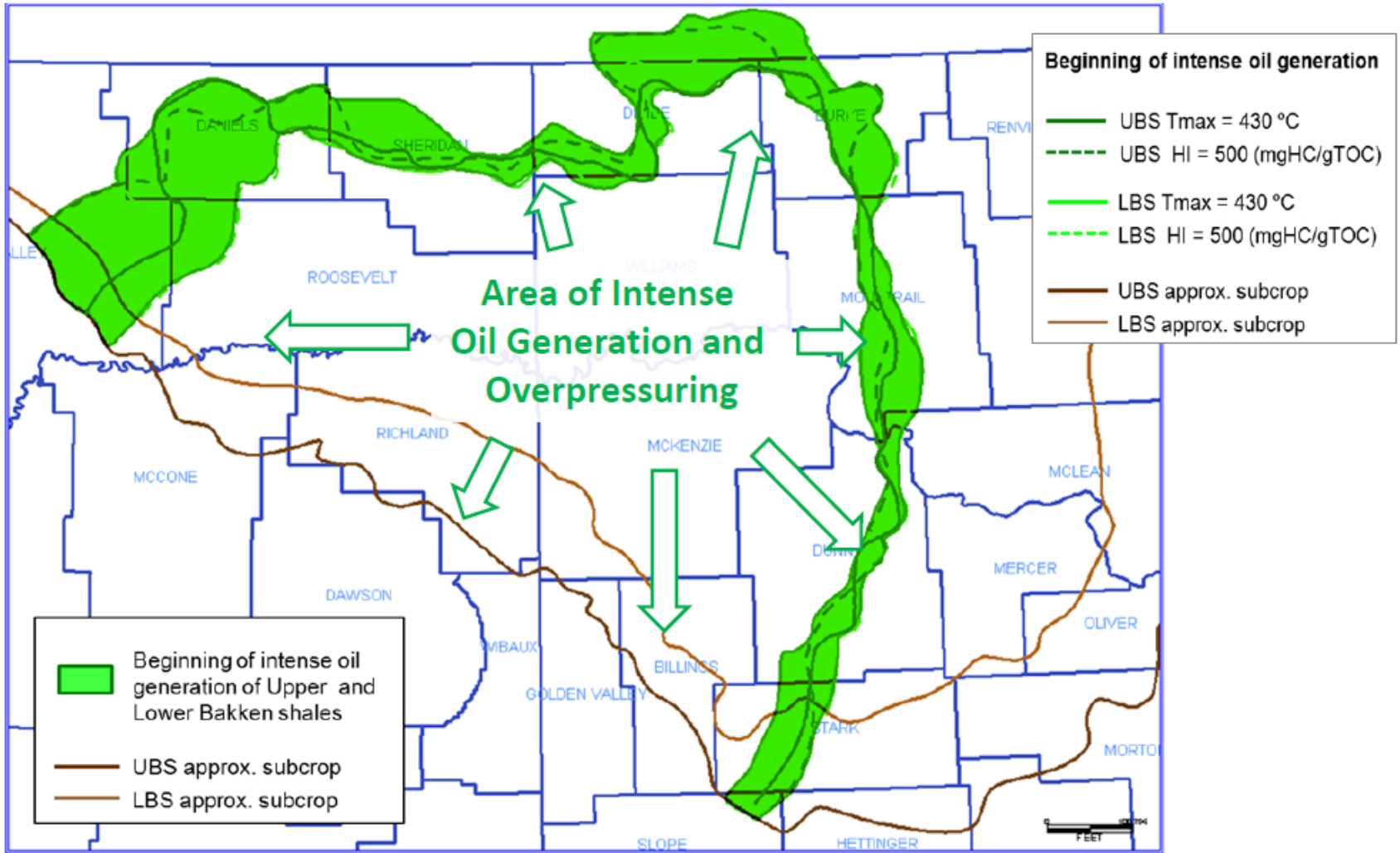
No DST data

From Theloy, 2013



Indicative plot for **inverted continuous system**, leaking pressure at top

Maturity Boundary

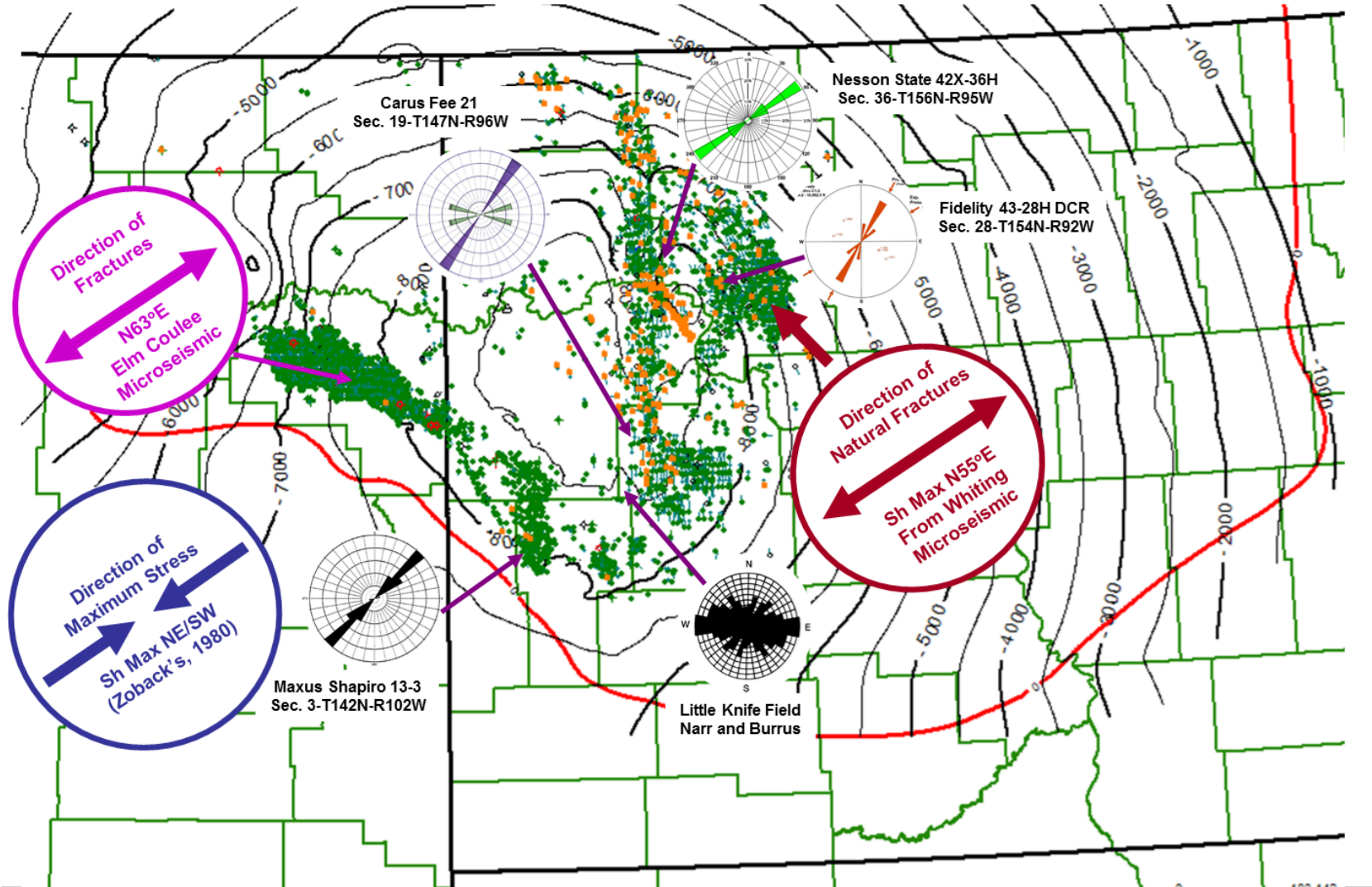


Beginning of intense oil generation based on Tmax and HI constraints of both Upper and Lower Bakken shales

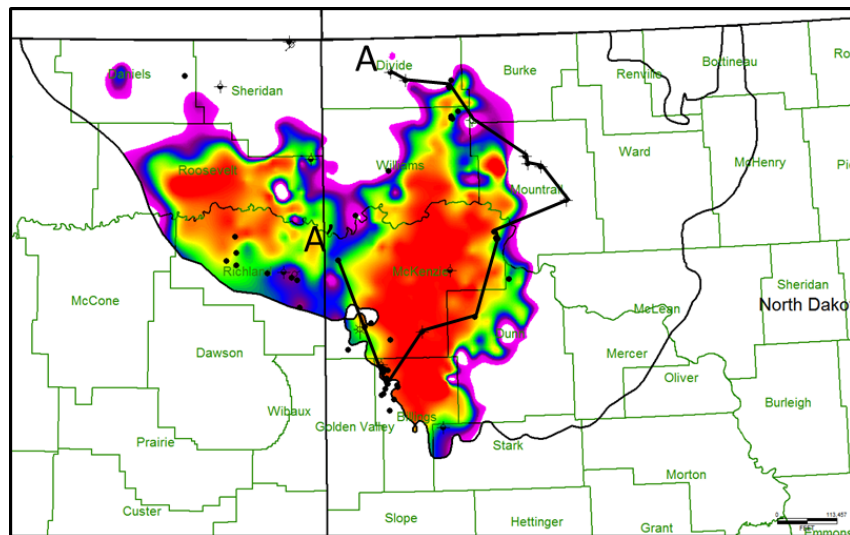
Faults & Fractures

- Tectonic
 - Faults
 - Force Folds
 - Recurrent movement on basement faults
 - Evaporite dissolution
 - Differential compaction
- Regional Stress Field ($S_{h_{max}}$)
- Diagenetic
 - Hydrocarbon generation
 - Overpressure
 - Compaction/Dewatering (PFS)

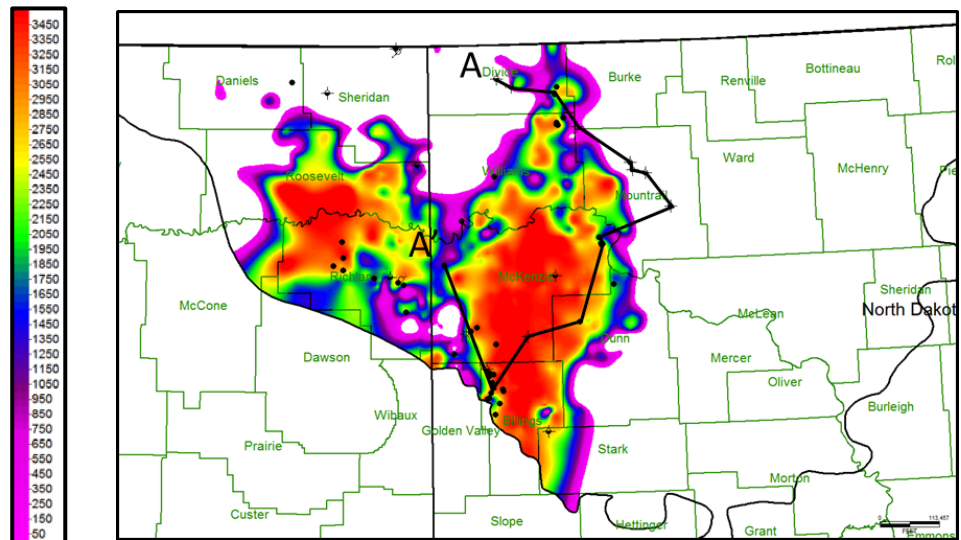
Regional Fractures



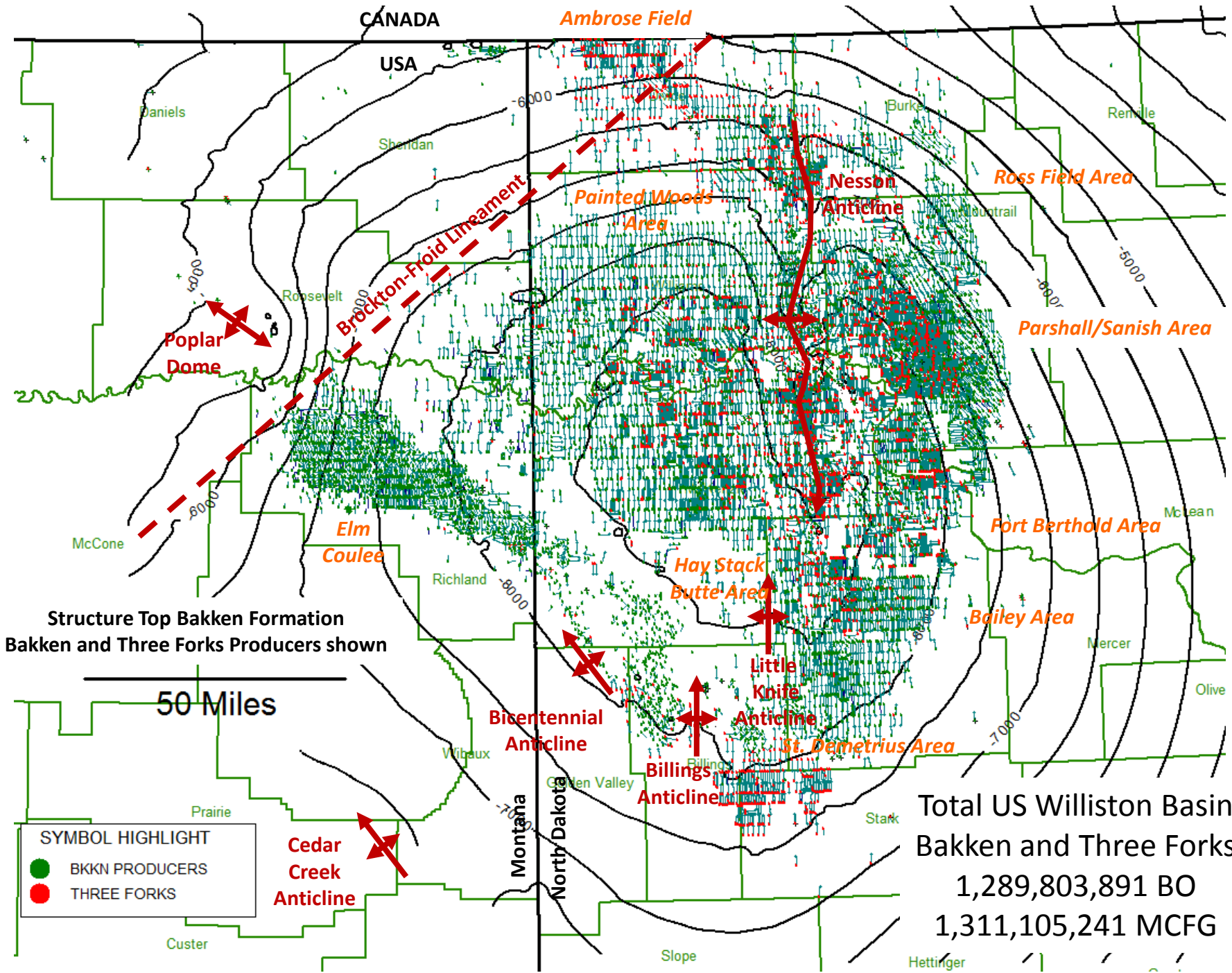
Petroleum-Expulsion Fracture Map



Lower Bakken Shale



Upper Bakken Shale



**Total US Williston Basin
Bakken and Three Forks**
 1,289,803,891 BO
 1,311,105,241 MCFG

Conclusions

- A **“giant” continuous accumulation** is present in the Bakken and Three Forks of the Williston Basin
- Sophisticated completion technology and **geological factors have a large impact on productivity**
- **Sweetspots** influenced by **hydrocarbon generation, pore overpressure, inferred oil saturations and productivity, net pay, facies, natural fractures, etc.**
- **Optimal completion design depends on area and field maturity**
 - 40-stage completions may not be economic in low-productivity areas
 - Simpler (cheaper) completions may be preferable for infill wells at late development stage
- **Multistage hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling** are game changers for tight oil systems



Colorado School of Mines Bakken Consortium

