

2003-2005: Recent Discoveries in WCSB and Williston Basins

Tracey Jungwirth*

Canadian Discovery Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, Canada
tjungwirth@canadiandiscovery.com

and

Ed Fogg

Canadian Discovery Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Abstract

Between 2003 and 2005, technological advances and high commodity prices influenced the drilling of approximately 67,000 wells in the Western Canada Sedimentary (WCSB) and Williston Basins. Of these wells, 23% are categorized as exploratory and 77% as development. Status distribution has gas dominating 73% of the total completions versus oil at 27% of completions. Some of the key exploration discoveries occurred in the Tay River, Monkman, Solomon, Pembina and Lynx areas of Alberta and British Columbia. On the resource play side, significant discoveries occurred for CBM (Oberlin and Corbett Creek, Alberta), deep basin tight gas (Groundbirch and Cutbank Ridge, British Columbia and Leland, Alberta) and oil (Bakken - Viewfield, Saskatchewan). These and other recent discoveries were not limited to one area or stratigraphic interval, but are situated across Western Canada and range in age from the Devonian through to the Cretaceous. What are the characteristics of the recent discoveries in Western Canada? How can this information be used to template future discoveries? This paper will summarize the recent discoveries and provide a statistical review of the recent drilling activity that can be used to assess current trends and characterize future discoveries.