

Company Myths And Field Extension Opportunities, Examples From Cretaceous Reservoirs In The Greater Green River Basin

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ABSTRACT

For the purpose of this presentation, a myth is an over- simplified, but seemingly reasonable, explanation for a particular aspect of a field's productive behavior. Myths are common to most producing fields and generally increase in number as fields age. Myths begin as reasonable hypotheses to explain patterns of well results, field limits, water production, stimulation results, or any other characteristic observed during field development activities. The transformation from hypothesis to myth occurs when a hypothesis is accepted by technical disciplines, and/or management, without rigorous scientific testing. With ready acceptance, the myth begins a life of its own as development and operating strategies are implemented around it. Myths are perpetuated by anecdotal stories that pass through generations of geologists, engineers, and management. Myths are detrimental to field development because they are over-simplified explanations for complex petroleum systems. Acceptance of myths inhibits, or at least delays, the critical thinking and data collection activities required to understand the details of a petroleum system operating in a field. Understanding the details of a particular petroleum system is often the key to identifying additional field development opportunities. Identifying company myths and rigorously evaluating them can provide valuable insights into field redevelopment and extension opportunities. Four examples of myths from the Green River Basin illustrate field development opportunities generated by identifying, and critically evaluating company myths.