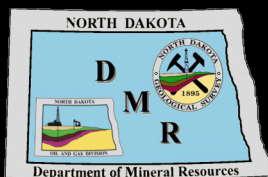


**26th Williston Basin Petroleum Conference**  
**May 22-24, 2018**  
**Bismarck, ND**

# **2018 Core Workshop**

## **Bakken-Three Forks Formations Madison Group Spearfish Formation**

**Jeffrey W. Bader**  
**Julie A. LeFever**  
**Timothy O. Nesheim**  
**Travis D. Stoll Dorf**



**GEOLOGIC INVESTIGATION NO. 208**  
**North Dakota Geological Survey**  
**Edward C. Murphy, State Geologist**  
**Lynn D. Helms, Director Dept. of Mineral Resources**  
**2018**



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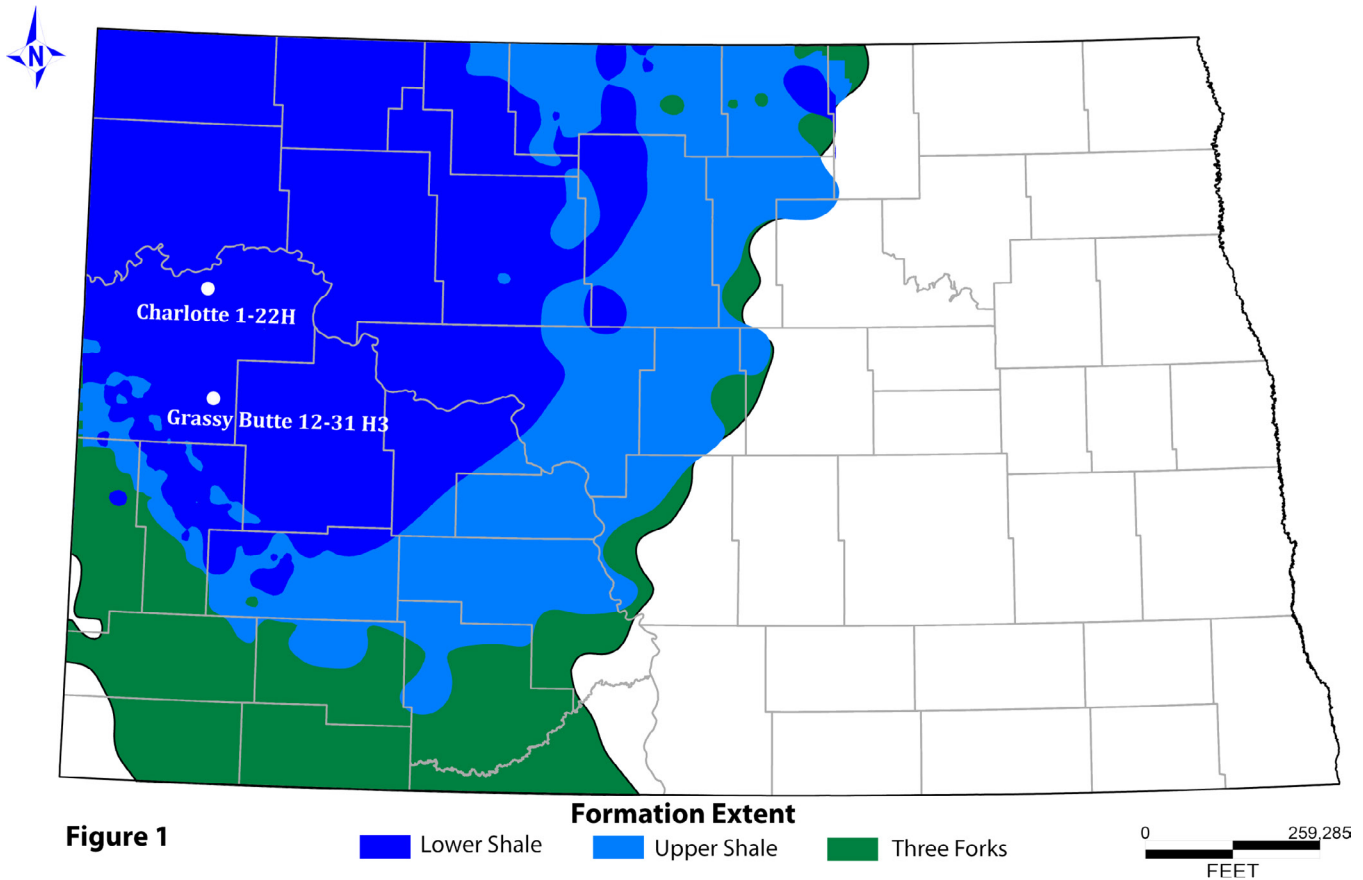
# WILLISTON BASIN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

## Core Workshop

# Bakken-Three Forks

*Jeffrey W. Bader and Julie A. LeFever*

*North Dakota Geological Survey*



### Workshop Cores

No.	Well	Core Interval
1	Continental Resources Inc.-Charlotte 1-22H SW SE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W, McKenzie County NDIC: 19918, API: 33-053-03358-00-00	11,228-11,571
2	American Hunter Exploration-Grassy Butte 12-31 H3 NW NE Sec. 12, T146N, R99W, McKenzie County NDIC: 12772, API: 33-053-02308-00-00	11,210-11,330

## Sequence Stratigraphy of the Bakken Petroleum System and Beyond

The Bakken petroleum system is composed of the Devonian-Mississippian Bakken Formation, consisting of the Upper and Lower Shale, Middle, and Pronghorn Members. The system was originally defined to include the lower 50-feet of the overlying Mississippian Lodgepole Formation and the upper 50-feet of the Devonian Three Forks Formation (Nordeng, 2009). However, the total petroleum system may also include the entire 200+ ft. of the Three Forks section within the central, deeper portions of the basin (Nesheim, 2018). Estimates indicate that over 300-billion barrels (BBO) of oil have been generated from Bakken shales, sourcing Bakken reservoirs, as well as reservoirs in the lower Lodgepole and Three Forks Formations (Price and LeFever, 1992; NDIC, 2006). To date, the Bakken petroleum system has produced only 2 BBO of oil in North Dakota, or approximately < 1% of the estimated in-place resource, even with recent innovations in drilling technology over the last decade. This indicates that the Bakken petroleum system is a relatively untapped, giant, continuous oil accumulation in the Williston Basin (Sonnenberg, et al., 2017). Amounts of recoverable oil from this huge resource are unknown and are dependent on the discovery and development of new technologies in both exploration and drilling.

The Bakken petroleum system is present over much of the Williston Basin of North Dakota, Montana, and Canada with the depositional axis and deepest portions of the basin in western North Dakota (Fig. 1). Recent studies have shown the importance of core/log-based evaluations using sequence stratigraphy in recognizing unconformities and sequence stratigraphic surfaces within the Bakken petroleum system (Fig. 2; Skinner et al., 2015). Such studies have led to discoveries of giant oil fields within the Bakken-play, such as the Pronghorn play that spans the Park, Bell, and surrounding fields in southwestern North Dakota.

This core workshop will focus on two wells that illustrate the importance of recognizing not only erosion surfaces, but what type of erosion surface, and the stratigraphic and sedimentological implications of correctly, or incorrectly, identifying these features in core (Figs. 3 and 4). In addition, emphasis will also be placed on recognition of these features on the gamma-ray log (Catuneanu, 2006), to help identify 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and even 5<sup>th</sup> order sequences that can then be used to better identify rock type, facies, and depositional environments, etc. as they relate to fluctuations in relative sea-level (Fig. 5). Sequence stratigraphic principles may also be utilized for other siliciclastic units in the Williston Basin that may also have untapped petroleum potential, such as the Spearfish, Tyler, Icebox, Black Island, and Deadwood formations. Better understanding of sequence stratigraphic principles in petroleum exploration, combined with technological advancement in drilling and seismic (stratigraphic and structural) will allow for increased production from these conventional and unconventional reservoirs.

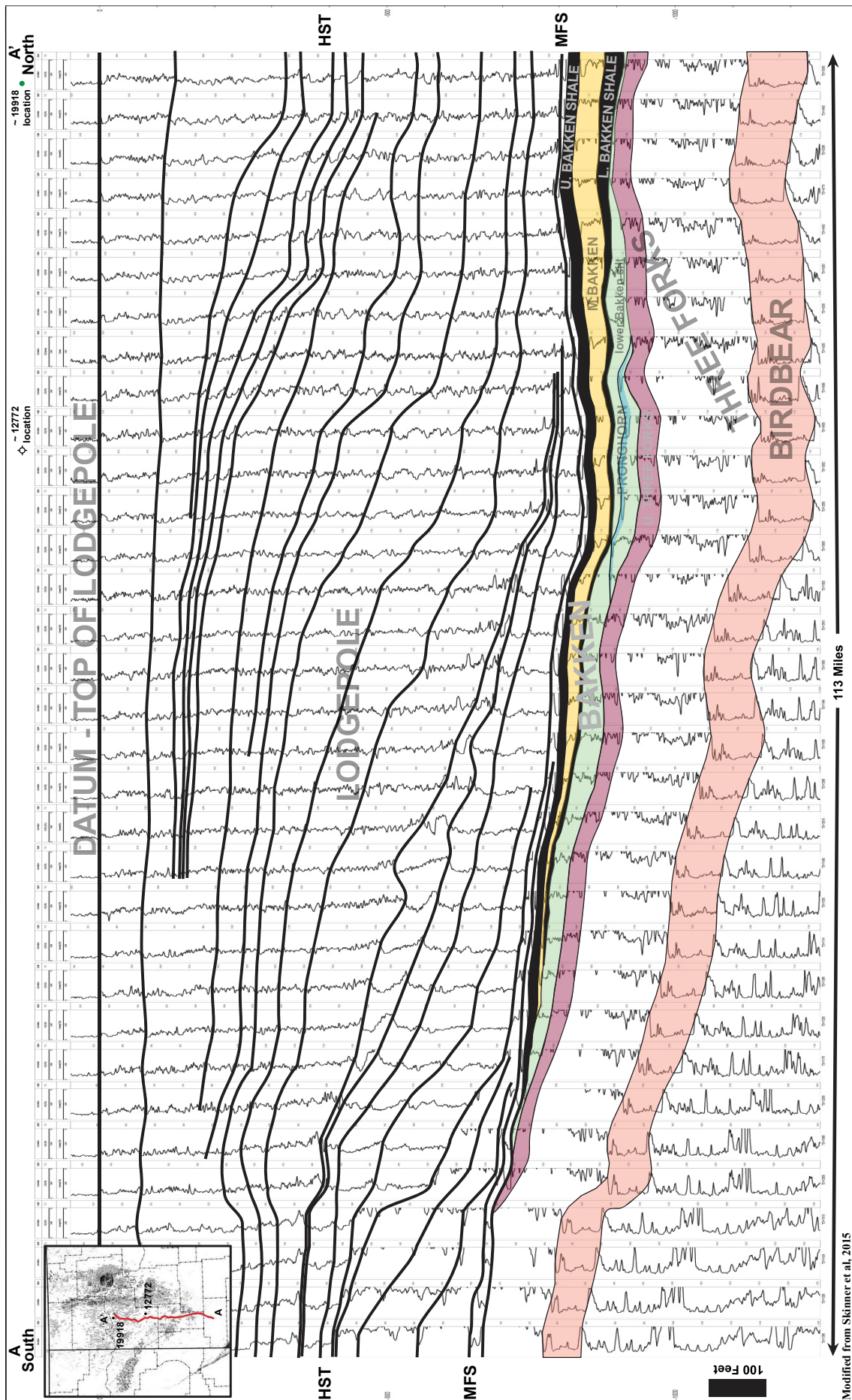


Figure 2

NDIC File No: **19918** API No: **33-053-03358-00-00** County: **MCKENZIE** CTB No: **119918**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **A** Status Date: **6/12/2011** Wellbore type: **HORIZONTAL**  
Location: **SWSE 22-152-99** Footages: **265 FSL 1965 FEL** Latitude: **47.964578** Longitude:  
**-103.333939**



Lateral **1** Start Coordinates **22 N 8 W** From Wellhead, End Coordinates **10032 N 75 W** From Wellhead

Current Operator: **CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC.**  
Original Operator: **CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC.**  
Current Well Name: **CHARLOTTE 1-22H**  
Original Well Name: **CHARLOTTE 1-22H**  
Elevation(s): **2352 KB 2330 GR 2331 GL** Total Depth: **21090** Field: **BANKS**  
Spud Date(s): **2/16/2011**

Digital or Image Log(s) available: **AIG\_CND1.las** 13.7MB, **AIG-CND2.las** 4.7MB, **AIG-CND3.las** 3.9MB, **AIG-CND4.las** 601KB, **AIG** 5.5MB, **AIG1.las** 3.1MB, **AIG2.las** 2MB, **AIG3.las** 281KB, **CAL.las** 967KB, **CAL** 1.5MB, **CBL.las** 1.8MB, **CBL** 2.9MB, **CIL.las** 22.4MB, **CIL** 2.8MB, **CND** 1.9MB, **DTSM1** 2.3MB, **DTSM2** 1MB, **DTSM3** 9.8MB, **ECS** 1.3MB, **GR.las** 295KB, **MRI-ECS1.las** 579KB, **MRI-ECS2.las** 1.4MB, **MRI.las** 258KB, **MRI** 1.2MB

Formation Tops

**K-P 2119 K-GH 4928 K-M 5357 K-N 5502 K-IK 5734 J-S 6249**  
**J-R 6734 T-S 7268 PM-MK 7675 PM-OP 7702 PM-EBA 7958 PN-T 8254**  
**M-EBS 8471 M-KL 8817 M-MD 8865 M-MDR 9604 M-MDLS 9697 M-MDFA 9901**  
**M-MDLP 10476 MD-B 11265 D-TF 11356 D-BB 11573**

Casing String(s): **9.625" 2243' 7" 11530'**

Completion Data

Pool: **BAKKEN** Perfs: **11530-21090** Comp Dt: **6/12/2011** Status: **AL** Status Dt: **8/2/2013**  
Spacing: **2SEC**

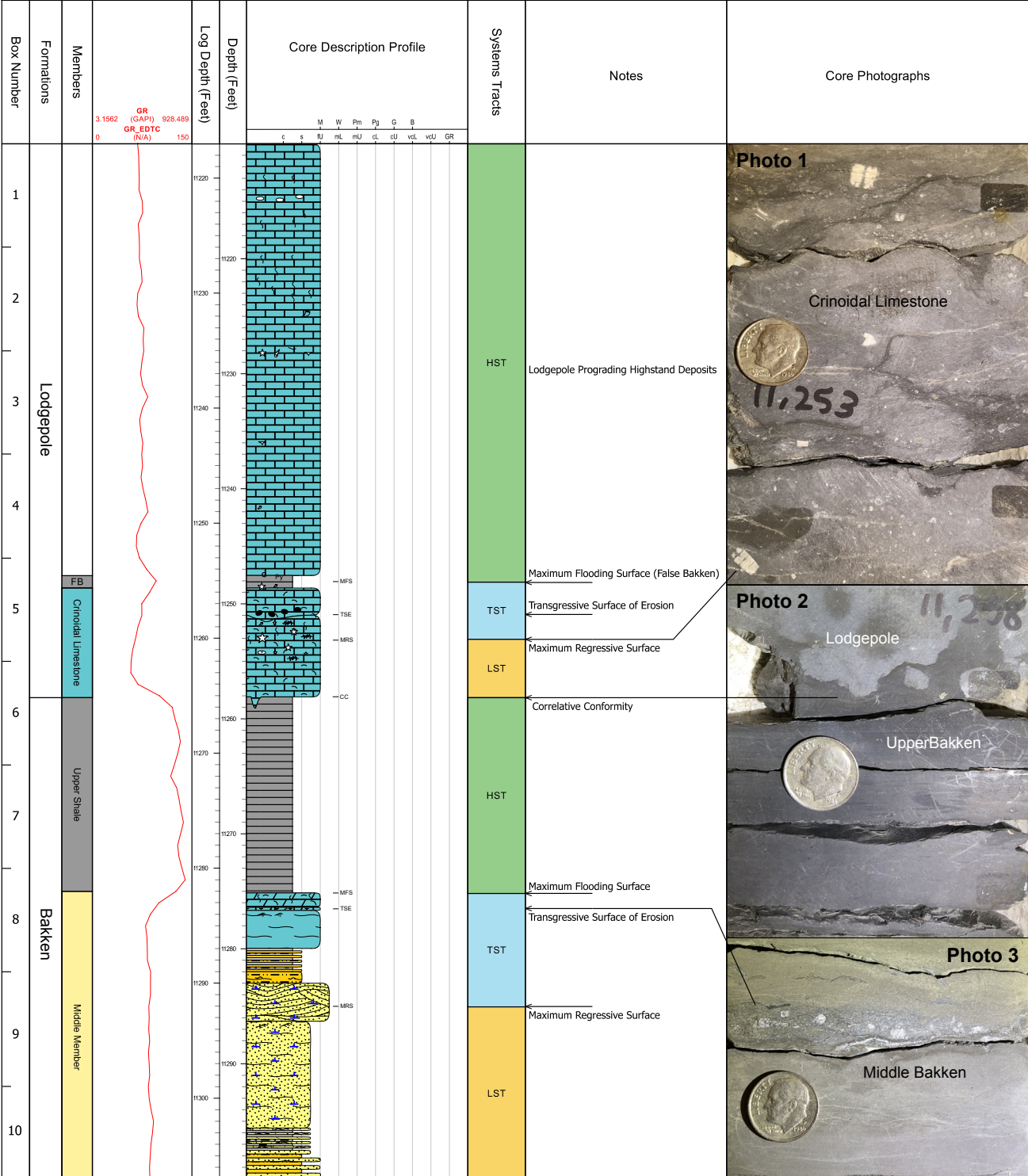
Cumulative Production Data

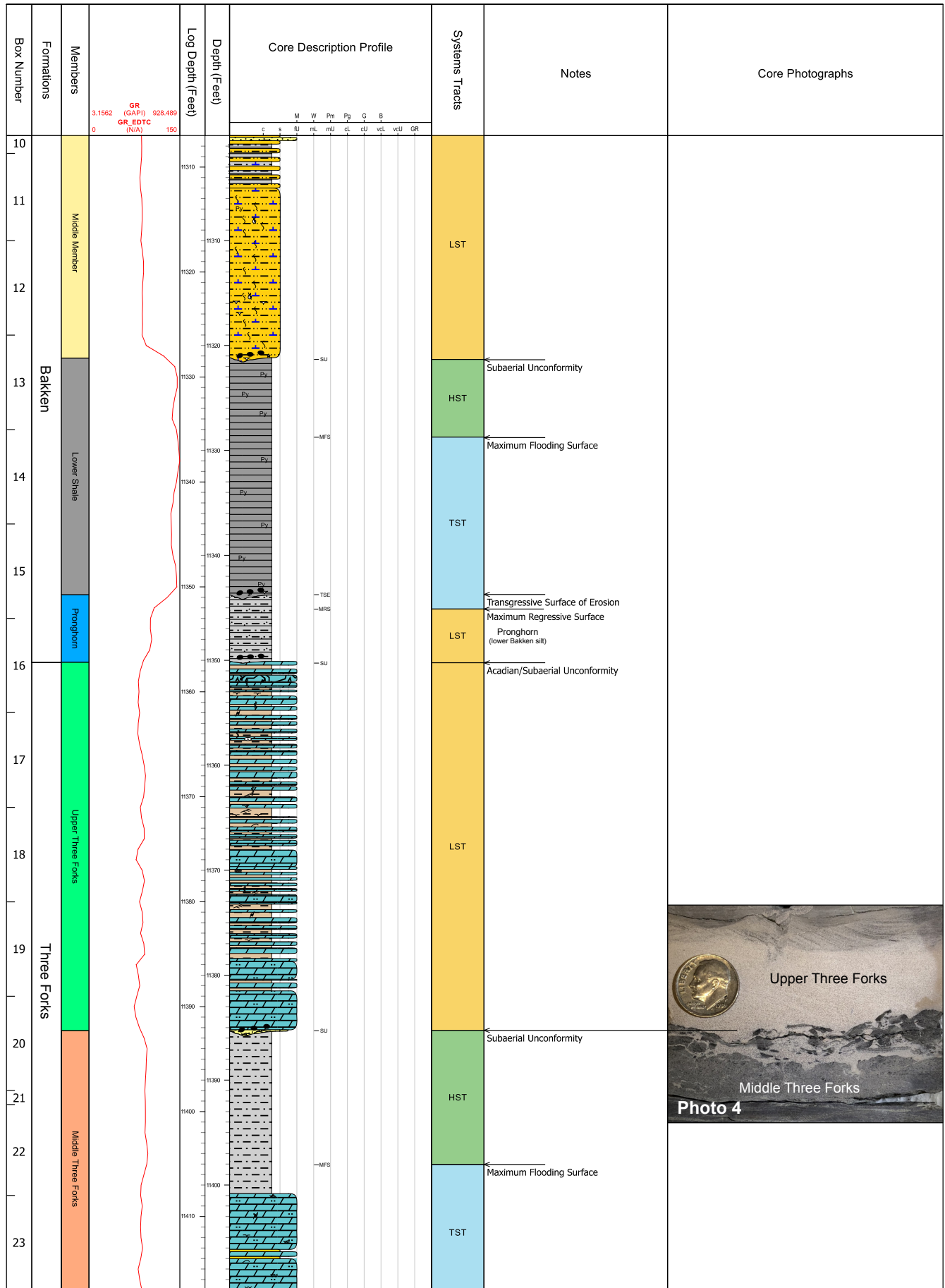
Pool: **BAKKEN** Cum Oil: **266968** Cum MCF Gas: **343026** Cum Water: **127246**

Production Test Data

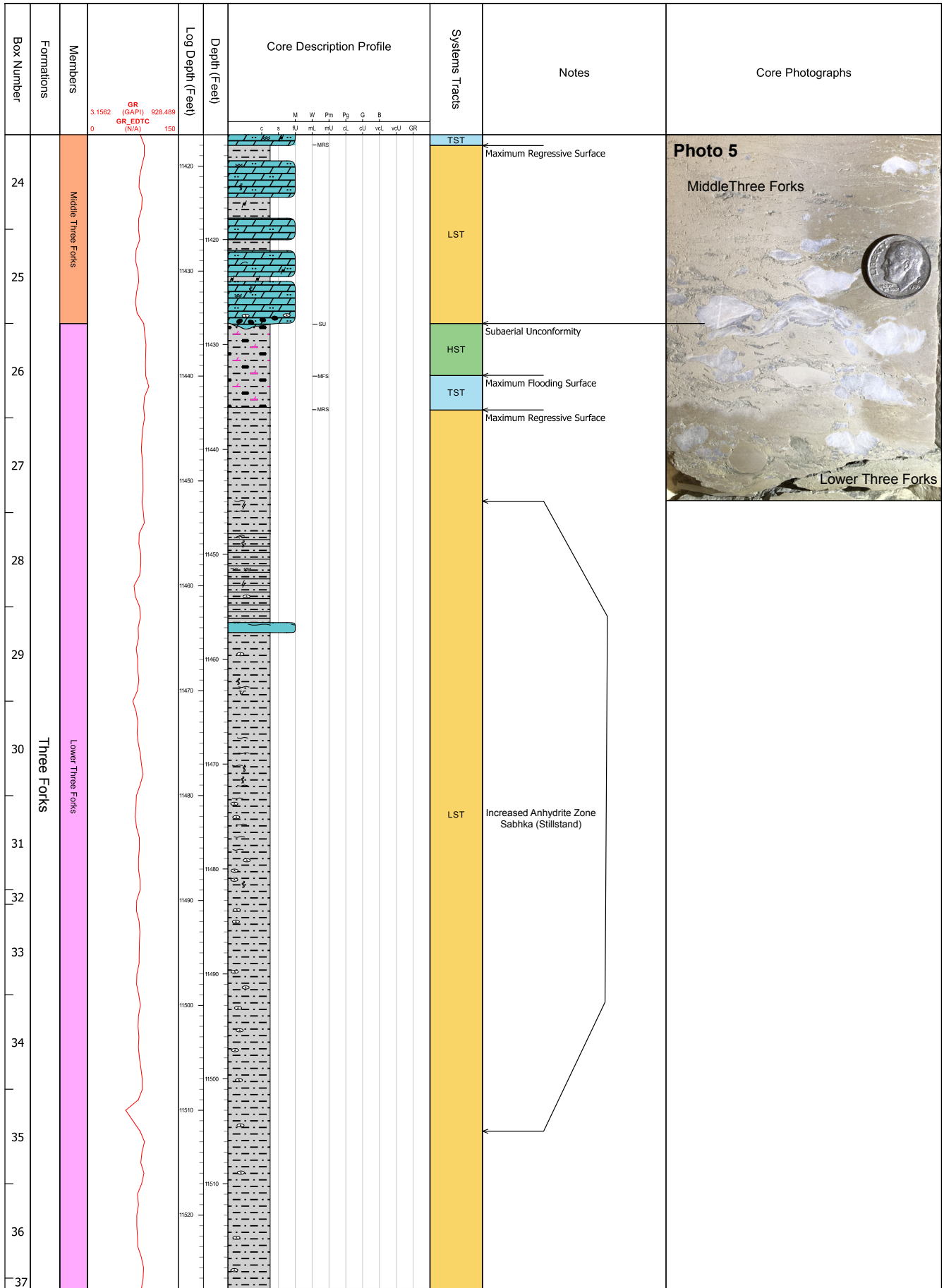


Operator <b>Continental Resources Inc.</b>	
Top 11210 ft	Bottom 11571 ft
Well Name & No. #1-22H Charlotte	Location SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W
Logged by JL/JWB	Date Mon Mar 5 2018
Basin Williston	UWI No. 33-053-03358-00-00
NDIC No. 19918	Field Banks
KB 2352 ft	TD 21090
Latitude 47.9645789	Longitude 103.3339395











CHARLOTTE 1-22H  
19918

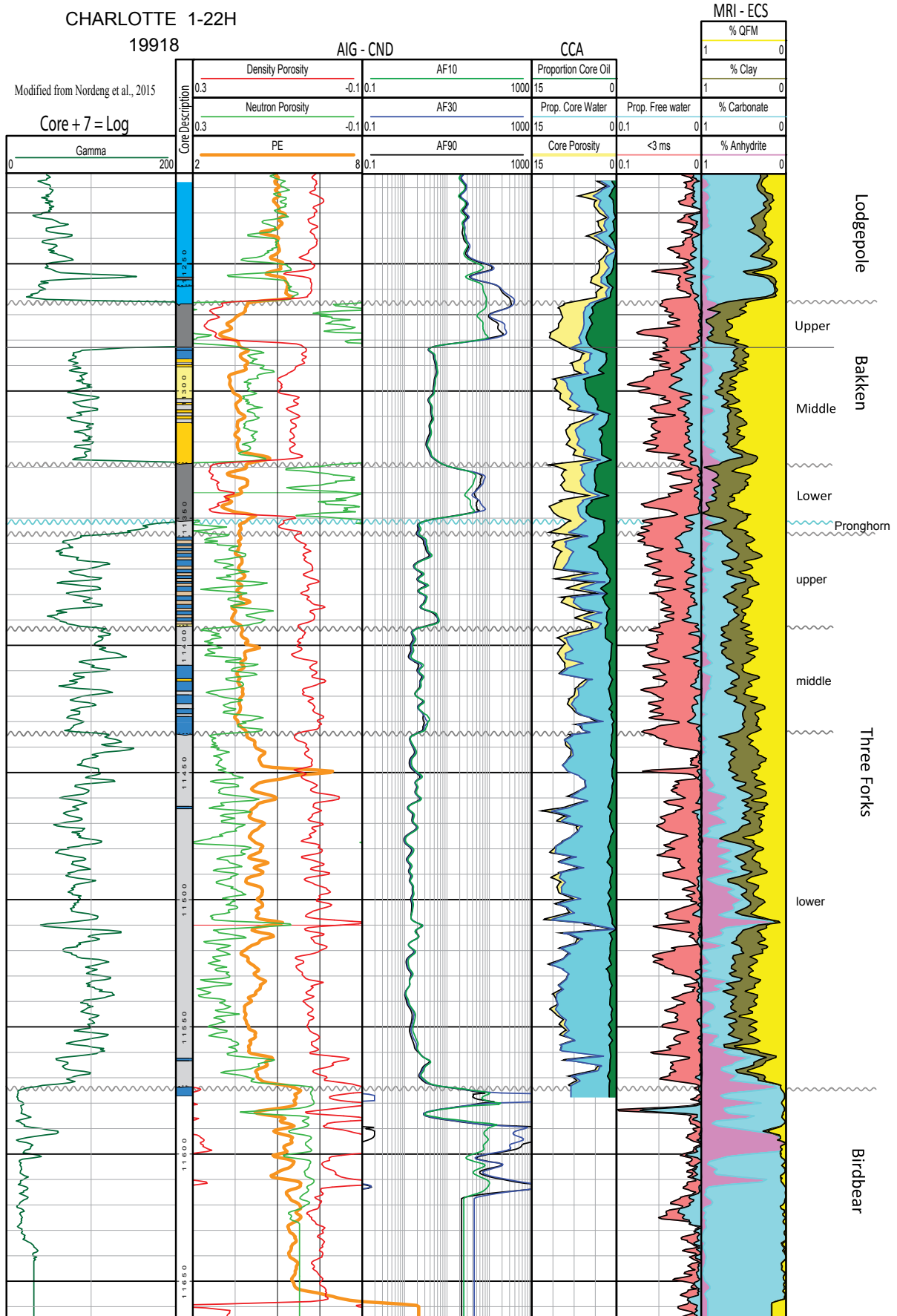
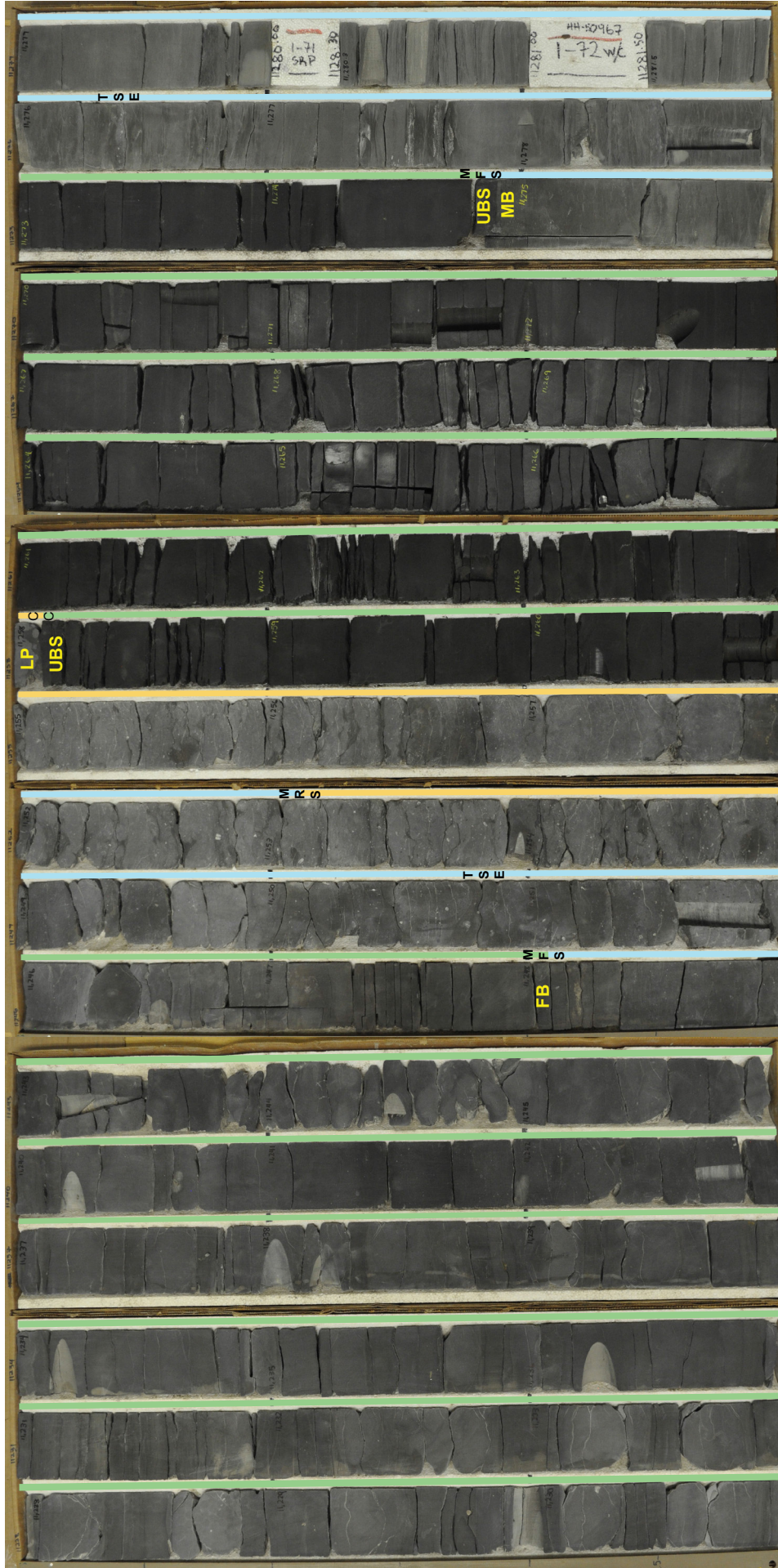


Figure 3

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
 Continental Resources, Inc.  
 Charlotte 1-22H

Cored Interval: 11,228 - 11,282 ft.

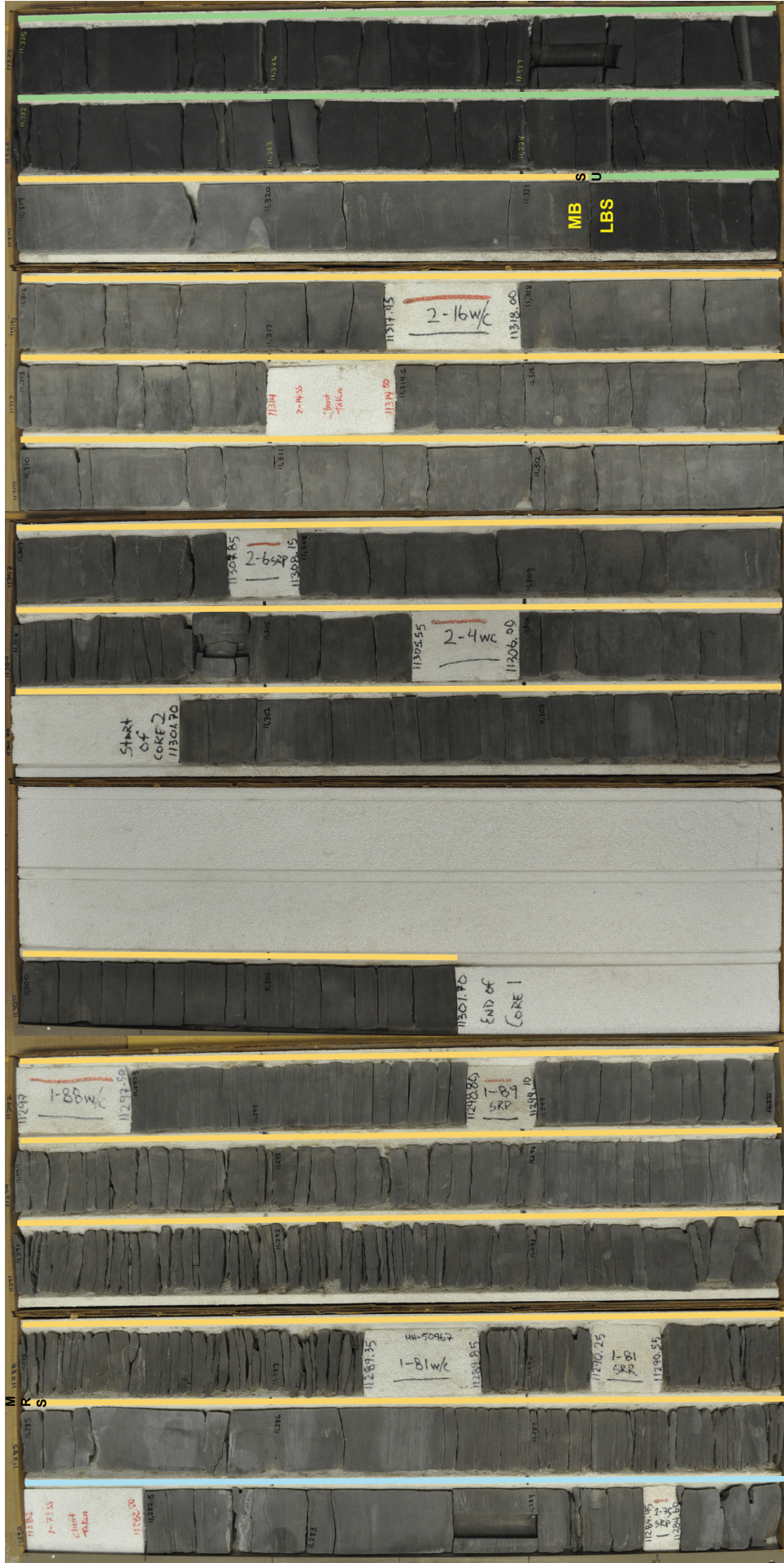


**EXPLANATION**

- CC - Correlative Conformity
  - FB - False Bakken
  - LP - Lodgepole
  - MFS - Maximum Flooding Surface
  - MB - Middle Bakken
  - MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface
  - TSE - Transgressive Surface of Erosion
  - UBS - Upper Bakken Shale
- 
- Highstand Systems Tract
  - Transgressive Systems Tract
  - Lowstand Systems Tract

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
 Continental Resources, Inc.  
 Charlotte 1-22H

Cored Interval: 11,282 - 11,328 ft.

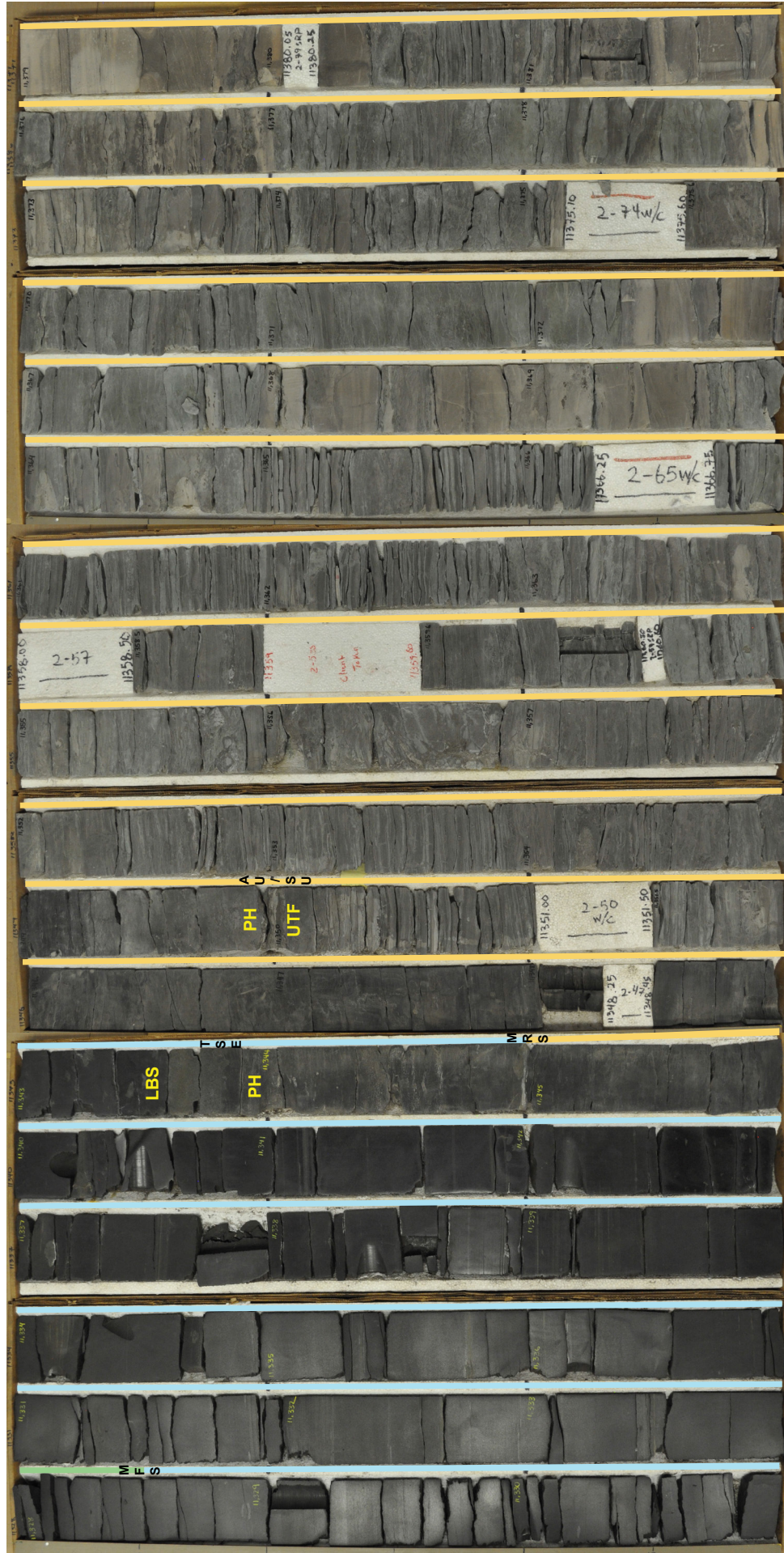


**EXPLANATION**

- LBS - Lower Bakken Shale
- MB - Middle Bakken
- MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface
- SU - Subaerial Unconformity
- Highstand Systems Tract
- Transgressive Systems Tract
- Lowstand Systems Tract

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
 Continental Resources, Inc.  
 Charlotte 1-22H

Cored Interval: 11,328 - 11,382 ft.

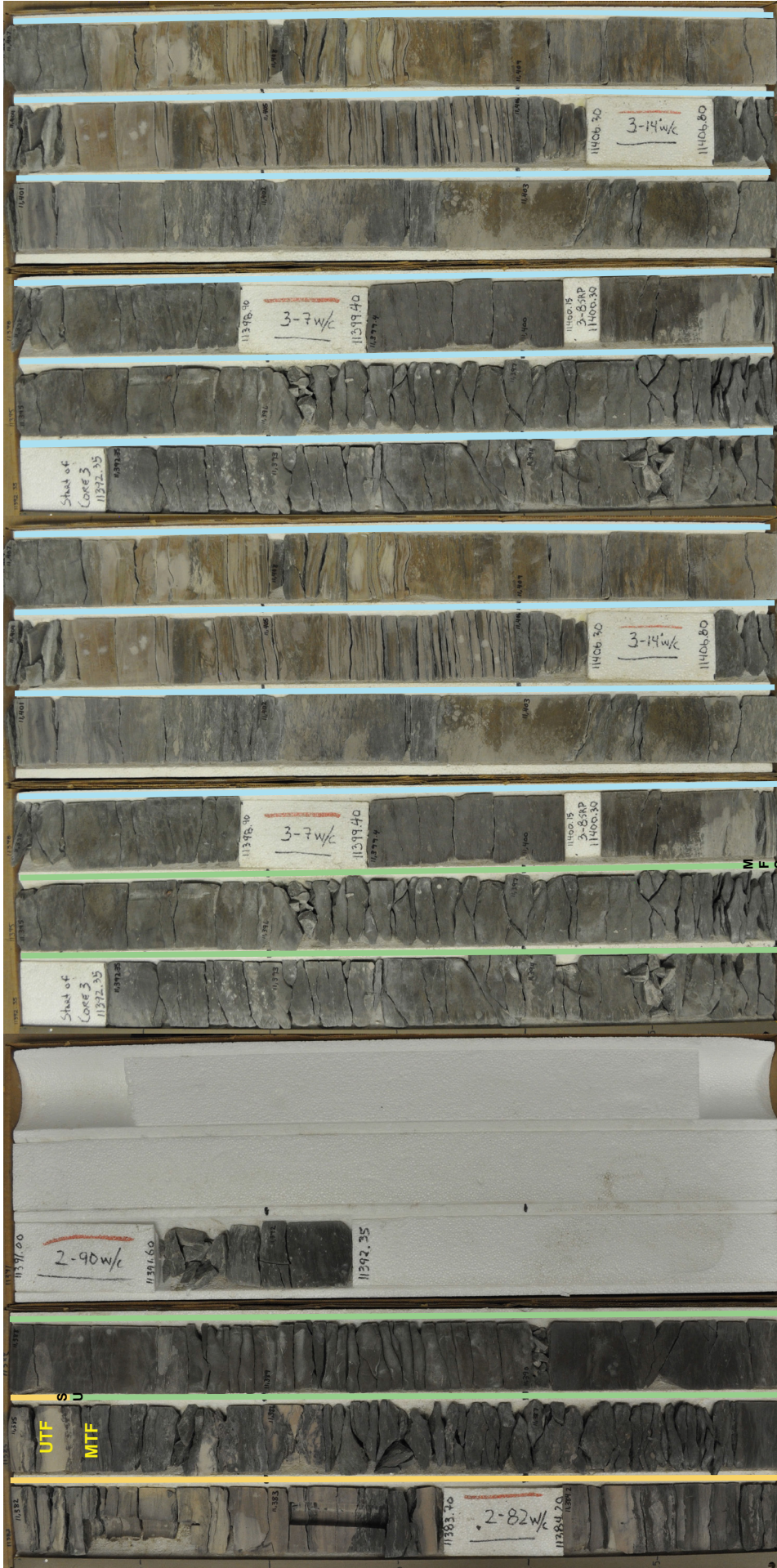


**EXPLANATION**

- AU - Acadian Unconformity
- LBS - Lower Bakken Shale
- MFS - Maximum Flooding Surface
- MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface
- PH - Pronghorn
- SU - Subaerial Unconformity
- TSE - Transgressive Surface of Erosion
- UTF - Upper Three Forks
- Highstand Systems Tract
- Transgressive Systems Tract
- Lowstand Systems Tract

Cored Interval: 11,382 - 11,410 ft.

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
 Continental Resources, Inc.  
 Charlotte 1-22H

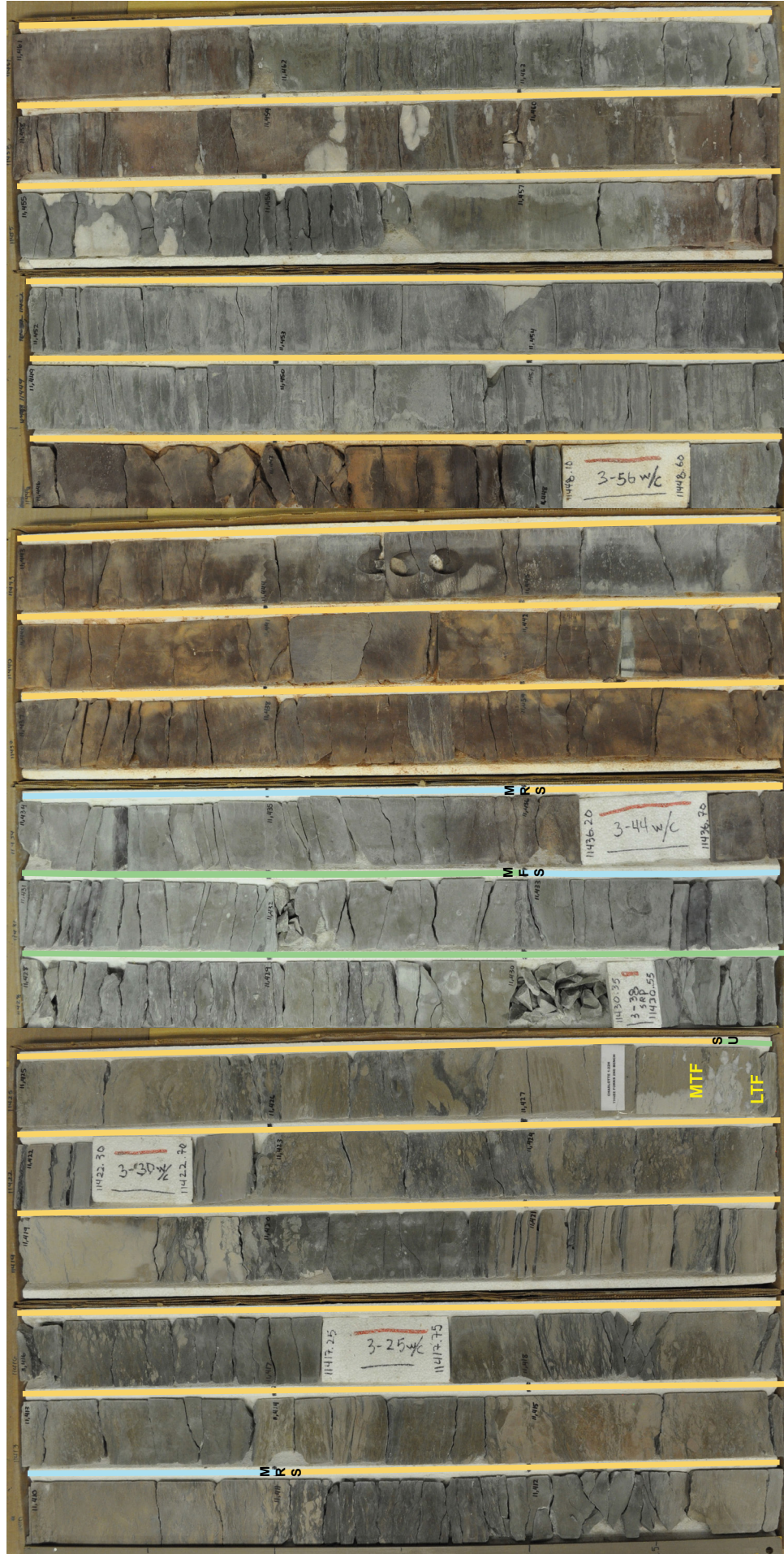


**EXPLANATION**

- MFS - Maximum Flooding Surface
- MTF - Middle Three Forks
- SU - Subaerial Unconformity
- UTF - Upper Three Forks
- Highstand Systems Tract
- Transgressive Systems Tract
- Lowstand Systems Tract

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
Continental Resources, Inc.  
Charlotte 1-22H

Cored Interval: 11,410 - 11,464 ft.



**EXPLANATION**

- LTF - Lower Three Forks
- MFS - Maximum Flooding Surface
- MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface
- MTF - Middle Three Forks
- SU - Subaerial Unconformity
- Highstand Systems Tract
- Transgressive Systems Tract
- Lowstand Systems Tract



Cored Interval: 11,464 - 11,510 ft.

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
Continental Resources, Inc.  
Charlotte 1-22H



**EXPLANATION**

- LTF - Lower Three Forks
- Lowstand Systems Tract

Cored Interval: 11,510 - 11,564 ft.

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
Continental Resources, Inc.  
Charlotte 1-22H



EXPLANATION

LTF - Lower Three Forks

Lowstand Systems Tract

SWSE Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
Continental Resources, Inc.  
Charlotte 1-22H

Cored Interval: 11,564 - 11,571 ft.



**EXPLANATION**

- BB - Birdbear
- CC - Correlative Conformity
- LTF - Lower Three Forks
- Lowstand Systems Tract

NDIC File No: **12772** API No: **33-053-02308-00-00** County: **MCKENZIE** CTB No: **112772**

Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **DRY** Status Date: **4/29/1991** Wellbore type: **HORIZONTAL**

Location: **NWNE 12-146-99** Footages: **660 FNL 1980 FEL** Latitude: **47.485595** Longitude: **-103.234115**

Lateral **1** Start Coordinates **16 N 130 W** From Wellhead, End Coordinates **1903 S 272 W** From Wellhead

Lateral **2** Start Coordinates **15 N 130 W** From Wellhead, End Coordinates **1127 S 519 W** From Wellhead

Current Operator: **AMERICAN HUNTER EXPLORATION LTD.**

Original Operator: **AMERICAN HUNTER EXPLORATION LTD.**

Current Well Name: **AHEL ET AL GRASSEY BUTTE 12-31 H3**

Original Well Name: **AHEL ET AL GRASSEY BUTTE #12-31 H3**

Elevation(s): **2599 KB** Total Depth: **12164** Field: **WILDCAT**

Spud Date(s): **11/7/1989**

Digital or Image Log(s) available: **CAL 3.4MB, CND 4.9MB, CYB 1.1MB, DSW 9MB, DTS1 473KB, DTS2 785KB, DTS3 556KB, DTSM 5MB, GR 145KB, GWD1 1.1MB, GWD10 206KB, GWD2 1.1MB, GWD3 417KB, GWD4 332KB, GWD5 234KB, GWD6 676KB, GWD7 685KB, GWD8 452KB, GWD9 234KB, NGS 1.7MB, PHI 9.3MB**

Formation Tops

**K-GH 4923 K-M 5372 K-N 5505 K-IK 5745 J-S 6185 J-R 6630**

**T-S 7185 PM-MK 7637 PM-OP 7691 PM-EBA 7977 PN-T 8480 M-EBS 8610**

**M-KL 8926 M-MD 9072 M-MDR 9610 M-MDLS 9675 M-MDFA 9868 M-MDFY 10046**

**M-MDLP 10380 MD-B 11240 D-TF 11308**

Casing String(s): **9.625" 2421' 7" 11823'**

Completion Data

Pool: **BAKKEN** Perfs: **11708-12164G** Comp Dt: **4/9/1990** Status: **DRY** Status Dt: **4/29/1991** Spacing: **SEC**

Cumulative Production Data

Pool: **BAKKEN** Cum Oil: **0** Cum MCF Gas: **485** Cum Water: **0** [Interactive Performance Curve] [PDF Curve]

Production Test Data

IP Test Date: **4/9/1990** Pool: **BAKKEN** IP Oil: **10** IP MCF: **0** IP Water: **0**

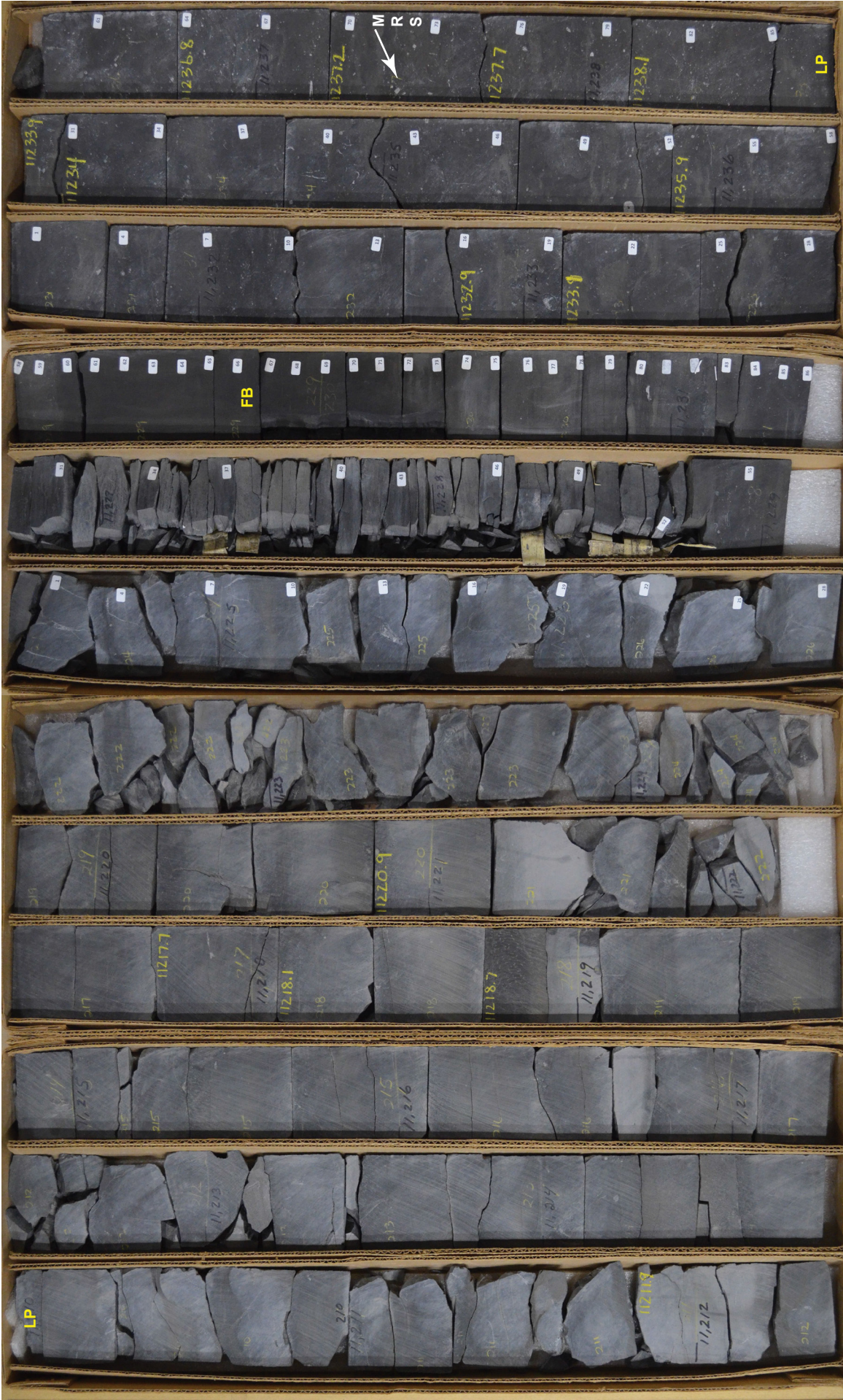
DST: **11230-11270** Recovery: **\*\* MISRUN \*\*, REVERSE SUB PINS BROKE.**

DST: **11223-11270** Recovery: **100' INVERT DRILLING MUD - SAMPLER: 0.23 CF GAS, 2400 CC MUD**

DST: **11705-11823** Recovery: **20 BBLs GAS CUT MUD, 10 BBLs HIGH GAS CUT OIL, (CASED HOLE DST) - SAMPLER: SAMPLER RESULTS NOT GIVEN**

Cored Interval: 11,210 - 11,239 ft.

NWNE Sec. 12, T146N, R99W  
American Hunter Exploration Ltd.  
Grassy Butte 12-31 H3

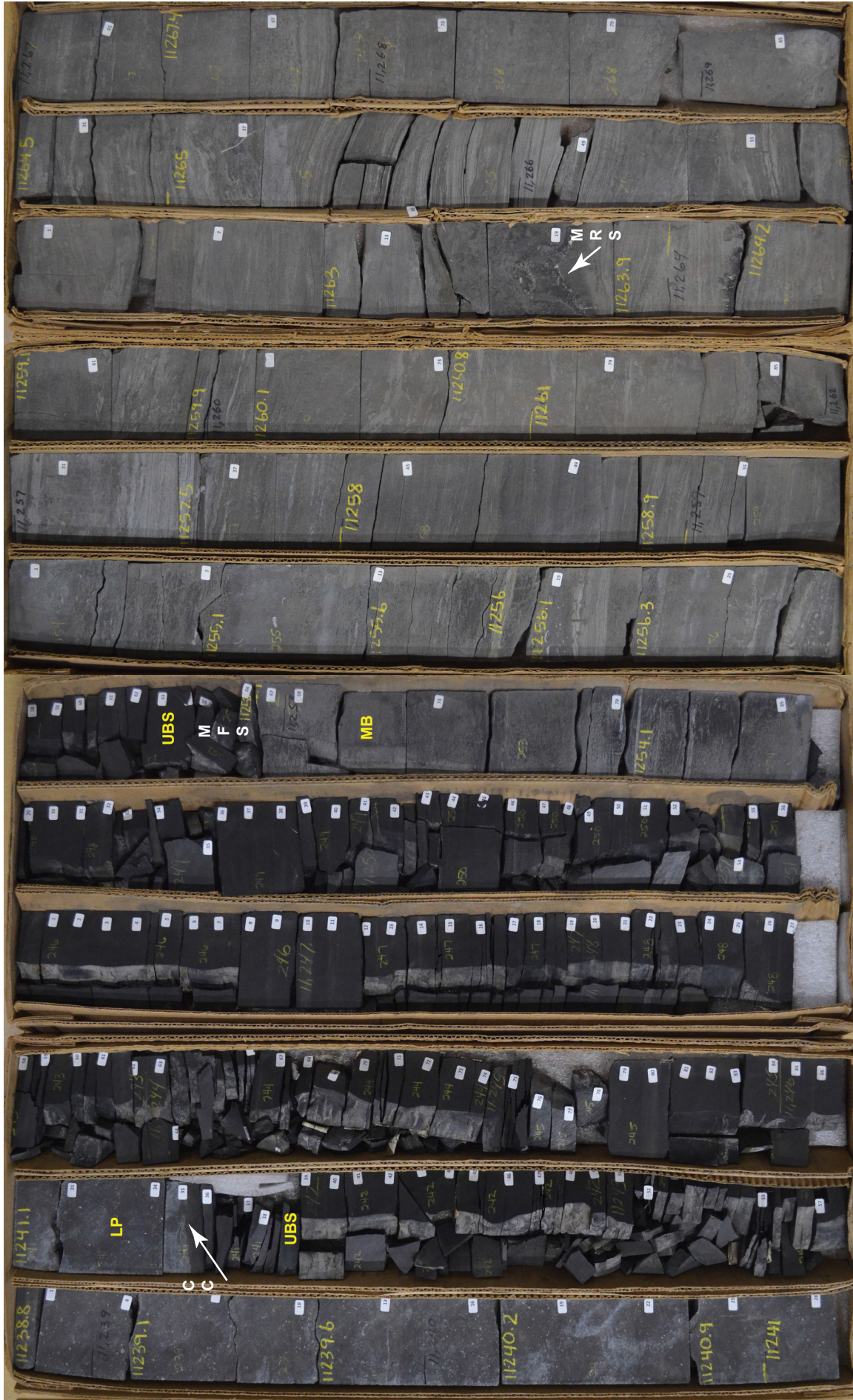


**EXPLANATION**

- FB - False Bakken
- LP - Lodgepole
- MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface

Cored Interval: 11,239 - 11,270 ft.

NWNE Sec. 12, T146N, R99W  
American Hunter Exploration Ltd.  
Grassy Butte 12-31 H3

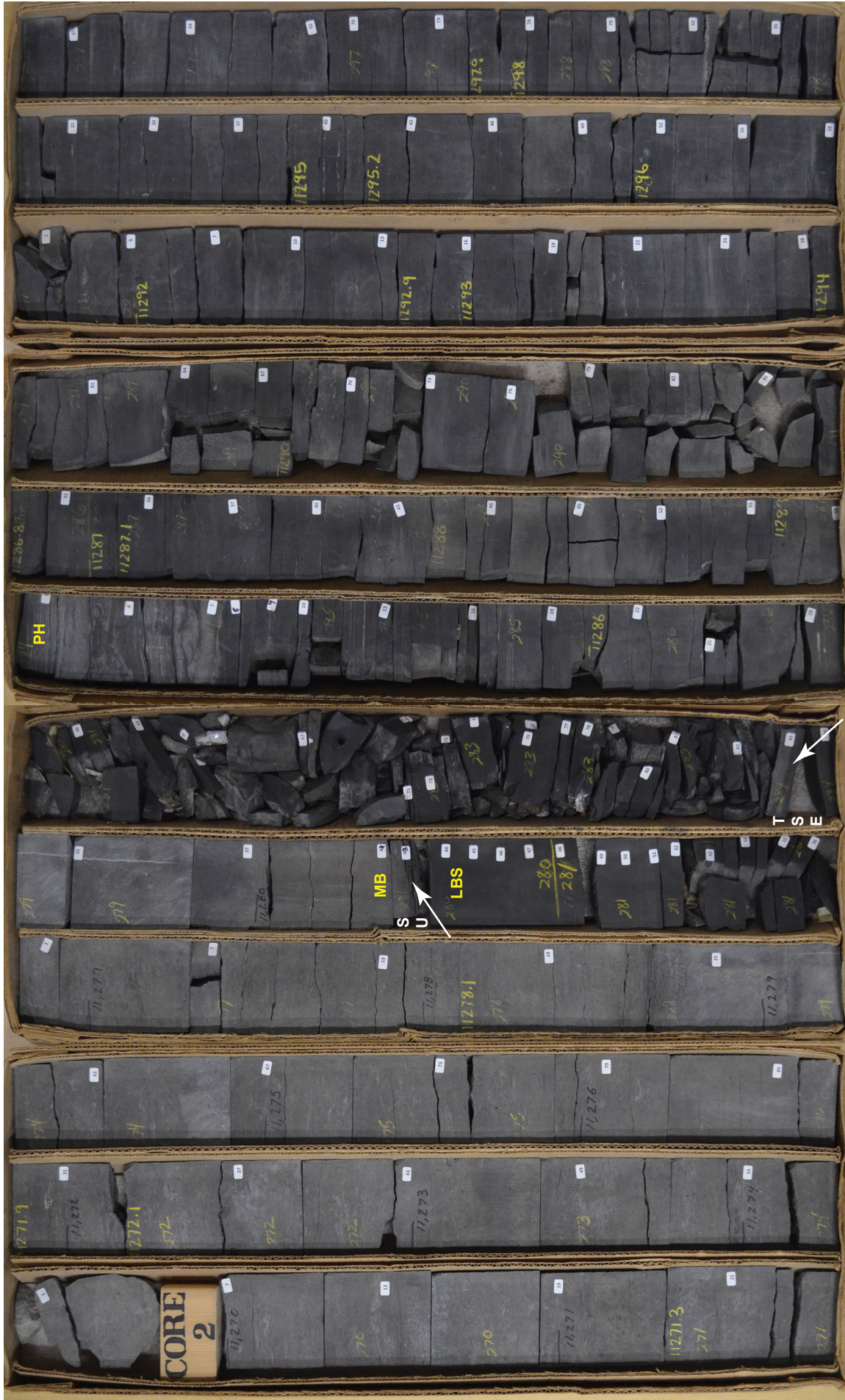


**EXPLANATION**

- CC - Correlative Conformity
- MFS - Maximum Flooding Surface
- MB - Middle Bakken
- LP - Lodgepole
- MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface
- UBS - Upper Bakken Shale

Cored Interval: 11,270 - 11,299 ft.

NWNE Sec. 12, T146N, R99W  
American Hunter Exploration Ltd.  
Grassy Butte 12-31 H3

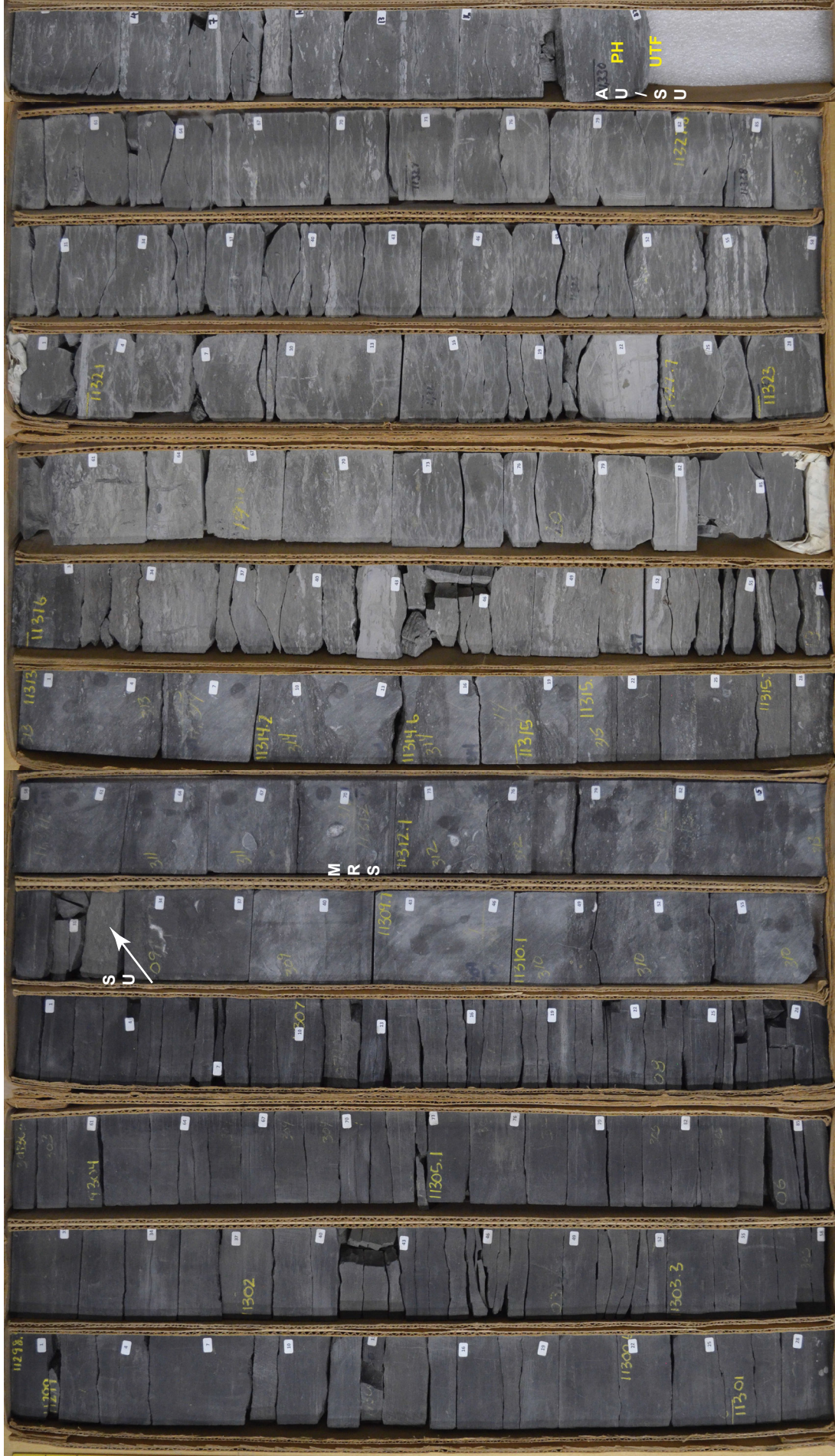


EXPLANATION

- LBS - Lower Bakker Shale
- PH - Pronghorn
- TSE - Transgressive Surface of Erosion
- MB - Middle Bakker
- SU - Subaerial Unconformity

Cored Interval: 11,299 - 11,330 ft.

NWNE Sec. 12, T146N, R99W  
American Hunter Exploration Ltd.  
Grassy Butte 12-31 H3



**EXPLANATION**

- Acadian Unconformity
- MRS - Maximum Regressive Surface
- UTF - Upper Three Forks
- PH - Pronghorn
- SU - Subaerial Unconformity



North

CHARLOTTE 1-22H  
CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC.  
33-053-03358-00-00  
19918  
Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
KB 2.352



South



AHEL ET AL GRASSEY BUTTE 12-31 H3  
AMERICAN HUNTER EXPLORATION LTD.  
33-053-02308-00-00  
12772  
Sec. 12, T146N, R99W  
KB 2.599

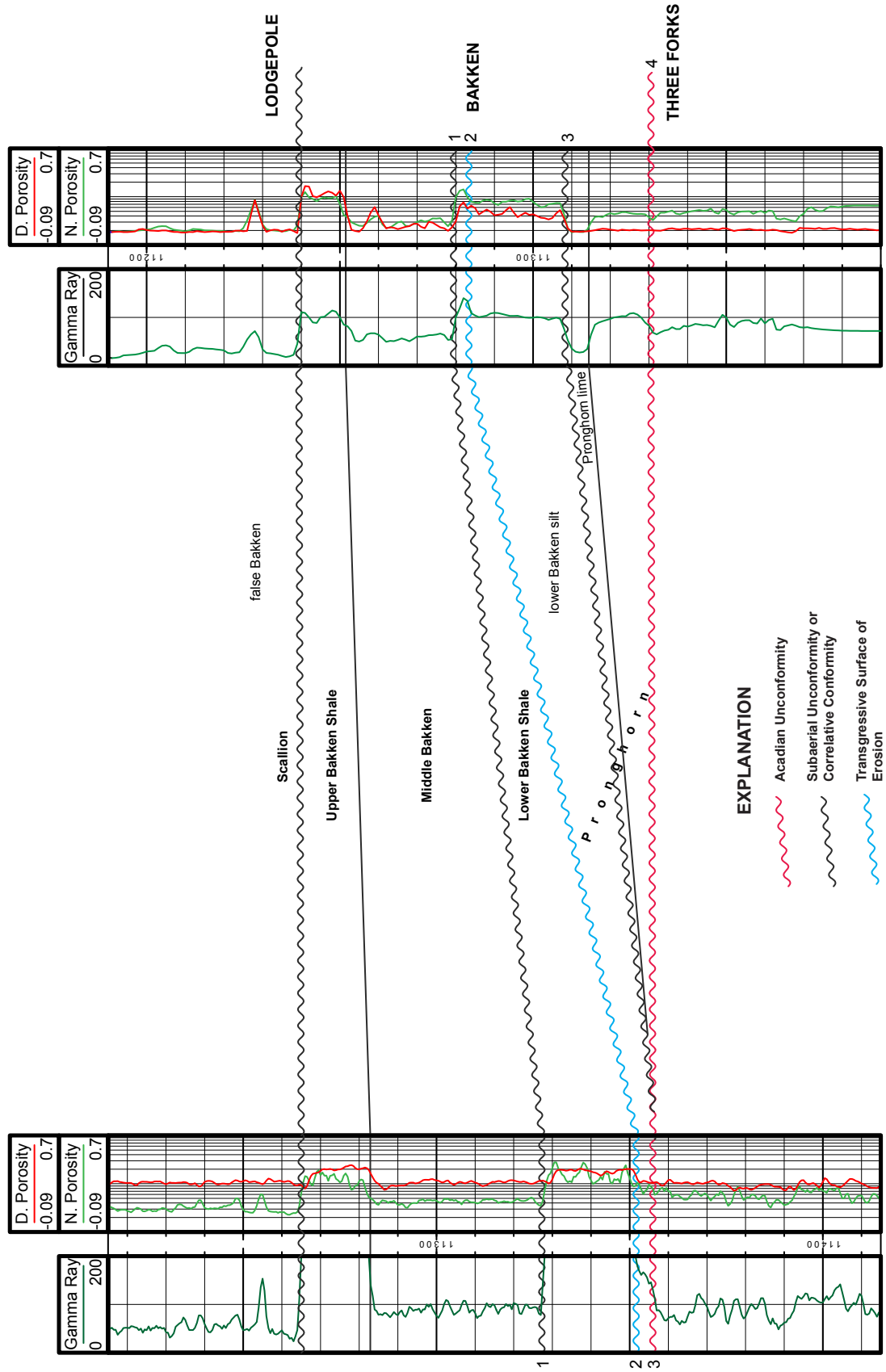


Figure 4

CHARLOTTE 1-22H  
 Sec. 22, T152N, R99W  
 33-053-03358-00-00  
 KB 2,352

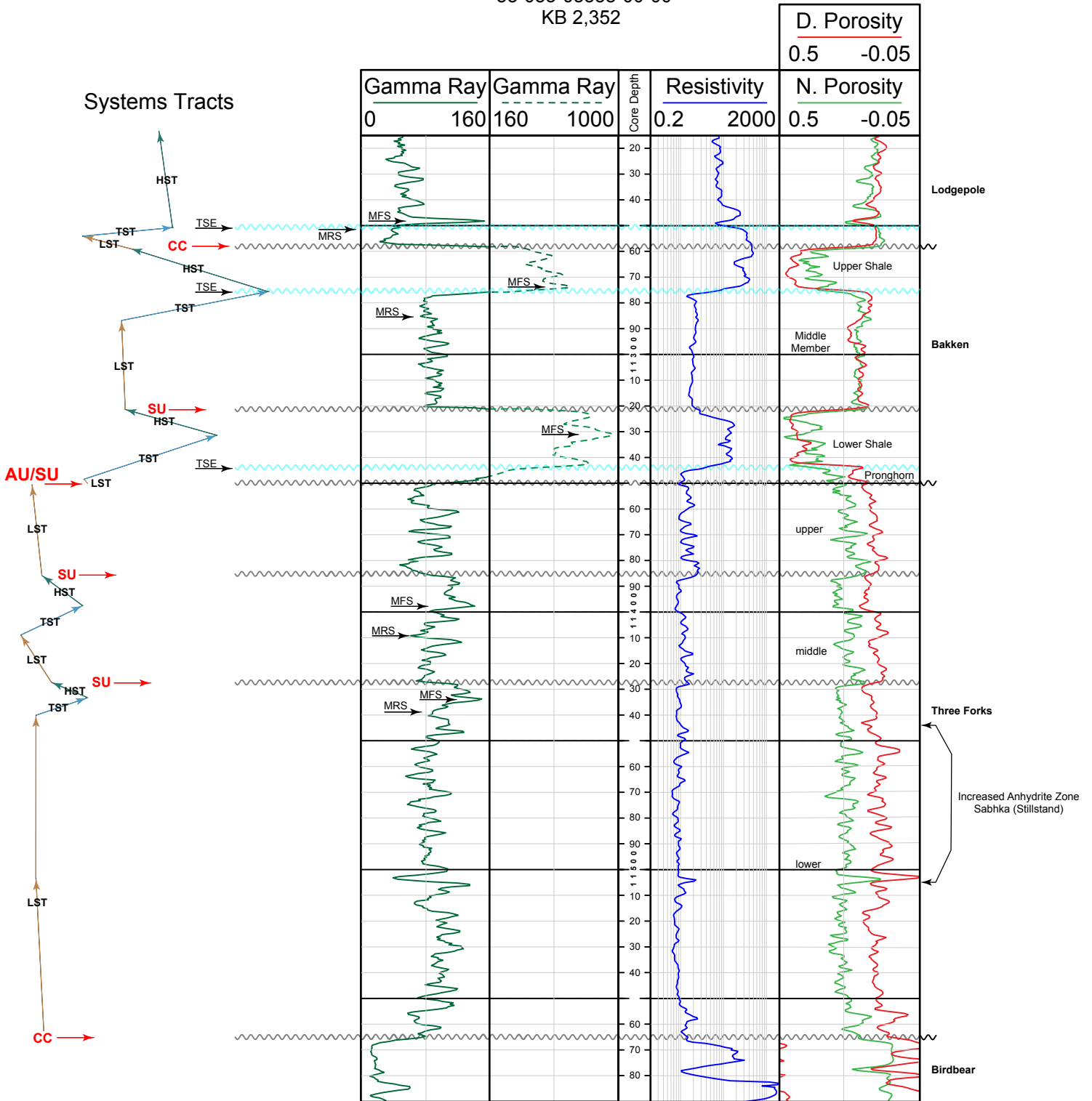


Figure 5

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# **Stratigraphy and unconventional play potential of the Ratcliffe Interval in northwestern to west-central North Dakota – Williston Basin**

Timothy O. Nesheim

## **INTRODUCTION**

Over a dozen horizontal wells, completed using multi-stage hydraulic fracturing, have been drilled during the past few years targeting the Midale-Rival section within the Portal-Flaxton field area (Figs. 1 and 2). Production results from these wells have been encouraging (e.g. Fig. 3). Also, several additional older horizontal Midale-Rival wells, initially completed as open-hole producers, have been re-completed using multi-stage hydraulic fracturing which has notably bolstered production (e.g. Fig. 4). This emerging Midale-Rival play appears to be the first successful augmentation of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing within the Mississippian Madison Group for the North Dakota portion of the Williston Basin.

Across western and north-central North Dakota, over 1 billion barrels of oil (BBO) have been produced from approximately 6,100 Madison wells (Fig. 5) (NDIC, 2018). Vertical well oil production from Madison reservoirs began in the early 1950's and horizontal Madison wells (non-hydraulically fractured) started emerging during the late 1980's to early 1990's (LeFever, 1992). As the Midale-Rival play continues to develop, renewed interest in the Madison Group across North Dakota's portion of the basin may follow. The following core workshop material will examine two cores, including: 1) a representative core of the Midale-Rival play from the Flaxton Field of northern Burke County, the northeastern flank of the basin, and 2) a core spanning the majority of the greater Ratcliffe Interval (including the Midale) from southwestern Williams County, located towards the central portions of the basin. Comparison of these two cores will highlight facies changes within the Midale subinterval, help further develop a regional stratigraphic framework of the Ratcliffe Interval, and provide insights into the emerging Midale-Rival horizontal play as well as future continued exploration and development of Madison reservoirs.

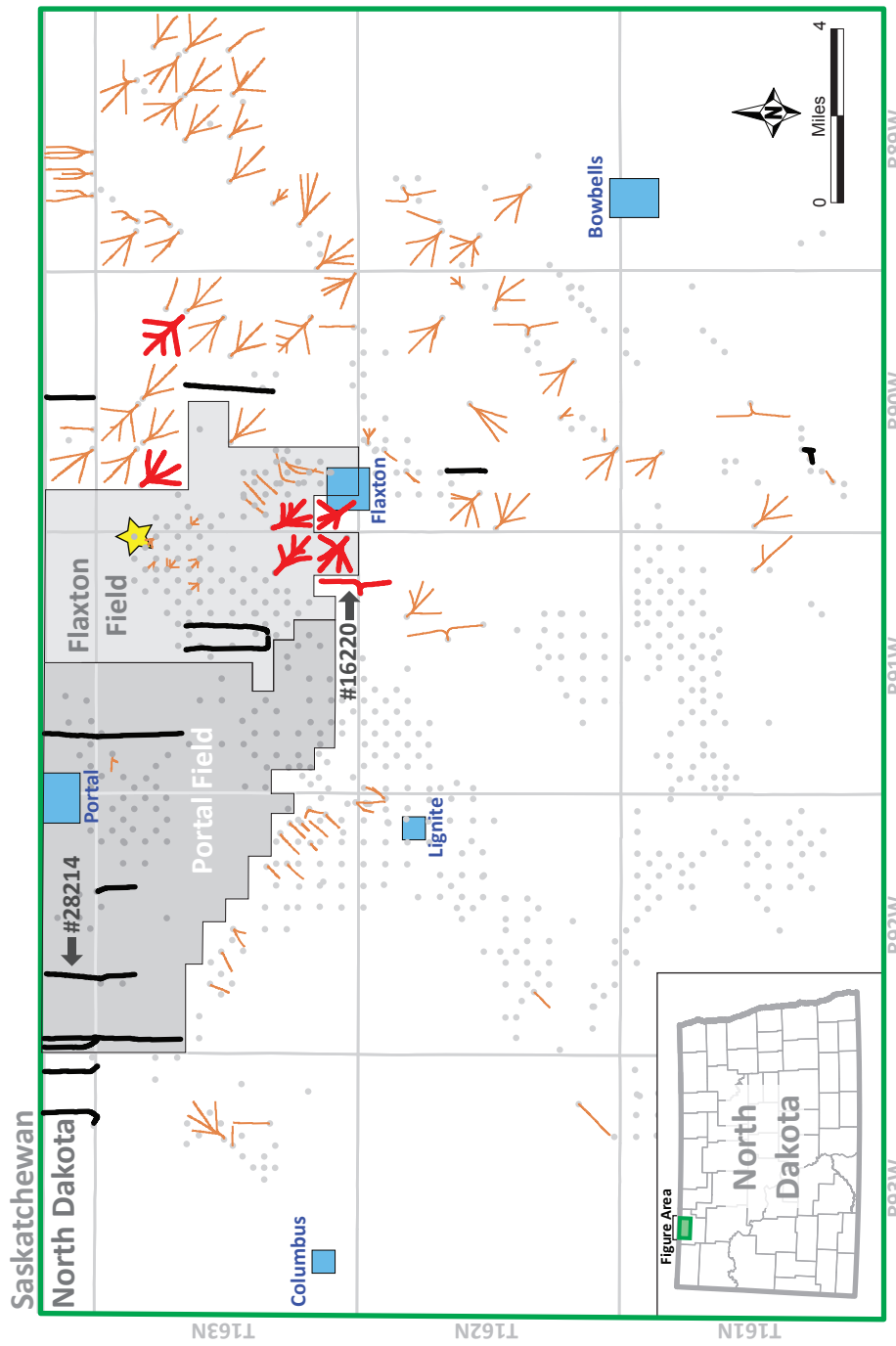
## **STRATIGRAPHY**

The Midale subinterval forms the base of the Ratcliffe Interval, which is Mississippian in age and, depending on the stratigraphic position of the deepest evaporite bed, ranges from being part of the Charles Formation to part of the Mission Canyon Formation of the Madison Group (Fig. 1) (Cook, 1976; LeFever and Anderson, 1986). The Ratcliffe has been partially divided into four formal to informal subintervals within the central portions of the Williston Basin, which include in ascending stratigraphic order: Midale, Berentson, Alexander, and Flat Lake (Fig. 1) (Hendricks, 1987; Nordeng, 2007). These four formal/informal units have been described and interpreted as shallowing upward subintervals that grade from sabkha environments in the east to open marine carbonate environments in the central, western portions of the basins (Hendricks, 1987). Further north, within the Flaxton Field area, the Midale is interpreted to record an initial transgression followed by a regression (Lindsay, 1985). The regressive portion of the Midale includes: burrowed dolomitic limestone beds deposited within a low-

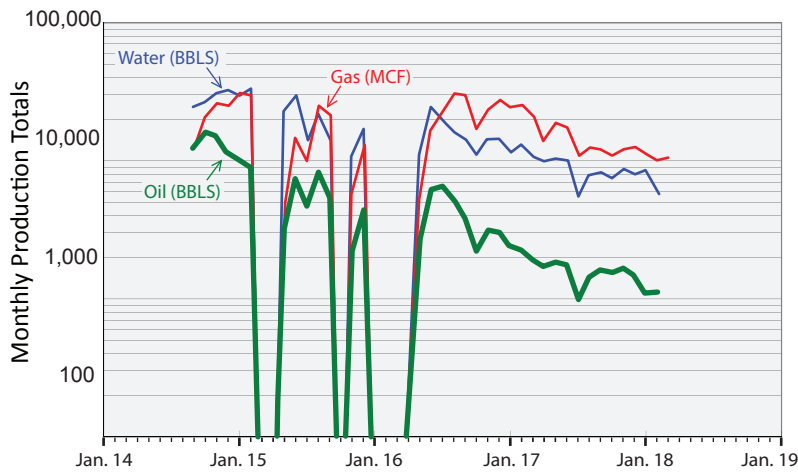
# Mississippian

Charles Formation	Poplar Interval
Mission Canyon Fm.	Ratcliffe Interval
	undiff.
	Flat Lake
	Alexander
	Berentson
	Midale
	Rival
	Frobisher-Alida Interval
	Tilston Interval

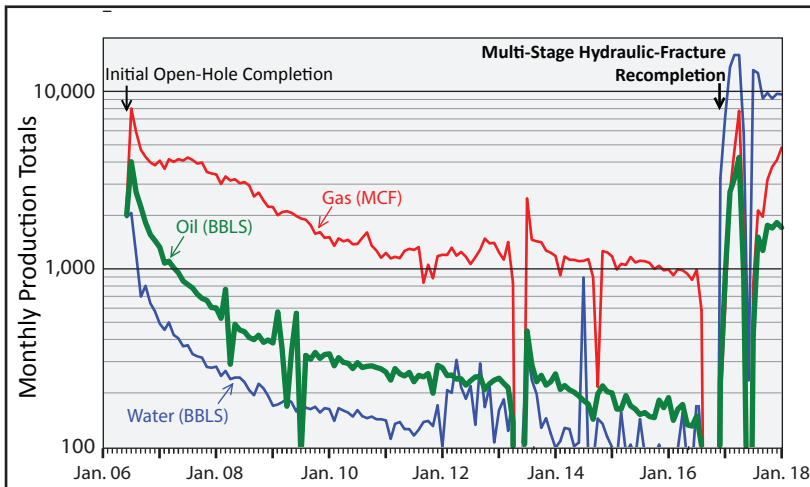
**Figure 1.** Generalized stratigraphic column for the Mississippian Mission Canyon and Charles Formations in North Dakota. Formally recognized (by the state of North Dakota) intervals that comprise these formations include in ascending order: Tilston, Frobisher-Alida, Ratcliffe, and Poplar. Also displayed are the formal Midale and Rival subintervals, which reside at the base of the Ratcliffe and top of the Frobisher-Alida intervals, and the more semi-formal Berentson, Alexander, and Flat Lake subintervals proposed by Hendricks (1987).



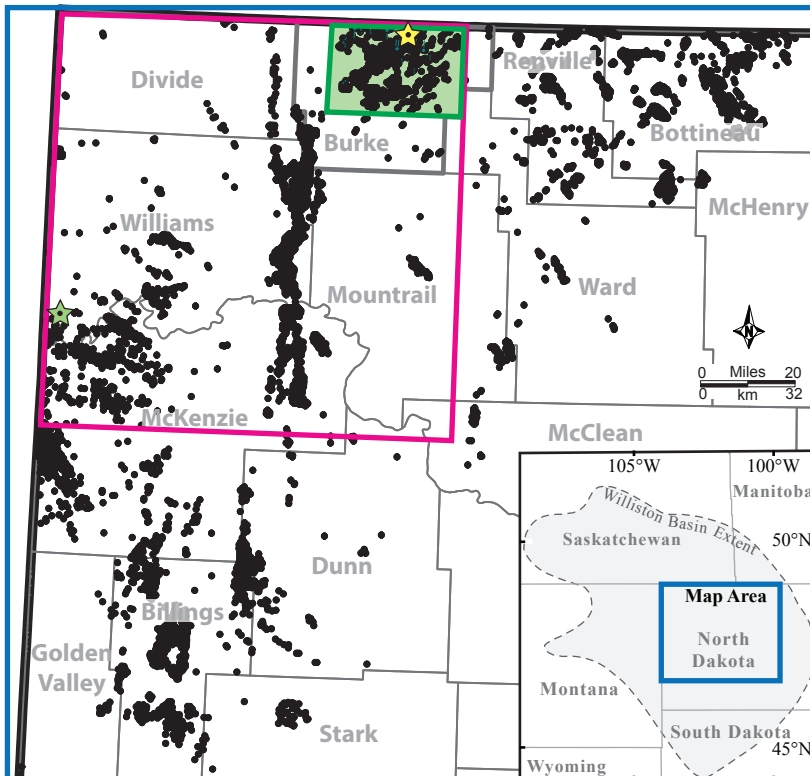
**Figure 2.** Field map of northern Burke County, North Dakota showing the location of Madison horizontal wells with open-hole completions (light orange lines), horizontal wells with initial open-hole completions that have been re-completed with multi-stage hydraulic fracturing (thick red lines), and recent horizontal Midale-Rival wells completed with multi-stage horizontal fracture completions (bold black lines). Most of the Madison horizontal wells with open-hole completions displayed are positioned within the Rival subinterval. Small grey circles depict vertical wells that have produced from Madison Group reservoirs, including the Midale and Rival subintervals. The yellow star depicts the location of the Faith #1 well. Blue squares show the locations of towns in the map area.



**Figure 3.** Monthly production diagram for Petro Harvester's Busch 32-1H (Sec. 5, T163N, R92W; NDIC: 28214; API: 33-013-01792-00-00), which was drilled with a ~5,400 ft. lateral in the Rival and completed using multi-stage hydraulic fracturing.



**Figure 4.** Monthly production diagram for the Nelson Unit 1 (Sec. 2, T162N, R91W; NDIC: 16220; API: 33-013-01353-00-00), which was initially drilled in 2006 with two ~1-mile long horizontal laterals targeting the Rival. The production was from open-hole completions until the well was recompleted in late 2016 using multi-stage horizontal fracturing, which reported to be recompleted on just one of the two mile-long laterals. Monthly production averaged 5-6 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) prior to the recompletion, and afterwards reached monthly averages of ~147 BOPD before leveling off around 50-70 BOPD for the past several months.



**Figure 5.** Madison production map for central and western North Dakota. Black circles show the distribution of oil and gas wells that have produced from Madison reservoirs, including the Charles, Mission Canyon, and Lodgepole Formations. Reference index map in relation to the Williston Basin and North America are displayed in the bottom right hand corner. Green outlined and shaded area shows the location of the Figure 2 map area. The pink outlined area indicates the Figure 9 map area.

energy restricted nearshore marine setting, laminated to thinly bedded dolostone deposited within a peritidal setting, and nodular- to laminate-bedded dolomitic anhydrite (Lindsay, 1985).

The Rival subinterval, also referred to informally as the Nesson, is generally placed within the Frobisher-Alida Interval which directly underlies the Ratcliffe and is part of the Mission Canyon Formation in western North Dakota (Fig. 1) (Cook, 1976). The Mission Canyon Formation has been described as a regressive-shoaling upward carbonate to anhydrite sequences (Lindsay, 1987), similar to the overlying Ratcliffe Interval. The upper several feet of the Rival subinterval within the Flaxton Field area has been interpreted as a minor transgressive event, were oolitic/peloidal lime packstone-grainstone beds overlay nodular (Sabkha) anhydrite (Lindsay, 1985).

## **RATCLIFFE PRODUCTION**

### *Northern Burke County – Northern Flank*

The Flaxton Field was discovered in 1956 with the completion of the Texota Oil Company 1 Sorum (SESE Sec. 23, T163N, R92W), a vertical well which initially produced 80 BOPD (barrels of oil per day) from the Rival subinterval (Voldseth, 1987) (Fig. 1). The Flaxton Field has been described as a combination structure-stratigraphic trap (Voldseth, 1987). Unitization and water flooding was attempted within the Flaxton and surrounding oil fields (Lindsay, 1985). However, with the exception of the Rival Field, water flooding for secondary recovery was marginally successful at best due to reservoir heterogeneity within the Rival-Midale section (Lindsay, 1985). Additional oil reserves were later discovered in the Flaxton Field within various subintervals of the underlying Mission Canyon Formation (Voldseth, 1987). Horizontal well drilling with open-hole completions began during the 1990's and continued through the 2000's, which included some horizontal re-entries of pre-existing vertical wells. These horizontal wells primarily targeted the upper Rival and yielded varying results, which include multi-lateral wells that have cumulatively produced upwards of 200+ MBO (thousand barrels of oil) and are still actively producing.

Most recently, ~1-2 mile long horizontal wells with multi-stage hydraulic fracture completions are being drilled targeting the Midale-upper Rival section. The initial horizontal Midale-Rival wells with hydraulic fracture completions were drilled with ~1 mile laterals, and more of the recent wells have ~2 mile laterals. So far there have been 13 of these Midale-Rival horizontal wells drilled and completed that are off confidential status (Figs. 2 and 3). At least 7 pre-existing horizontal Rival wells with initial open-hole completions have been re-stimulated with hydraulic fracturing (Figs. 2 and 4). Initial production from these horizontal-hydraulically fractured wells has ranged from 40 to 470 BOPD (30-day average), which is sometimes reached during the wells 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> month of production. Initial GOR's have been around 1 MCF gas per BBL oil, but steadily climb during continued production sometimes reaching 5-6 MCF/BBLs.

### McKenzie-Williams Counties – Central Basin

Both vertical and horizontal oil and gas wells have been drilled targeting the Alexander and Flat Lake subintervals within the central portions of the Williston Basin (e.g. northwestern McKenzie and southern Williams counties – Fig. 5) (Hendricks, 1987; Nordeng, 2007). Ratcliffe reservoirs in the central basin consist of burrowed skeletal dolomitic mudstones/wackestones within the Alexander subinterval and peloidal-coated grain lime packstone of the Flat Lake subinterval (Hendricks, 1987). Exploration and development was initially comprised of vertical wells until the early to middle 2000's, when horizontal well drilling with open-hole completions emerged, including the Foreman Butte Field discovery in 2004 targeting the Flat Lake subinterval (Nordeng, 2007).

### **CORE LITHOFACIES**

#### Open marine facies

The open marine facies consists of dark brown-grey to mostly dark-very dark grey, slightly argillaceous, fossil peloidal lime wackestone. Fossil assemblages often include abundant brachiopods and crinoids, moderate amounts of rugose coral, and occasional tabulate coral (e.g. Fig. 6A). Weak to moderately pronounced wispy laminations are commonly present which are discontinuous, approximately horizontal, gently curvy, and non-parallel in texture. Slight to moderate bioturbation (bioturbation index: 2-4) with horizontal to inclined burrows that are millimeter-scale in diameter. Beds of fossil packstone-grainstone are sometimes present both as occasional thin, intermittent beds ( $\leq 2$  inch thick) as well as thicker beds, more prevalent beds up to several feet in thickness.

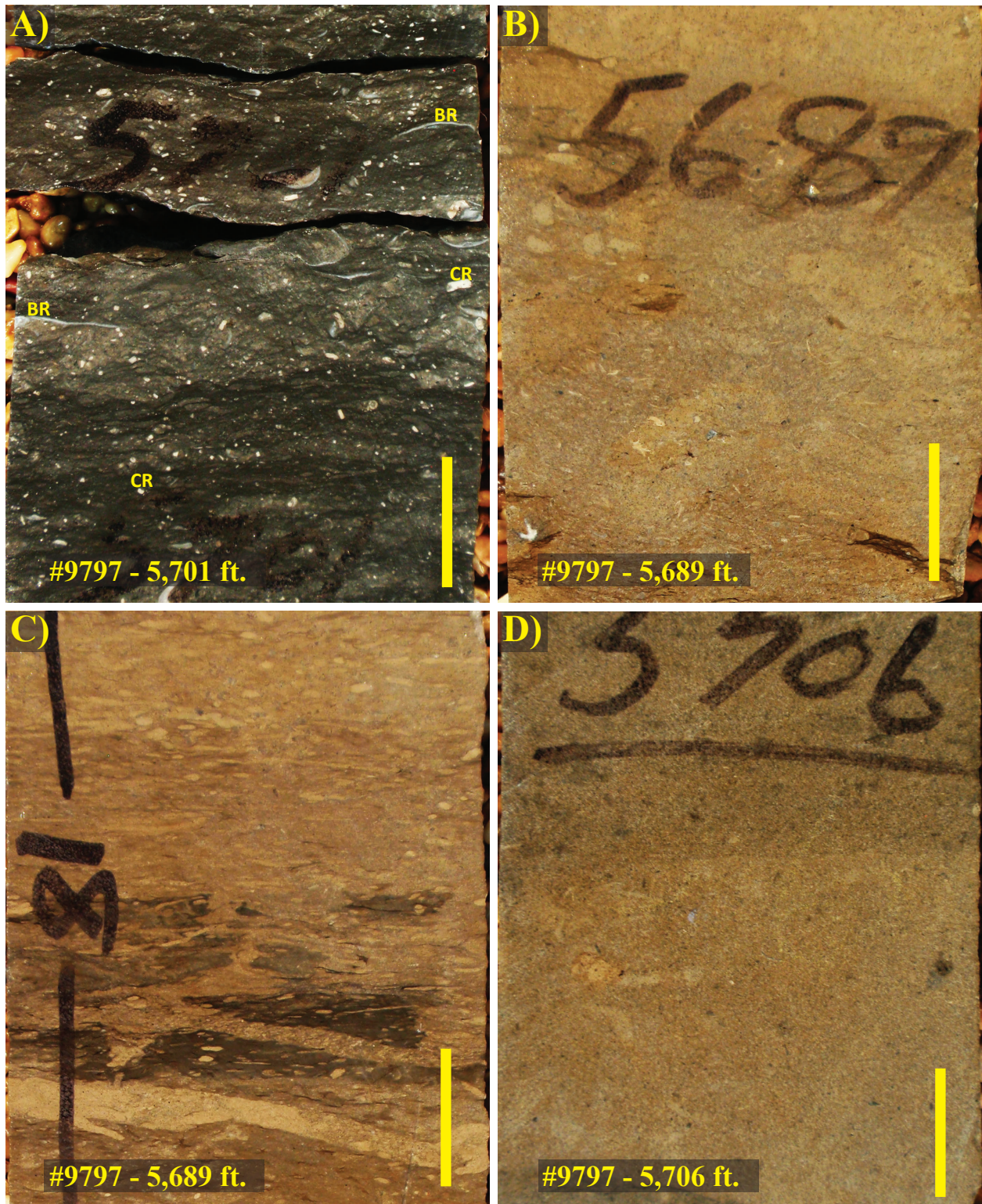
The fossil assemblages of this facies reveal that deposition very likely took place under normal marine (water salinity) conditions. Also, the overall matrix (mud) supported texture suggests a subtidal/below normal fair weather wave base setting. Occasional thin beds of fossil packstone-grainstone indicate possible periodic storm deposition, placing water-depth above storm wave base. The thicker beds of fossil packstone-grainstone are suggestive of a higher energy environment proximal to the open-marine subtidal setting.

#### Restricted facies

The restricted facies is comprised of medium to medium/dark tan-brown, bioturbated to laminated lime wacke-mudstone to packstone. This facies is commonly dolomitic limestone, but overall ranges from non-dolomitic limestone to dolostone. Laminations, when present, are horizontal, parallel in part, flat to gently wavy, and discontinuous (e.g. Figs. 6B and 6C). Bioturbation index varies from 2 to 6 which can include *Zoophycos* and *Planolites* (Fig. 6C). Fossil assemblages more commonly include ostracods and small, unidentifiable shell fragments. Occasionally individual to minor amounts of crinoid stems, rugose coral, and/or brachiopod shells can be present.

The overall matrix dominated texture of the facies as well as the abundance of burrows suggests deposition occurred in a subtidal, below normal fair weather wave base setting. Elongate *Planolites* and *Zoophycos* burrows, as well as the negligible open marine fauna, indicate a restricted water setting





**Figure 6.** Core photographs from the Midale-Rival subintervals, including: A) argillaceous fossil lime wackestone with crinoids (CR) and brachiopods (BR) (Midale), B) massive (heavily burrowed) fossil-peloidal wacke-packstone (borderline grain supported) (Midale), C) bioturbated fossil-peloidal dolomitic lime wackestone, (Midale) and D) massive peloidal lime packstone-grainstone (Rival/Midale).

(Hendricks, 1987), where reduced oxygen conditions and/or increased water salinity caused by the restriction of marine water circulation made conditions too harsh to support open marine fauna. The occasional crinoid, brachiopod, or rugose coral fragment may have simply washed in during a high-energy storm event.

#### *Peloidal-oolitic packstone-grainstone*

The peloidal-oolitic packstone-grainstone light to very dark tan-brown, greyish in part, peloidal lime packstone to grainstone (Fig. 6D & Fig. 7A). Peloids are typically very round and fine grained in size, and ooids are sometimes present in variable amounts. This facies is typically massive in texture but can also display weakly to moderately developed laminations that are semi-continuous to discontinuous and wavy to flat in texture. Low angle cross-bedding is occasionally present. Fossil content is overall minimal. Caliche (calcite cement) may locally be present within portions of this facies (e.g. Fig. 7A).

The grain-supported texture consisting of round peloids of comparable size (typically fine grained) indicates deposition within a relatively high-energy, above normal fair weather wave base setting that has concentrated the rounded peloid grains. Occasional ooids and/or oolitic laminations-beds further suggest a high-energy setting. Lindsay (1985) suggested that peloids within the Flaxton Field area were originally ooids that had undergone diagenetic alteration to lose their interval concentric ring texture. Caliche, when present indicates periods of subaerial exposure.

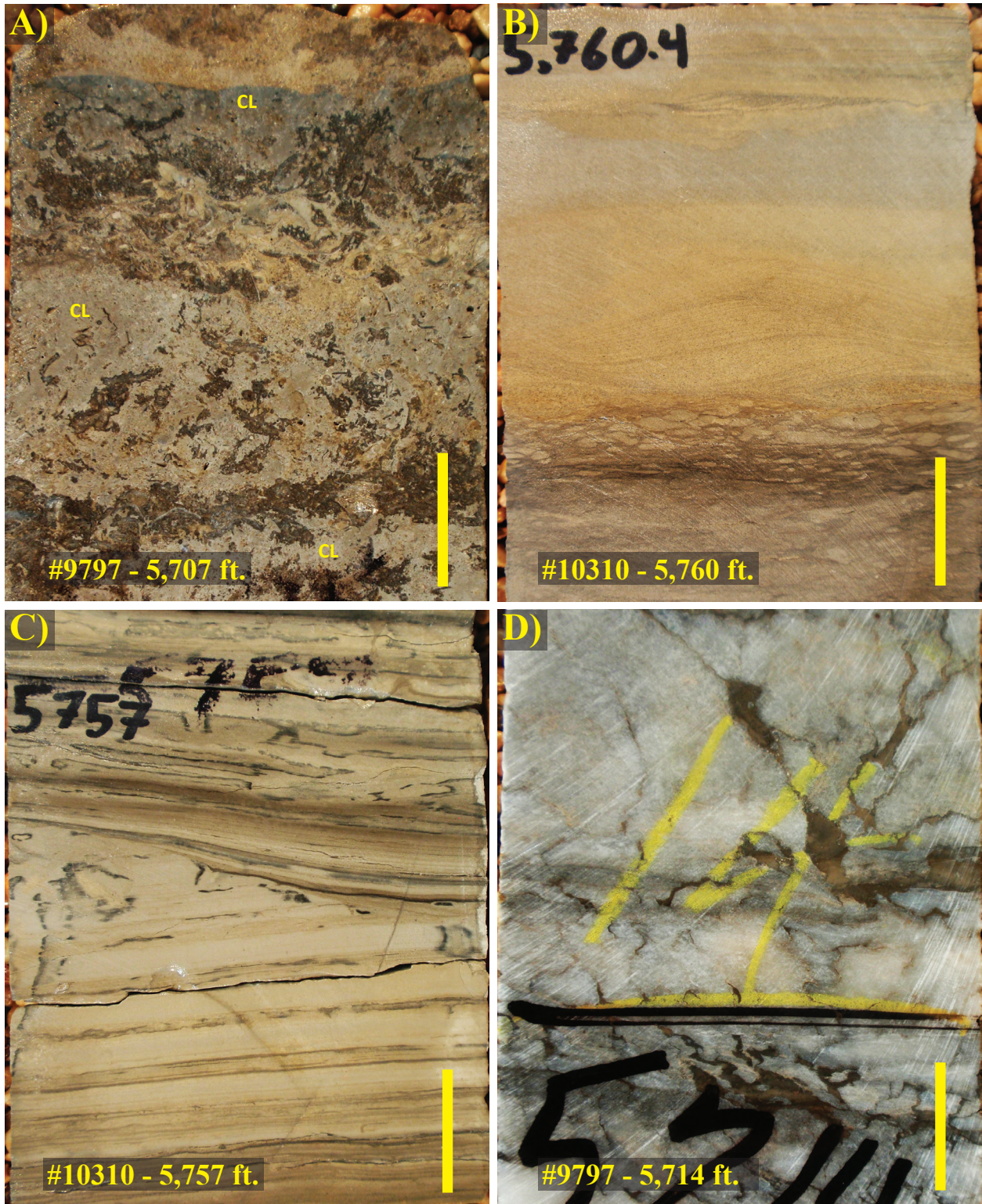
#### *Microcrystalline dolostone facies*

The microcrystalline dolostone facies is composed of light to medium tan-brown, finely laminated to massive in texture, micro- to finely crystalline dolostone (Fig. 7B-C). Facies also displays occasional wave ripple laminae (Fig. 7B) as well as cross-bedding (Fig. 7C). Some of the finely laminated texture appears to be microbial in origin. Distinct horizontal burrows are sometimes present.

Based upon some burrows being preserved and the inconsistent wave ripple laminae texture, deposition of this facies may have partly occurred between storm wave base and normal fair weather wave base, where higher-energy events (storms) occurred intermittently. Also, where laminae texture is more consistent and displays cross-bedding, deposition may have occurred above normal, fair weather base. Negligible open marine fauna indicates facies is not proximal to open marine conditions. Microbial laminae, when/if present, would indicate shallow water with overall calm/low-energy conditions.

#### *Anhydritic facies*

Anhydrite varies from nodular (chicken-wire) to laminated-bedded in texture and is typically very light to dark grey in color (e.g. Fig. 7D). The anhydrite is also commonly dolomitic to occasionally calcareous in part and can be interbedded with microcrystalline tan-brown dolostone as well as grey argillaceous lime mudstone-calcareous shale.



**Figure 7.** Core photographs of the Midale-Rival subintervals: A) fossil peloidal lime packstone-grainstone with caliche (CL) cement (Rival), B) ripple laminated silty dolostone, C) finely laminated (microbial?) dolostone displaying possible cross-bedding, and D) nodular (chicken-wire texture) dolomitic anhydrite (Rival).

The prevalence of the nodular, chicken-wire texture within the Ratcliffe anhydrite beds, as well as their spatial location around the margins of the basin point to deposition within a sabkha setting (Warren and Kendall, 1985). The anhydrite with laminated to bedded texture may represent deposition in isolated salina depressions along the otherwise sabkha coastline (Warren and Kendall, 1985).

#### **CORE NOTES:**

##### Monsanto's Faith #1 (NDIC: #9797)

###### *Rival Sedimentology*

The Rival section within the Flaxton Field area is comprised of mostly anhydrite overlain by several feet of moderately porous peloidal wacke-packstone to grainstone. A lag deposit that includes rip-up clasts is sometimes present between the upper Rival limestone and underlying anhydrite within the Flaxton Field area. Overall, the upper Rival limestone grades upwards from wacke-packstone at the base into peloidal packstone-grainstone near the top. The Rival anhydrite (sabkha) section undergoes a facies change towards the southwest, transitioning into carbonate facies, which may have implications with the stratigraphic trapping of hydrocarbons within the upper Rival-Midale section. Lindsay (1985) interpreted that the upper Rival section represents a minor transgressive event.

###### *Midale Sedimentology*

An initial transgression (transgressive systems tract) is interpreted where peloidal packstone-grainstone at the base of the Midale transitions upwards into a two-foot thick bed of dark grey, slightly argillaceous fossil peloidal lime wackestone (open marine facies) with abundant amounts of marine fossils (e.g. brachiopods and crinoids). The two-foot thick grey wackestone with open marine fossils is interpreted to represent maximum flooding as it is believed to be the deepest water deposit of the Midale section and is prevalent throughout the Flaxton-Portal Field area.

Following the maximum flooding, the majority of the remaining overlying Midale section represents an overall normal regression (highstand systems tract) (Figs. 8-10). Open marine fossils disappear upwards in section, replaced by bioturbated dolomitic (restricted facies) and later anhydrite beds. The middle of the Midale is comprised largely of bioturbated fossil peloidal dolomitic lime wacke-mudstone to packstone. This facies is partially dolomitized based on the wireline log signature and a reduced, but still persistent reaction to HCl acid, and grain density values from standard core analysis data that are typically intermediate between calcite (2.71 g/cm<sup>3</sup>) and dolomite (2.84 g/cm<sup>3</sup>). Fossil assemblages are largely small, unidentifiable shell fragments with a few discernable ostracods. Elongate *Zoophycos* and *Planolites* burrows are sometimes present which, along with the limited fossil content, may be evidence for a restricted marine depositional setting (Hendricks, 1987). The prevalence of preserved burrow structures and generally matrix supported texture indicates subtidal, below normal fair weather wave base deposition. At least one re-flooding event occurs in the middle Midale where a ~1 foot bed of grey fossil wackestone with moderate amounts of open marine fossils occurs.

The bioturbated wacke-packstone beds are overlain by massive to finely laminated microcrystalline dolostone that display wave ripples and cross-bedding, indicative of shallower water depth with at least intermittent high-energy. Some of the fine laminations may be microbial in origin, which point again to shallower depths. Anhydritic cryptocrystalline dolostone and dolomitic anhydrite displaying nodular (chicken-wire) to laminated/bedded texture form the top of the Midale Section as well as the overlying Berentson. The stratigraphic positioning (top of section), special location (appears near base margins), and nodular texture of the anhydrite suggests a Sabkha-type depositional origin (Warren and Kendall, 1985). Many of the described facies and depositional interpretations above are overall comparable with those of Lindsay (1985), who also examined the Rival-Midale of northern Burke County.

### *Reservoir Summary*

The Midale-Rival reservoir interval consists of up to four distinct porous reservoir beds that vary in lithology from peloidal lime packstone (Rival) to bioturbated dolomitic lime wacke-packstone (middle Midale) to microcrystalline dolostone (upper Midale). The basal Midale-upper Rival contains approximately 8-9 feet of peloidal wacke-packstone to grainstone with 4-8% porosity and permeability values of generally  $\leq 0.1$  millidarcy. Oil saturations range from 1% to 18% with associated water saturations of 30-67%. The middle Midale is primarily comprised of light/medium tan bioturbated fossil peloidal dolomitic lime wacke-mudstone to mudstone beds with 8-22% porosity and permeability values of 0.1 to 0.6 millidarcies. Core plug oil saturations are  $\sim 5$ -25% with water saturations of  $\sim 50$ -70%. Near the top of the Midale, just below the dolomitic anhydrite, permeability values climb above 1 millidarcies along with higher core plug water saturations ( $\sim 80$ -90%). Separating the four distinct beds described above are lower porosity lime wacke-mudstone beds that exhibit lower core plug porosity and permeability values coupled with lower oil and higher water saturations. While this reservoir summary is based upon the Faith #1 core, surrounding Midale-Rival cores are very similar in lithology and reservoir properties.

### Gulf Oil's Gorder #1-19-2B (NDIC: #7926)

Within the Gorder #1-19-2B, the entire Midale and overlying Berentson subintervals (>60 ft. thick) are almost entirely comprised of the open marine facies, which is the same facies that was only  $\sim 2$  ft. thick near the base of the Midale within the Faith #1 core. Meanwhile, the overlying Alexander subinterval largely consists of the bioturbated peloidal dolomitic wacke-mudstone to packstone, the restricted facies that is near identical to the Midale reservoir of the Faith #1 core. The middle to upper portions of the Flat Lake section are composed of peloidal to oolitic packstone-grainstone, higher energy deposits that were likely deposited more proximal to the paleo shoreline than the underlying section. Just above the cored interval is a  $\sim 30$  ft. thick anhydrite section that is speculated to be, at least in part, a sabkha anhydrite. Overall, the Ratcliffe Interval appears to represent one large ( $\sim 400$  ft. thick) shallowing upward, normal regressive sequence within the central portions of the basin, where open marine deposits (Midale-Berentson) transition upwards into restricted and proximal carbonates (Alexander-Flat Lake) and eventually Sabkha anhydrite-dolostone. The shallowing upward cycle of the Midale

subinterval of the Faith #1, located towards the margins of the basin, likely represents just a parasequence of the greater Ratcliffe sequence observed in the Gorder #1-19-2B.

### *Reservoir Summary*

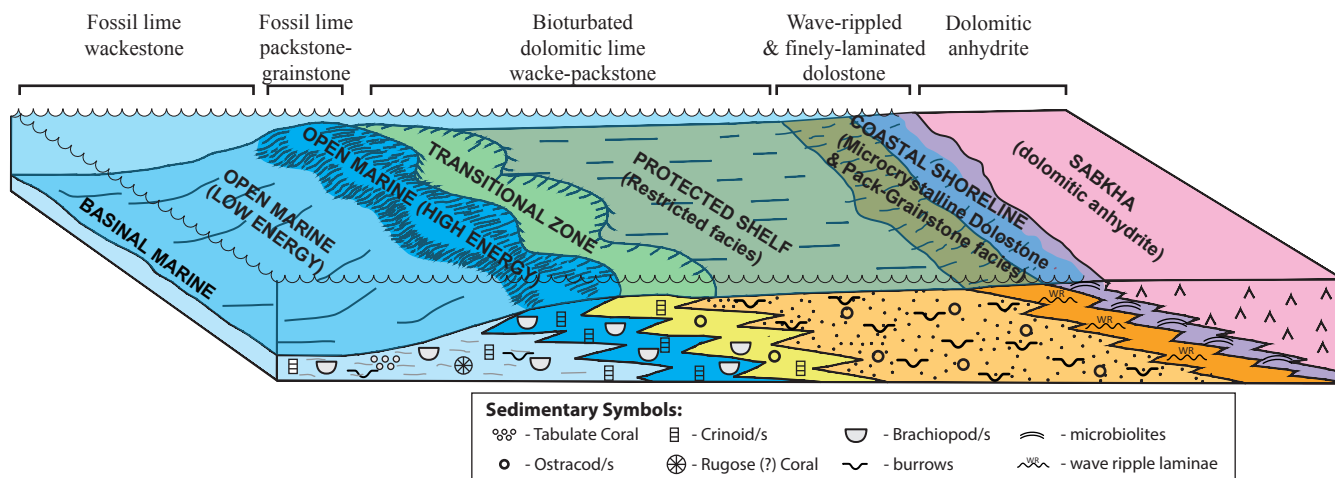
The Alexander subinterval contains approximately 26 ft. net thickness of oil-stained, moderately porous (4-16%) bioturbated dolomitic lime wacke-mudstone to packstone with overall low permeability (0.01-0.6 millidarcies). Core plug oil saturations are generally 6-20% with 50-60% water saturations. The Alexander reservoir beds are similar to the middle Midale beds of the Flaxton Field area in both lithology and reservoir quality, although the Alexander beds have slightly lower porosity and permeability overall but exhibit more pronounced oil-staining in the Gorder core and slightly higher core plug oil saturations. The overlying Flat Lake subinterval contains additional potential pay comprised of oil-stained oolitic peloidal lime packstone with porosity (log) values of up to ~15% and low permeability (<0.13 millidarcies) and similar oil-water saturations to the moderately porous beds of the underlying Alexander subinterval. The Flat Lake packstone-grainstone beds are comparable in lithology and reservoir quality (porosity and permeability) to the upper Rival limestone section of the Flaxton Field area. Potential net-pay of the upper Berentson-Alexander-Flat Lake subintervals may be upwards of 40+ ft. based on oil staining and standard core analysis data in conjuncture with wireline logs.

Additional Ratcliffe cores across southwestern Williams and northwestern McKenzie counties display comparable facies, lithologic stacking patterns, and reservoir qualities. However, notable variations do occur that include the quantity (net-thickness) of the reservoir facies.

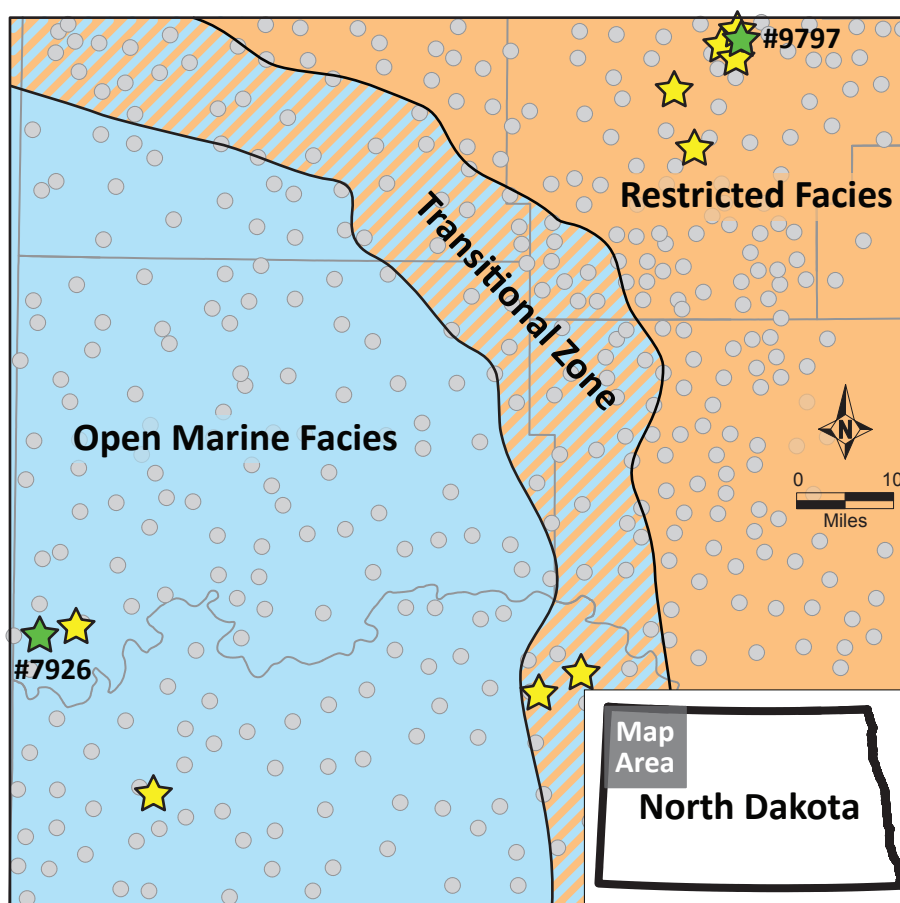
### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The Ratcliffe Interval is comprised of one large sequence of deposition, where the initial maximum flooding event occurred near the base of the interval (basal Midale) followed by an overall normal regression with numerous parasequences caused by brief phases of re-flooding. Following the initial flooding of the basin during Ratcliffe deposition, a restricted/protected carbonate platform developed along the coastline in present-day northern Burke County, which was proximal to an open marine, inland seaway. During continued deposition, the restricted carbonate platform environment appears to have prograded basinward during normal regression as the basin infilled with sediment. Restricted carbonate platform deposits occur within the Midale subinterval on the margins of the basin, the overlying Alexander subinterval near the basin-center, and potentially may occur within the intermediate Berentson subinterval in between the basin margins and center.

Sedimentary deposits from the restricted platform include bioturbated peloidal dolomitic lime wacke-packstone beds that are moderately to highly porous (4->20%), but with generally low permeability ( $\leq 1$  millidarcy). The overall low permeability has likely reduced the productiveness of these reservoir beds with vertical well completions. Developmental horizontal drilling coupled with hydraulic fracture stimulation is beginning to expand within the Midale subinterval (basal Ratcliffe) within the northeastern flank of the Williston Basin. The Midale undergoes a significant facies change from the



**Figure 8.** Depositional model for the Midale subinterval and greater Ratcliffe Interval showing the lateral transition of time equivalent facies from Open Marine to Protected/Restricted Shelf (reservoir) to Sabkha anhydrite (hydrocarbon seal). During deposition of the Midale, as well as the overlying Ratcliffe section, these facies appear to have migrated (moved) towards the central portions of the Williston Basin during a normal regression (highstand systems tract).



**Figure 9.** Generalized facies map for the Midale subinterval. The “Open Marine Facies” area (blue) represents where the Midale is composed primarily of the dark grey lime wackestone with abundant marine fossils (e.g. Fig. 6A), which does not appear to constitute hydrocarbon reservoir rock. The “Restricted Facies” area (orange) depicts where the Midale section contains significant amounts of bioturbated dolomitic to lime wackestone to packstone and various dolostone facies (e.g. Fig. 6B-D and 7A-C) which serves as reservoir rock for oil and gas productive Midale wells. The “Transitional Zone” area (blue and orange diagonals) contains an interbedding of the Open Marine and Restricted facies in relatively comparable proportions. Green stars depict the two wells-cores reviewed in this workshop chapter. Yellow stars depict locations of additional Ratcliffe cores examined to date by the author.

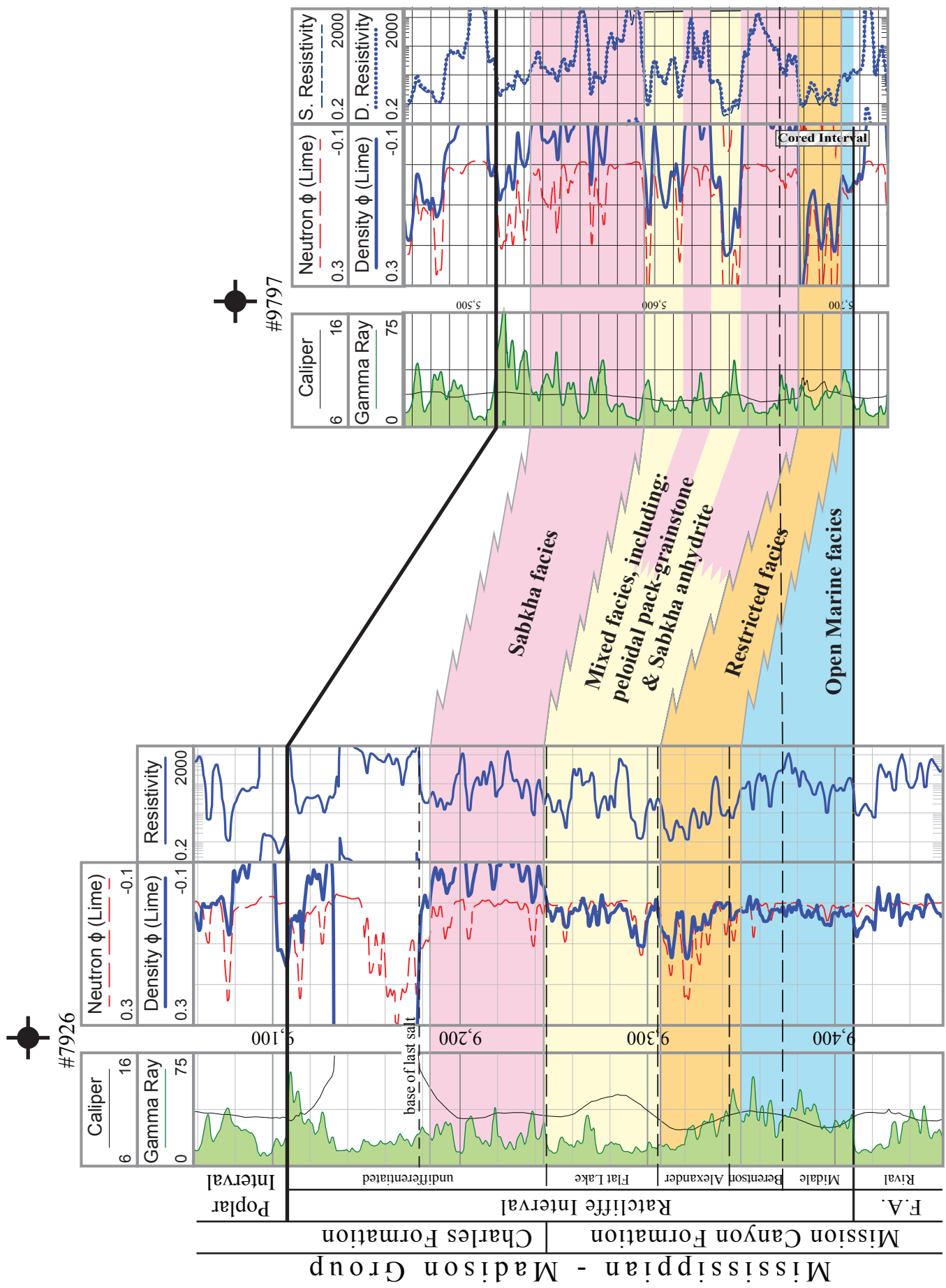


Figure 10. Cross-section between well #7926 and #9797 showing schematic facies correlations/changes.



northeastern flank towards basin-center as it transitions from containing porous dolomitic reservoir beds (restricted platform) to consisting almost exclusively of low porosity limestone (open marine). However, the restricted reservoir facies occurs near basin-center within the overlying Alexander subinterval, where it has shallowed stratigraphically in Ratcliffe section. Therefore, potential exists for unconventional-style exploration and development to expand spatially and stratigraphically beyond the Midale of northern Burke County and into overlying Ratcliffe subintervals across the Williston Basin.

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NDIC File No: **9797** API No: **33-013-00945-00-00** County: **BURKE**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **PA** Status Date: **11/21/1984** Wellbore type: **VERTICAL**  
Location: **SESE 1-163-91** Footages: **660 FSL 660 FEL**  
Latitude: **48.968444** Longitude: **-102.416649**  
Current Operator: **BHP PETROLEUM COMPANY, INC.**  
Original Operator: **MONSANTO CO.**  
Current Well Name: **FAITH 1**  
Original Well Name: **FAITH #1**  
Elevation(s): **1940 KB** Total Depth: **6000** Field: **FLAXTON**  
Spud Date(s): **10/14/1982**

Digital or Image Log(s) available: **CND, CYB, DLL**

Formation Tops

**K-GH 3166 K-M 3435 K-N 3537 K-IK 3756 J-S 4100 J-R 4416**  
**T-S 5015 M-MD 5287 M-MDR 5515 M-MDFA 5705 M-MDSA 5758**

Casing String(s): **9.625" 1110' 5.5" 5989'**

Completion Data

Pool: **MADISON** Perfs: **5702-5708** Comp Dt: **1/19/1983** Status: **PNA** Status Dt:  
**11/21/1984** Spacing: **SE**

Cumulative Production Data

Pool: **MADISON** Cum Oil: **184** Cum MCF Gas: **0** Cum Water: **1302**

IP Test Date: **1/19/1983** Pool: **MADISON** IP Oil: **1** IP MCF: **0** IP Water: **13**  
DST: **5660-5715** Recovery: **12.5 BBLs SWC MUD, 2.0 BBLs SG&OC MUD -**  
**SAMPLER: 0.68354 CF GAS GOR 5434, 20 CC OIL, 100 CC WATER, 1610 CC MUD**  
DST: **5756-5804** Recovery: **2.35 BBLs GAS & SULFUR WATER CUT MUD -**  
**SAMPLER: 2.62 CF GAS GOR 10400, 40 CC OIL, 1240 CC WATER**  
DST: **5800-5860** Recovery: **47.8 BBLs GC SALT WATER (HIGH SULFUR**  
**CONTENT) - SAMPLER: 1.29 CF GAS GOR 4919, 100 CC OIL, 1880 CC WATER**

Cores and Samples

Type: **RS** Top: **5665** Bottom: **5715** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **RS** Top: **5757** Bottom: **5857** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **TS** Top: **5763** Bottom: **5800** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **TS** Top: **5789** Bottom: **5847** Formation: **M-MD**



9797

33-013-00945-00-00

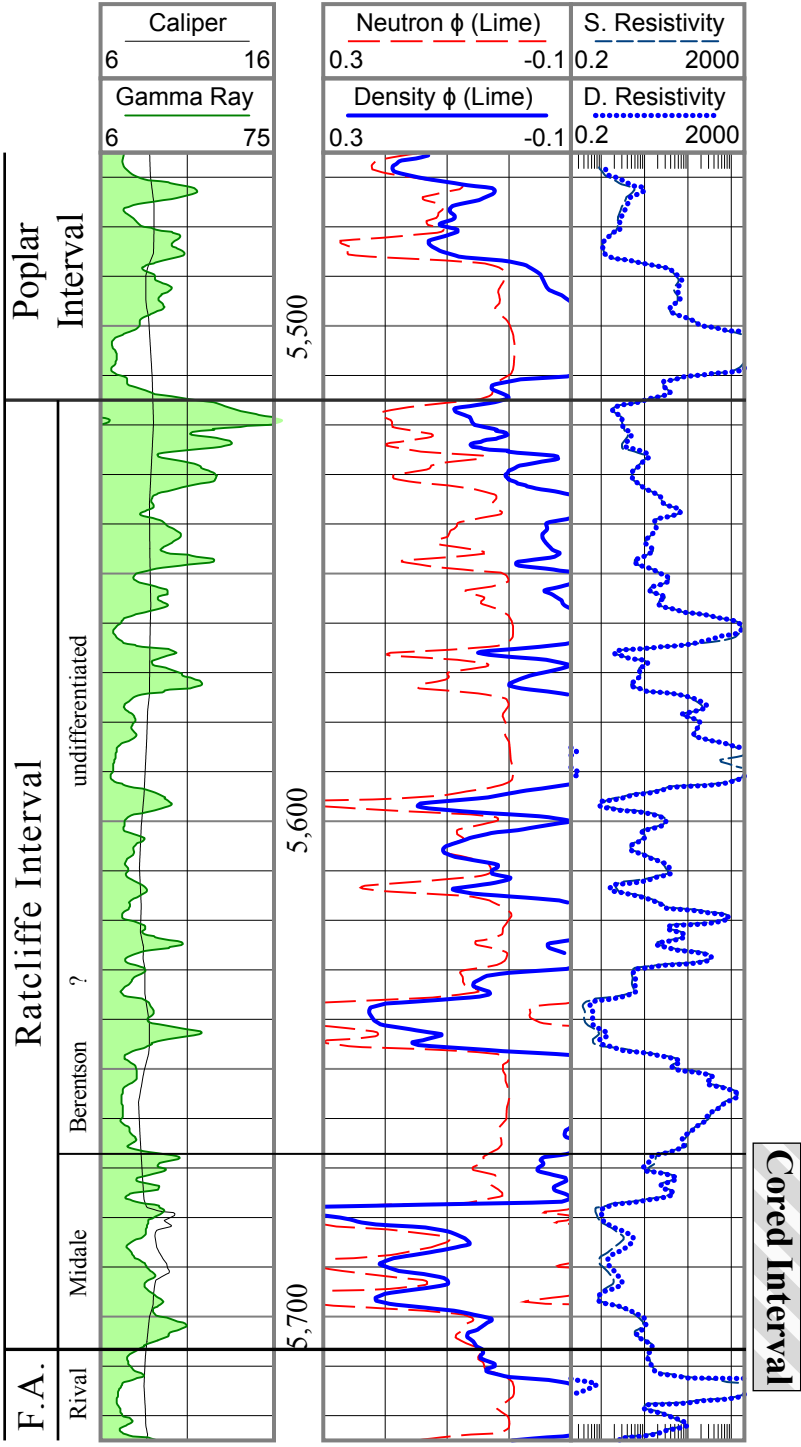
Monsanto Co.

Faith #1

K.B. = 1,940 ft

# Mississippian - Madison Group

## Charles Formation





9797

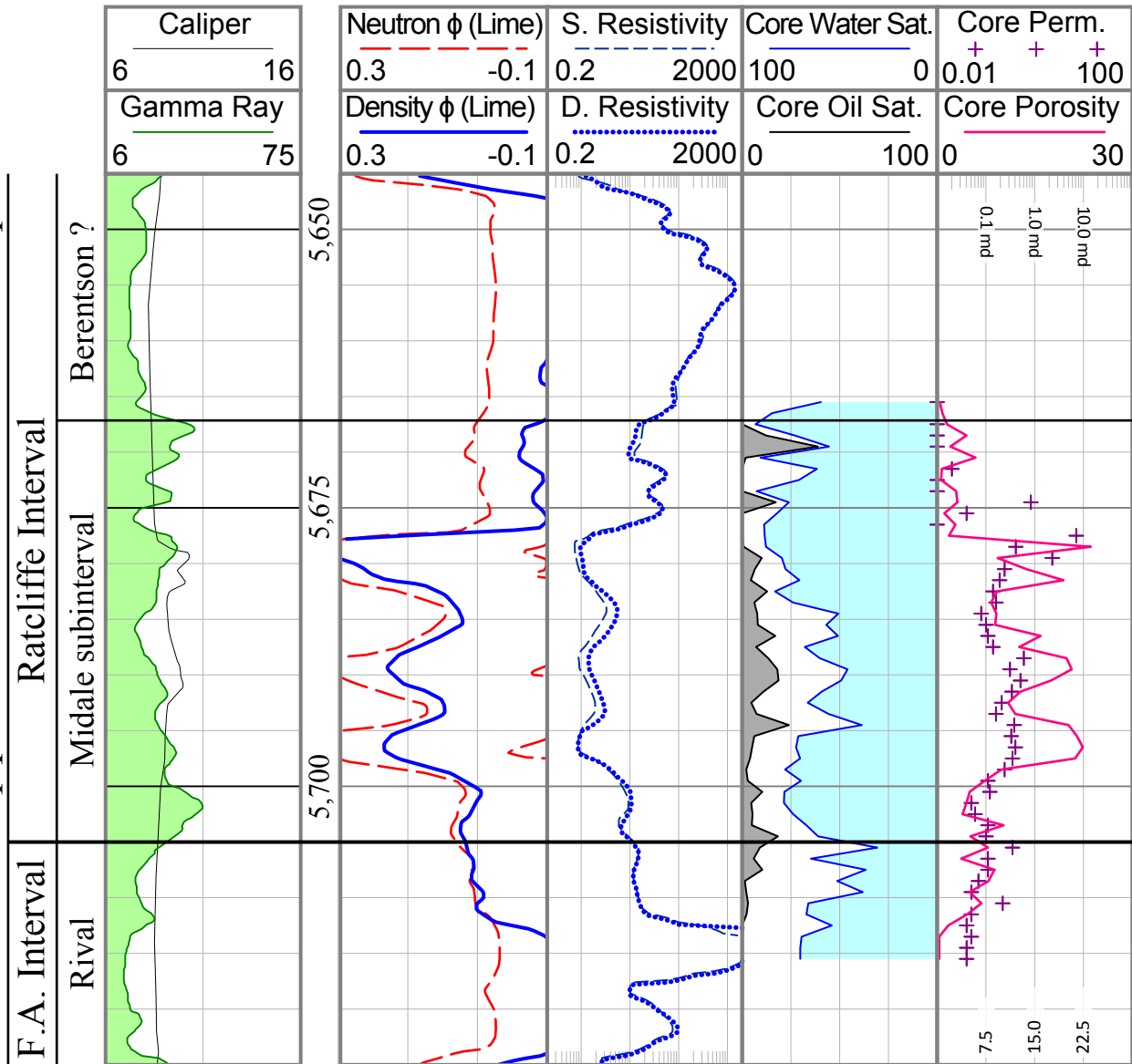
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Monsanto Co.

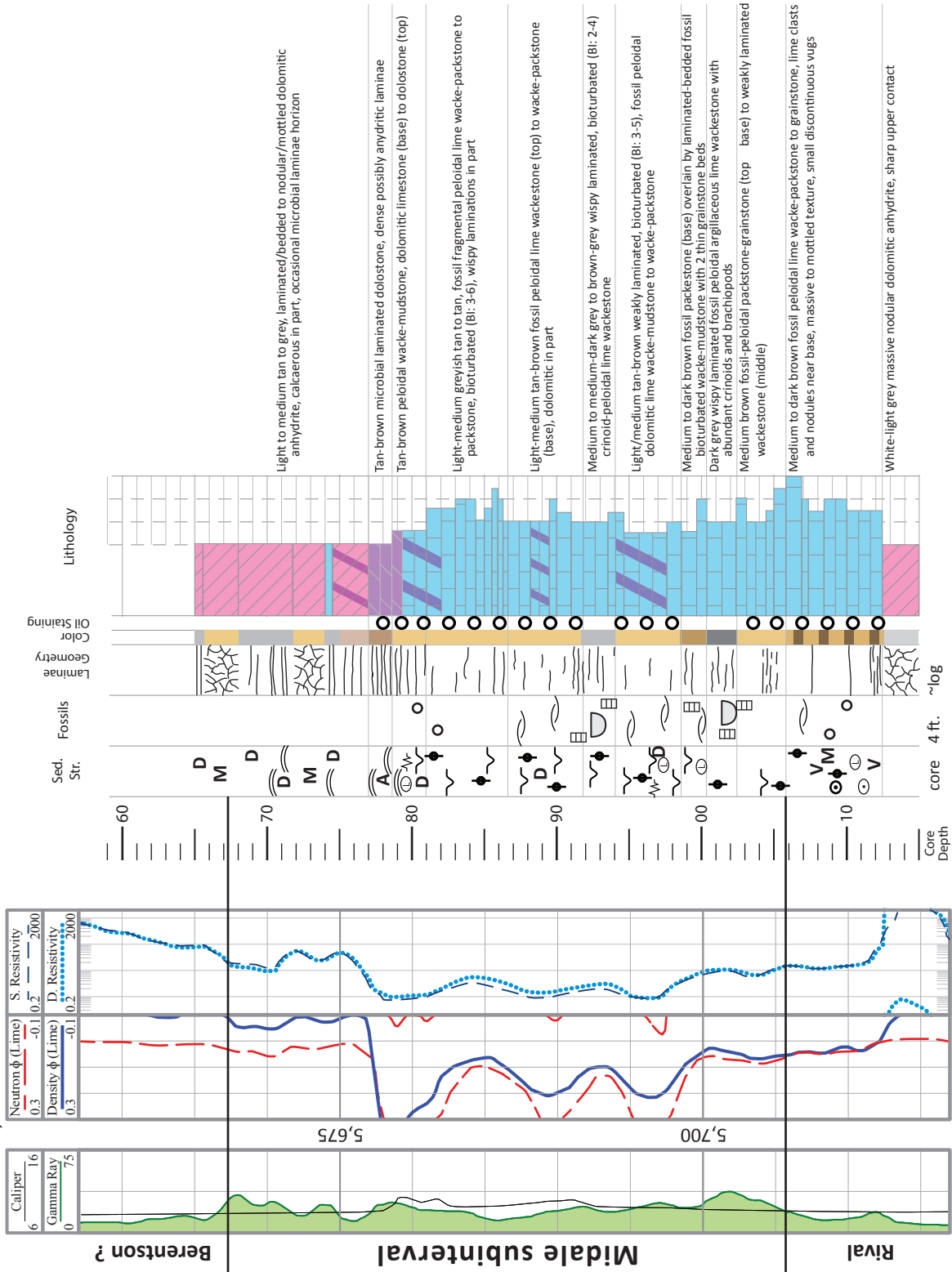
Faith #1

K.B. = 1,940 ft

Mississippian - Madison Group



#9797  
 33-013-00945-00-00  
 S S Sec. 1, T163N, R91W  
 Monsanto Co.  
 Faith #1  
 .B. 1,940 ft



NDIC: 9797, API: 33-013-00945-00-00  
SESE Sec. 1, T163N, R91W  
Monsanto Co. - Faith #1

Core Interval 5,665-5,715 ft.



NDIC File No: **7926** API No: **33-105-00867-00-00** County: **WILLIAMS**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **PA** Status Date: **8/9/1982** Wellbore Yype: **VERTICAL**  
Location: **NENE 19-153-103** Footages: **660 FNL 660 FEL**  
Latitude: **48.066075** Longitude: **-103.972914**  
Current Operator: **GULF OIL CORP.**  
Original Operator: **GULF OIL CORP.**  
Current Well Name: **GORDER 1-19-2B**  
Original Well Name: **GORDER #1-19-2B**  
Elevation(s): **2295 KB** Total Depth: **10010** Field: **FT. BUFORD**  
Spud Date(s): **9/10/1980**

Digital or Image Log(s) available: **BCS, CND, DLL**

Formation Tops

**K-GH 4807 K-M 5201 K-N 5372 K-IK 5573 J-S 6153 J-R 6635**  
**T-S 7190 PM-MK 7485 PM-OP 7504 PM-EBA 7676 PN-T 7835 M-KL 8384**  
**M-MD 8525 M-MDR 9110 M-MDLS 9178 M-MDFA 9410**

Casing String(s): **9.625" 2833' 5.5" 9978'**

Completion Data

Pool: **MADISON** Perfs: **9722-9730** Comp Dt: **1/24/1981** Status: **PNA** Status Dt:  
**8/9/1982** Spacing: **NE**

Cumulative Production Data

Pool: **MADISON** Cum Oil: **5633** Cum MCF Gas: **2706** Cum Water: **5207**

Production Test Data

IP Test Date: **1/24/1981** Pool: **MADISON** IP Oil: **40** IP MCF: **20** IP Water: **140**

Cores and Samples

Type: **LS** Top: **9257** Bottom: **9262** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **LS** Top: **9262** Bottom: **9291** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **LS** Top: **9294** Bottom: **9382** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **LS** Top: **9382** Bottom: **9410** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **LS** Top: **9412** Bottom: **9414** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **LS** Top: **9657** Bottom: **9686** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **LS** Top: **9700** Bottom: **9759** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **TS** Top: **9318** Bottom: **9412** Formation: **M-MD**  
Type: **TS** Top: **9407** Bottom: **9411** Formation: **M-MD**



7926

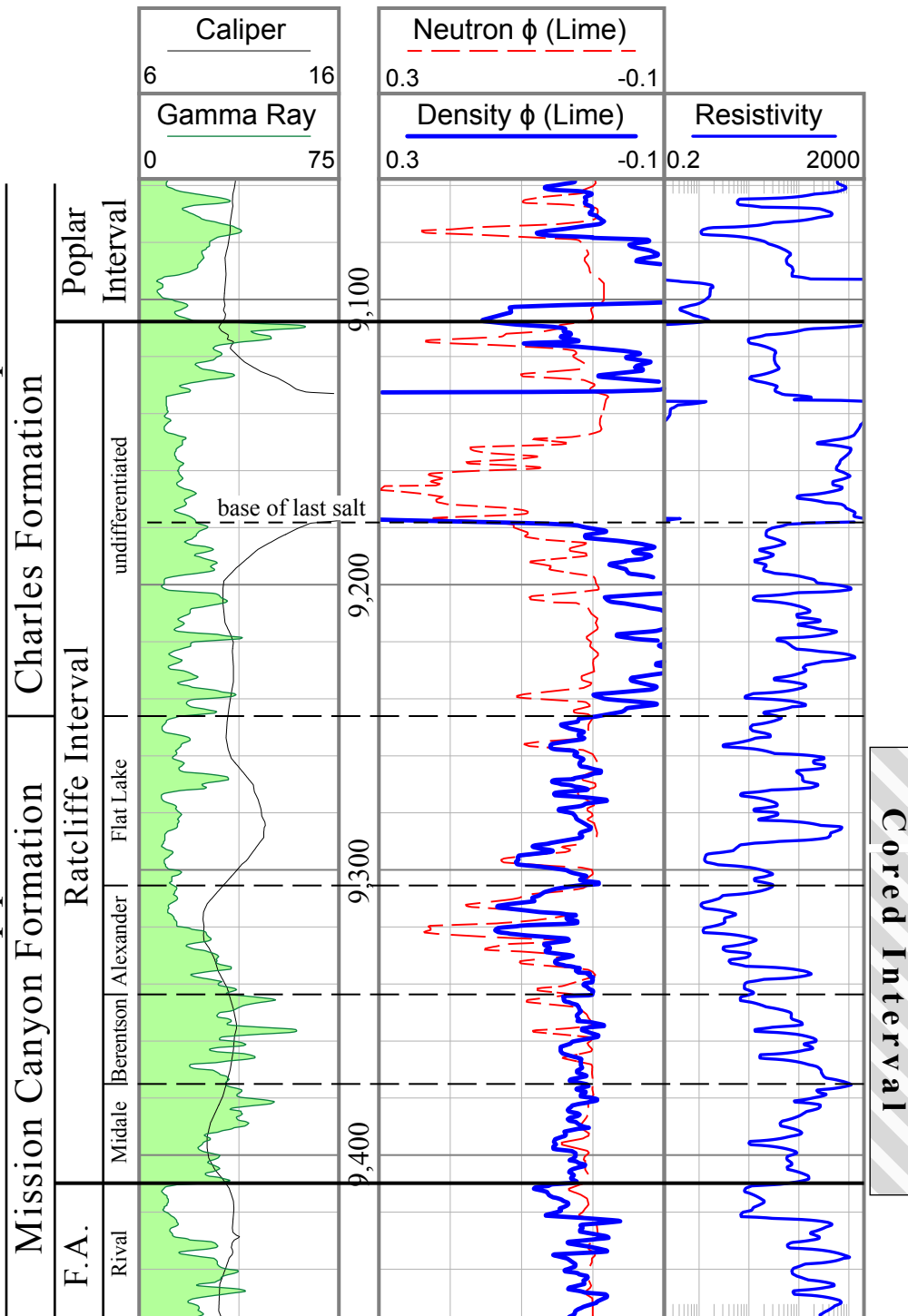
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Gulf Oil Corp.

Gorder #1-19-2B

K.B. = 2,295 ft

# Mississippian - Madison Group







7926

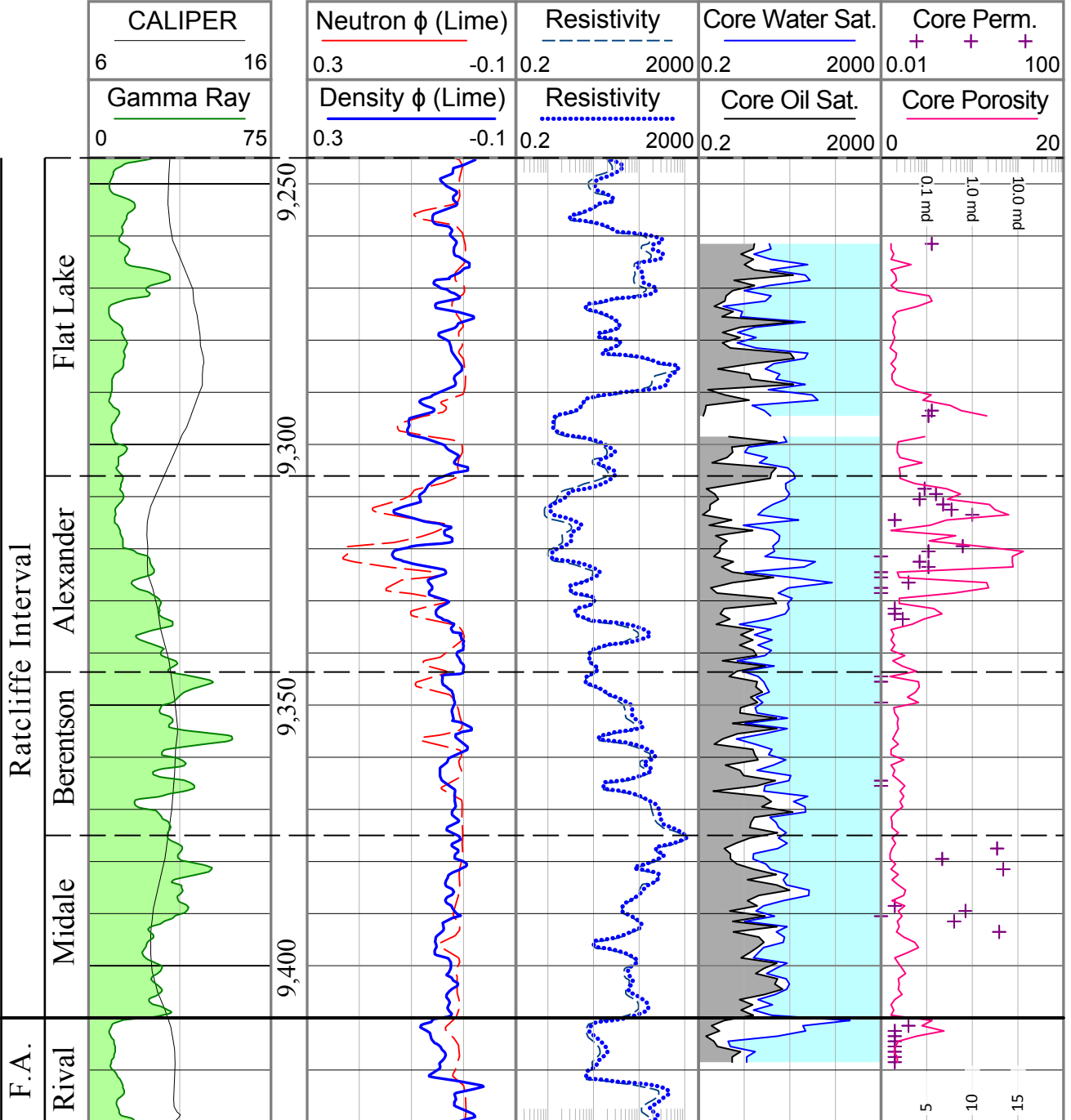
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Gulf Oil Corp.

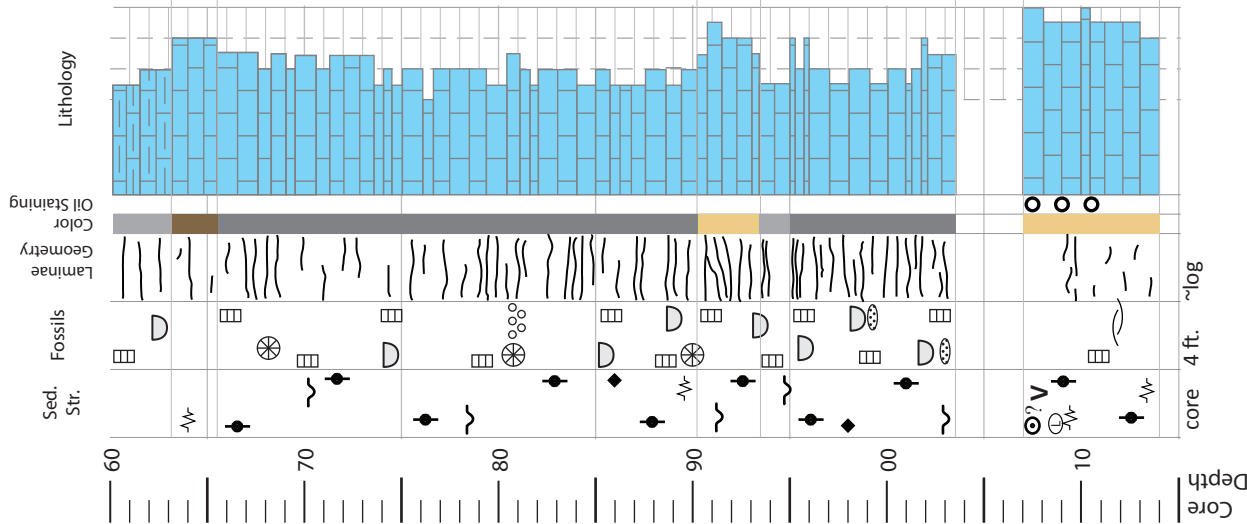
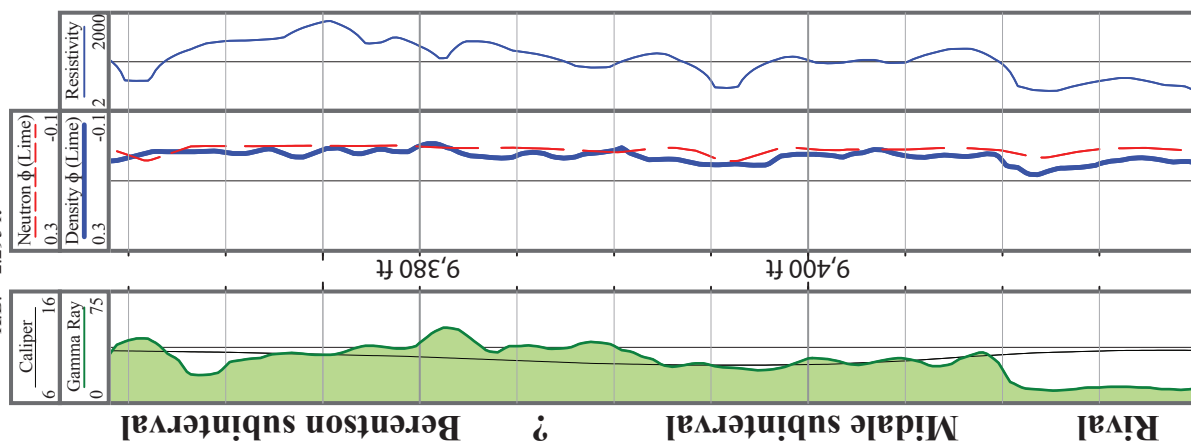
Gorder #1-19-2B

K.B. = 2,295 ft

# Mississippian - Madison Group



#7926  
 33-105-00867-00-00  
 Gulf Oil Corp.  
 Gorder #1-19-2B  
 K.B. = 2,295 ft



Medium to dark grey fossil lime wackestone to argillaceous lime wackestone, fissile in part, laminated to thinly bedded, continuous - flat lamination texture in middle and top of section

Medium/dark tan-brown fossil peloidal packstone, mostly fine grain size, massive, may be matrix supported in part, abrupt contacts

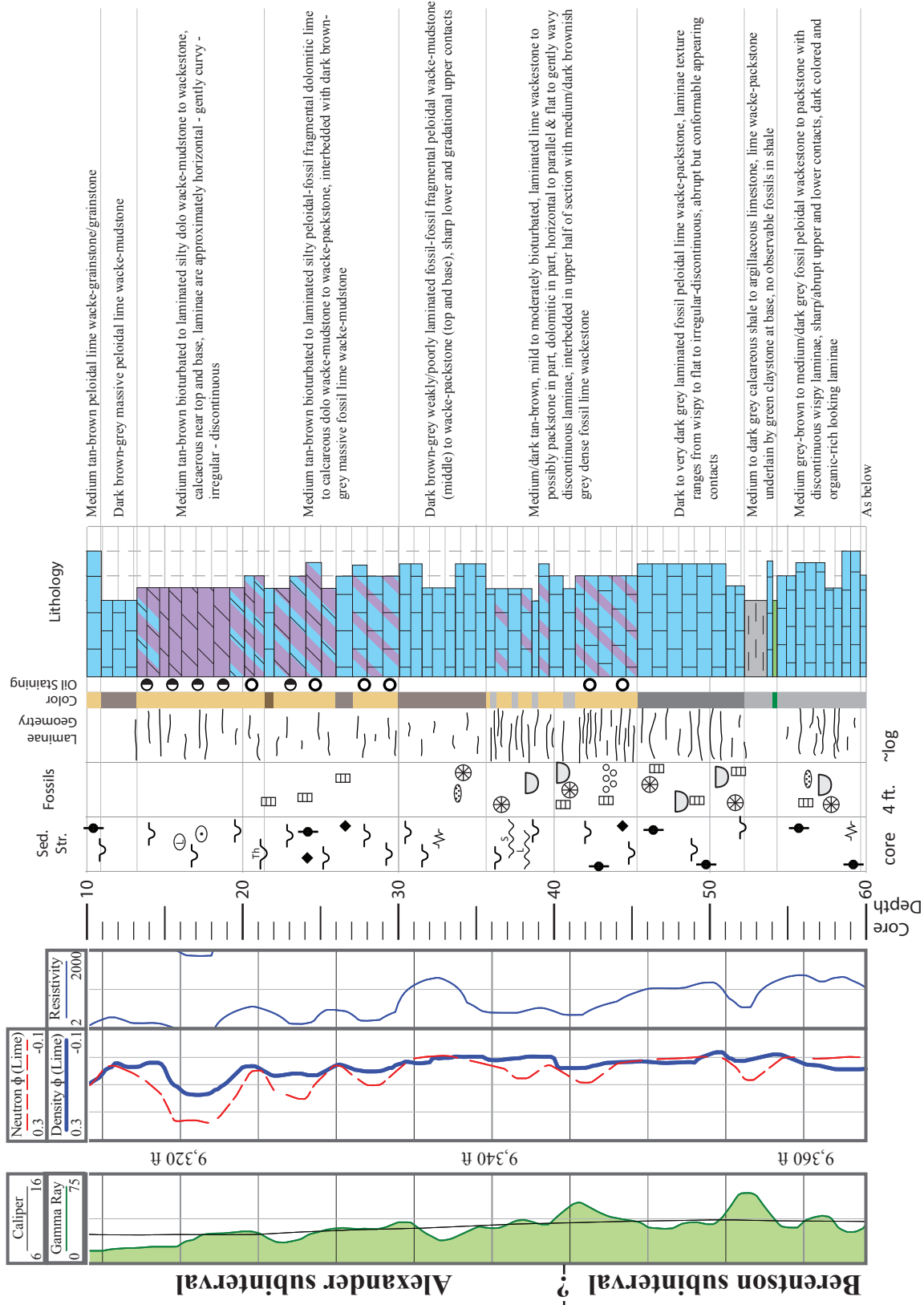
Dark to very dark grey peloidal fossil wacke-mudstone to wackestone to wacke-packstone/packstone, ~horizontal - discontinuous - parallel to sub-parallel - wispy laminae, weakly to moderately bioturbated disrupting laminae texture, horizontal and vertical fractures

Medium to medium/dark tan-brown, finely crystalline fossil peloidal lime wacke-packstone to packstone-grainstone, horizontal to slightly inclined laminae, possibly horizontal burrowing, intermediate contacts

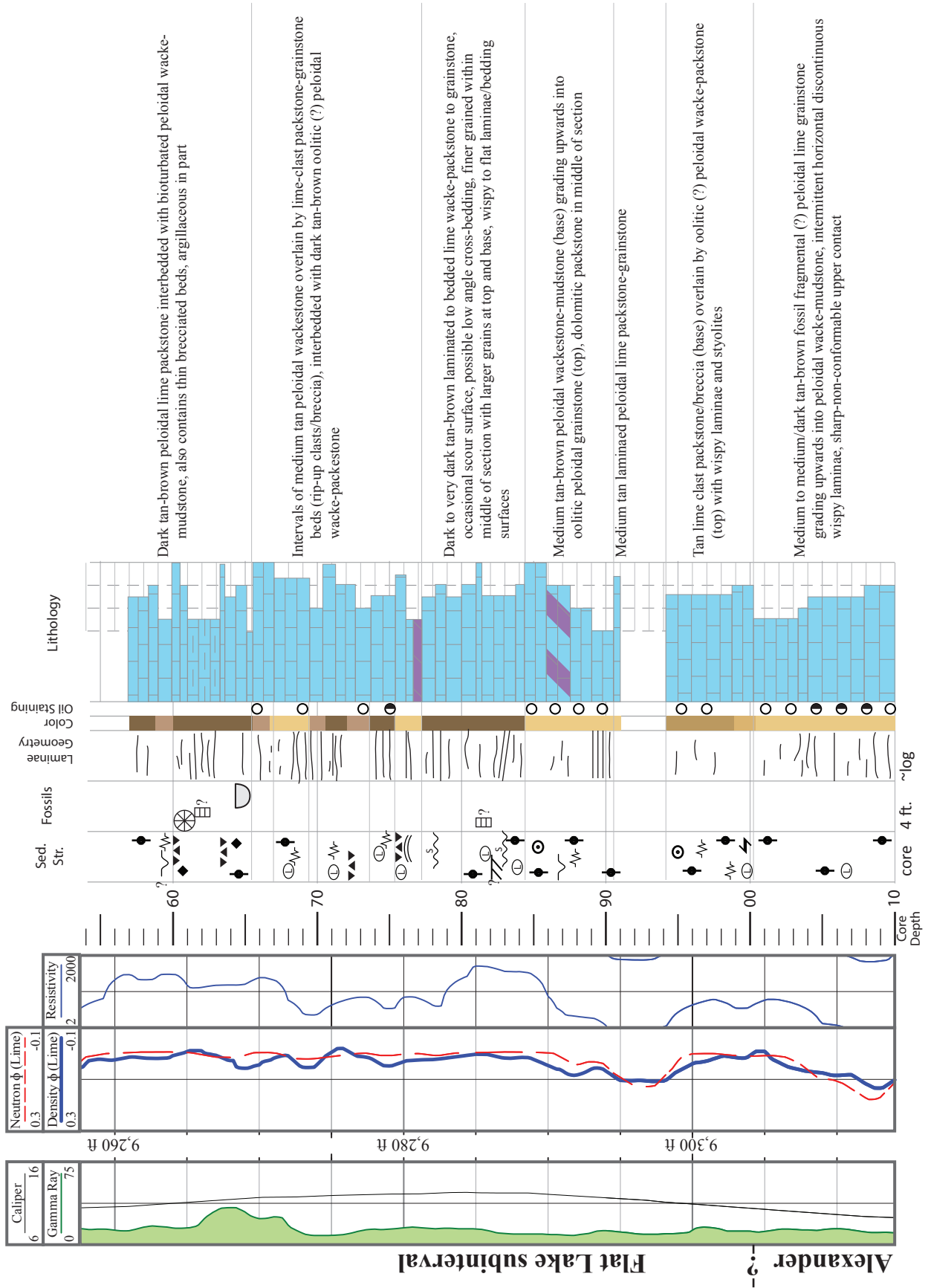
Medium/dark brown grey to mostly dark-very dark grey slightly argillaceous fossil lime wacke-mudstone to wackestone with occasional thin beds of apparent packstone, finely laminated to thinly bedded, sub horizontal - non-parallel - gently wavy - wispy laminae, occasional vertical and horizontal fractures (white mineralization along fracture planes)

Medium tan-brown, fossil fragmental peloidal to possibly oolitic lime packstone to grainstone, weakly laminated to massive/bedded, strolites common in basal two-thirds of section and small vugs present in upper few feet, vertical fractures

#7926  
 33-105-00867-00-00  
 Gulf Oil Corp.  
 Gorder #1-19-2B  
 K.B. = 2,295 ft



#7926  
 33-105-00867-00-00  
 Gulf Oil Corp.  
 Gorder #1-19-2B  
 K.B. = 2.295 ft



NDIC: 7926, API: 33-105-00867-00-00  
NENE Sec. 19, T153N, R103W  
Gulf Oil Corp. - Gorder #1-19-2B

Core Interval 9,257-9,290 ft.



NDIC: 7926, API: 33-105-00867-00-00  
NENE Sec. 19, T153N, R103W  
Gulf Oil Corp. - Gorder #1-19-2B

Core Interval 9,290-9,329 ft.





NDIC: 7926, API: 33-105-00867-00-00  
NENE Sec. 19, T153N, R103W  
Gulf Oil Corp. - Gorder #1-19-2B

Core Interval 9,365-9,399 ft.



































NDIC: 7926, API: 33-105-00867-00-00  
NENE Sec. 19, T153N, R103W  
Gulf Oil Corp. - Gorder #1-19-2B

Core Interval 9,400-9,414 ft.



## Sedimentary/Core Symbols:

	- microbiolites		- Shells
	- wave ripple laminae		- Brachiopod/s
	- lag		- Amphipora
	- scouring		- Crinoid/s
	- burrows		- Gastropod/s
	- Th. burrowing		- Rugose Coral
	- pyrite		- Tabulate Coral
	- nodule/s		- Ostracod/s
	- lithoclast/s		
	- anhydrite nodule/s		- heavy oil staining
	- Ooids		- moderate oil staining
	- peloids		- light oil staining
	- stylitic		
	- contorted lam./bedding		
	- Cross-bedding		
<b>M</b>	- mottled		
<b>V</b>	- vugs/vuggy		
<b>A</b>	- Anhydritic		
<b>D</b>	- Dolomitic		
	- Slickensides		
	- breccia		
	- rip up clast		
	- fossil bed		

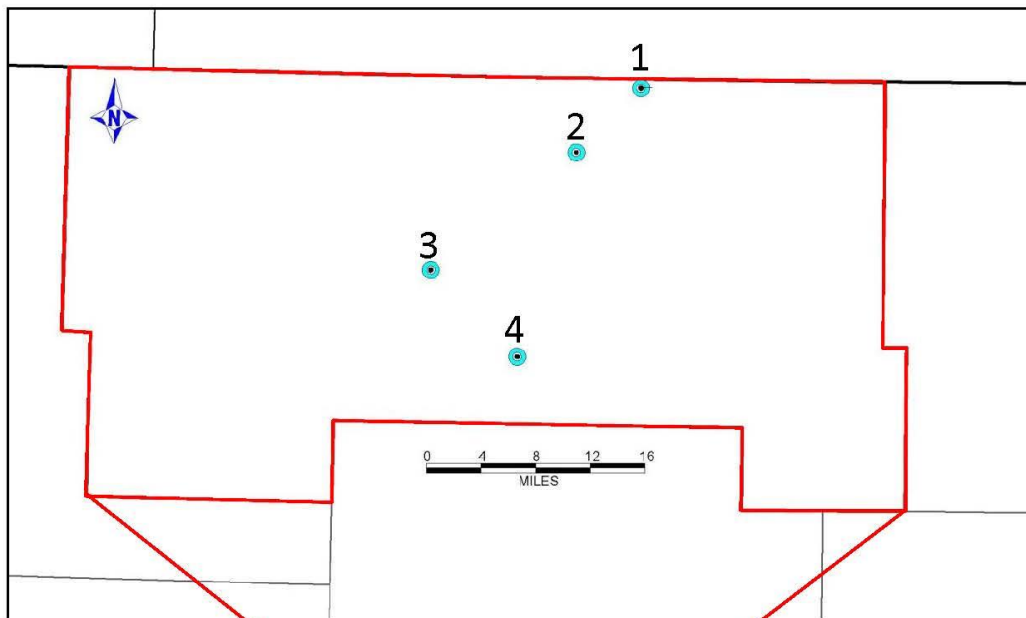
# Williston Basin Petroleum Conference 2018

## Core Workshop

# Spearfish Formation

Travis Stolldorf

North Dakota Geological Survey



**1**

API: 33009022460000  
NDIC: 21504  
T164N R76W S31

**2**

API: 33009016290000  
NDIC: 10452  
T163N R77W S29

**3**

API: 33009003250000  
NDIC: 1978  
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**4**

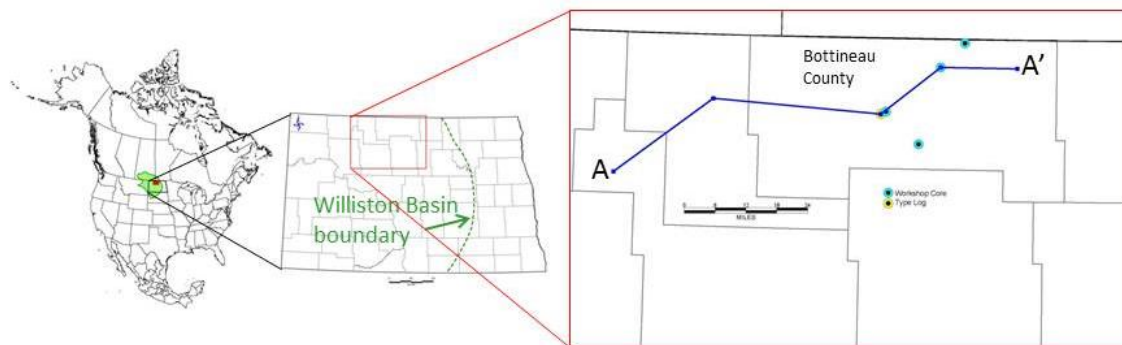
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NDIC: 10845  
T160N R78W S8



# The Spearfish Formation of north-central North Dakota

## Introduction

Initial commercial production of the Spearfish Formation began in 1953 with the Ekrehagen 1 well in the Scandia field (NDIC Oil and Gas Division statistics). Early development focused on commingling the lower Spearfish sand (Sand D) with the underlying Madison group. This commingled play has produced over 57 MMBO (107 MMBW, 1,850 BCF) in North Dakota since 1953 (NDIC Oil and Gas Division statistics). With the advent of new drilling and completion techniques in the 2000's, notably horizontal wells with multi-stage hydraulic fracs, Spearfish development evolved into a standalone play. In 2010 the first horizontal well exclusively targeting the Spearfish, the Scandia 1-34H, was drilled and completed with a multi-stage hydraulic frac (NDIC Oil and Gas Division statistics). Between 2010 and 2014, before low oil prices drove capital allocations away from the play, over 100 horizontal wells were drilled to exploit the standalone Spearfish play. To date, these horizontal wells have produced over 3.5 MMBO (9.1 MMBW, 800 MCF) in North Dakota (NDIC Oil and Gas Division statistics). The play's development has centered on the Spearfish Formation in north-central Bottineau County, North Dakota (Figure 1) where the formation is relatively shallow (reduced D&C costs) and rests unconformably on the Madison Group, which allows for migration of hydrocarbons from the underlying Madison Group up into the Spearfish (Bachryn, 1982; Hansen, 1987).



**Figure 1.** Reference map showing the extent of the study area within North Dakota. The location of cored wells used in the core workshop is represented by light blue circles. The yellow circle represents the type log location shown in Figure 2. The blue line denotes the location of the cross section shown in Figure 3.

## Previous Work

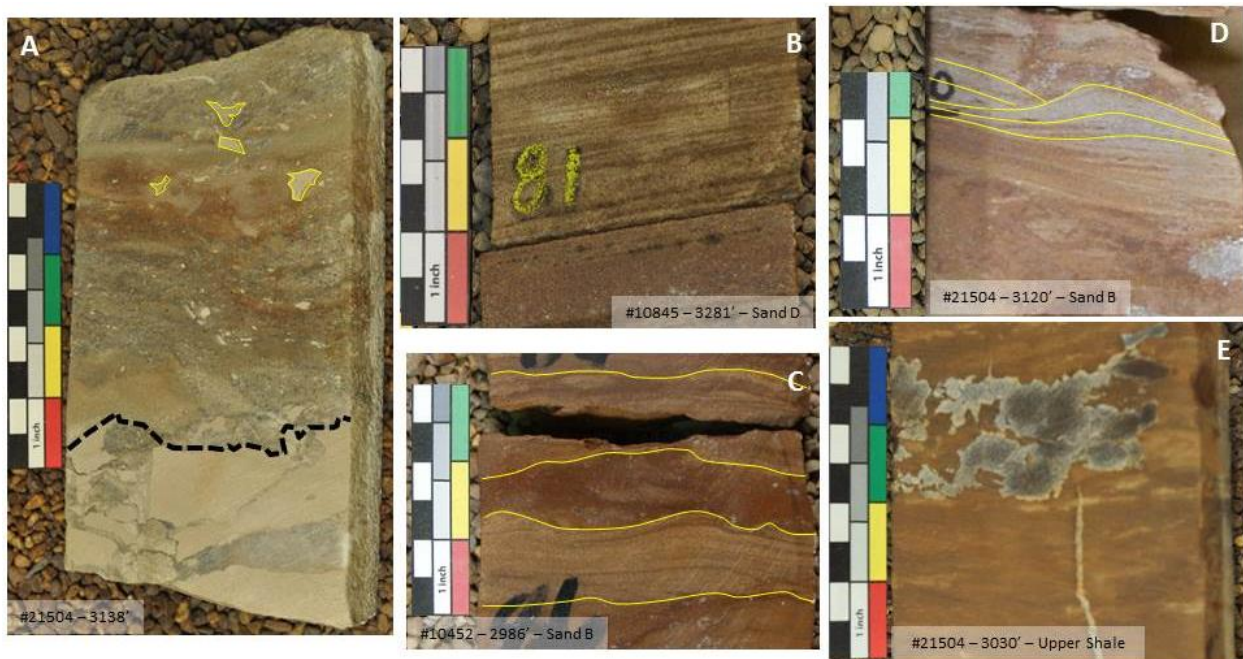
The Spearfish Formation was first identified by Darton (1899) based on the red outcrops near Spearfish, South Dakota. Dow (1964) provided the first detailed study of the Spearfish Formation and identified 3 distinct units: (1) lowermost gray shale and red siltstone unit (lower shale/Belfield Member), (2) a middle salt unit (Pine Member), and (3) uppermost red siltstone, shale and fine-grained sandstone unit (Saude Member). For the purposes of this study, only the Saude Member is discussed as the Belfield and Pine Members are restricted to the deeper portions of the basin in North Dakota and are not present in any of the logs or cores discussed in this study.

Interpretations regarding the depositional environment of the Spearfish have evolved over the years. McCabe (1956) described the depositional setting as terrestrial, while LeFever and LeFever (1991) advocated for a complex depositional system of both marine and terrestrial environments. Several other have concluded that the Spearfish Formation was deposited along the gently-dipping eastern margin of the Williston basin in a tidal flat environment during a transgression of the Triassic sea (Husain, 1991; Musial, 1995; Sebade, 2014). Hansen (1987) compared the depositional environment of the lower Amaranth (Spearfish equivalent in Canada) to the modern, tide-dominated Colorado River delta in the Gulf of California where sediments are deposited on tidal flats. Husain (1991) concluded that the sandstones were subtidal deposits, while the siltstone and mudstones were intertidal and supratidal, respectively.

### Core Observations

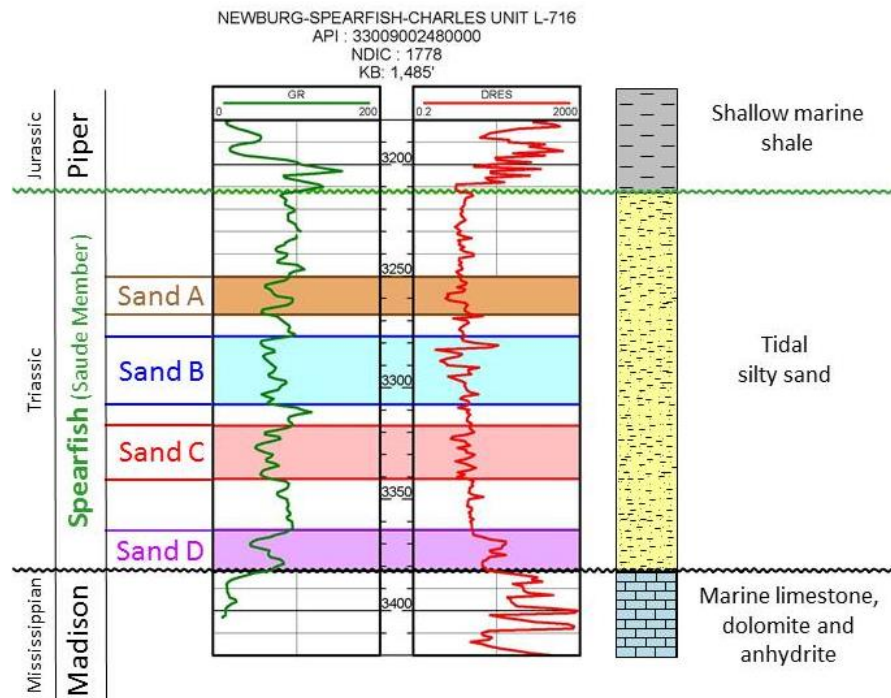
Four cores were described, analyzed and discussed for the core workshop (see Appendix 1). The cores were selected based on several criteria including, among others: available core analysis data, spatial diversity, producing formation and cored interval. An attempt was made during core selection to provide a representative sample of the Spearfish formation in Bottineau County, North Dakota.

Examinations of the cores presented in the workshop show a common trend for the Spearfish interval in this study area. Generally, the Spearfish interval is best described as a silty sandstone that was deposited over the Madison unconformity (Figure 2A). Sediments are typically reddish in color indicating intermittent exposure causing oxidation of the iron associated with the formation's clay minerals. Summarized core descriptions, lithology and wireline logs are available in Appendix 1.



**Figure 2.** Examples of sedimentary structures viewed in core. A) Madison unconformity (dashed black line) with rip up clasts outlined in yellow; B) Laminar bedding with oil staining; C) Wavy bedding of interbedded sands and silt; D) Flaser bedding in sandstone; E) Anhydrite nodules and mottled siltstone texture in the upper shale.

The lower two thirds of the interval contain up to four, fining-upwards, sheet-like sandstone packages interbedded with siltstones (Figure 3). The sands within the Spearfish can be difficult to visually identify in core as they are typically poorly sorted and contain substantial quantities of anhydrite, silt, clay and very fine grained sands. However, the base of several of the sands observed contained small quantities of medium- to coarse-grained sand and were interpreted by Sebade (2014) as tidal channel lag deposits. Identification of these sand packages is most easily done using wireline logs in conjunction with core description and analysis.



**Figure 3.** Stratigraphic column and type log with lithology and general description of the Spearfish Formation (Saude Member) (Murphy, et al., 2009).

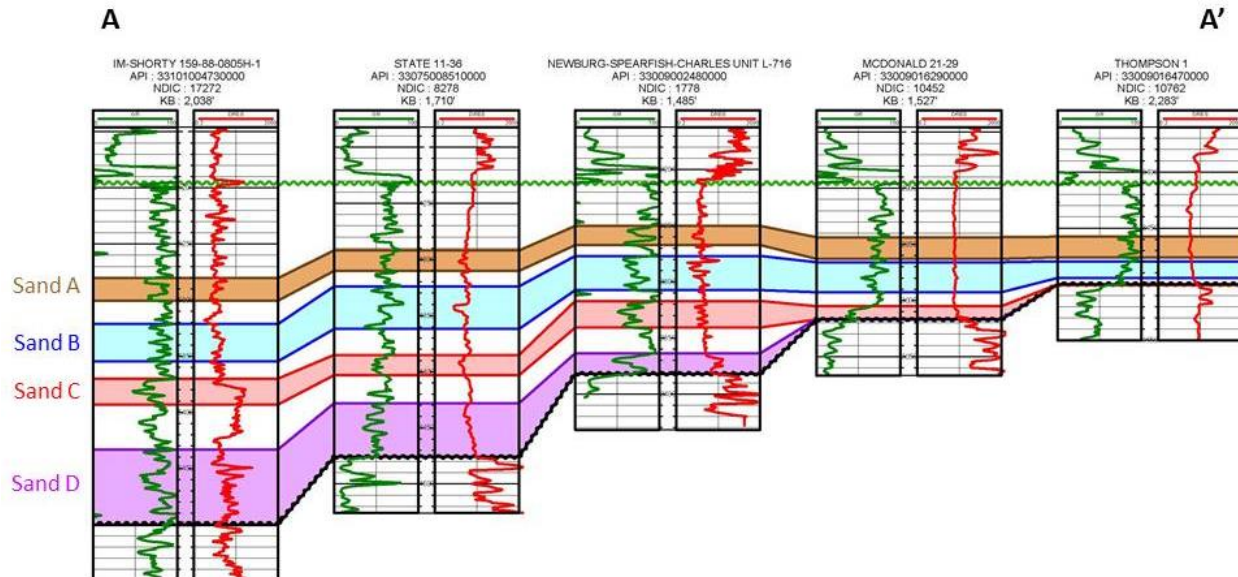
The cleanest sands are most often found directly overlying the Madison Group carbonates. Laminar bedding and oil staining is common in the sands directly overlying the Madison unconformity in the cores observed (Figure 2B). The sand packages that are not in direct contact with the Madison Group are poorly sorted and variable in color from light pink to a deep reddish-brown. Wavy bedding was the dominant sedimentary structure observed with a few occurrences of climbing ripples, flaser bedding, laminar bedding and channel lag deposits (Figures 2C and 2D). Anhydrite is present throughout the Spearfish in both cement and nodular form suggesting periods of exposure during deposition.

The upper third of the Spearfish is primarily a siltstone with a mottled texture (Figure 2E). Due to the high abundance of silt and clay, the upper section has not been targeted as a hydrocarbon reservoir. This study found no oil staining or other evidence that would suggest that the upper third of the Spearfish would be a viable reservoir. Thus, the following section will focus on the stratigraphy of the lower hydrocarbon-bearing portion of the formation.

## Stratigraphy

The lower two thirds of the Saude Member of the Spearfish Formation in north-central North Dakota can be subdivided into sand packages (Figure 3) using gamma ray (GR) logs and core analysis. This section contains up to four separate sand packages that have been mapped across the study area (Figure 4). Sands A and B (also referred to as A Sand and B Sand; e.g. Husain, 1991; Sebade, 2014) are present in all cores and wireline logs reviewed in this study (Figure 3). Both are poorly sorted sandstones that fine upwards and prograde basinward (Figure 4). Sand C (also referred to as the “water sand”; e.g. Husain, 1991; Sebade, 2014) exhibits similar characteristics to the overlying Sand A and B when not in direct contact with the underlying Madison Group (i.e. poorly sorted and fining upwards). When Sand C is observed directly overlying the Madison, the sandstone is typically well sorted with very little silt or clay. Sand D (also referred to as the basal sand or main sand; e.g. Husain, 1991; Sebade, 2014) is well sorted with better definition of sedimentary structures such as cross-bedding and laminar bedding. Similarly, Sand D fines upwards and progrades basinward.

Most of the initial development came from wells targeting both Sand D and the underlying Madison Group as a commingled play. More recently, the Spearfish has been targeted as a standalone play. Operators in the standalone play have focused on Sands A and B while avoiding the lowermost Sand C due to its proximity to the Madison and the potential for high water production if Madison aquifers are stimulated with hydraulic fractures (Birchard, 2014).



**Figure 4.** Stratigraphic cross-section of the Spearfish Formation (Saude Member) from west (A) to east (A') showing continuous sand packages prograding across the study area from the basin margin in the east to the deeper portions of the basin in the west. Note that both Sands C and D pinch out to the east. In our study area (Figure 1), the Spearfish Formation (Saude Member) thickens from approximately 90 feet in the eastern portion of the study to over 300 feet in the west (Figure 3).

## References

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- Hansen, B.J., 1987, Sedimentology and reservoir potential of the Lower Amaranth member, southwestern Manitoba, unpublished M.Sc. thesis, University of Manitoba, 179 p.
- Husain, M., 1991, Regional geology and petroleum potential of the Lower Amaranth Formation, Coulter-Pierson area, southwestern Manitoba. Williston Basin Symposium, p. 151-160.
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- McCabe, H.R., 1956, Lyleton and Amaranth Red Beds in Southwestern Manitoba, unpublished M.Sc. thesis, University of Manitoba, 135 p.
- Murphy, E.C., Nordeng, S.H., Juenker, B.J., and Hoganson, J.W., 2009, North Dakota Stratigraphic Column, North Dakota Geological Survey, MS-91, 1p.
- Musial, R., 1995, An overview of the Lower Watrous Manor Pool in southeast Saskatchewan. Williston Basin Symposium, p. 219-231.
- North Dakota Industrial Commission, Department of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas Statistics, retrieved March 2018, <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/>
- Reineck, H.E., and Wunderlich, F., 1968, Classification and origin of flaser and lenticular bedding. Sedimentology, v. 11, p. 99-104.
- Sebade, M.J., 2014, The depositional environment and diagenetic effects on sand bodies within the unconventional resource play of the Spearfish Formation (Triassic) in north central North Dakota, unpublished M.Sc. thesis, University of North Dakota, 131 p



## Summary

Based on previous work and observations made from core and wireline log analysis, this study supports the interpretation that the Spearfish was deposited in a tidal flat environment during a transgression in the Triassic. Oxidized sediments, giving the formation its distinct reddish color, and abundant anhydrite are representative of periods of exposure during deposition and likely accumulated in an arid climate on a broad, gently-dipping plain in a shallow, restricted, hypersaline sea. Laterally continuous sands in the lower two thirds of the Spearfish with observable changes from lenticular to wavy bedding suggest that sediments were deposited in subtidal to intertidal environments (Reineck and Wunderlich, 1968). The mottled siltstones in the upper third of the Spearfish are interpreted to be supratidal deposits (Sebade, 2014).

Hydrocarbons have been produced from the Spearfish only in a very small area of the Williston Basin in North Dakota. The first production from the Spearfish was a commingled stream with Sand D and the underlying Madison carbonates. The more recent standalone Spearfish play has seen Sands A and B primarily targeted. While this may be the only commercially productive part of the basin for the Spearfish, no data are available for its potential in other parts of North Dakota. Future work will seek other potentially productive areas with North Dakota's portion of the Williston Basin.

## Appendix 1

### Core 1 – Scout Ticket

NDIC File No: **21504** API No: **33-009-02246-00-00** County: **BOTTINEAU**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **IA** Status Date: **4/15/2018** Wellbore type: **HORIZONTAL**  
Location: **SWNW 31-164-76** Latitude: **48.990014** Longitude: **-100.576056**  
Current Operator: **CRESCENT POINT ENERGY U.S. CORP.**  
Original Operator: **LEGACY OIL & GAS ND, INC.**  
Current Well Name: **LEGACY ET AL BERGE 5-31H**  
Original Well Name: **LEGACY ET AL BERGE 5-31H**  
Elevation(s): **1,794 KB; 1,780 GL** Total Depth: **7,010' MD** Field: **NORTH SOURIS**  
Spud Date(s): **1/20/2012**

#### Formation Tops

K-P: 286' MD; K-GH: 1,712' MD; K-M: 1,960' MD; K-IK: 2,106' MD; J-S: 2,439' MD

#### Casing String(s):

8.625" – 657' MD

5.5" – 7,010' MD

#### Completion Data

Pool: SPEARFISH Perfs: 3,801'-6,869' MD Comp Dt: 4/9/2012

#### Cumulative Production Data (Pool: Spearfish)

Cum Oil: 37,174 Bbbls Cum Gas: 6,932 Mcf Cum Water: 401,390 Bbbls

#### Production Test Data

IP Test Date: 4/12/2012 Pool: SPEARFISH IP Oil: 126 Bbbls IP MCF: 0 IP Water: 157 Bbbls

#### Cores and Samples View

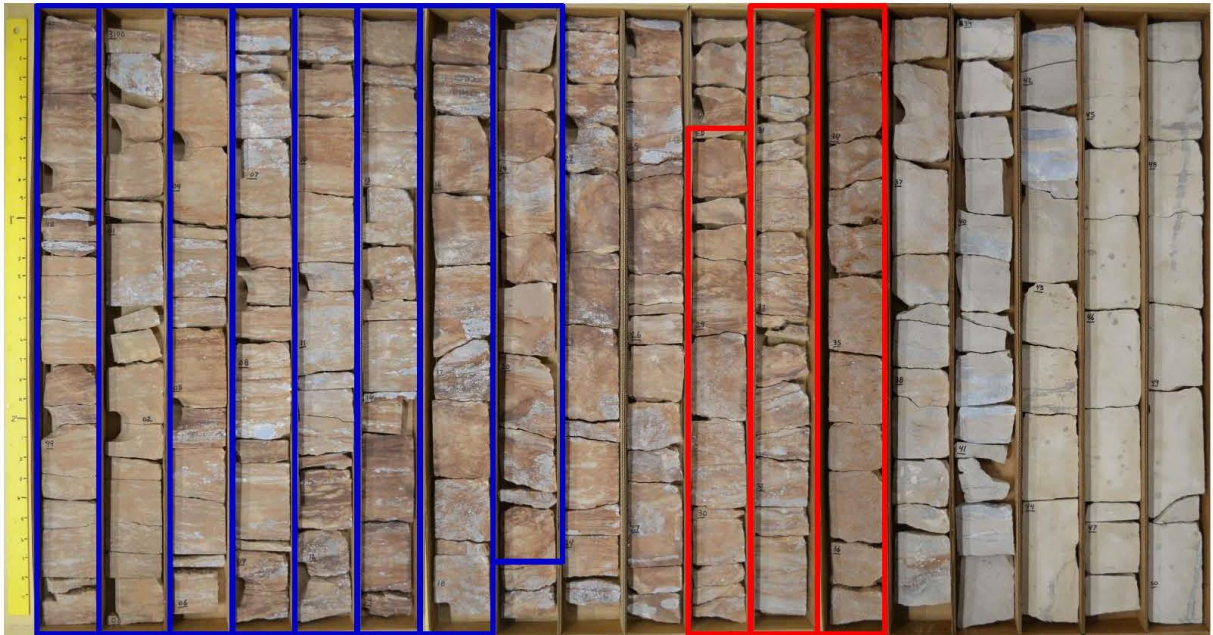
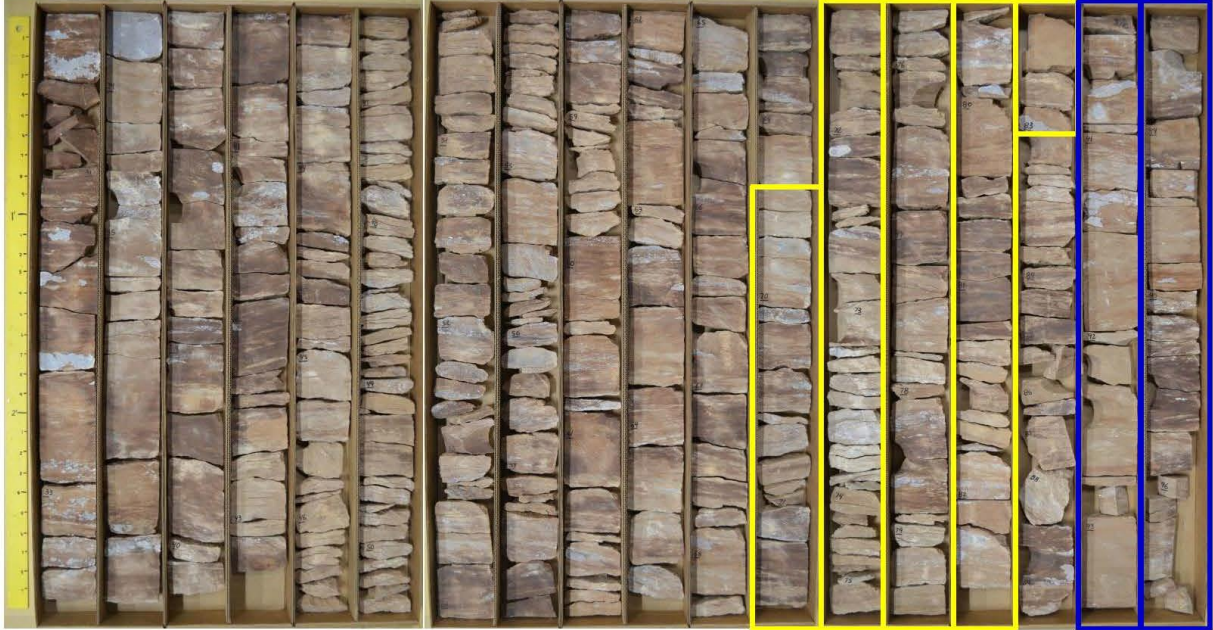
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Type: DC	Top: 4,140' MD	Bottom: 6,450' MD	
Type: DC	Top: 5,850' MD	Bottom: 7,110' MD	
Type: LS	Top: 3,030' TVD	Bottom: 3,044' TVD	Formation: T-S
Type: LS	Top: 3,044' TVD	Bottom: 3,149' TVD	Formation: T-S

# Core 1 – Box Photographs

API No: 33-009-02246-00-00

NDIC File No: 21504

Core Interval: 3,030' – 3,136'



- █ Sand A
- █ Sand B
- █ Sand C
- █ Sand D – not present

# Core 1 – Wireline Log with Core Description

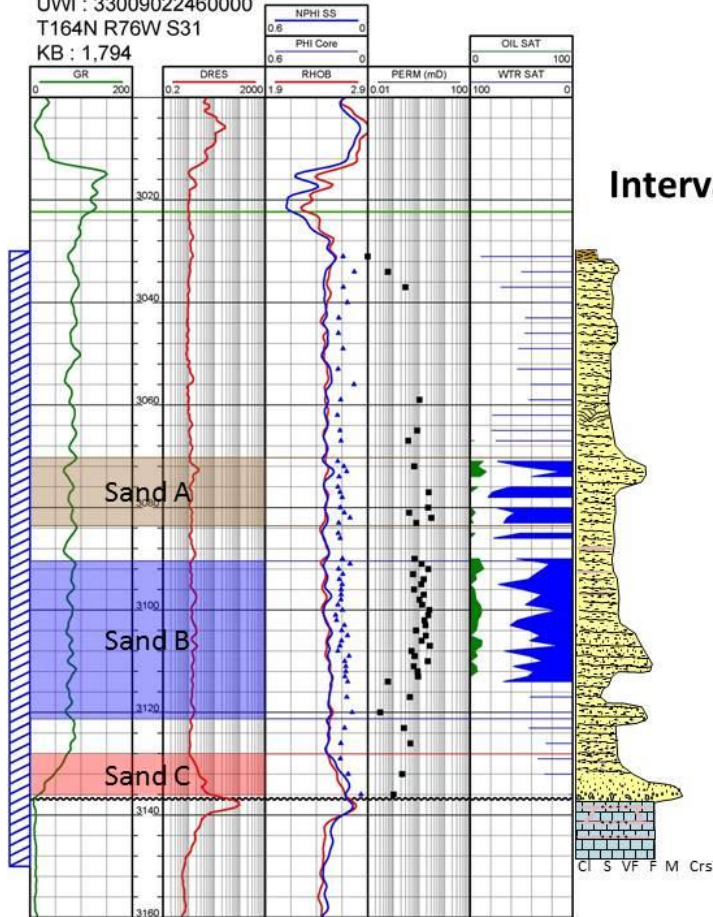
UWI : 33009022460000  
 T164N R76W S31  
 KB : 1.794



## Core 1

NDIC: 21504

Interval Cored: Spearfish/Madison



Siltstone, red, anhydrite nodules

Silty Sandstone, light red, wavy bedding, some FG sand lenses, anhydrite nodules

Red, silty laminations, anhydrite nodules

Low angle, trough cross-bedding, light red

Fine-grained, light red, trace anhydrite

Red, silty laminations, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules/lenses

Poorly sorted, very fine- to coarse sand, anhydrite nodules

Light grey to white, medium- to coarse-grained, rip up clasts from underlying limestone

Limestone, massive, light grey to white, fine-grained, anhydrite beds with anhydrite filling fractures

Cl S VF F M Crs

## Core 2 – Scout Ticket

NDIC File No: **10452** API No: **33-009-01629-00-00** County: **BOTTINEAU**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **DRY** Status Date: **7/11/1986** Wellbore type: **VERTICAL**  
Location: **NENW 29-163-77** Latitude: **48.920846** Longitude: **-100.678475**  
Current Operator: **DORCHESTER EXPLORATION, INC.**  
Original Operator: **DORCHESTER EXPLORATION, INC.**  
Current Well Name: **MCDONALD 21-29**  
Original Well Name: **MCDONALD #21-29**  
Elevation(s): **1,527' KB** Total Depth: **4,150' TVD** Field: **WILDCAT**  
Spud Date(s): **12/6/1983**

### Formation Tops

K-GH: 1,530' TVD	K-M: 1,778' TVD	K-IK: 1,956' TVD	J-S: 2,344' TVD
T-S: 2,904' TVD	M-MDUN: 3,006' TVD	M-MDTI: 3,139' TVD	M-MDLP: 3,301' TVD
MD-B: 3,886' TVD	D-TF: 3,914' TVD	D-BB: 3,955' TVD	D-DP: 4,056' TVD

### Casing String(s):

8.625" – 266' TVD  
4.5" – 2,999' TVD

### Completion Data

Pool: DUPEROW Comp Dt: 7/11/1986 Status: DRY Status Dt: 7/11/1986  
Pool: SPEARFISH Perfs: 2,955'-2,978' TVD Comp Dt: 7/11/1986

### Cumulative Production Data (Pool: Spearfish)

Cum Oil: 456 Bbls Cum Gas: 0 Cum Water: 0

### Production Test Data

DST: 3,107'-3,140' TVD Recovery: 490' MC Water, 1,704' Salt Water - Sampler: 2,160 CC Water

### Cores and Samples

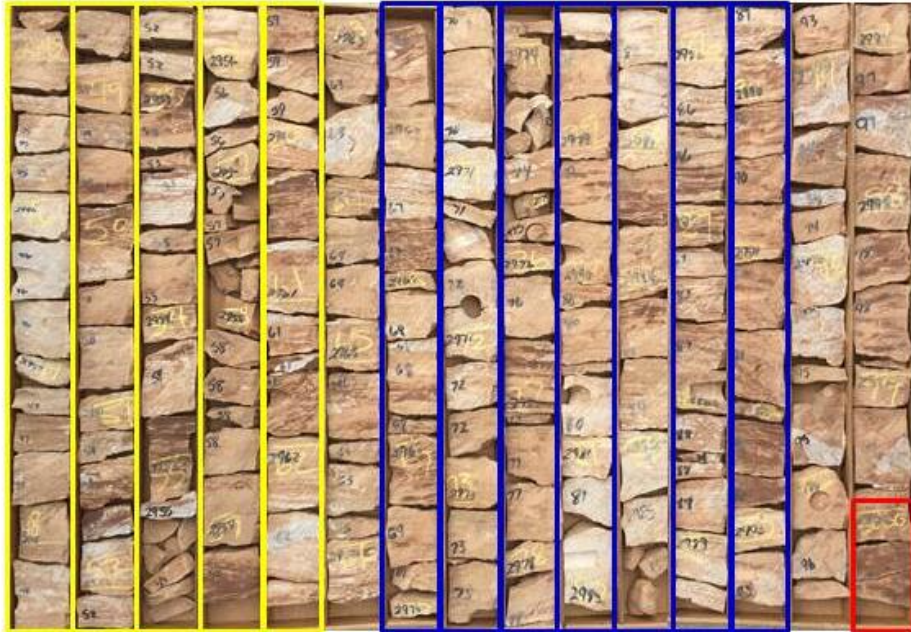
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Type: RS	Top: 2,945' TVD	Bottom: 3,005' TVD	Formation: T-S
Type: RS	Top: 3,005' TVD	Bottom: 3,035' TVD	Formation: M-MD

## Core 2 – Box Photographs

API No: 33-009-01629-00-00

NDIC File No: 10452

Core Interval: 2,945' – 3,035'



- █ Sand A
- █ Sand B
- █ Sand C
- █ Sand D – not present

# Core 2 – Wireline Log with Core Description

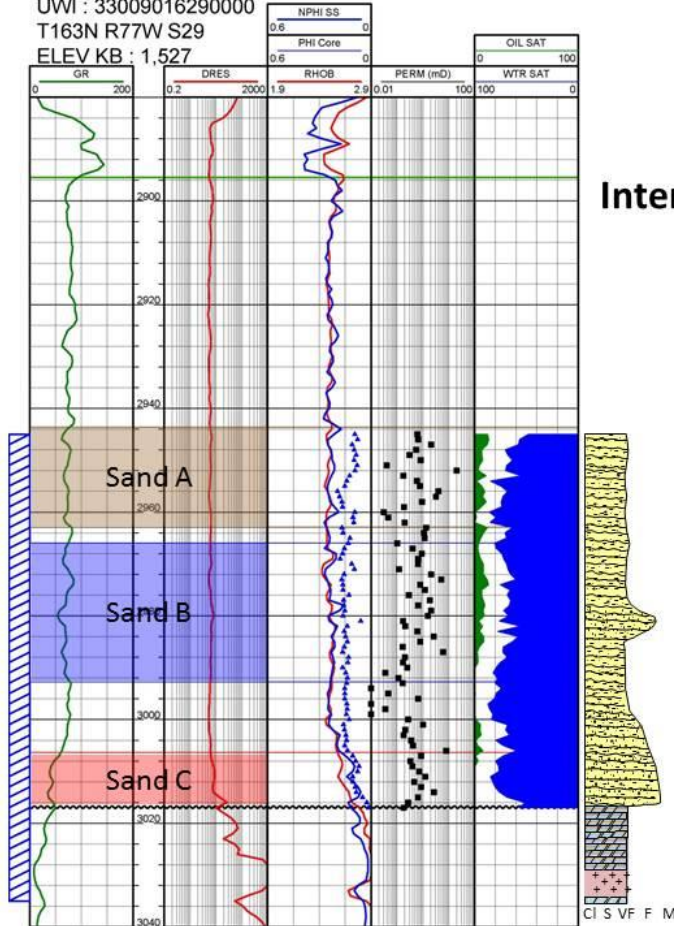
UWI : 33009016290000  
 T163N R77W S29  
 ELEV KB : 1,527



## Core 2

NDIC: 10452

Interval Cored: Spearfish/Madison



**Silty Sandstone**, light red-gray, very fine-grained, faint wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

Light red with some dark red-brown silty laminations, very fine-grained, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

Light red, very fine- to fine-grained sand, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

Light red with some dark red-brown silty laminations, very fine-grained, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

Light red very fine- to medium-grained sand, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

**Dolomite**, gray to greenish gray, mauve to red, mottled, very anhydritic

**Anhydrite**, gray, sucrosic

**Dolomite**, buff gray

## Core 3 – Scout Ticket

NDIC File No: **1978** API No: **33-009-00325-00-00** County: **BOTTINEAU**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **A** Status Date: **9/6/1958** Wellbore type: **VERTICAL**  
Location: **SESE 4-161-79** Latitude: **48.7936** Longitude: **-100.90864**  
Current Operator: **ENDURO OPERATING, LLC**  
Original Operator: **THE CALIFORNIA CO.**  
Current Well Name: **NEWBURG-SPEARFISH-CHARLES UNIT P-718**  
Original Well Name: **ROLAND HENRY #6**  
Elevation(s): **1,475' KB** Total Depth: **3,412' TVD** Field: **NEWBURG**  
Spud Date(s): **8/20/1958**

### Formation Tops

K-GH: 1,724' TVD K-M: 1,993' TVD K-IK: 2,185' TVD  
J-S: 2,436' TVD T-S: 3,187' TVD M-MDUN: 3,354' TVD

### Casing String(s):

10.75" – 221' TVD  
5.5" – 3,412' TVD

### Completion Data

Pool: SPEARFISH/CHARLES Perfs: 3,338'-3,375' TVD Comp Dt: 9/6/1958

### Cumulative Production Data (Pool: Spearfish/Charles)

Cum Oil: 375,027 Bbls Cum Gas: 14,808 Mcf Cum Water: 701,575 Bbls

### Production Test Data

IP Test Date: 9/6/1958 Pool: SPEARFISH/CHARLES IP Oil: 61 Bbls IP MCF: 0 IP Water: 0

### Cores and Samples

Type: C Top: 3,331' TVD Bottom: 3,354' TVD Formation: T-S  
Type: C Top: 3,354' TVD Bottom: 3,381' TVD Formation: M-MD  
Type: DC Top: 320' TVD Bottom: 1,200' TVD  
Type: DC Top: 1,200' TVD Bottom: 3,250' TVD  
Type: DC Top: 3,250' TVD Bottom: 3,410' TVD



# Core 3 – Box Photographs

API No: 33-009-00325-00-00

NDIC File No: 1978

Core Interval: 3,330' – 3,381'



- █ Sand A – not cored
- █ Sand B – not cored
- █ Sand C – not cored
- █ Sand D

# Core 3 – Wireline Log with Core Description

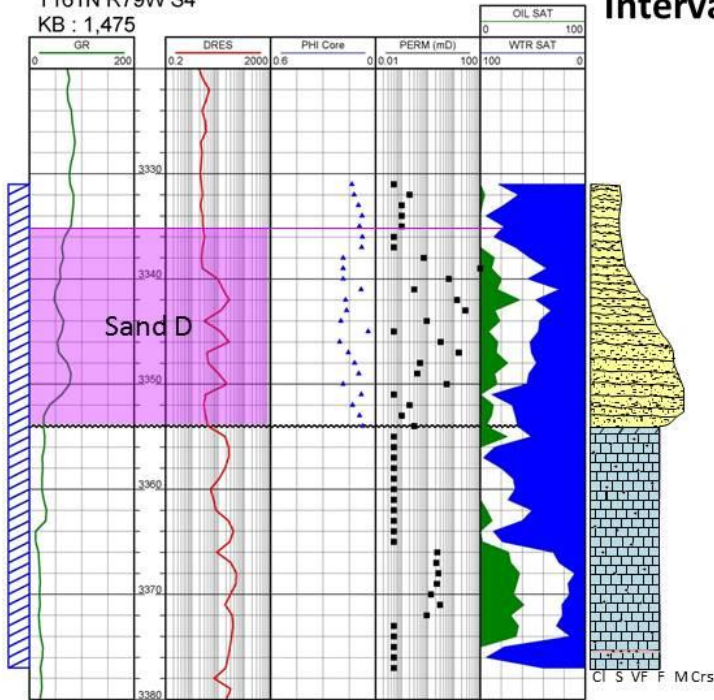


## Core 3

NDIC: 1978

Interval Cored: Spearfish/Madison

UWI : 33009003250000  
 T161N R79W S4  
 KB : 1,475



Silty Sandstone, very fine- to fine-grained, light red, anhydrite nodules

Grey, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

Light red, fine- to coarse-grained, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules

Limestone, fine grained, light grey, anhydrite nodules

Fine grained, tan, anhydrite nodules

Fine grained, light grey, anhydrite nodules

## Core 4 – Scout Ticket

NDIC File No: **10845** API No: **33-009-01655-00-00** County: **BOTTINEAU**  
Well Type: **OG** Well Status: **A** Status Date: **3/15/2018** Wellbore type: **VERTICAL**  
Location: **NENW 8-160-78** Latitude: **48.703556** Longitude: **-100.767734**  
Current Operator: **31 OPERATING, LLC**  
Original Operator: **TURTLE MOUNTAIN GAS & OIL, INC.**  
Current Well Name: **CHRISTENSON 1**  
Original Well Name: **CHRISTENSON 1**  
Elevation(s): **1,462' KB** Total Depth: **3,333' TVD** Field: **SOUTHWEST STARBUCK**  
Spud Date(s): **5/8/1984**

### Formation Tops

K-GH: 1,671' TVD      K-M: 1,934' TVD      K-IK: 2,113' TVD      J-S: 2,416' TVD  
T-S: 3,125' TVD      M-MDUN: 3,292' TVD

### Casing String(s):

8.625" – 323' TVD  
4.5" – 3,333' TVD

### Completion Data

Pool: SPEARFISH    Perfs: 3,282-3,286' TVD    Comp Dt: 11/25/1984

### Cumulative Production Data (Pool: Spearfish)

Cum Oil: 12,351 Bbls    Cum Gas: 0    Cum Water: 649 Bbls

### Production Test Data

IP Test Date: 11/25/1984    Pool: SPEARFISH    IP Oil: 6 Bbls    IP MCF: 0    IP Water: 0

### Cores and Samples

Type: LS    Top: 3,258' TVD    Bottom: 3,288' TVD    Formation: T-S  
Type: RS    Top: 3,258' TVD    Bottom: 3,278' TVD    Formation: T-S  
Type: RS    Top: 3,278' TVD    Bottom: 3,288' TVD

# Core 4 – Box Photographs

API No: 33-009-01655-00-00

NDIC File No: 10845

Core Interval: 3,258' – 3,288'



- █ Sand A – not cored
- █ Sand B – not cored
- █ Sand C – not cored
- █ Sand D

# Core 4 – Wireline Log with Core Description

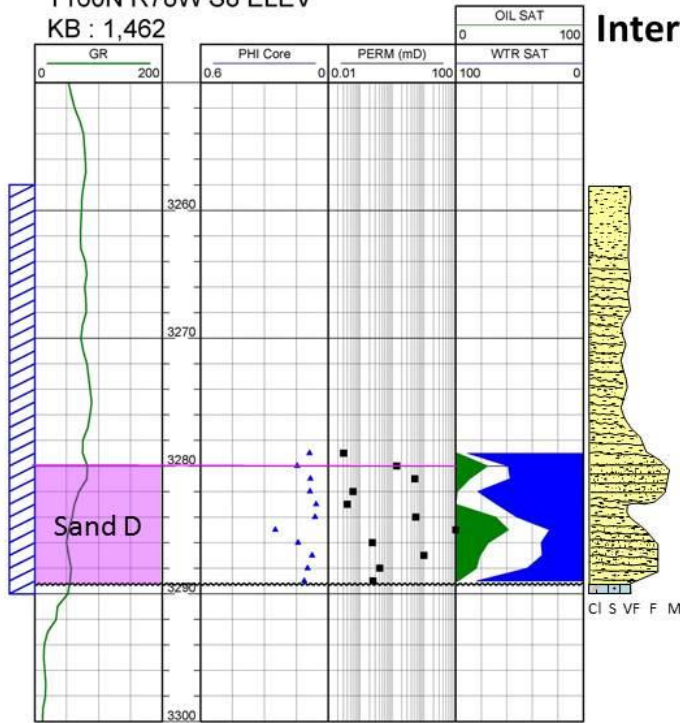


## Core 4

NDIC: 10845

Interval Cored: Spearfish/Madison

UWI : 33009016550000  
 T160N R78W S8 ELEV  
 KB : 1,462



- Silty Sandstone, light red, anhydrite nodules
- Light red, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules
- Red-brown, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules
- Light red-grey, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules
- Light red-grey, low angle laminar bedding, prevalent oil staining, trace anhydrite
- Light red-grey, wavy bedding, anhydrite nodules
- Limestone, light grey, anhydrite nodules