Geological Characterization of the Uteland Butte Member of the Eocene Green River Formation: An Emerging Unconventional Carbonate Tight Oil

Play in the Uinta Basin, Utah

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Project website: geology.utah.gov/emp/shale\_oil

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- Bill Barrett Corp.
- Berry Petroleum (LINN Energy)
- QEP Resources
- Anadarko Petroleum Corp.
- Newfield Exploration Company
- EOG Resources













### **Collaborators:**

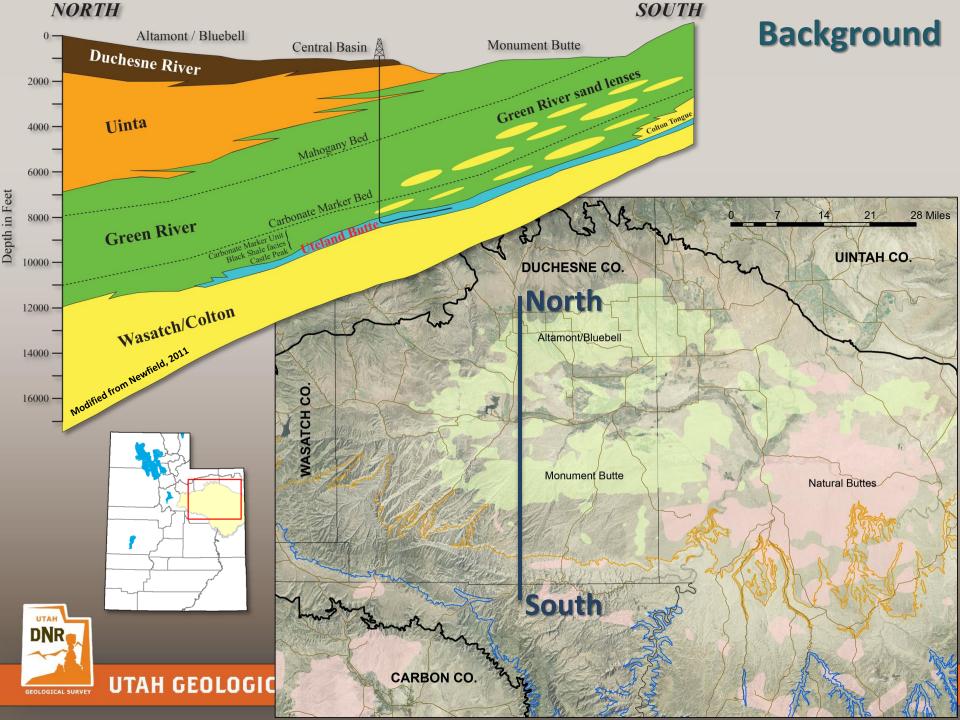
- Dr. John McLennan Energy and Geoscience Institute, University of Utah
  - Detailed geomechanical characterization
- Dr. J. Fredrick Sarg Colorado School of Mines
  - Facies characterization, east side of basin
- Dr. Hans Machel University of Alberta
  - Origin of dolomite







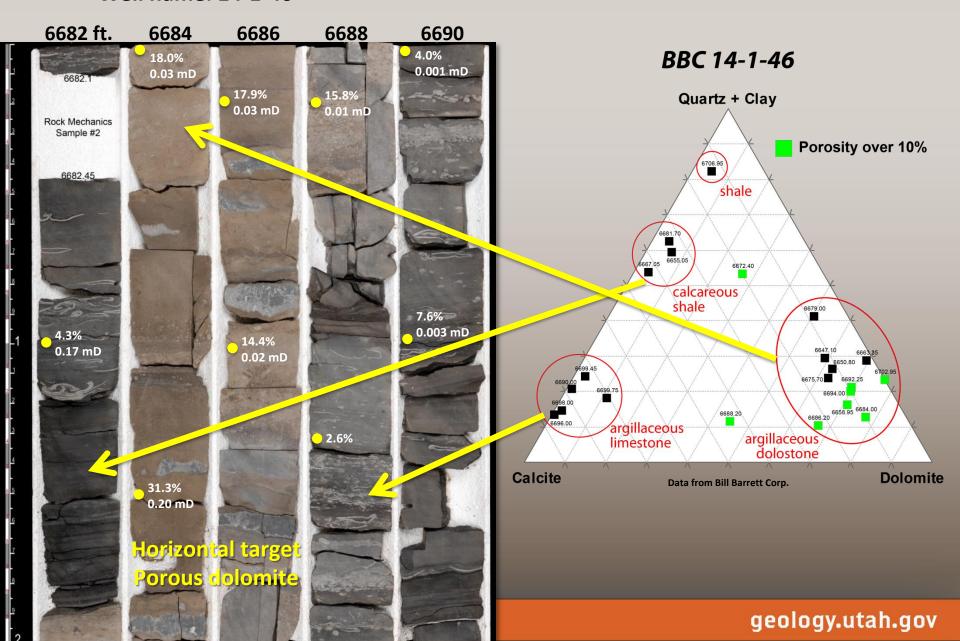




**Operator: Bill Barrett Corp.** 

Well name: 14-1-46

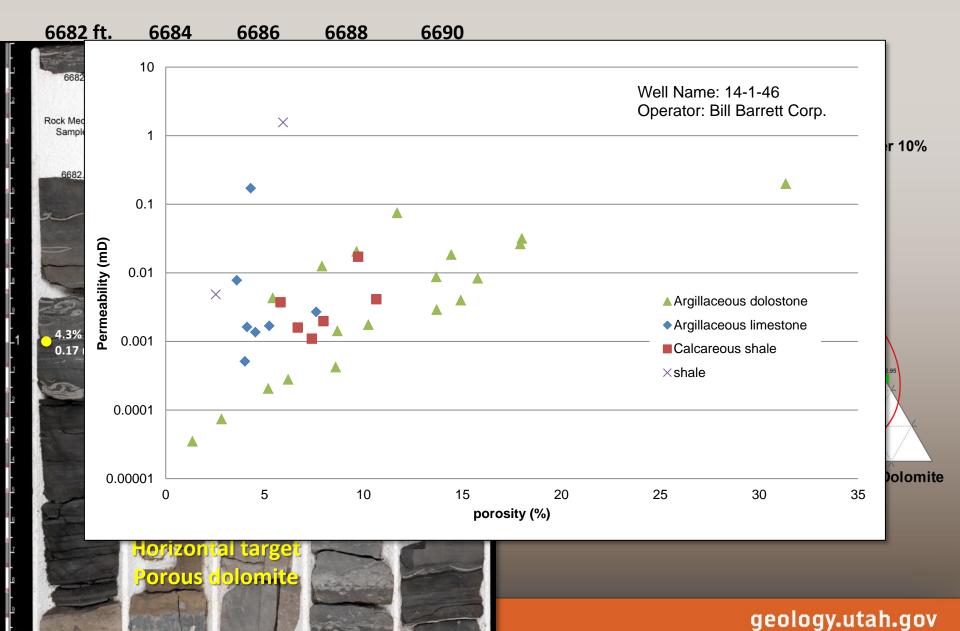
# **Basic Lithology of Uteland Butte**



**Operator: Bill Barrett Corp.** 

Well name: 14-1-46

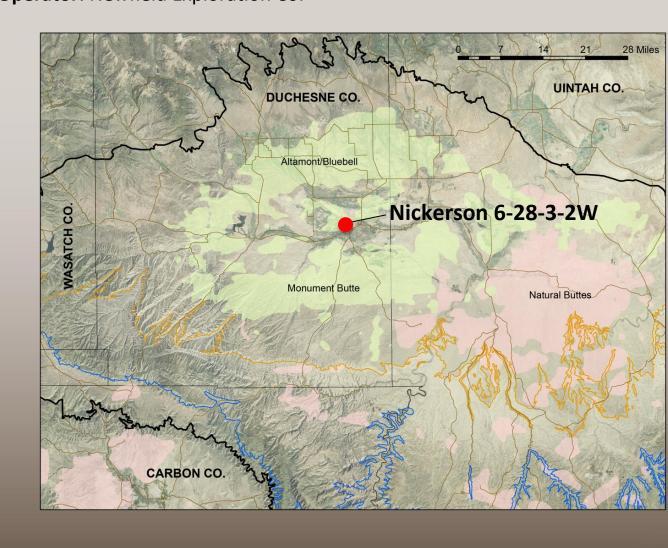
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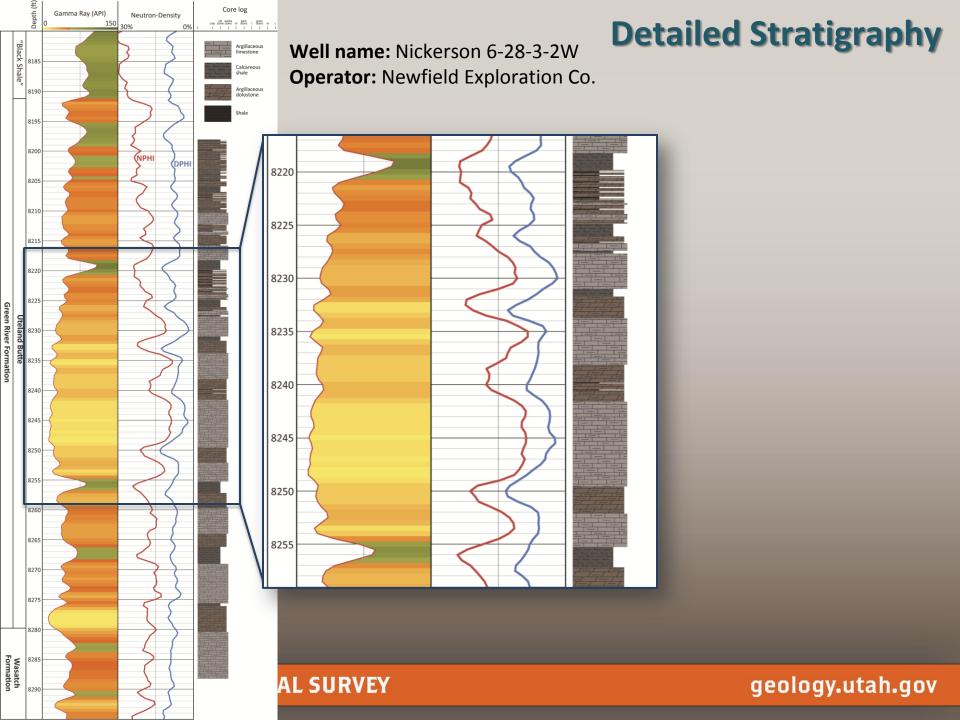


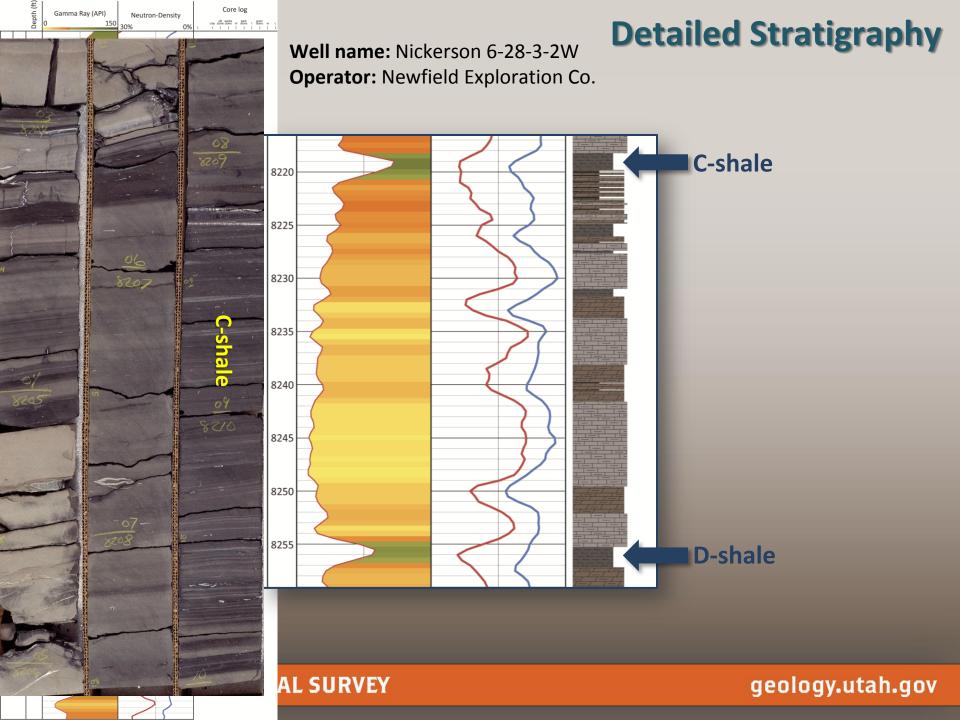
## Gamma Ray (API) Neutron-Density sit wacke pack grain clay stone stone of stone m "Black Shale"

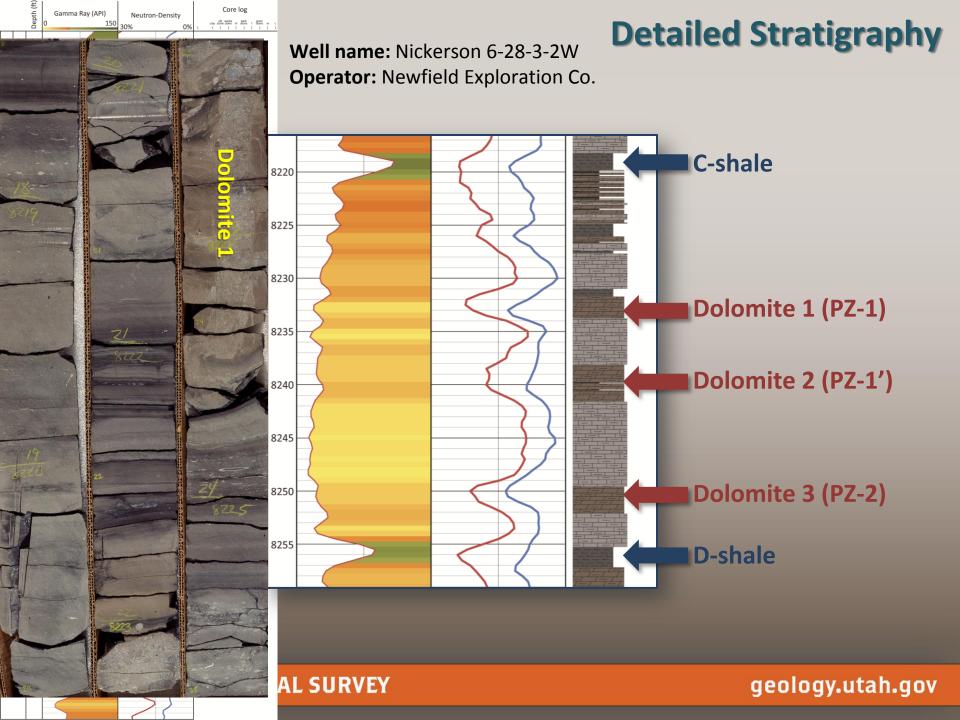
# **Detailed Stratigraphy**

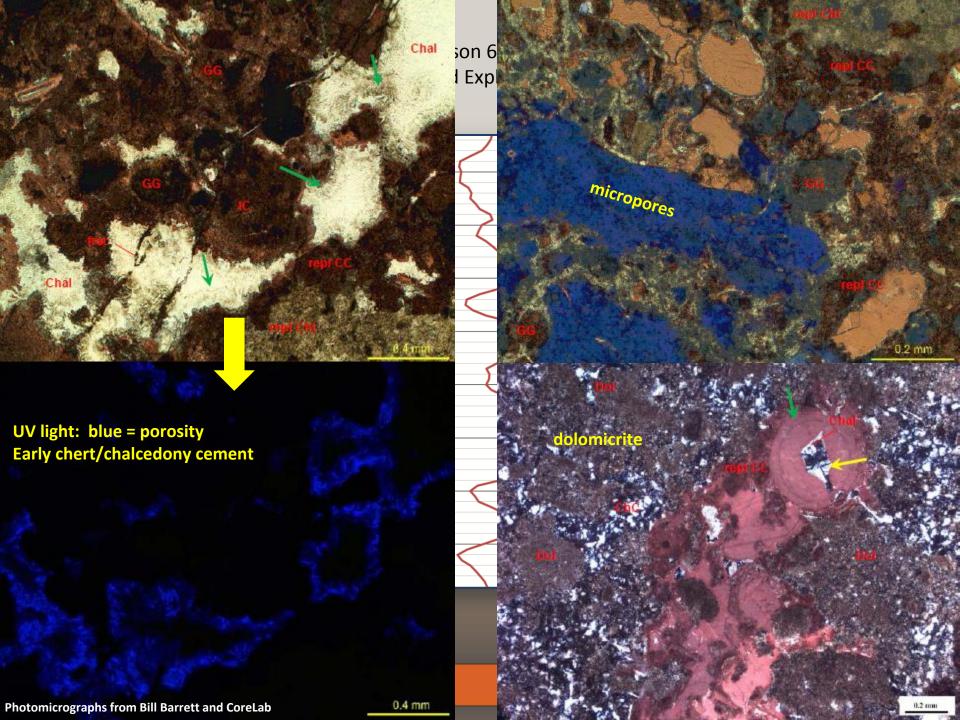
**Well name:** Nickerson 6-28-3-2W **Operator:** Newfield Exploration Co.

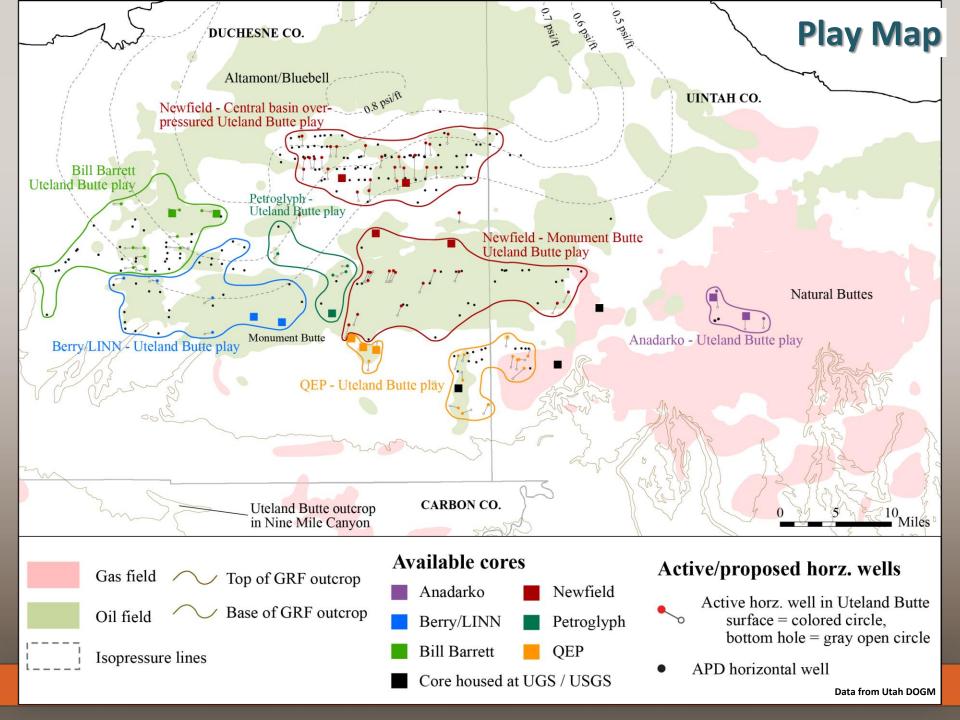


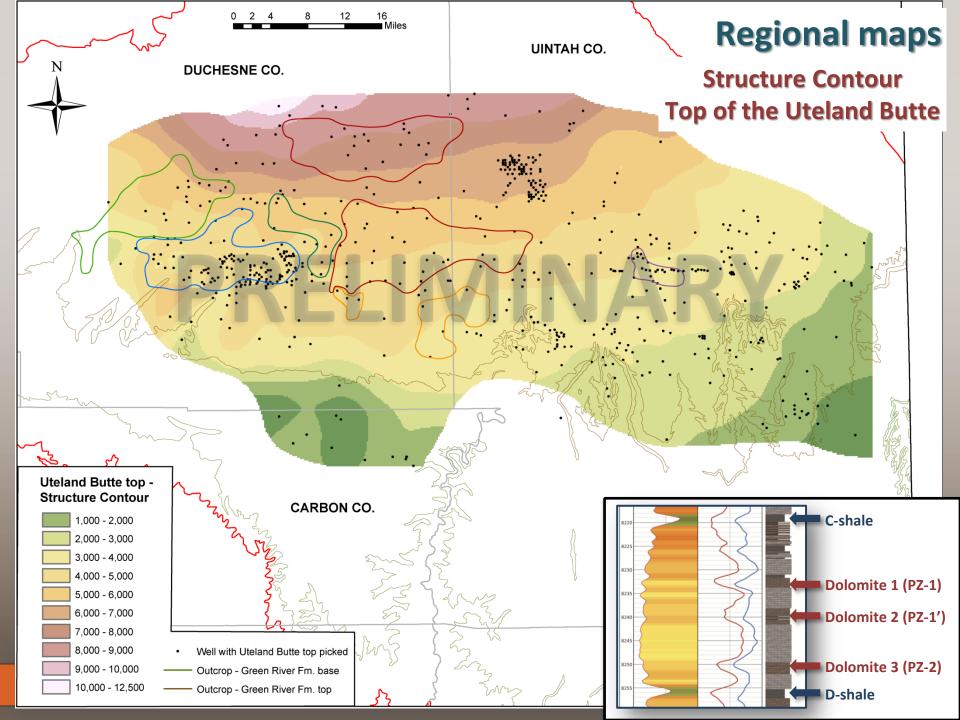


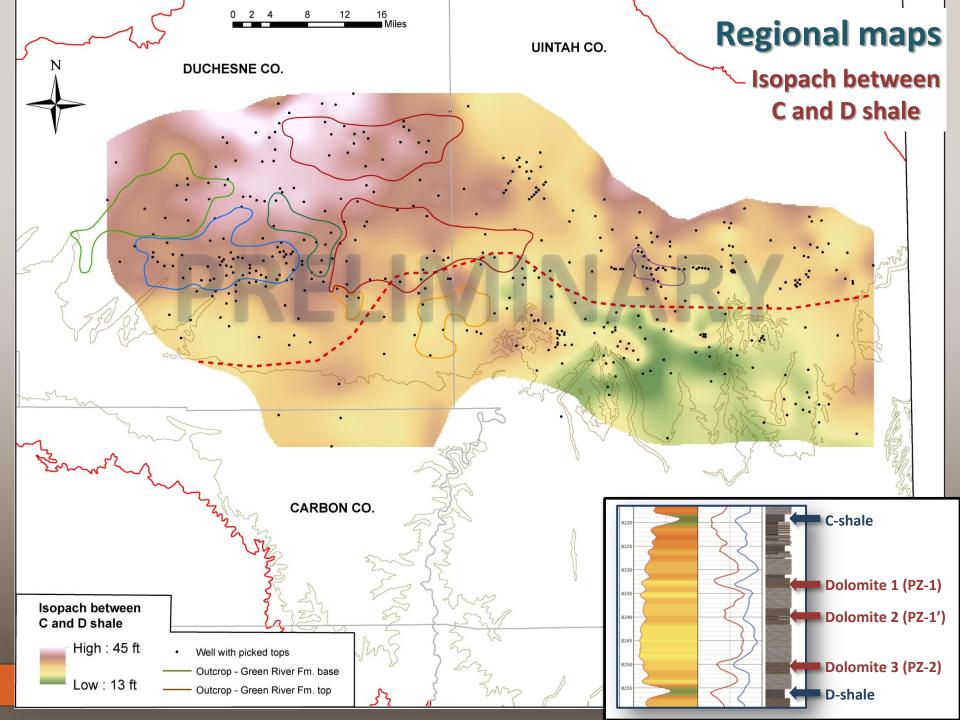


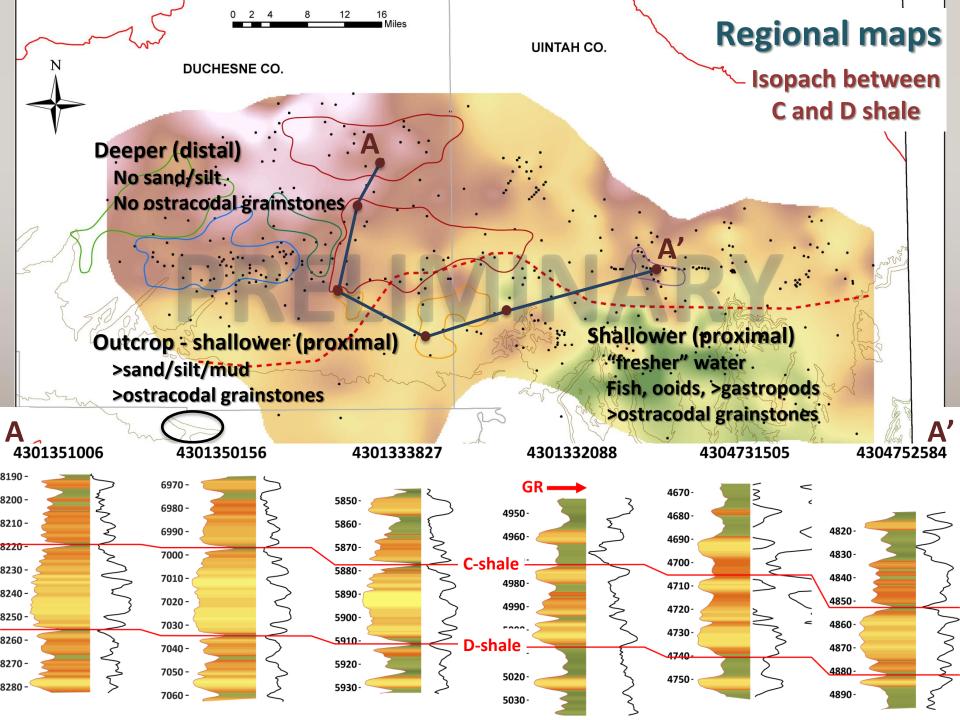


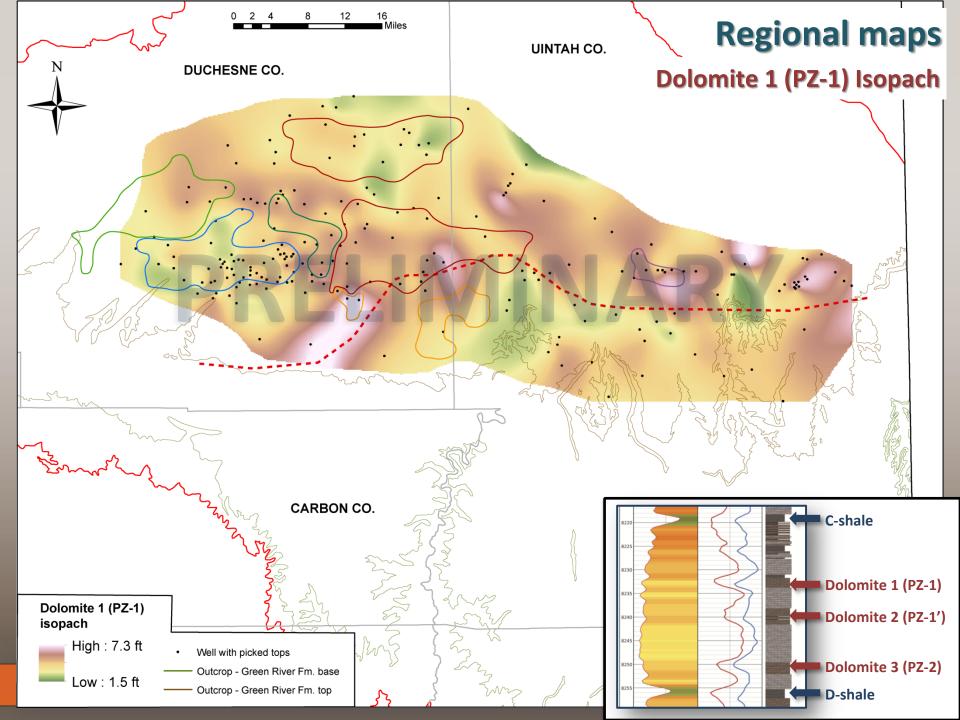


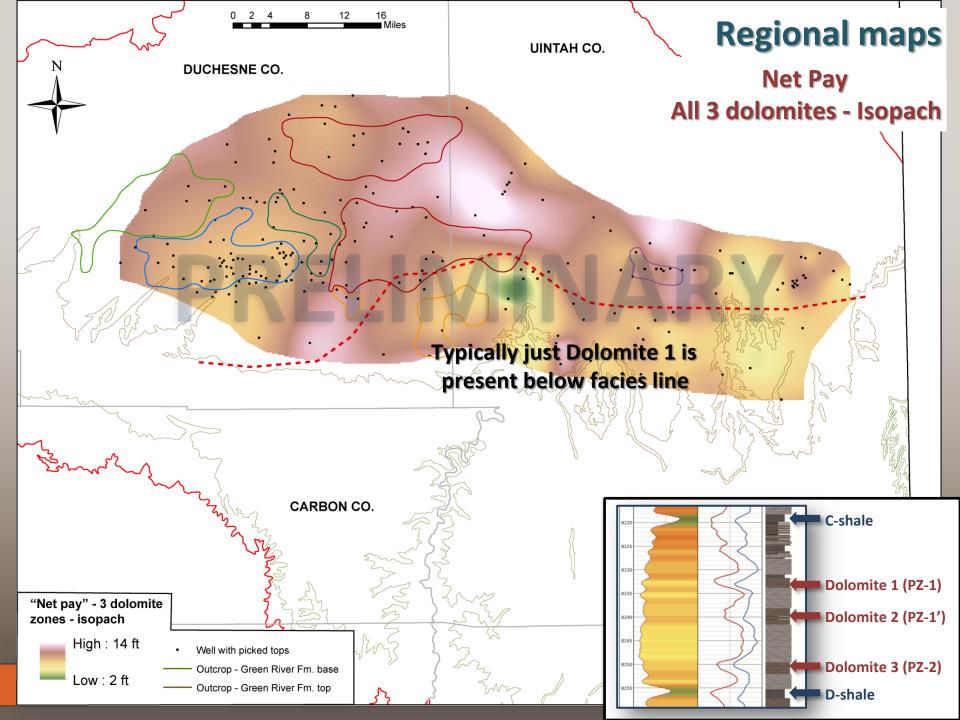


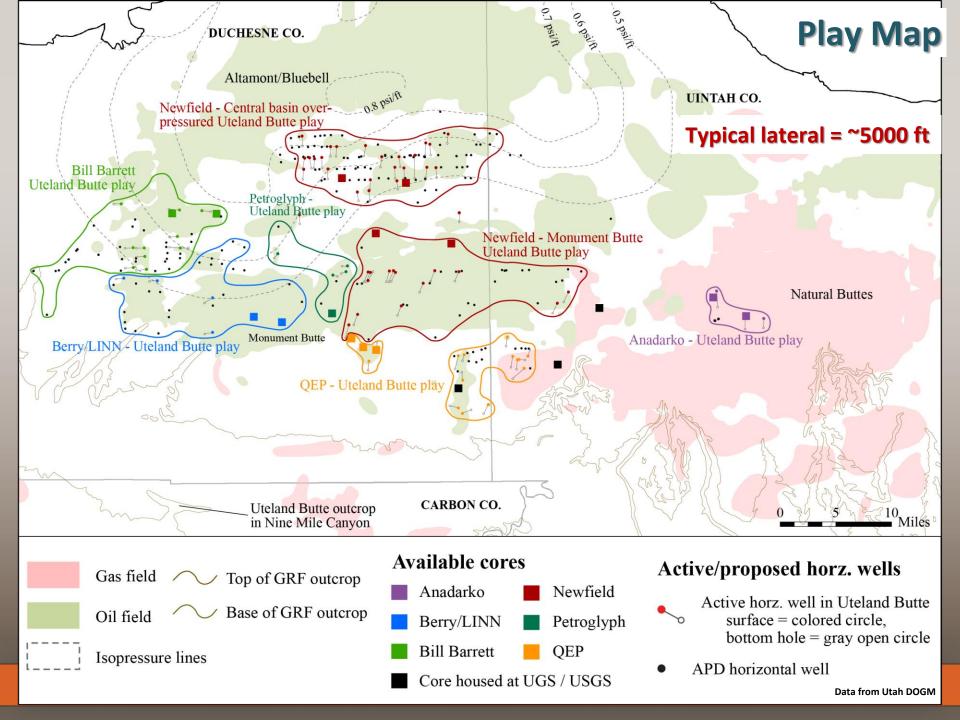


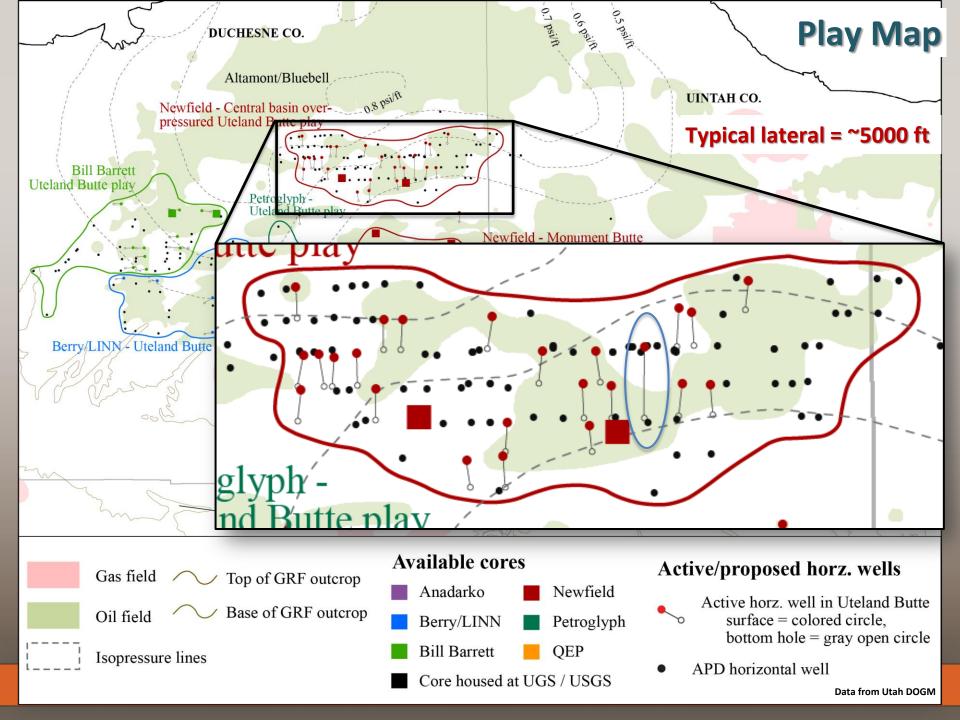


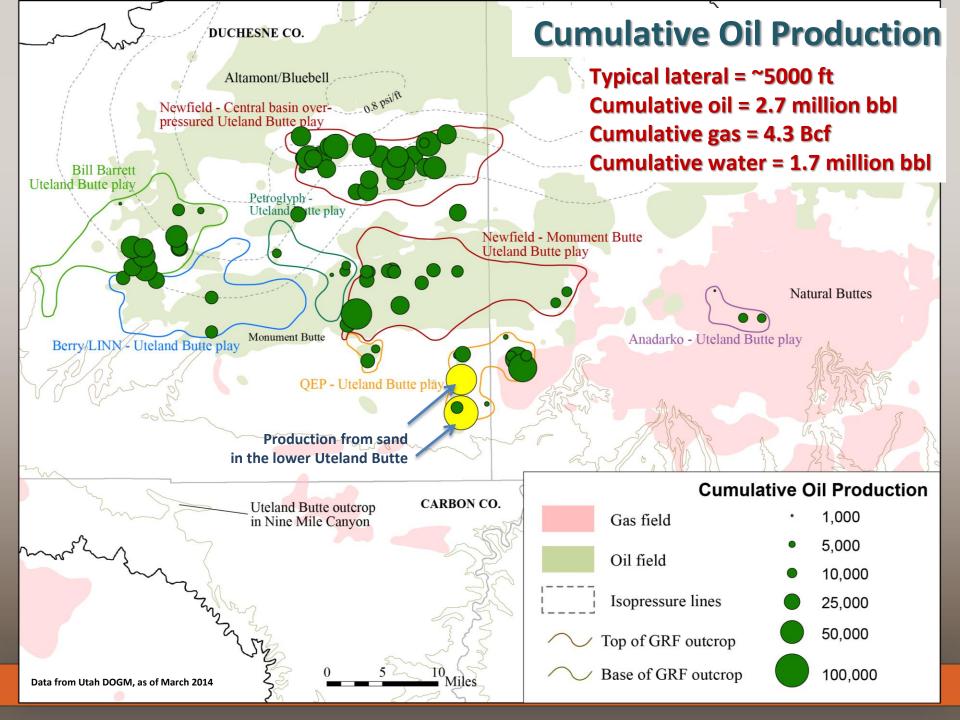


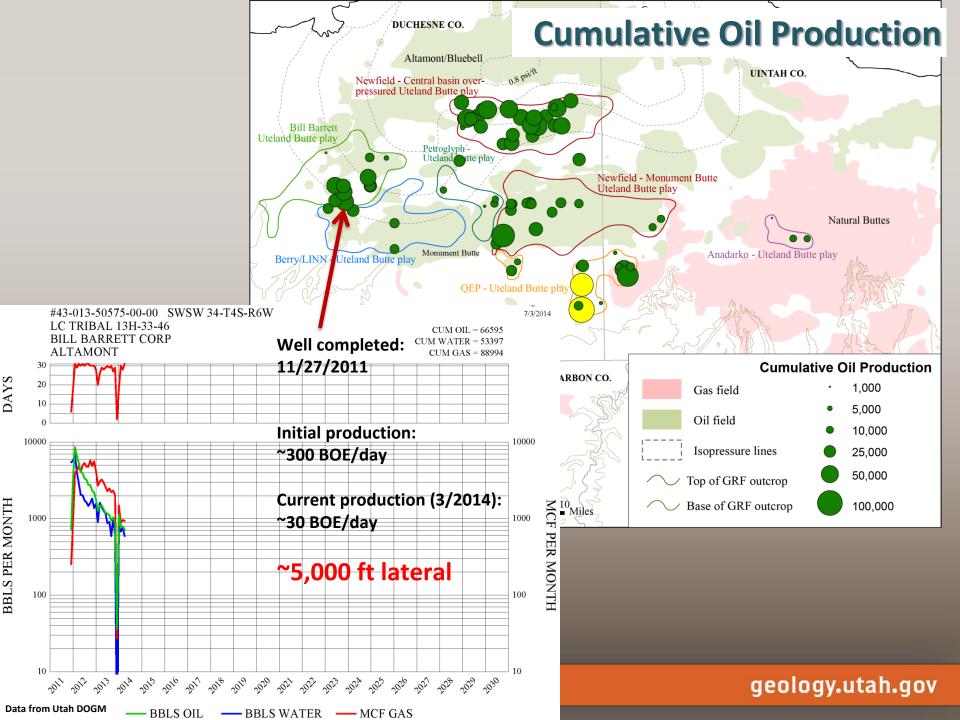


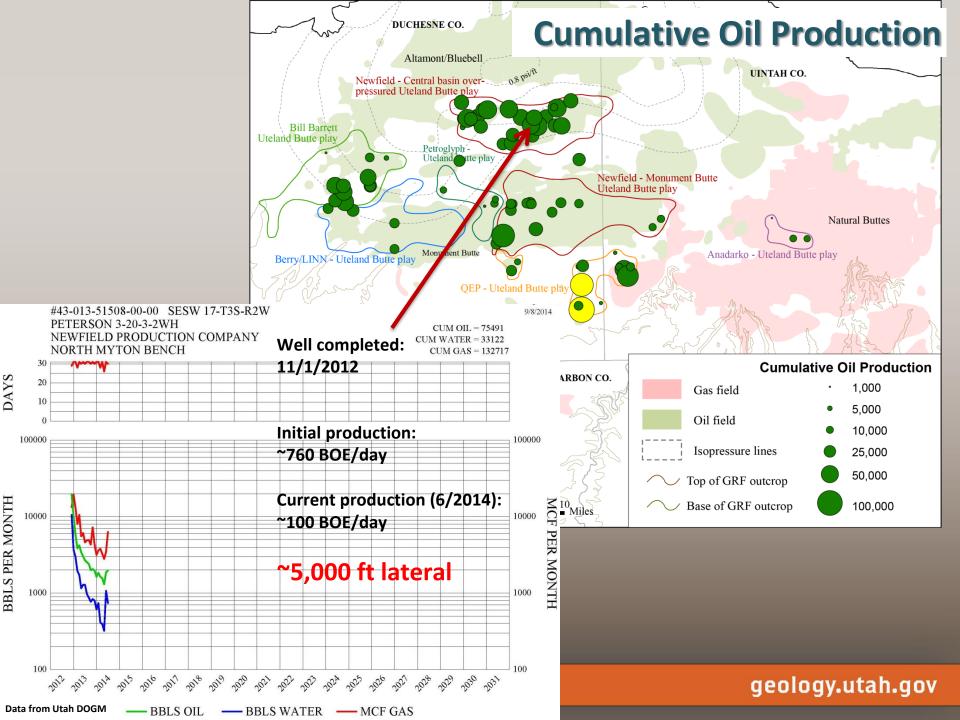


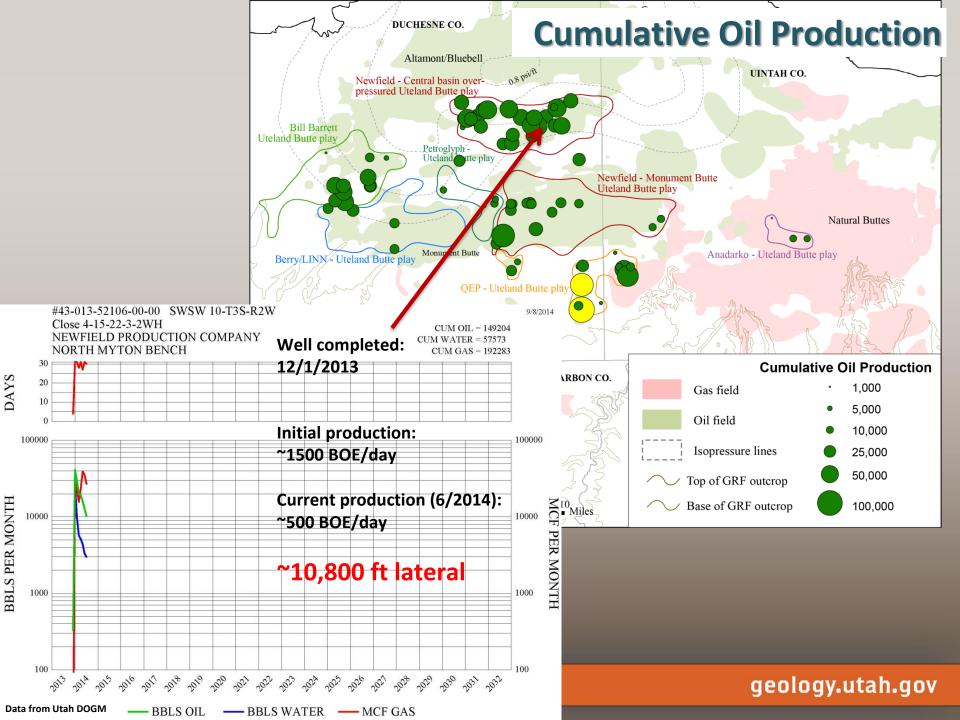


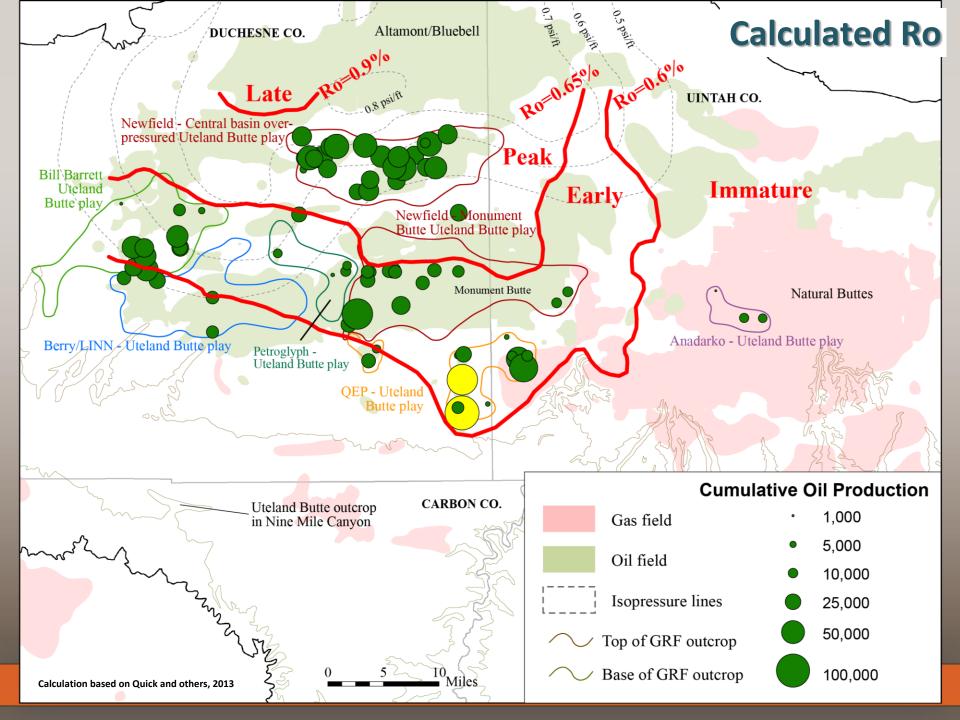












# **Summary**

#### Regional horizontal play in the lower Green River Formation, Uinta Basin

- Centered in central Duchesne County
- Distal facies of Uteland Butte

#### Self sourcing

- But, oil could migrate to thermally immature areas (more proximal facies) to the south and east
- TOC values range between 2 and 5%

#### Tight reservoir

- Thin dolomite beds (up to 3): 2-7 ft each; total net pay: 2-14 ft
- Porosity: 14-26%; permeability: 0.02-0.08 mD
- Significant diagenesis (chert, etc.)
- Well completion strategies still being explored (hydro. fracing, acid)

#### Keys to economic production:

- Over-pressured portion of the basin
- Thicker dolomite beds (maybe?)
- Long laterals >10,000 ft
- Natural fractures





### **Future Research**

#### Additional geologic characterization

- Refined regional mapping
- Outcrop evaluation
- Facies delineation
- Petrographic analyses
- Origin of the dolomite (primary?, diagenetic?) and how it might relate to reservoir quality

#### Geomechanical analysis and well completion strategies

- Triaxial testing, fracture toughness, fluid sensitivity
- Mechanical stratigraphy
- In-situ stress regimes
- Collaboration with EGI and TerraTek,
  A Schlumberger company
- Further refine keys to economic production
  - "Sweet spot" mapping



