

## **PUBLIC ABSTRACT**

Utah oil fields have produced a total of 1.2 billion barrels. However, the 15 million barrels of production in 2000 was the lowest level in over 40 years and continued the steady decline that began in the mid-1980s. The Utah Geological Survey believes this trend can be reversed with the proposed project "Major Oil Plays of Utah and Vicinity." The overall objectives of this proposed study are to: (1) increase recoverable oil from existing field reservoirs, (2) add new discoveries, (3) prevent premature abandonment of numerous small fields, (4) increase deliverability through identifying the latest drilling, completion, and secondary/tertiary techniques, and (5) reduce development costs and risk.

These objectives will be achieved by providing play portfolios for the major oil producing provinces (thrust belt, Uinta Basin, and Paradox Basin) in Utah and adjacent areas. Oil plays are geographic areas with petroleum potential caused by favorable combinations of source rock, migration paths, reservoir rock characteristics, and other factors. The play portfolios will include: description (such as stratigraphic, diagenetic setting, tectonic setting, reservoir characteristics, trap type, seal, hydrocarbon source, etc.) and maps of the major oil plays by reservoir; production and reservoir data; case-study field evaluations; summaries the state-of-the-art drilling, completion, and secondary/tertiary techniques for each play; locations of major oil pipelines; description of reservoir outcrop analogs for each play; and identification and discussion of land use constraints.

All play maps, reports, databases, etc. produced for the project will be published in an interactive, menu-driven digital (web-based and compact disc) or hard copy format by the Utah Geological Survey and presented to the petroleum industry through a proven technology transfer plan. The technology transfer plan includes a Technical Advisory Board composed of industry representatives operating in Utah and a Stake Holders Board composed of representatives of state and federal government agencies, and groups with a financial interest in the study area.