

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OIL-SHALE ASSAYS ON GRAND MESA,  
WEST-CENTRAL COLORADO

By John R. Donnell

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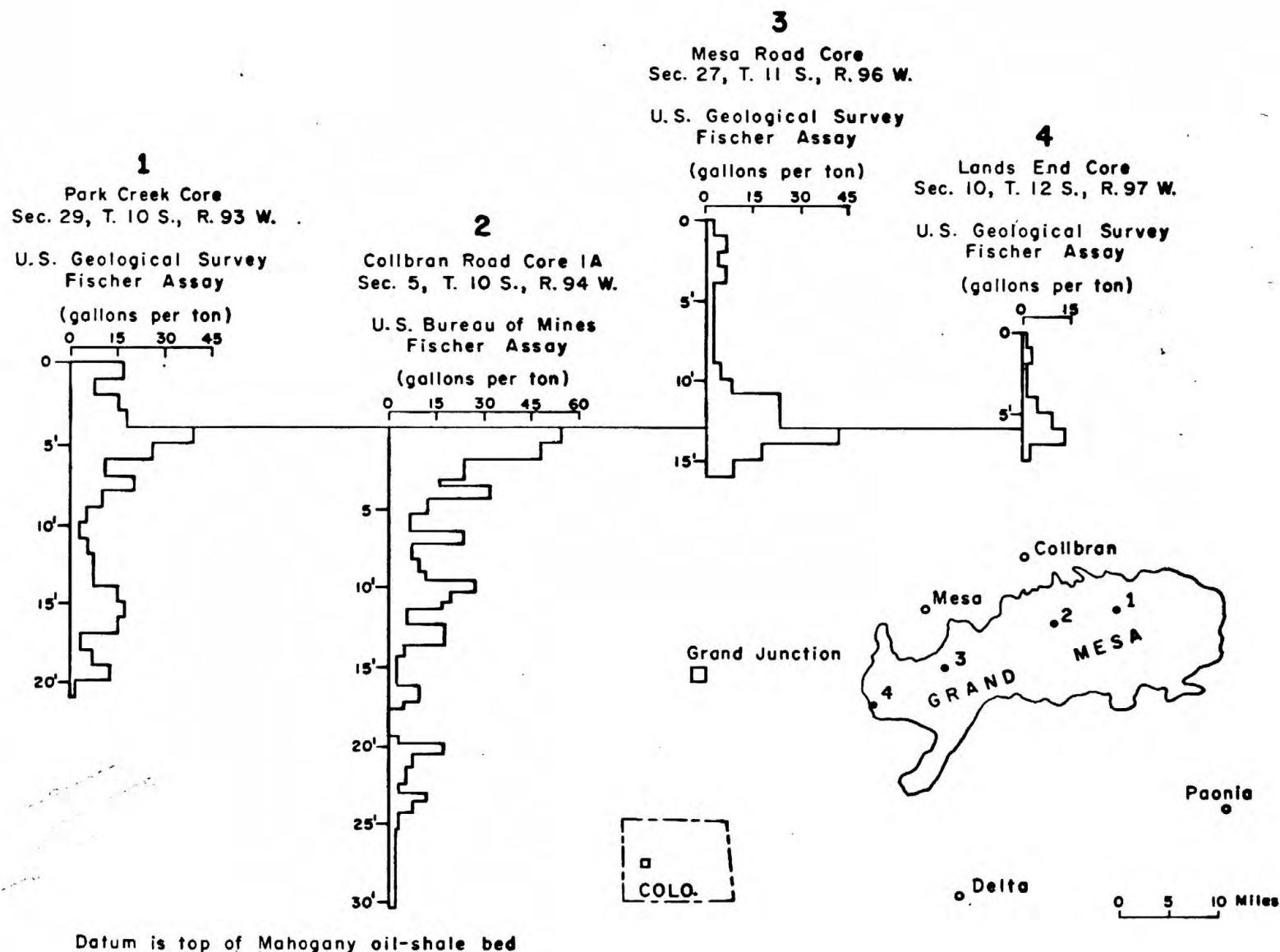
# OIL-SHALE ASSAYS ON GRAND MESA, WEST-CENTRAL COLORADO

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The attached diagram shows the Fischer assay histograms of oil shale from 4 core holes drilled on Grand Mesa. Core-hole locations are shown on an insert map of Grand Mesa in the lower right corner of the diagram.

Oil shale of greatest interest is in the area immediately south of Collbran. Assays of oil shale from core hole 1 indicate that the upper 6 feet of the section shown may be of interest. Unfortunately, basaltic debris from the flow capping Grand Mesa prohibited coring of the 4 or 5 feet just above the Mahogany bed in core hole 2. The uppermost 14.6 feet of core from core hole 2 contains oil shale with an average value of about 19 gallons of oil per ton, and the uppermost 17.4 feet of core from core hole 1 contains oil shale that averages about 14 gallons of oil per ton. Field estimates and assays of core indicate that the oil shale from core hole 3 probably is thinner and leaner than that in the vicinity of core hole 1 and that the oil shale in the vicinity of core hole 4 is the thinnest and leanest of any area cored.

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