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**GAS PLAYS OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1995
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT THAT UNDERLIE REGIONALLY
EXTENSIVE SURFACE VOLCANICS**

by

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INTRODUCTION

Regionally extensive surface volcanic fields degrade the resolution of both geological and geophysical exploration methods, thereby increasing drilling risk by masking the nature of source rocks, reservoirs, traps, and seals. In addition, drilling through thick volcanic sequences is costly relative to drilling in typical sedimentary rocks. For these reasons, gas plays underlying surface volcanic fields might be particularly amenable to research directed toward improving exploration and development technology.

The purpose of this report is to compile and describe geologically based natural-gas plays underlying regionally extensive surface-volcanic areas of the United States. The report thus provides background material for research planning.

The most recent assessment of United States oil and gas resources for which results are documented by data at the play level is the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 1995 National Assessment of the onshore United States and adjacent State waters (Gautier and others, 1995; U.S. Geological Survey National Oil and Gas Resource Assessment Team, 1995). As part of the USGS 1995 National Assessment, regional experts (province geologists) were charged with systematically identifying and describing the gas plays of their assessment provinces. For the present study, the identification of gas plays underlying regional volcanic fields is based on documents of the USGS 1995 National Assessment.

Eight plays underlying three thick and extensive surface volcanic fields are identified here (Table 1; Figure 1) and are described in following sections. All of these plays are hypothetical, meaning that none has a discovered accumulation of 6 billion cubic feet of gas (bcfg) or larger. Nevertheless, these plays are based upon established concepts of petroleum geology together with the known geology of an area.

The three volcanic fields and the gas plays underlying them are (Table 1; Figure 1): 1) Miocene Columbia River basalts east of the Cascade Range in Washington and Oregon, underlain by plays 501-503; 2) Holocene and Pleistocene Snake River basalts in southern Idaho, underlain by plays 1701-1704; and 3) Eocene Absaroka volcanics in the western Bighorn Basin, Wyoming, underlain by play 3405.

PLAYS UNDERLYING COLUMBIA RIVER BASALTS EAST OF CASCADE RANGE IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON

Overview - Eastern Washington Province (5)* *(modified from Tennyson, 1995)*

The surface of the Eastern Oregon-Washington Province is dominated by the middle to late Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group, a series of basalt flows at least 10,000 ft thick, which erupted from feeders in easternmost Oregon and Washington and adjoining Idaho. This province is bounded on the west by the Cascade Range, on the north by the Canadian border, on the east by the Idaho state line, and on the south by the northern limit of the Great Basin in central Oregon.

Paleogene nonmarine sedimentary and volcanic rocks were deposited extensively across

* Province and play numbers are those of the USGS 1995 National Assessment (Gautier and others, 1995).

the region during an episode of regional transtension and diffuse arc volcanism. Thick sequences of Paleocene to Eocene fluvial arkosic sandstone and interbedded mudstone and coal are widespread but discontinuous within the province. In central Washington, for example, Eocene nonmarine arkosic sedimentary rocks exceed 20,000 ft in thickness in the northwest-trending Chiwaukum Graben, whereas such rocks are only locally present and at most a few hundred feet thick in north-central and northeastern Oregon. Exploratory drilling and magnetotelluric surveys have confirmed the presence of 5,000-10,000 ft of nonmarine arkose, mudstone, coal, and volcanic rocks below the Columbia River Basalt Group in central Washington.

The only commercial oil or gas production from the Eastern Oregon-Washington Province was from the small Rattlesnake Hills gas field in southern Washington (Hammer, 1934), which was discovered during the drilling of a water well in 1913. Rattlesnake Hills field was developed in 1930 and produced an estimated 1.3 bcfg (McFarland, 1979) from two vesicular zones in basalt flows sealed by clay interbeds, at depths between 700 and 1,300 ft. The gas probably was generated from Eocene coal in the nonmarine sequence below the basalt (Johnson and others, 1993). The field was abandoned in 1941.

During the 1980's, several important test wells demonstrated the presence of thick, lower Tertiary, nonmarine sedimentary sequences beneath basalt in the northwest part of the province (Campbell and Reidel, 1994). Most of these wells had gas shows. Some drill-stem tests were run, but flow rates did not warrant commercial development.

Two conventional gas plays were defined in the USGS 1995 National Assessment in the Eastern Oregon-Washington Province: the Northwestern Columbia Plateau Gas Play (501) and the Central and Northeastern Oregon Paleogene Gas Play (502). One unconventional gas play was defined: the Columbia Basin - Basin-Centered Gas Play (503).

Northwestern Columbia Plateau Gas Play (501) *(modified from Tennyson, 1995)*

This play coincides with the inferred extent, beneath the Columbia River Basalt Group, of a sequence of lower Tertiary fluvial and lacustrine sedimentary rocks that is many thousands of feet thick. These source and reservoir rocks were deposited in fault-controlled sub-basins and are interbedded with volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks. The boundaries of this play depend on the inferred presence of sedimentary rocks beneath the basalt and thus are somewhat conjectural.

Potential reservoir rocks consist of Eocene or Oligocene arkosic fluvial sandstones of the Swauk, Chumstick, Roslyn, and Wenatchee Formations, and possibly fractured, vesicular basalt flows of the Columbia River Basalt Group. Porosity of up to 16 percent has been reported in sandstone from three of the wells that penetrated this section (Lingley and Walsh, 1986). Zeolitization is widespread in outcrops of the Chumstick Formation and probably is also present, and reduces permeability, in the subsurface.

Potential source rocks are lacustrine and fluvial shales in the Swauk and Chumstick Formations and possibly coal sequences in the Roslyn Formation. Reported total organic carbon (TOC) values from outcrops are 0-6 wt percent (V. Frizzell, USGS, unpublished data, 1982). Organic matter is mostly type III kerogen. Vitrinite reflectance (R_o) values of 0.24-1.38 percent in exposed rocks indicate that thermal maturity beneath the basalt is probably adequate for gas generation.

Potential traps include large Miocene and younger anticlines and thrust faults (Lingley and Walsh, 1986). Stratigraphic traps are also possible but would be difficult to find. Seals

might be shale interbeds in the fluvial sequences and basalt flows. Some basalt flows might also function as seals.

Eight deep exploratory wells have been drilled in the play since the 1950's. Several of these were drilled to sub-basalt depths of 6,000-11,000 ft (maximum total depth is 17,518 ft), proving the presence of at least 11,000 ft of sedimentary rocks in part of the area (Lingley and Walsh, 1986). Most of the wells had gas shows. Drill-stem tests in one well yielded 5-6 million cubic feet of gas (mmcf) per day.

Play 501 is considered to have a high probability of at least a few, and possibly many, small gas accumulations, and a lower probability (0.60) of at least one gas accumulation exceeding 6 bcfg. Significant flows of gas were tested in several of the wells that penetrated the basalt, but reservoir strata of adequate quality, thickness, and lateral persistence to contain a conventional gas accumulation larger than a few tens of bcfg have not been demonstrated, despite the possible presence of traps large enough to hold hundreds of bcfg.

Central and Northeastern Oregon Paleogene Gas Play (502) *(modified from Tennyson, 1995)*

This play lies south of play 501 (Figure 1) and represents an area where potential reservoir and source-rock units are known or inferred to be coextensive. The boundaries of play 502 are somewhat conjectural, because thick volcanic sequences obscure the distribution of both source and reservoir rocks.

A variety of potential reservoir rocks are present in this play. Outcrop samples of fluvial or deltaic sandstone of the Paleocene or Eocene Herren Formation of Shorey (1976) have average porosity of 12 percent (range 8-21 percent) and average permeability of 8 millidarcies (md) (range 0.4-73 md) (Riddle, 1990). This unit is, at most, about 2,000 ft thick and consists of feldspathic sandstone, carbonaceous shale, and coal, the distributions of which are poorly known. The Herren Formation overlies Mesozoic accreted terranes and underlies the Eocene Clarno Formation. Lithic arkose and volcanoclastic rocks of the Clarno Formation have average porosity of 17 percent (range 4-38 percent) and average permeability of 8 md (Riddle, 1990). Fractured vesicular flows within the Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group are also possible gas reservoirs.

Several potential source rocks are present within play 502. Cretaceous mudstone that crops out near Mitchell, Oregon, contains 0.21 to 3 wt percent TOC (Fisk and Fritts, 1987; Sidle and Richers, 1985). Samples of carbonaceous mudstone and lignitic coal from the Herren Formation contain 0.04-24 wt percent TOC. Samples of the Clarno Formation contain 0.17-4.5 wt percent TOC, and Clarno lignite also has potential as a source of gas (Kuo, 1988). Subsurface samples of the Clarno Formation yield R_o values of 0.33 to 0.85 percent (Kuo, 1988), but these values may not represent the deeper portions of the play. A high geothermal gradient is likely in this volcanic province, and a geothermal "event" in early Miocene time might have caused regional maturation (Summer and Verosub, 1992). Asphalt-filled fractures and cavities are reported from numerous localities in central Oregon. Gas occurs in water wells, and gas and oil shows are present in exploratory wells.

Miocene and younger folds and faults may form structural traps. Some folds are large, with wavelengths of several miles. Stratigraphic traps are possible in fluvial rocks of the Herren Formation. Volcanic rocks and shale interbedded with and overlying potential reservoir units are likely seals. Depths of traps could range from a few hundred feet to more than 10,000 ft.

Only about 20 exploratory wells have been drilled in the large play area. An 8,726-ft-deep well on the north flank of the Blue Mountains uplift, drilled in 1957, encountered Clarno Formation volcanics overlying Mesozoic basement. A well more than 9,000 ft deep, drilled in 1989 north of Heppner (Withers and others, 1994), targeted pre-Clarno formations but was abandoned within the Clarno Formation. Several wells in the Ochoco sub-basin drilled between 1955 and 1981 demonstrated the presence of sedimentary rocks beneath the Columbia River basalts but found no commercial hydrocarbon accumulations. Gas shows have been reported in a number of wells, and 4 mmcft was produced from the Clarno Formation in one well near the town of Clarno (L.H. Fisk, personal communication, 1993). Little exploration activity has occurred in recent years.

Given the large area of play 502 and the number of untested traps, along with widespread seeps and shows, at least a few small accumulations are likely to be present. The possibility of one or more larger accumulations (tens of bcf) exists, although this possibility is not considered likely because the lateral persistence of adequate reservoir rocks is undemonstrated.

Columbia Basin - Basin-Centered Gas Play (503) *(modified from Law, 1995)*

Play 503 is an example of a new category of unconventional, nonassociated-gas plays, termed "continuous" gas plays, defined for the USGS 1995 National Assessment (Schmoker, 1995). The reservoir rock of a continuous gas play is everywhere charged with gas. The entities of the play are not discrete fields, but rather the contiguous gas-charged cells of which the play is composed.

Important characteristics of a continuous gas accumulation that can be recognized in individual wells are abnormal pressure (overpressured or underpressured), thermal maturity at the top of the accumulation between R_o of 0.75 and 1.0 percent, and gas as the pressuring phase. Identification of play 503 as an unconventional (continuous) play is based in large part upon these criteria (Law and others, 1994).

Play 503 underlies the widespread Miocene Columbia River Basalt Group in eastern Washington. Its boundaries coincide with those of play 501 (Figure 1). The continuous (unconventional) gas accumulation of play 503 is below and perhaps lateral to the proposed discrete, conventional gas accumulations of play 501.

Throughout most of the play area, subvolcanic rocks consist of lower Tertiary fluvial and lacustrine strata of highly variable thickness. Subsurface data from five widely spaced wells suggest the presence of a continuous, basin-centered gas accumulation within these lower Tertiary strata. The well data show that an overpressured interval begins at depths ranging from 9,500 to 12,700 ft and is at least 6,400 ft thick. Within this overpressured interval, gas has been recovered on drill-stem tests, with little or no produced water. The spatial dimensions of the proposed continuous gas accumulation are imprecisely known, because of insufficient deep drilling and uncertainties as to the geometry of pre-volcanic sub-basins.

Potential reservoir rocks consist of Eocene arkosic fluvial sandstones. The quality of these reservoirs is uncertain. Diagenesis of volcanic material has probably reduced permeabilities. Porosity values ranging from 6 to 15 percent have been calculated from well logs (Lingley and Walsh, 1986).

Source rocks are assumed to be interbedded coals and carbonaceous lacustrine and fluvial shales. Source-rock studies in Washington and Oregon indicate that nearly all organic matter in the region is type III (gas prone) kerogen. The level of thermal maturity is sufficiently high to

generate gas. The proposed continuous gas accumulation occupies a basin-center position, downdip from water-bearing strata, and does not depend on conventional structural or stratigraphic traps for its existence.

What little exploration activity has taken place in the play area has focused on conventional structural plays. Play 503 is immaturely explored in the context of a continuous, basin-centered gas accumulation. Five wells appear to have penetrated a continuous gas accumulation and several production tests have been made. These tests flowed gas at initial rates as high as 3.1 mmcfd per day. The large thickness and areal extent of the proposed continuous (unconventional) gas accumulation in play 503 result in a large estimate by the USGS (Gautier and others, 1995) for potential additions to technically recoverable resources (Table 1).

PLAYS UNDERLYING SNAKE RIVER BASALTS IN SOUTHERN IDAHO

Overview - Idaho-Snake River Downwarp Province (17) *(modified from Peterson, 1995)*

The southern part of the Idaho-Snake River Downwarp Province includes the late Tertiary Snake River Downwarp. The Snake River Downwarp is an arcuate structural graben about 350 mi long and 50-100 mi wide extending across southern Idaho from southeastern Oregon to Yellowstone National Park. Initial rifting may have begun in late Miocene time (Warner, 1977). The surface of the Snake River Downwarp (the Snake River Plain) is dominated by basalts of Pleistocene and Holocene age (Malde and Powers, 1962; Armstrong and others, 1975). Relatively recent volcanic activity might locally have provided sufficient heat to generate thermogenic gas from potential source rocks that regionally are thermally immature.

Prior to development of the Snake River Downwarp, the area of southwestern Idaho was occupied by a basin in which sediments of early Tertiary age were probably deposited (Warner, 1980). By early Miocene time, this basin was occupied by a large lake (Lake Bruneau of Miller and Smith, 1967) in which 5,000-7,000 ft of primarily lacustrine sediments of the Miocene Sucker Creek Formation were deposited (Woods, 1994). The Sucker Creek Formation consists of lignitic shale, clay, sandstone, diatomite, volcanic ash and tuff, oolitic and algal limestone, and some lava flows.

Rifting and graben development in Pliocene time initiated development of the modern Snake River Downwarp. A lake formed in the downwarp (Lake Idaho) in which as much as 9,000 ft of Pliocene-Pleistocene fluvial and lacustrine sediments of the Poison Creek, Chalk Hills, and Glenn's Ferry Formations were deposited.

To address the hydrocarbon potential under the basalts of the Snake River Downwarp, four conventional plays updating earlier work by Peterson (1987) were defined in the USGS 1995 National Assessment (Table 1; figure 1): Miocene Lacustrine (Lake Bruneau) Play (1701), Pliocene Lacustrine (Lake Idaho) Play (1702), Pre-Miocene Play (1703), and Older Tertiary Play (1704).

Miocene Lacustrine (Lake Bruneau) Play (1701)
(modified from Peterson, 1995)

This play is based on the presence of thick, primarily lacustrine sediments of the Sucker Creek Formation, in the southwestern half of the Snake River Downwarp. Potential reservoir rocks are lacustrine and perhaps fluvial sandstones and oolitic or algal carbonates.

Potential source rocks are organic-rich lacustrine shales and lignitic shales or coals of Miocene age. Biogenic gas may have been generated soon after burial. Increased heat flow in the Pliocene associated with crustal extension, coupled with burial under the sediments of Lake Idaho, probably raised temperatures of some source rocks high enough for thermal hydrocarbon generation.

Potential traps are considered to be fault blocks, folds, and stratigraphically isolated sandstone or carbonate units, sealed by shaley beds. Drilling depths range from 5,000 ft to as much as 20,000 ft in the southwestern part of the play, but are shallower on the north flank of the play near the northern edge of the downwarp.

Play 1701 is considered to be a high risk, gas-prone play. Numerous gas and some oil shows have been reported in lacustrine beds of the Sucker Creek Formation, in both shallow water wells and wells drilled for petroleum (Warner, 1977, 1980). Temperature gradients are high in much of the area, and reservoir quality may be adversely affected by diagenesis of intermixed volcanic material.

Pliocene Lacustrine (Lake Idaho) Play (1702)
(modified from Peterson, 1995)

This play is based on the presence of thick, fluvial and lacustrine claystone, sandstone, conglomerate, algal and oolitic limestone, and volcanic ash and tuff, of primarily Pliocene age, in the southwestern half of the Snake River Downwarp. Potential reservoir rocks are fluvial and lacustrine sandstones and conglomerates, and oolitic or algal carbonates.

Potential source rocks are organic-rich lacustrine shales and lignitic shales or coals of Pliocene age. Source rocks in much of the play have not been deeply buried and these are likely to have generated more biogenic gas than thermogenic gas.

Potential traps are considered to be fault blocks, folds, and stratigraphically isolated sandstone or carbonate units, sealed by shaley beds. Drilling depths range from very shallow on the north flank of the play near the edge of the downwarp to 10,000 ft or more in the southwestern part of the play.

Play 1702 is considered to be gas prone (primarily biogenic gas) and of very high risk. Because of its low play probability (0.10), this play was not quantitatively assessed in the USGS 1995 National Assessment.

Pre-Miocene Play (1703)
(modified from Peterson, 1995)

This play is based on the possible presence of Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks in Laramide thrusts beneath the northeastern half of the Snake River Downwarp. Potential reservoir rocks are marine carbonates and sandstones, which might be highly fractured and are possibly metamorphosed (Peterson, 1987).

Potential source rocks are shales or shaley carbonates of Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, Permian, Triassic, and Jurassic age, which have probably reached a mature or overmature stage of hydrocarbon generation. Traps of Late Paleozoic or Mesozoic age which might have held

hydrocarbons at some time in the past have probably been destroyed by subsequent tectonic activity. However, more recent traps could be preserved and sealed by impermeable Miocene or Pliocene beds.

Play 1703 is considered to be gas prone and of very high risk. The play would require an unusual combination of structural and stratigraphic factors for a hydrocarbon accumulation of minimum size (6 bcfg) to be present. Because of its low play probability (0.07), this play was not quantitatively assessed in the USGS 1995 National Assessment.

Older Tertiary Play (1704) ***(modified from Peterson, 1995)***

This play is based on the probable presence of a thick section of early Tertiary rocks (potentially partly marine) in the southwestern corner of the Snake River Downwarp. Regional projections suggest that such rocks are likely to be present in the subsurface, but their presence has not been confirmed by drilling. Potential reservoir rocks are fluvial, lacustrine, and possibly marine sandstones and carbonates of early Tertiary age.

Potential source rocks are organic-rich shales, and lagoonal and coaly beds. Source rocks of the early Tertiary section would be buried under the thick, younger Tertiary rocks of plays 1701 and 1702 and probably would have reached a mature or overmature stage of hydrocarbon generation.

Play 1704 is considered to be deep, gas prone, and of very high risk. Quantitative data are sparse to absent. Because of its low play probability (0.06), this play was not quantitatively assessed in the USGS 1995 National Assessment.

PLAY UNDERLYING ABSAROKA VOLCANICS IN WESTERN BIGHORN BASIN, WYOMING

Overview - Bighorn Basin Province (34) ***(modified from Fox and Dolton, 1995)***

The Bighorn Basin is an asymmetric intermontane basin of the Rocky Mountain foreland, located in north-central Wyoming and south-central Montana. Province boundaries are defined by fault-bounded Laramide uplifts that surround the basin. The surface of the western margin of the Bighorn Basin Province, west of Cody, Wyoming (Figure 1), is dominated by Eocene-age volcanic rocks of the Absaroka Volcanic Plateau (Sundell, 1990).

The Bighorn Basin Province is about 175 mi long and 100 mi wide, encompassing an area of 13,200 sq mi. Approximately 2.7 billion barrels of oil and 1,800 bcfg have been discovered (as of year-end 1990) within the province. The majority of production has been from basin-margin anticlinal structures.

The province tends to be oil prone, and the few fields discovered beneath the Absaroka volcanics to date (along the eastern margin of the volcanics) have been oil fields. To address the hydrocarbon potential under the Absaroka volcanics of the western Bighorn Basin Province, one conventional play was defined in the USGS 1995 National Assessment: the Sub-Absaroka Play (3405). Although play 3405 was assessed by the USGS as an oil play, it is included in the present compilation because limited data leave open the possibility of undiscovered nonassociated gas fields.

References relevant to the following discussion include: Bailey and Sundell (1986), Brittenham and Tadewald (1985), Hagen and Surdam (1984), Stone (1985), Sundell (1983, 1990), and Thomas (1965).

Sub-Absaroka Play (3405) *(modified from Fox and Dolton, 1995)*

This play is based on the presence of hydrocarbon-productive Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks of the Bighorn Basin beneath Eocene-age volcanic rocks of the Absaroka Volcanic Plateau. The limits of the play to the north, east, and south coincide with the extent of the Absaroka volcanics. To the west, the play boundary approximates the position of subcropping sedimentary strata, and is near the eastern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

Based on nearby production from structural traps, quartzose sandstone of the Pennsylvanian Tensleep Sandstone is a primary reservoir objective. Other potential reservoir rocks include carbonates of the Mississippian Madison Limestone, Permian Phosphoria and Dinwoody Formations, and sandstones of the Pennsylvanian Darwin, Triassic Chugwater, and Jurassic Curtis Formations. At relatively shallow depths, porosity of the Tensleep Sandstone might be as high as 20 percent. Porosity of Madison, Phosphoria, and Dinwoody reservoirs is anticipated to be in the range of 6-12 percent.

Organic-rich source rocks are present in Paleozoic and Mesozoic formations within the Bighorn Basin. The eastern side of play 3405 is only about 25 mi west of the basin axis, so that some source rocks underlying or downdip from the play are buried deeply enough to generate hydrocarbons. Oil seeps are numerous along fractures in the overlying volcanics.

Potential traps are considered to be Laramide domes and plunging anticlines, which in many cases were faulted and eroded prior to being covered by volcanics. Structures in the eastern part of the play are on trend with producing structures of the Bighorn Basin, which may serve as structural analogs for the play. Impermeable beds within these structures form seals. Fields may have multiple pay zones. Depths of objective intervals probably range between 1,000 and 10,000 ft but are difficult to predict, in part because of the rugged topography of the Absaroka Volcanic Plateau.

Play 3405 has not been extensively explored. However, six small oil fields -- Aspen Creek, Baird Peak, Dickie, Prospect Creek, Prospect Creek South, and Skelton Dome -- have been found beneath (but near the eastern edge of) the volcanics. The potential for significant new-field discoveries is considered to be good, but uncertainty exists as to whether geologic conditions might support nonassociated gas fields.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to compile and describe geologically based natural-gas plays underlying regionally extensive surface-volcanic areas of the United States. The identification of such plays is based on documents of the USGS 1995 National Assessment (Gautier and others, 1995).

Eight plays underlying three surface volcanic fields (Table 1; Figure 1) are identified and described here. All are hypothetical plays for gas, meaning that they have no discovered accumulations of 6 bcfg or larger.

The lack of discovered accumulations that exceed 6 bcfg in these eight plays is considered by the authors to be due in large part to the physical and economic difficulties of exploring beneath thick surface-volcanic sequences. The geologic potential for significant

accumulations in at least some of these plays appears to be good. The plays discussed here remain frontier areas in terms of exploration maturity, as little known and drilled as some of the World's least explored basins.

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Table 1. Gas plays of the USGS 1995 National Assessment (Gautier and others, 1995) that underlie regionally extensive surface volcanics. [A hypothetical play has no discovered accumulations of 6 bcfg or larger. Play probability is an estimate of the chance that at least one accumulation of 6 bcfg or larger exists in the play. F₉₅ represents a 19 in 20 chance and F₅ a 1 in 20 chance of at least the amount of gas tabulated below. bcfg, billion cubic feet of gas.]

PLAY NUMBER AND NAME; PROVINCE NUMBER AND NAME; PROVINCE GEOLOGIST		PLAY STATUS AND (PROBABILITY)	DEPTH (ft): min.; med- ian; max.	UNDISCOVERED, TECHNICALLY RECOVERABLE GAS (bcfg): F ₉₅ ; mean; F ₅
501	Northwestern Columbia Plateau Gas;	hypothetical	500;	0;
5	Eastern Oregon-Washington;	(prob.=0.60)	8,000;	235;
	M.E. Tennyson		15,000	1,120
502	Central and NE Oregon Paleogene Gas;	hypothetical	500;	0;
5	Eastern Oregon-Washington;	(prob.=0.20)	3,000;	78;
	M.E. Tennyson		12,000	653
503	Columbia Basin - Basin-Centered Gas;	hypothetical	9,500;	2,801;
	[continuous (unconventional) play]	(prob.=1.00)	13,000;	12,200;
5	Eastern Oregon-Washington;		17,500	30,873
	B.E. Law			
1701	Miocene Lacustrine (Lake Bruneau);	hypothetical	3,000;	0;
17	Idaho-Snake River Downwarp;	(prob.=0.19)	10,000;	11;
	J.A. Peterson		20,000	68
1702	Pliocene Lacustrine (Lake Idaho);	hypothetical		(play not quantitatively
17	Idaho-Snake River Downwarp;	(prob.=0.10)		assessed)
	J.A. Peterson			
1703	Pre-Miocene;	hypothetical		(play not quantitatively
17	Idaho-Snake River Downwarp;	(prob.=0.07)		assessed)
	J.A. Peterson			
1704	Older Tertiary;	hypothetical		(play not quantitatively
17	Idaho-Snake River Downwarp;	(prob.=0.06)		assessed)
	J.A. Peterson			
3405	Sub-Absaroka;	hypothetical (for gas)	1,000;	(play not
34	Big Horn Basin;	(prob. not	3,000;	quantitatively
	J.E. Fox and G.L. Dolton	estimated)	10,000	assessed for gas)

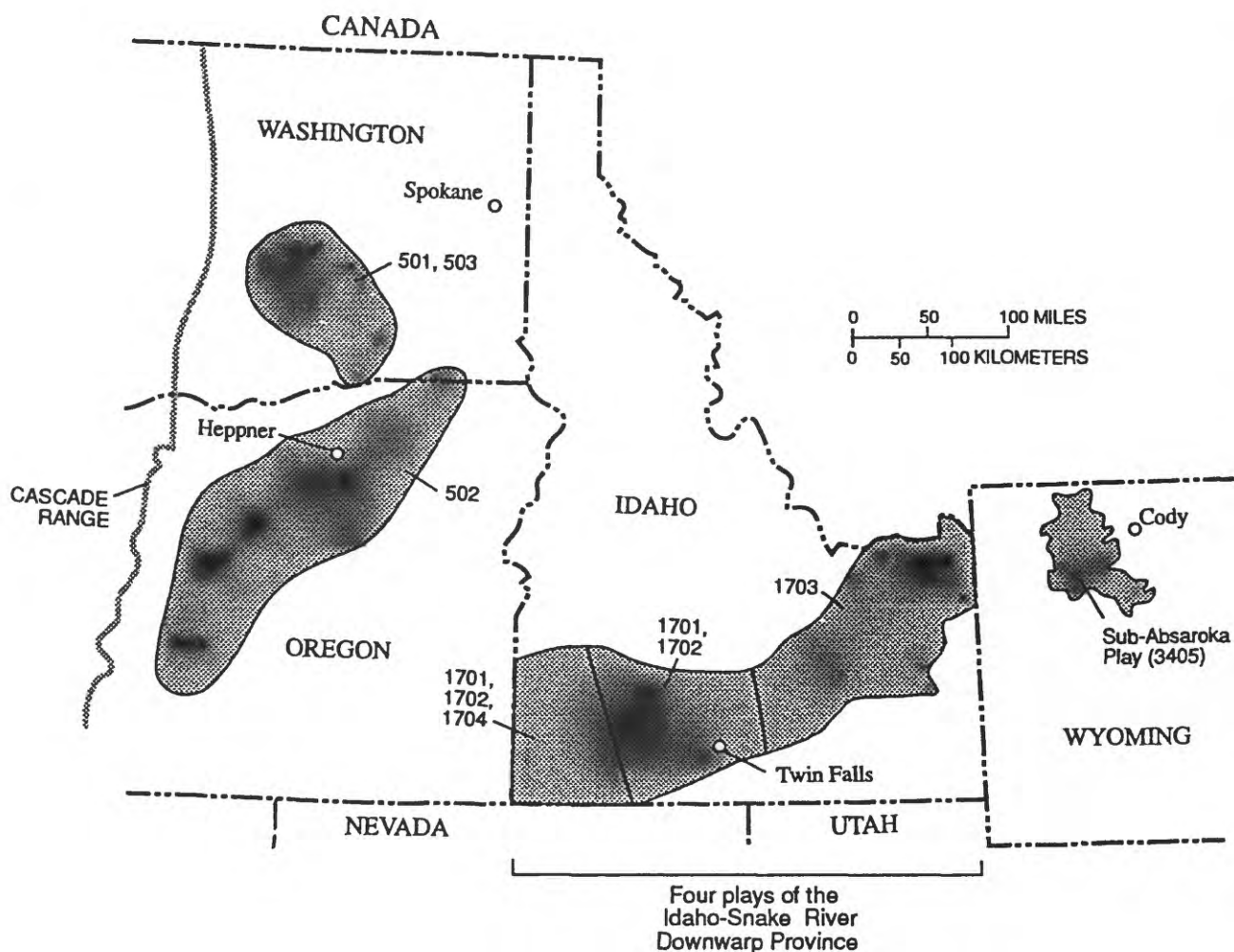


Figure 1. Index map showing the eight plays described in this report. Plays 501, 502, and 503 underlie Columbia River basalts. Plays 1701, 1702, 1703, and 1704 underlie Snake River basalts. Play 3405 underlies Absaroka volcanics. Additional information for each play is given in Table 1.