



# Uinta Basin Carbonsafe II: Storage Complex Feasibility

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# Acknowledgement

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We acknowledge our project manager, Ashley Urosek, and the management team, for their great support.

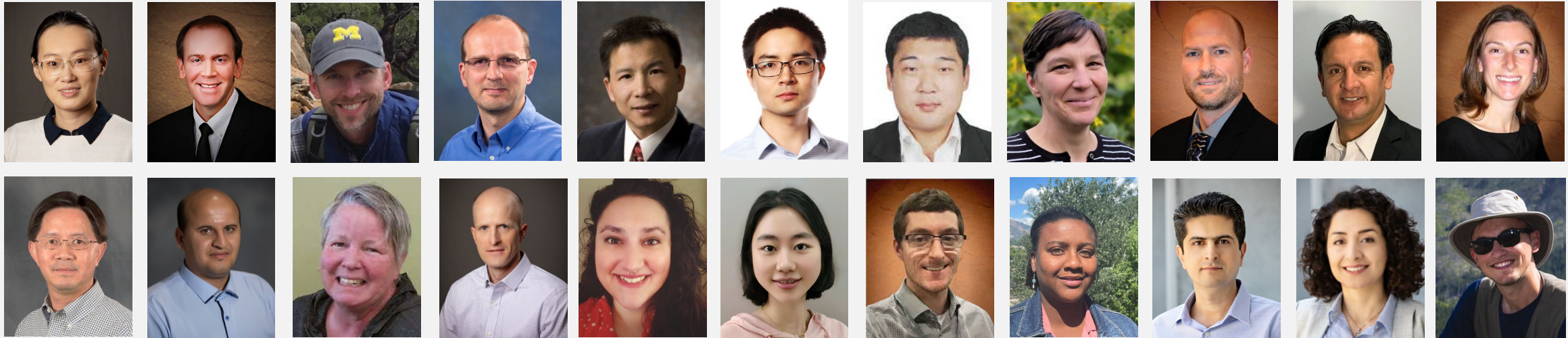
Uinta Basin  
**CarbonSAFE**





# Our Project Team

## Key Personnel



## Collaborative Institutes



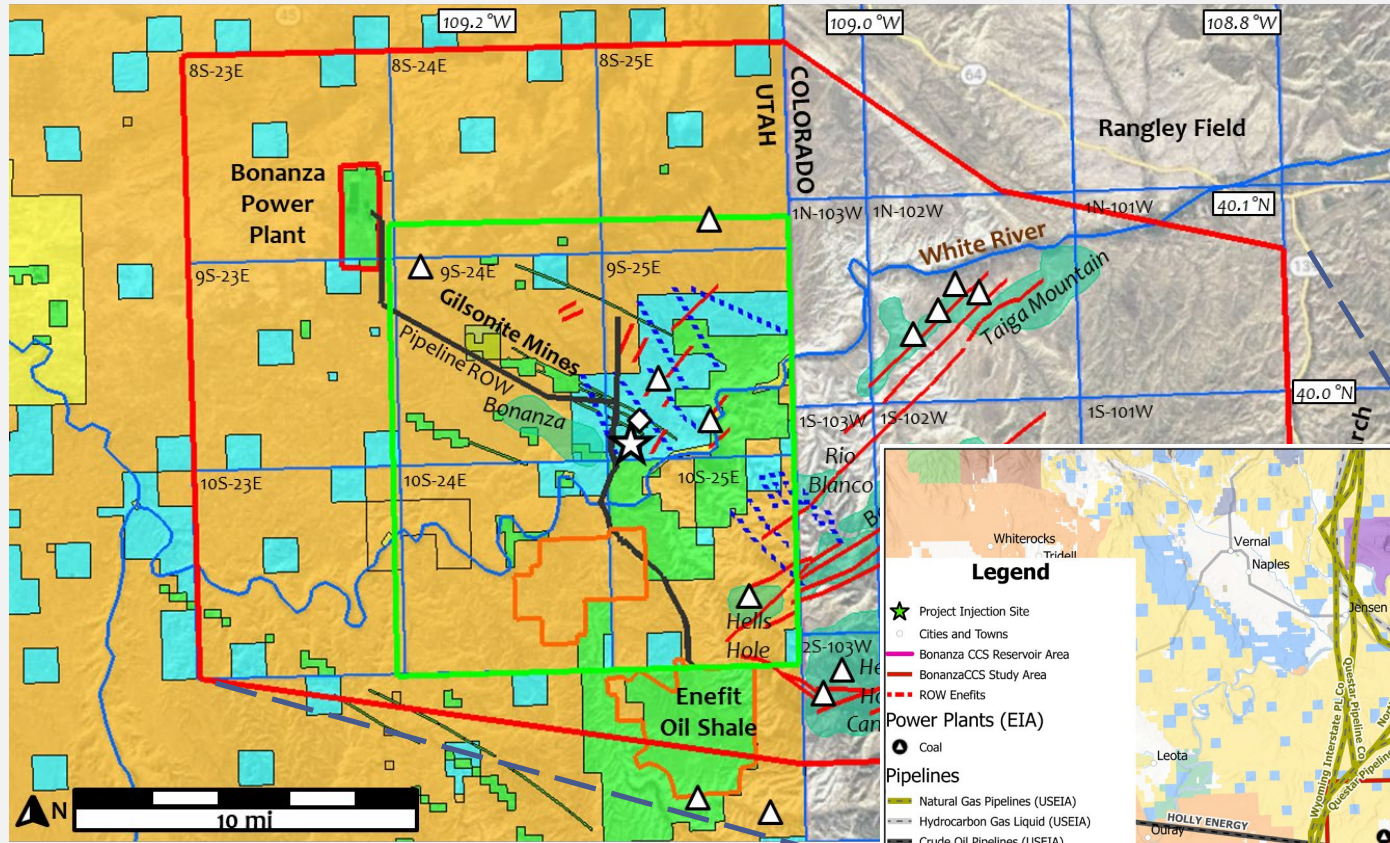
# Project Goals

## ***Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE II: Storage Complex Feasibility***

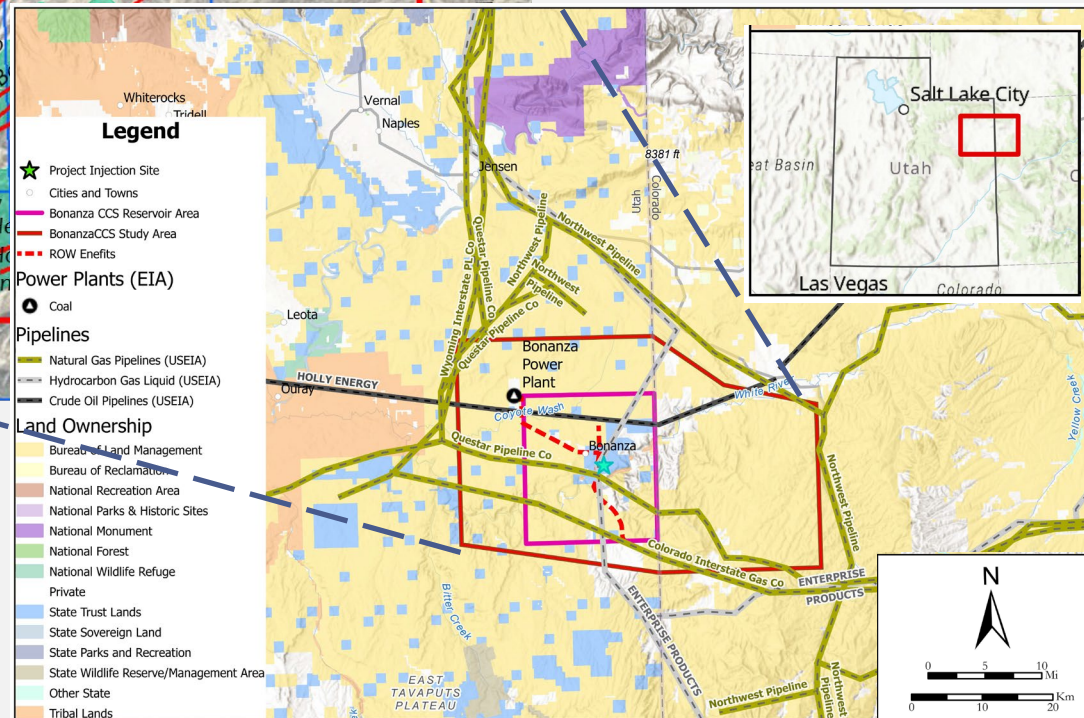
To establish the technical and economic feasibility of a commercial-scale CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage complex in the east Uinta Basin, Utah, to securely and economically sequester 50 million metric tons of captured CO<sub>2</sub> over 30 years.



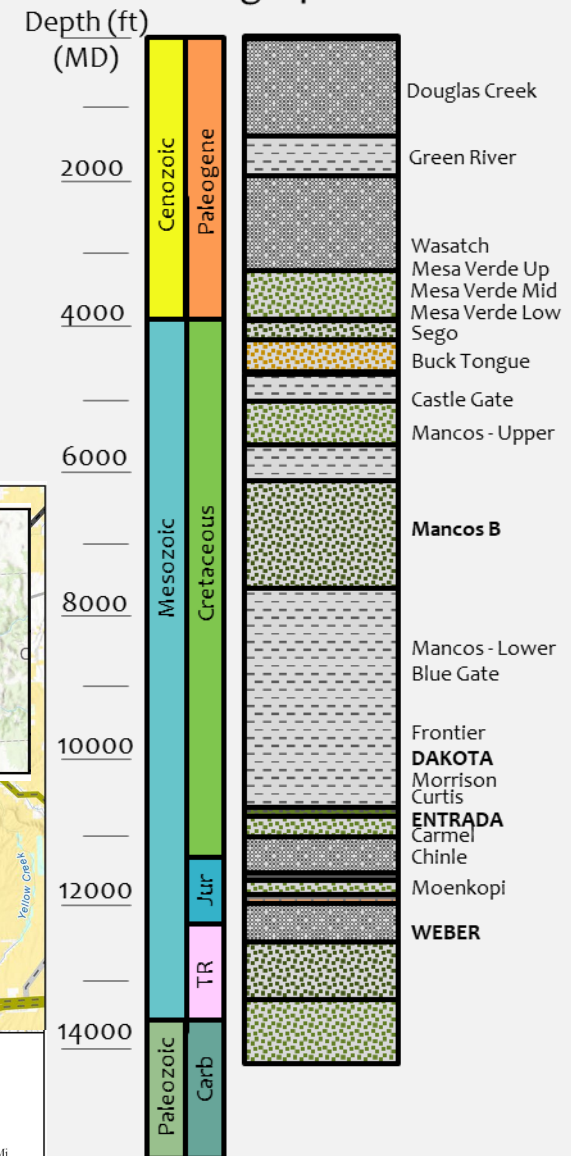
# Regional Overview



- LEGEND**
- CarbonSAFE PHASE II Study
- Area of Study
  - ★ Proposed Injection Site
  - CCS Storage Area
  - ◇ Proposed Stratigraphic Well
- Oil and Gas Operations**
- Oil and Gas Fields
  - Enefit Oil Shale Mines
  - Enefit Pipeline Right-Of-Way
- Utah Land Ownership**
- Tribal
  - Private
  - State (SITLA)
  - Federal
- Geological Features and Data**
- △ Wells with Cores / Cuttings / Logs
  - ~ Faults
  - ~ Legacy 2D Seismic Lines



## Stratigraphic Column



# Tasks and Leadership

## Task 1 Project Management



- Management
- Reporting
- Project Coordination



Ting Xiao

## Task 2 Community Benefits Plans



- DEIA
- Justice40
- Public Engagement
- Workforce Engagement



Erin Middleton

## Task 3 Site Characterization



- Data Evaluation
- Strat Well Drilling



Michael Vanden Berg



Carlos Vega

## Task 4 Modeling & Simulation



- Model Development
- Storage Capacity
- Storage Scenarios
- AoR



Nathan Moodie

## Task 5 Risks & Mitigation Plans



- Non-Technical Risks
- Leakage
- Induced Seismicity
- Transportation Risks
- Risk Mitigation Plans



Bailian Chen

## Task 6 CO<sub>2</sub> Management & Monitoring Plan



- CO<sub>2</sub> Management Plan
- CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring Plan



Sai Wang



Maohong Fan

## Task 7 Subsequent Characterization & UIC Class VI Permitting Plans



- Site Characterization Plan
- UIC Class VI Permitting Plan



Michael Vanden Berg



Sai Wang

## Task 8 Technical & Economic Feasibility Evaluation



- CO<sub>2</sub> Source Viability
- CO<sub>2</sub> Transportation Options
- Economic Feasibility



Richard Middleton



Maohong Fan



# Tasks 1. Project Management and Planning

## Project Website:

<https://egi.utah.edu/uinta-basin-carbonsafe/>

## Events:

- Field Trip: January 23rd, Bonanza, Utah
- Project Kick-off Meeting: January 24th, Vernal, Utah





# Tasks 1. Project Management and Planning

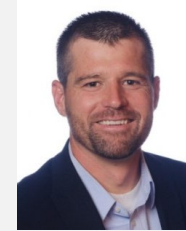
## Advisory Board Members



Richard Powell  
UIC Program Manager,  
Utah Division of OGM



Tyler Esplin  
Sr. Engineer,  
Deseret Power



Tyson Todd  
Area & Lease Manager,  
SITLA



Steve Handy  
Former State Legislator,  
State of Utah



Craig Brown  
General Manager,  
American Gilsonite



Seth Lyman  
Director,  
Bingham Research Center



Ryan Clerico  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Enefit American Oil



Travis Campbell  
Director,  
Uintah County  
Economic Development



Seth Taylor  
Director of Energy Services,  
Uintah Basin Technical College

# Tasks 1. Project Management and Planning



CCS Introduction Video

## Publications

- Vega-Ortiz, C., Moodie, N., Vanden Berg, M. D., Xiao, T., McPherson, B., Geological feasibility and volumetric estimation for CCS project in the Uinta Basin, USA. Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change, Under review.
- Xiao, T., McPherson, B., Bakelli, O., Cheng, S., Zhu, D., Xu, L., Middleton, E., A review of public perceptions and engagement for carbon capture, utilization, and storage. Renewable Sustainable Energy Rev., Under review.
- Xiao, T., Vega, C., Moodie, N., Vanden Berg, M. D., Blanchard, F., McPherson, B., Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE Phase II: An overview. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, December 11-15, 2023.
- Xiao, T., McPherson, B., Tian, H., Early-Stage Risk Assessment for a Potential Commercial-Scale Geological Carbon Storage Site in Utah, USA. The 37th International Geological Congress, Busan, Korea, Aug 25-31, 2024.
- Xiao, T., Birgenheier, L., Vanden Berg, M. D., Vega-Ortiz, C., Moodie, N., Middleton, E., Wang, S., Middleton, R., Fan, M., Chen, B., McPherson, B., Research Overview of the Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE Phase II Project. GSA Annual Meeting, Anaheim, California, Sep 22-25, 2024.
- Melnyk, S., Birgenheier, L., Vanden Berg, M.D., St. Pierre, G., Bailey, N., submitted. Evaluating the CO<sub>2</sub> storage potential of the Entrada Sandstone in the eastern Uinta Basin, Utah. Rocky Mountain Section – American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Park City, Utah, Oct 6 – 8, 2024.

# Tasks 2. Community Benefits Plans

## Task Progress

CBP component	Activity	Due date	Progress
<b>Community and Labor Engagement</b>	Create an advisory board.	First 90 Days	Advisory board attended the Kick-Off meeting and has on-going consultation with project PI.
	Establish multiple engagement opportunities, including project website, informational videos, engagement with advisory board, and routine outreach events.	End of project	Creating Stakeholder Matrix to inform engagement; Creating student-led information videos; Attending local conferences; Meeting with regional educational orgs
<b>Investing in Job Quality and a Skilled Workforce</b>	Develop a course in CCUS with a focus on geologic sequestration, will be available to students and professionals as part of the development of EGI's new Resilient Energy Certificate program.	End of project	Class completed in Spring 2024; Viability of certificate program in Fall 2025.
<b>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility</b>	Organize training related to DEIA and principles in community-based research (CBR).	First 60 days	Task leads and students completed Best Practices in Community-Based Research projects training.
	Attend training organized by the UU on working with tribal governments, with special emphasis on long-term planning and energy.	Middle of project	Slated for Fall 2025.
	Employ students or researchers from underrepresented communities/underrepresented groups in the STEM workforce.	End of project	Students are working this summer; helping to create videos.
<b>Justice40 Initiative</b>	Create a geodatabase of stakeholders, physical data, geographic data, and demographic data to facilitate understanding of areas of concern to the community.	60 days before end of project	Collaborating with UGS and UU staff to understand existing and proposed work.



# Tasks 2. Community Benefits Plans

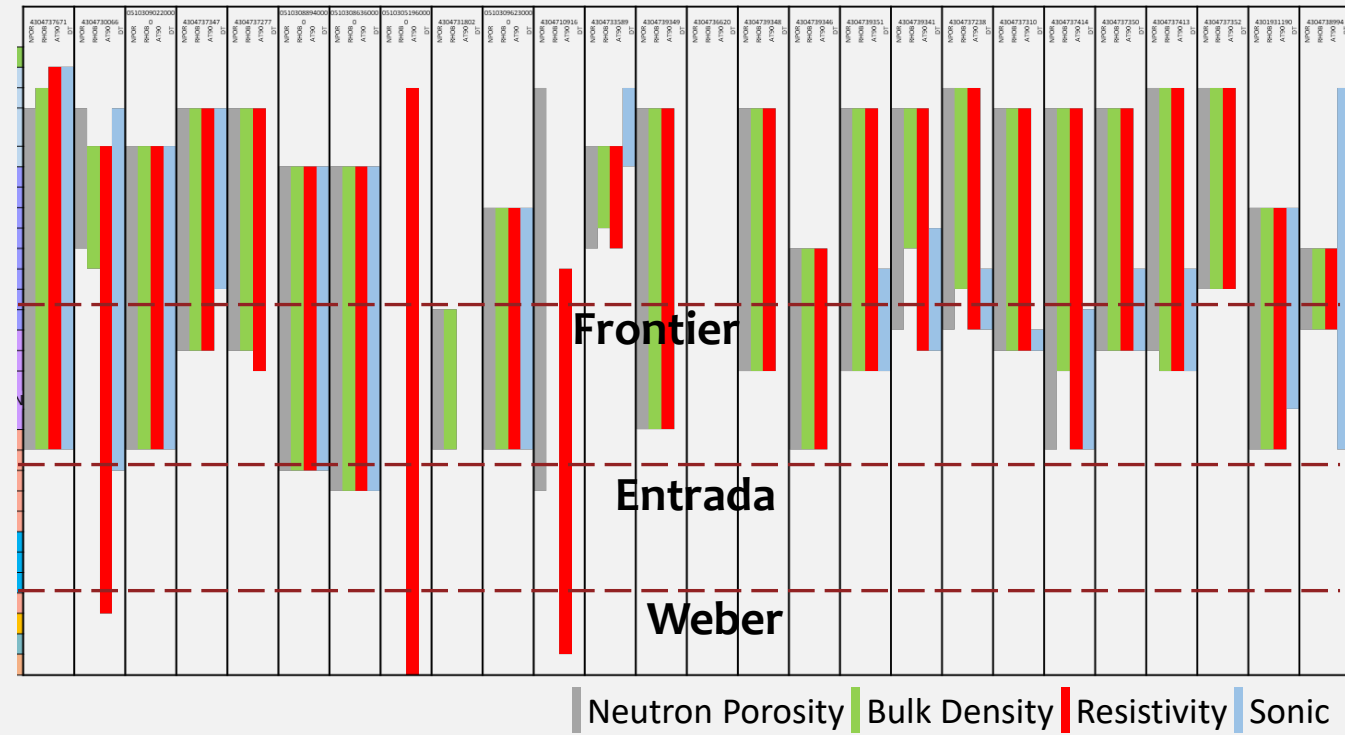
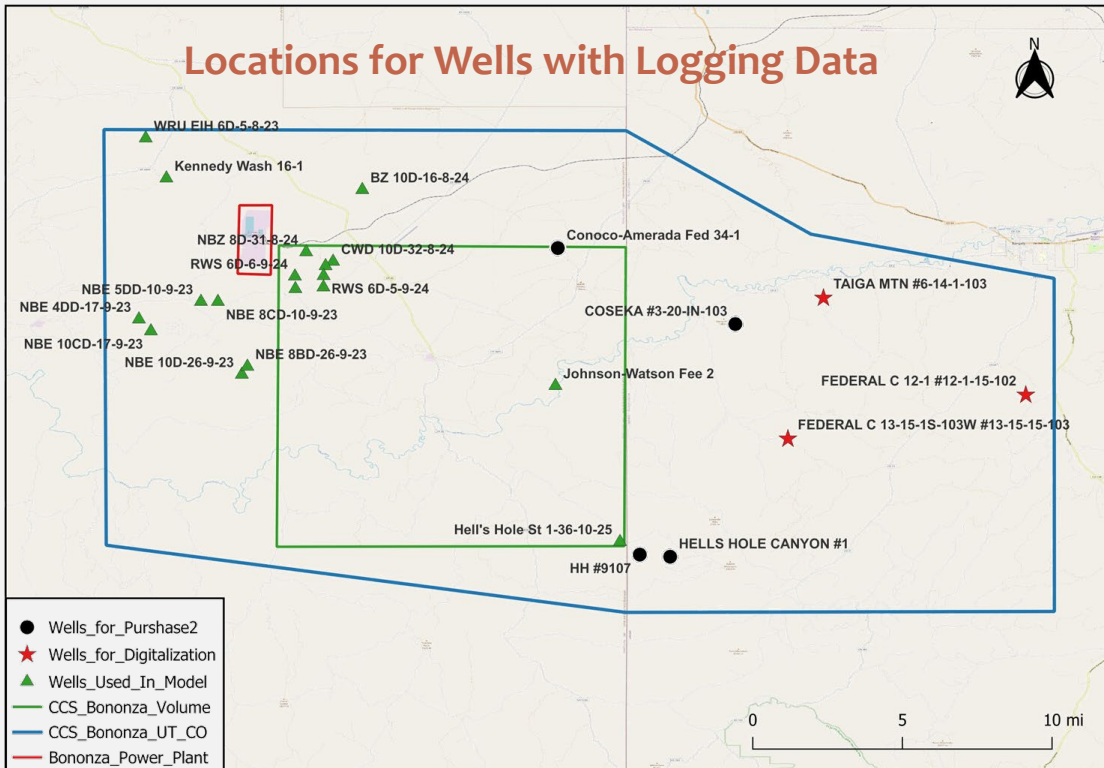
Organization Name	Type of Engagement	Time	Event
<b>Ute Tribe Education Department</b>	Community input/Education	1/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Uintah Basin Technical College</b>	Community input/Education	1/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Utah Petroleum Association</b>	Community input	3/12/2024	Attended their conference
<b>Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining</b>	Technical assistance	3/21/2024	Uintah Basin Oil & Gas Collaborative - project update
<b>Utah Office of Energy Development</b>	Energy policy developer	5/8/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Deseret Power (Bonanza)</b>	Source of CO2	5/13/2024	Office visit
<b>Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs</b>	Community input	6/12/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Utah State Historic Preservation Office</b>	Community input	6/12/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Utah Association of Energy Users</b>	Community input	6/18/2024	Discussion
<b>Utah Department of Public Utilities</b>	Community input	6/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Utah Department of Workforce Services</b>	Community input	6/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Ute Tribe Employment Rights Office (UTERO)</b>	Community input	7/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Uintah County</b>	Community-engaged project	7/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Naples City</b>	Community-engaged project	7/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Vernal City</b>	Community-engaged project	7/18/2024	Office visit and discussion
<b>Ute Energy</b>	Community input	7/18/2024	Office visit with a flyer

# Tasks 3. Storage Complex Characterization

## Well Log Data Collection

Sources (26 wells collected):

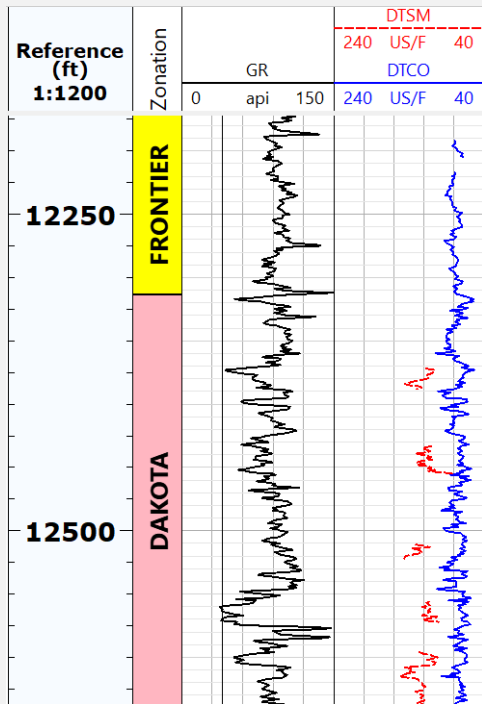
- Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
- Utah Geological Survey
- Colorado Geological Survey
- Commercial databases



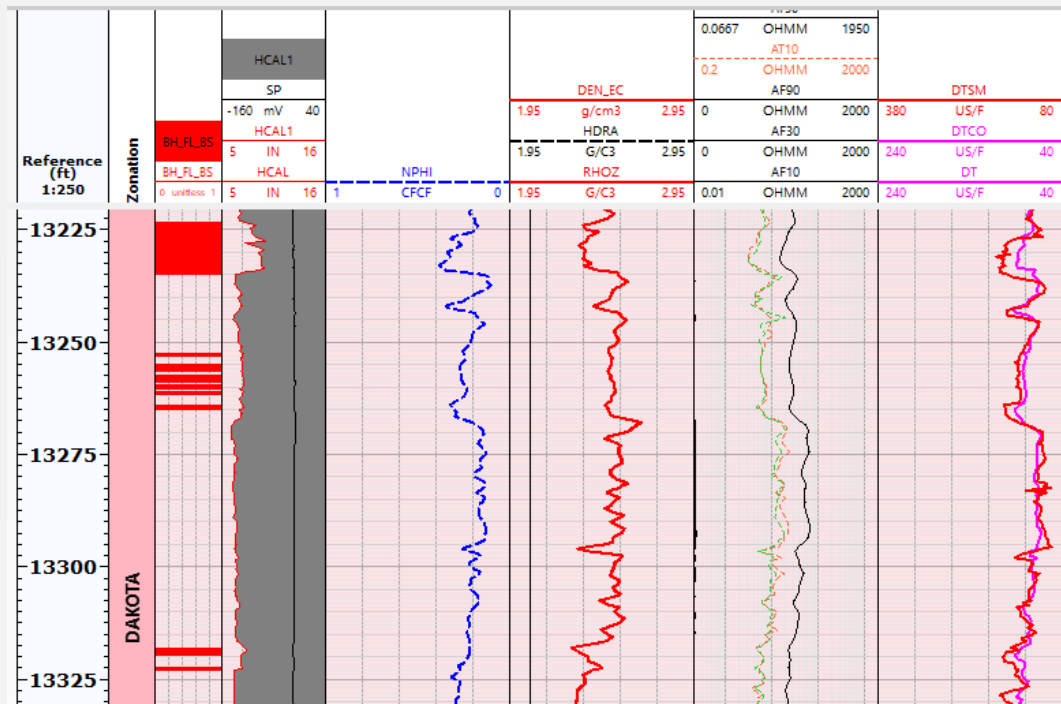
Challenge: limited wells going deep

# Tasks 3. Storage Complex Characterization

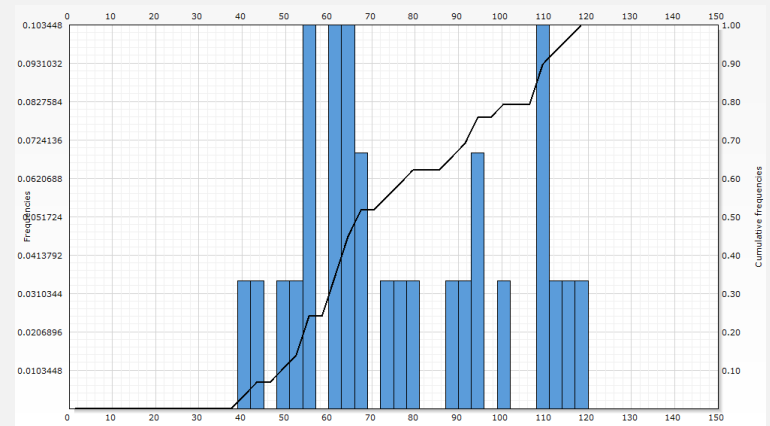
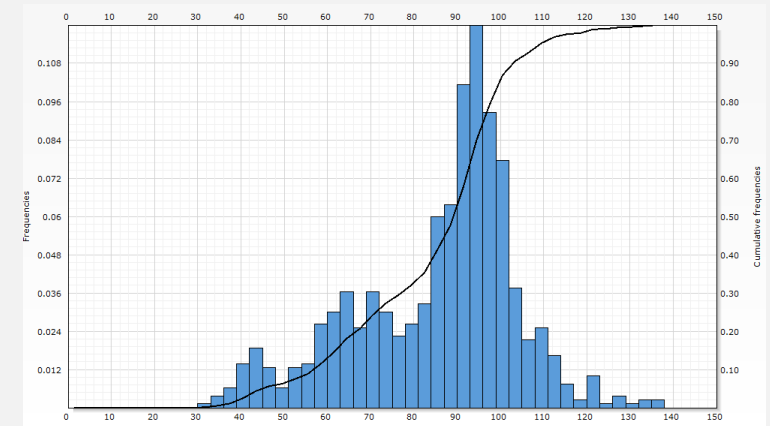
## Well Log Data Assessment



Well with Missing Data



Log with Bad Borehole Conditions



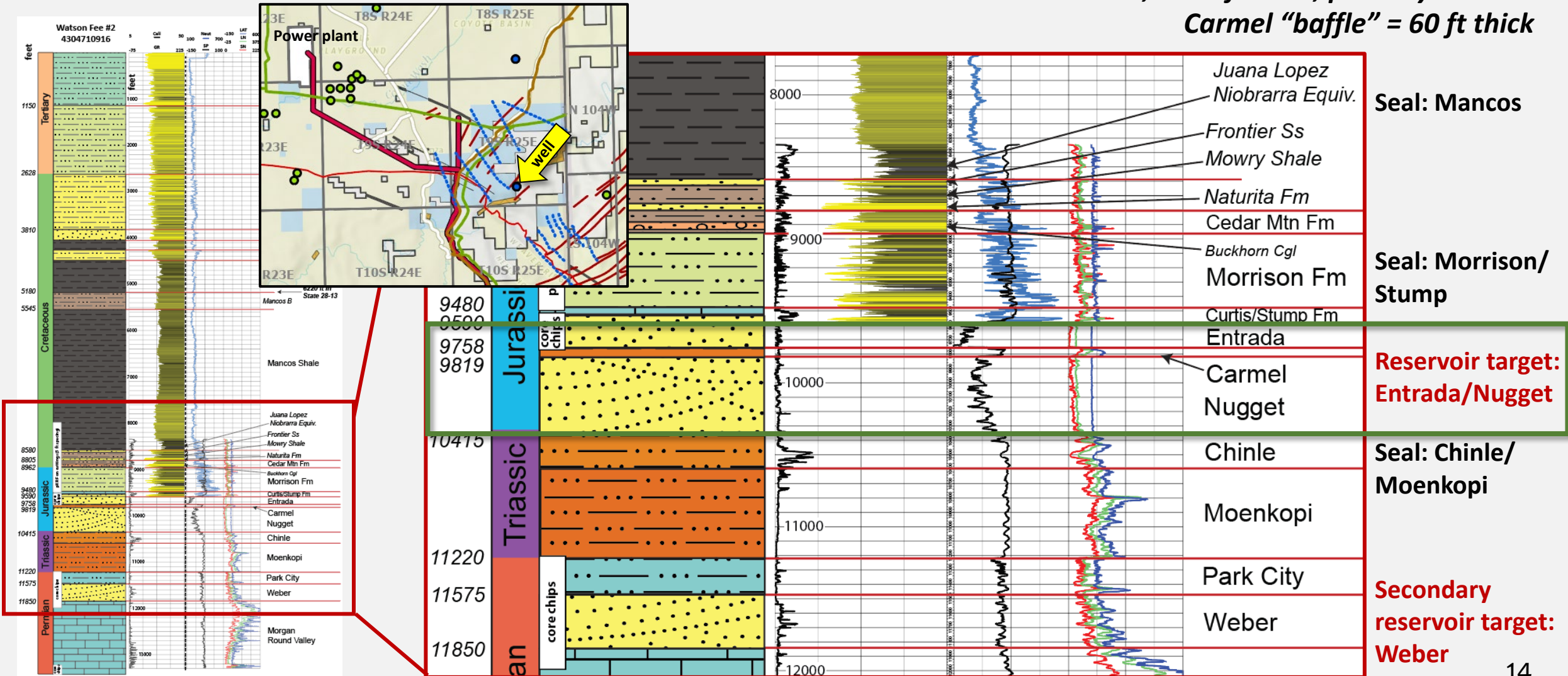
Consistent & Inconsistent GR Log Data



# Tasks 3. Storage Complex Characterization

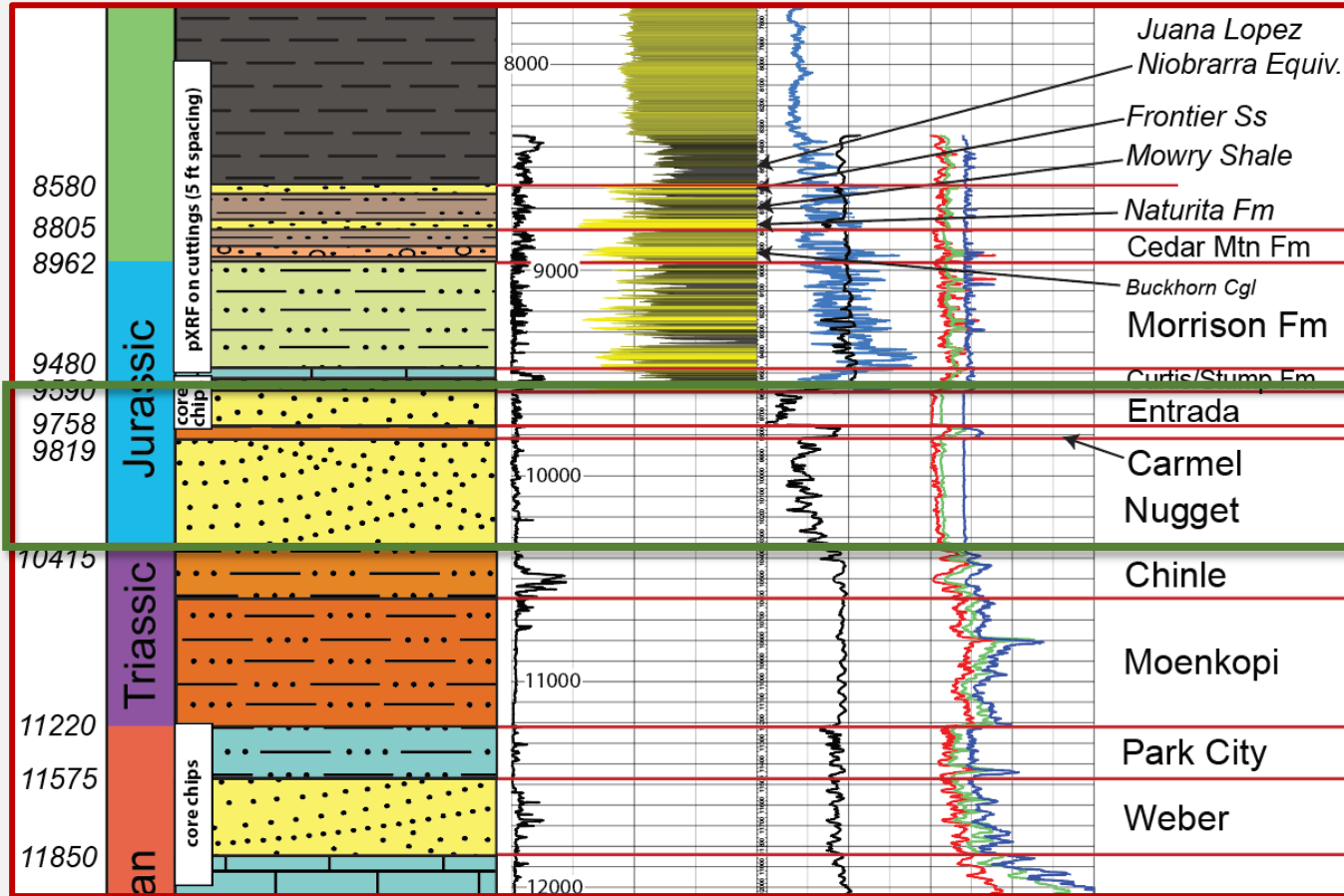
## Geology Updates

Primary reservoir target: **Jurassic Entrada and Nugget Sandstones**  
 Aeolian sands, ~750 ft thick, porosity 12-18%  
 Carmel "baffle" = 60 ft thick

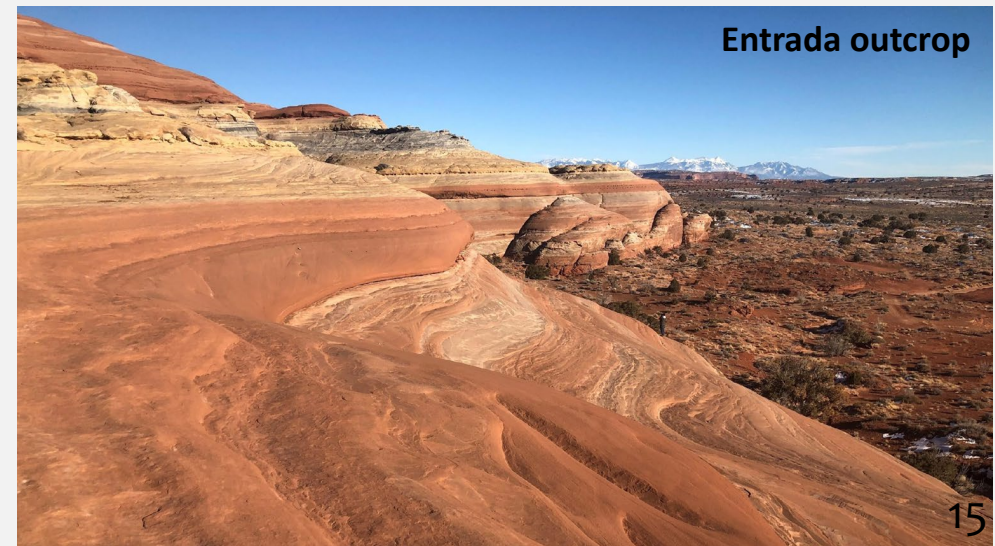




# Tasks 3. Storage Complex Characterization



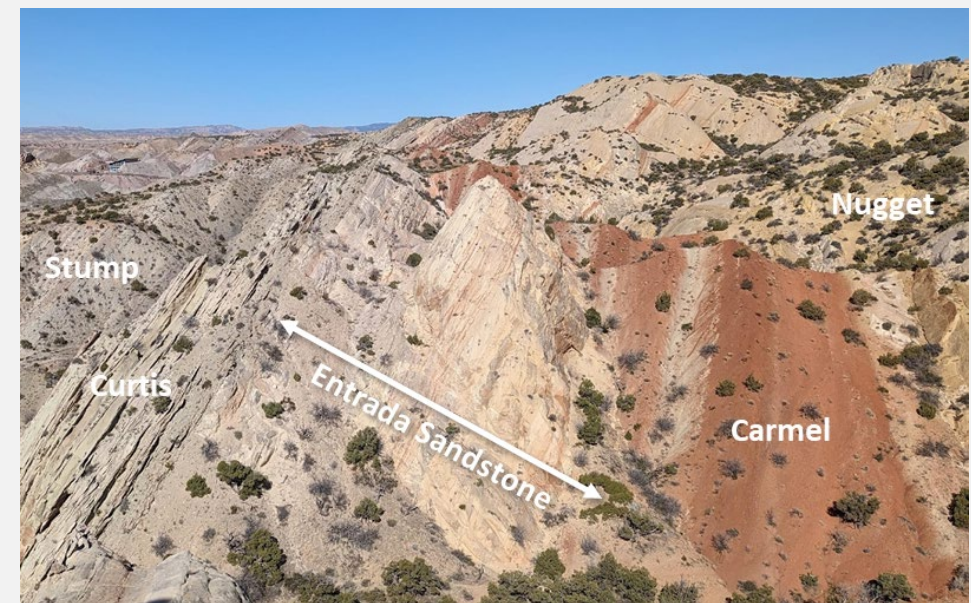
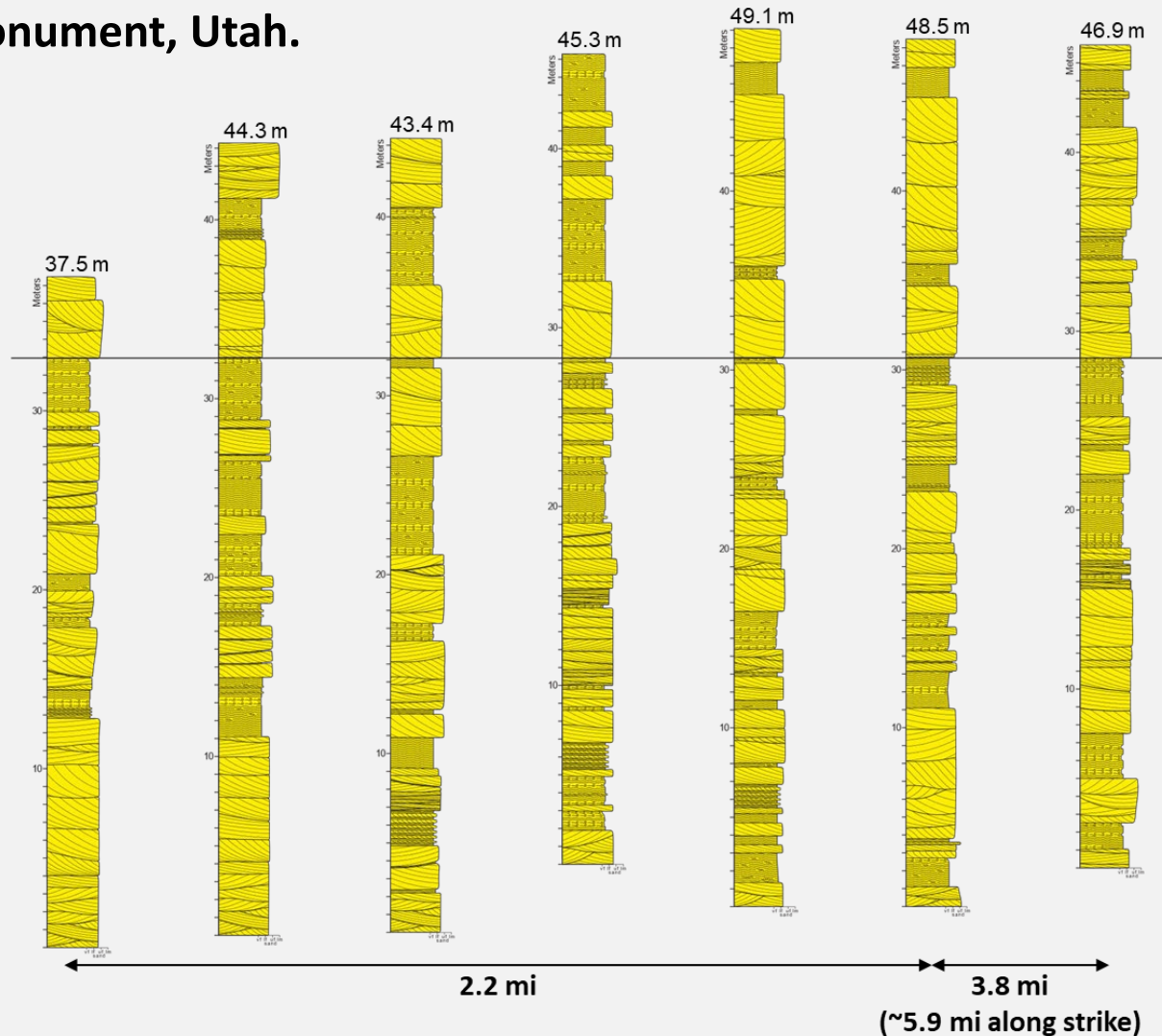
**Reservoir target:  
Entrada/Nugget**





# Tasks 3. Storage Complex Characterization

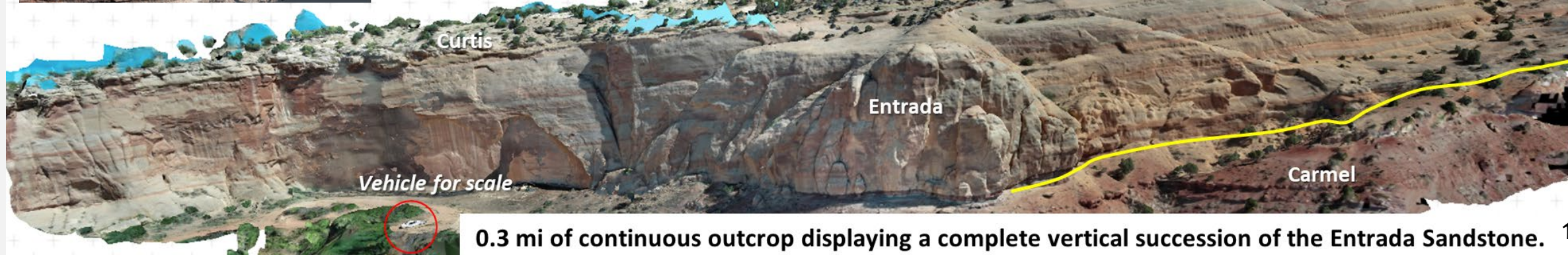
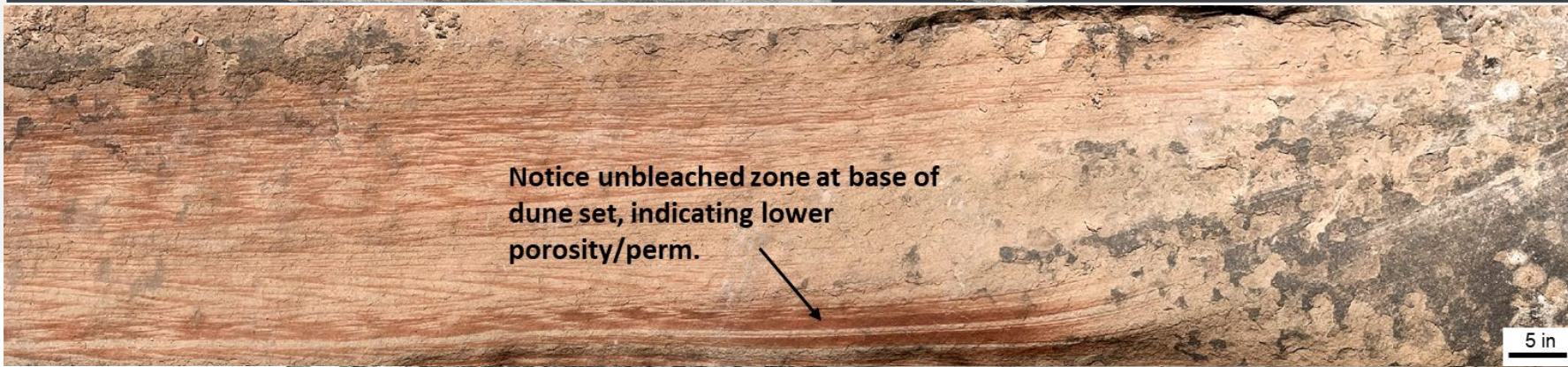
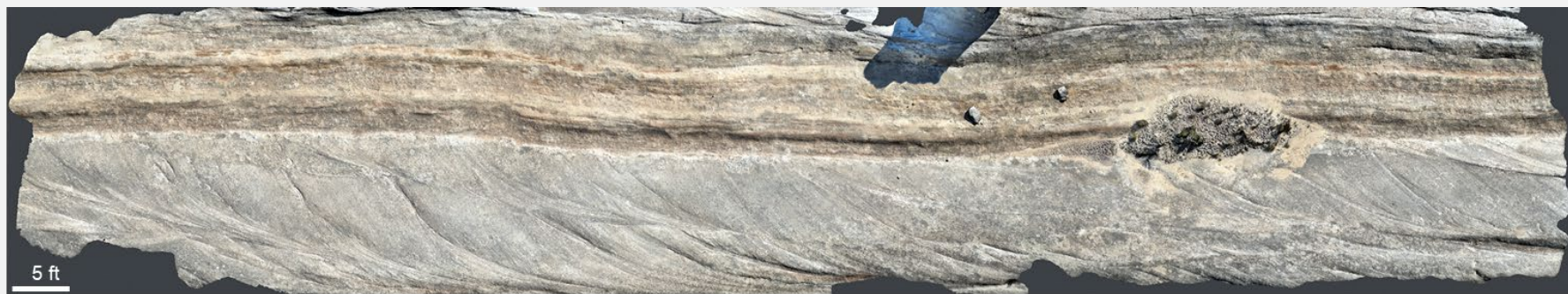
Detailed sedimentological illustrations of the Entrada Sandstone from select sites in the vicinity of Dinosaur National Monument, Utah.





# Tasks 3. Storage Complex Characterization

Examples of 3D models used to evaluate reservoir heterogeneity at different spatial scales.



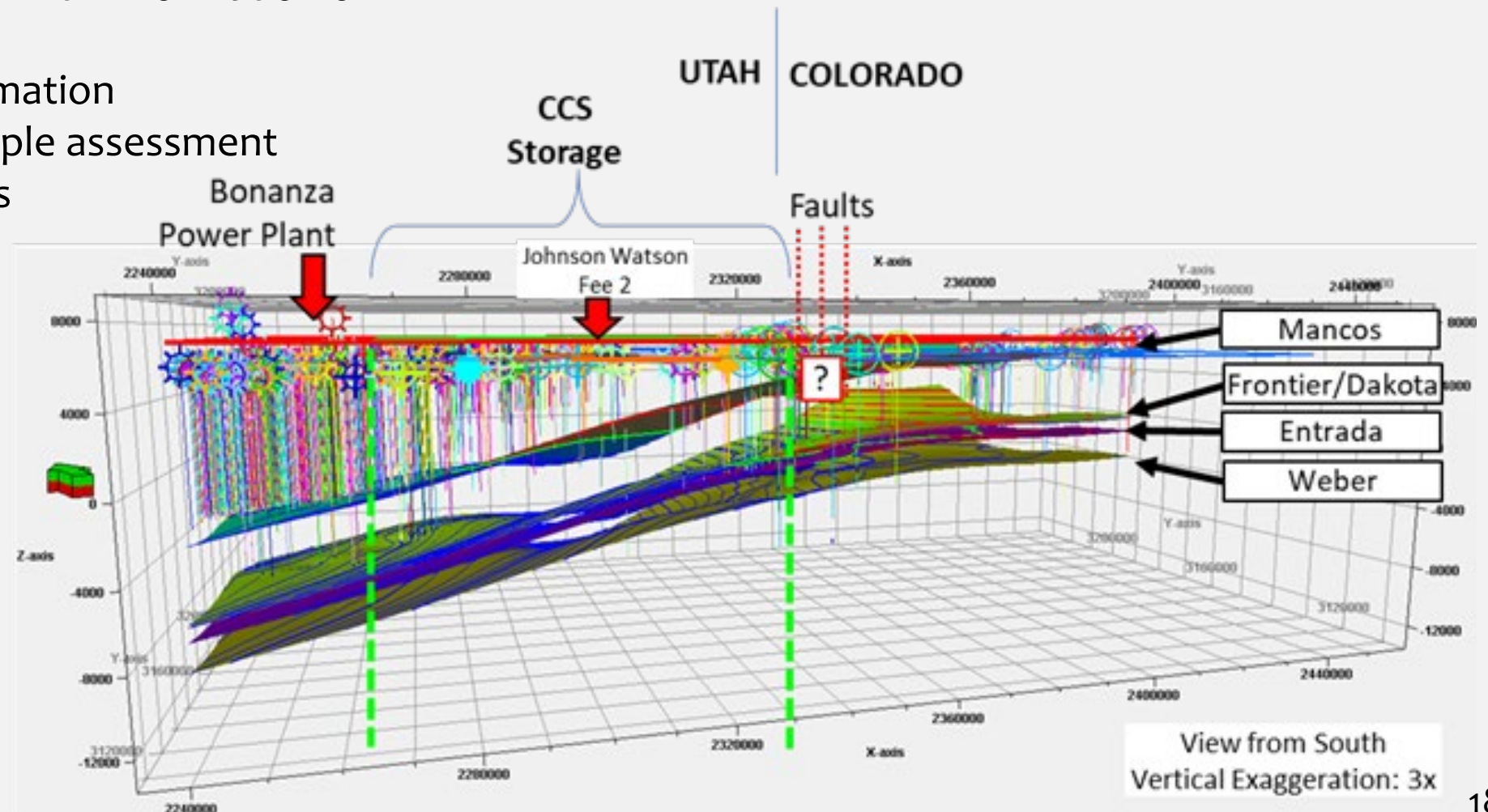


# Tasks 4. Geologic Modeling and Simulation

## Geo Model Updates

The model is updated with information of:

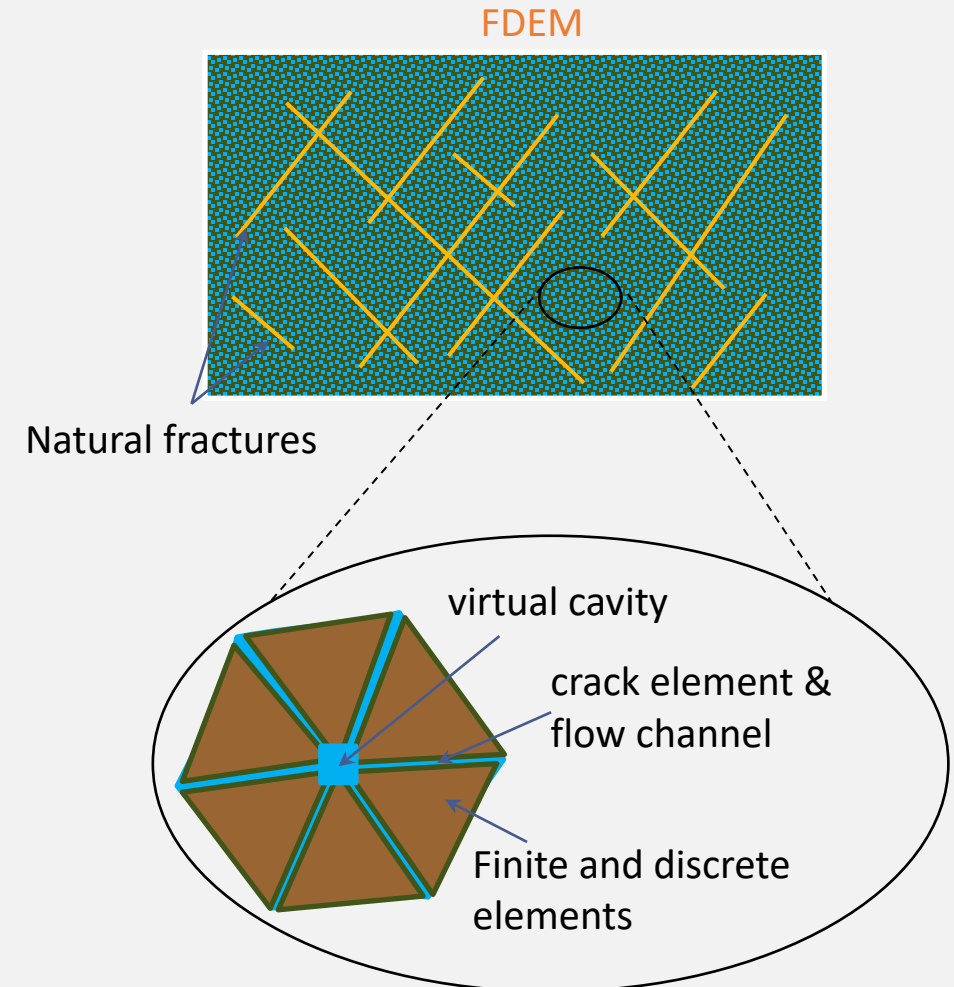
- New well logs
- Outcrop information
- Core/Chip sample assessment
- Seismicity lines



# Tasks 4. Geologic Modeling and Simulation

## Fluid Injection Induced Micro-Seismicity Simulations

- Formations with different fabrics and boundary conditions can cause different seismic behavior.
- Trends can be formulated when the involved physical processes are understood.
- Using alternative techniques to quantify fluid injection induced micro-seismicity.
- Key parameters:
  - Reservoir rock hydromechanical properties
  - In-situ stress
  - Injection characteristics



# Tasks 5. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans

## Qualitative Risk Assessment: A Risk Questionnaire

Use features, events, and processes (FEPs) to identify potential risks.



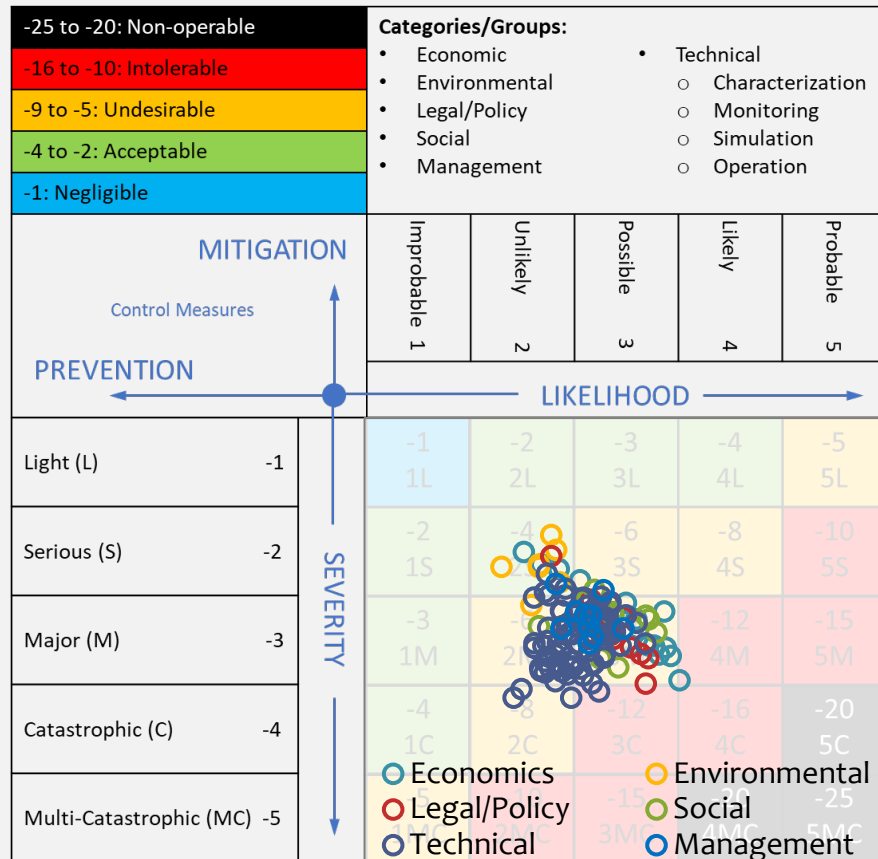
-25 to -20: Non-operable		Categories/Groups:				
-16 to -10: Intolerable		• Economic	• Technical			
-9 to -5: Undesirable		• Environmental	○ Characterization			
-4 to -2: Acceptable		• Legal/Policy	○ Monitoring			
-1: Negligible		• Social	○ Simulation			
		• Management	○ Operation			
		Improbable 1	Unlikely 2	Possible 3	Likely 4	Probable 5
MITIGATION Control Measures		LIKELIHOOD				
PREVENTION						
Light (L)	-1	-1 1L	-2 2L	-3 3L	-4 4L	-5 5L
Serious (S)	-2	-2 1S	-4 2S	-6 3S	-8 4S	-10 5S
Major (M)	-3	-3 1M	-6 2M	-9 3M	-12 4M	-15 5M
Catastrophic (C)	-4	-4 1C	-8 2C	-12 3C	-16 4C	-20 5C
Multi-Catastrophic (MC)	-5	-5 1MC	-10 2MC	-15 3MC	-20 4MC	-25 5MC



# Tasks 5. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans

## Qualitative Risk Assessment: A Risk Questionnaire

Use features, events, and processes (FEPs) to identify potential risks.



Ranking	Category	FEP
1	Economics	Financial support from investors and/or government
2	Legal/Policy	Legislation affecting CCUS
3	Economics	Capital cost
4	Economics	Carbon market
5	Legal/Policy	Policies affecting CCUS
6	Economics	CCUS commercialization
7	Economics	Financial viability
8	Characterization	Fractures and faults
9	Social	Low level of trust towards authorities
10	Legal/Policy	Permits (injecting)

# Tasks 5. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans

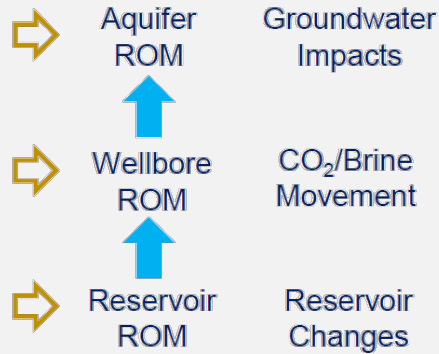
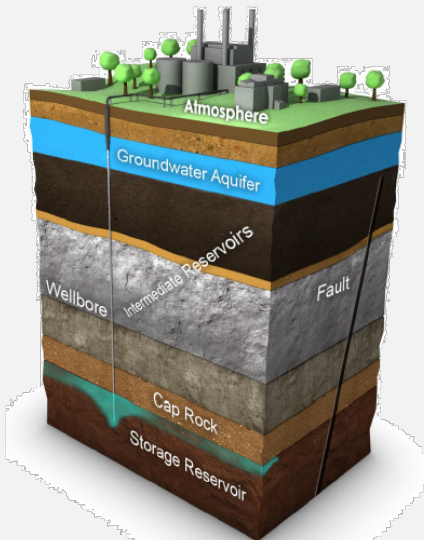
## Utah Legislations & Policies

- ❑ **Utah State House Bill (H.B.) 244 Geological Carbon Sequestration**
  - Provides a policy pathway for Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (DOG M) to establish a permitting program for commercial geologic carbon sequestration projects in Utah
  - Addresses liability, ownership and other critical legal issues
- ❑ **H.B. 452 Carbon Capture Amendments**
  - Provides additional clarification on addressing liability, including the establishment and funding for the Carbon Dioxide Storage Fund
- ❑ **Utah Class VI Permitting Primacy**
  - A draft Class VI rule & applying for Class VI regulatory primacy from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

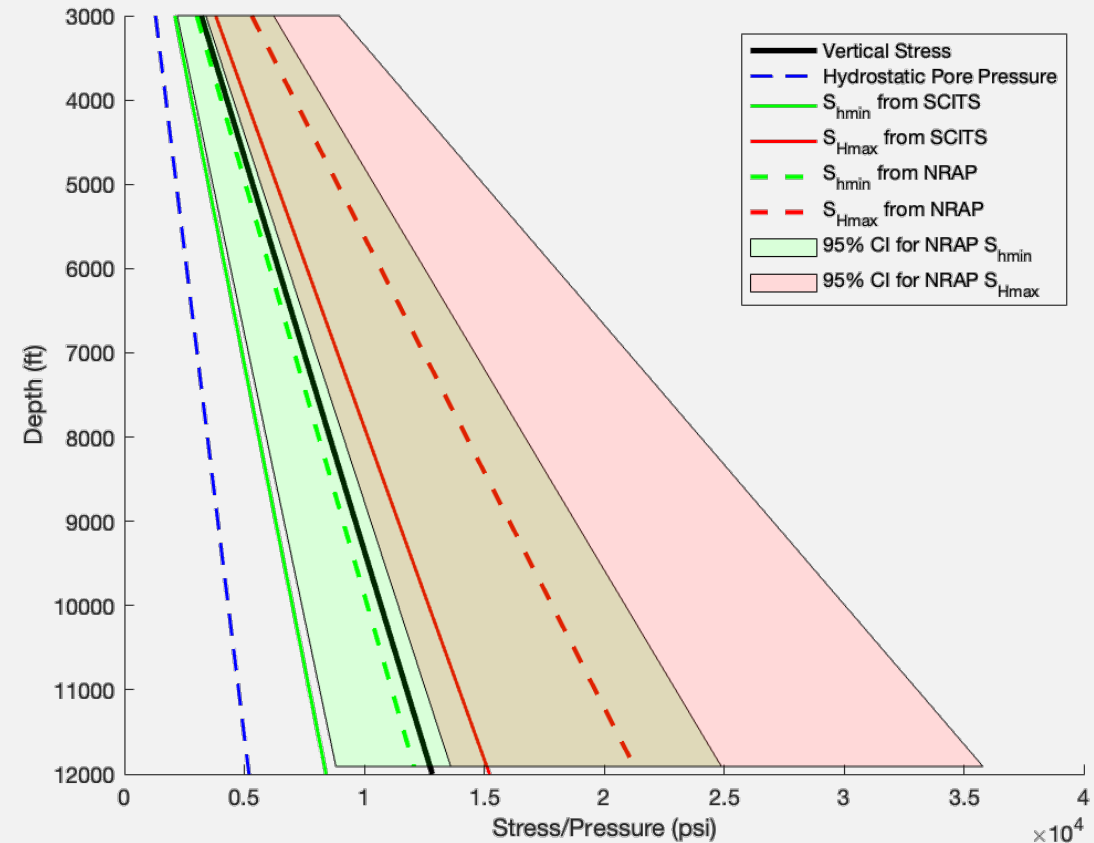
# Tasks 5. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans

## Risks of Leakage and Seismicity

'NRAP open IAM' simulates behavior of a CO<sub>2</sub> storage site through an integrated assessment model combining reduced order models for multiple components including reservoir, leakage pathways and receptors (groundwater)



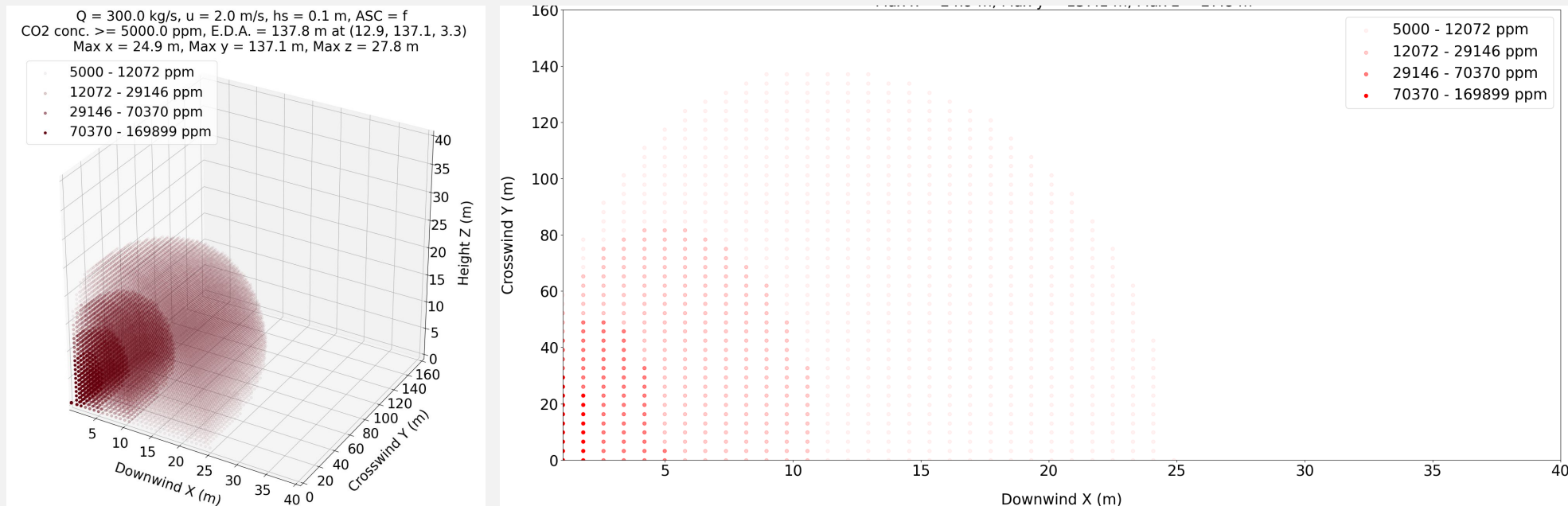
Vasylykivska et al, *Env. Mod. Soft.*, 2021, Pawar et al, *IJGGC*, 2016



# Tasks 5. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plans

## Risks of Transportation

- ❑ SimCCS is used to evaluate potential impact radius (PIR) by considering a CO<sub>2</sub> release event.
- ❑ Extreme weather/climate changes, seismicity, impurity of CO<sub>2</sub> sources, etc., are considered as key factors.



Example of PIR estimate using SimCCS



# Tasks 6. Preliminary CO<sub>2</sub> Management and Monitoring Plan

## CO<sub>2</sub> Source Assessment

CO <sub>2</sub> Emission in 2023	CO <sub>2</sub> Purity from Flue Gas	CO <sub>2</sub> Recovery Rate *	Potential Captured CO <sub>2</sub>
3,865,499 short tons	12.7%	80-95%	3.09-3.67 million short tons

- ❑ Liquid amine sorbent is considered for CO<sub>2</sub> capture process.
- ❑ Pipeline will be the main option for CO<sub>2</sub> transportation.
- ❑ Gas separation and purification is required to transport CO<sub>2</sub> effectively.
- ❑ HYSYS simulation will be used to estimate the gas composition after the capture process.
- ❑ Factors affecting the pipeline and compressor design, including gas composition, pressure conditions, and corrosion will be addressed.
- ❑ FECM/NETL CO<sub>2</sub> Transport Cost Model \*\* will be used to optimize the designs.

\*. IPCC, 2005: IPCC Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage. Prepared by Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Metz, B., O. Davidson, H. C. de Coninck, M. Loos, and L. A. Meyer (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 442 pp.

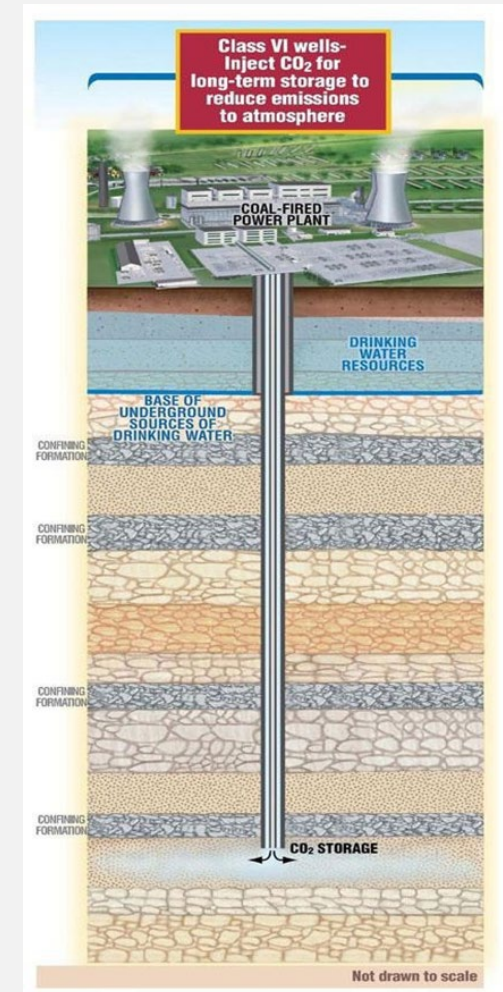
\*\* . Morgan, David, Guinan, Allison, & Sheriff, Alana. FECM/NETL CO<sub>2</sub> Transport Cost Model (2022): Description and User's Manual. United States. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1856355>

# Tasks 7. Plans for a Subsequent Complete Site Characterization Effort and UIC Class VI Permitting

The team is interpreting the UIC Class VI regulation (40 CFR 146.82 – 146.95) and preparing the following plans for detailed site characterization:

- Regional geology, and local structural geology,
- Maps and cross-sections of the AoR,
- Faults and fractures,
- Injection and confining zones,
- Geomechanics and petrophysics,
- Seismicity,
- Hydrology and hydrogeology,
- Geochemistry,
- Local climate, weather, air, soil and water information,
- Site suitability.

The project team will coordinate with operators to establish a framework for developing a UIC Class VI permit application for the study area.





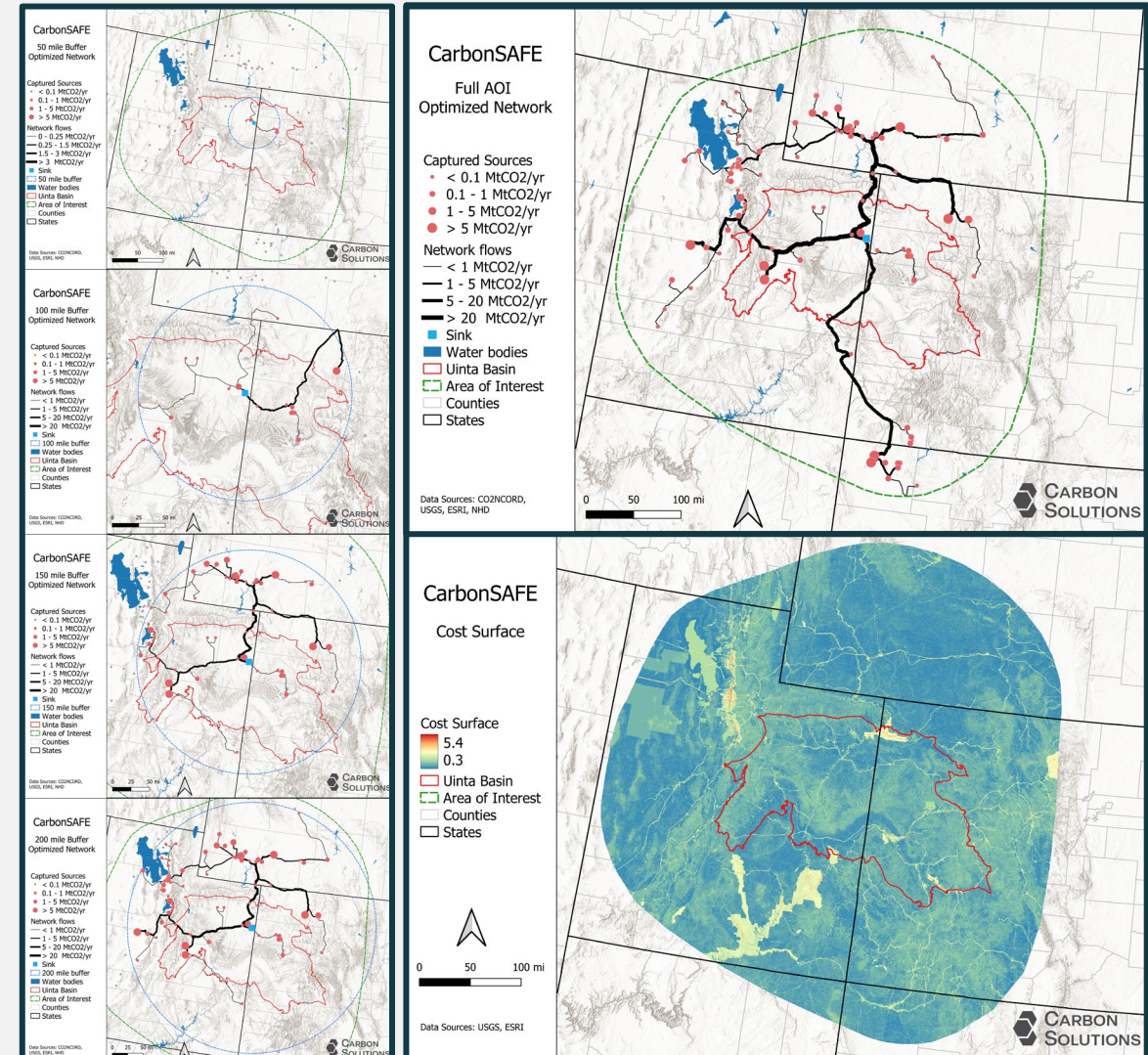


# Tasks 8. Technical and Economic Feasibility Evaluation

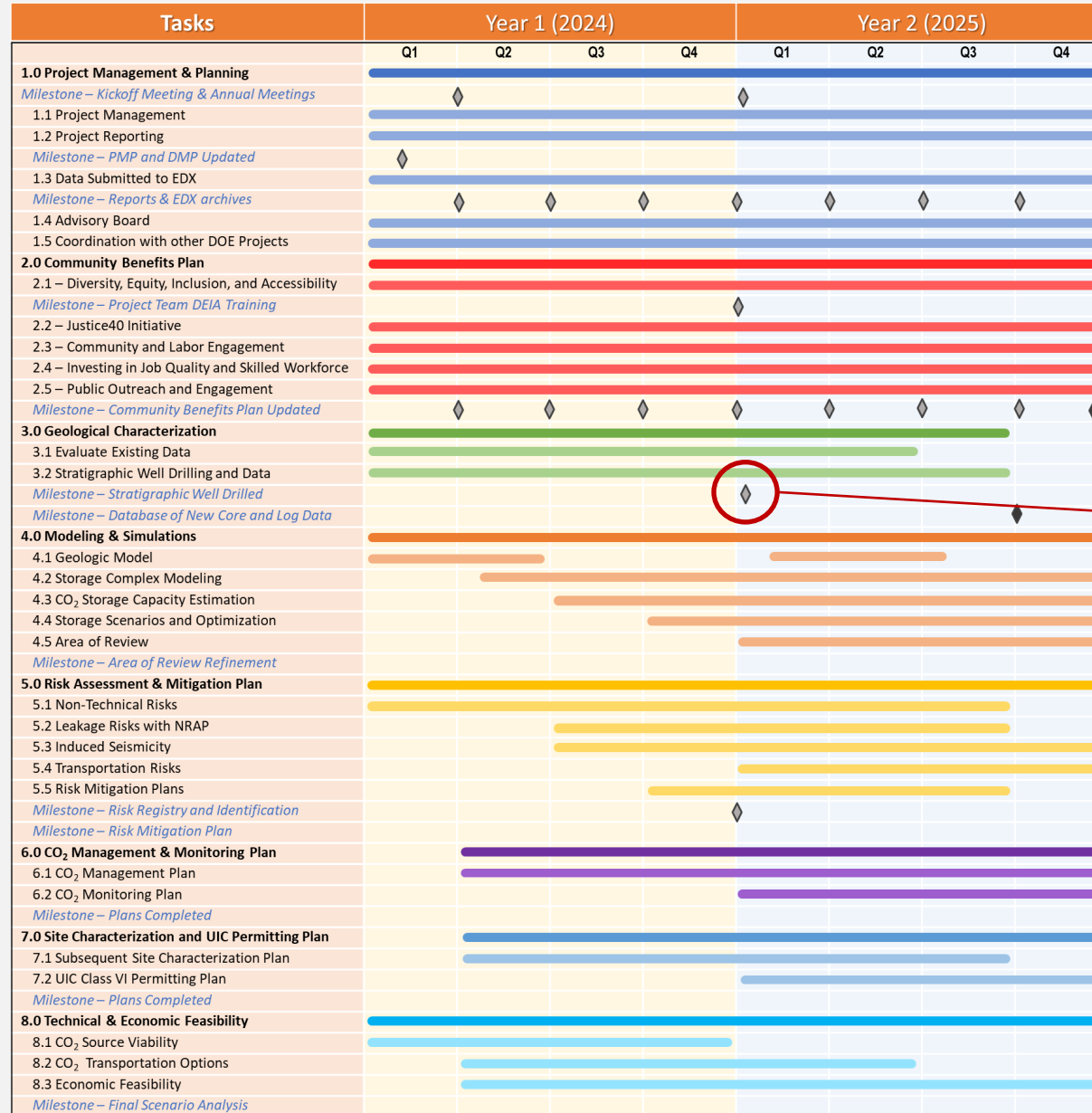
## Initial Exploratory Scenarios

- Possible scenarios for CO<sub>2</sub> capture, transport, and storage by defining buffers of 50, 100, 150, and 200 miles around the Bonanza's sink.
- Maximum potential of capturing 80.6 MtCO<sub>2</sub>/yr. within the Area of Interest (AOI).

Sector	Streams	Facilities	Capturable CO <sub>2</sub> (MtCO <sub>2</sub> per yr)	Average Capture unit cost (\$/tCO <sub>2</sub> )
Power Plants - Coal	14	12	57.81	45.77
Oil & Gas	51	38	8.01	56.39
Mining	13	6	4.33	51.92
Power Plants - Gas	13	13	4.17	64.45
Refineries	11	6	2.38	67.37
Cement	2	2	1.18	74.13
Lime & Gypsum	2	2	0.68	55.69
Chemicals	1	1	0.40	21.90
Metals - Other	1	1	0.23	69.98
Facilities	3	3	0.21	69.98
Natural Gas Processing	4	4	0.19	69.98
Hydrogen	1	1	0.15	71.13
Manufacturing	4	4	0.15	69.98
Power Plants - Other Fossil	1	1	0.15	64.45
Iron & Steel	3	2	0.13	61.30
Power Plants - Biomass	3	3	0.13	63.87
Chemicals - Other	2	2	0.11	69.98
Waste - Landfill	1	1	0.10	69.98
Pulp & Paper	1	1	0.04	69.98
Minerals - Other	1	1	0.03	43.92
Food & Ag	1	1	0.03	69.98
Power Plants - Other	1	1	0.02	64.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>80.63</b>	<b>58.67</b>



# Project Timeline

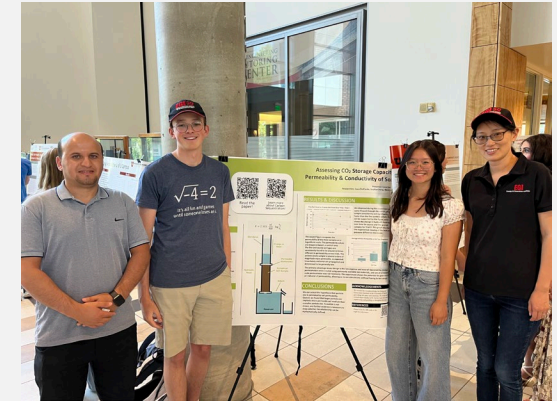


A delay of the stratigraphic well drilling plan



# Project Plans

- Using the geology characterization data, the team will update the geologic model and conduct reservoir simulations to better estimate the storage potential, area of review (AoR), and risks.
- The team will work closely with our field operator to design and drill the stratigraphic well.
- The team will work with local stakeholders for developing a potential CCUS hub in the basin.







Energy & Geoscience Institute

1972

2022

50

YEARS

... 1972 - EGI... the science to find energy - 2022 ...