List of Topics

BACKGROUND
- Reservation Overview
- Regional Geologic Overview

GEOLOGIC OVERVIEW
- Geologic History
- Summary of Play Types

CONVENTIONAL PLAY TYPES
- Play 1 - Shallow Cretaceous Biogenic Gas Play
- Play 2 - Northern Plains Biogenic Gas Play
- Plays 3, 4, 5 - Jurassic/Cretaceous and Mississippian Plays

UNCONVENTIONAL / HYPOTHETICAL PLAY TYPES
- Plays 6, 7 - Fractured Bakken and Cambrian Sandstone Plays

REFERENCES
**OVERVIEW**

**FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION**

**Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes**

**TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS:** Fort Belknap Agency, Montana

**GEOLOGIC SETTING:** Williston Basin

**Location and Access**
The Fort Belknap Reservation is located in southeastern Montana, about 65 miles east of Great Falls, the capital of the state. The reservation is bordered on the north by the Milk River, on the east by the Missouri River, and on the south by the Yellowstone River. The town of Fort Belknap is located on the reservation, and the reservation is accessible by U.S. Route 89 and Montana State Route 50.

**Topography**
Most of the reservation is located on the plains of the Little Rockies. The eastern part of the reservation is characterized by rolling hills and valleys, while the western part is more rugged and mountainous. The reservation is home to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes, who have a rich cultural history.

**Land Ownership**
The Fort Belknap Reservation consists of 980 square miles, or approximately 627,000 acres. In addition to the reservation lands, the tribes at Fort Belknap hold mineral interest in 25,500 acres of public land. The tribes have a mineral lease on the reservation, referred to as submarginal lands. The latter acreage are in the Little Rockies and probably are not of oil or gas interest. About 50 percent of the reservation is under patent-in-favor or state ownership. About 2,000 tribal mineral acres are withdrawn from development activities due to religious significance and 2,800 tribal mineral acres are in the timber reserve. The latter acreage are in the Little Rockies and probably are not of oil and gas interest since Paleozoic rocks outcrop. Available tribal minerals for an oil and gas agreement amount to about 58,000 acres. The tribal Community Council with BIA concurrence could authorize an agreement for this acreage or portions thereof.

**Historical Background of the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes at Fort Belknap**

The Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes were originally part of the Northern Siouan peoples who lived in the upper Missouri River region. They were known for their traders and traders' routes, which included the Fort Belknap region. The tribes were reunited in 1877 and formed the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, which includes parts of the present-day states of Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. The reservation is home to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes, who have a rich cultural history.

**Competitive Negotiations for Mineral Agreements**
The Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation are engaged in competitive negotiations with mineral companies to develop the tribe's mineral interests. The tribe is seeking to maximize the benefits of its mineral resources through competitive negotiations with mineral companies. The tribe is seeking to ensure that its mineral resources are developed in a manner that benefits the tribe and its members.

**Authority to Negotiate Oil and Gas Agreements**

The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation is home to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes, who have a rich cultural history. The tribe is seeking to maximize the benefits of its mineral resources through competitive negotiations with mineral companies.

**Requirement for Environmental Assessment**

A negotiated contract pursuant to the Indian Mineral Development Act will require an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the area under consideration for oil and gas exploration and development activities. Generally, the BIA requires the company to prepare this documentation which can equate to delays in the final review and approval process of the negotiated contract. Numerous previous investigations exist that relate to the needed components of the EA. The tribes and CERT are in the process of assembling these reference studies for use by the company and the BIA. Additionally, the tribes have requested that BIA initiate or fund the duration of this study to expedite the final approval process. For the initial submittal, the company need not concern themselves with the baseline data acquisition but should give the tribe some idea about a plan of operations and precautions that will be taken to insure environmental protection and mitigation of damages to flora, fauna, air, water, and property.

**JOINER AGREEMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL INDIANS**

Pursuant to the 1982 Indian Minerals Development Act, individual allottees may join a tribal negotiated agreement. The Fort Belknap Community Council plan to solicit allottee interest once negotiations are underway to minimize company costs. The BIA Office in Billings is currently developing an administrative process to streamline this effort and yet protect their trustee interest. A joint proposal agreement was reviewed by the BIA Solicitor’s Office in 1984. At that time the proposal required that the tribe provide a plan of operations that would include all legal requirements. The 1982 Act provides for two legal requirements for allottees to join a tribal mineral agreement:

1. The Secretary must find that it is in the best interest of the individual to participate
2. The Secretary must evaluate within 180 days to approve or disapprove the terms of any agreement regardless of allottee participation.

**RESERVATION OVERVIEW**

**Fort Belknap Reservation**

Montana

**FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION**

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Operational Regulations

Tribal Government

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, the home of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes was created by treaty on October 17, 1885 and by an Act of Congress on May 1, 1888. The business and governmental affairs of Fort Belknap are conducted under the authority of a constitution and bylaws ratified by members of the Tribes on October 19, 1935, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on December 13, 1935, pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Subsequently, a corporate charter for the Fort Belknap Indian Community was ratified by members of the Community on August 25, 1937.

The principal decision-making body for the Reservation is the Fort Belknap Community Council, consisting of six Assiniboine and six Gros Ventre members. Each council member serves for a four year term. Every two years, each of the three voting districts—Milk River and Lodge Pole elect an Assiniboine and a Gros Ventre member to the Council. On the first Monday in January following each election, a president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer are elected from within the twelve council members. Council officers serve for a period of two years. The current officers were elected January 1984. Any council member or officer may serve as long as he/she is re-elected to office.

The Tribal President appoints standing committees which meet monthly as needed. Negotiation for an oil and gas agreement would be conducted by the Tribal Community Committee. Any oil and gas development agreement would have to receive final approval from the Tribal Council.

Operating Regulations

The reservation lands available for oil and gas leasing or other types of mineral agreements are largely allotted lands (86.5%) with the Tribes holding mineral rights to 9.8% of the reservation lands and all of the submarginal lands. Therefore, the governmental authorities for the disposition of the contracts will be the tribal councils, allottees, and the trustee, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, acting in behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. Environmental assessments are currently being prepared by the BIA to aid in rapid implementation of a contract after economic analysis and approval by the BIA.

The Tribes have not enacted any specific codes, ordinances, regulations nor mineral taxes relating to oil and gas exploration and development, therefore the chief regulations governing oil and gas activities are those of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter 1 - Energy & Minerals (Part 225 applicable to P.L. 97-382 CFR, Part 216 (applicable to revenue reporting and payments) and Title 43 CFR Part 3160 (applicable to production reporting and operating procedures.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Billings and Aberdeen Area Offices have entered into a memorandum of understanding with Montana State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) whereby BLM will provide certain oil and gas management operations on Indian lands.
Montana Fort Belknap Reservation

The Fort Belknap Reservation is situated on the northern flank of the Little Rocky Mountains, an early Tertiary intrusion. (see figure 1 cross-section and map). The reservation is west of the Bowdoin Dome, east of the Bearpaw Uplift and south of the Hogland Basin.

The geologic section is represented by Pre-Cambrian metamorphics, Paleozoic carbonates and Jurassic and Cretaceous sandstones. The Paleozoic rocks are mainly dolomites and limestones deposited within the Williston Basin and Alberta Shelf depocenters. Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks vary from continental to marine sandstones and shales.

Most of the reservation is overlain by Quaternary alluvium deposits, mainly dolomites and limestones deposited within the Williston Basin and Alberta Shelf depocenters. Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks vary from continental to marine sandstones and shales.

Exploration History

Only 10 wells have been drilled to date on the reservation with no commercial success. However, significant gas shows have been encountered in 3-4 wells just outside the reservation boundary.

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Structural Geology

The Fort Belknap Reservation is dominated by the Little Rock Mountains of Paleocene-Eocene age. The Little Rocky Mountains are a series of igneous intrusions (Seynene Porphyries) that have generated numerous structural domes (over 50) of various sizes (see detailed structure map). Several domes have been breached by erosion and expose the igneous core. Others have Paleozoic rocks exposed at the surface. Dips within the complex area are steeply tilted to vertical. Dip decreases away from the dome to about 80 feet/mile. The southern end consists of several domes, averaging two to three miles in diameter. Small intrusions are present on the western edge of the reservation (Snake Butte, Wild Horse Butte).

The Bearpaw Uplift, located west of the reservation, is also Tertiary in age and consists of a series of intrusions and complex thrust and normal faults. As the Bearpaw intrusion was emplaced, the paleo gas field that existed in the Cretaceous sands was cut and carried by landslides into downdip positions. The Bearpaws contain large, shallow gas fields trapped in these "landslide" fault blocks.

The northern part of the reservation is mainly of gentle dip, although a major thrust fault (present at the surface) trends northeast to southeast. It's orientation suggests it is related to the fault systems that were created during the Bearpaw intrusive episode. Smaller folds and faults have been identified from surface geology.

Most Likely Hydrocarbon Zones

Based on current gas shows and regional hydrocarbon production, regional cross-sections and depositional maps, the most likely plays to develop on the Fort Belknap Reservation are:

1) Cretaceous rocks-Upper Cretaceous section is very thick; gas shows; high potential for Eagle sand biogenic gas accumulations.
2) Cretaceous rocks-discontinuous reservoir rocks encased within marine shales; Bowdoin, Vargelle sandstones and Greenhorn Limestone. Biogenic gas accumulations are possible.
3) Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous rocks-no shows reported, but lack of well control does not preclude biogenic gas potential.
4) Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous rocks not considered prospective due to exposure at the surface in the Little Rocky Mountains at the south end of the reservation. Those rocks are open to the atmosphere and would be charged with fresh water. The Missoula Canyon Limestone is cavernous where exposed, and is an excellent aquifer. Other Paleozoic units penetrated by well control have been found wet.
One generalized structural cross-section (see cross-section A-A') has been constructed to summarize present day tectonic provinces and older paleostructure. The cross-section uses rock thickness values from each of the geologic periods. Section A runs along the 48 degree latitude line and values were selected at one degree longitude intervals. The western end of the section, near the Blackfeet Reservation is dominated by high relief (greater than 5000 feet). The Cretaceous and older Paleozoic section is about 11,000 feet thick. Major basement uplifts, such as the Sweetgrass Arch and the Bearpaw Uplift, influenced sedimentation throughout geologic time.

The eastern side of the cross-section is dominated by the Williston Basin, a stable cratonic depocenter which contains more than 15,000 feet of sediments. The center part of the illustration is influenced by the Bearpaw Uplift and the Little Rocky Mountains Tertiary intrusions. The southern end of the reservation is located on the Little Rocky Mountain intrusion.

To better illustrate the geologic history of the region, which has been influenced by all of these tectonic provinces, a series of paleo cross-sections are shown. Each section summarizes a particular time interval; Cambrian and older rocks, Ordovician to Triassic and Cretaceous to Jurassic. Since Tertiary sediments are present only in the Williston Basin, no paleostructure section is shown.

A paleo cross-section attempts to show what the subsurface geology may have looked like within that time interval. For the sake of space, only the particular interval is shown; no rocks older than it are illustrated. The rock units above the interval have not yet been deposited; the top of the section is the datum. The datum is flat, representing the paleo ground surface.

**Cambrian and Older Rocks**

Oldest rocks exposed at the Fort Belknap Reservation are metamorphosed sedimentary and igneous rocks. These rocks are mainly biotite schist and gneiss. Some metavolcanics are present as hornblende gneiss and amphibolite.

During Cambrian time, a major seaway existed in western Montana and eastern Idaho. This seaway gradually transgressed from west to east across eastern Montana and the Dakotas. The major source of coarse-grained clastics was to the east (from the Sioux Arch) and graded into shales and limestones to the west. Thickness of the Cambrian rocks varies from over 2000 feet thick in the Montana Disturbed Belt to less than 100 feet thick at the eastern edge of the Williston Basin. Cambrian rocks at the Fort Belknap Reservation are represented by the Flathead Sandstone and are about 1000 to 1100 feet thick. There is no evidence of any structural features at this time.
Mississippian rocks thicken southward towards the Big Snowy trough. Included within the period are Lodgepole Limestone and Mission Canyon Limestone. The Mission Canyon is coarse grained with numerous solution cavities at the top of the unit. Total thickness of Mississippian rocks varies within reservation boundaries from 780 to 1100 feet thick.

A major unconformity at the end of Mississippian time led to widespread erosion and karstification. Pennsylvanian sediments are confined to the center of the Williston Basin and are in central Montana south of the reservation, in the Big Snowy trough. No Pennsylvanian, Permian or Triassic rocks are present at Fort Belknap.

Jurassic to Cretaceous Rocks

In Jurassic time, the Williston Basin was still the major depocenter for clastic and marine carbonate/evaporite sediments although the focus of deposition shifted to the west (Figure BK-4-4). Thickness of Jurassic rocks is estimated to be about 400 to 700 feet, thickening northward into the Hogland Basin. Early Cretaceous rocks (Lower Kootenai) are about 150 to 300 feet thick at the reservation. The early lower Cretaceous is thought to have been a time of continental to nearshore deposits. Source area for these deposits (i.e., Lacota Formation) is thought to have been to the southwest in Montana and northern Wyoming.

The late, Early Cretaceous rocks (Colorado Group-Mowry/Skull Creek) are about 70 to 800 feet thick. These rocks were deposited in a transgressing marine sequence that extended from western Montana eastward into the Dakotas and from Texas into Canada. These rocks are represented by the Thermopolis, Mowry, and Warm Creek Shales. All are marine shales and impermeable.

Upper Cretaceous rocks (Montana Group) are from 3500 to 4000 feet thick at Fort Belknap. These rocks thicken southward into the Rocky Mountain trough. These units contain the Eagle and Judith River sandstones. The Bearpaw Uplift began to form at this time and created large scale gas traps.
Geologic History

In early Tertiary time (Paleocene or Eocene), a large mass of syenite porphyry intruded the Precambrian basement rocks into a dome about 10 miles in diameter. Smaller intrusions formed to the northwest and include, Twin Buttes, Wild Horse Butte and Snake Butte. Erosion has since removed much of the sediment cover and exposes the syenite porphyry (Fig. BK-5.1).

The nearby Bearpaw Uplift was intruded by intense igneous activity which produced extrusive deposits (lava flows). Extensive landslides occurred on both the north and south flanks of the uplift. Subsurface well control shows volcanic flows resting on Lower Colorado Shale. The landslides formed both normal and thrust faults (at the head and toe of the slides). The displaced gas migrated to these new traps.

By Pliocene (mid-Tertiary) time, erosion had reduced both the Little Rocky Mountains and Bearpaws to low-lying hills. Detrital material extended many miles outward from the uplands and were reworked as alluvial terraces. Pleistocene glaciation covered most of the reservation, although glaciers never overran the Little Rocky Mountains. After the retreat of the ice, glacial material was dropped, forming hummocky, poorly drained topography.

Figure BK-5.1. Schematic section through the Little Rocky Mountains, showing the laccolithic intrusion of syenite porphyry and the doming of the sedimentary rocks. Tsp, syenite porphyry; Kj, Judith River Formation; Kc, Clagget Shale; Ke, Eagle Sandstone; Kw, Warm Creek Shale; Km, Mowry Shale; Kt, Thermopolis Shale; KJKe, Kootenai Formation and Ellis Group; MDOC, limestone and sandstone of Mississippian to Cambrian age; and PC, Precambrian rocks.
Play Types Explanation

1. Shallow Cretaceous Biogenic Gas Play
2. Northern Great Plains Medium and Low Potential Biogenic Gas Play
3. Jurassic - Cretaceous Sandstones
4. Fractured-related Anticlines Mississippian Carbonate Play
5. Mississippian and Devonian Carbonate Play
6. Fractured Belknap
7. Evaporite Sands

Fort Belknap Reservation

Table BK-1. Play summary chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Play Type</th>
<th>Geologic Province</th>
<th>Description of Play</th>
<th>Total Production</th>
<th>Undiscovered resources and numbers of fields are for Province-wide plays. No attempt has been made to estimate number of undiscovered fields within the Fort Belknap Reservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shallow Cretaceous Biogenic Gas Play</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prone and permeable Miocene-age sands (Ellis)</td>
<td>2968</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern and Great Plains Medium and Low Potential Biogenic Gas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reservoir rock unknown</td>
<td>440 MBBO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurassic - Cretaceous Sandstones</td>
<td></td>
<td>Estuarine to sandy, biogenic, and evaporite sandstone sandstones.</td>
<td>2808</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure BK-6.1. Schematic diagram of play types at Fort Belknap Reservation.

Table BK-1. Play summary chart.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Play Type</th>
<th>USGS Designation</th>
<th>Description of Play</th>
<th>Oil or Gas</th>
<th>Known Accumulations</th>
<th>Undiscovered Resource (MMBOE)</th>
<th>Play Probability (chance of success)</th>
<th>Drilling depths</th>
<th>Favorable factors</th>
<th>Unfavorable factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fractured, folded anticlines in Mississippian Carbonates</td>
<td>2067</td>
<td>Tight structures, commonly underlain by shale or basement</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>less than 1 MMBO</td>
<td>10.00-9.75 MMBO (2 fields @ 1 MMBO), 1.2 MMBO</td>
<td>1) structure, salt, thick, domes 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1,050-7,050 ft</td>
<td>1) enhanced recovery fields, deposits 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1) no production on reservation 2) lack of well control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippian and Devonian Carbonates</td>
<td>2069</td>
<td>1) Jurassic/Mississippian regional unconformity traps 2) Devonian Structural Traps</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>less than 1 MMBO</td>
<td>18.00-7.00 MMBO (2 fields @ 1 MMBO), 1.6 MMBO</td>
<td>1) structure, salt, thick, domes 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1,000-7,000 ft</td>
<td>1) structure, salt, thick, domes 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1) no production on reservation 2) lack of production on reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fractured Bakken</td>
<td>2060</td>
<td>Bakken/Bakken Shale Tight organic mature (basement, overburden, basement)</td>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>less than 1 MMBO</td>
<td>18.00-7.00 MMBO (2 fields @ 1 MMBO), 1.2 MMBO</td>
<td>1) Bakken regional anomaly 2) reservoir rock exists 3) structure and reservoir exist</td>
<td>1,000-7,000 ft</td>
<td>1) Bakken regional anomaly 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1) no production on reservation 2) lack of production on reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambrian Sands</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Coarse sands trapped on platforms or on deeper structures</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>less than 1 MMBO</td>
<td>18.00-7.00 MMBO (2 fields @ 1 MMBO), 1.2 MMBO</td>
<td>1) structure, salt, thick, domes 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1,000-7,000 ft</td>
<td>1) structure, salt, thick, domes 2) reservoir rock exists</td>
<td>1) no production on reservation 2) lack of production on reservation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table BK-2. Play summary chart (continued)
PLAY TYPE 1
Shallow Cretaceous Biogenic Gas

General Characteristics - This play is characterized by gravity-slide traps that formed during Tertiary time due to emplacement of igneous intrusions. Biogenic gas is trapped by fault blocks in Eagle and Judith River sandstones. Well control is sparse on the reservation, therefore, reservoir quality is speculative. Reservoir rock at Tiger Ridge and other nearby fields is a fine to medium grained marine sandstone with porosities of 16-20% and permeabilities ranging from 9.5 to 110 millidarcies. Eagle sandstone thickness varies from 45 to 150 feet thick.

The north half of the reservation has surface expressed thrust and normal faults. Gas shows are present in areas south, west and north of the reservation boundaries.

Analog Fields (Outside reservation)
- Bullwacker
- Leroy
- Tiger Ridge
- Havre

Table BK-3. Bullwacker Field Parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formation</th>
<th>Upper Cretaceous Eagle Sandstone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lithology</td>
<td>continuous unit of fine to medium grained calcareous, marine sandstone, about 150 ft. thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porosity</td>
<td>16 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permeability</td>
<td>No information available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil/Gas Column</td>
<td>No information available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Net Pay</td>
<td>40 feet net thickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other formations with shows</td>
<td>Eagle gas shows and Judith River gas shows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Information</td>
<td>Published literature suggests that permeabilities are low. Reservoir must be fractured before production.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fort Belknap Reservation
- Montana

CONVENTIONAL/HYPOTHETICAL PLAY TYPE 1
Shallow Cretaceous Biogenic Gas Play
General Characteristics: This play is characterized by very fine to fine-grained sandstones and siltstones within the Upper Cretaceous section of the reservation area. These rocks are equivalent to Eagle and Judith River sandstones at Tiger Ridge Field on the Bearpaw uplift (Figure BK-9.2 and 9.3). No production has been found to date within the Fort Belknap area. Tight gas sandstone production is present in nearby Leroy Field.

Reservoir rock at Tiger Ridge Field and other fields in the area is fine-medium-grained marine sandstones with high porosities and permeabilities. It is assumed that lower porosity and permeability values will be present within the reservation area. Potential reservoir intervals may be enhanced by location on paleostructure. Trapping mechanisms could include fault traps, domes, and disconformity sandstone lenses. Potential seal intervals may be sporadic and too porous for efficient gas trapping. The north half of the reservation has surface expressed thrust and normal faulted horizons. Gas shows are present in areas south, west, and north of the reservation boundaries. It is unclear whether they are of thermogenic or microbial origin.

Figure BK-9.1. Paleogeographic map of North America during Late Cretaceous time, showing the Cretaceous seaway (after Rice and Shurr, 1980).

Figure BK-9.2. Diagrammatic sequence of selected Cretaceous Rocks from Glacier National Park to the west flank of the Williston Basin, Montana (after Rice and Shurr, 1980).

Figure BK-9.3. Distribution of shallow gas fields in north-central Montana, southeastern Alberta, and southwestern Saskatchewan. Bowdoin field and large area in Canada produce from low-permeability reservoirs. Tiger Ridge field produces from structural traps of conventional reservoirs.

Figure BK-9.4. Correlation chart of selected Cretaceous rocks in north-central Montana and southeastern Alberta showing currently productive intervals and those with potential for gas production from low-permeability reservoirs.

CONVENTIONAL/HYPOTHETICAL PLAY TYPE 2
Northern Plains Low Potential Biogenic Gas Play
PLAN TYPE 1
Jurassic / Cretaceous Sandstones

General Characteristics - This play is characterized by possible traps in the Jurassic Swift / Ellis sandstone units and in the Lower Cretaceous Kootena formation. No production has been established to date at either Fort Belknap or on the adjacent Bearpaw Uplift. Oil shows have been found in Jurassic rocks at Tiger Ridge Gas Field.

Trapping mechanisms include discontinuous sandstone lenses and sandstone pinchouts. One problem may be breached Jurassic / Cretaceous units exposed to the atmosphere in the Little Rocky Mountains, at the southern end of the reservation. A strong, hydrodynamic flow from south to north may have "flushed", hydrocarbons from the older rocks. (Fig. BK-10.3 and BK-10.4)

PLAN TYPE 2
Mississippian and Older Carbonates

General Characteristics - This play is characterized by possible traps in the Mississippian, Devonian and Ordovician carbonate units. No production has been established to date at either Fort Belknap or on the adjacent Bearpaw Uplift.

Trapping mechanisms include discontinuous porosity zones and structural traps. One problem may be breached Mississippian and older units exposed to the atmosphere in the Little Rocky Mountains, at the southern edge of the reservation. The top of the Mission Canyon is cavernous and forms an excellent aquifer. This strong, hydrodynamic flow from south to north may have "flushed", hydrocarbons from the older rocks. (Fig. BK-10.3 and BK-10.4)

PLAN TYPE 3
Fractured, Folded Anticlines in Mississippian Carbonates

General Characteristics - This play is characterized by possible traps in the Mississippian, Mission Canyon carbonate units. No production has been established to date at either Fort Belknap or on the adjacent Bearpaw Uplift. Trapping mechanisms include discontinuous porosity zones and structural traps. One problem may be breached Mississippian and older units exposed to the atmosphere in the Little Rocky Mountains, at the southern edge of the reservation (refer to Figure BK-10.2).

The top of the Mission Canyon is cavernous and forms an excellent aquifer. This strong, hydrodynamic flow from south to north may have "flushed" hydrocarbons from the older rocks.
**PLAY TYPE 6**

*Fractured Bakken Play*

**General Characteristics** - This play involves possible fracture production from the Bakken/Three Forks shale. No production has been established to date within the Fort Belknap area or adjacent Bearpaw uplift. The Three Forks shale is poorly exposed in the Little Rocky Mountains at the southern end of the reservation. Organic content (quality and quantity) and thermal maturity are unknown.

Trapping mechanisms could include discontinuous fracture zones and possible structural closures. The northern end of the reservation is on the southern flank of the Hogeland sub-basin, where it is possible that the Bakken/Three Forks shale is better developed and thermally mature.

**PLAY TYPE 7**

*Cambrian Sandstone Play*

**General Characteristics** - The Cambrian Flathead sandstone may be a potential production horizon. No production has been established to date within the Fort Belknap Reservation or adjacent Bearpaw Uplift. The Flathead interval is well exposed in the Little Rocky Mountains at the southern end of the reservation. It is a fine-grained sandstone with some interbedded conglomeratic lenses and thick shale intervals (Fig. BK-11.4).

Since the Cambrian Flathead sandstone is exposed at the surface to meteoric influx, a hydrodynamic flow gradient from south to north may have flushed hydrocarbons from the older rocks.

Trapping mechanisms would include structural domes, fault traps, and sandstone pinchouts.
Fort Belknap Reservation

General References


REFERENCES


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