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# Thriving in a Lower for Longer Environment

*Mary Van Domelen, PE, SPEC*

*November 2019 Tour*



Society of Petroleum Engineers  
Distinguished Lecturer Program  
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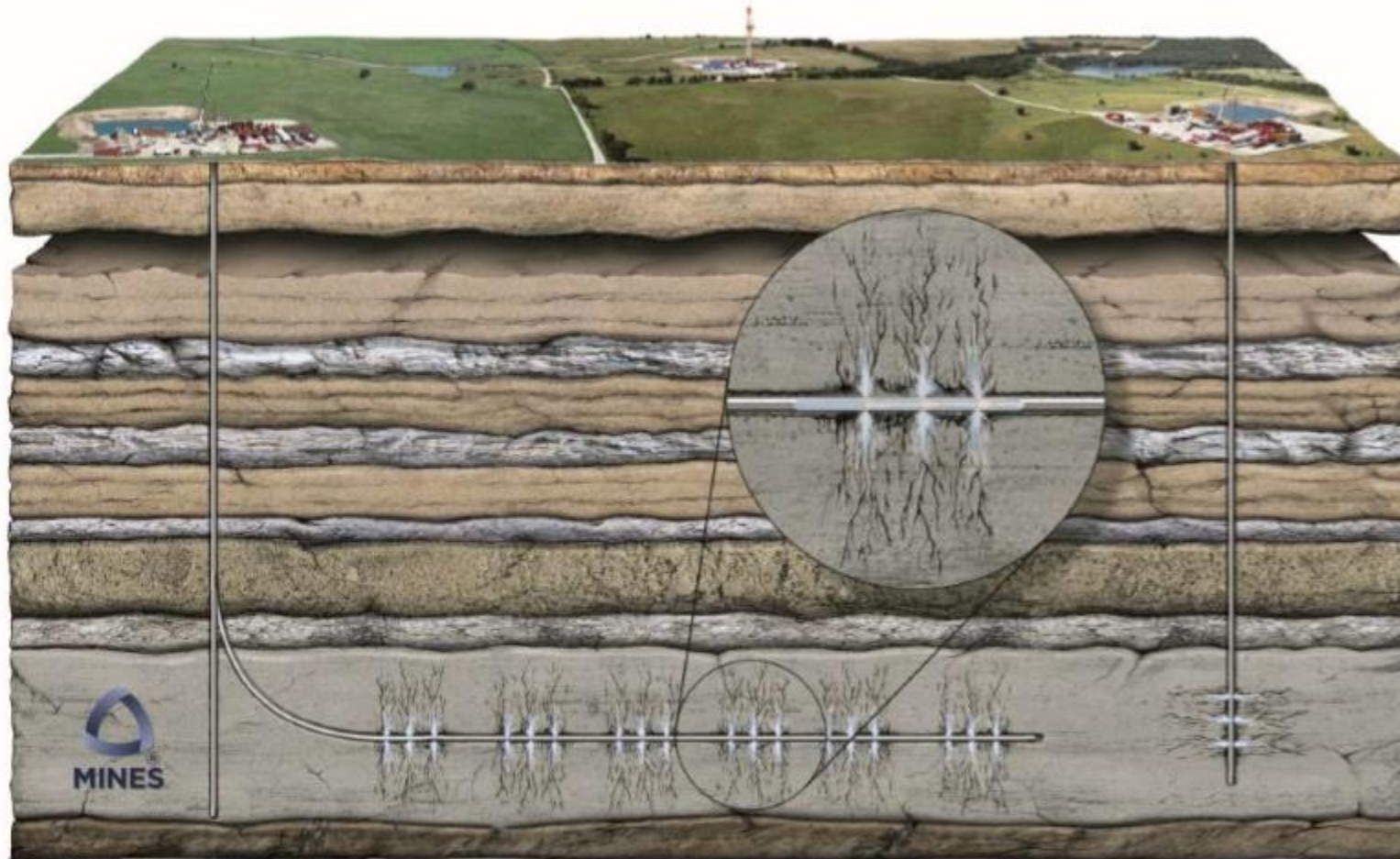
# Lecture Format



- The challenge
- Market dynamics
- Keys to success
- Impact of technology
- Takeaway points

# Unconventional Resources Development

## Hydraulically Fractured Horizontal Wells



*Image source: Colorado School of Mines*

# Major US Basins and Shale Plays

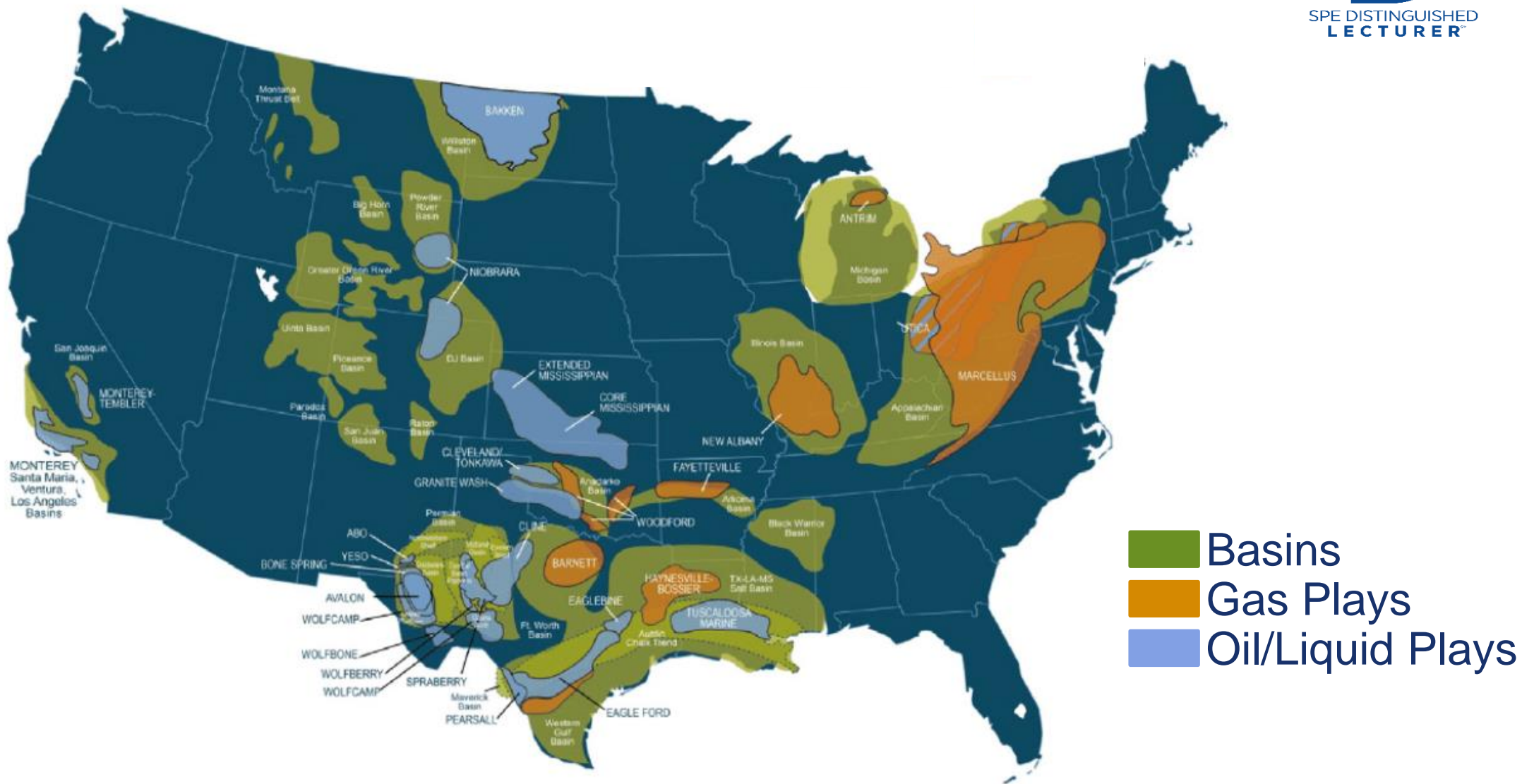


Image source: PacWest Consulting Partners (2016)

# North American Basins and Shale Plays



# The Challenge



- In 2014, the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) started to drop, reaching a low of \$26 per barrel in February 2016.
- Industry analysts predicted that unconventional shale plays would be shut down as they would no longer be economical.
- The shale industry did not just survive: ***It thrived...How?***

# US Oil Production Growth

## West Texas Intermediate (WTI) Price

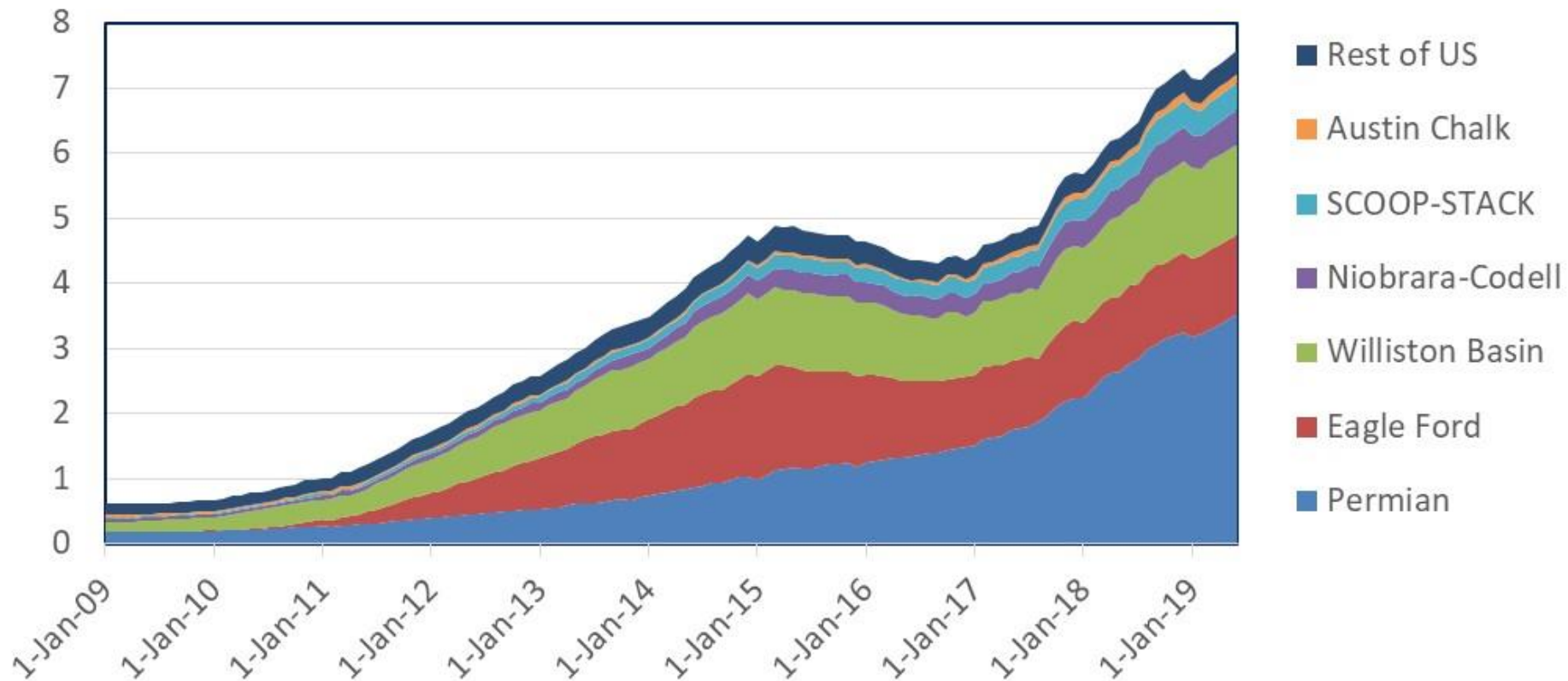


Data source: [macrotrends.net](http://macrotrends.net)



# US Tight Oil Production by Play

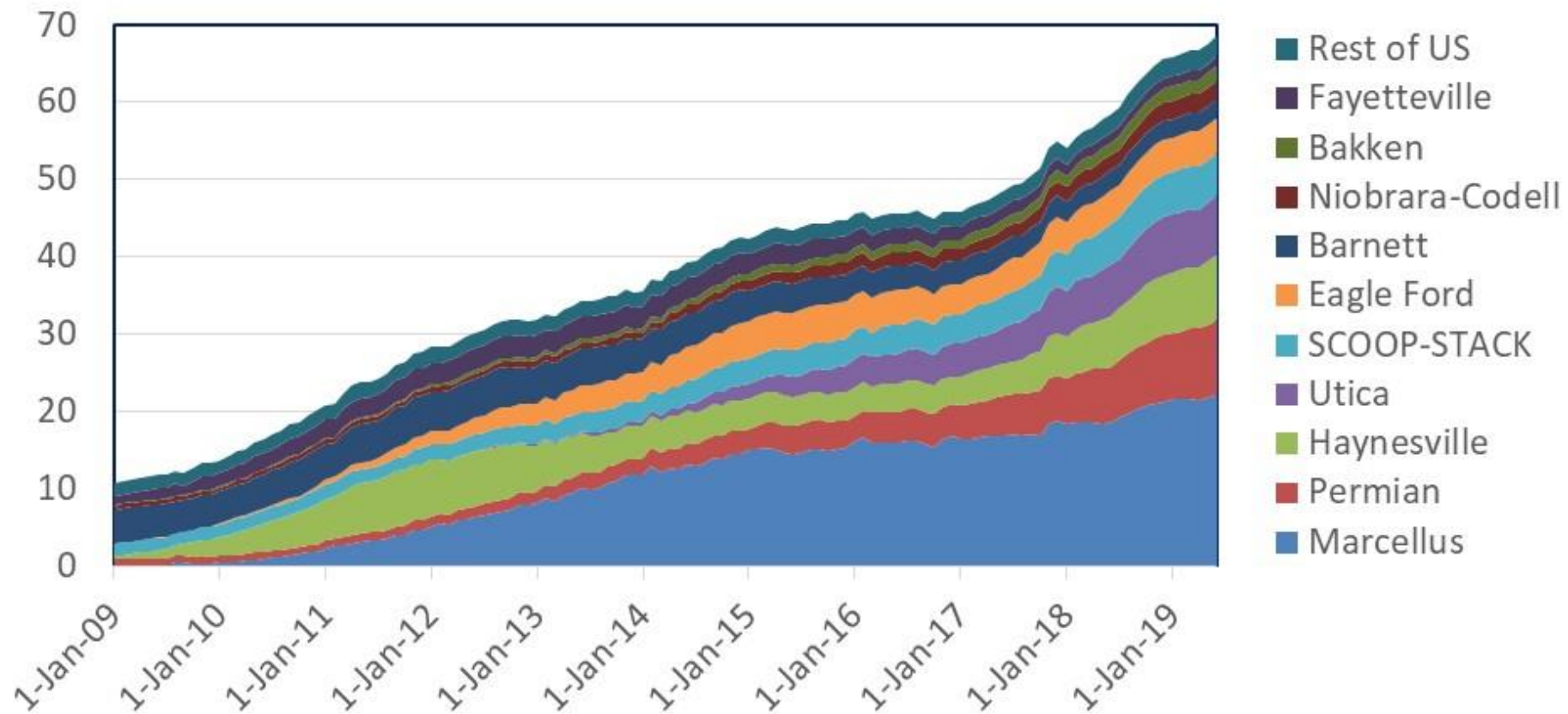
Daily Tight Oil Production (million BO/day)



Source: US Energy Information Agency

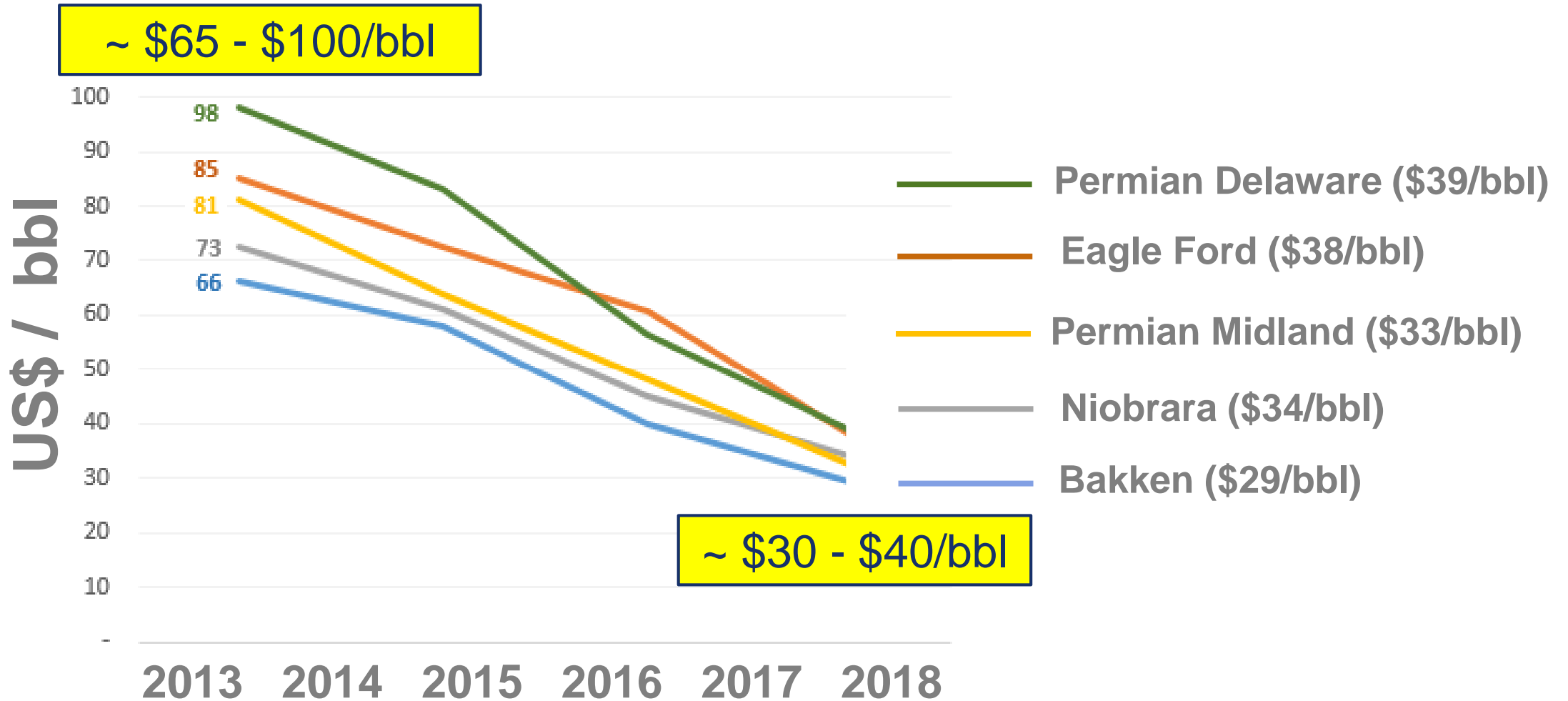
# US Shale Gas Production by Play

Daily Shale Gas Production (bcf/day)



Source: US Energy Information Agency

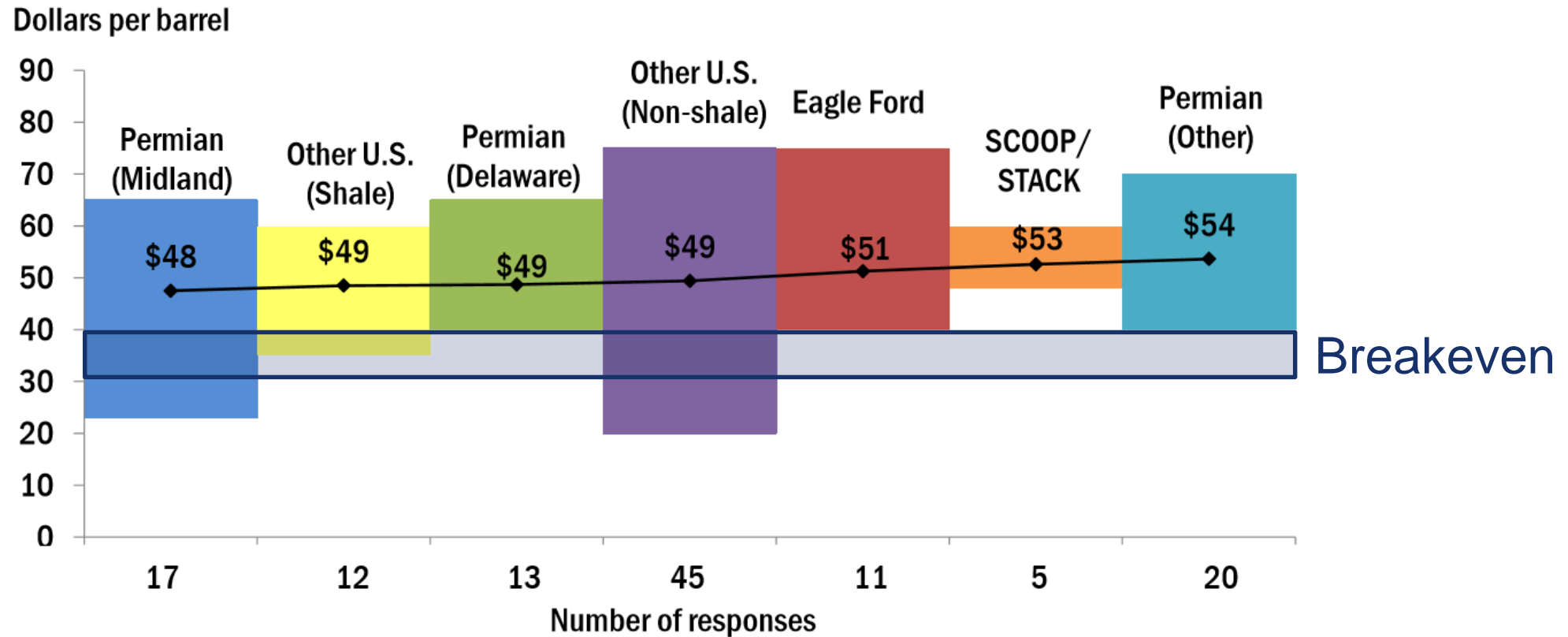
# Wellhead Breakeven Prices



Source: Rystad Energy NASWellCube

# Profitability vs. Breakeven

**Dallas Fed Energy Survey—In the top two areas in which your firm is active: What WTI oil price does your firm need to profitably drill a new well?**



Data source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (March 2019)

# Lloydminster DL Presentation

## November 18, 2019

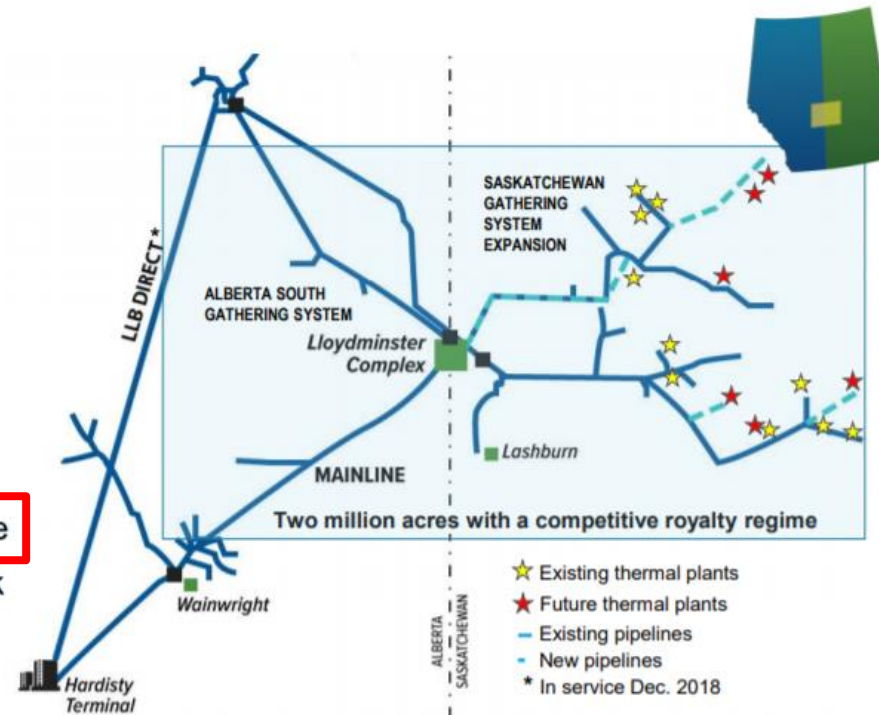
## Lloyd Thermals

### History Of Successful Project Execution And Capital Discipline

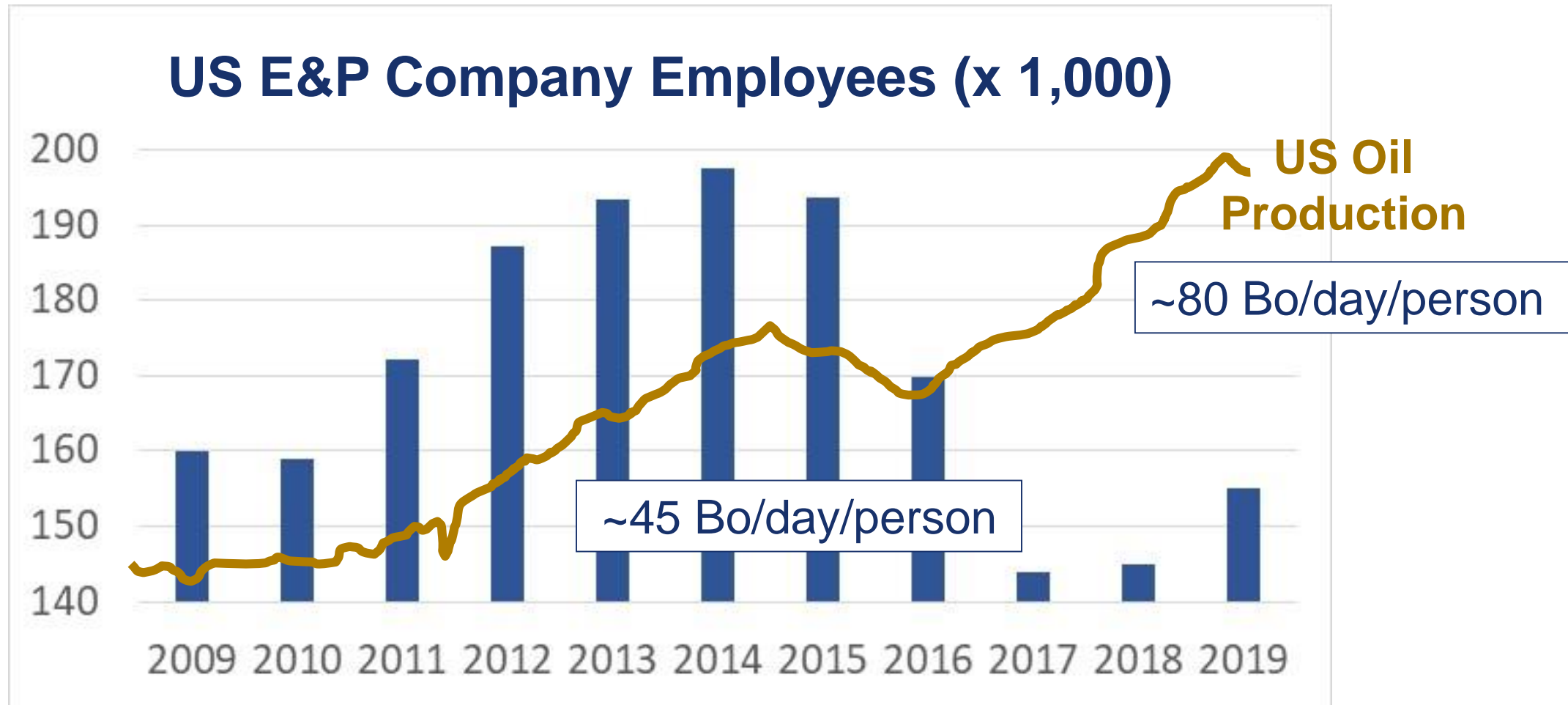
- Modular, scalable designs with standardized engineering and construction
- Not subject to government production quotas
- 10,000 bbls/day Dee Valley now on production
- Rush Lake 2 continues to perform above nameplate
- Project break-evens of \$30/bbl WTI

#### Growth projects update:

- Paced development: Three projects every two years
- Focus on hub centralization and shared infrastructure
- Spruce Lake Central and Spruce Lake North on track for start-up in 2020, adding approximately 20,000 boe/day of capacity
- Expected '19 exit rate of +90,000 bbls/day; with 40,000 bbls/day capacity to be added by 2022

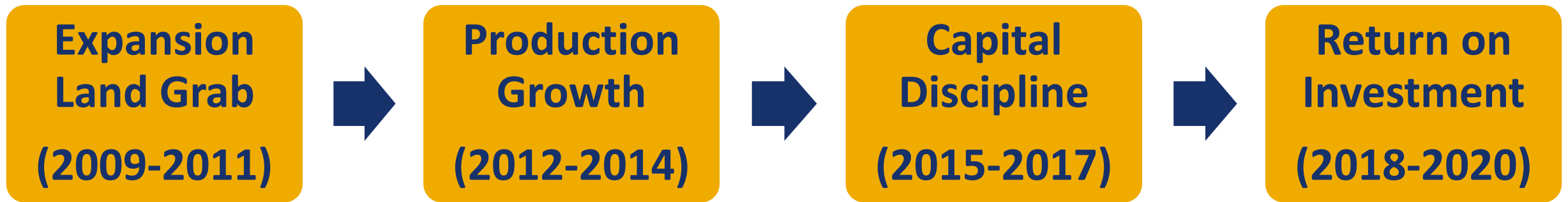


# Oil and Gas Extraction Workers



Data source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (August 2019)

# Shifting Landscape of Business Drivers



$$\text{Improve ROI (Return on Investment)} \times \frac{\text{Increase Production}}{\text{Decrease Costs} + \text{Reduce Cycle Times}}$$

# Generating Free Cash Flow

## Increase Production

- Longer laterals
- Optimized completions
- Proactive artificial lift designs

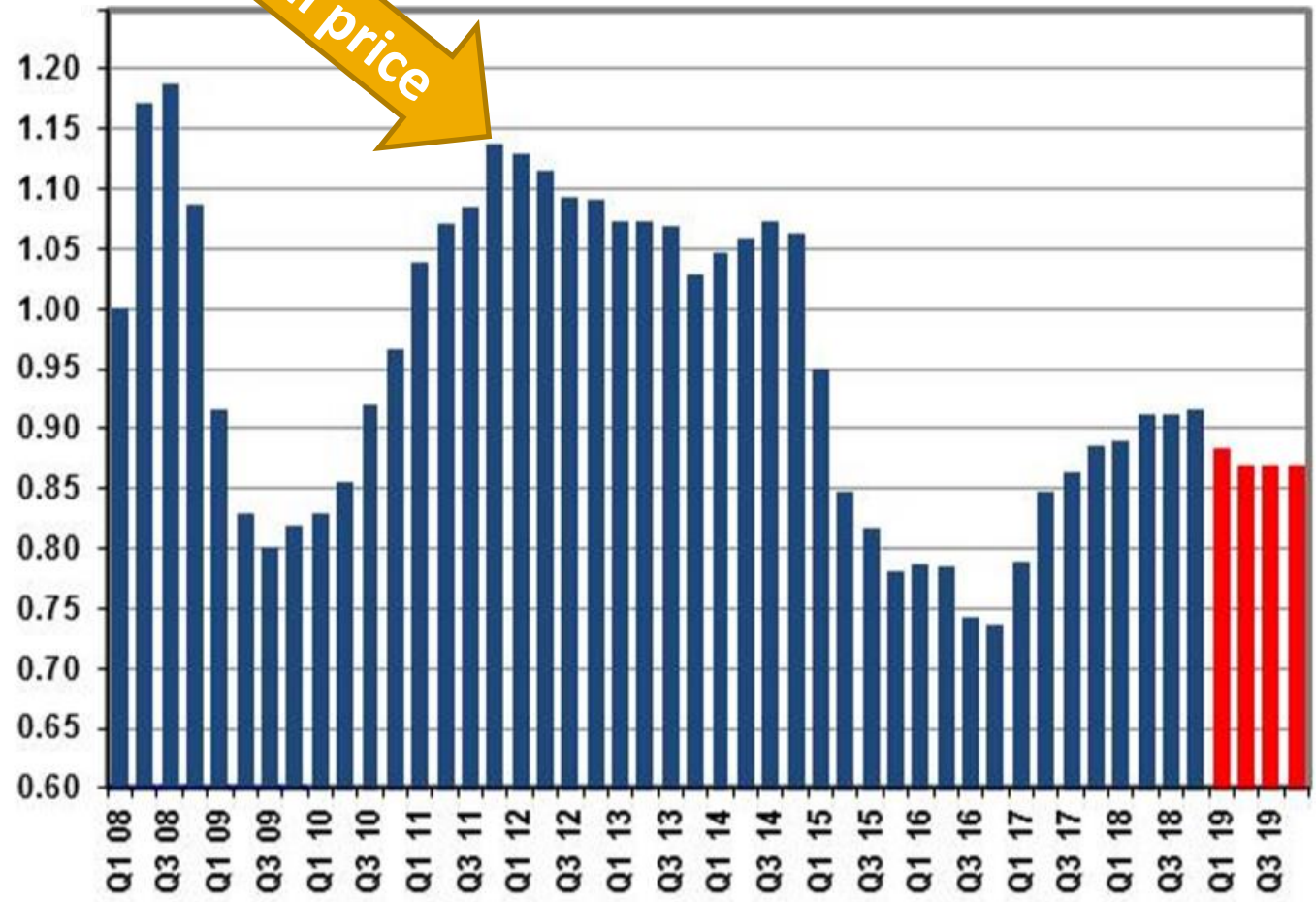
## Reduce Cost of Supply

- Services and materials pricing
- Decrease cycle time
- Optimize processes



# Composite Well Cost Index

10-year high oil price



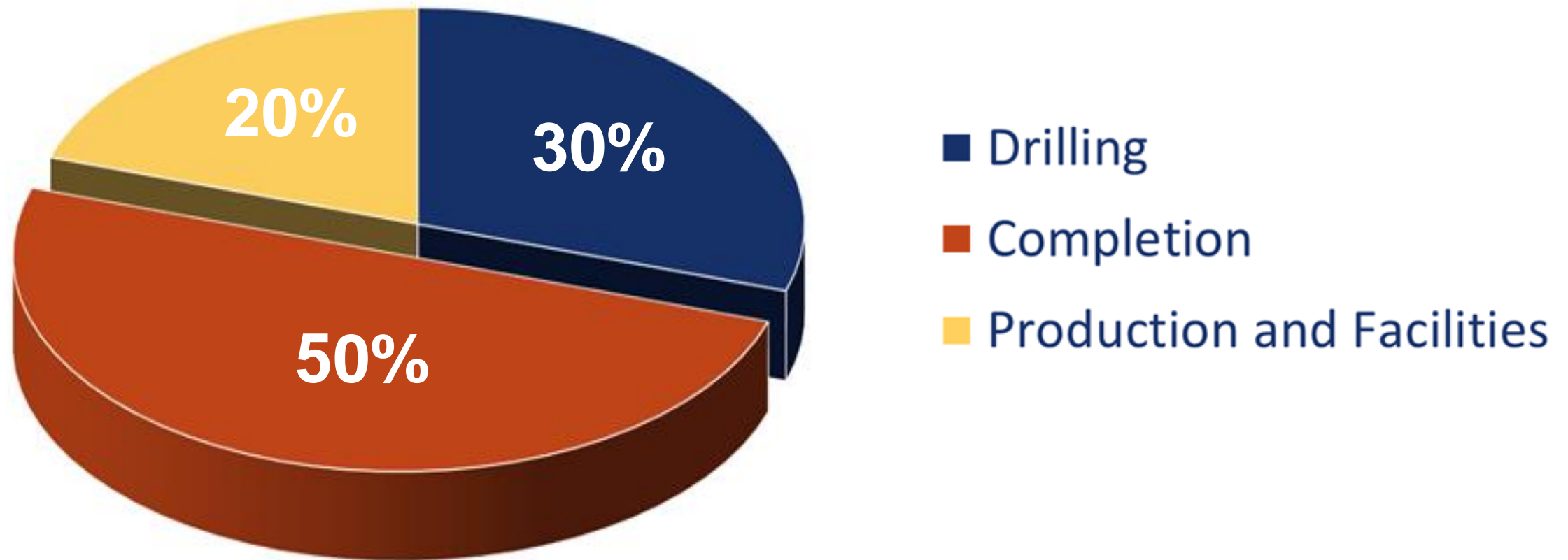
Data source: Spears and Associates, Inc (4Q-2018)

Date	Oil Price	Cost Index
2Q-2011	\$114	1.07
2019	~ \$55	0.86

- Oil prices dropped ~50%
- Well costs reduced only ~20%

# Breakdown of Total Well Costs

*Typical horizontal shale well*



# Drilling's Contributions to Improved ROI

- 1) Increased lateral lengths
- 2) Reduced drilling times
- 3) Pad drilling



Increase Production

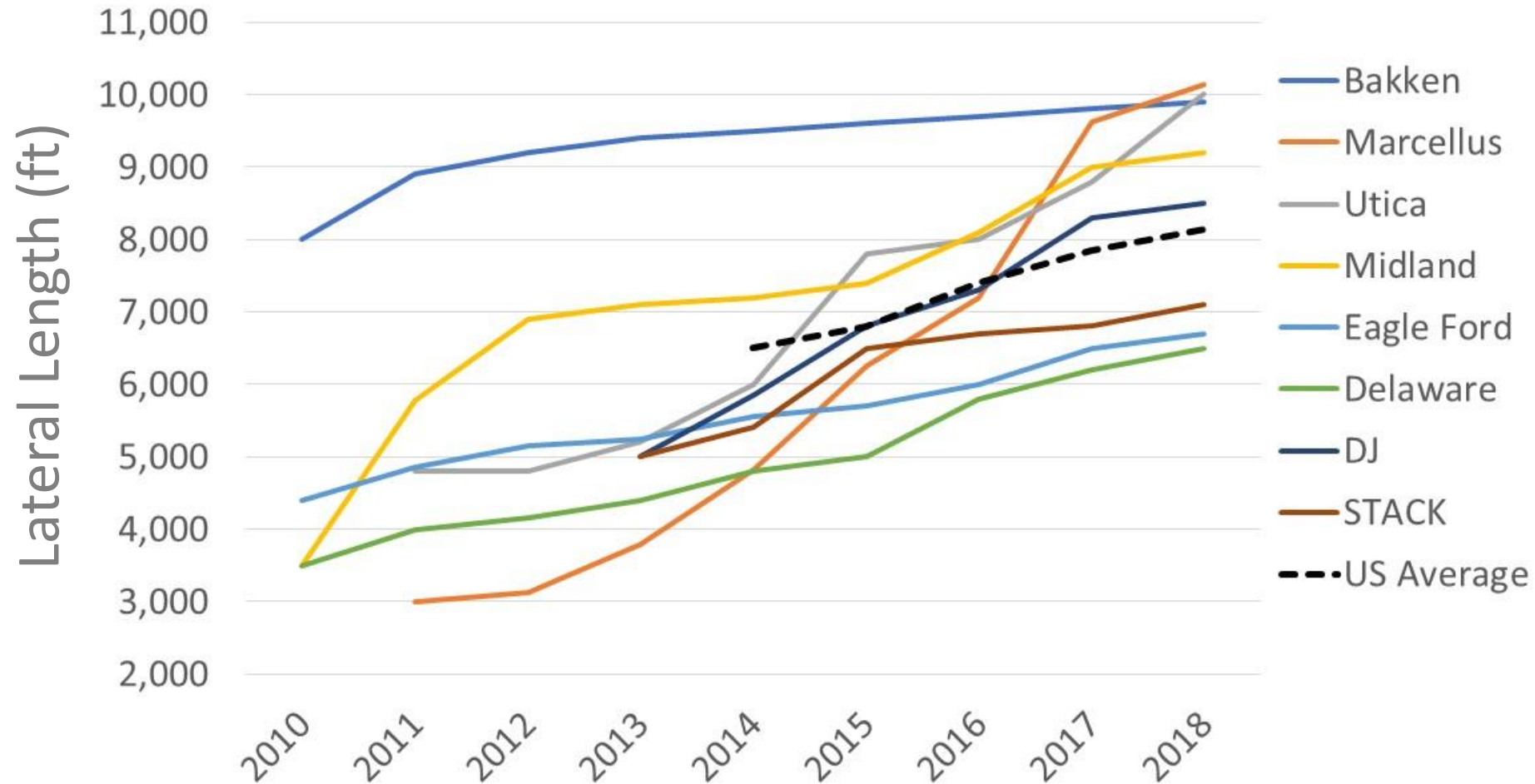
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Decrease  
Costs

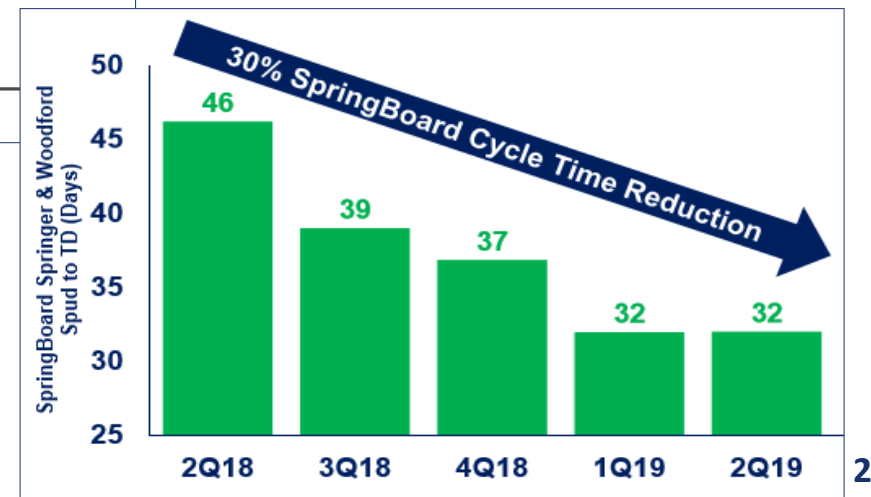
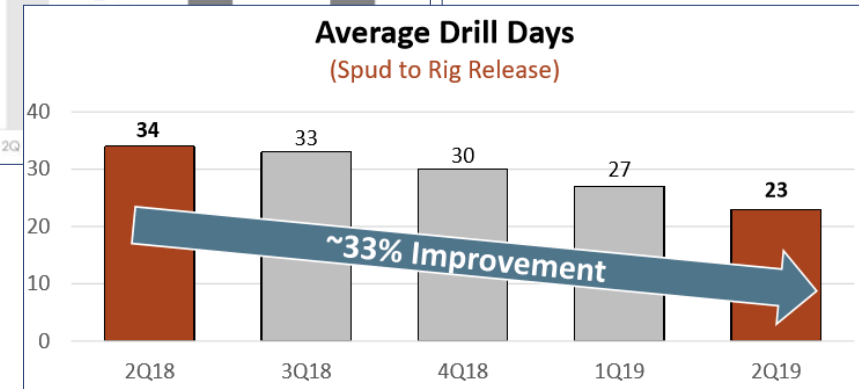
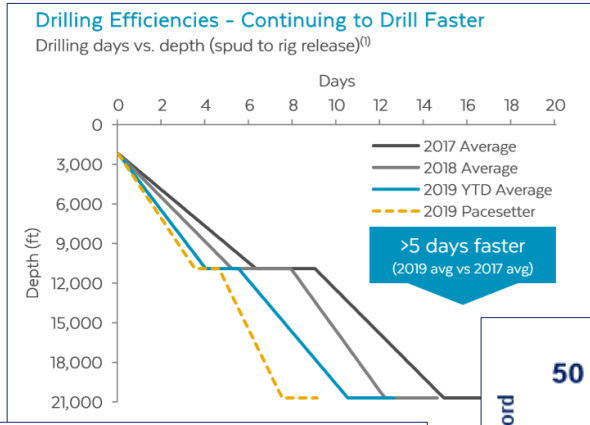
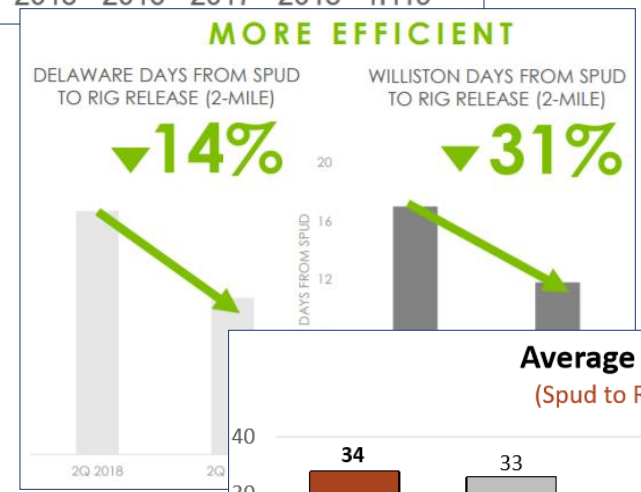
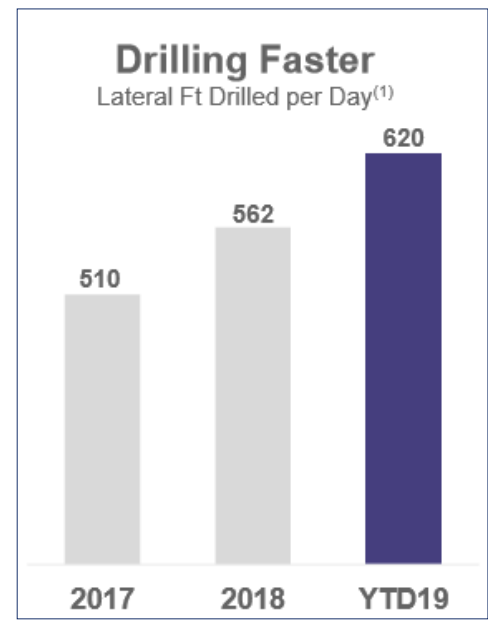
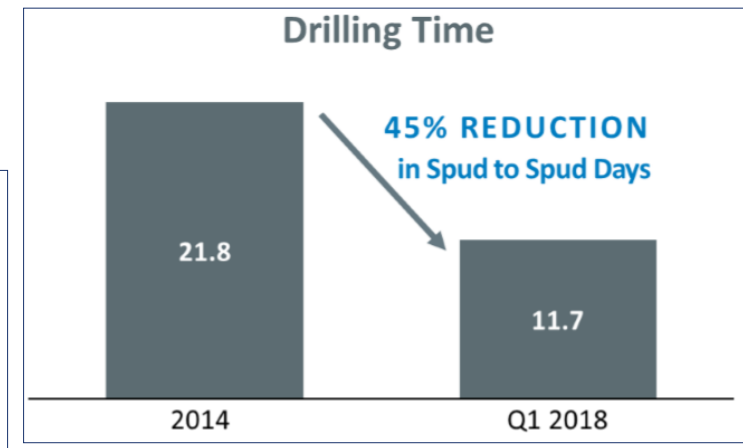
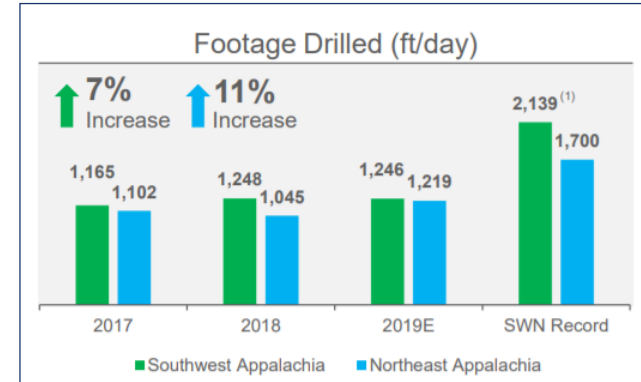
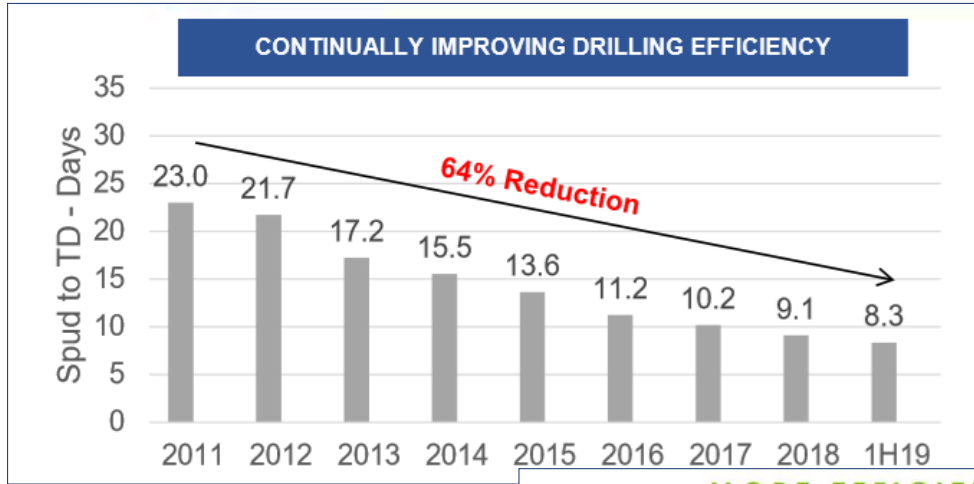
+

Improve  
Cycle Times

# Increasing Lateral Lengths by Play

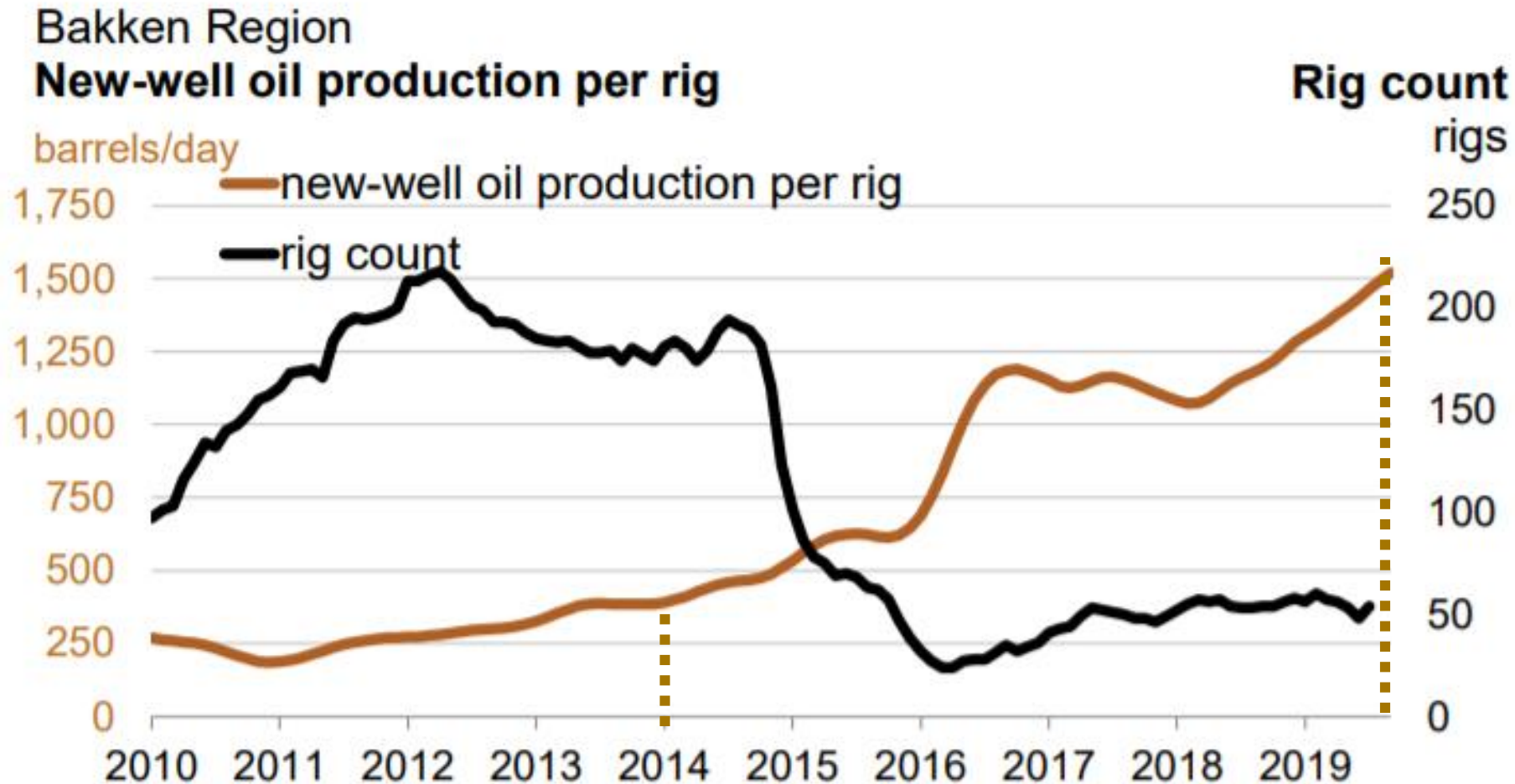


# Significantly Reduced Drilling Times



# New-well Oil Production per Rig

## Bakken Play



Source: EIA Drilling Productivity Report (October 2019)

# Drilling Efficiency Gains

## Technology + Teamwork



### Technology Advances

- Formation specific bits
- Improved stator designs
- Better, more reliable, data while drilling lateral
- Geo-steering software
- Auto-drilling software

### Teamwork

- Consolidated work force
- Empowerment of the field
- Common goals, improved communication
- Shared data to accelerate learning curve
- Performance analytics

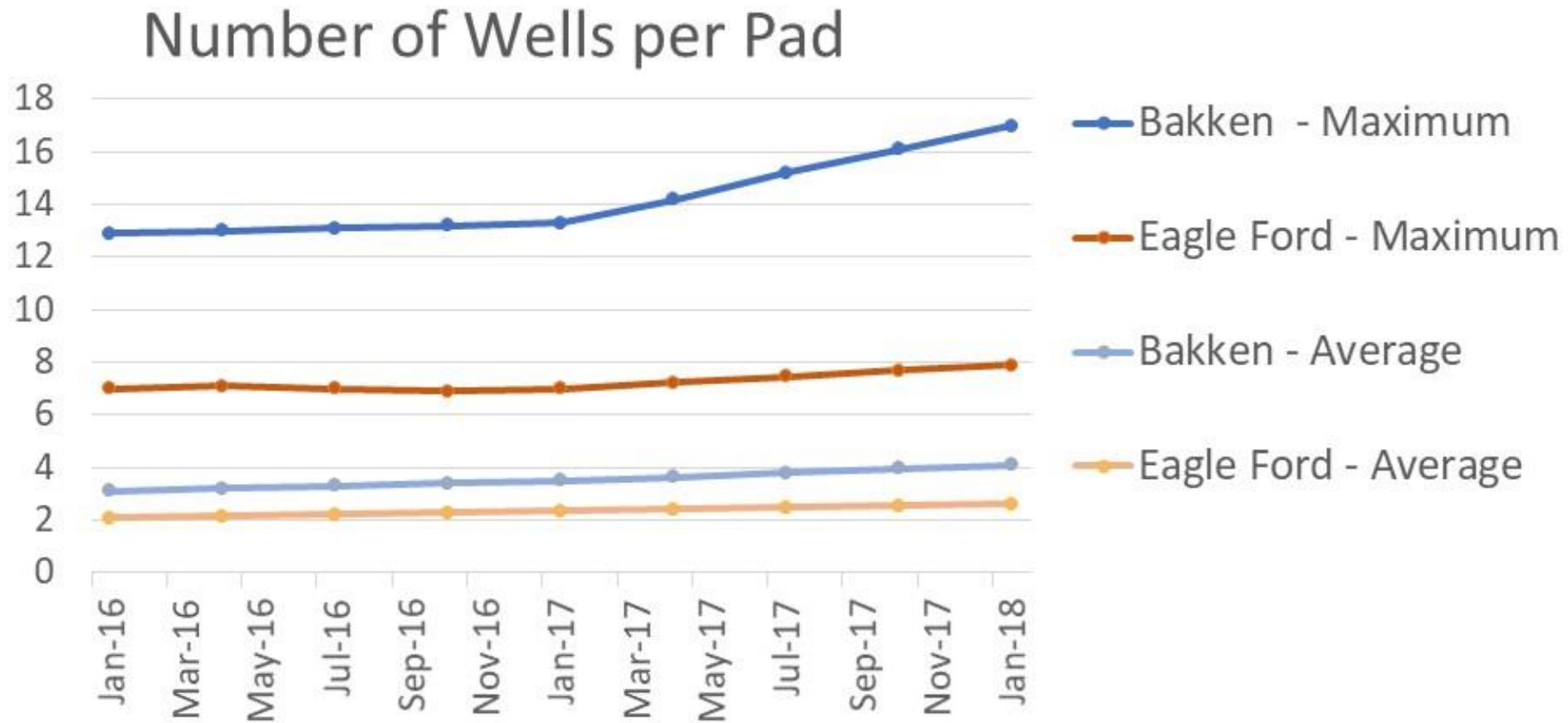
# Multi-Well Pad Drilling



Source: ConocoPhillips Eagle Ford Investor Tour <https://www.youtube.com/embed/w5R3FqwJ8oI?rel=0>



# Multi-Well Pad Drilling Trends



Source: Spears and Associates Insider (June 2019)

# Pros and Cons of Multi-Well Pad Drilling



## Advantages

- Reduced surface footprint
- Fewer rig moves
  - Saves 2-4 days
  - Reduced exposure to personnel
- Batch drill wellbore sections
  - Allows offline cementing operations
  - Reduced mud swaps
  - Less laying down of pipe
- Focus on “hidden” inefficiencies

## Challenges

- More complex wellbores
  - Anti-collision considerations
  - Longer step-outs
- Concentrated/increased traffic
- Simultaneous operations
  - Multiple rigs on larger pads
  - Drilling and completion simops
- Long lead time bringing wells onto production

# Multi-Well Pad Completion



Source: ConocoPhillips Eagle Ford Investor Tour <https://www.youtube.com/embed/w5R3FqwJ8oI?rel=0>

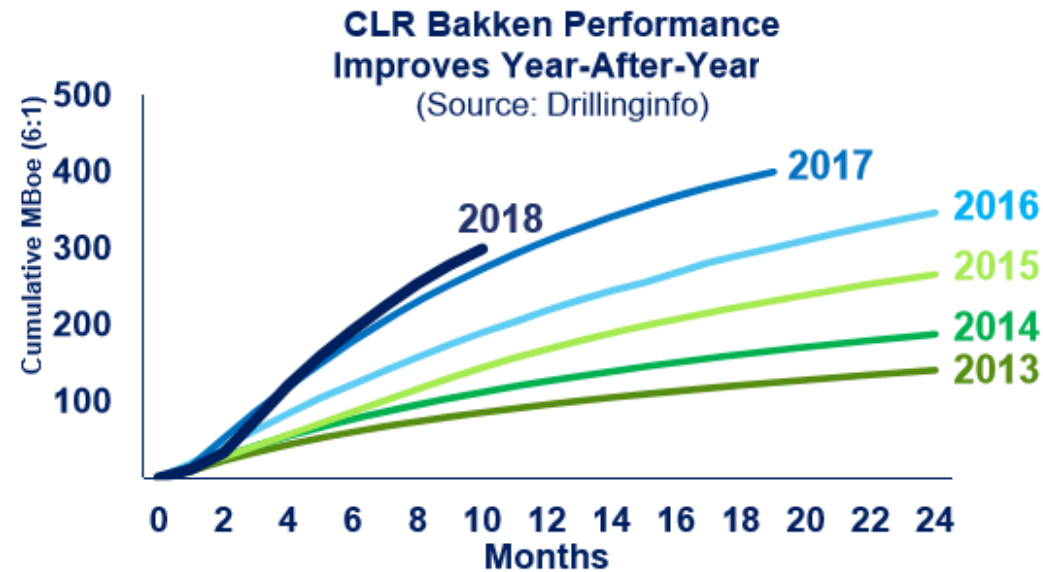
# Completion Phases

## *Horizontal wells with multi-stage hydraulic fractures*



1. Run and cement the lateral liner (or isolate with casing packers)
2. Hydraulically fracture the lateral stage by stage
  - a) Fracture first stage
  - b) Use wireline to pump down frac plug and perforating guns
    - Set frac plug to isolate prior stage
    - Pull up, perforate, pull out of hole
  - c) Fracture next stage – repeat process
3. Drill out frac plugs with coiled tubing (or workover rig)
4. Flowback to recover frac fluids and debris from the wellbore

# Completions Impact on Profitability



Improve ROI



Decrease  
Costs

+

Reduce  
Cycle Times

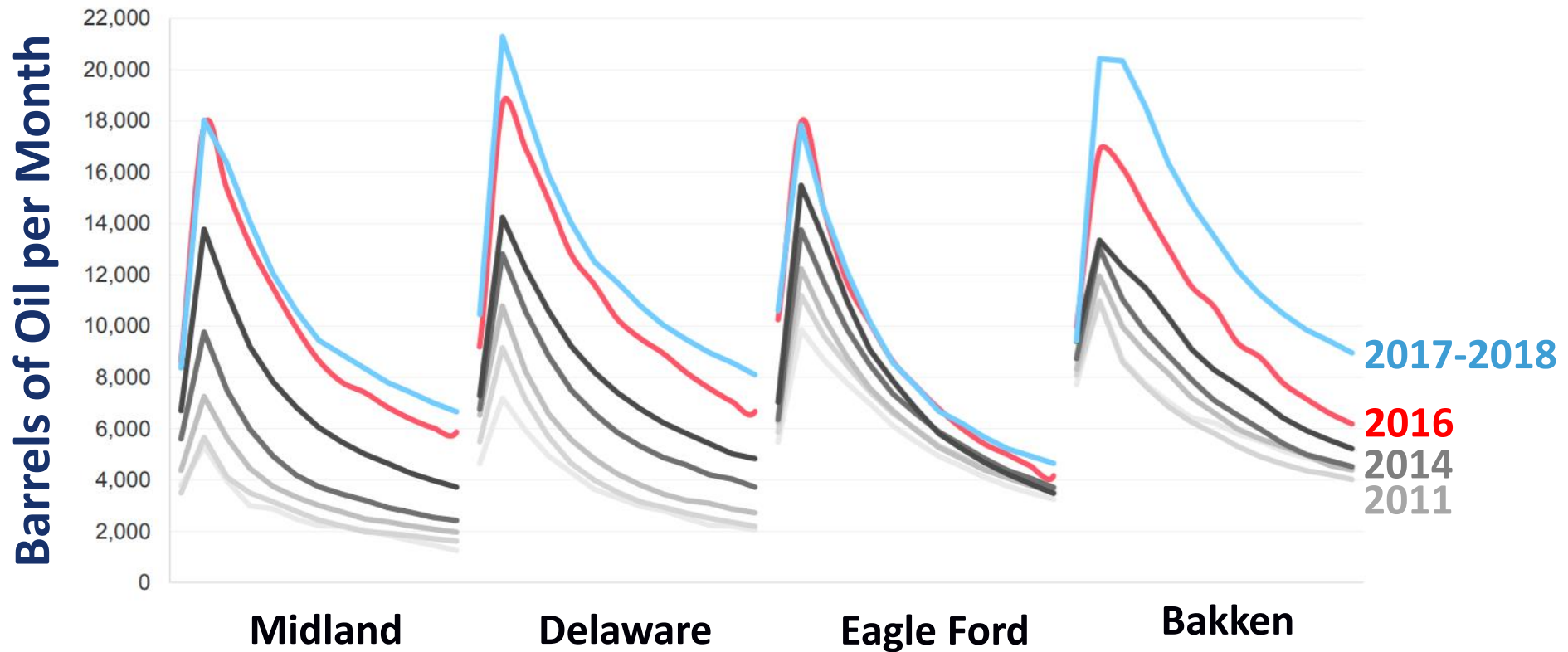


# Enhanced Completions

## *Drive improved well performance*



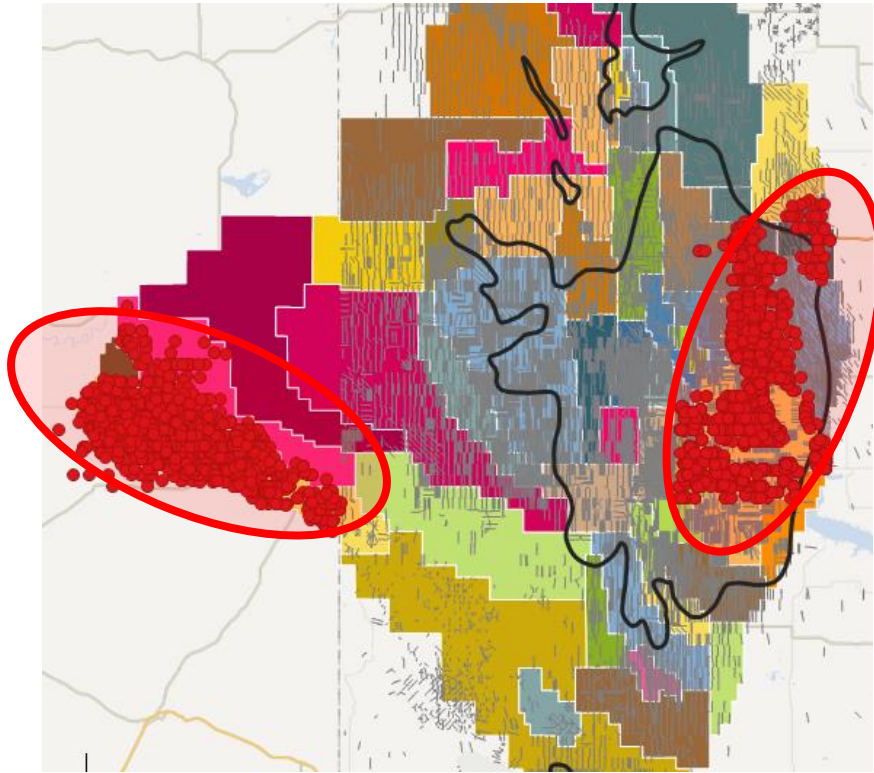
First year oil decline curves for horizontal wells by production start year



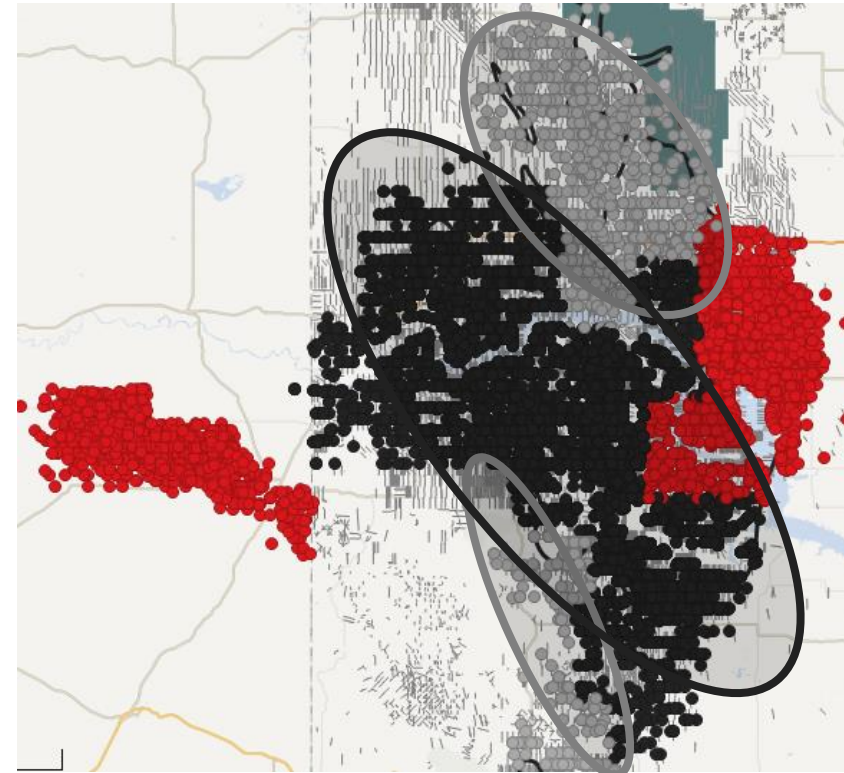
Source: Rystad Energy NASWellCube (February 2018)

# Increased Well Productivity *Expands the economic footprint*

● Early Bakken Development   ● New Fairway   ● Periphery



Montana   North Dakota

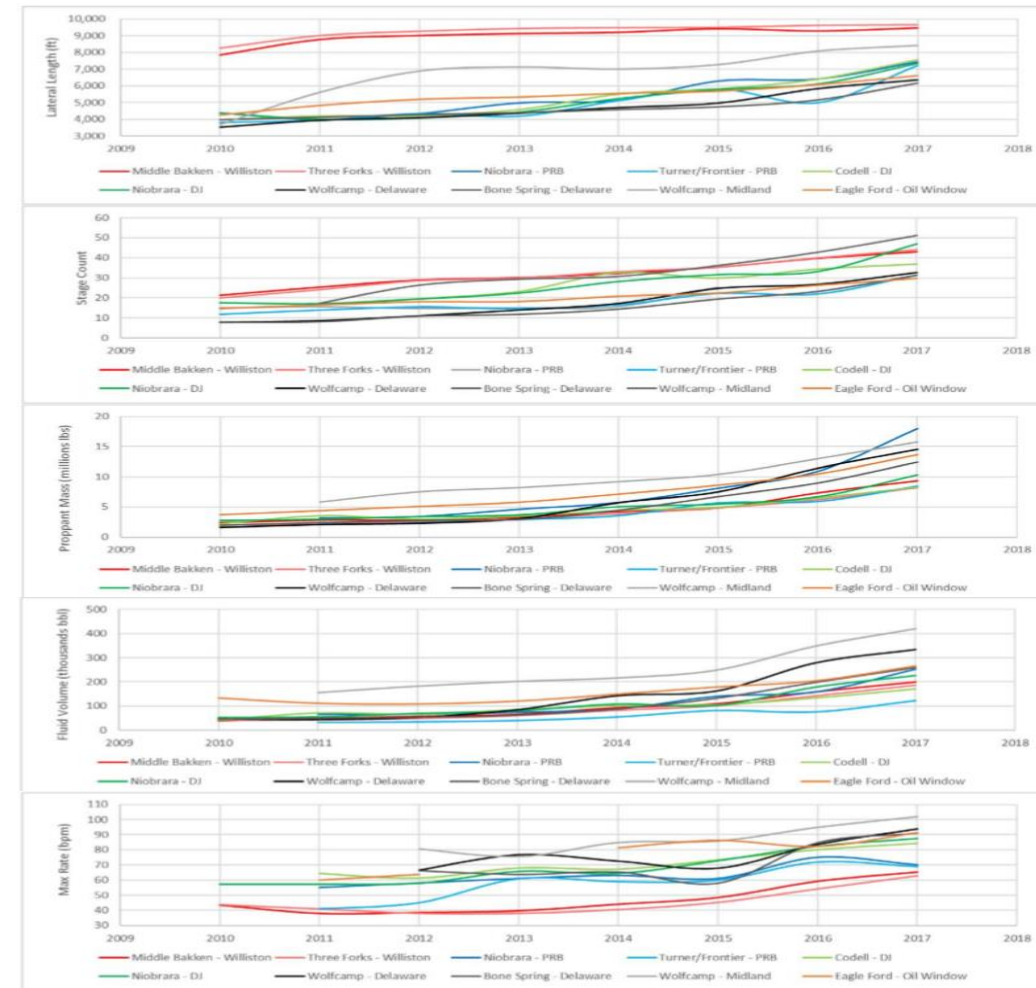


# Trends in Completion Design Parameters



## Completion Design Parameters

- Lateral length
- Stage count
- Proppant mass
- Fluid volume
- Injection rate
- Cluster/perforation design
- Well spacing



Lateral Length (ft)

Stages

Proppant (lbs)

Fluid (bbls)

Rate (BPM)



# Evolution of Stage and Cluster Spacing



**2011 - 2012**  
4,500 ft lateral  
8-10 stages



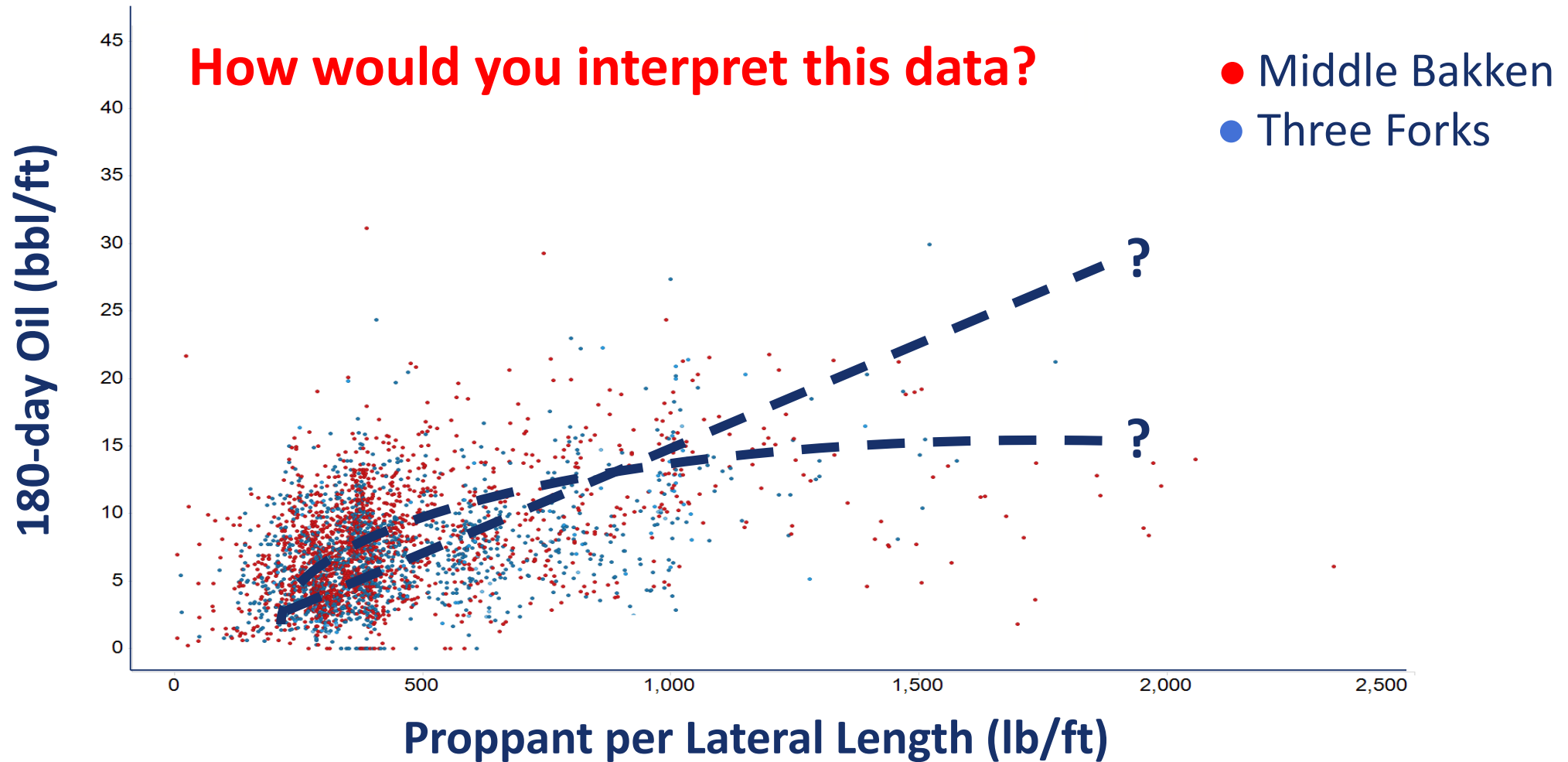
**2016 - 2017**  
10,000 ft lateral  
60-70 stages



- Current trend is to increase stage spacing while reducing cluster spacings
  - 28 to 45 stages with as many as 10-15 clusters (10,000 ft lateral)
- This provides significant cost and time savings, without sacrificing production results

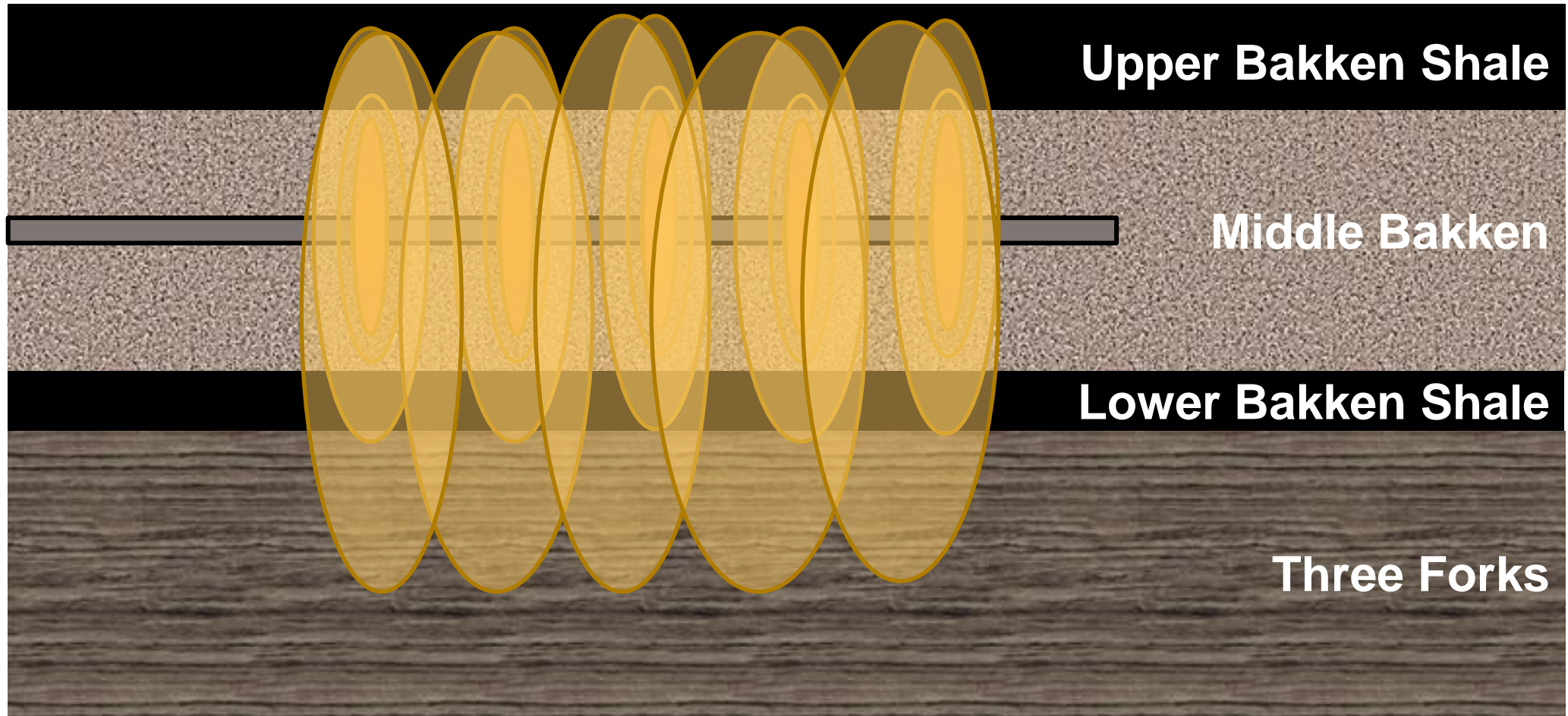
# Optimizing Frac Designs

## *Utilizing completion metrics*

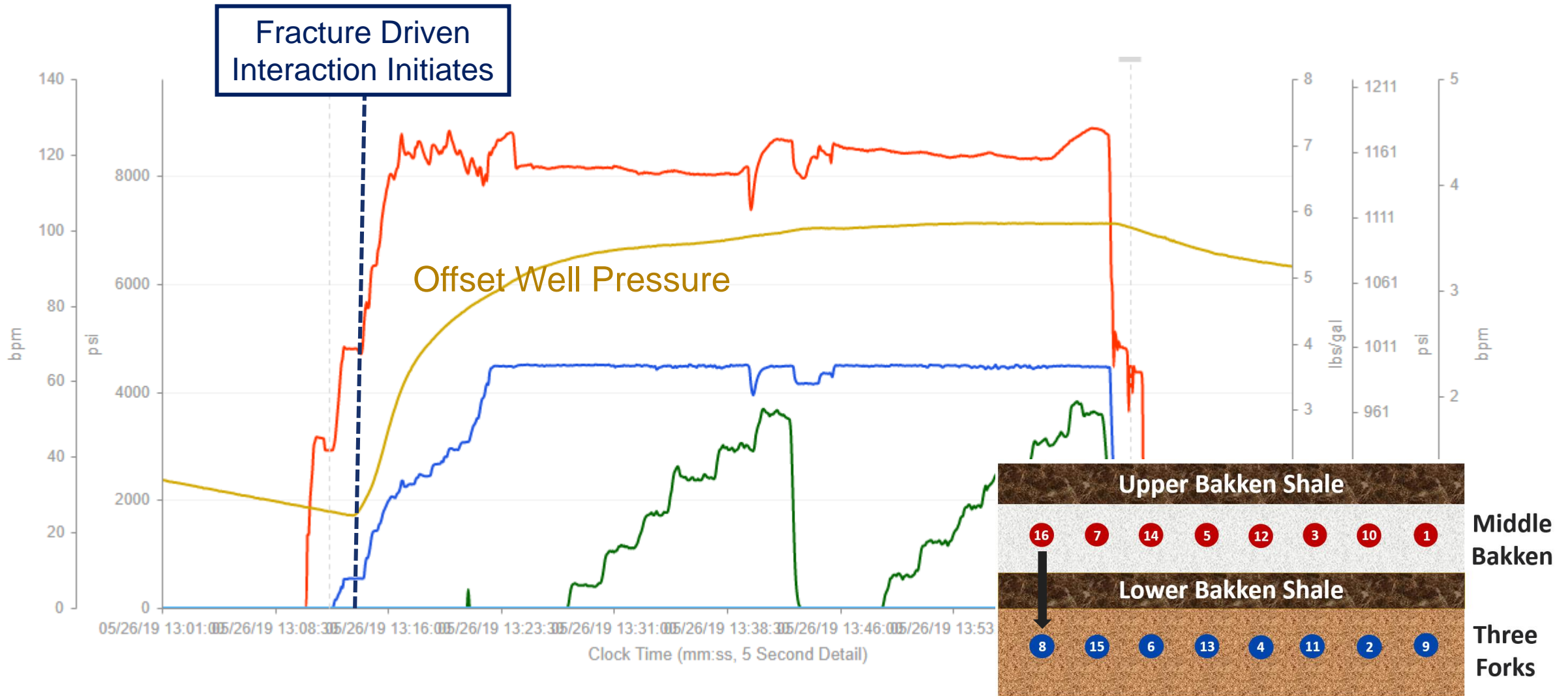


# Move from Enhanced to Optimized

*Bigger is not always better*

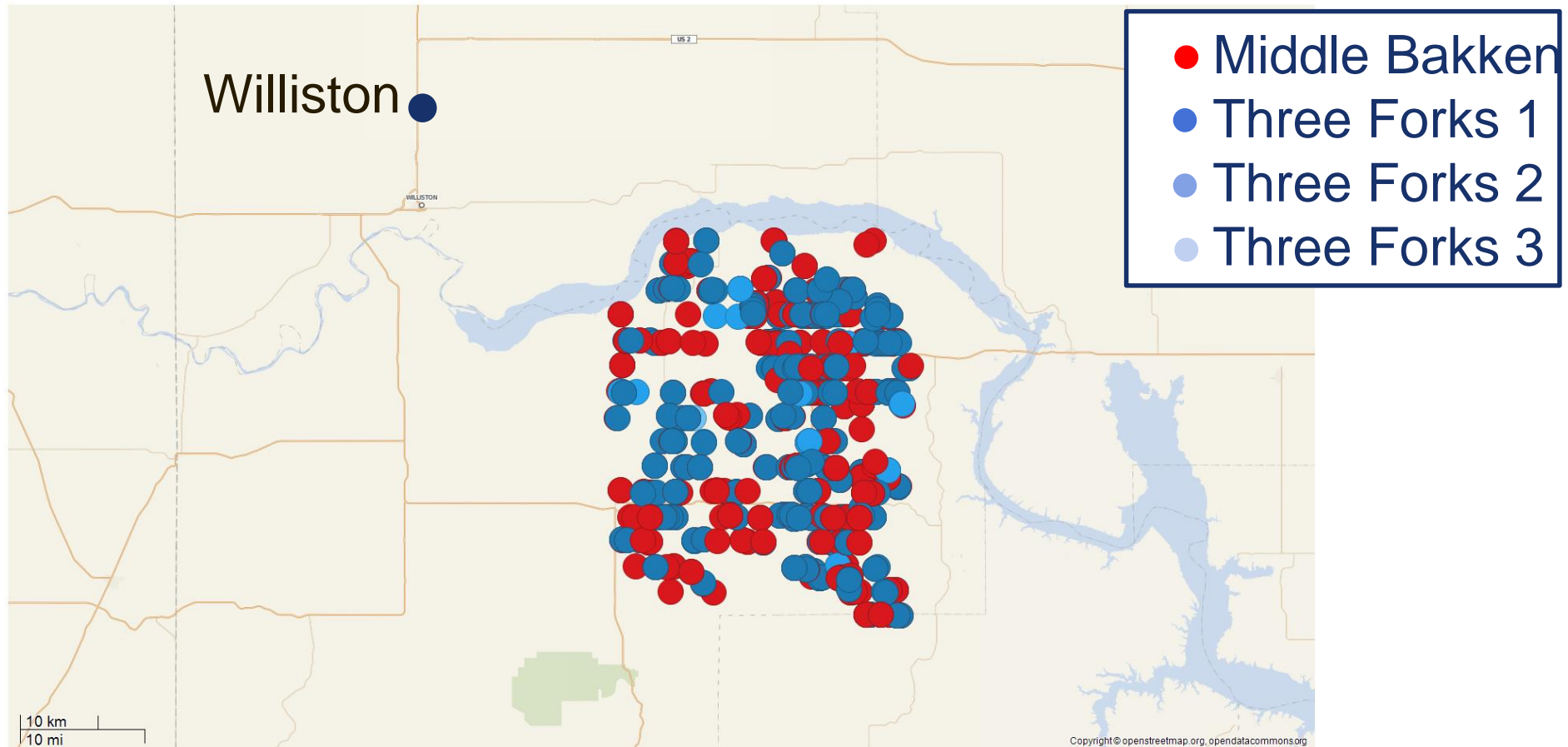


# Middle Bakken to Three Forks Communication



# Completion Multivariate Analysis

## *Central Bakken Example*

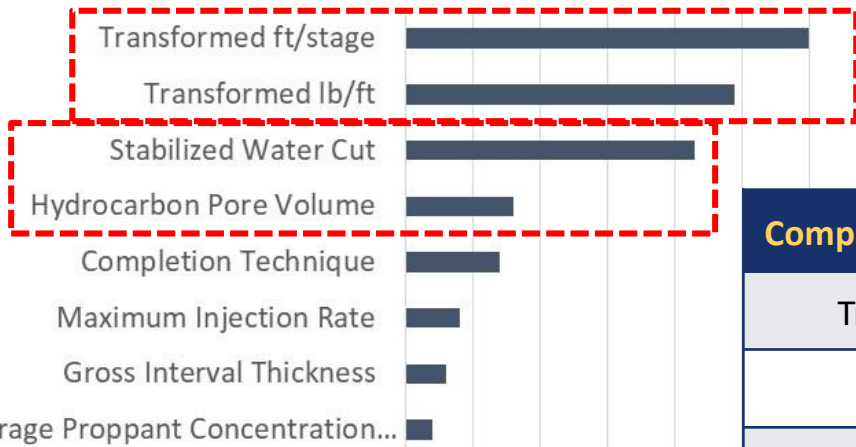


***Reference SPE 184851 or SPE 187254 for Analysis Technique***

# Combine Physical and Statistical Models

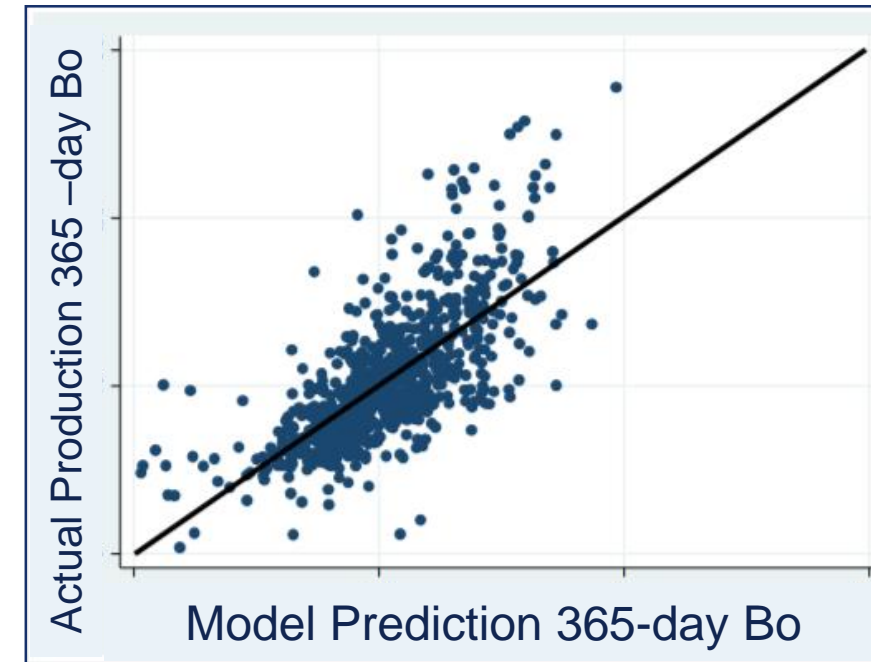
Predictor Dominance

0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.3 0.35



Stage spacing transformation  $y = 10.05 * \ln(x) + 70.908$   
 Proppant mass transformation  $y = 5.9451 * \ln(x) - 15.010$

Completion Design Parameter	Coefficient
Transformed ft/stage	0.4440
Transformed lb/ft	0.5320
Adjusted 180-day Water Cut	-0.1576
Hydrocarbon Pore Volume	1.2637
Completion Technique	1.8173
Maximum Injection Rate	0.0311
Gross Interval Thickness	0.0943
Ave Prop Conc (ppg)	-9.5170



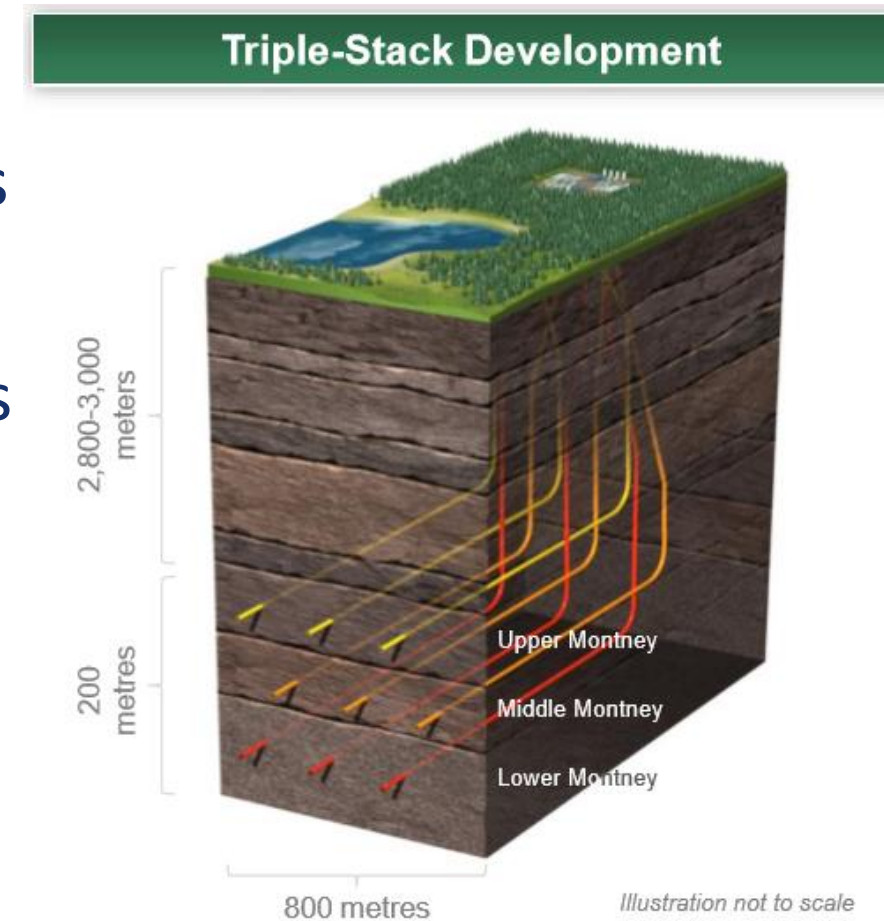
**Reference:**  
 SPE 184851 or SPE 187254  
 for Analysis Technique

# Optimizing Well Performance

## Develop formation specific best practices

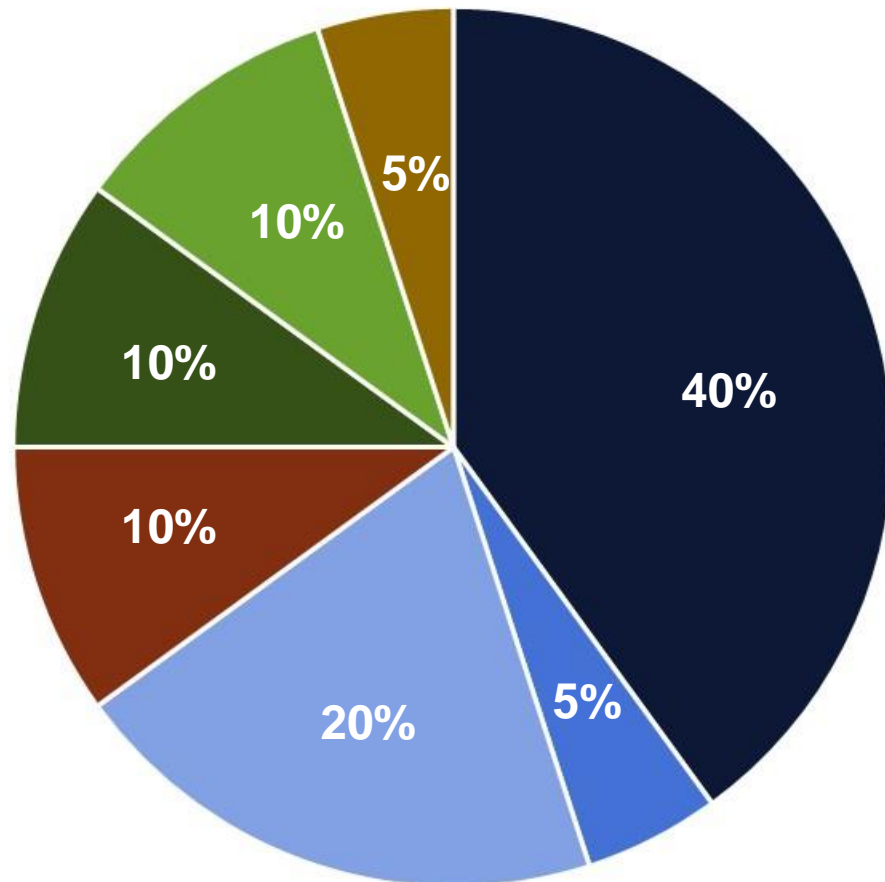
- Leverage basin completion & production metrics
- Identify key completion parameters
- Combine statistical analysis with physical models
- Move from enhanced to optimized completions

Recognize that completion design must be integrally linked to development plans



# Completion Cost Breakdown

## *Bakken 10,000 ft lateral example*



- Frac Services
  - Chemicals
  - Proppant
  - Water (purchase, transfer, dispose)
  - Wireline, Perforations, Plugs
  - CT Drill-out of Frac Plugs
  - Location, Supervision, Rentals, etc.
- ~65%
- ~20%

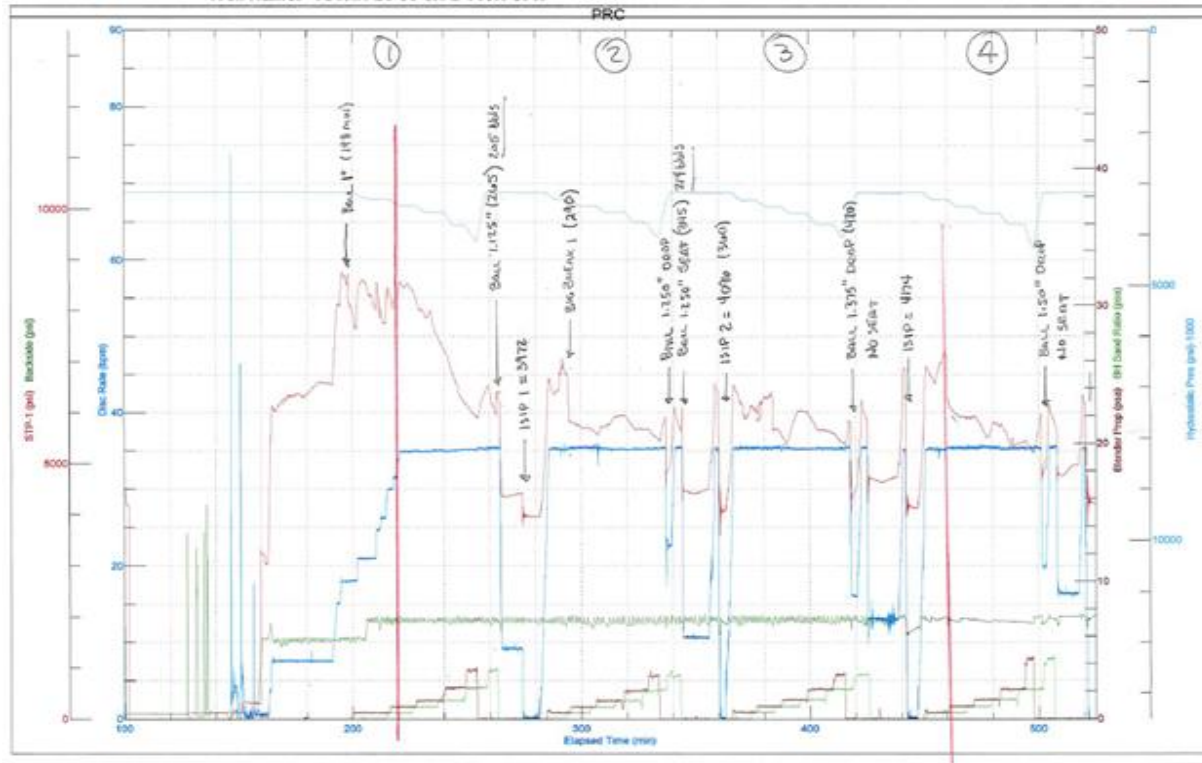


# Game Changer Technologies



- 1) Cloud technology, data analytics, and machine learning
- 2) Regional sand and new sand delivery systems
- 3) Extreme limited entry (XLE) perforating
- 4) High viscosity friction reducers (HVFR)
- 5) Produced water recycling
- 6) Wireline “quick connect” systems
- 7) Coiled tubing drill-outs

# Traditional Frac Stage & Well Files



Printed fracture treatment plot with handwritten annotations about the operations



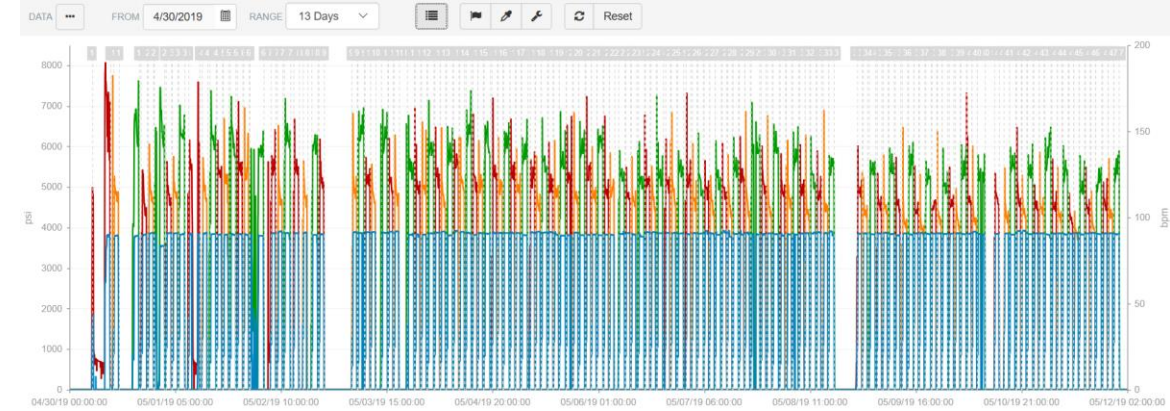
Paper copies of stage reports

Multiple  
USBs

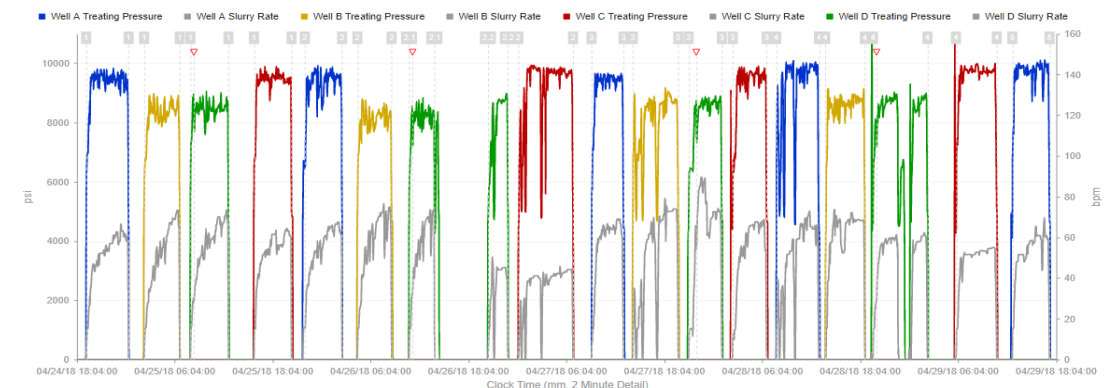


# Utilizing Cloud-based Technologies

- High frequency (1-sec) fracturing data is collected throughout the entire completion
- As received, the files are poorly structured and difficult to manipulate
- Cloud-based storage makes stage data readily available, allowing rapid visualization and analytics



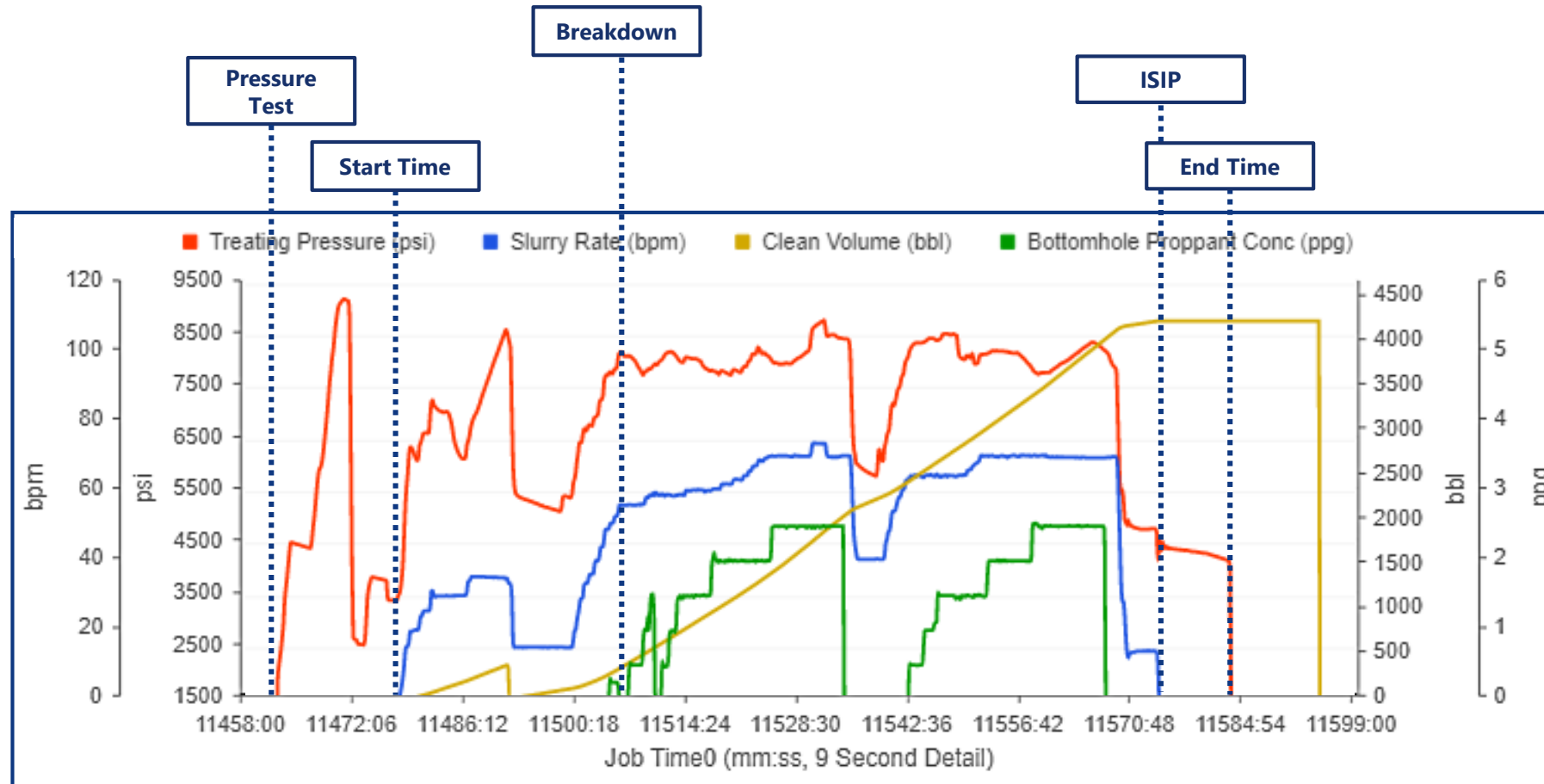
4-way zipper, entire operation, 13 days



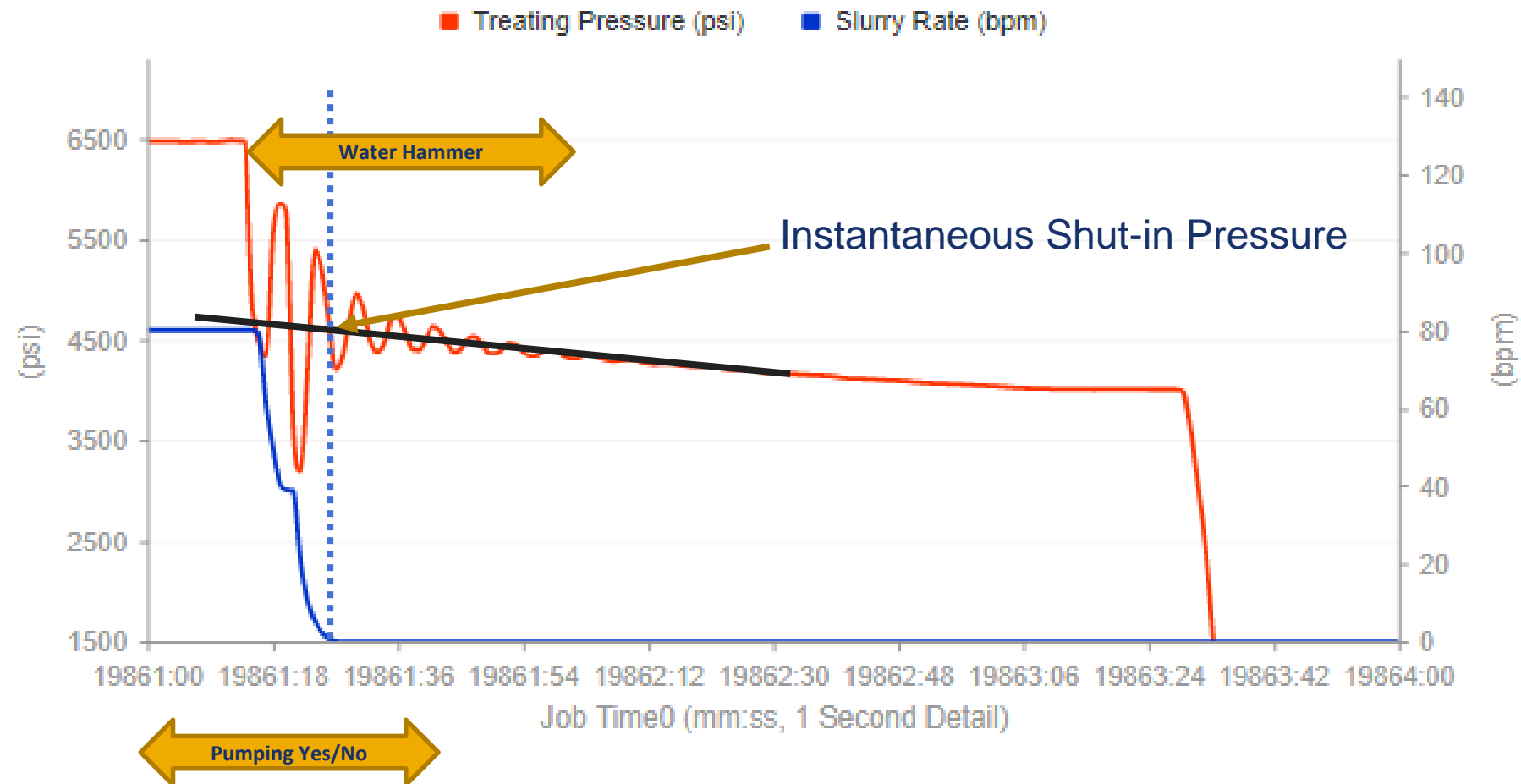
Closer evaluation, 5-day timespan

# Machine Learning (ML) Applications

## *Auto-flagging fracturing events*



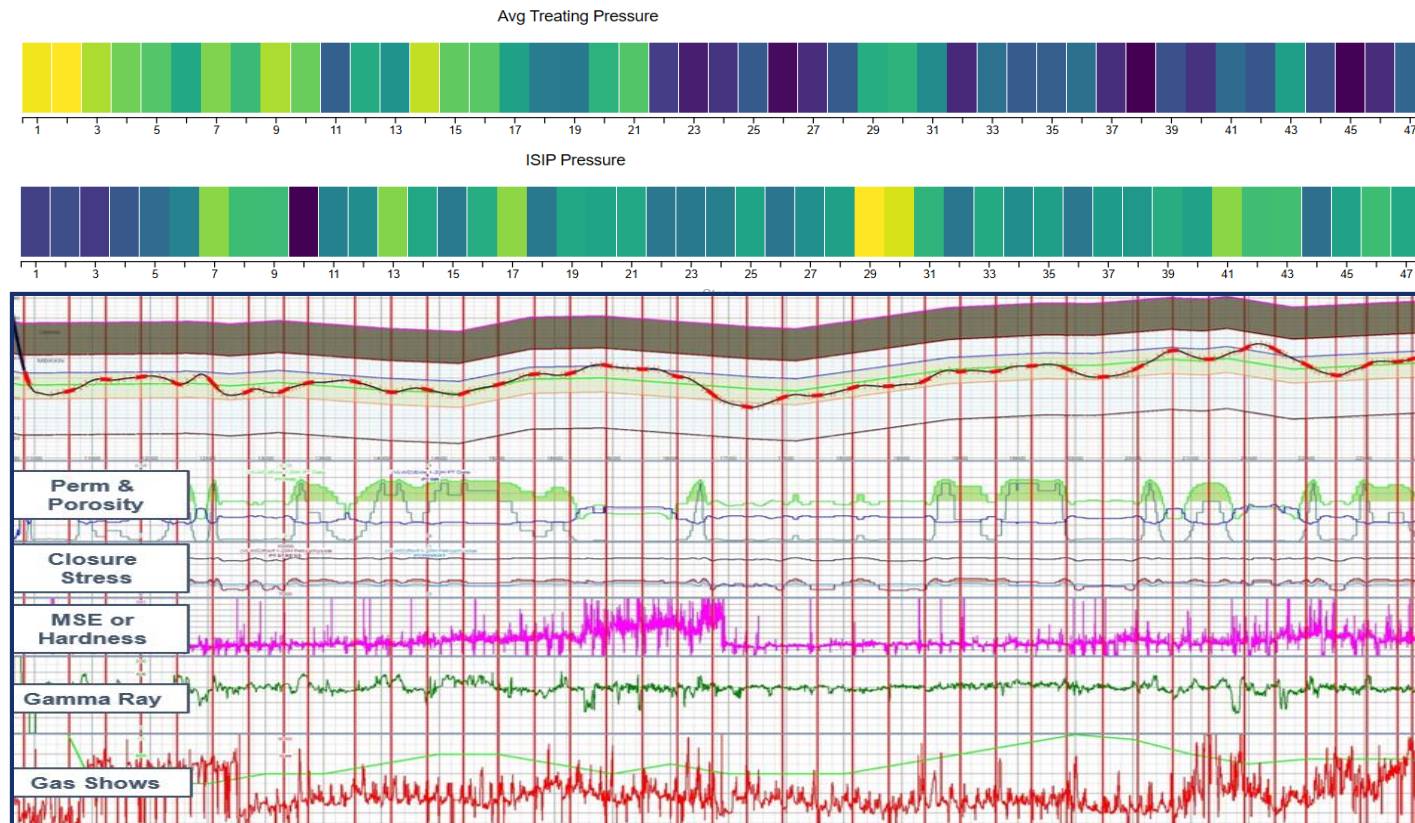
# ML Illustration: Auto-picking ISIP



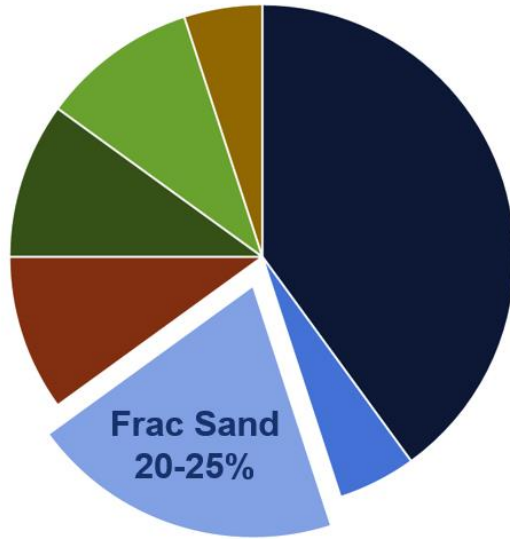
# Combining Frac and Geology Data

## *Possible with cloud-based technologies*

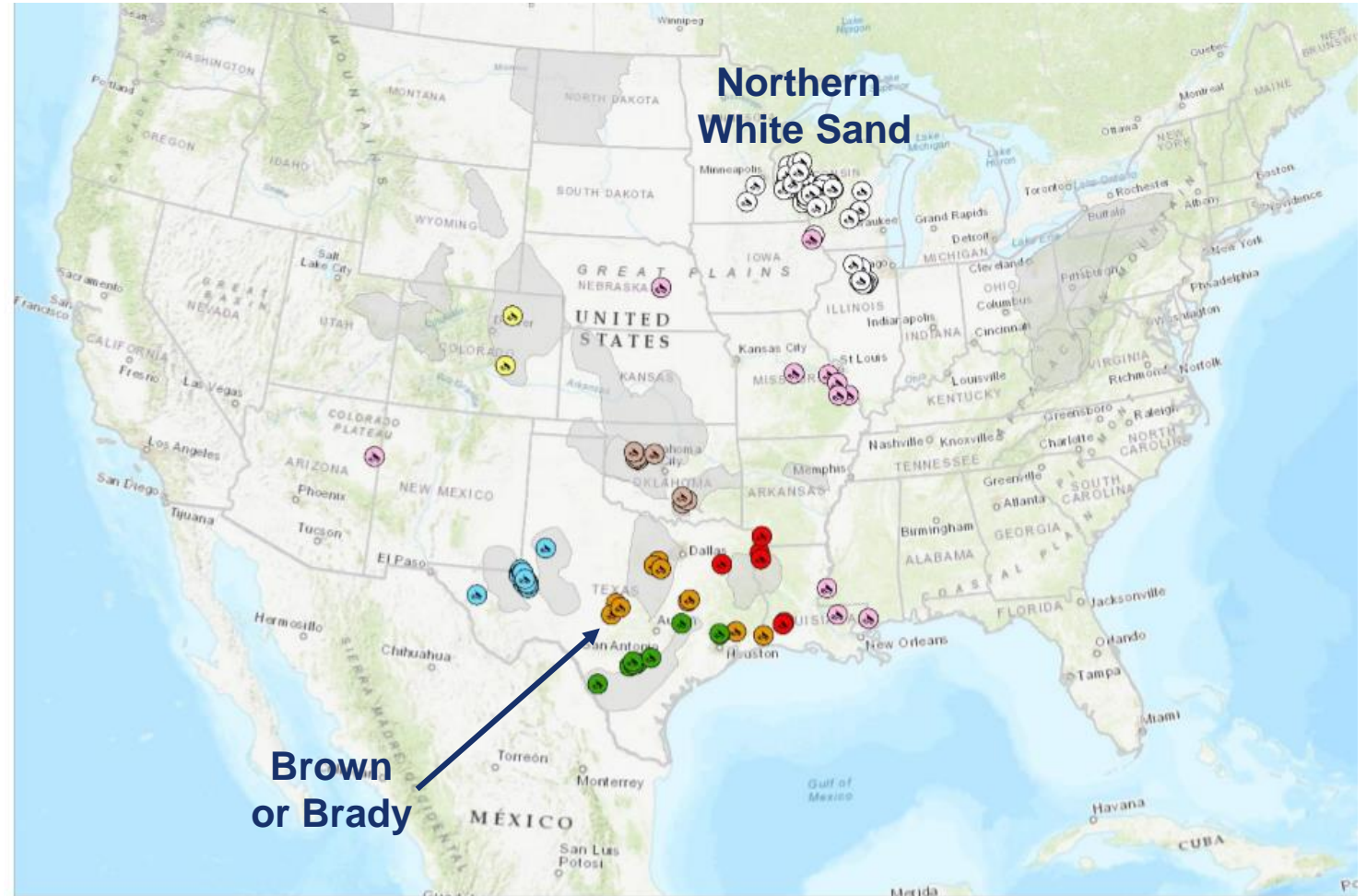
- Each frac stage is an “investigation” into the unique geology along a specific section of the lateral



# Driving Down Frac Sand Costs



- 1) Transport and storage
- 2) Self-sourcing
- 3) Regional sand
- 4) Mine ownership



# Sand Management Program

## Case Study: Chesapeake Energy

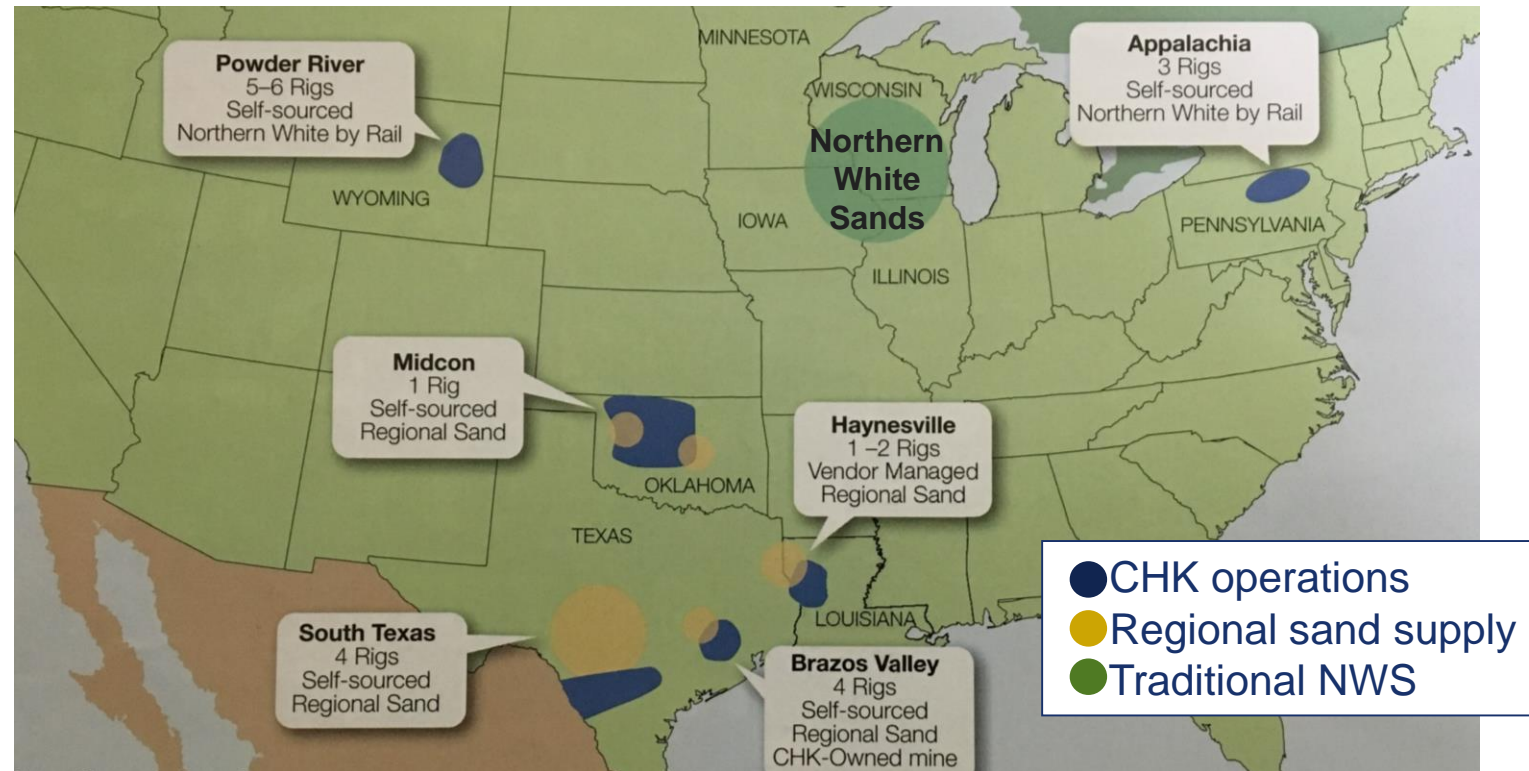


### Statistics

- ~ 8 billion pounds per year
- ~ \$100 million savings
- ~ 92% reduction in sand NPT

### Program

- First trials in 2013
- Mid-2018 initiated full program
- Team of 2 to manage
- Hybrid strategy

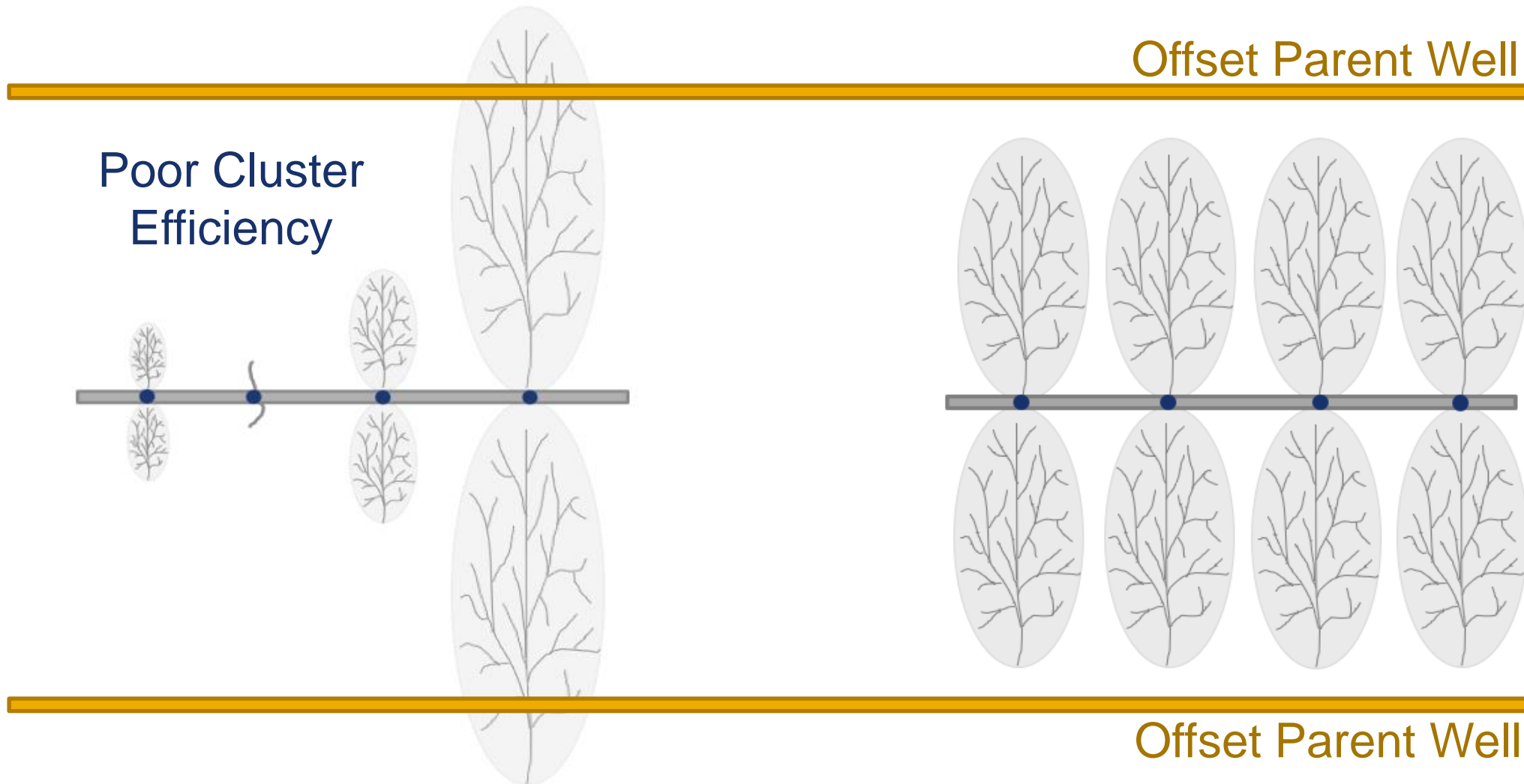


Reference: Oil and Gas Investor (August 2019)



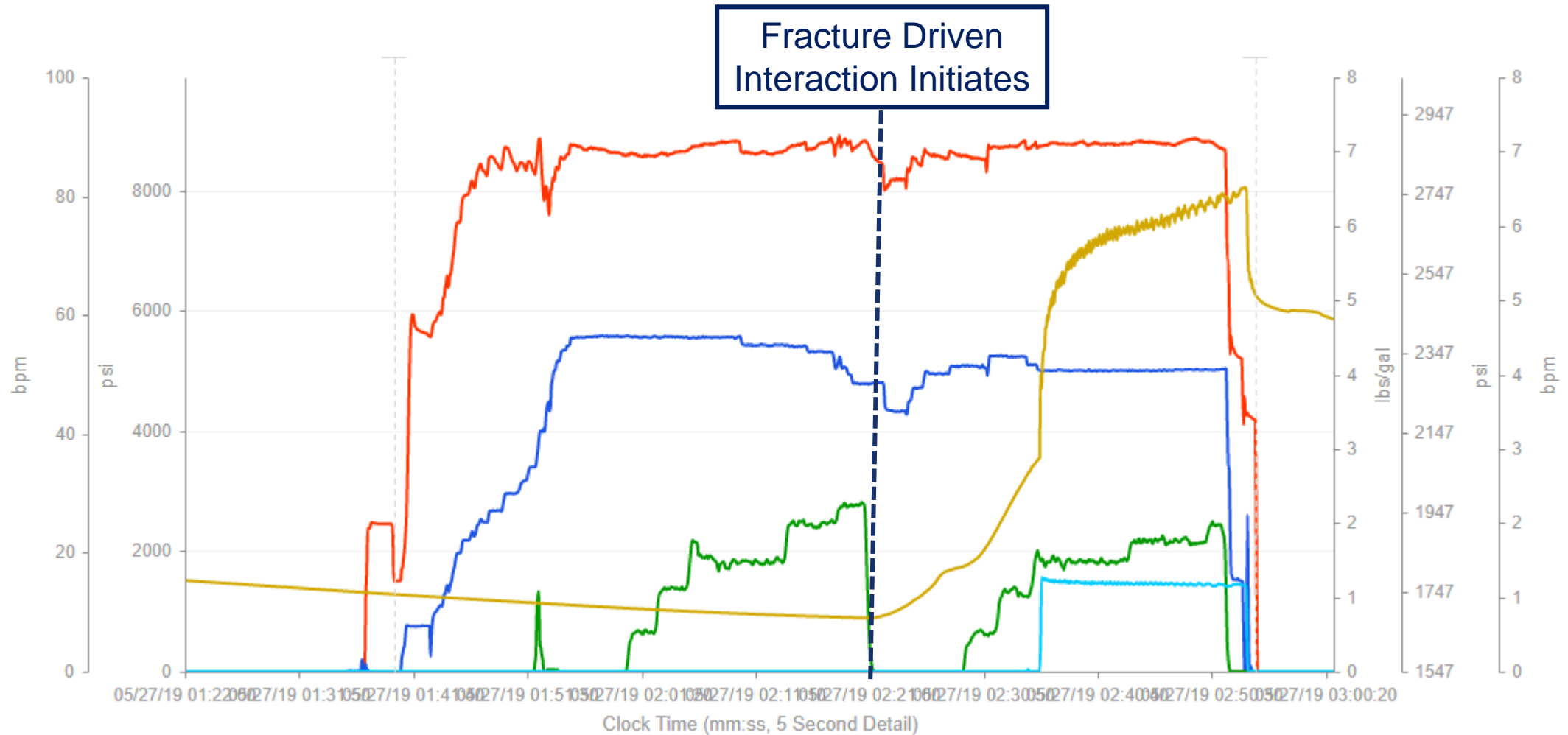
# Fracture Initiation Points

*Increasing cluster efficiency*



# Three Forks to Three Forks

## *Diversion Triggering Frac Hit*



# Increasing Cluster Efficiency

## *Dynamic diversion*

- 1) Ball sealers, perf pac balls
- 2) Degradable particulates
- 3) Perf pods
- 4) Limited entry perforating
- 5) Extreme limited entry (XLE)



$$\Delta P_{perf} = \frac{0.2369 \times Q_{perf}^2 \times \rho}{N_{perf}^2 \times D_{perf}^4 \times C_d^2}$$

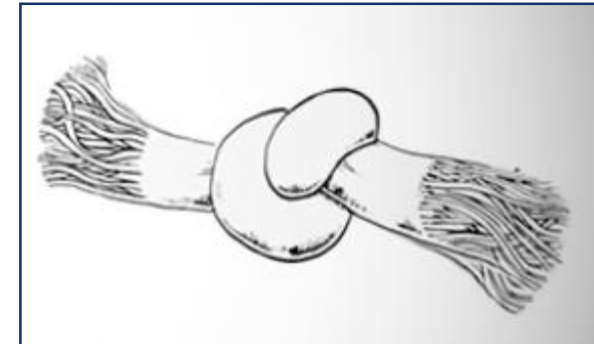
$Q$  = Total flow rate (bbl/min)

$\rho$  = Density of fluid (lb/gal)

$N_p$  = Number of perforations

$D$  = Diameter of perforations (in)

$C_d$  = Coefficient of discharge



# Extreme Limited Entry (XLE)

*Cost effective method to increase cluster efficiency*



Design Criteria	Limited Entry	Extreme Limited Entry
Perforation Friction	1,000 - 1,500 psi	2,000 – 4,000 psi
Rate per Perforation	2 – 3 BPM/Perf	4 – 6 BPM/Perf

Recommended references: SPE 179124 (2016), SPE 184834 (2017), SPE 189880 (2018) and SPE 194334 (2019)

# High Viscosity Friction Reducers (HVFR)

*Primary application – replace hybrid systems*



## Hybrid system requirements

- Guar gelling agent
- Low pH buffer
- High pH buffer
- Crosslinker
- Rapid kill biocide
- Fresh (or relatively fresh) water
- Hydration unit on location

## Hydration Unit



Blender Side



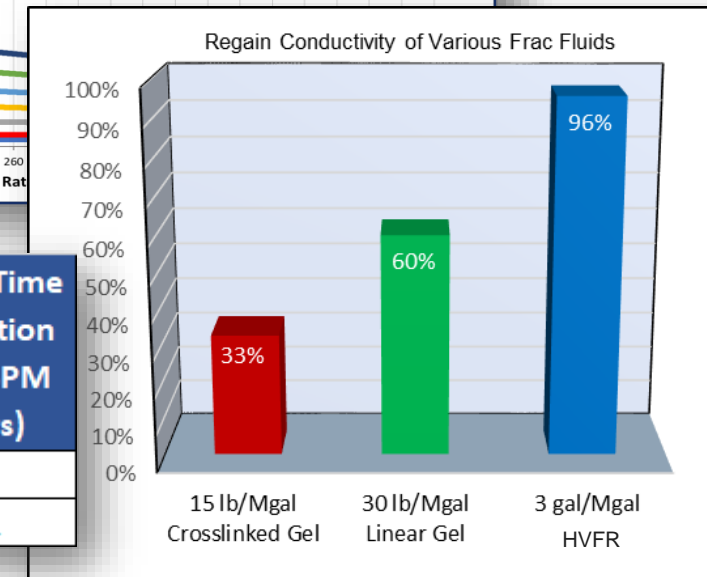
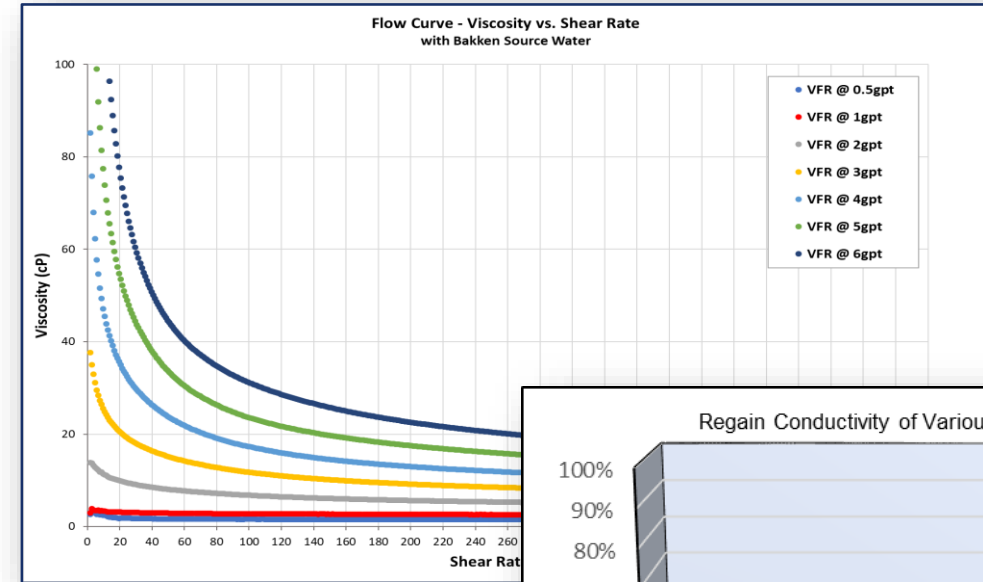
Water Side

# High Viscosity Friction Reducers (HVFR)

*Reduced costs with higher performance*



- Higher proppant concentrations
- Reduced water volumes
- Lower friction pressures
- Better proppant transport
- >90% regained permeability



Completion Design (10,000 ft lateral)	Proppant Intensity (lb/ft)	Fluid Intensity (bbl/ft)	Average Proppant Concentration (ppg)	Total Fluid (bbl)	Slurry Volume (bbls)	Pump Time @ 80 BPM (hrs)	Savings @\$3/bbl water cost	Pump Time Reduction @80 BPM (days)
Slickwater	1,000	48	0.50	480,000	490,857	102.3		
HVFR	1,000	24	0.99	240,000	250,857	52.3	\$720,000	2.1

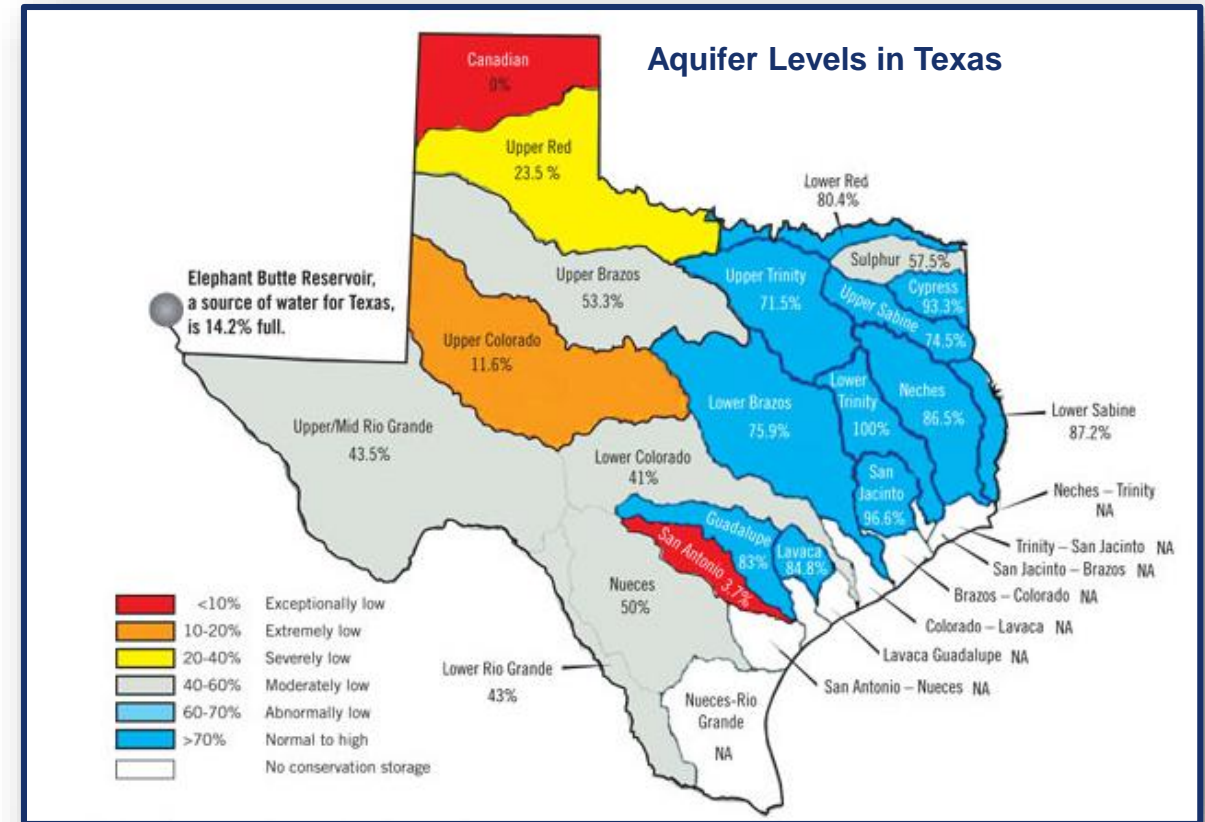
# Produced Water Recycling

## Considerations

- Availability of fresh water
- Quality of produced water
- Water transfer options
- Central storage



Remediating for entrained oil and for solids



Source: Texas Water Development Board, December 2018

# Produced Water Recycling Facilities

## Components

- Produced water storage
- Skim or flocculation
- Treatment to remove organics
- Underground water transfer pipelines

## Economic Benefits (Oklahoma Example)

- Low OPEX ~ \$0.30-\$0.50/bbl
- Facilities generate revenue
- Minimizes saltwater disposal
- 30% reduction in freshwater consumption



## Temporary Recycling Facilities

- No CAPEX required
- OPEX \$2.50-\$4.00/bbl depending upon water quality

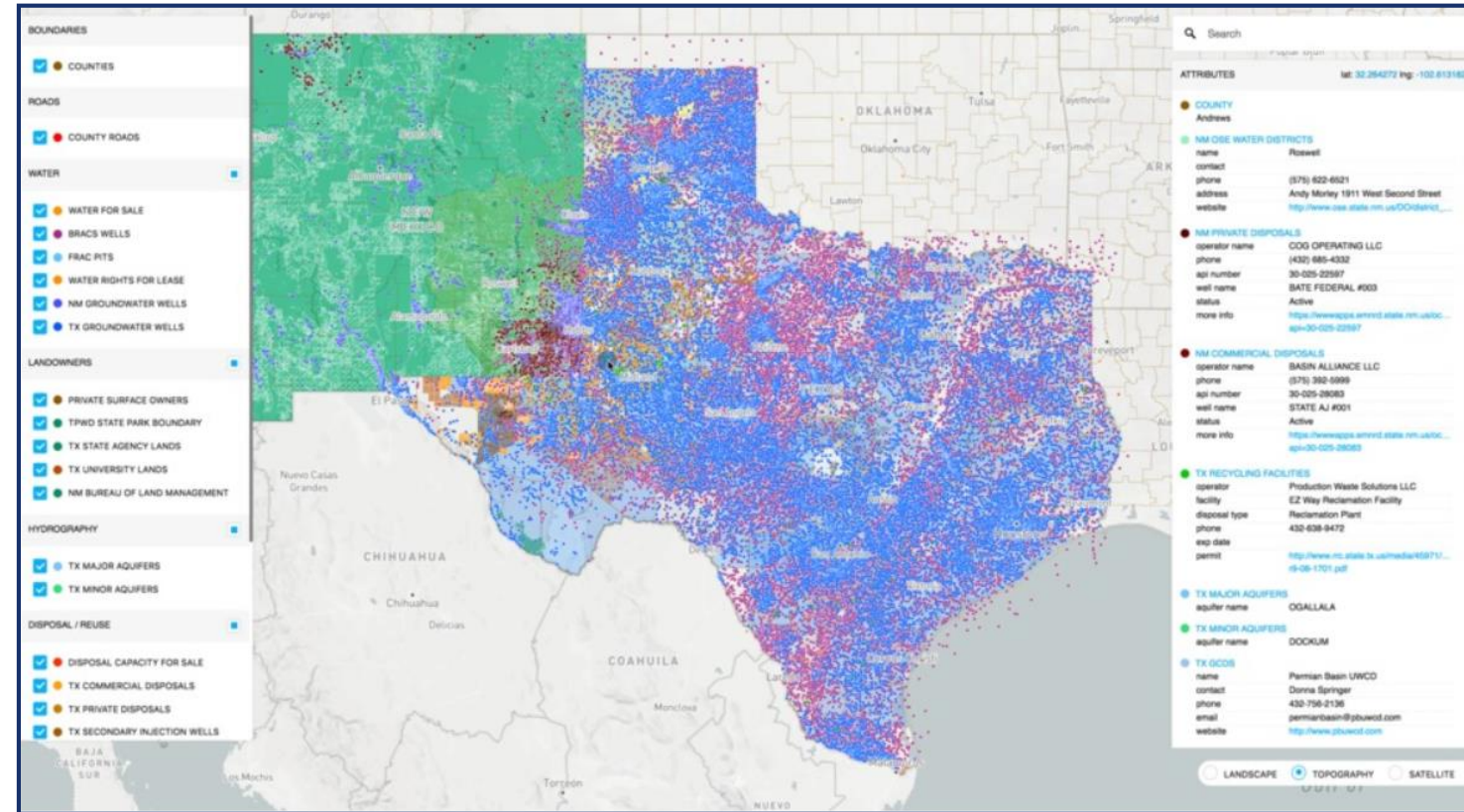


# Data Mining Water Management

## Combined intelligence

- Satellite imagery analytics
- Government databases
- Market research
- Internet of things (IoT) sensors

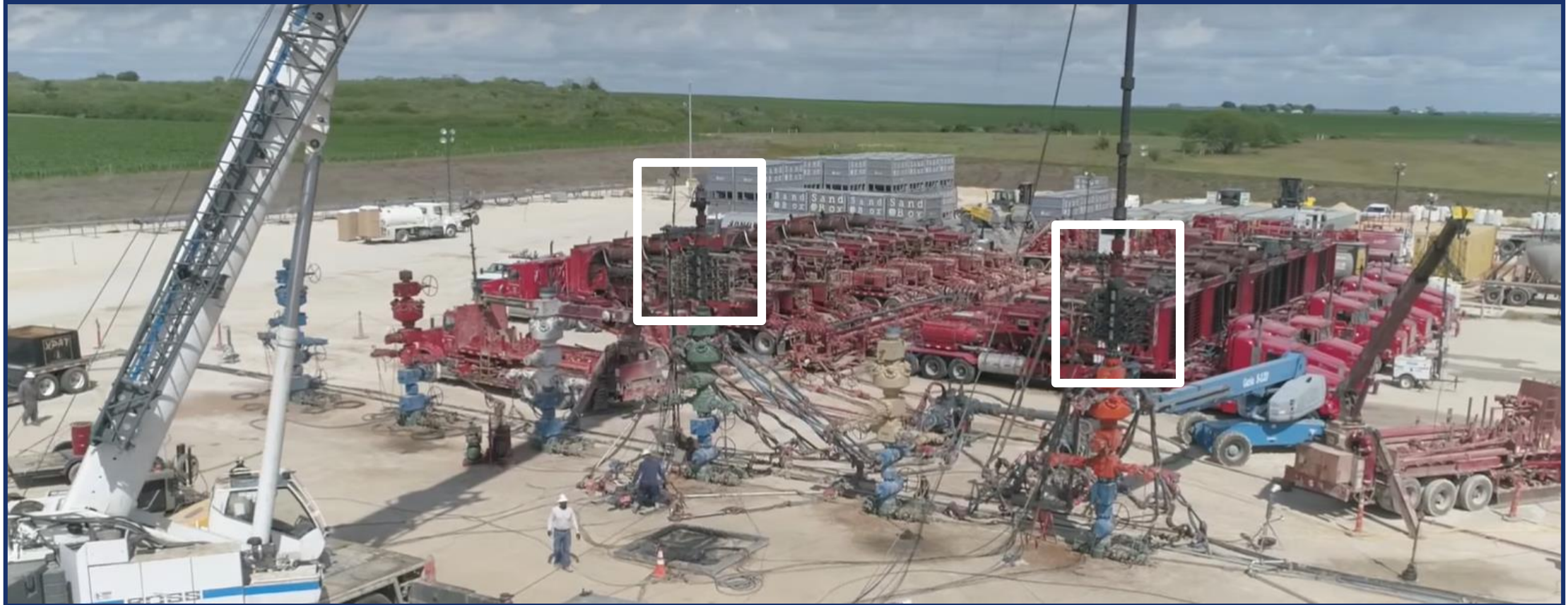
Provides insight into available water for purchase, transportation infrastructure, and disposal options



Source: North America Shale Magazine (September 2019)

# Wireline Operations

## *Multi-well zipper completions*



Source: ConocoPhillips Eagle Ford Investor Tour <https://www.youtube.com/embed/w5R3FqwJ8oI?rel=0>

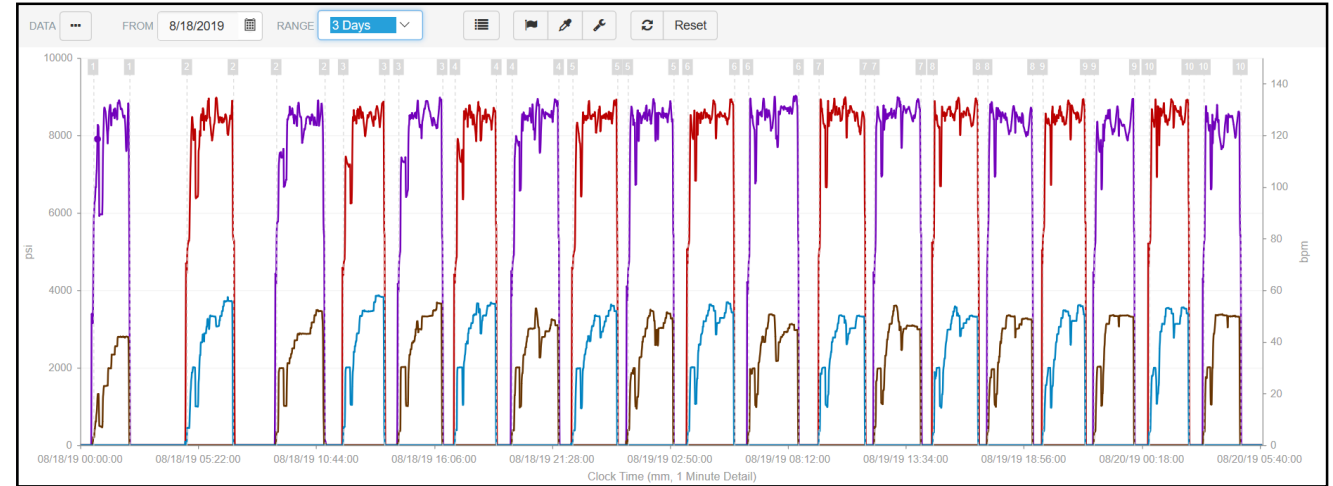
# Wireline Operations

*Reduce interstage time with quick connect systems*



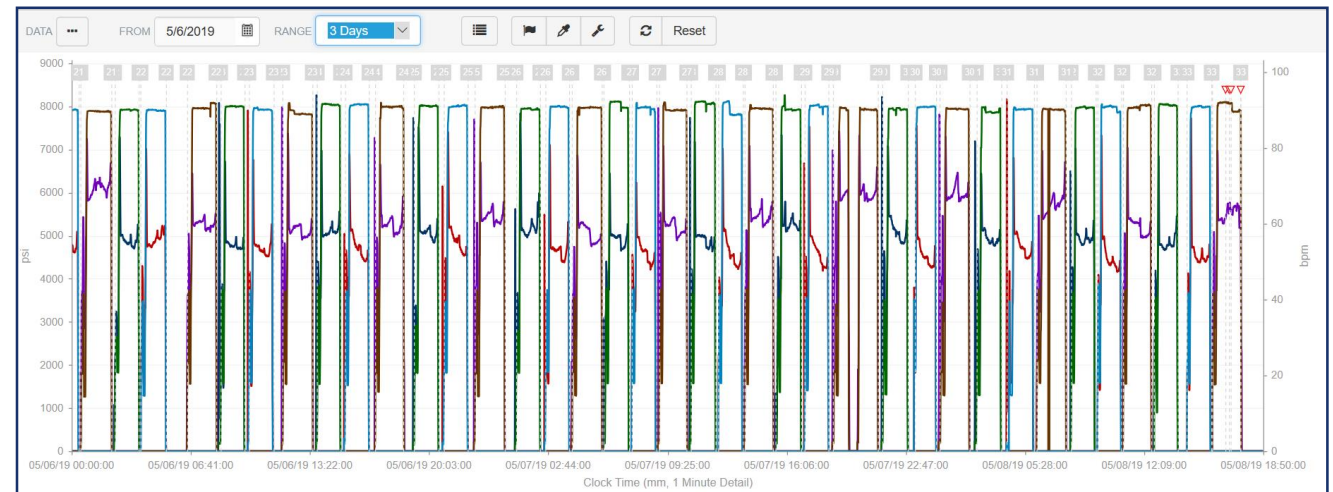
## Standard operations

- 20 to 30-minute well swaps



## Quick connect systems

- 10 to 12-minute well swaps



# Coiled Tubing Operations

## *Significant efficiency gains*



- Move toward large diameter coiled tubing (CT) units
  - Reach extended to ~23,000 ft
- Better understanding of debris transport
  - HVFR technology replacing gel pills
  - Elimination of short trips
- Typical performance
  - Drill out entire lateral in a single day (30-50 frac plugs)
  - Wells on production 2-3 days faster

# Evolution of Composite Frac Plugs

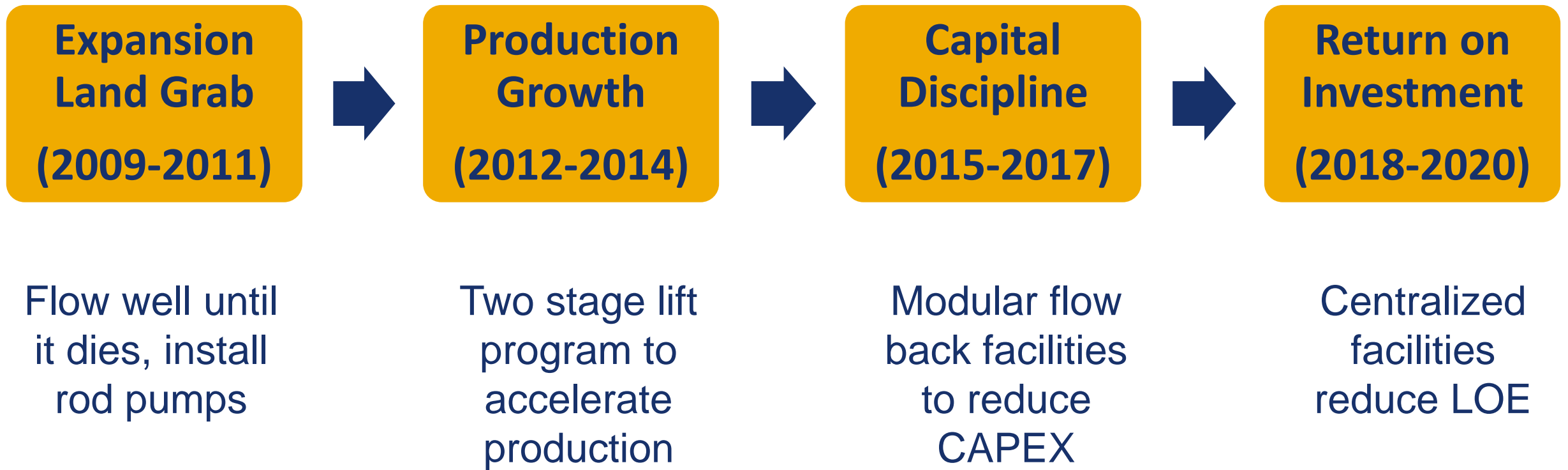
## Supplier competition = innovative designs

- Better composite materials
- Ceramic buttons and powdered metal for slips (previously cast iron)
- Ability to run balls on seats, caged balls, or flappers to isolate the plug
- Smaller OD
  - => faster run in speed and less likely to get hung up
- Shorter
  - => less material to mill and circulate out of the well



# Artificial Lift and Production Facilities

*Production enhancement and cost reduction*



# Takeaways



- Collapse of oil price did not stall the growth of shale oil production
- We are a lean industry – capable of producing more with less
- Drilling efficiencies are an all time high
- Optimized completion designs deliver economic well productivity
- Game changer technologies have reduced completion costs and increased operational efficiencies

# Your Feedback is Important

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