

Explanation for revising oil and gas  
occurrence potential and development potential maps  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005

The original draft BLM occurrence potential and development potential maps were digitized using a geologic GIS coverage that was partly corrupt. This coverage was originally digitized from the 1:250,000 geologic maps (Craig and Vernal Quads), produced by the USGS. Somehow the geologic contacts remained credible but the geologic attributes for each geologic polygon got jumbled. I am not sure if the data was received this way from the CGS or if it happened later. Anyway, that is not important now. A new correct geologic coverage is now part of the RFD GIS project. However, using this corrupt geologic map resulted in erroneous interpretation of areas as high, medium, low, and no known potential, especially in the basin margins. That is why some of the areas, especially on the western basin margin were mapped incorrectly.

Tray Howell of BAH had an oil and gas potential map for the entire state of Colorado that is projected in UTM Zone 13 Clark 1866. This map was produced about 10 years ago by the USGS. This map depicts the entire Vermillion Basin area as high potential, and is predicated on a correct geologic map. As a result I used it in the second draft of the RFD to replace the erroneous maps in the first draft of the RFD.

However, the interpretation itself is not very detailed and open to question especially looking at site specific areas such as the basin margins and the Vermillion area. Talking with industry officials and taking a harder look at these areas will most likely produce a map show slightly different potential boundaries. This may be specifically true for the southwestern part of the Vermillion Basin.

To date I have not had the time to reinterpret the data and create new potential maps. Please bear with me and give me the time to get this right. One of the drawbacks of public participation at such an intimate level and in the early stages of planning is that the public is knowledgeable of BLM Draft documents and efforts. All must realize that draft means that the data may not have gone through a thorough review process. Under normal circumstances draft data is not released to the public and is not subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

If you have any further questions, contact Fred Conrath at 970-826-5098.