



Carbon Utilization and  
Storage Partnership  
of the Western USA

# CUSP Iron Mountain Subsurface Characterization

**CUSP Focused Project**

# CUSP Iron Mountain Subsurface Characterization



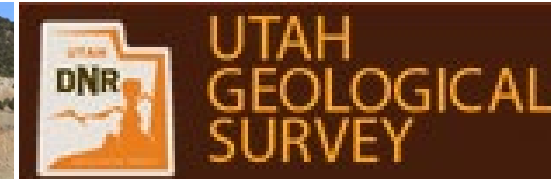
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## Project Overview



## Iron Mountain Team

- CUSP Lead
  - New Mexico Tech (NMT)
- Project Lead
  - University of Utah (UU)
- Project Collaborators
  - Utah Geological Survey (UGS)
  - Kansas Geological Survey (KGS)
  - Oklahoma University (OU)
  - Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS)
  - Montana State University (MSU)
  - Los Alamos National Labs (LANL)
- Industrial Partner
  - Utah Iron
  - CarbonSolutions LLC



Mountains & Minds

Carbon Solutions LLC

## CUSP Regional Partnership

***Project Goal: Improve understanding of storage systems and carbon sources***

1. Focus is on collecting, synthesizing, and use of existing data sets to improve coverage, accuracy, and granularity of existing data
2. Evaluate CCUS potential and readiness
3. Strong emphasis on technology transfer

 **CUSP Iron Mountain Subsurface Characterization Focused Project**

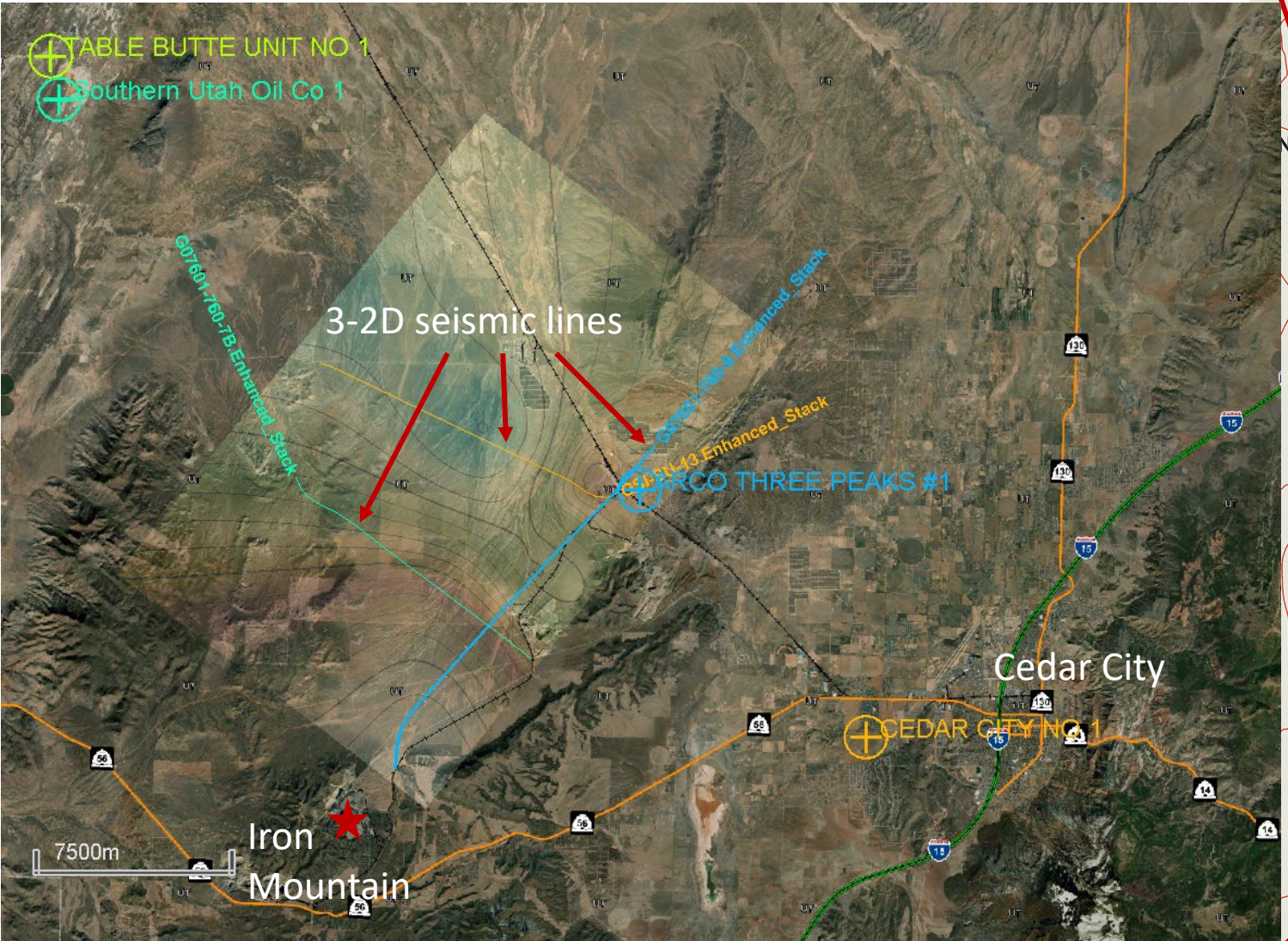
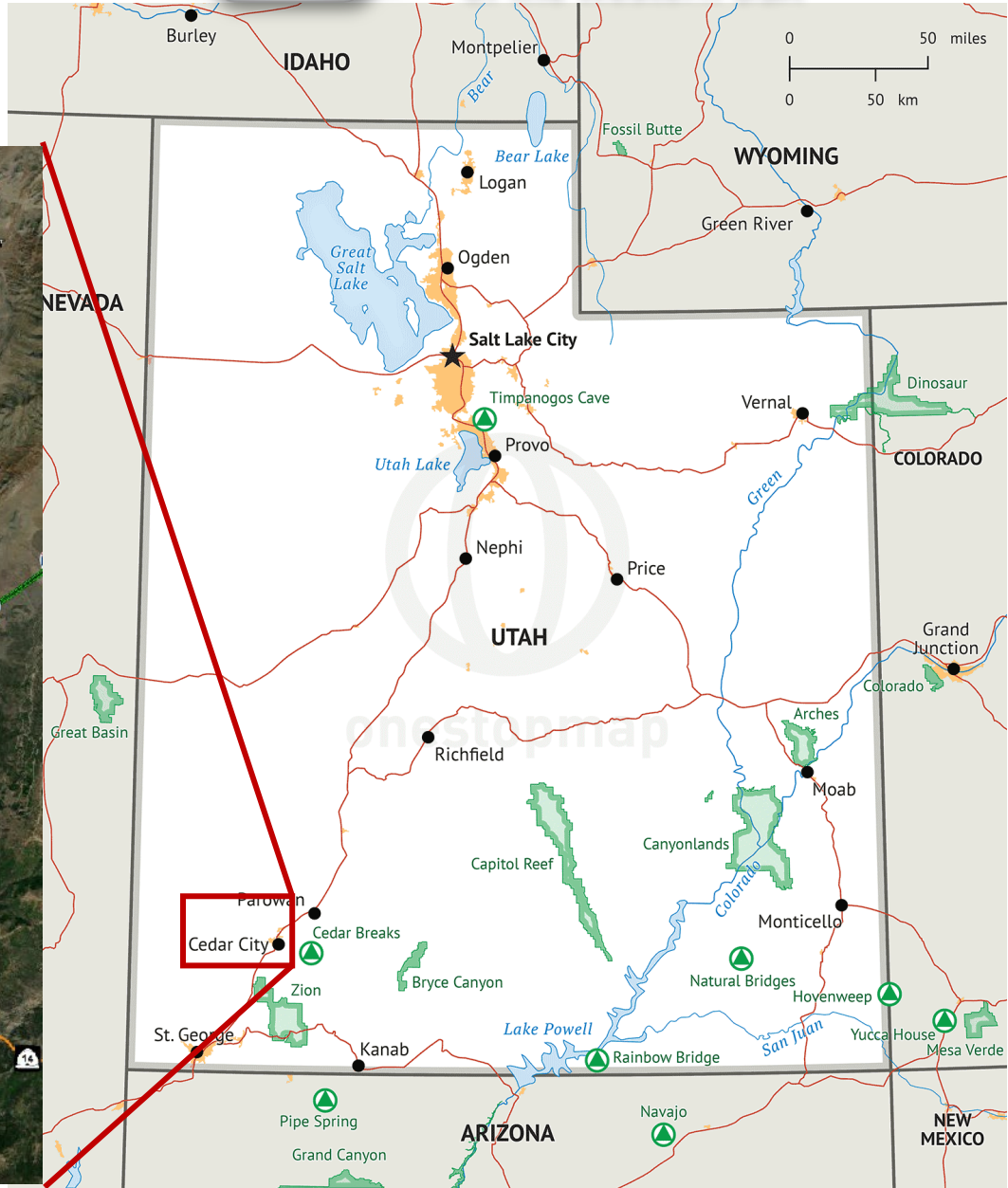


*CUSP Member States & Organizations*

# CUSP Iron Mountain Subsurface Characterization

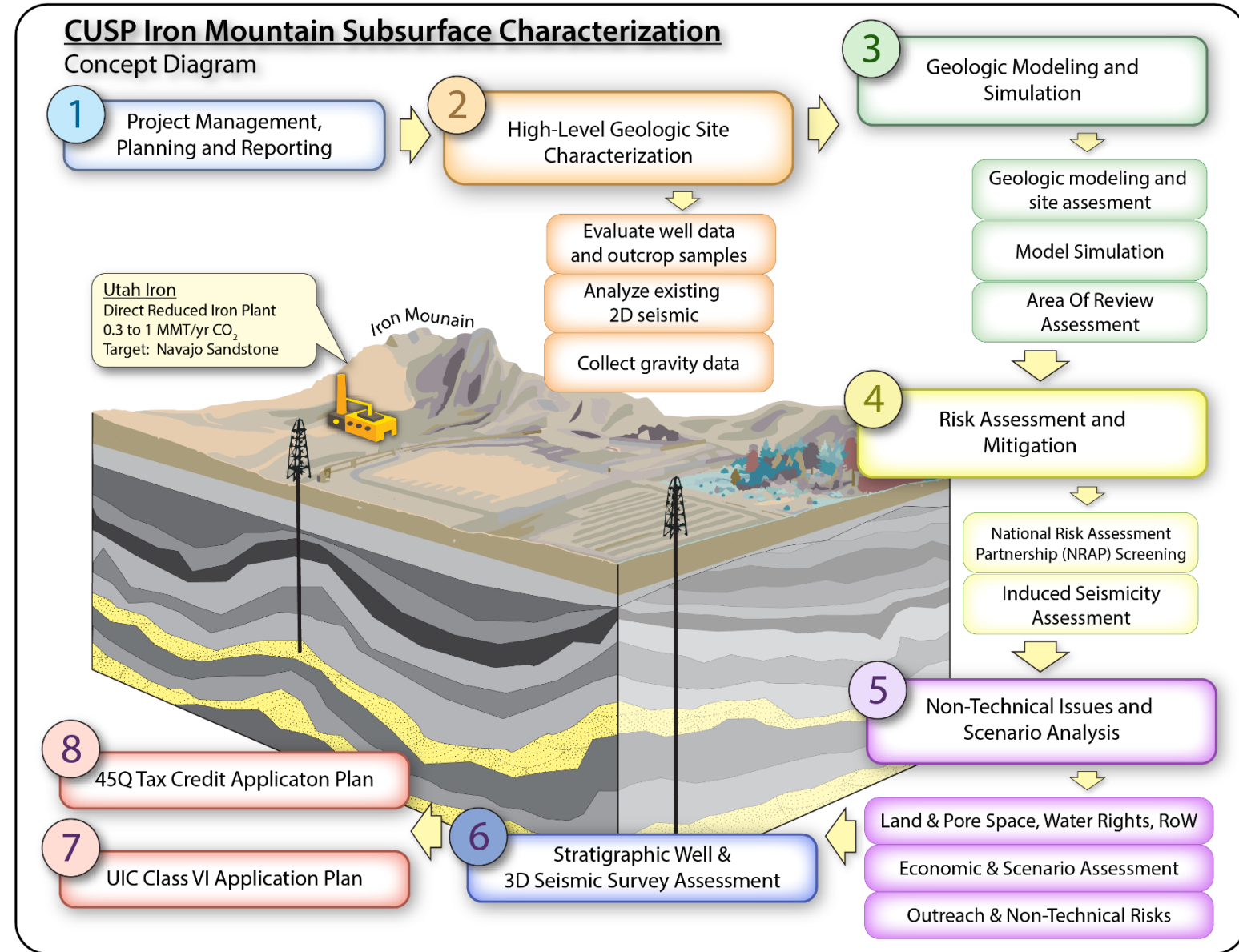


## Focus Project Location



## CUSP Focused Project Concept Diagram

- Utah Iron and SA Recycling  
Commercial-scale carbon capture and storage near Iron Mountain iron mine  
Located near Cedar city, UT
- Evaluating the feasibility of storing 500,000 to 1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> generated from Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) process
- Two potential storage formation  
The Navajo Sandstone and Kaibab Limestone
- Primary Project Goals
  - Characterize potential for CO<sub>2</sub> in the Neck of the Desert area
  - Assemble plan for data needs for a Class VI injection well(s) and 45Q tax credit



# CUSP Iron Mountain Subsurface Characterization



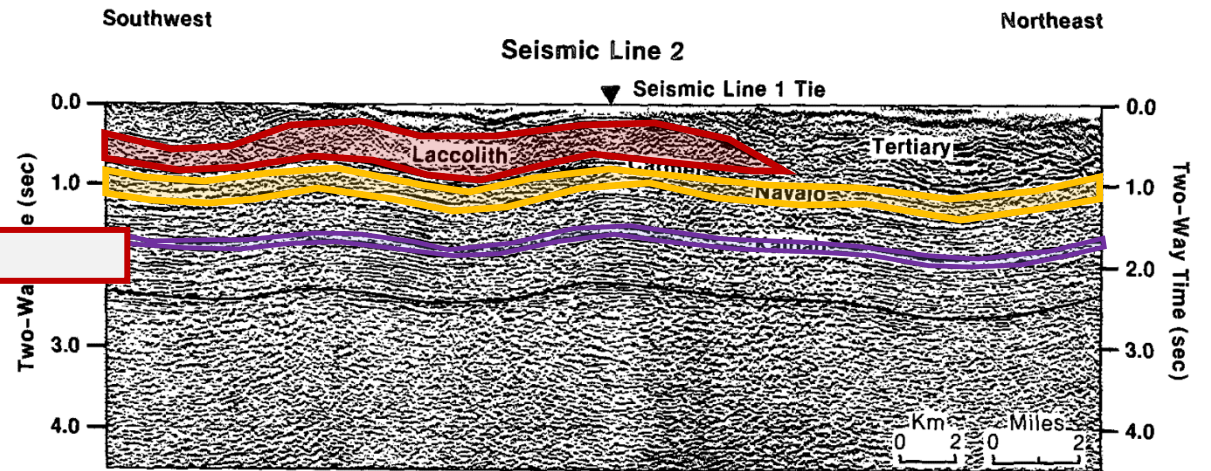
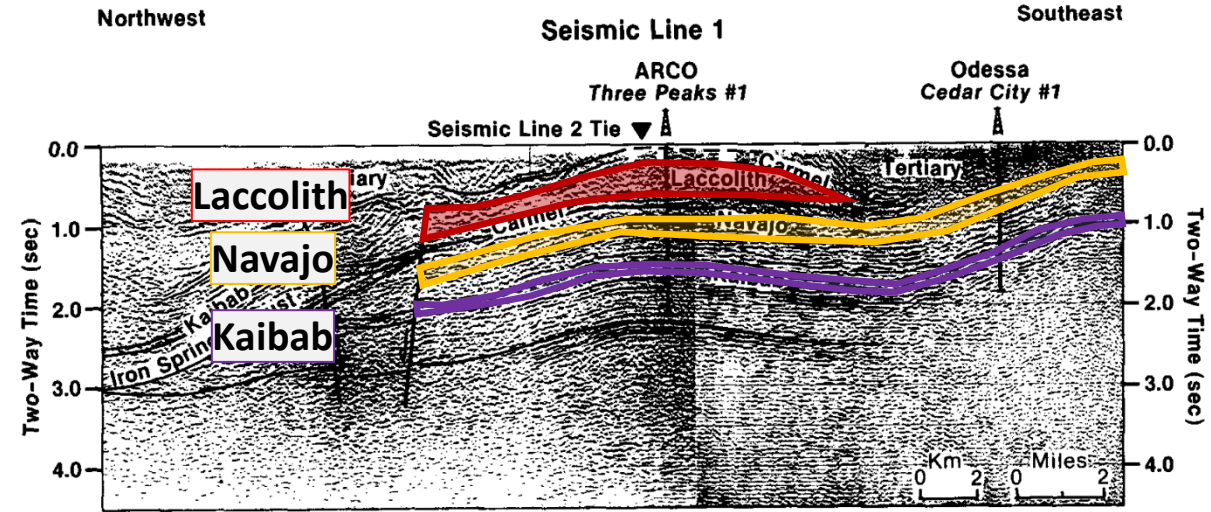
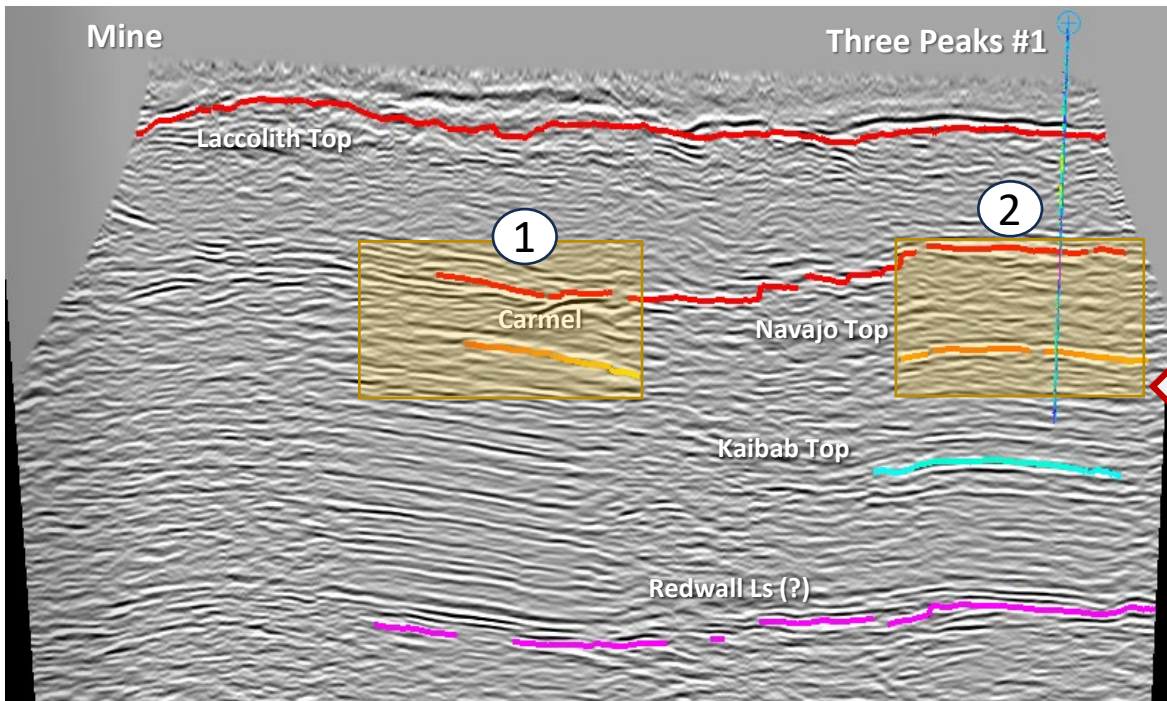
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Legacy Data



## Legacy Data

- Three 2D seismic lines
  - Data has low energy and lots of noise and artifacts
  - Hard to resolve surfaces except in limited areas
  - Show potential for storage in two areas
    1. Near the mine
    2. Near the ATP #1 well



van Kooten, G. K. (1988). Structure and hydrocarbon potential beneath the Iron Springs laccolith, southwestern Utah. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, 100(10), 1533-1540.



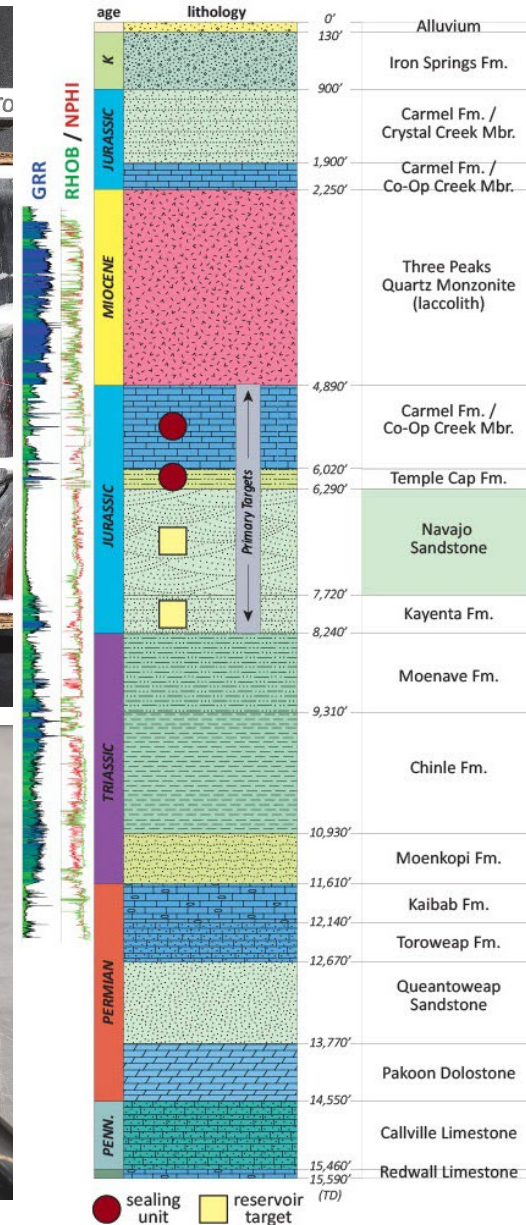
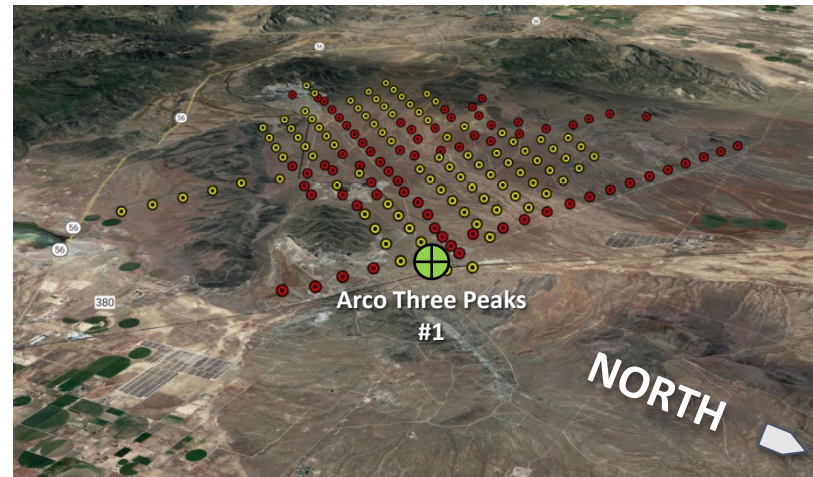
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## Legacy Data

- Core
  - Carmel below the Laccolith [5018 to 5033 ft]
  - Kaibab [11,646 to 11,666 ft]
  - [11,991 to 11,997 ft]
- Cuttings from potential reservoirs and seals
- Gravity data for the area
  - Data set was expanded by UGS surveys



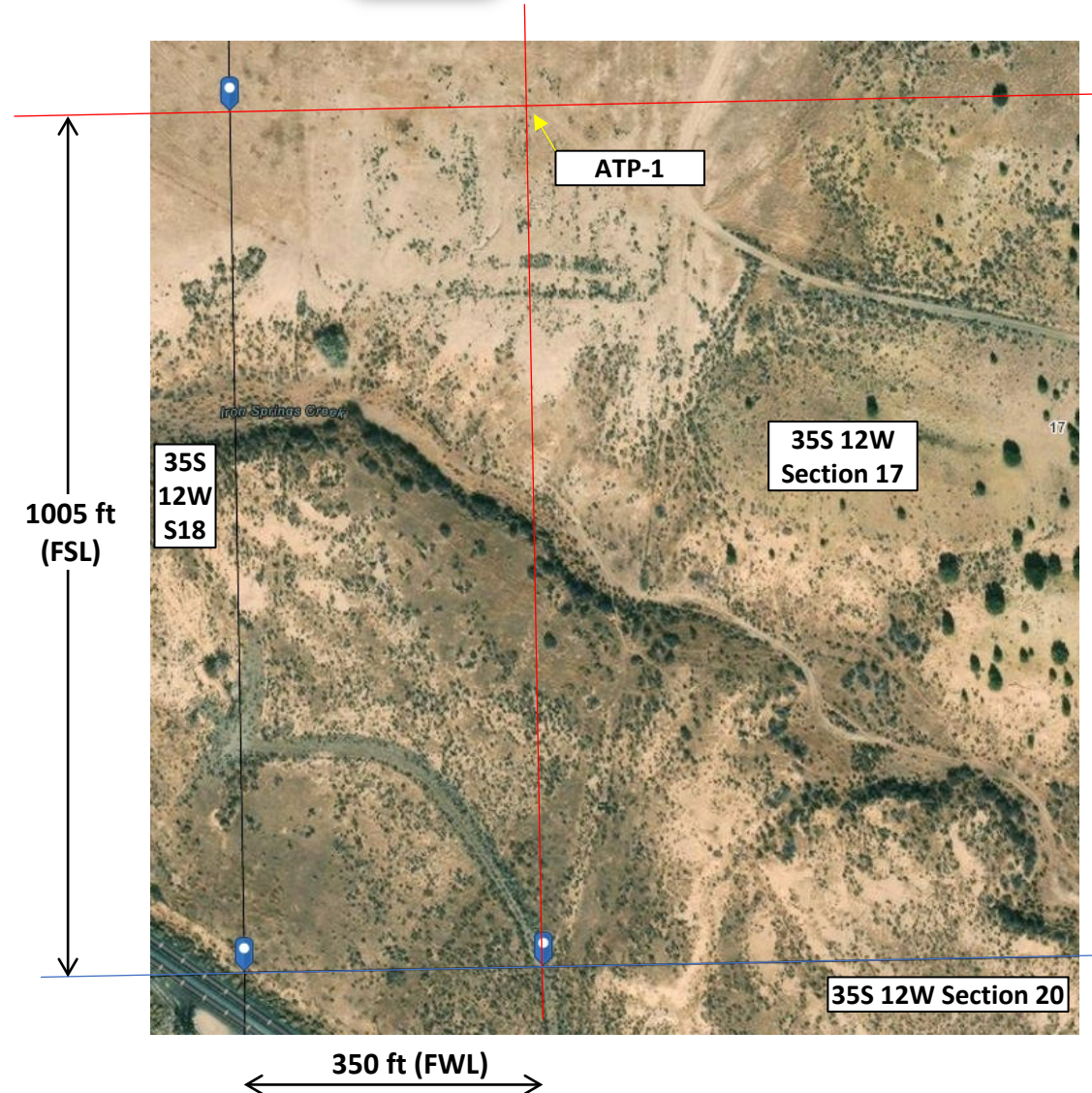
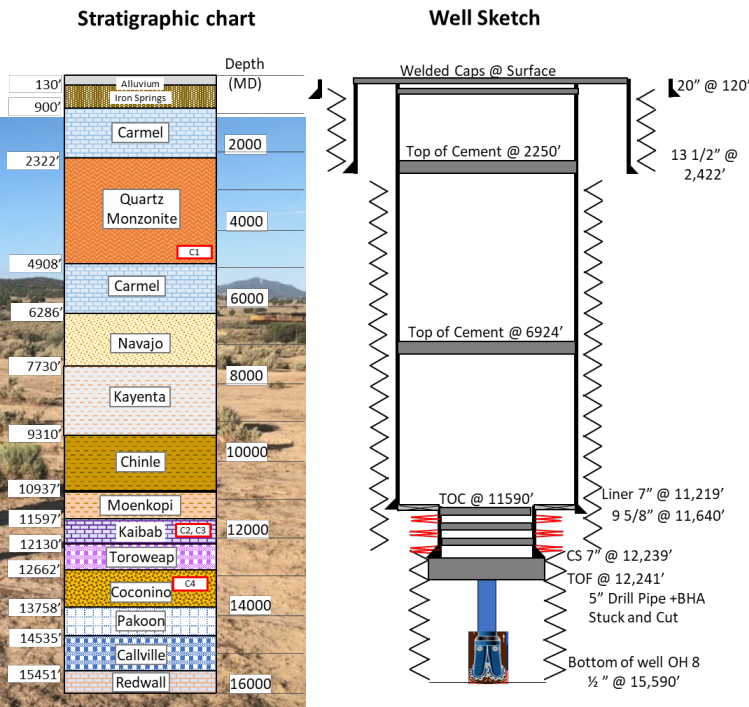
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## ATP-1 Well Status

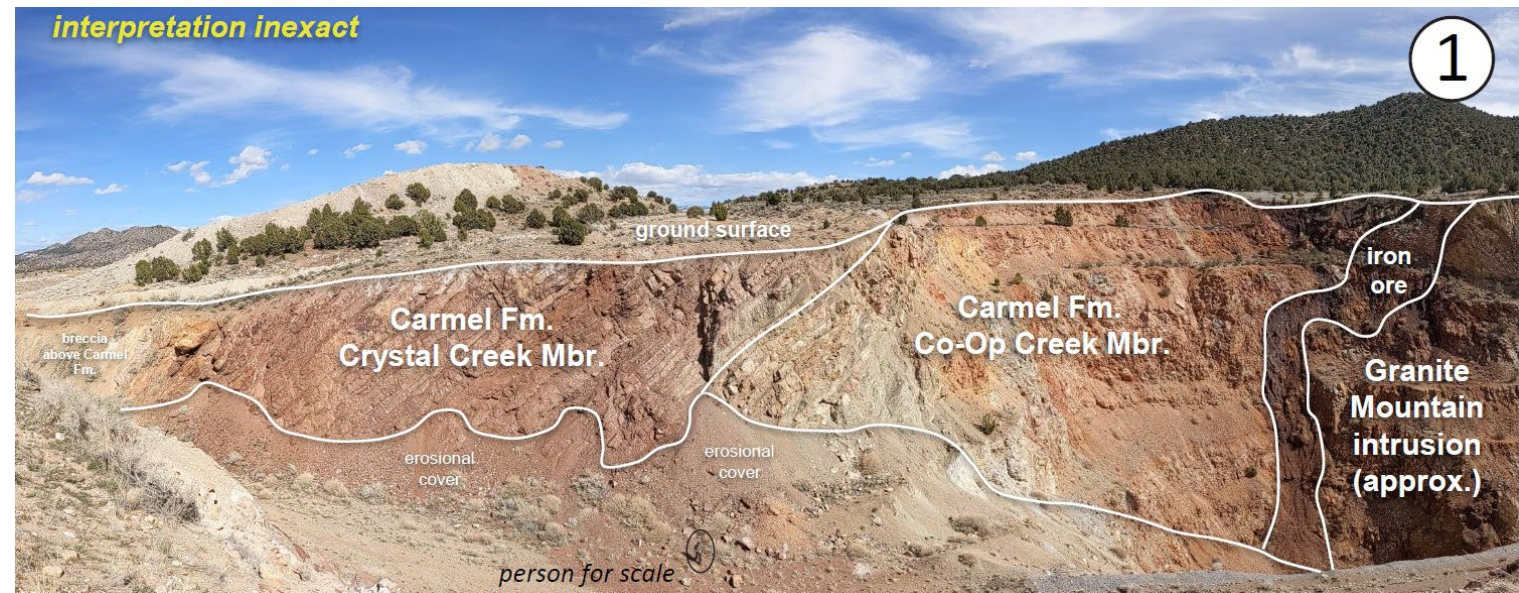
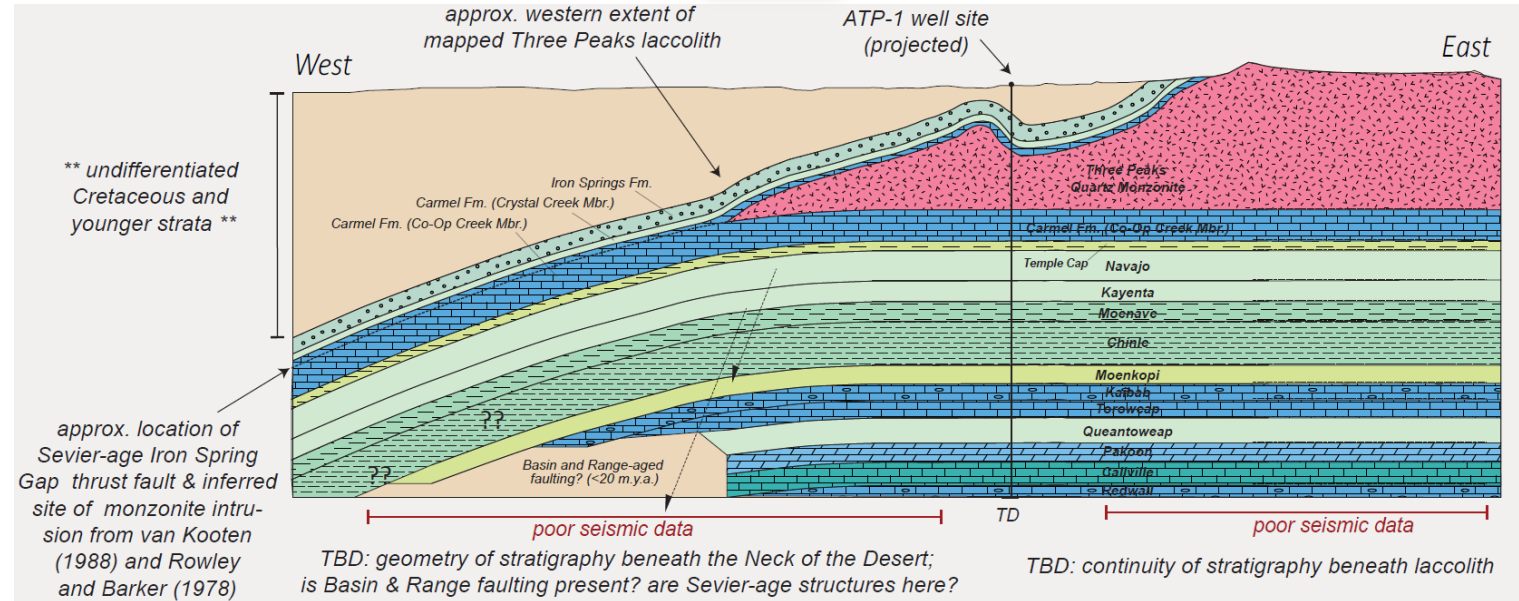
- 9 5/8" Casing: Cut at 6' from ground level. Cap Welded
- 13 1/2" Casing: Cut at 4' from ground level. Cap Welded
- 20" Casing: Unclear. Assumed to be cut at 6' from ground level
- Annular cemented



Source: ATP-1 Drilling Report (March 13 to 16, 1985)

### Three-Peaks Laccolith

- Historically interpreted as a continuous, sheet-like intrusion which migrated by way of an old fault plane.
- Questions remain about the orientation and extent of the laccolith due to the limitations of the legacy seismic data.
- The extent of faulting and complexities from regional tectonism are also unknown at depth and could impact seal integrity.

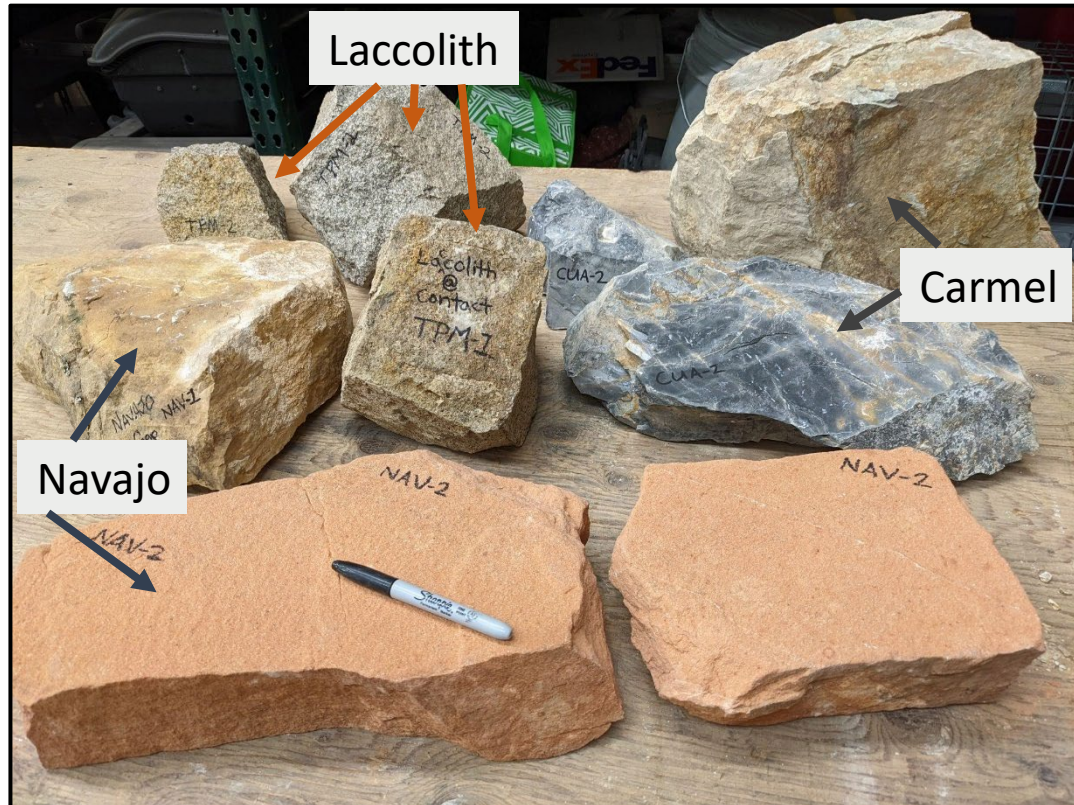


# Data Collection and Laboratory Testing

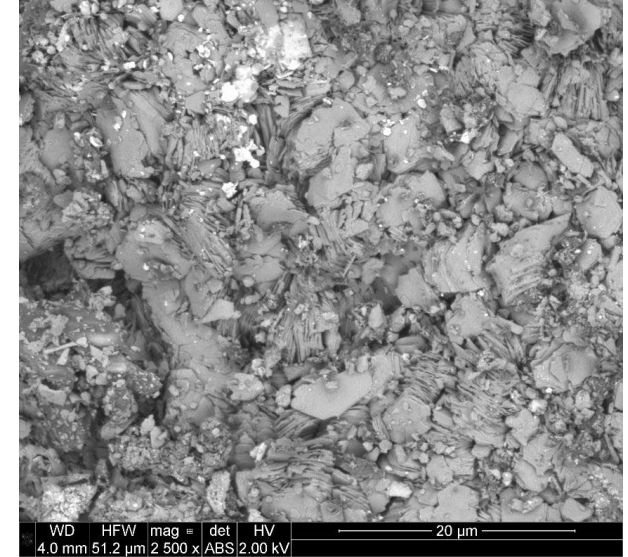


## Data Collection

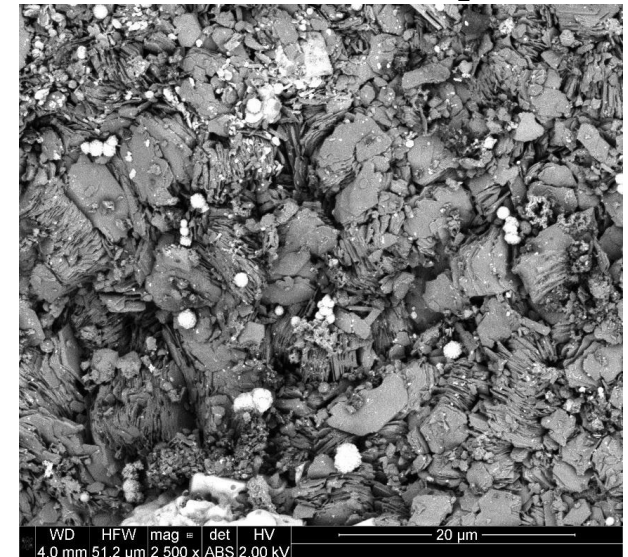
- Multiple field campaigns to collect outcrop samples for laboratory testing and gravity data survey for intrusion mapping



NAV-2 Before CO<sub>2</sub> exposure



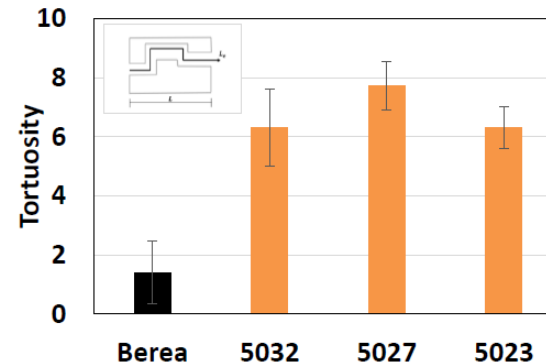
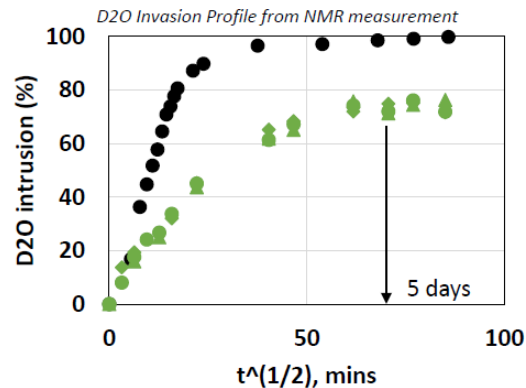
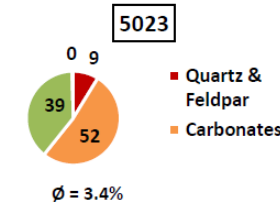
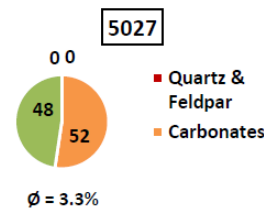
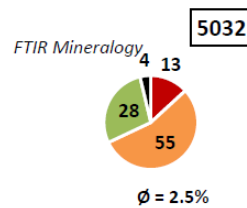
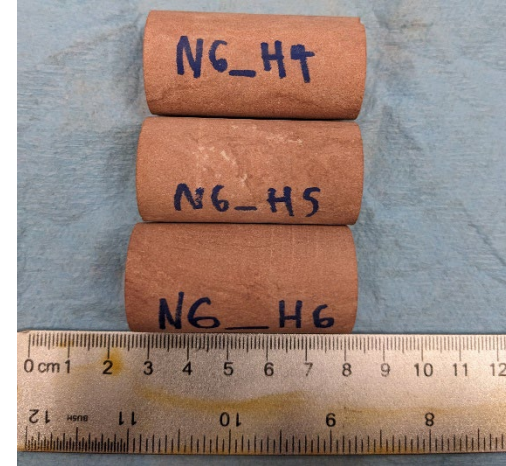
Nav-2 After 2 weeks of CO<sub>2</sub> exposure



## Laboratory Testing

### IC3 Laboratory at OU

1. FTIR Minerology
2. NMR D2O Diffusion
3. CO<sub>2</sub> exposure (SEM)
4. Porosity and Permeability
5. Capillary Pressure
6. Elemental Composition
7. Wettability

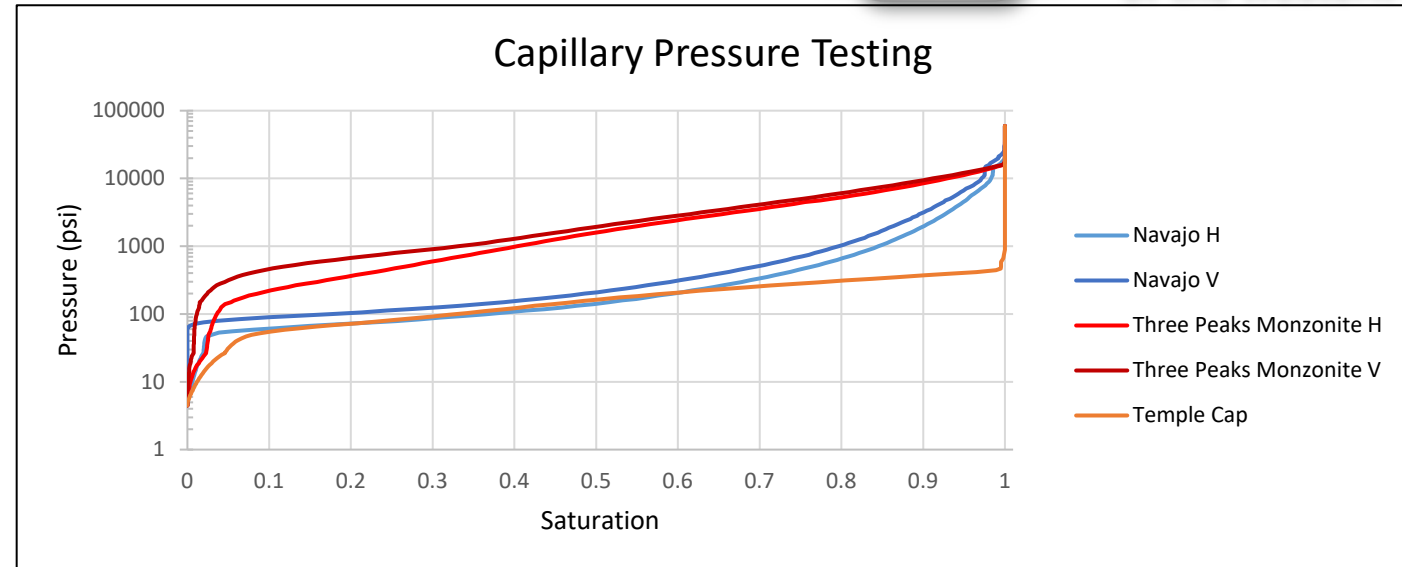


CO<sub>2</sub>-Brine diffusivity = 1/2 of Self-Water diffusivity  
 -> CO<sub>2</sub> exposure time = 4 \* D2O exposure time = 20 days

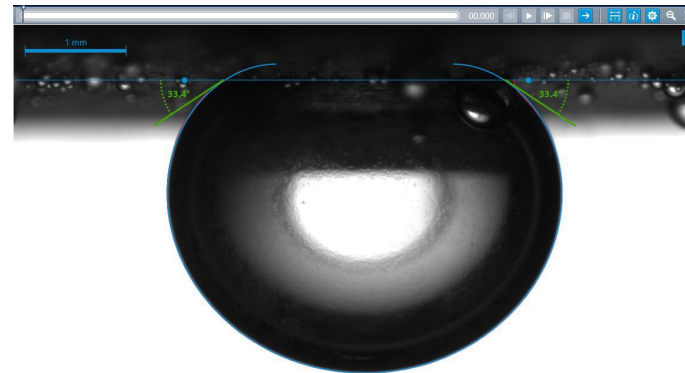
## Laboratory Testing

### IC3 Laboratory at OU

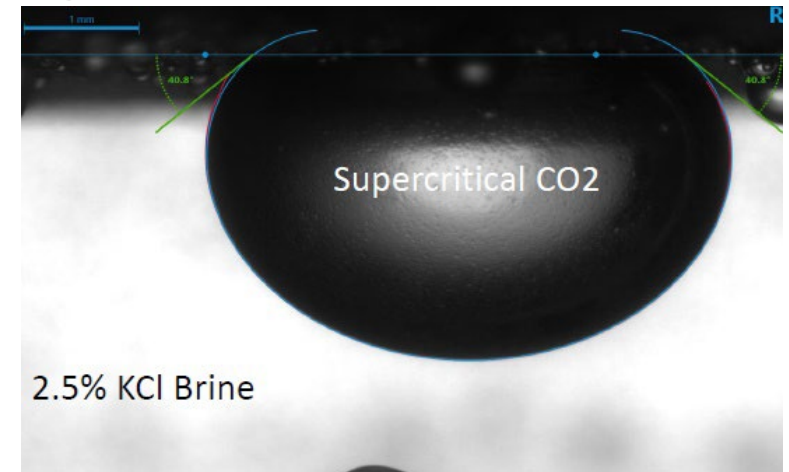
- FTIR Minerology
- NMR D2O Diffusion
- CO2 exposure (SEM)
- Porosity and Permeability
- Capillary Pressure
- Elemental Composition
- Wettability



## Contact Angle



CO<sub>2</sub>/2.5%KCl Contact angle of 33.4° at 5000 psi and 65 °C [NAV-1 Sample]



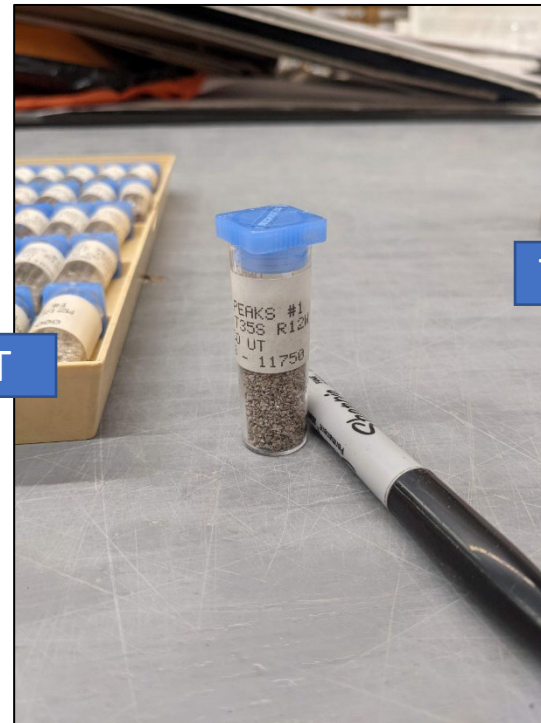
CO<sub>2</sub>/2.5%KCl Contact angle of 40.8° at 3000 psi and 60 °C [NAV-1 Sample]

## Laboratory Testing

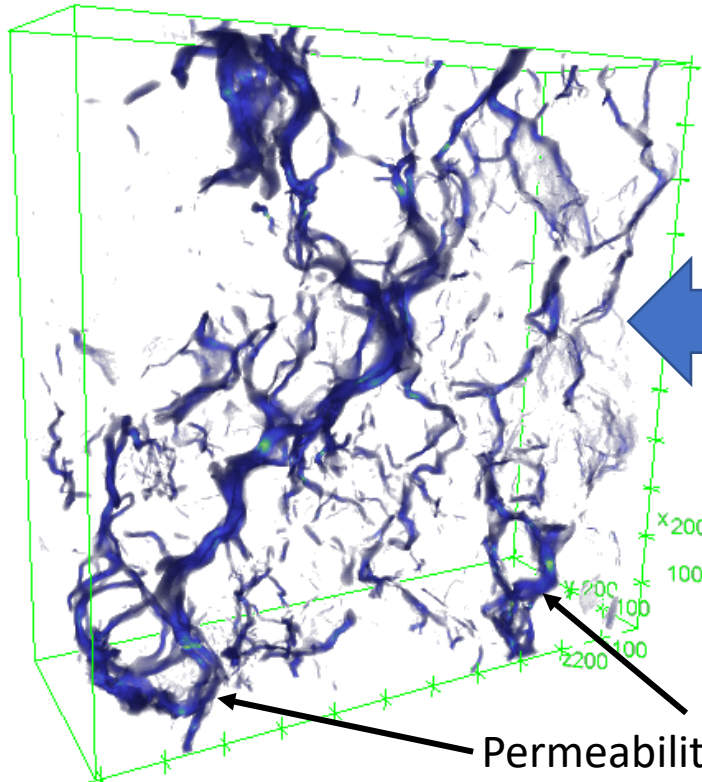
### UGS and UU

- Well cuttings used for thin section and microCT scanning

Navajo Well Cuttings



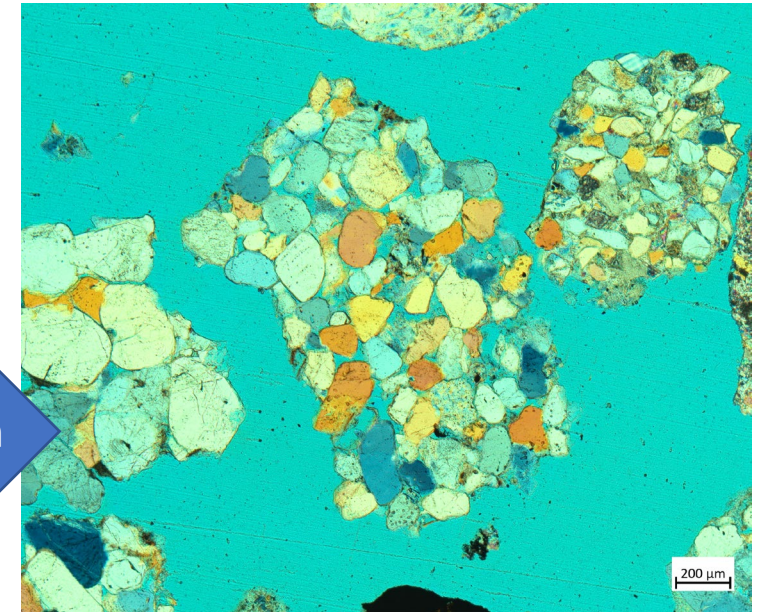
microCT



Permeability estimated in blue

Thin Section

Navajo Thin Section



Cross-polarized light (XPL) images show a range of grain sizes and shapes as well as open pore space in the central rock fragment; visual porosity estimate range: ~10-15%? (6,580'-6,590' MD)

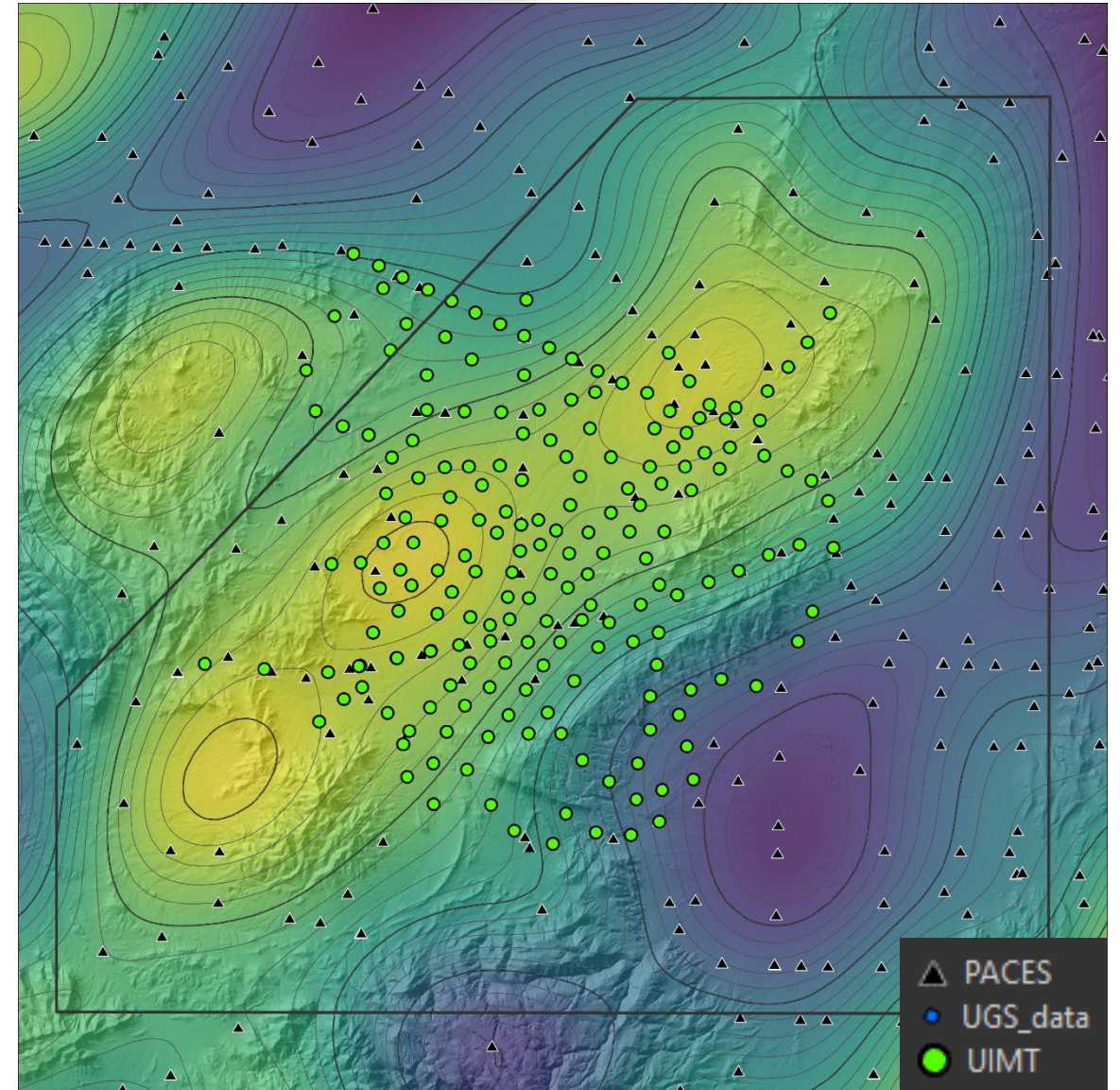
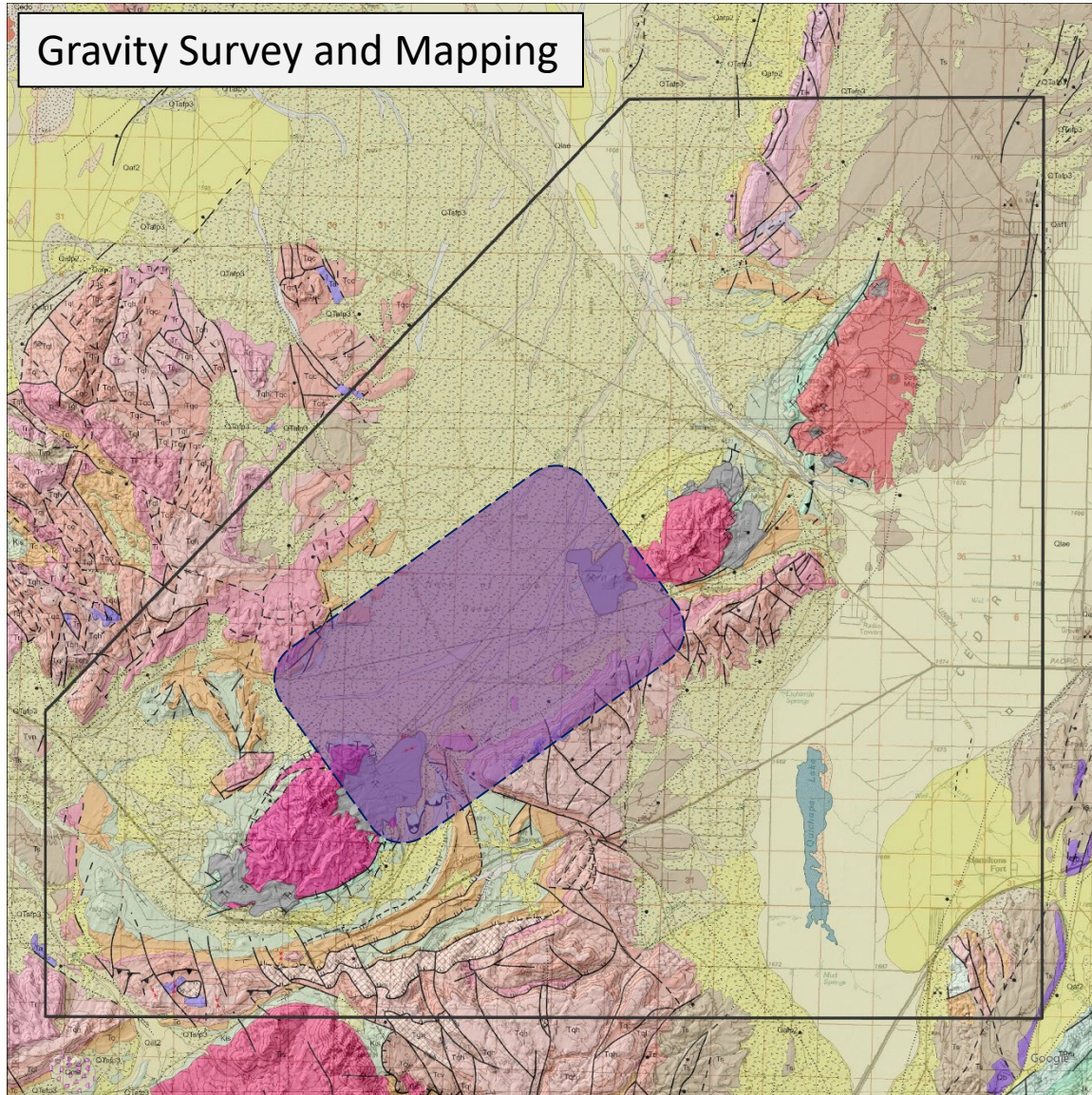


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## Gravity Survey and Mapping



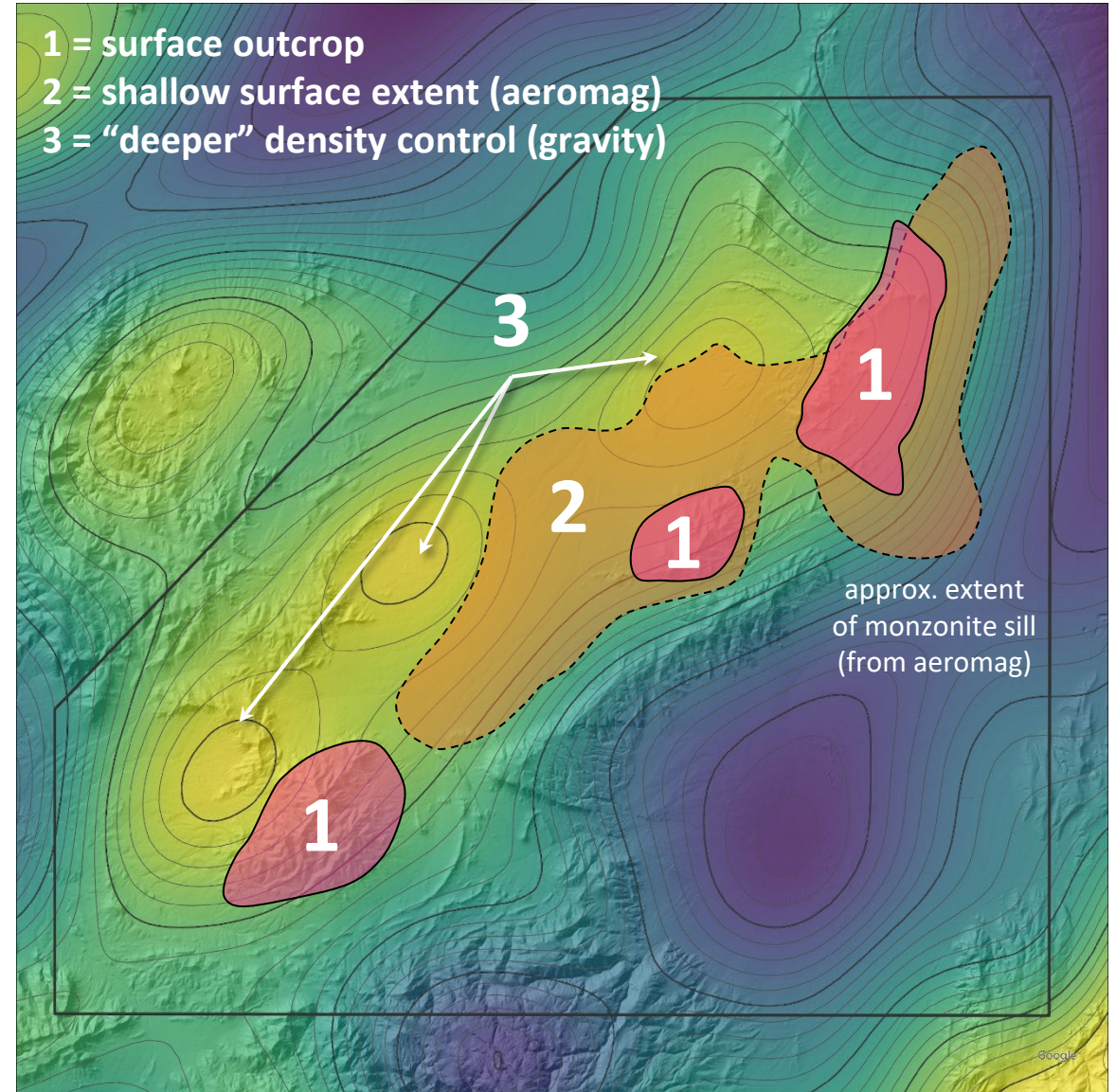
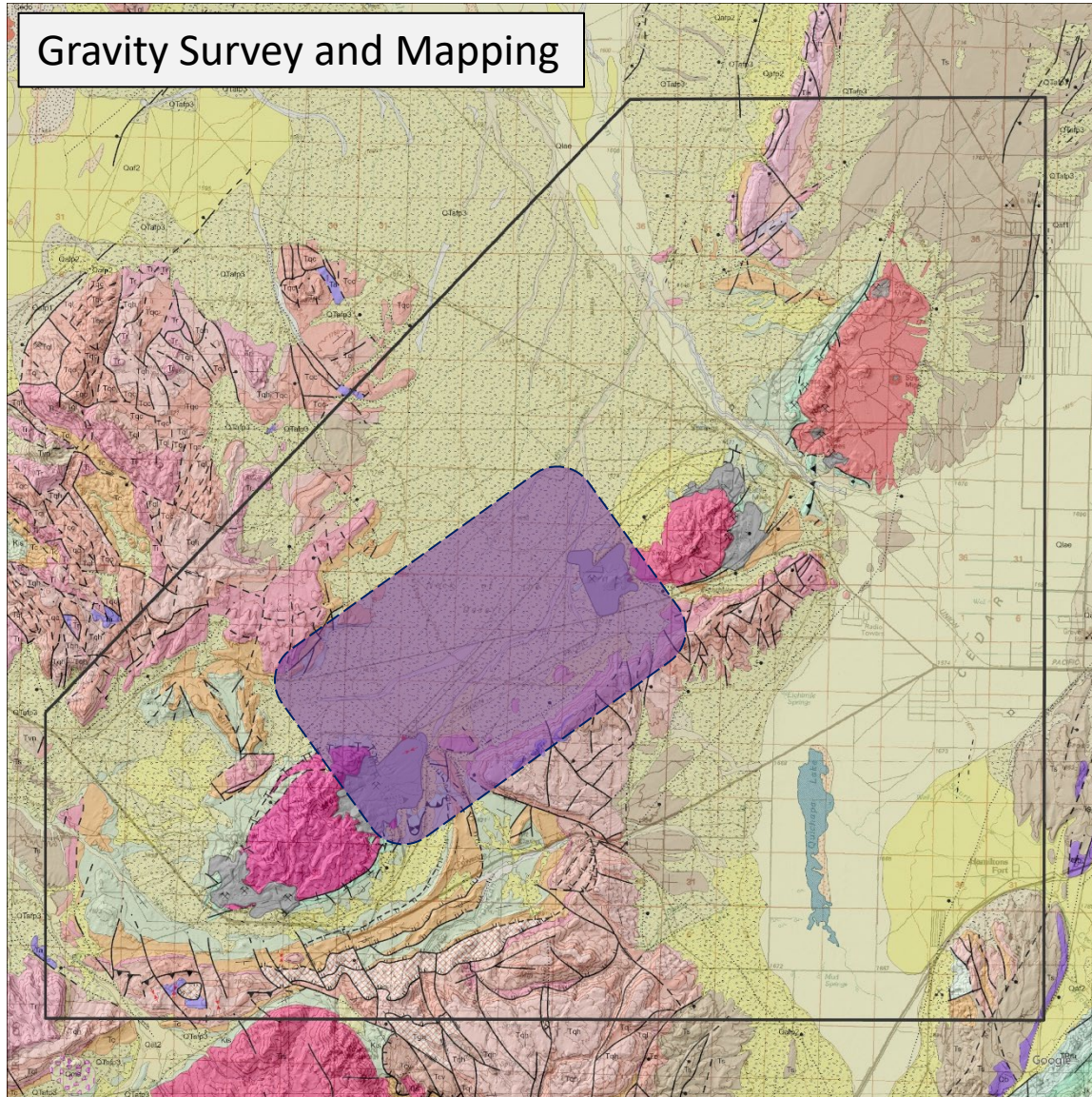
Gravity technical work c/o Christian Hardwick, Kayla Smith, Will Hurlbut, & Austin Jensen (UGS)

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## Gravity Survey and Mapping



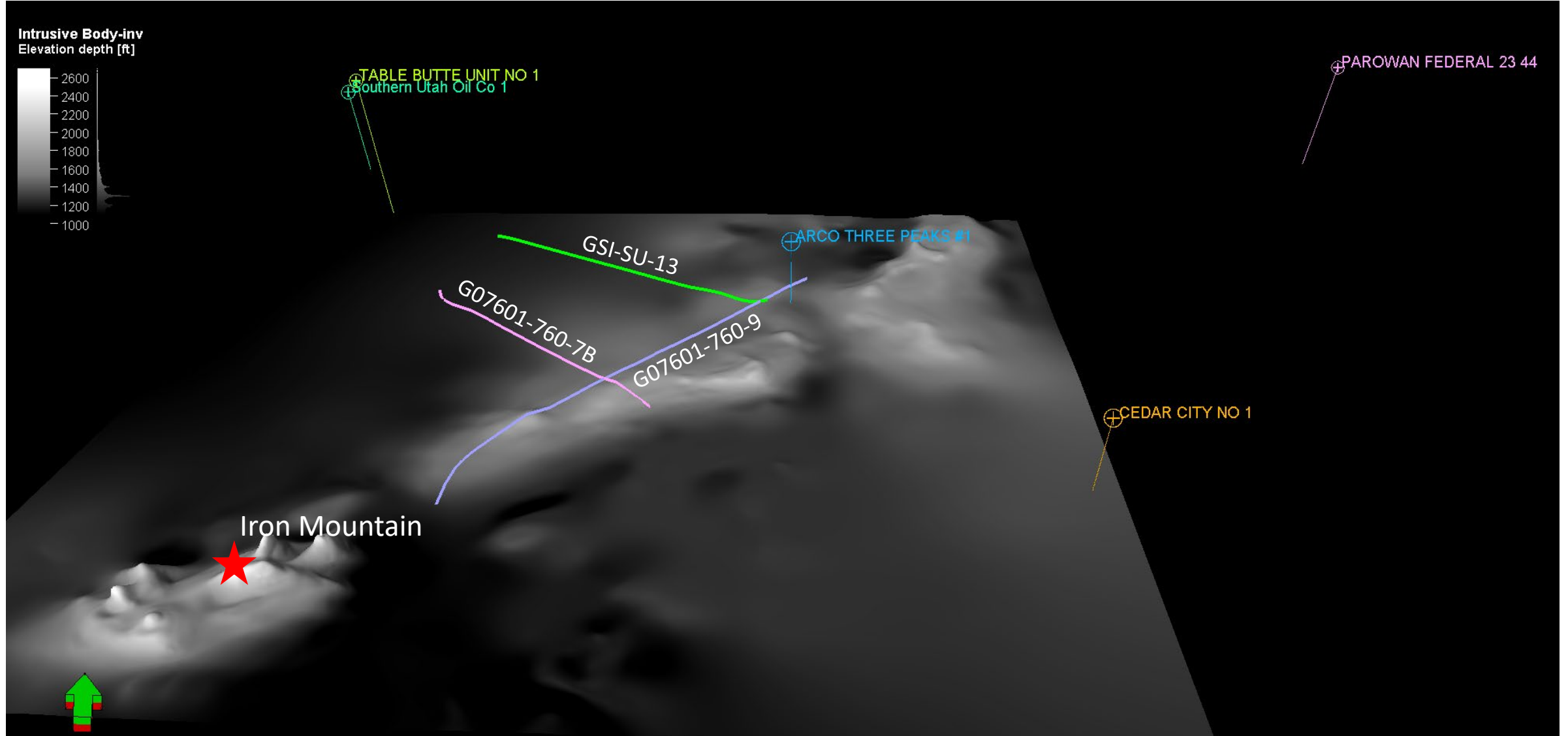
Gravity technical work c/o Christian Hardwick, Kayla Smith, Will Hurlbut, & Austin Jensen (UGS)

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## Aero-mag Data

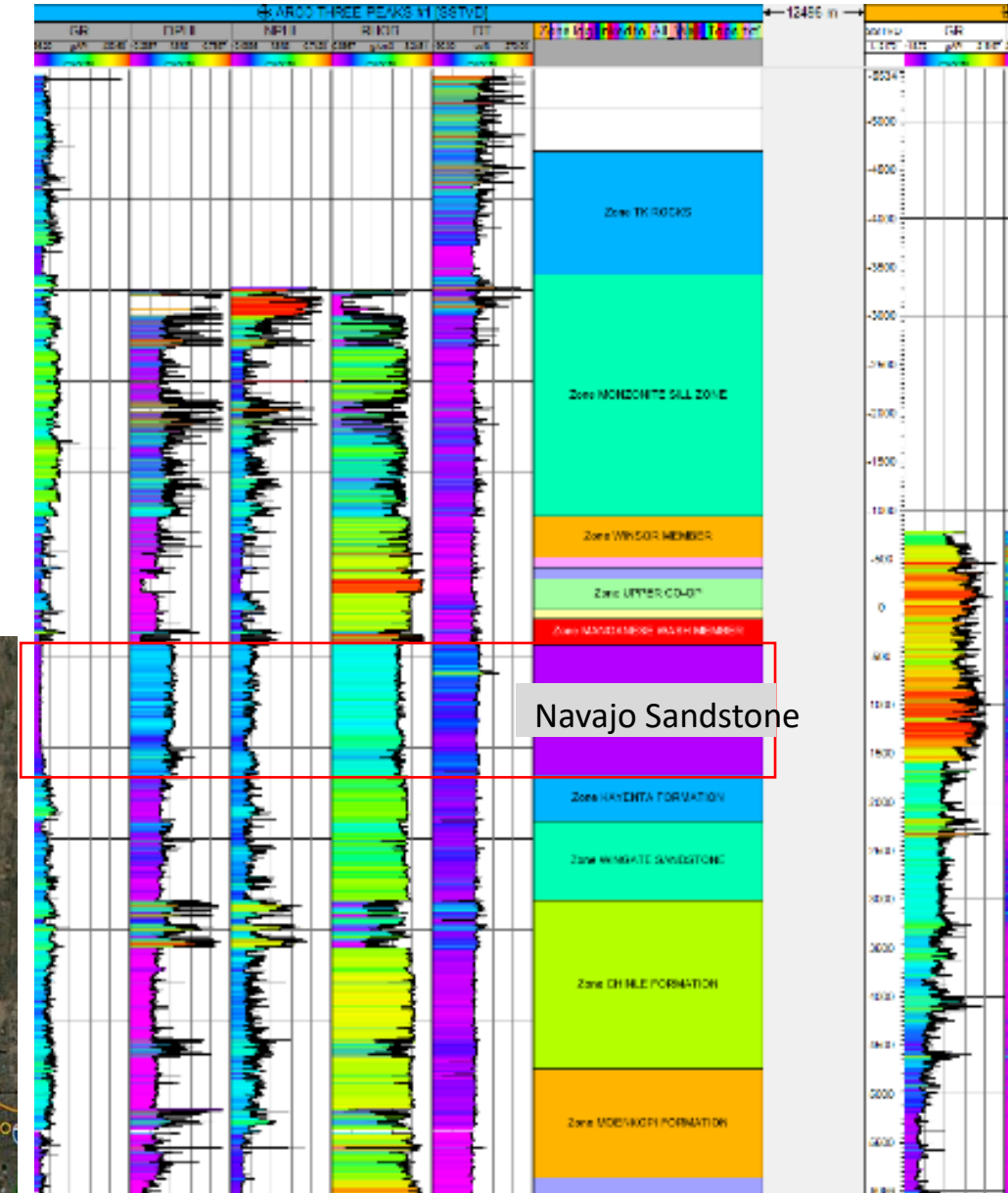


A wide-angle photograph of a rugged, arid landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by steep, layered rock formations in shades of red, orange, and brown. Sparse, dry vegetation is scattered across the slopes. In the background, a large, rounded hill rises under a clear blue sky. The word 'Modeling' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font with a blue outline on the left side of the image.

# Modeling

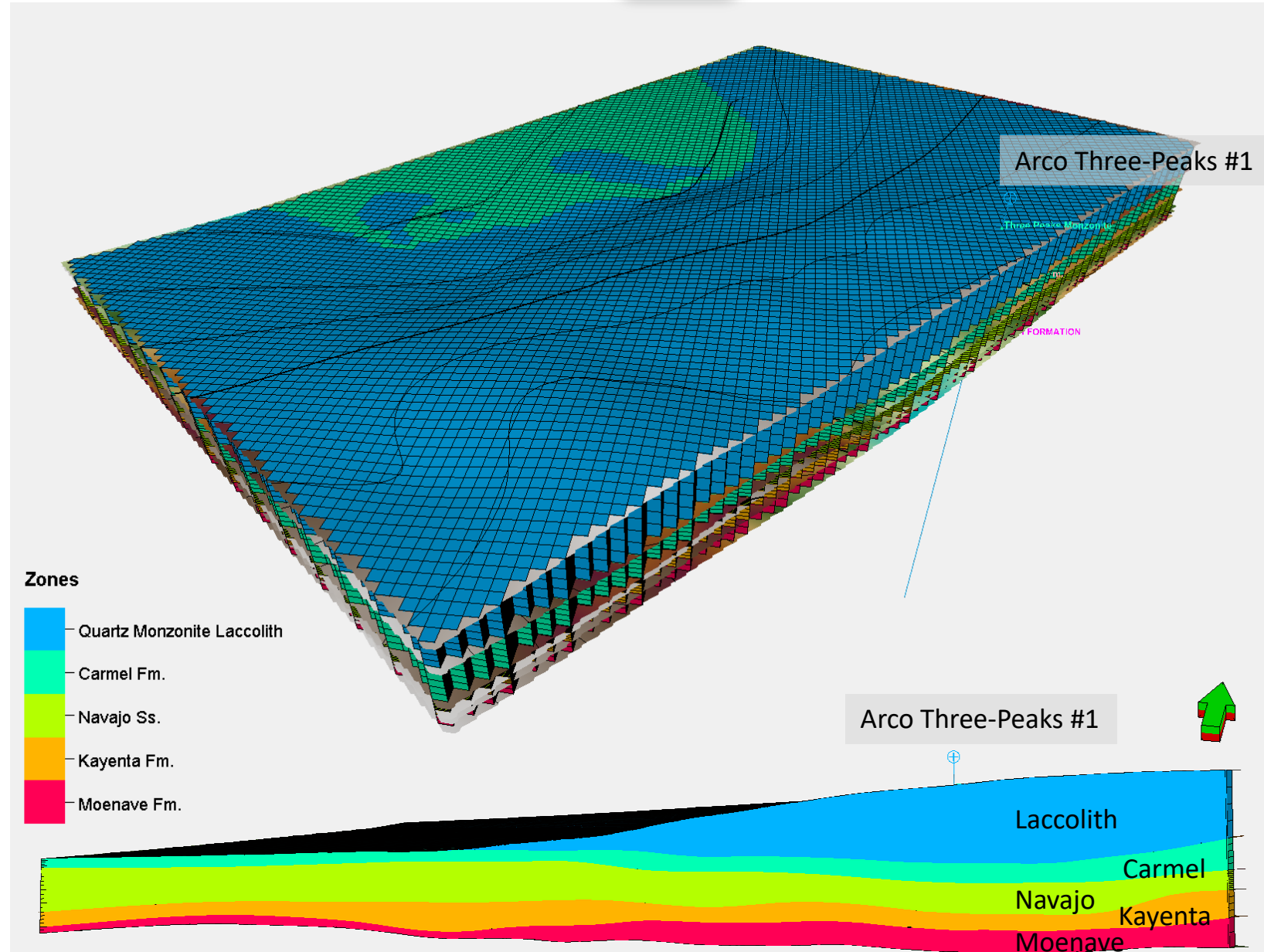
## Modeling

1. The entire ARCO Three Peaks#1 well logs has been digitized.
2. The utilized curves are the GR, Deep Resistivity, Neutron Porosity, Bulk Density and Compressional Sonic
3. The Target formations (Navajo Sandstone, Carmel Limestone), overburden and under burden formation tops were picked with the digital curves' interpretation and the wells reports.



## Modeling

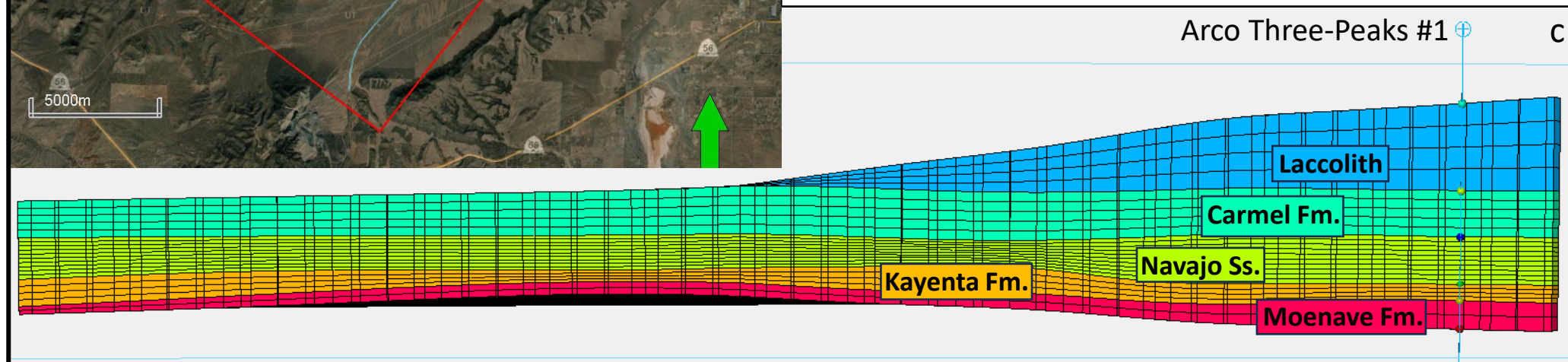
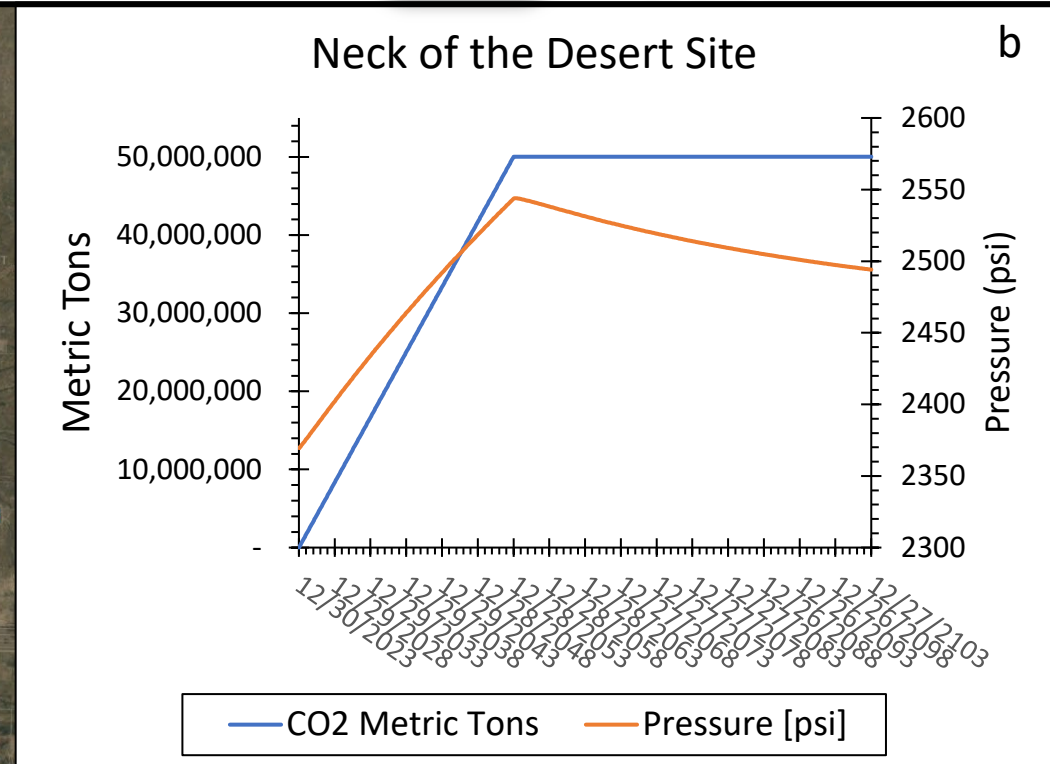
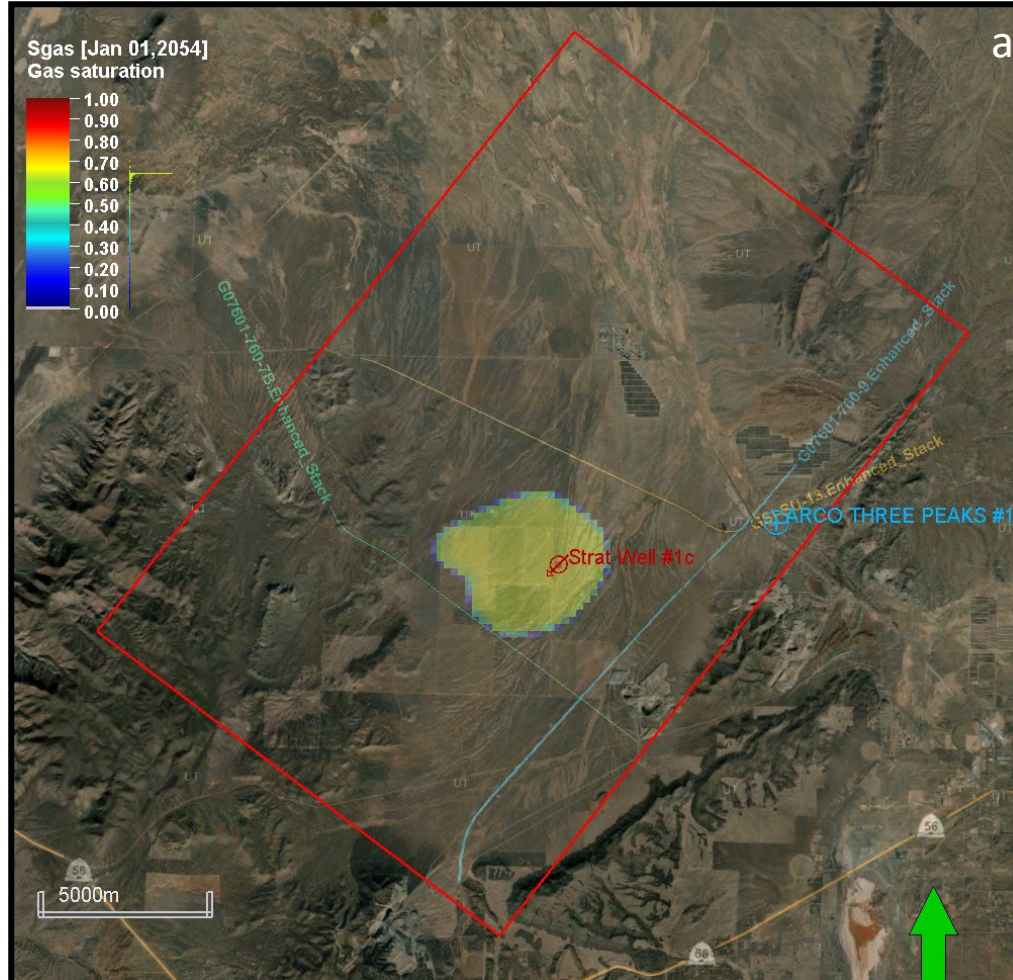
- Sealing formations:
  - Laccolith and Carmel
- Primary reservoir:
  - Navajo Ss.
- Underlying formations:
  - Kayenta and Moenave Frm.



# CUSP Iron Mountain Subsurface Characterization



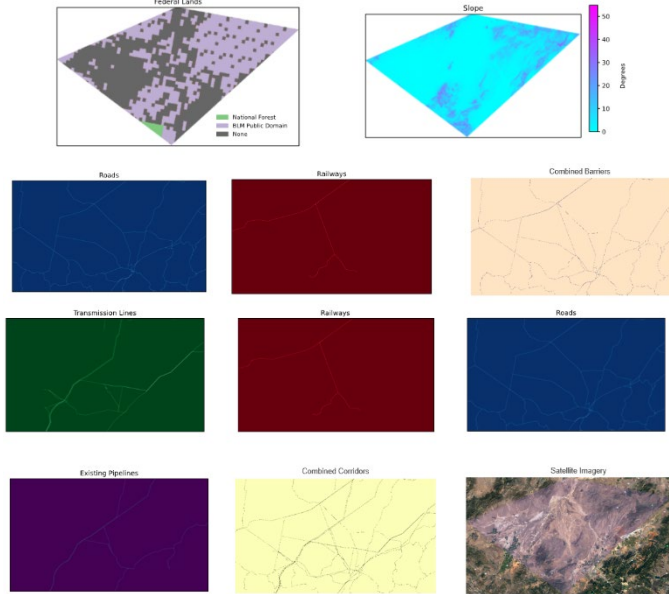
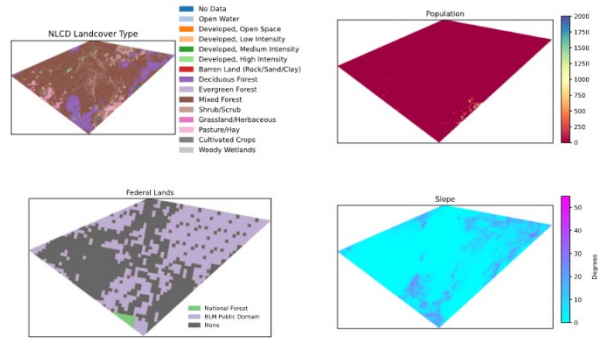
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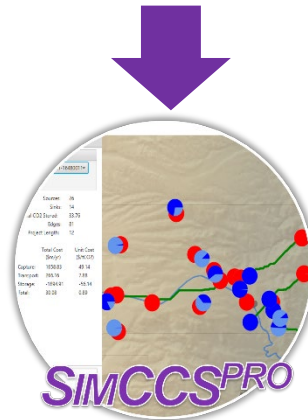
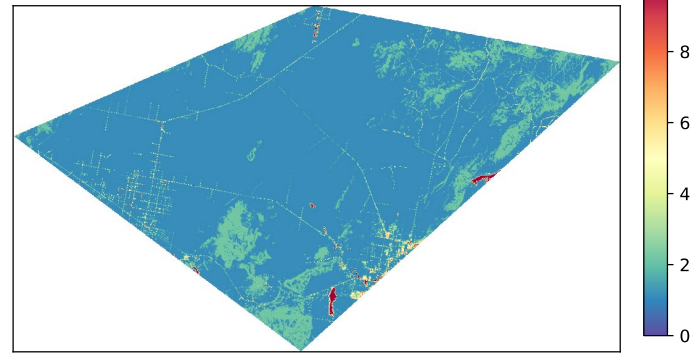
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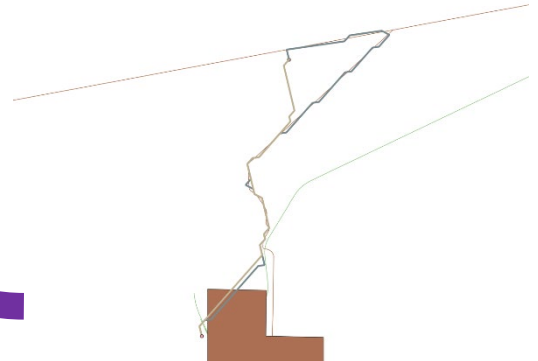
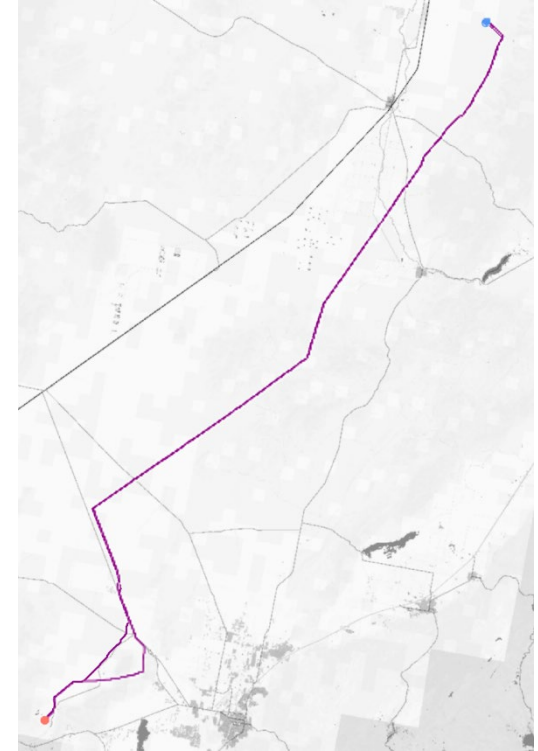
Utah Iron rights of way



CostMAP Generated Pipeline Costs

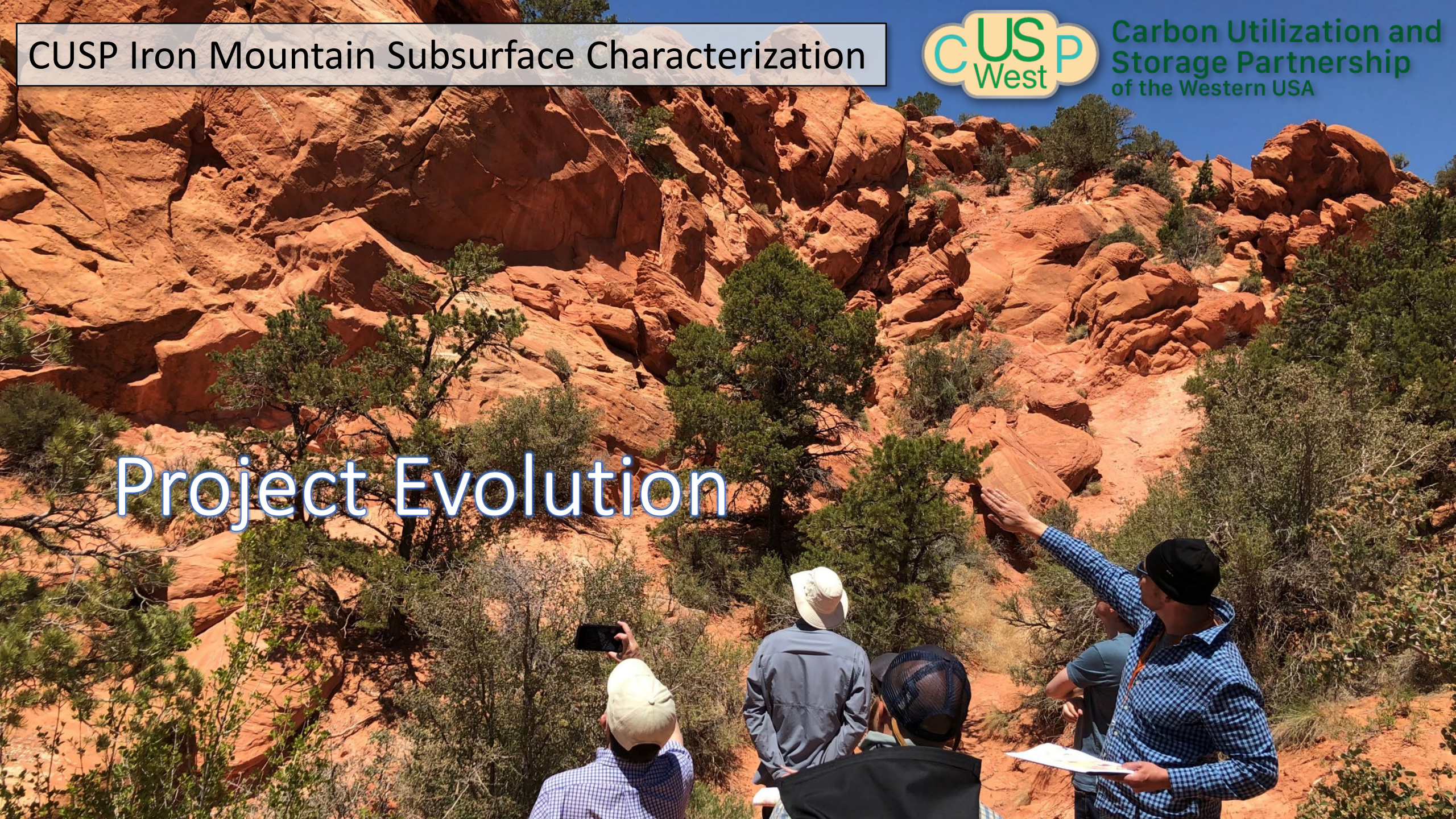


Pipeline routing solutions





# Project Evolution



## CarbonSAFE Phase II: Storage Complex Feasibility Basin and Range Southwest Utah



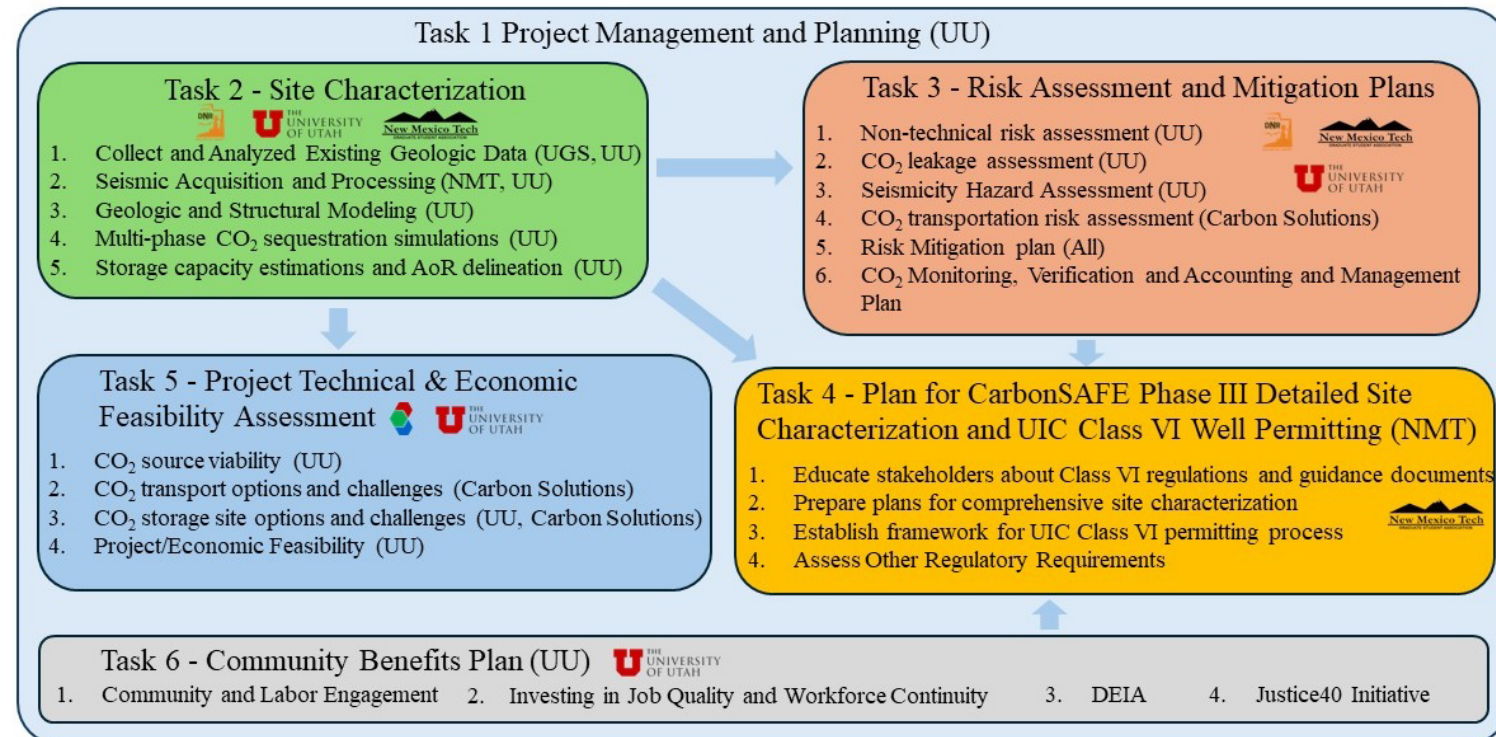
### Project Partners:

- Utah Iron
- Utah Geologic Survey
- Fervo Energy
- Cyrq Energy
- AirMyne
- New Mexico Tech
- University of Oklahoma
- Carbon Solutions

DE-FOA-0002711:

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Storage Validation and Testing (Section 40305): Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise (CarbonSAFE): Phases II, III, III.5, and IV

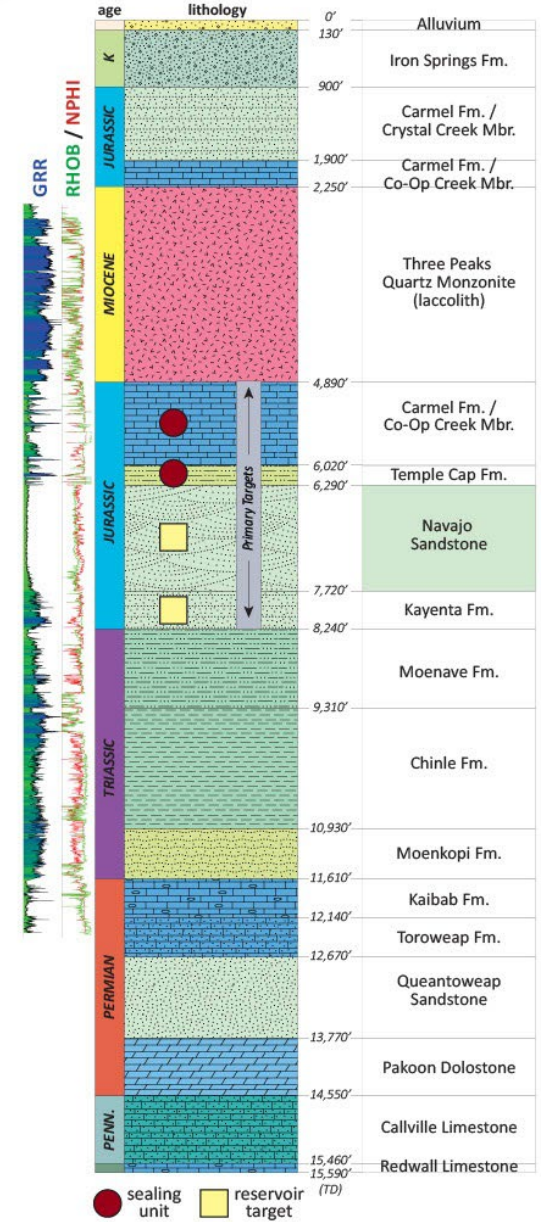
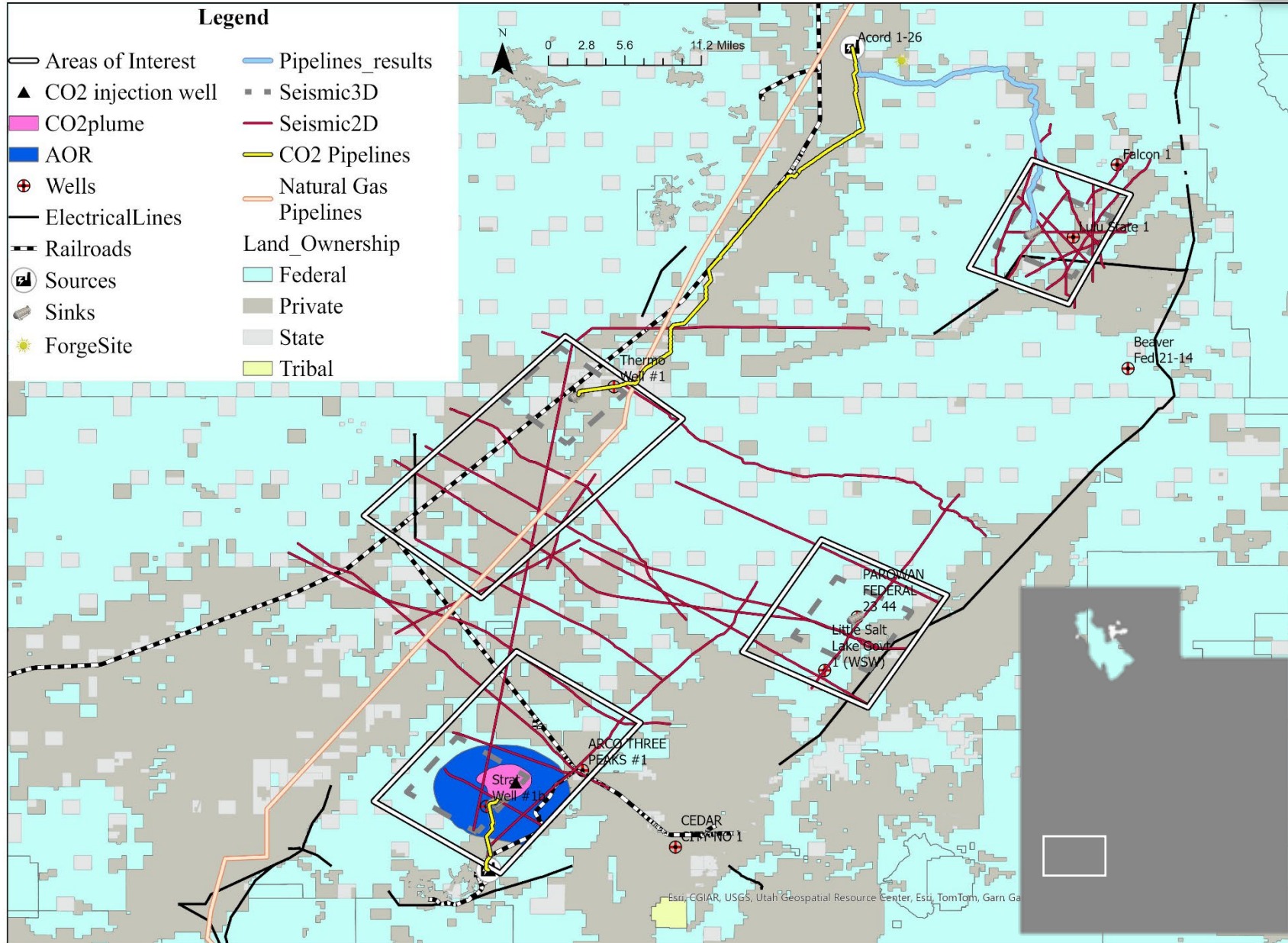
Area of Interest 4: CarbonSAFE Phase II: Storage Complex Feasibility



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## Carbon Utilization and Storage Partnership of the Western USA



# Questions?

## Acknowledgements

Funding for this project is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL through the Carbon Utilization and Storage Partnership of the Western USA (CUSP) under Award No. DE-FE0031837. Additional support has been provided by site operator Utah Iron LLC and the Utah Geological Survey, Kansas Geologic Survey, Oklahoma Geologic Survey, Montana State University, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and CarbonSolutions LLC.

