

# **COALBED METHANE--A NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCE**

**WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT  
IMPORTANT**

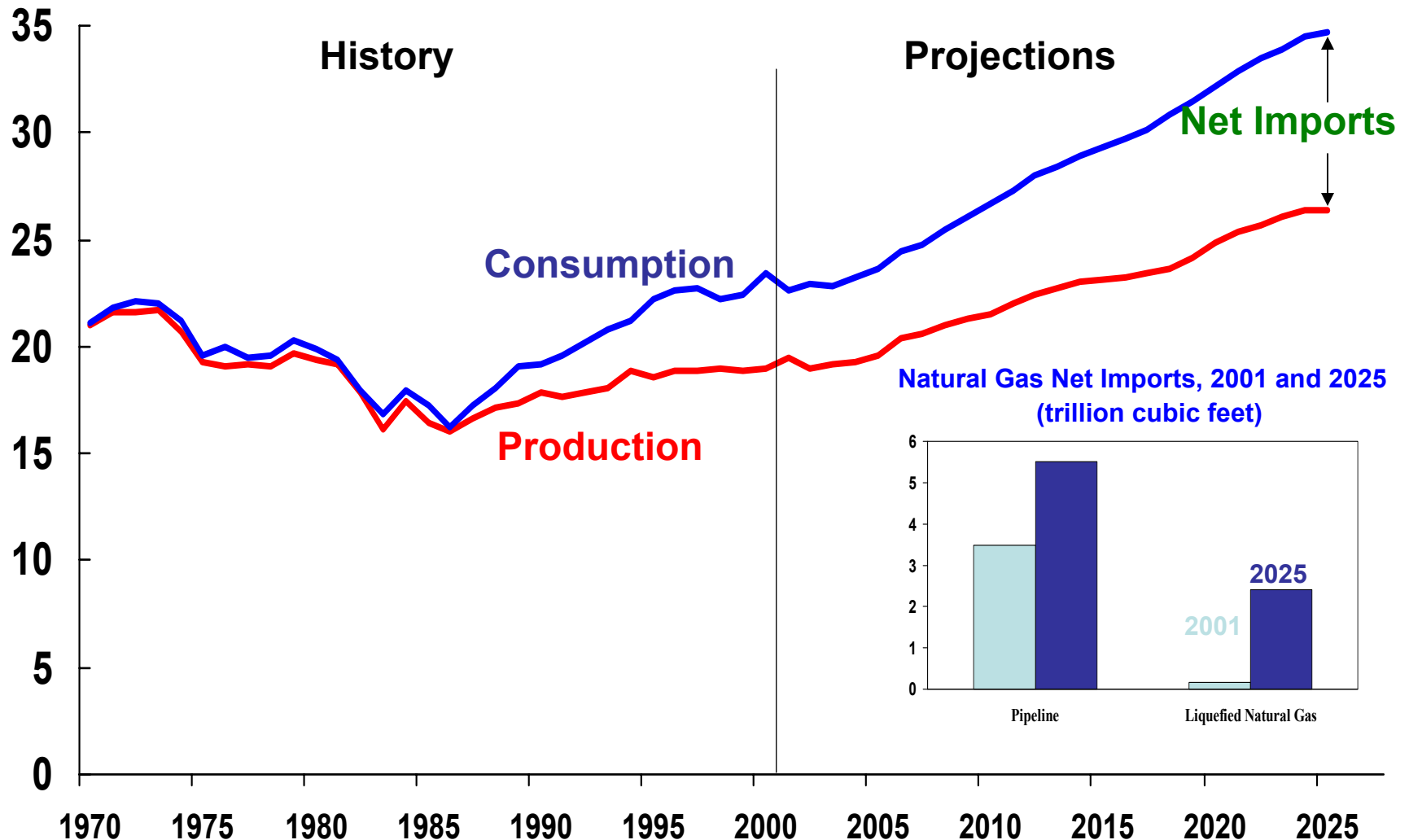
**ROBERT A. LAMARRE  
LAMARRE GEOLOGICAL ENTERPRISES**

**Fueling The Future**

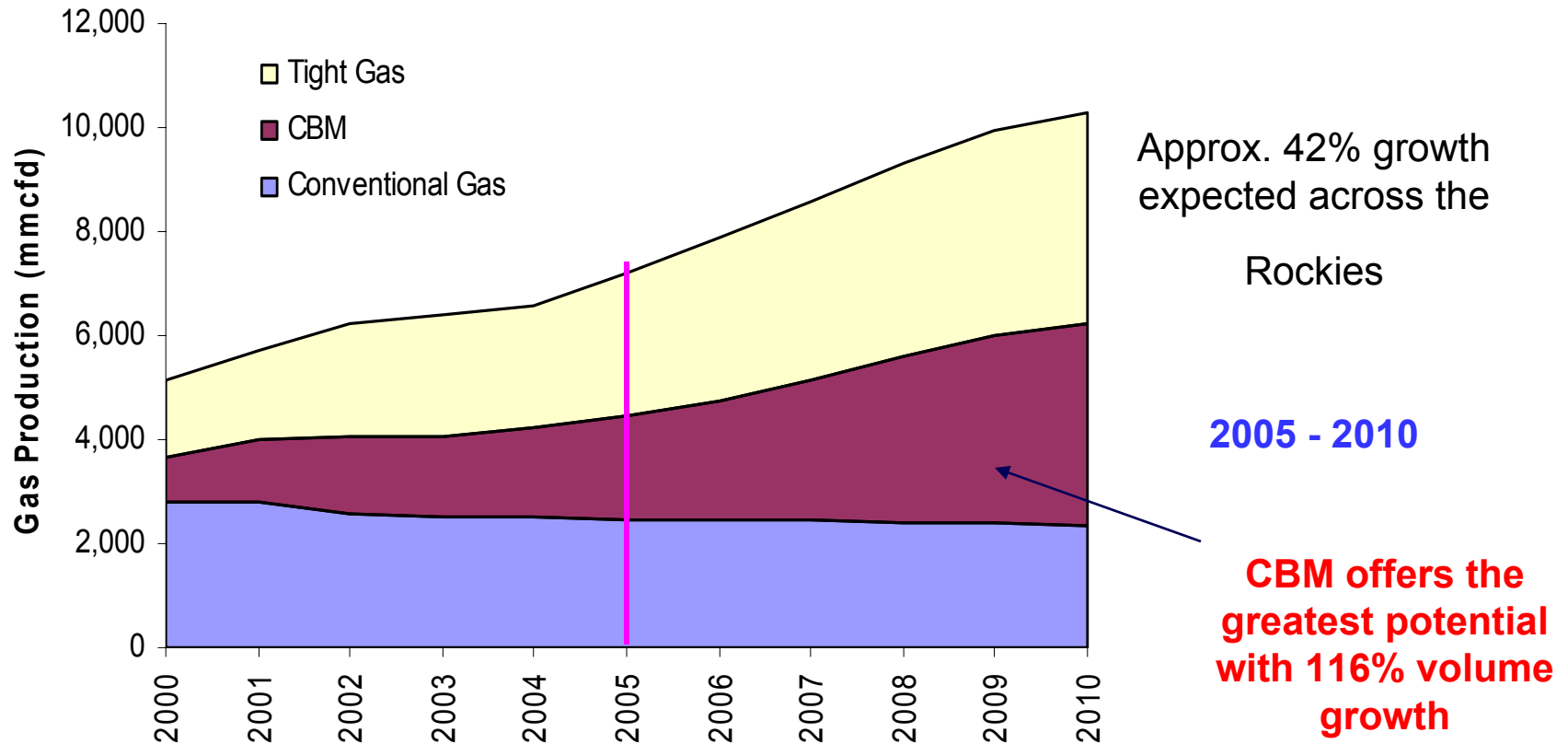
**25<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Conference of the USAEE/IAEE**

**Sept. 20, 2005**

# Natural Gas Production, Consumption, and Imports, 1970 - 2025 (trillion cubic feet)

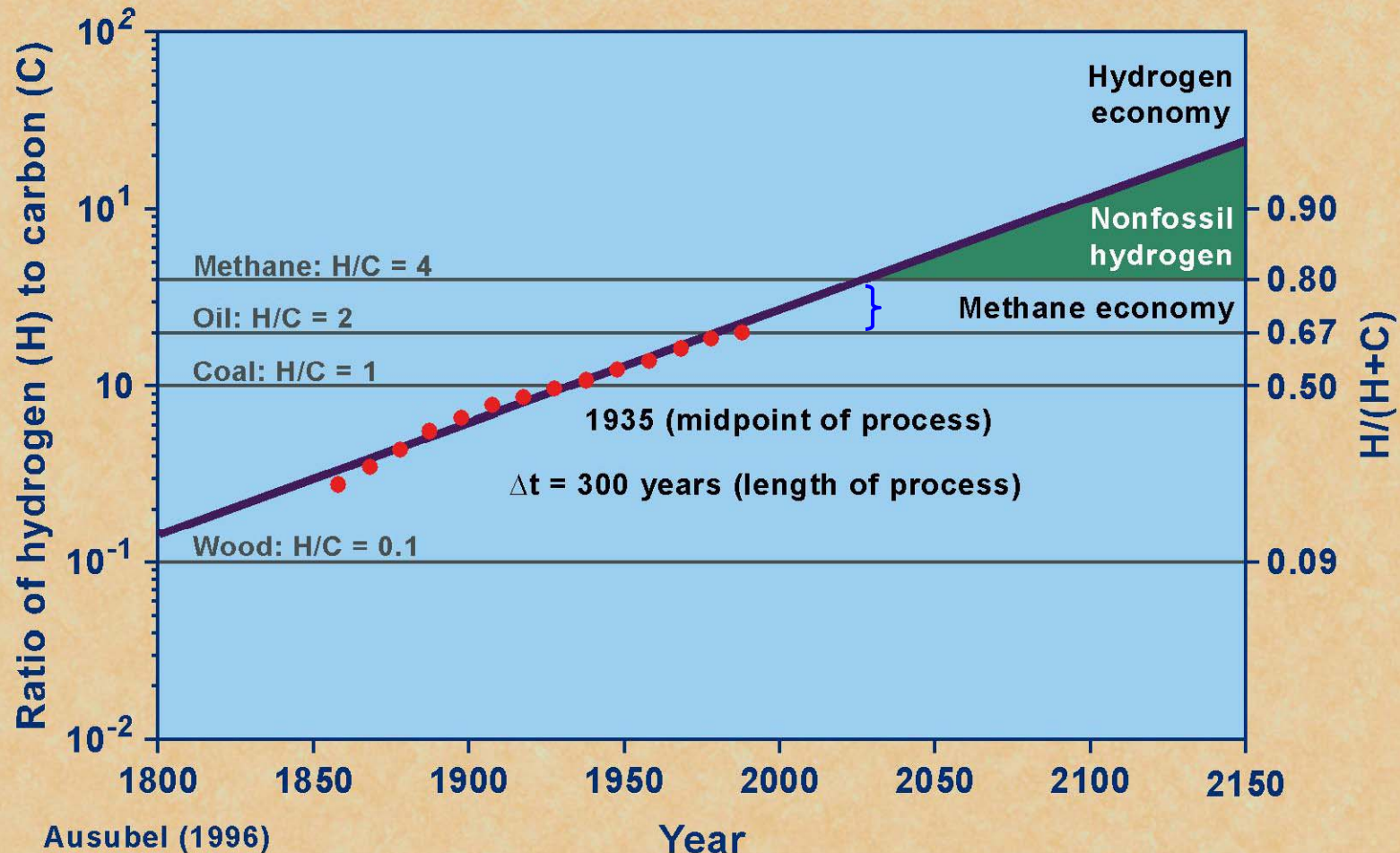


# Major Growth in Production from Unconventional Resources



- Tight Gas - 2.3 bcfd in 2004 to 4.1 bcfd in 2010
- **CBM - 1.8 bcfd in 2004 to 3.9 bcfd in 2010**
- Conventional Gas - 2.5 bcfd in 2004 to 2.3 bcfd in 2010

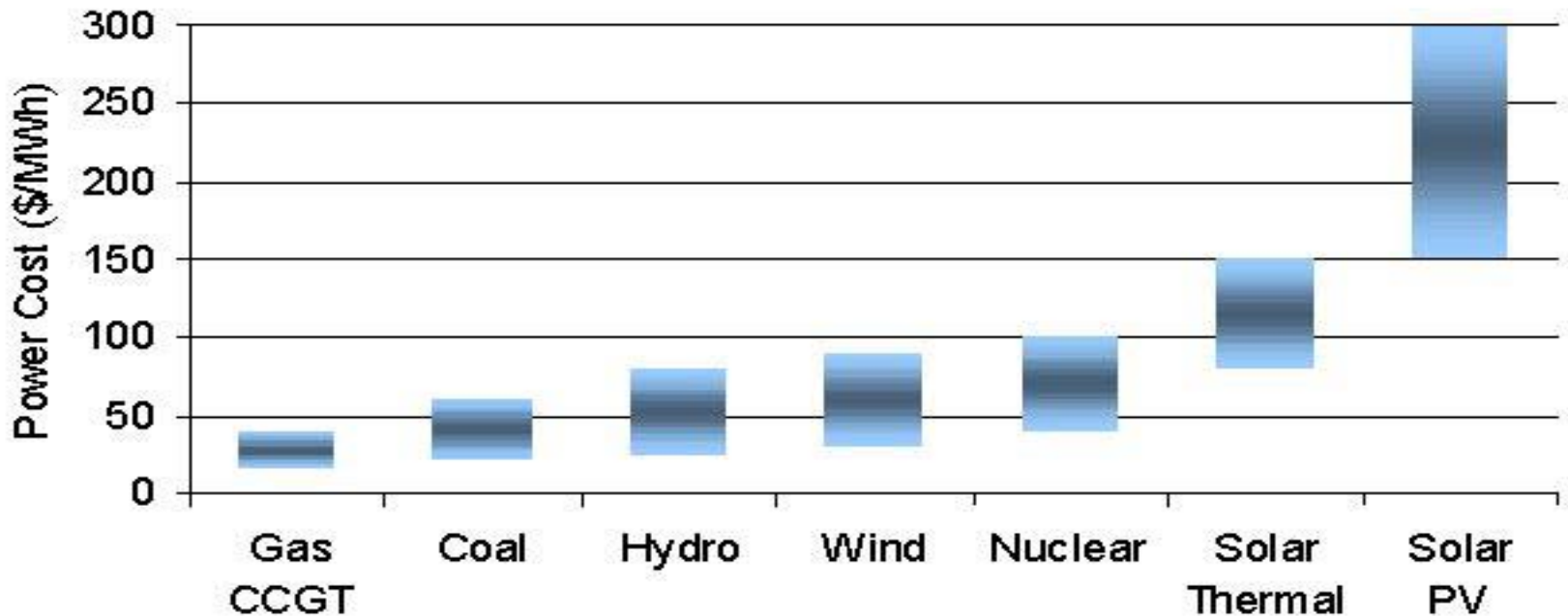
# RATIO OF HYDROGEN (H) TO CARBON (C) FOR GLOBAL PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION SINCE 1860 & PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE



# Why Natural Gas?

## Efficiency

**More New Baseload Electric Plant Costs**  
...combined cycle gas technology is still the preferred choice



Source: ExxonMobil; Deutsche Bank



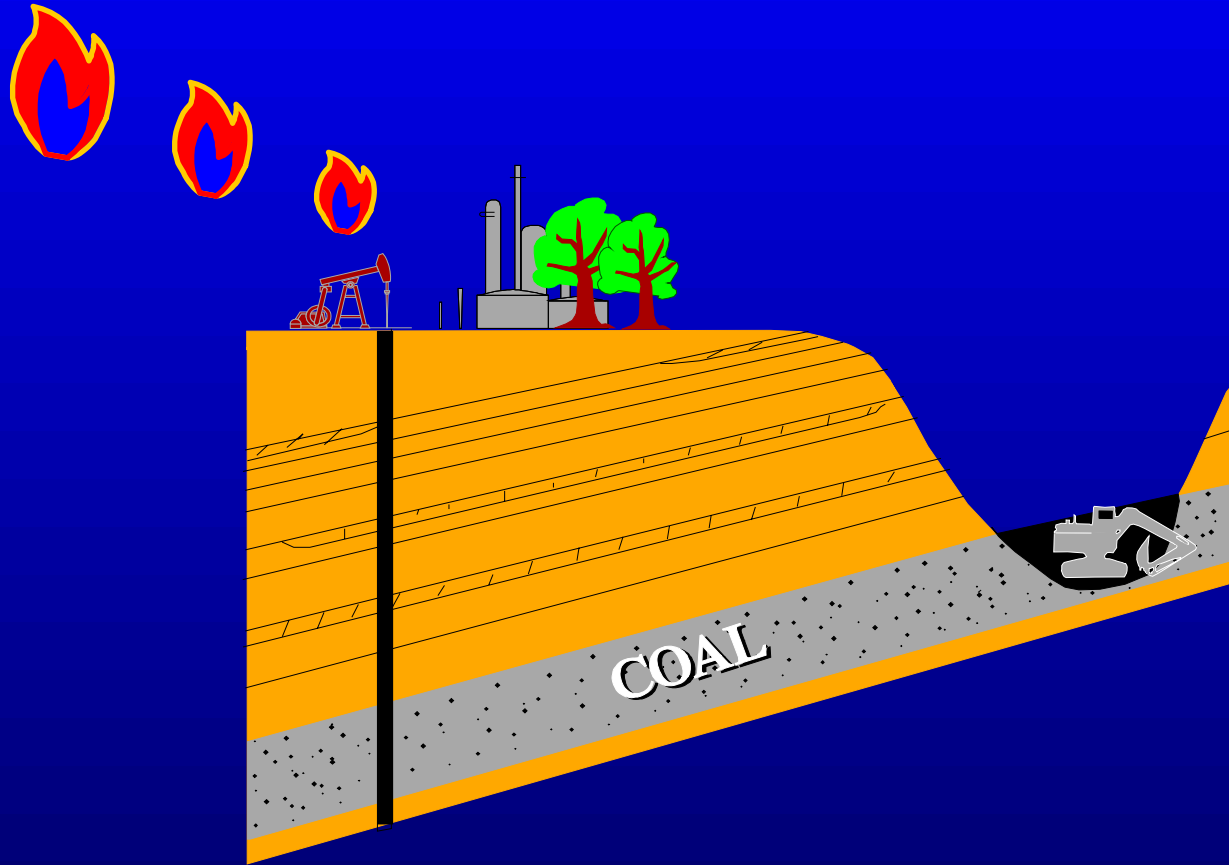
**NATURAL GAS IS A CLEAN BURNING FUEL**

**PREFERRED ENERGY SOURCE**



**COAL-FUELED ELECTRICITY-GENERATING PLANT AND CBM WELL IN UTAH**

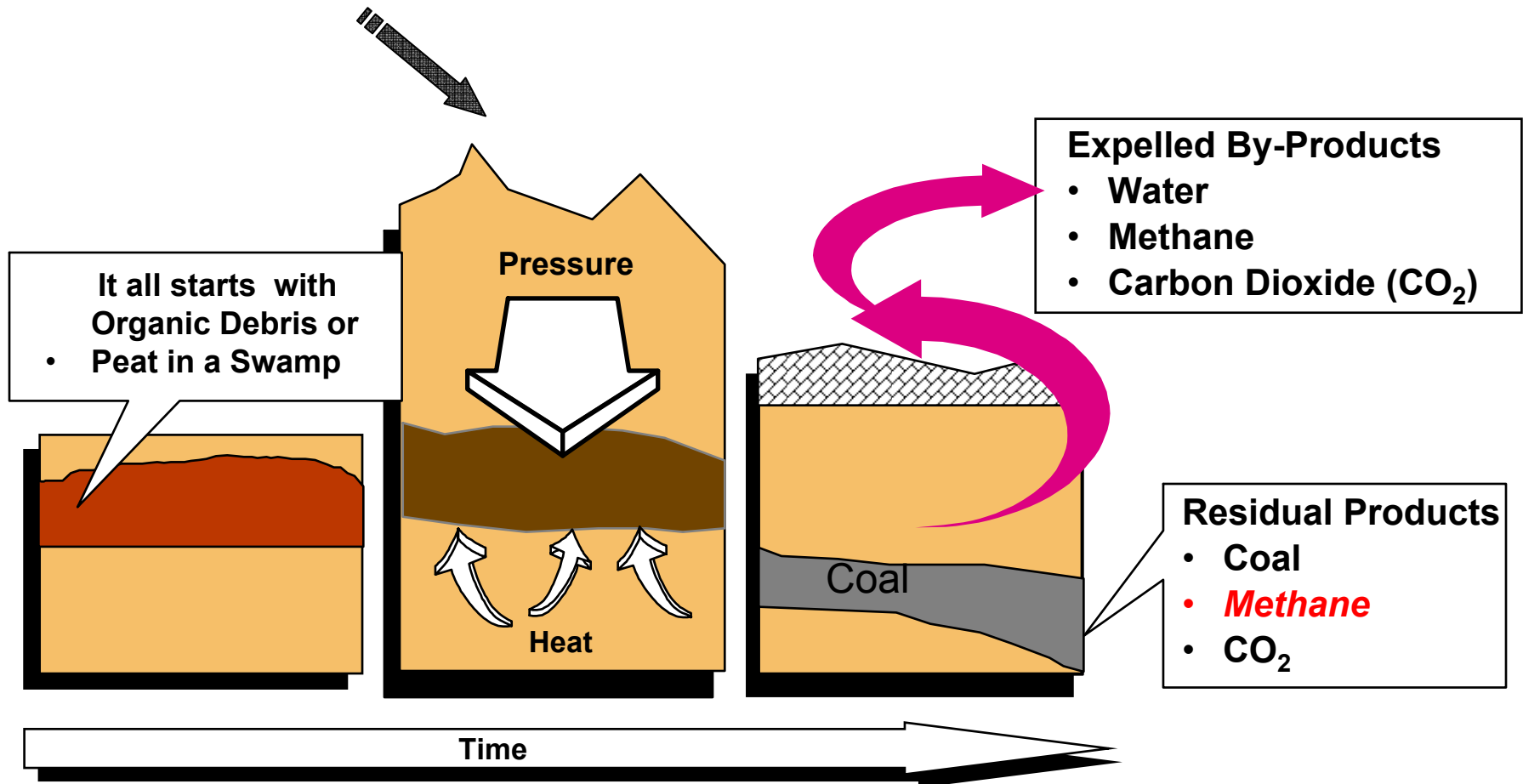
# WHAT IS COALBED METHANE ?



**METHANE GAS PRODUCED FROM UNDERGROUND COAL BEDS**

# COALBED METHANE IS FORMED DURING THE CONVERSION OF PEAT TO COAL

Coal is formed from peat over time by heat and pressure







## PEAT SWAMP

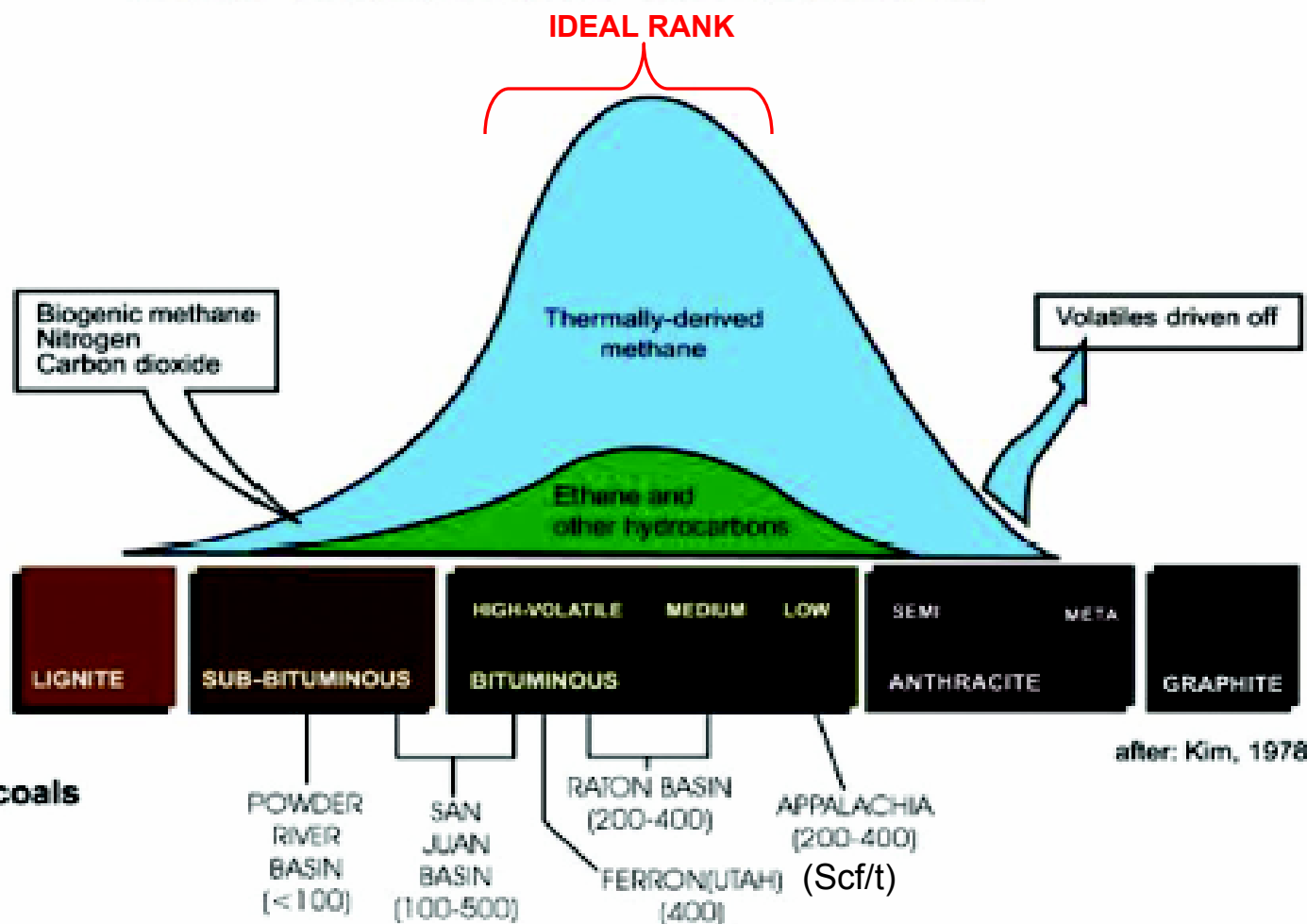


**Picture 28**

**Cast of an in-situ tree rooted in the Jagger Seam and encased in the crevasse splay deposit that terminated peat deposition in the swamp in the Black Warrior Basin, Alabama. (Picture by Walter Ayers, S. A. Holditch & Associates, Inc., College Station, Texas; shown are William Kaiser (left) and Richard Winston.)**

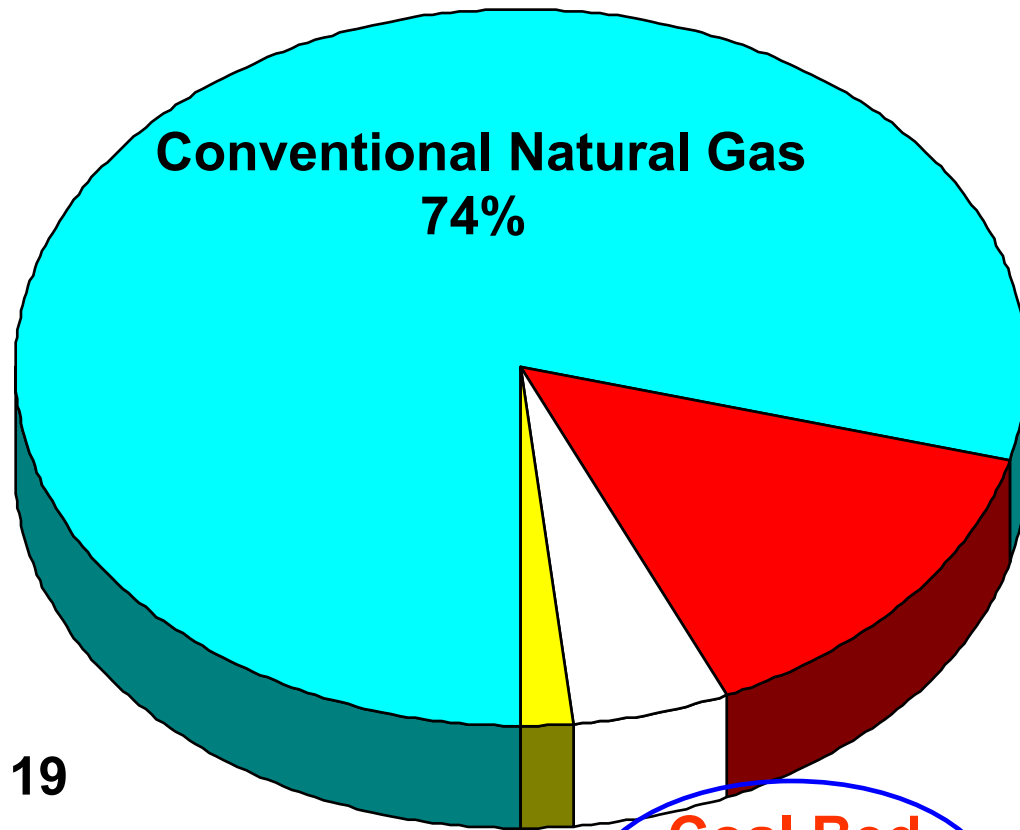
# GAS CONTENTS OF VARIOUS ROCKY MTN. BASINS

## GAS CONTENT OF COALS



Gas content of coals

# CBM HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF US GAS PRODUCTION



**Tight Gas Sands**  
14%

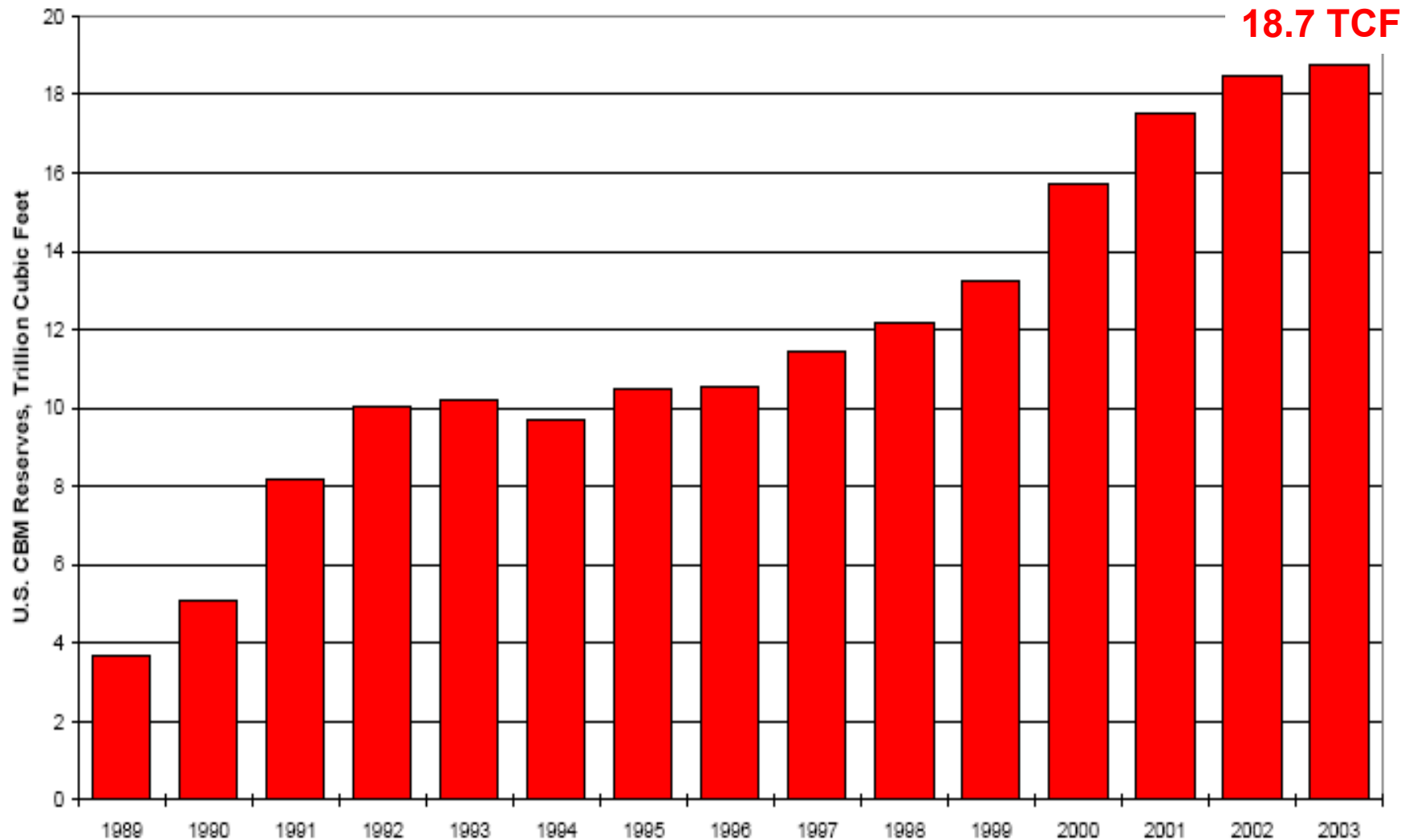
**Coal Bed  
Methane**  
10 %

**Gas Shales**  
2%

**Conventional Natural Gas**  
74%

**U.S. CONSUMES 19  
TCF OF GAS  
ANNUALLY**

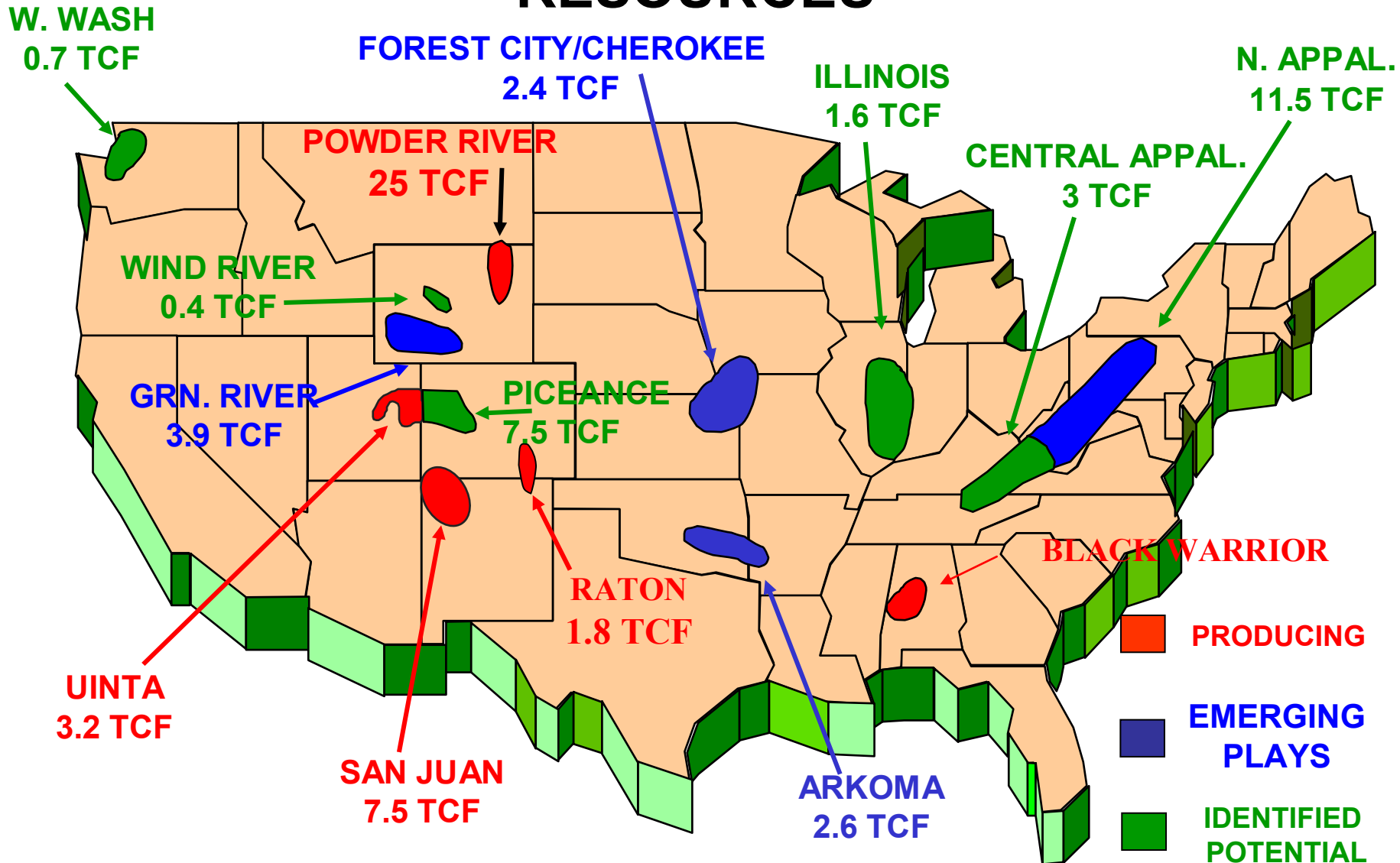
# U.S COALBED METHANE PROVED RESERVES, 1989-2003



Source: U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves, 1989 through 2003 annual reports, DOE/EIA-0216.



# U.S. CONTAINS 703 TCF OF CBM RESOURCES



# U.S. CBM RESOURCES

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• Greater Green River Basin	314 Tcf
• Piceance Basin	99 Tcf
• San Juan Basin	50 Tcf
• Powder River Basin	30 Tcf
• Uinta Basin	10 Tcf
• Raton Basin	10 Tcf

**TOTAL**

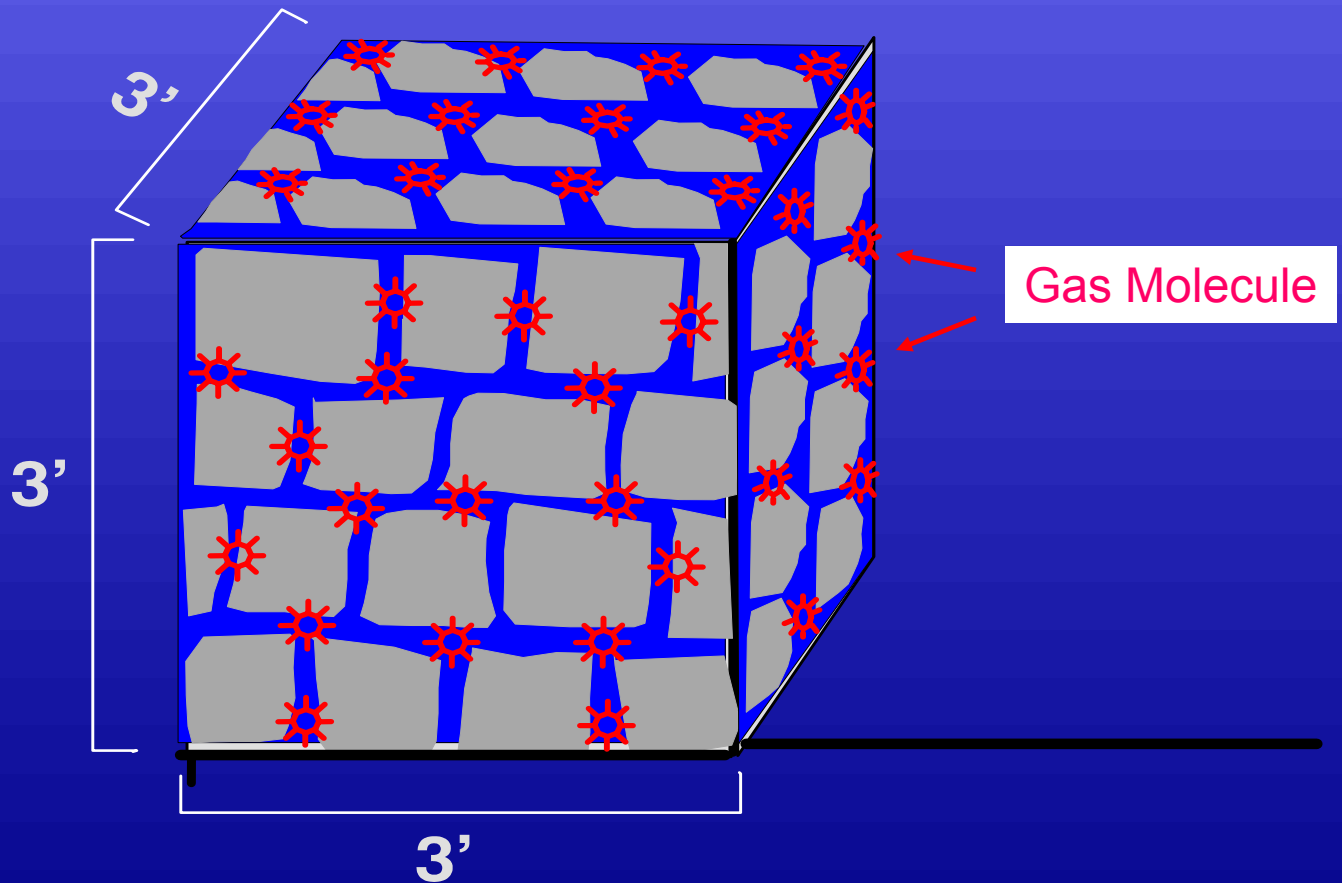
**513 TCF**

# **CBM IN U. S. LOWER 48 STATES**

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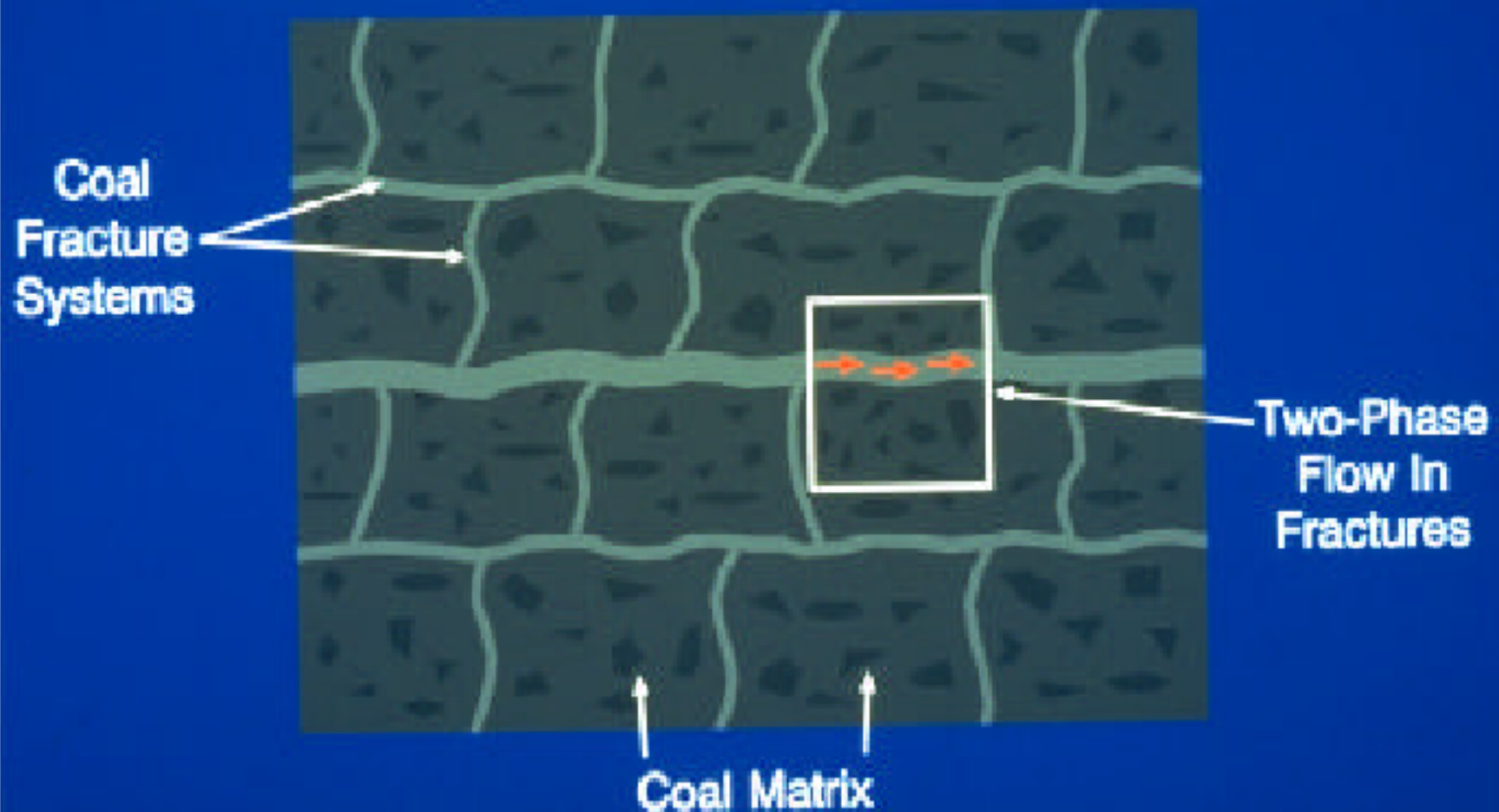
- **13 TCF PRODUCED**
- **18.7 TCF PROVED RESERVES**
- **42.3 TCF ECONOMICALLY RECOVERABLE**
- **101.2 TCF UNDISCOVERED**
- **703 TCF TOTAL RESOURCE ESTIMATE**
- **>14,000 WELLS**
- **1.6 TCF PRODUCED IN 2003**
- **>10% OF U.S. NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION**

# GAS IS ADSORBED ON INTERNAL SURFACES OF COAL



**1 TON OF COAL CONTAINS 1 BILLION  
SQ. FT. OF INTERNAL SURFACE AREA**

## Illustration of Major Cleat Providing Flow Path to Wellbore







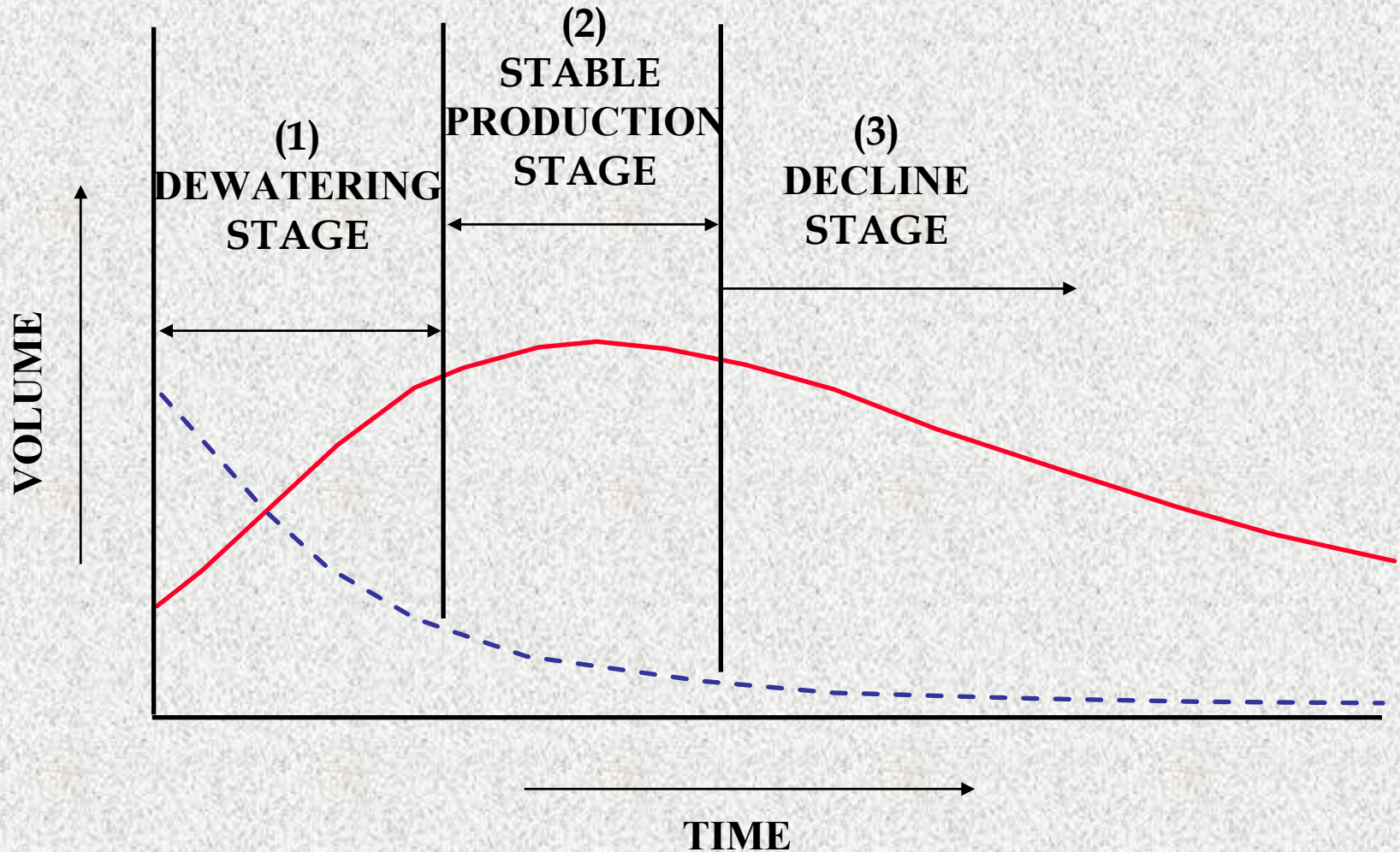
**Picture 1**  
**Cleats in a coal exposure of the Cretaceous Fruitland Formation in the Star Lake area, southern San Juan Basin, New Mexico. Note the termination of the cleats at a tonstein parting (few exceptions). Both face and butt cleats are well-developed and the butt cleat is iron-stained. (Picture by Walter Ayers, S. A. Holditch & Associates, Inc., College Station, Texas.)**

# **ADVANTAGES OF COALS AS RESERVOIRS**

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- ✿ **Large gas storage capacity**
- ✿ **Shallow depths**
- ✿ **Relatively low cost**
- ✿ **Very good economics**
- ✿ **Most coal basins have been mapped**
- ✿ **Abundant data from logs of older wells**

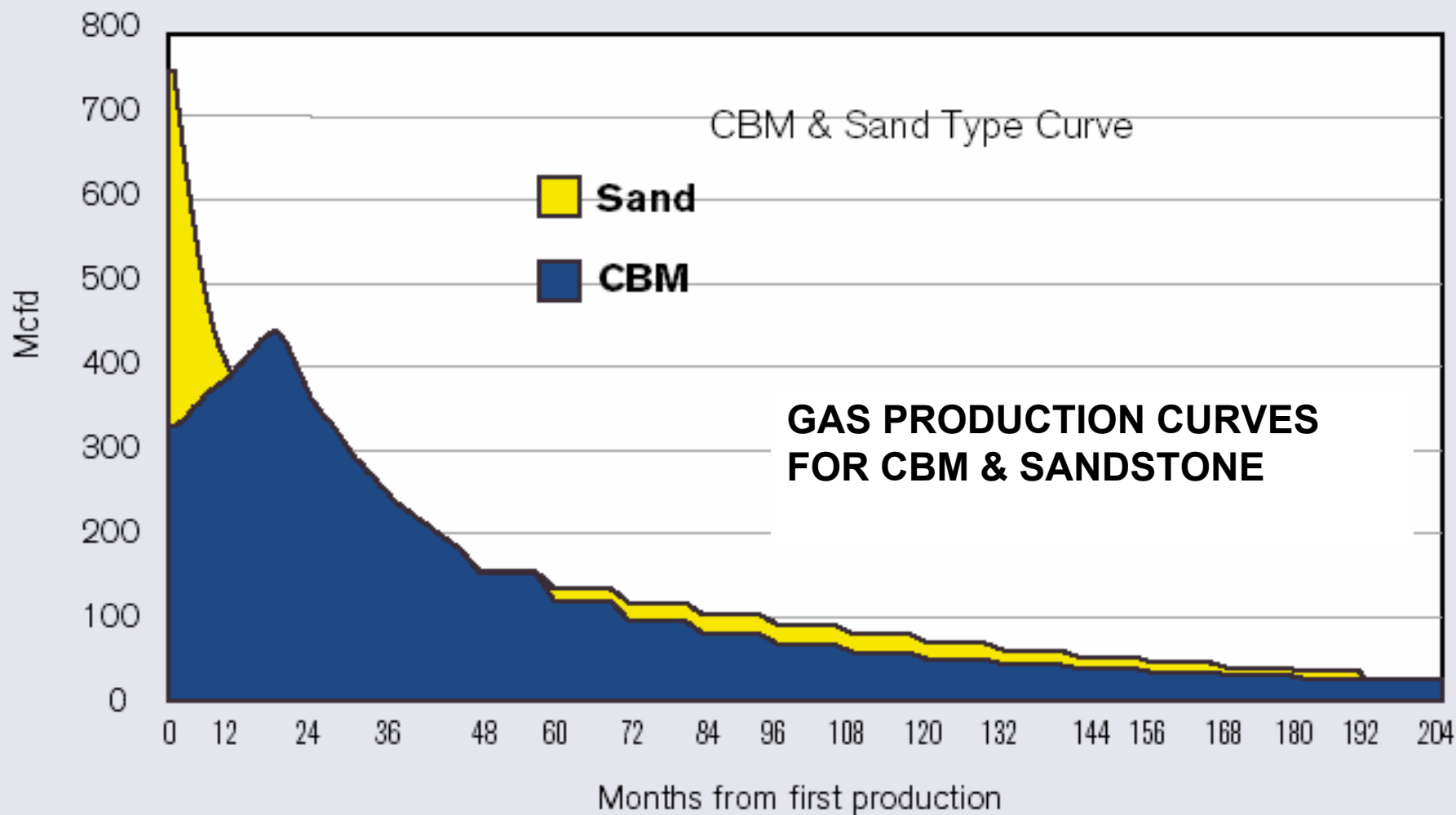
# PRODUCTIVE STAGES OF A COALBED METHANE WELL





## TYPICAL PUMPING UNIT ON A CBM WELL

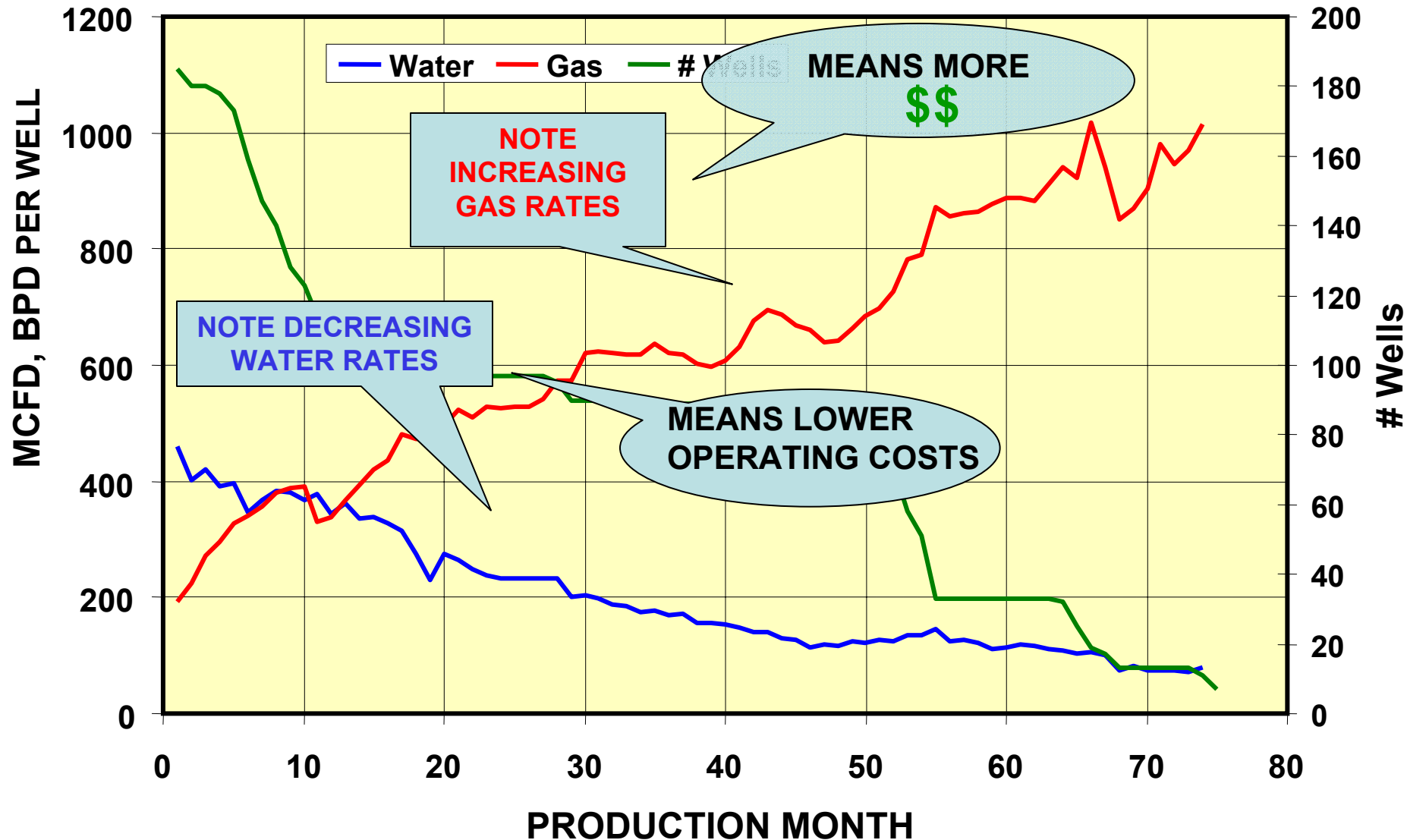




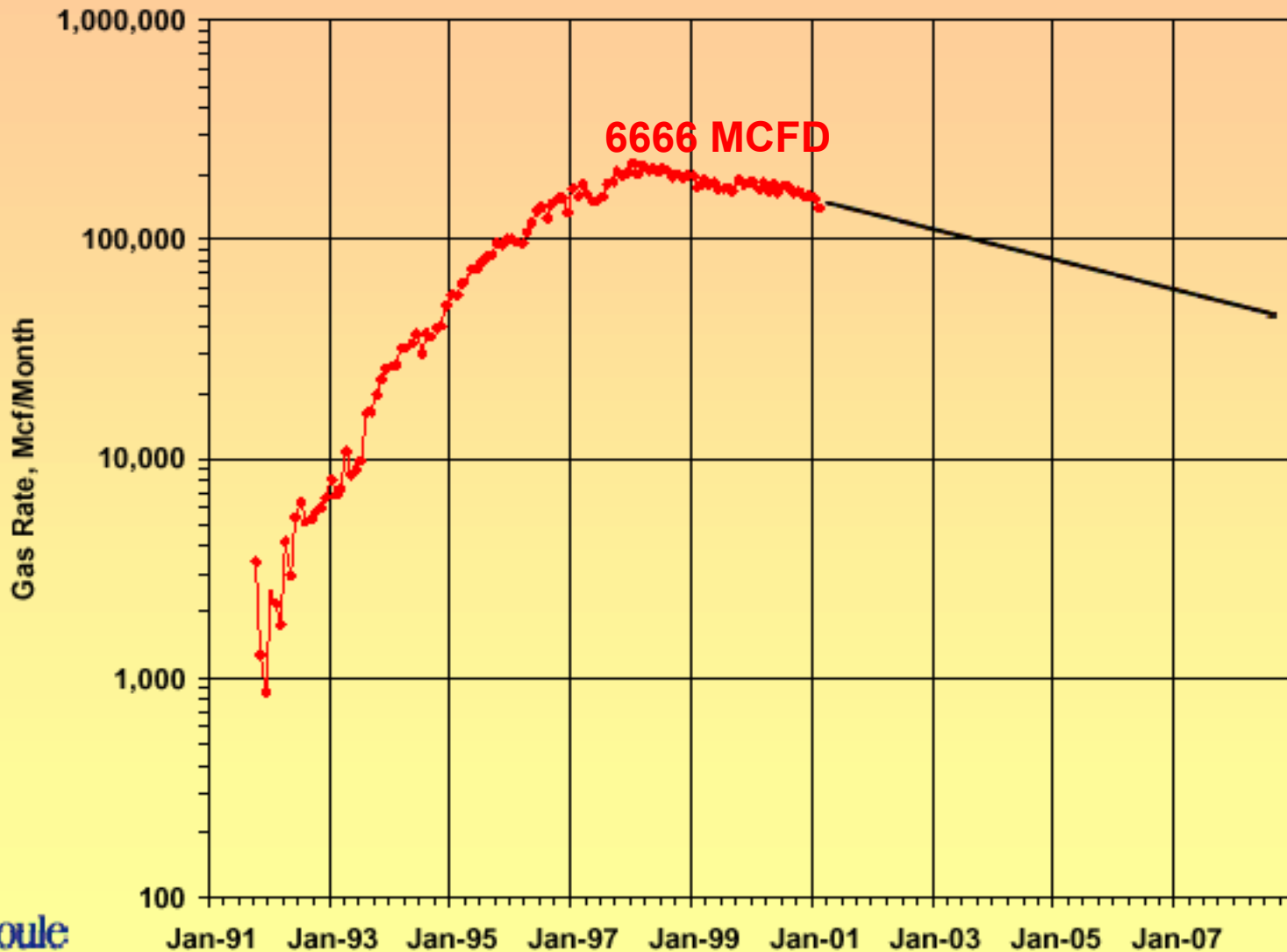
*New technologies improve the time to first production of coalbed methane after the sands in a CBM well begin to play out.*



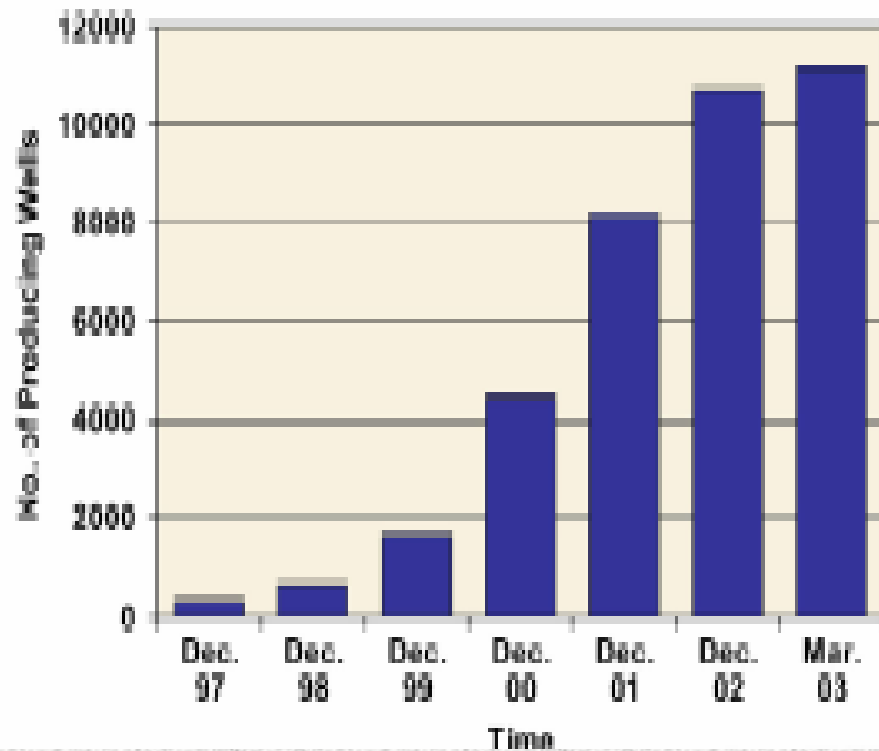
# EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL DRUNKARD'S WASH CBM PROJECT



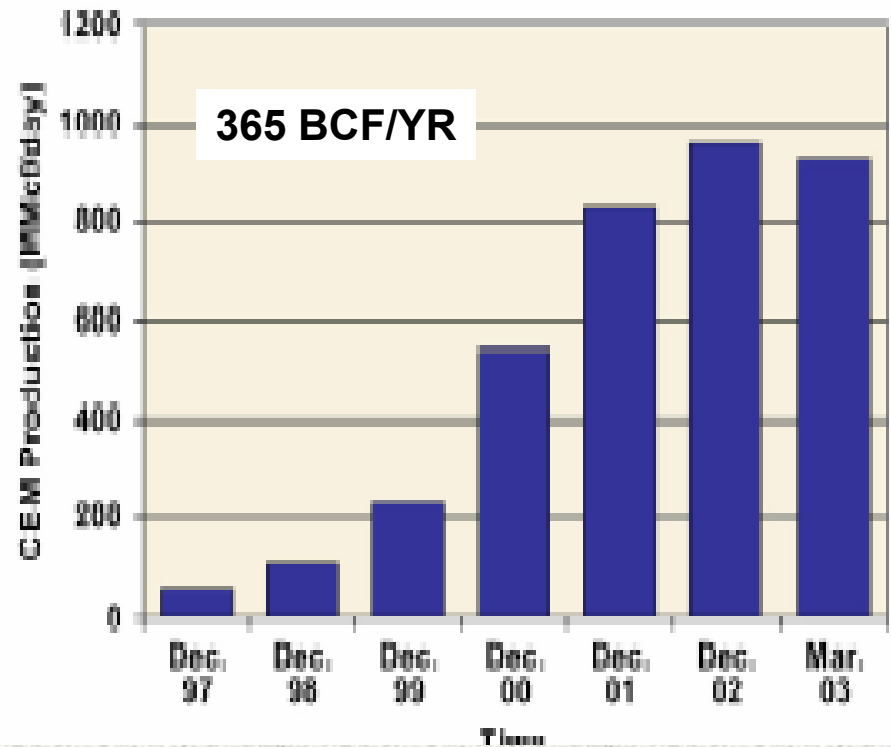
# Typical SJB Fairway Production



## NUMBER OF WELLS AND DAILY PRODUCTION VERSUS TIME IN POWDER RIVER BASIN

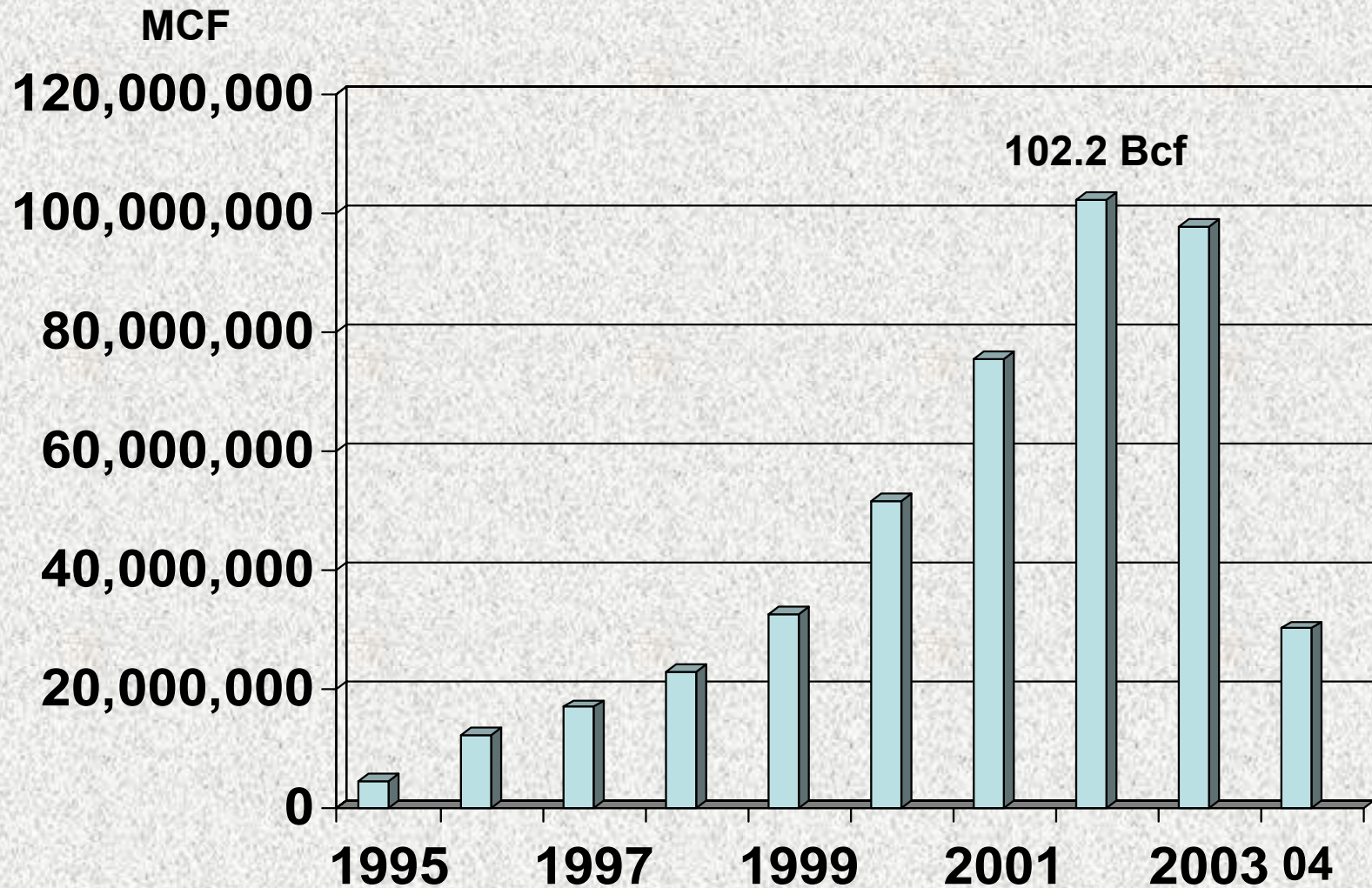


No. of Wells vs Time



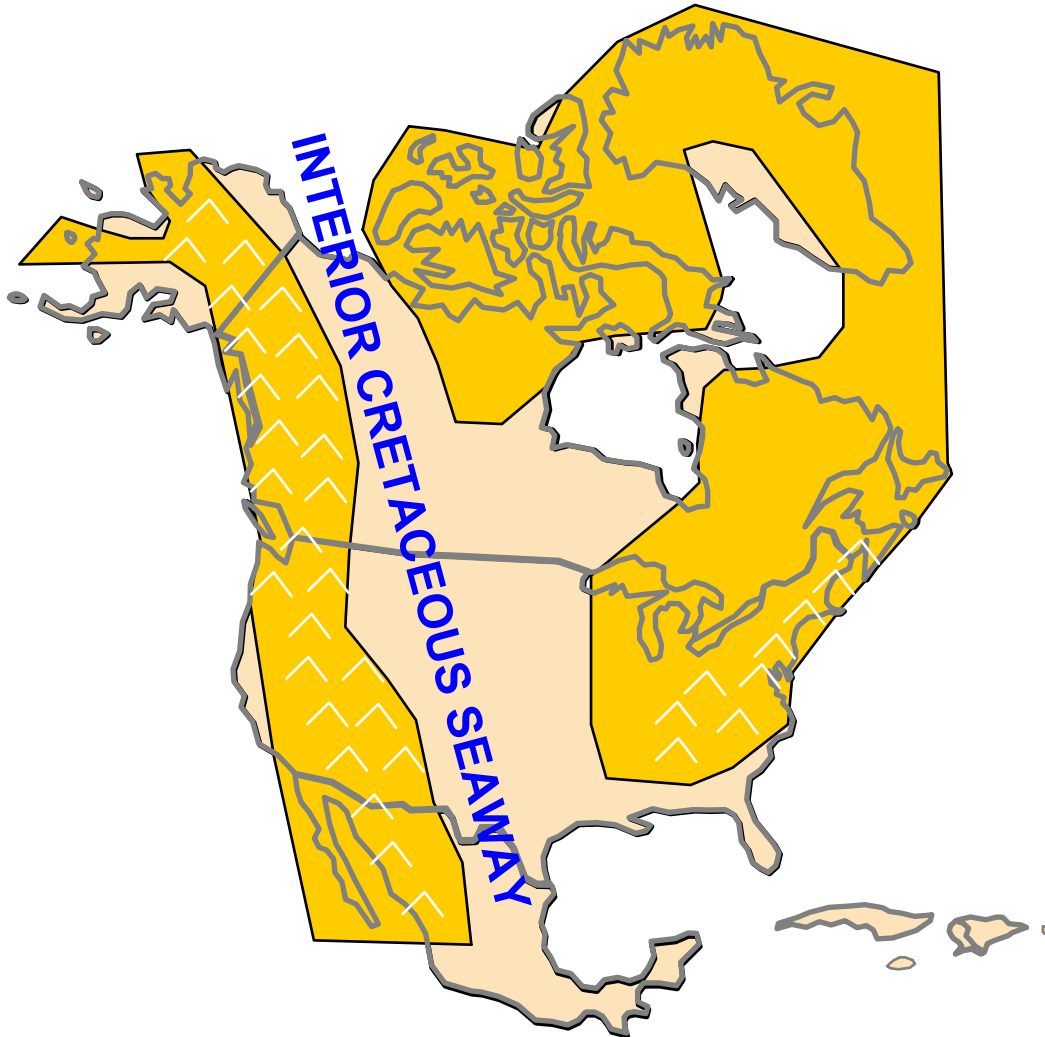
MMcfd vs Time

## CBM PRODUCTION IN UTAH



Thru April

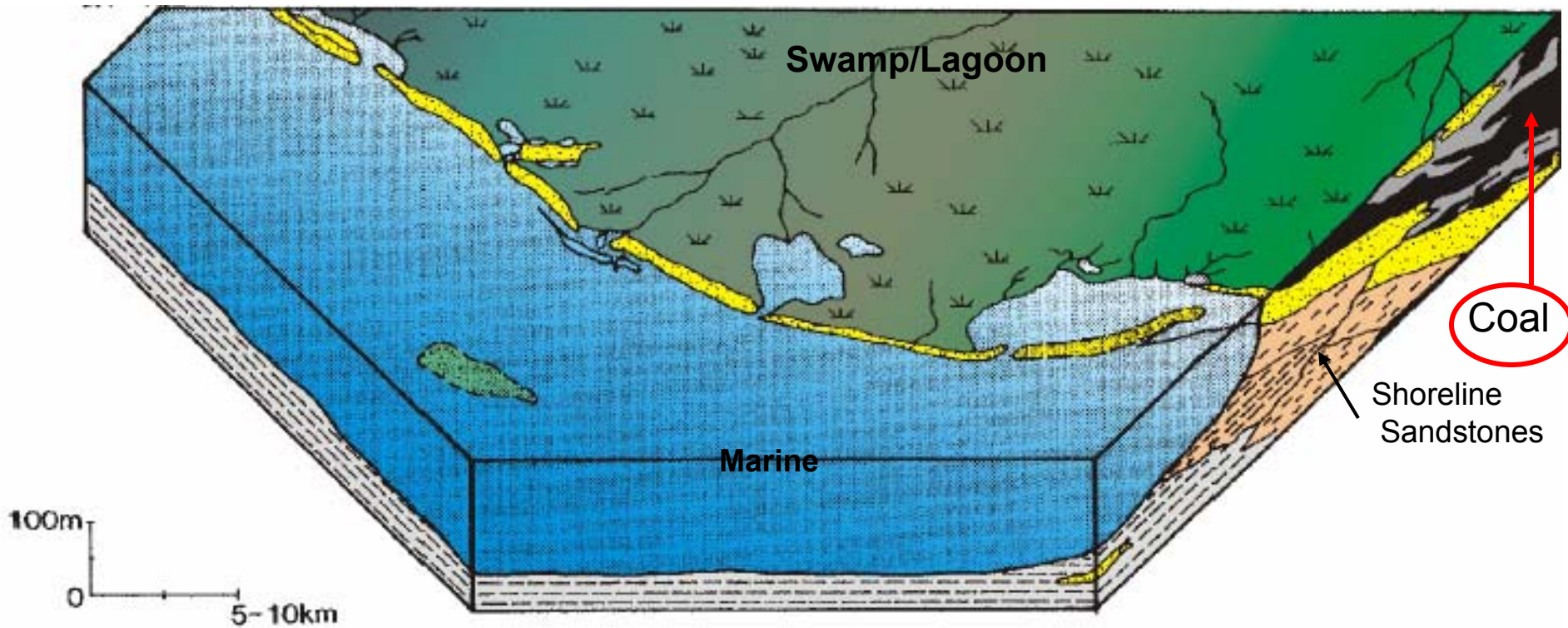
# THE CRETACEOUS SEAWAY CONTAINS THE CBM PROJECTS IN THE ROCKIES



RYER, 1988



## TYPICAL COAL DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CRETACEOUS ROCKS IN THE ROCKIES

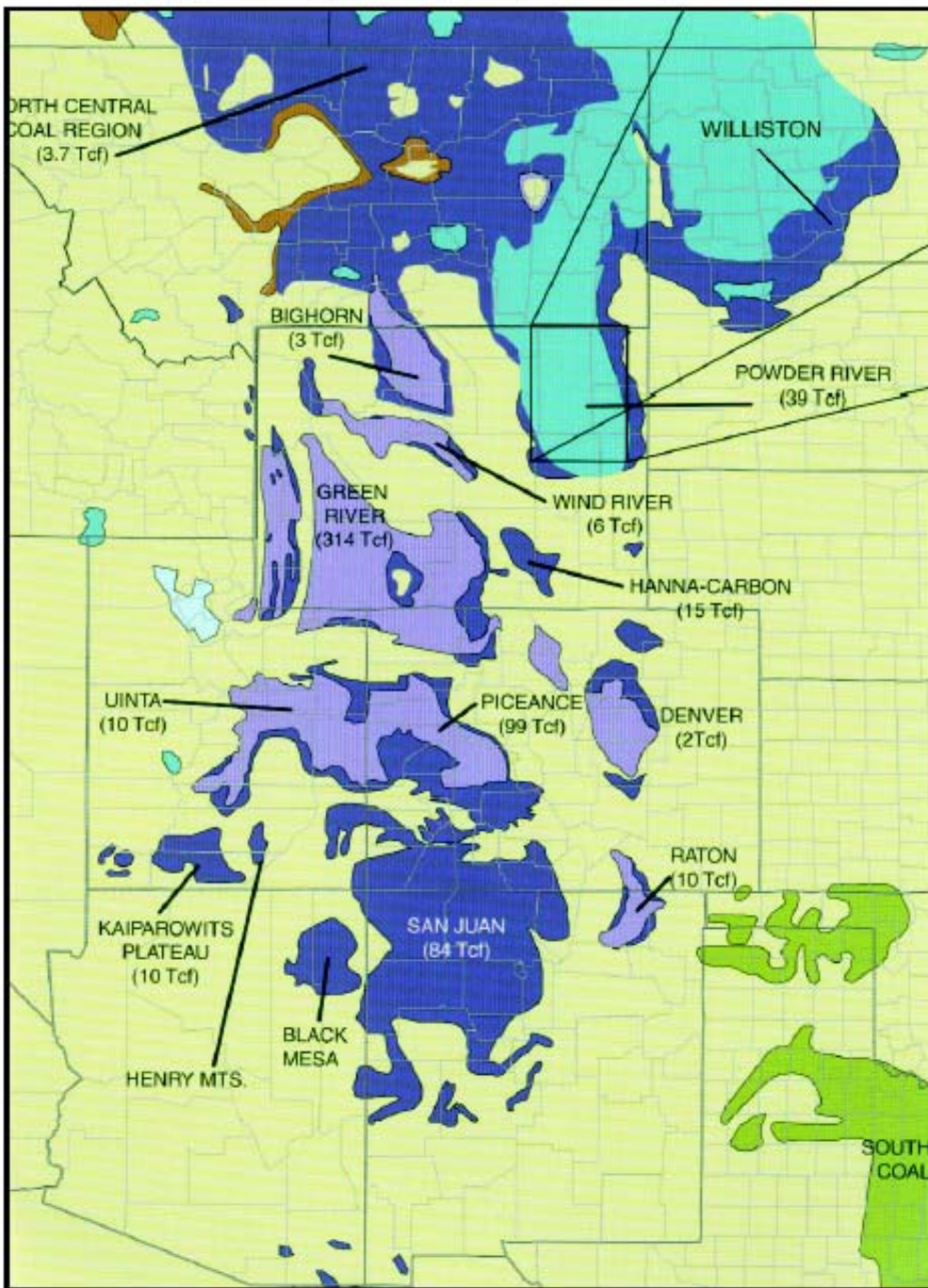


## POTENTIAL FUTURE COAL BEDS AND CBM



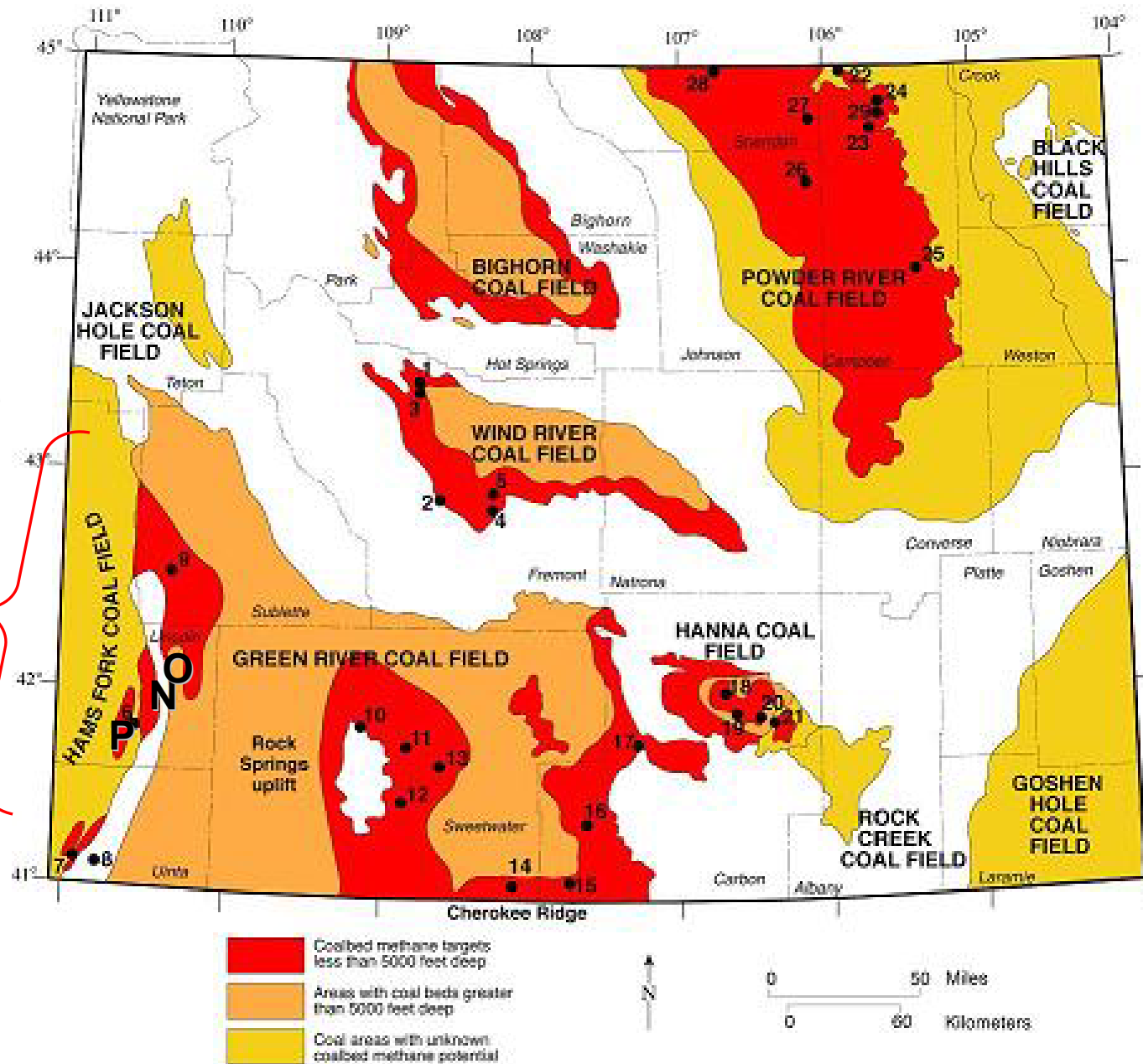
**Picture 13**

**Cypress trees within the Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia. Note stumps of older trees and succession by younger trees. (Picture courtesy of John Balsley, Consultant, Indian Hills, Colorado.)**



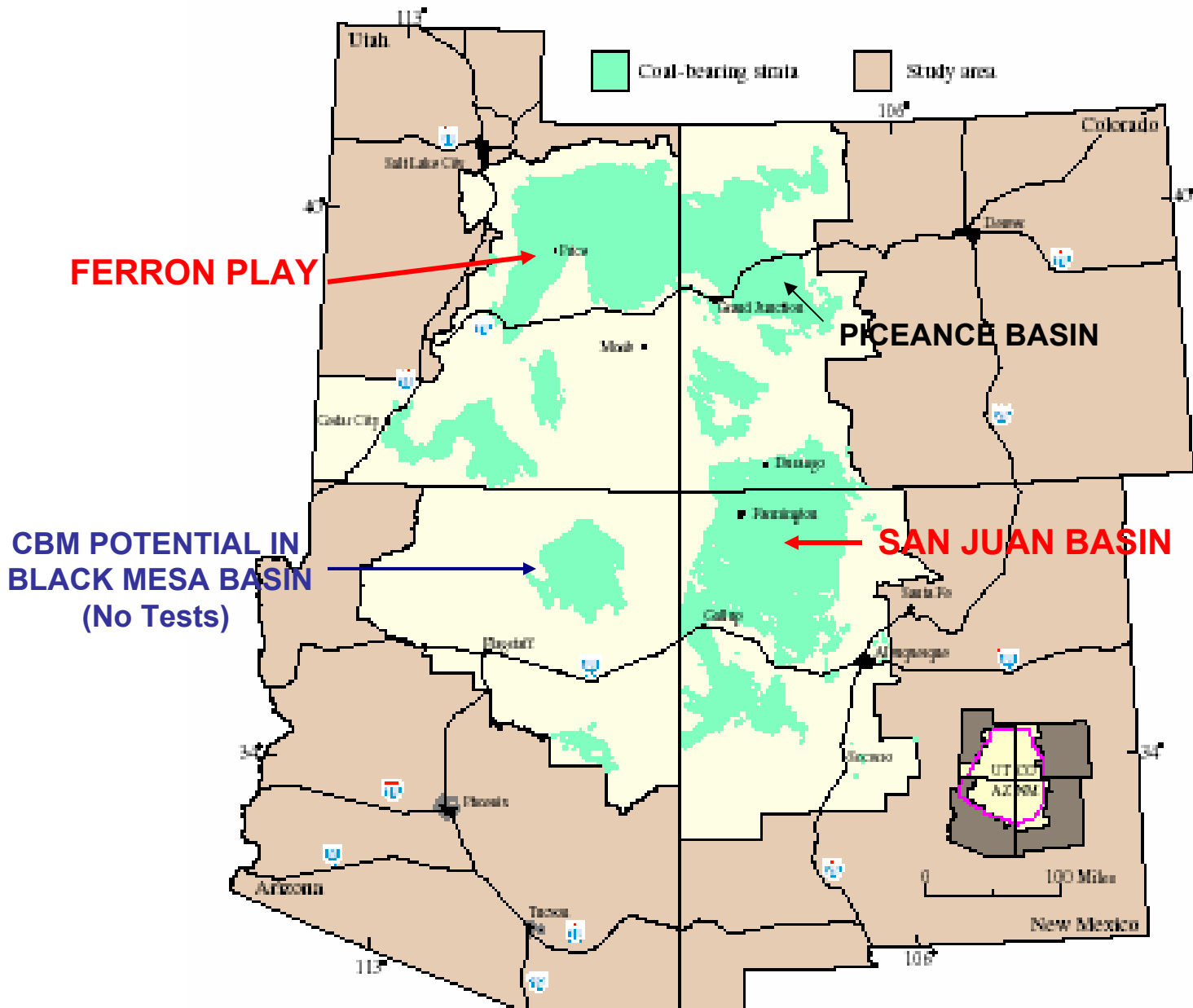
## MAJOR COAL-BEARING BASINS IN THE ROCKIES

OVERTHRUST COALS



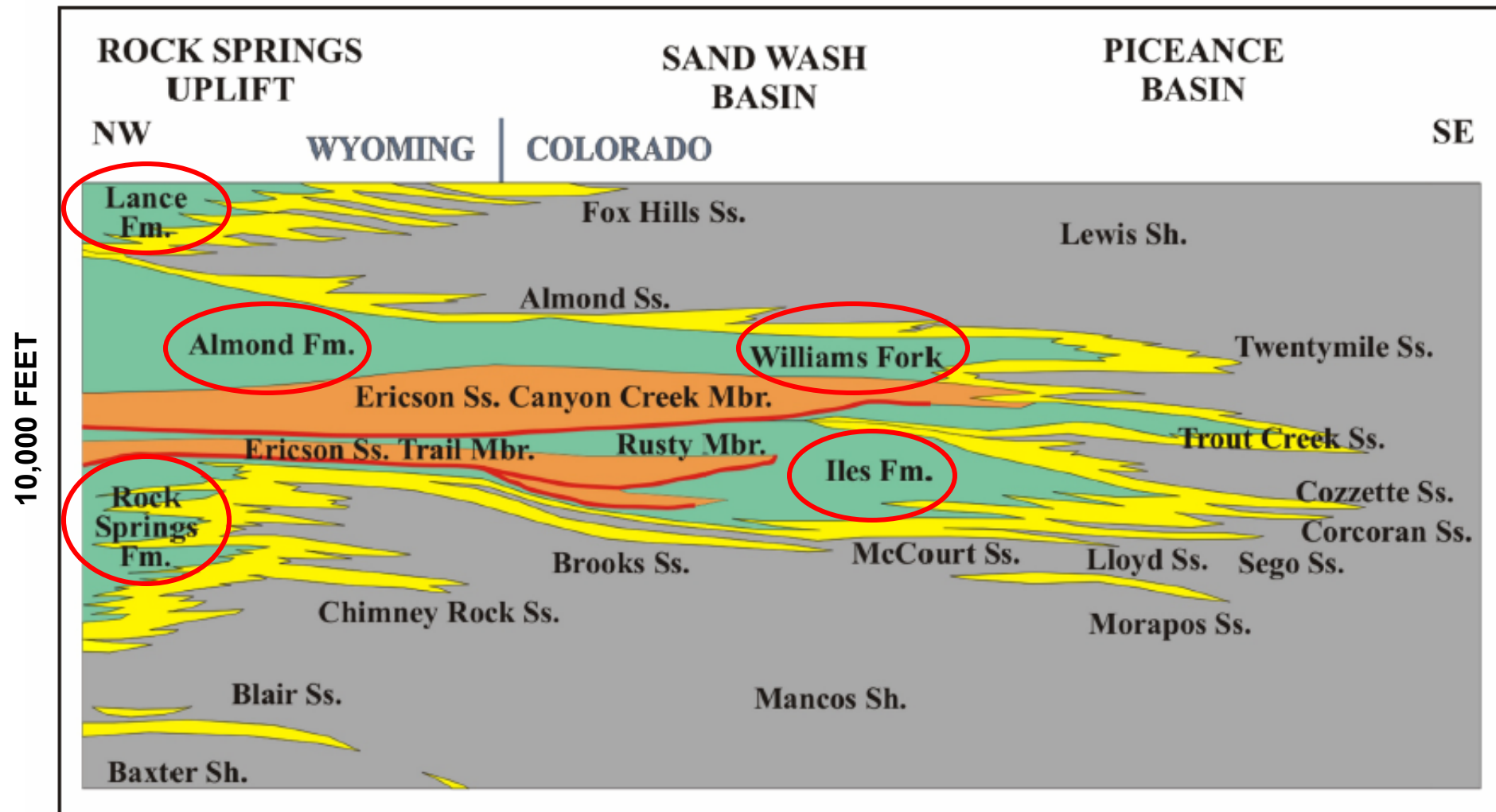


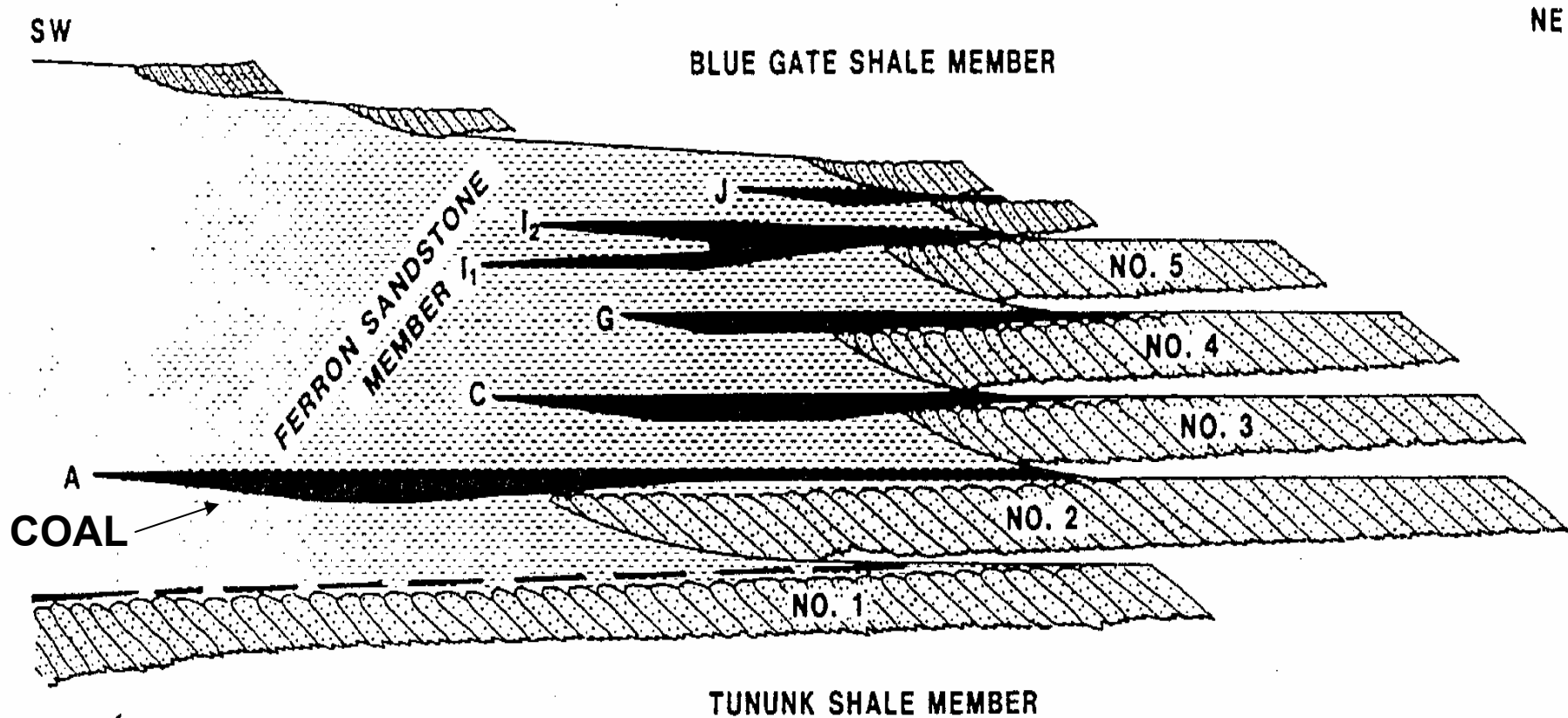
# COAL-BEARING AREAS IN THE FOUR CORNERS REGION





# COAL-BEARING CRETACEOUS FORMATIONS



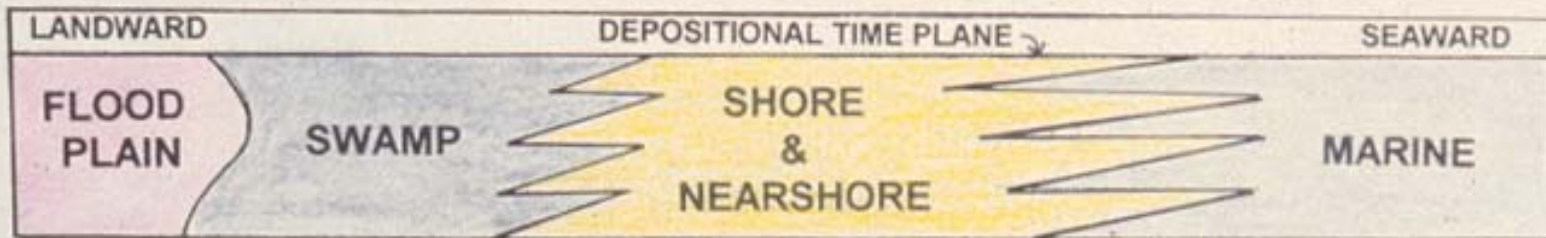


**PRODUCTIVE COAL SEAMS IN THE VERY SUCCESSFUL FERRON CBM PLAY  
OF EAST-CENTRAL UTAH**

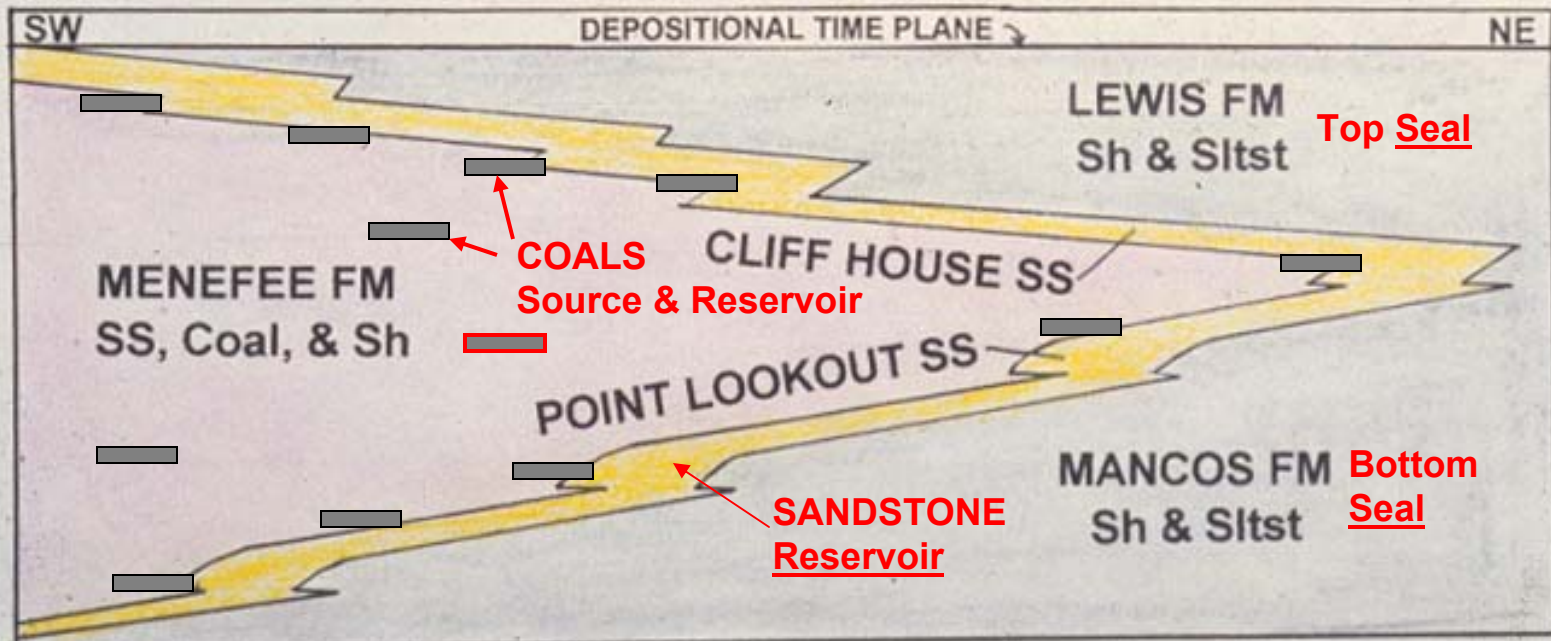
# SCHEMATIC CROSS SECTION MESAVERDE DEPOSITIONAL SEQUENCE

**AN IDEAL “GAS MACHINE”**

After Jackson in Hollenshead and Pritchard



Zones of deposition at any given time





## THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR CBM

ANCIENT SWAMPS 

 COAL

COALBED METHANE 

ENERGY SUPPLY AND

