

**MONITORING CCUS AT AN ACTIVE EOR SITE:  
AN OVERVIEW OF A LARGE SCALE CARBON CAPTURE,  
UTILIZATION, AND STORAGE DEMONSTRATION AT  
TEXAS, USA**

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**4th Biennial CO<sub>2</sub> for EOR as CCUS Conference 2019**

**Houston Texas**

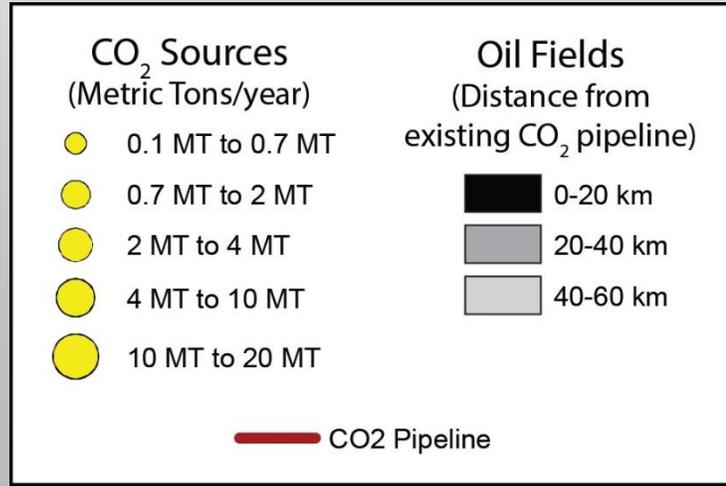
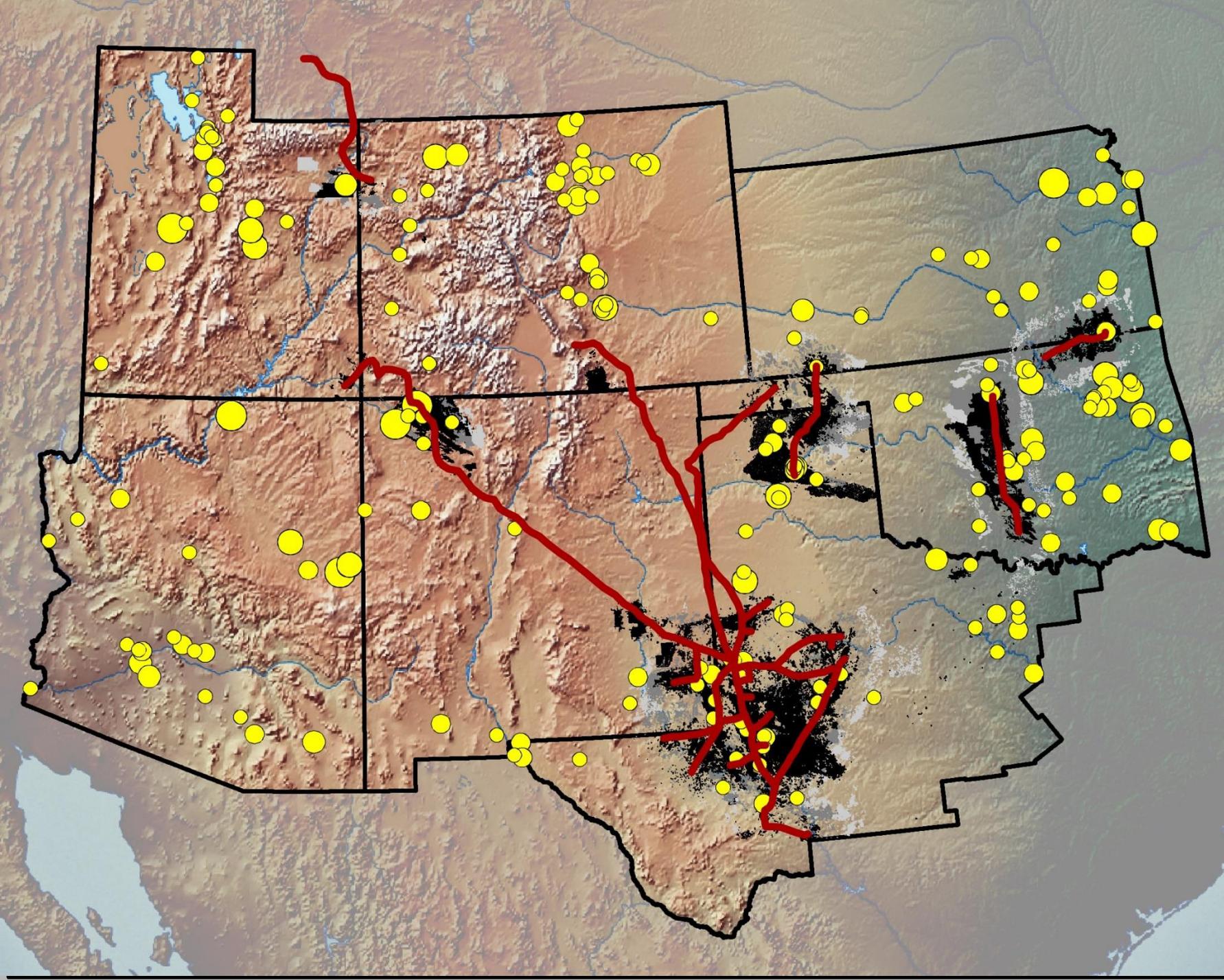
**September 25, 2019**

# OUTLINE

- Introduction to the SWP
- Status of SWP at end of Injection Period Monitoring
- Effort divided into four groups
  - Characterization effort and lessons learned
  - Simulation effort and lessons learned
  - MVA effort and lessons learned
  - Risk Assessment effort and lessons learned
- “Post-Injection Period” priorities

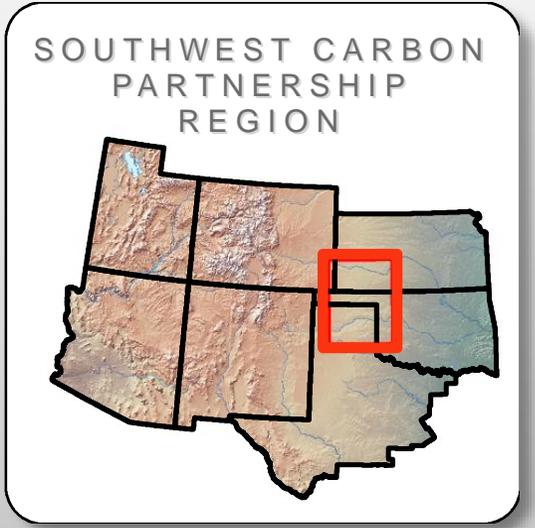
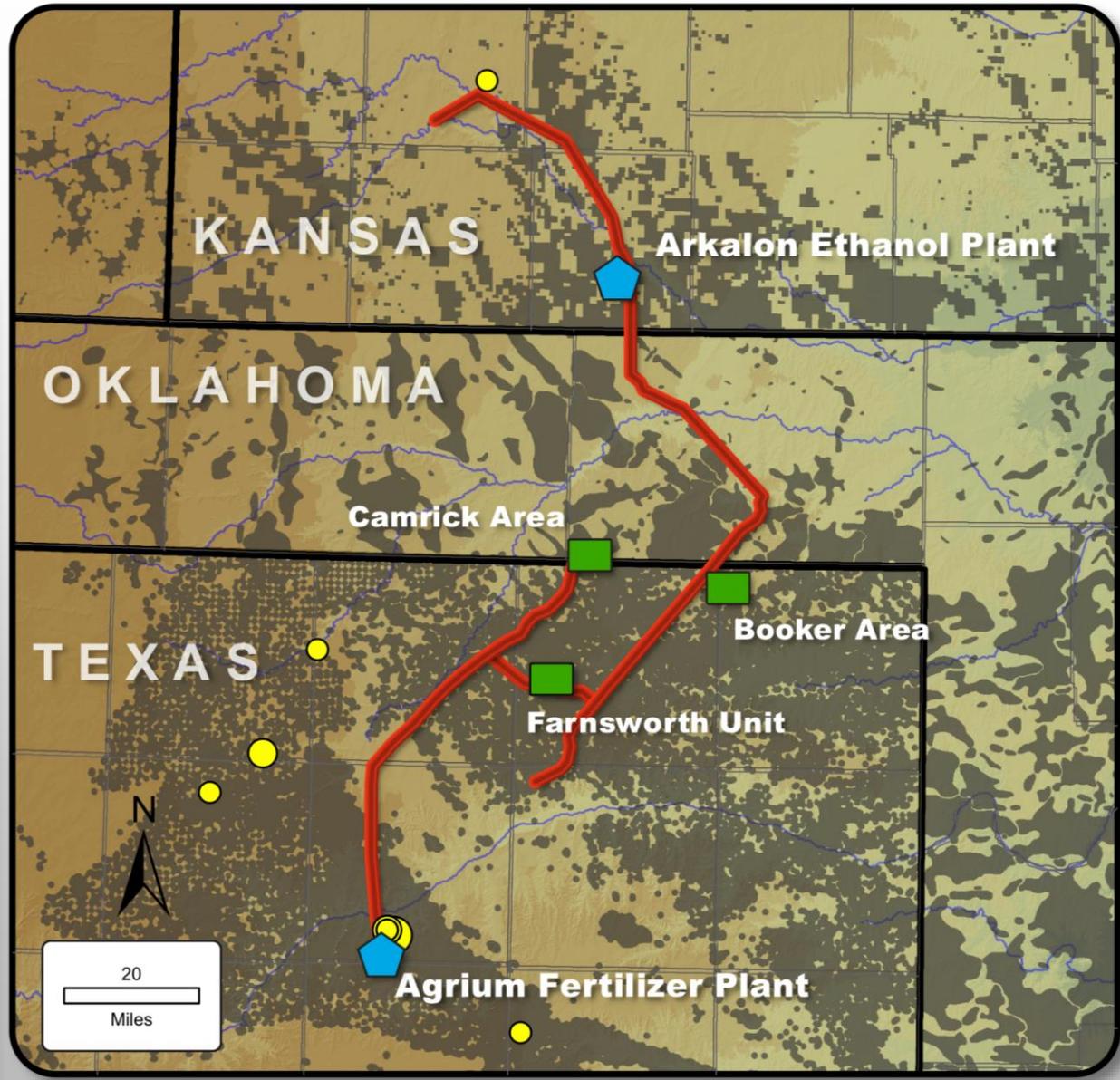
# THE SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP AND FARNSWORTH UNIT

# AREA COVERED BY THE SWP



Anthropogenic Supply:  
500-600,000  
Metric tons  
CO<sub>2</sub>/year supply

# Farnsworth Unit



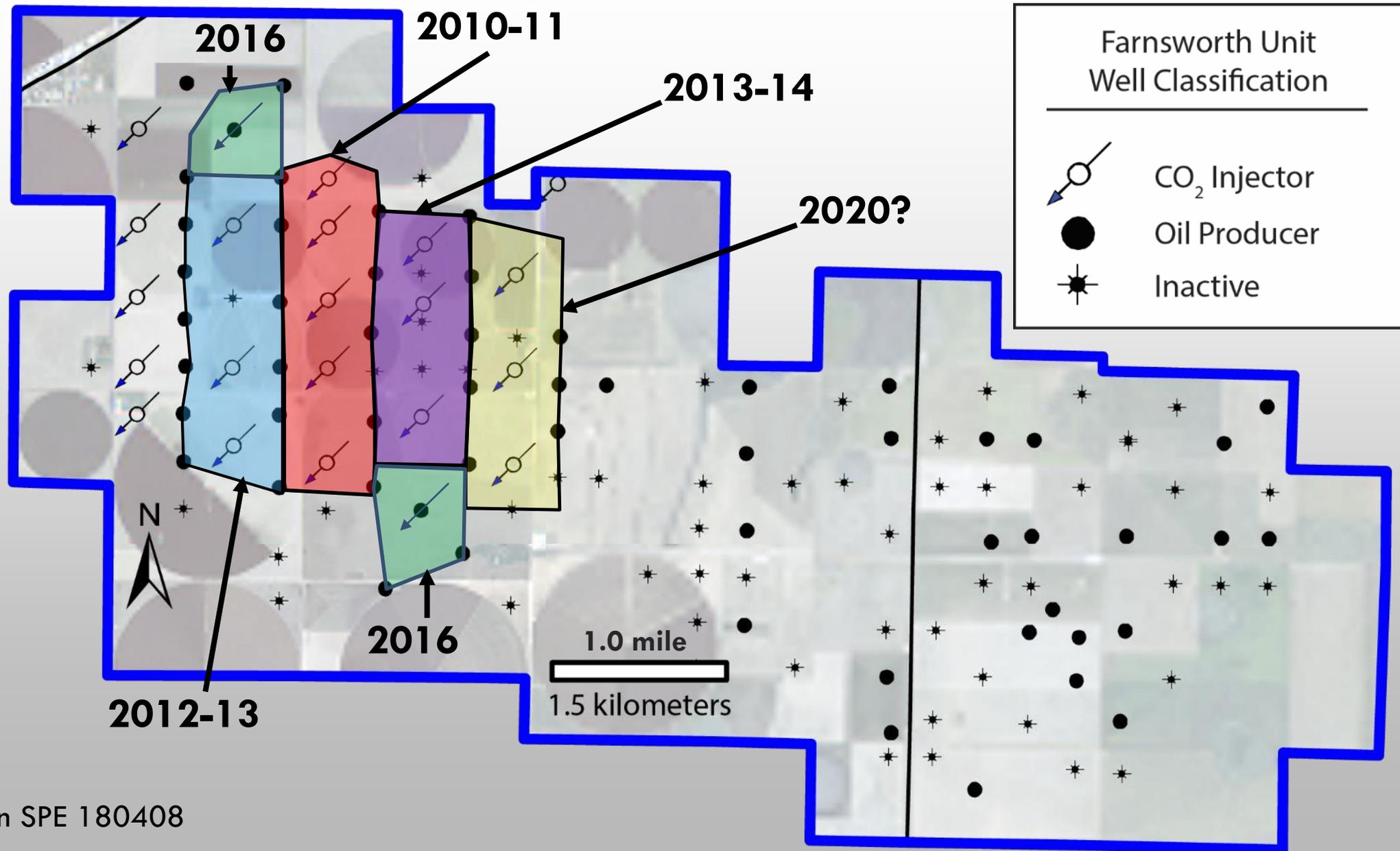
## Legend

- Utilization & Storage
- Carbon Capture
- Transportation
- Oil Fields

## Other CO<sub>2</sub> Sources

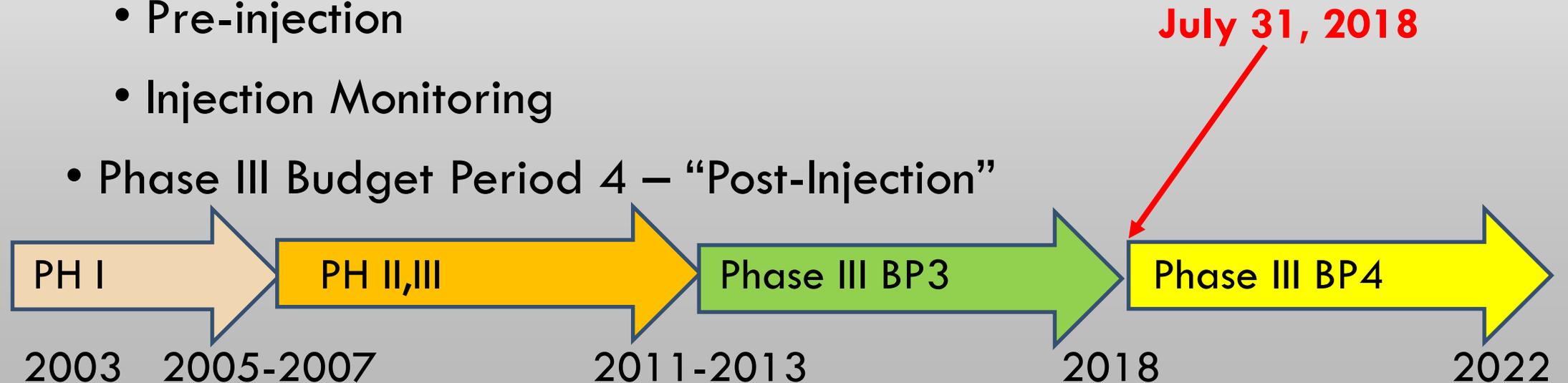
- 0.1 to 0.7 MT/yr
- 0.7 to 1.8 MT/yr
- 1.8 to 4 MT/yr
- 4 to 10 MT/yr
- 10 to 20 MT/yr

# ACTIVE AND CURRENTLY PLANNED CO<sub>2</sub> PATTERNS



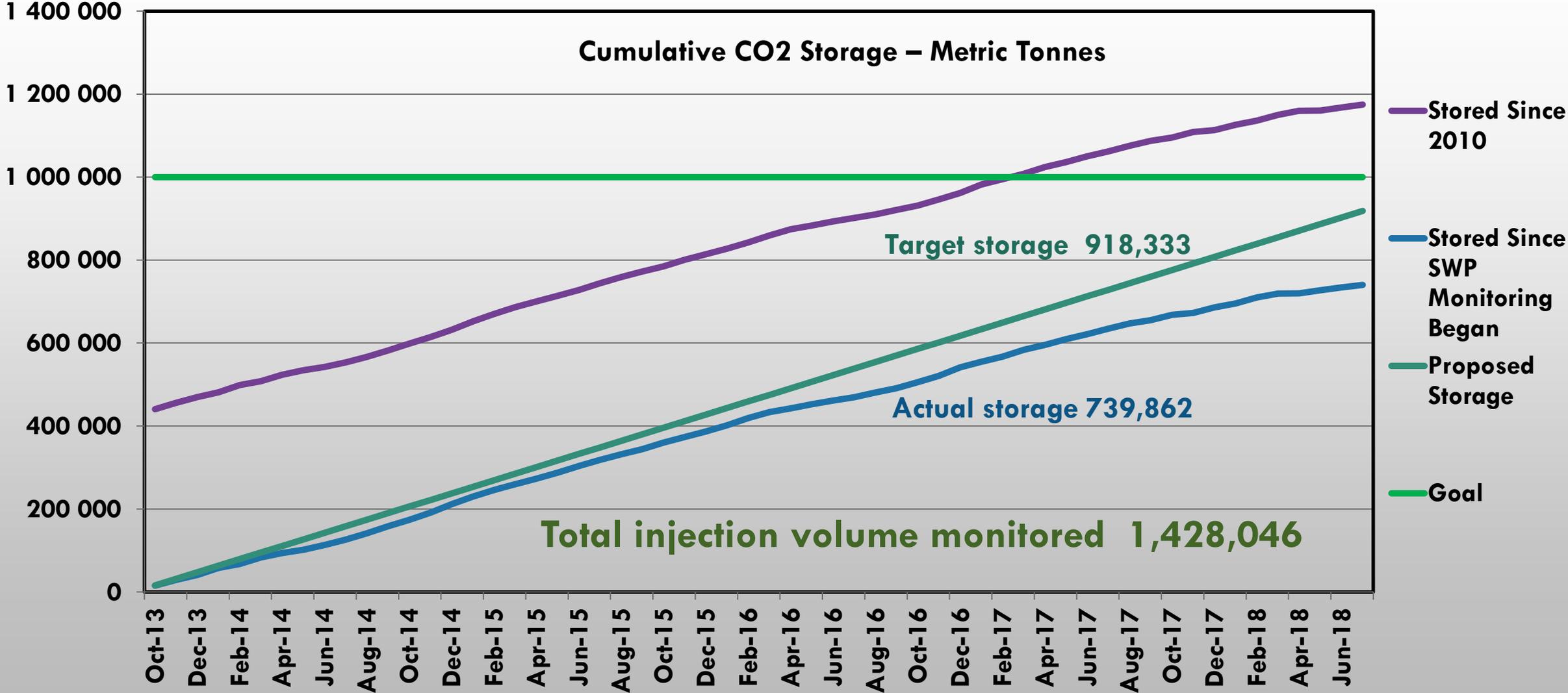
# SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP: TIMELINE

- Phase I – regional sources and sinks,
  - ID Phase II studies
- Phase II – pilot scale studies
  - ID Phase III study site
- Phase III Budget Period 3 – Large Scale demonstration
  - Pre-injection
  - Injection Monitoring
- Phase III Budget Period 4 – “Post-Injection”

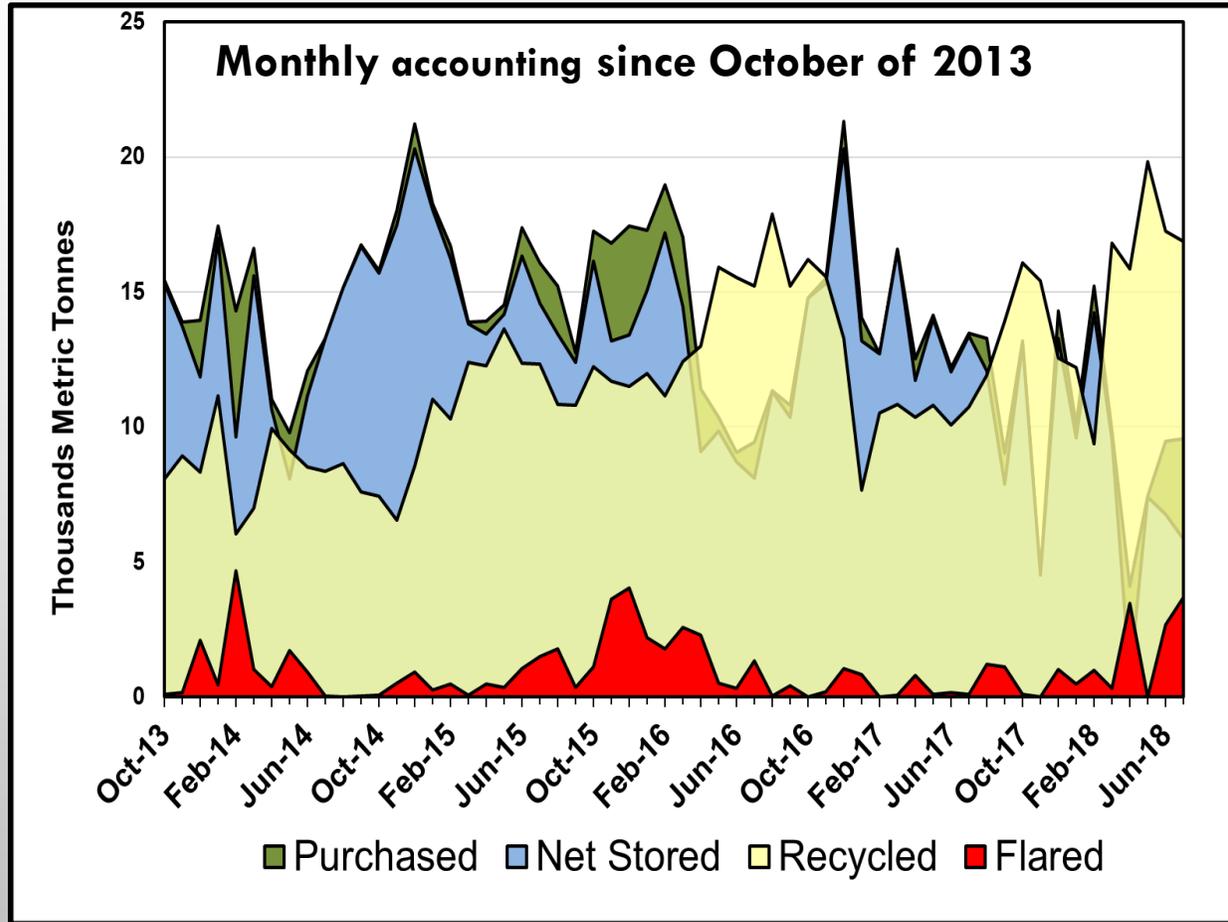


**PROJECT STATUS – END OF PHASE III**

# SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP: CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE

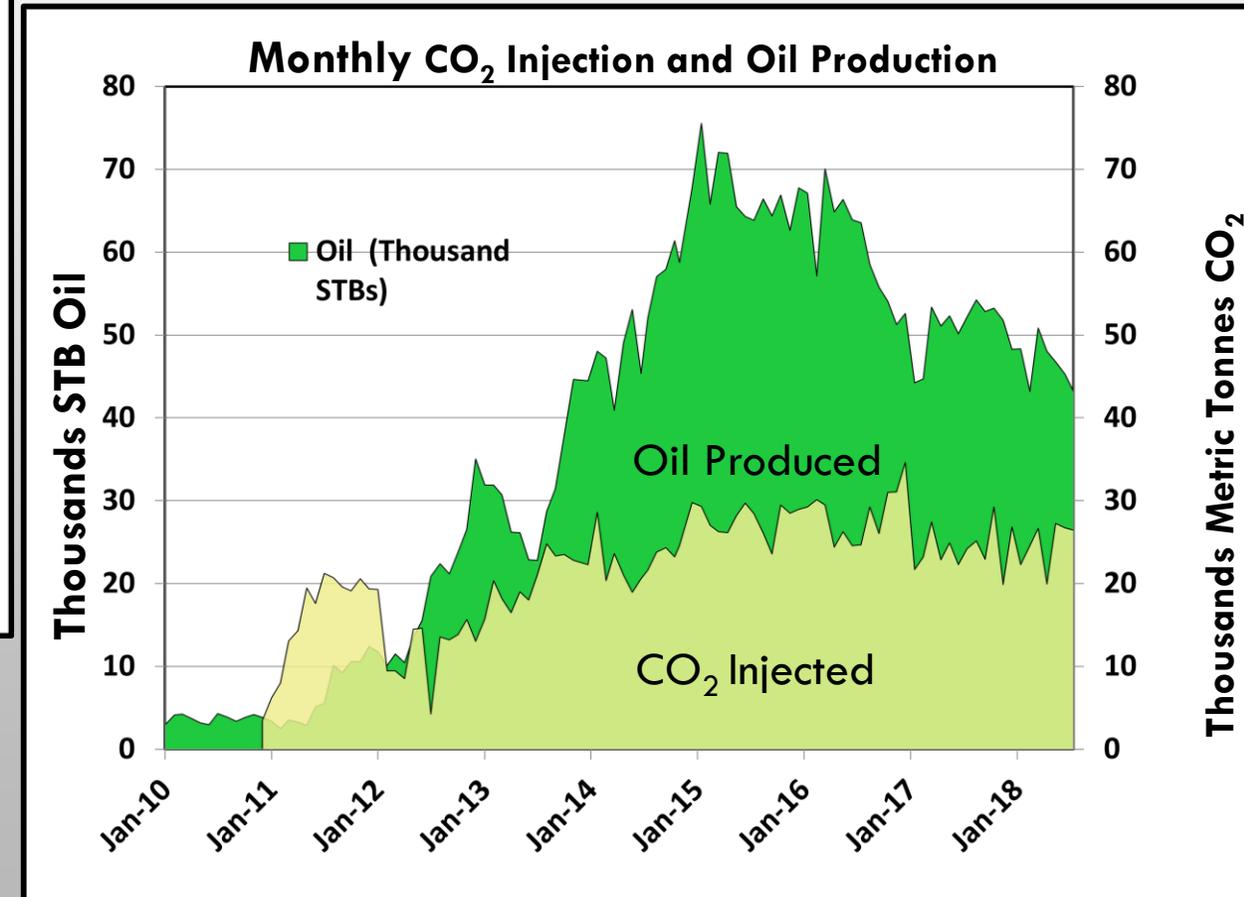


# ACCOUNTING - CO<sub>2</sub> AND INCREMENTAL PRODUCTION



- Average monthly oil rate increased from ~3,500 to ~65,000 BBL's in first 4 years of CO<sub>2</sub> Flood
- Initial production response within 6 months
- ~3.8 million STB produced during CO<sub>2</sub> flood

- 739,863 tonnes stored since October 2013
- 688,183 tonnes recycled since October 2013
- 1,180,379 tonnes stored since November 2010
- **92.7% of purchased CO<sub>2</sub> still in the system**



# SWP CHARACTERIZATION EFFORTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

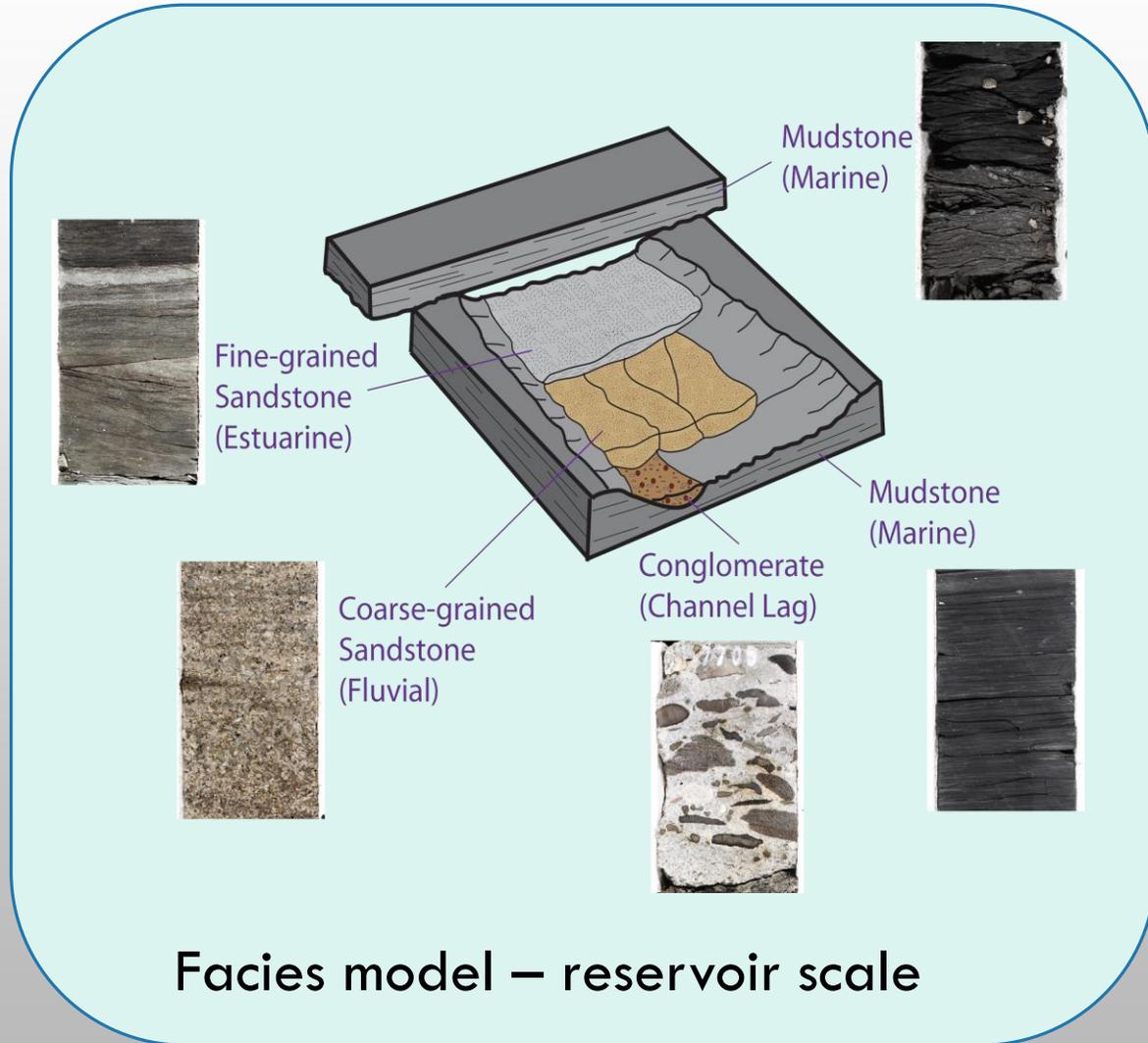
# CHARACTERIZATION –GEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING

- Goal: Reservoir & caprock description – depositional setting, reservoir architecture, lithologies, fracture potential, geomechanical properties
- Tools: Cores & core analyses, thin section, microprobe, log & seismic data, geomechanical, borehole image logs, CT scanning

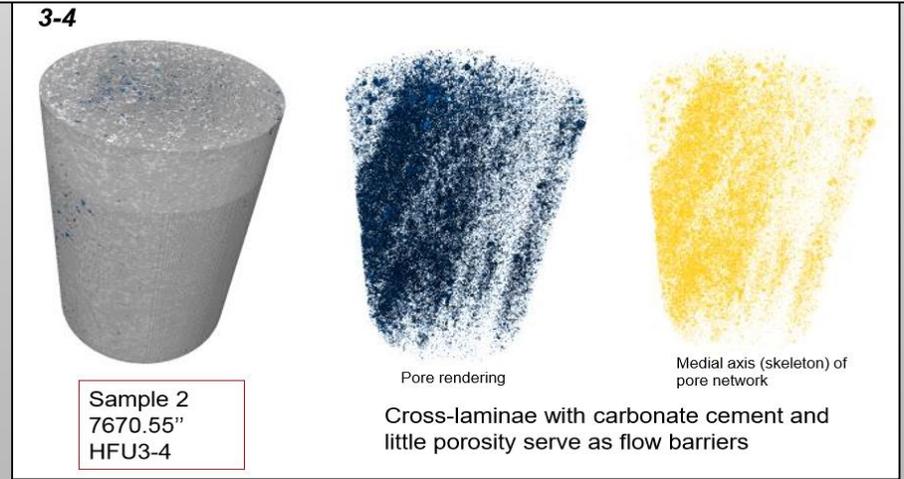
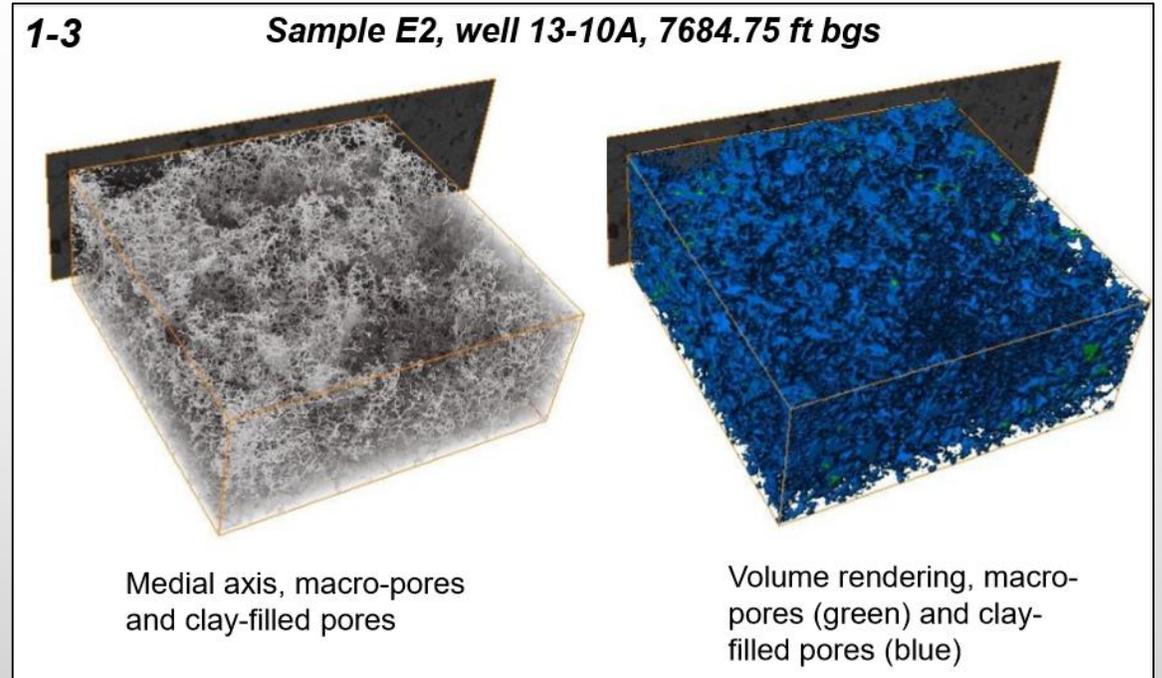
# CHARACTERIZATION –GEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING

- Findings:
  - Incised valley model fits well, reservoir can be divided into lithofacies based on core descriptions
  - Lithofacies provide a record of marine transgressive/regressive sequences that have effects on reservoir diagenesis
  - Reservoir can also be characterized by Hydraulic Flow Units (HFU) determined from porosity and permeability data using Winland R35 approach, these have different pore structure and interconnectivity
  - Caprock is a sequence of interbedded mudstones/shales and diagenetic limestones
- Better understanding of fluid/rock interactions, relative permeability data

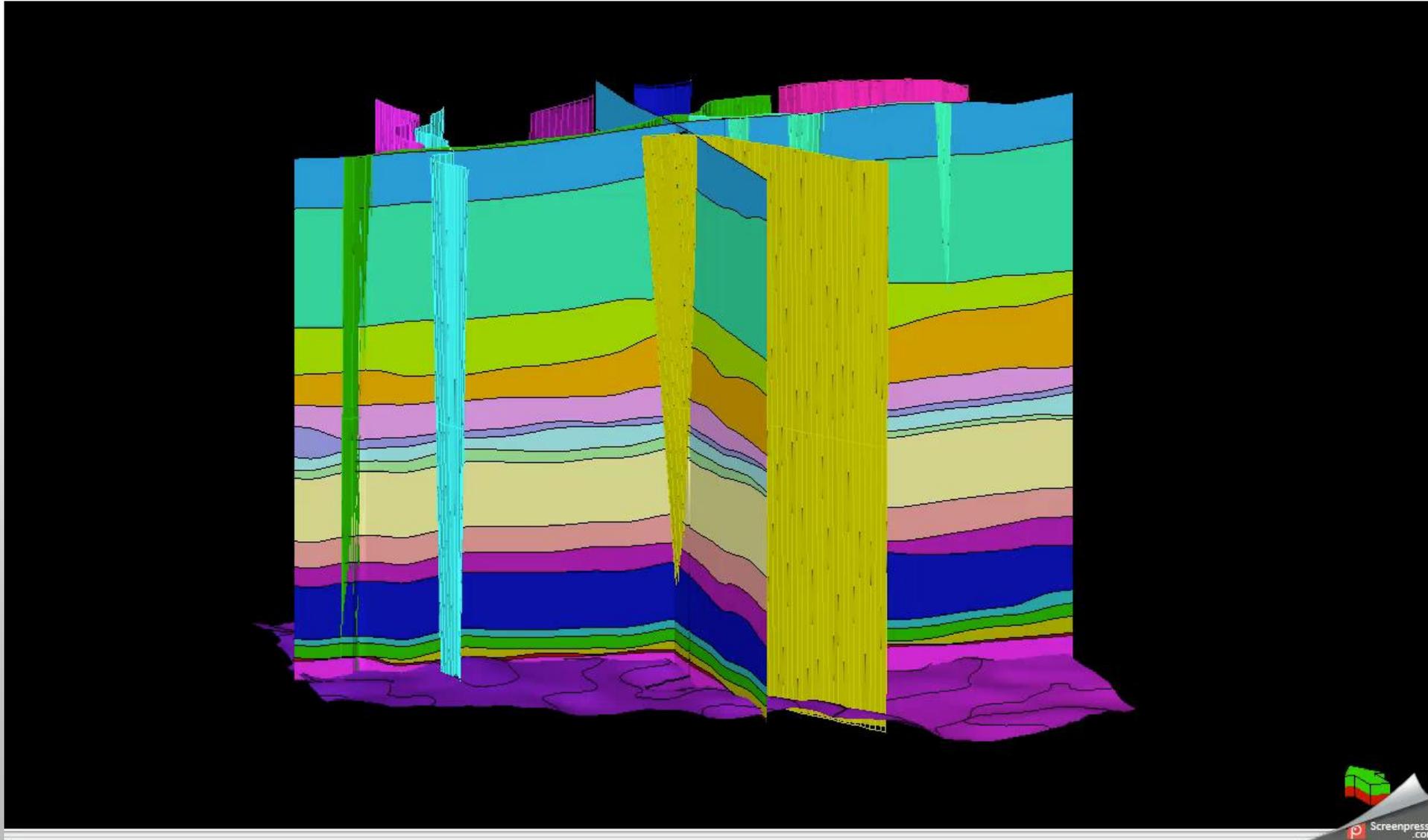
# CHARACTERIZATION OF GEOLOGY AT MULTIPLE SCALES



MicroCT Imaging – pore scale, can differentiate between HFUs defined by R35 method



# CHARACTERIZATION: SEISMIC DATA



Annually updated  
Geological model

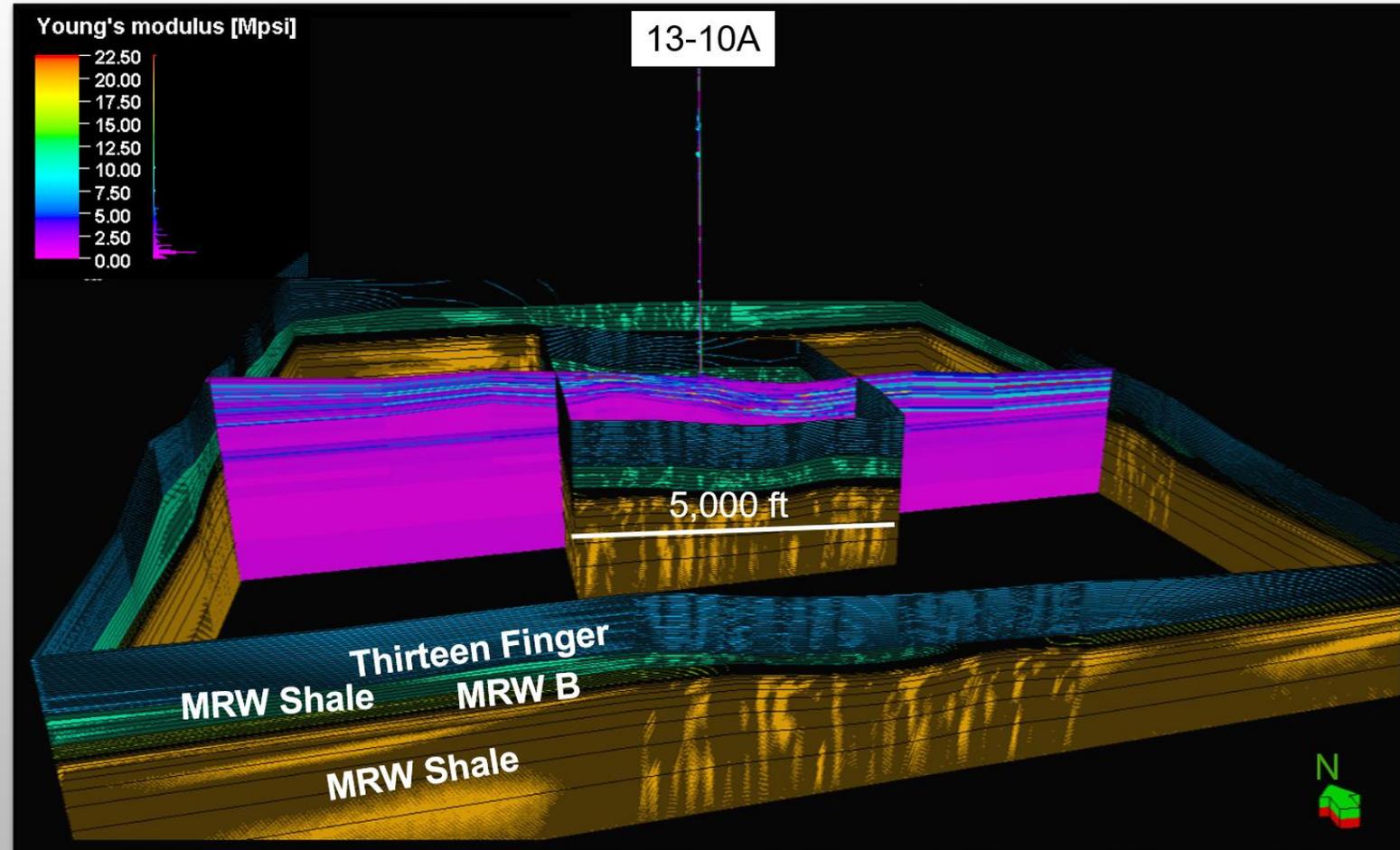
Planar features  
may be faults,  
fractures, and/or  
facies changes,  
paleovalley walls  
– remains to be  
determined



# CHARACTERIZATION: MECHANICAL EARTH MODEL

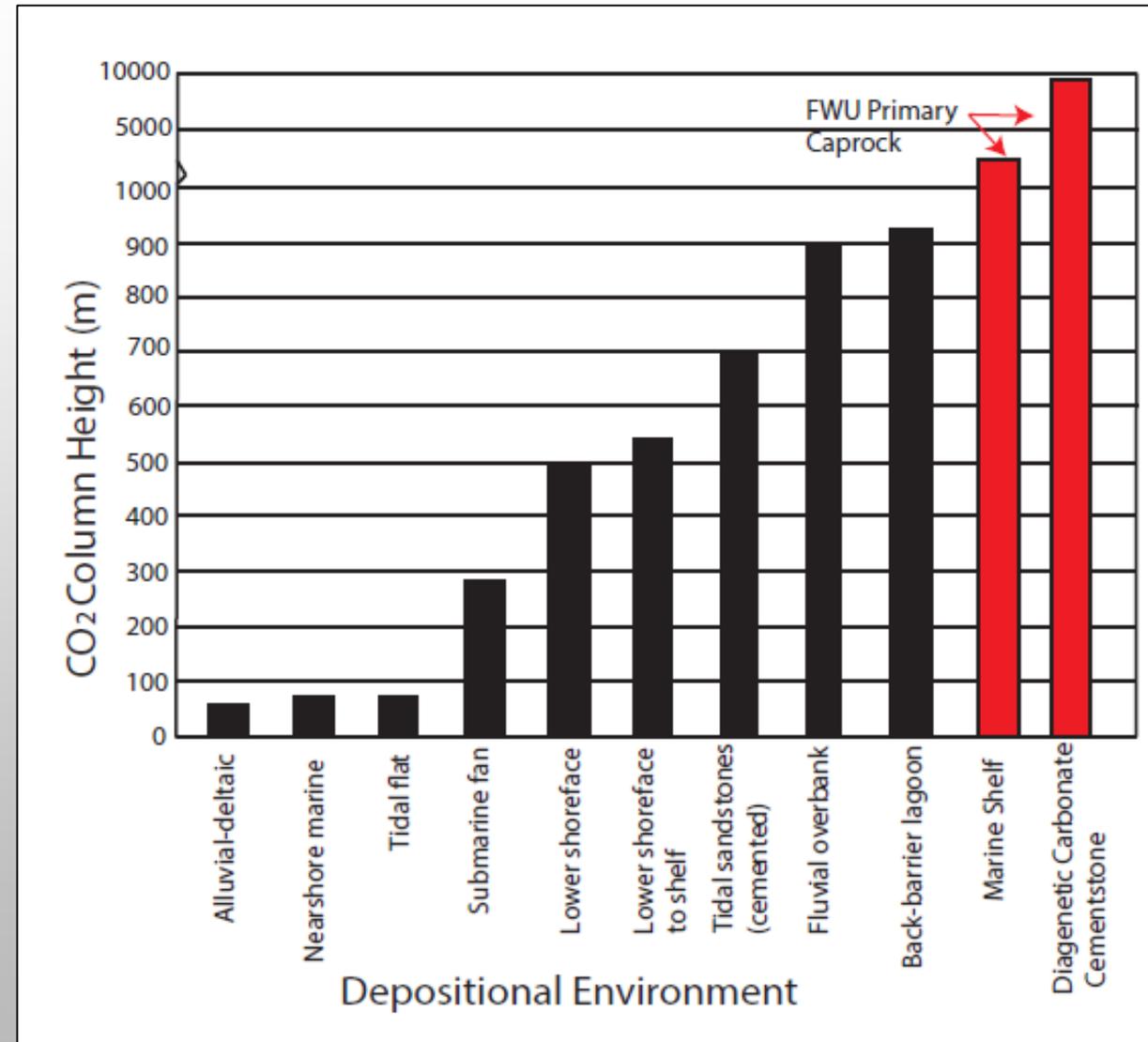
- Goal: Create a mechanical earth model that could be used to model rock behavior under a variety of scenarios
- Tools: Well logs, mechanical tests, geophysical studies
- Results: A small scale (5000 ft. by 5000 ft.) mechanical earth model centered on 13-10A. Utilized 1D geomechanical model generated by Schlumberger at 13-10A from sonic logs and post stack 3D seismic inversion to calculate geomechanical properties

## Small-scale MEM Young's modulus



# CHARACTERIZATION: CAPROCK INTEGRITY

- Goal: Caprock Integrity – how good is the seal?
- Tools: Core analysis, lithofacies & petrographic studies, mechanical testing, isotope analysis, mercury porosimetry, capillary pressure data
- Findings: Caprock The highest CO<sub>2</sub> column height is in the cementstone lithology at 11000 m (36089 ft). The lowest CO<sub>2</sub> column height for the caprock system is in the mudstone lithology within the upper Morrow Shale at 1100 m (3609 ft).
- Fracture gradients indicate that the Morrow B sandstone reservoir is weaker than the overlying lithologies, so any fractures initiated around the injection zone should be contained



# SWP MVA EFFORTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The MVA technologies deployed by the SWP are targeted to provide the data necessary to track the location of CO<sub>2</sub> in the study area, including migration, type, quantity and degree of CO<sub>2</sub> trapping. Monitoring data is used to facilitate simulation and risk assessment, particularly with respect to USDWs, the shallow subsurface, and atmosphere.

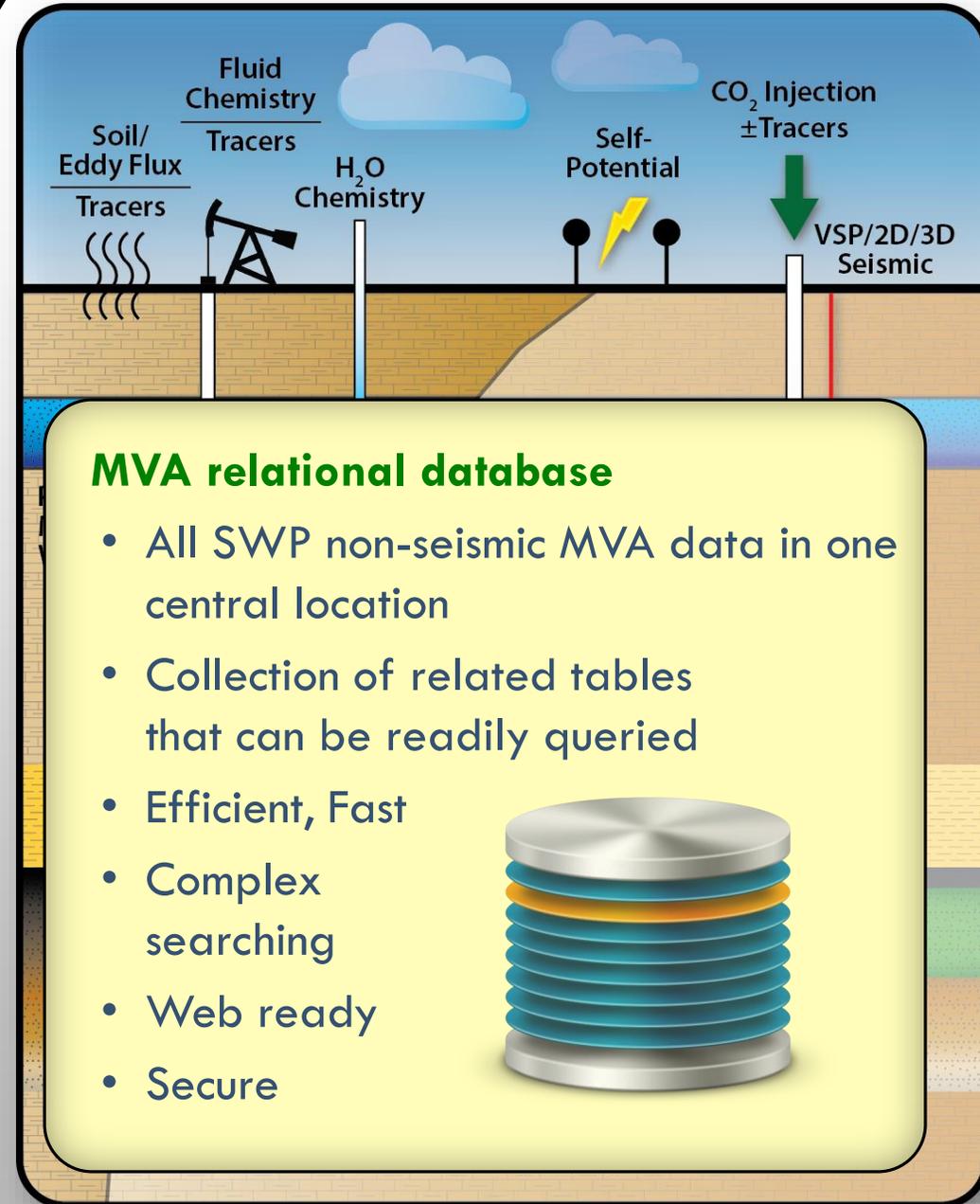
# MVA OVERVIEW – TECHNOLOGY

## Detecting CO<sub>2</sub> and/or brine outside Reservoir:

- Groundwater chemistry (USDW)
- Soil CO<sub>2</sub> flux
- CO<sub>2</sub> & CH<sub>4</sub> Eddy Covariance
- Aqueous- & Vapor-Phase Tracers
- Self-potential (AIST)
- Distributed Sensor Network (Ok. State)

## Tracking CO<sub>2</sub> Migration and Fate:

- *In situ* pressure & temperature
- 2D/3D seismic surveys
- VSP's
- Cross-well seismic
- Passive seismic
- Fluid chemistry (target reservoir)
- Aqueous- & Vapor-Phase Tracers
- Gravity surveys & MagnetoTelluric (AIST)



# MVA OVERVIEW – SUCCESSES

## USDW Monitoring

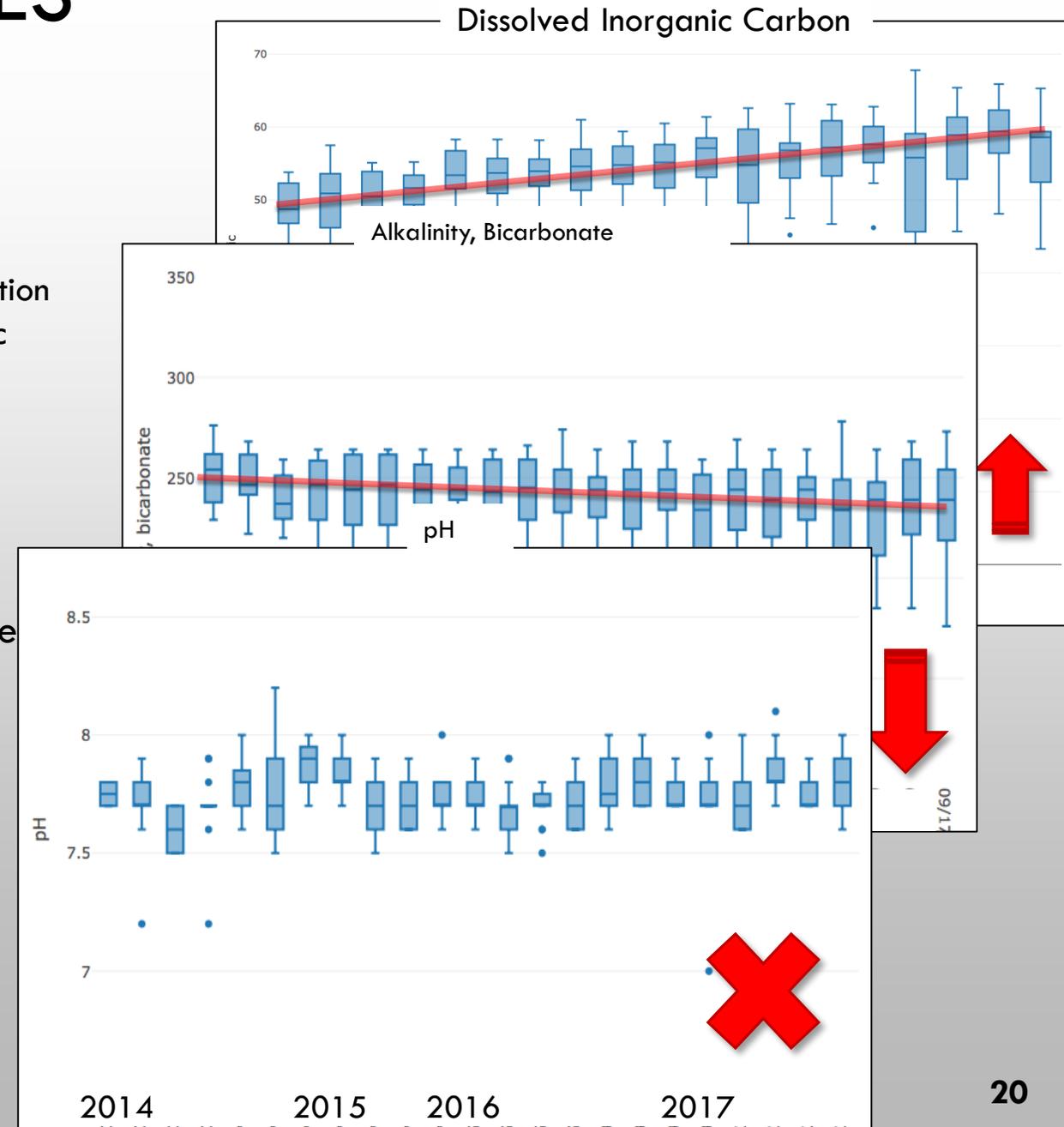
- Quarterly sampling of groundwater wells in/around FWU ( $n \approx 22$ ) to monitor for brine, hydrocarbon and/or  $\text{CO}_2$  leakage from depth.

- Includes Major Cations/ Anions, pH, Conductivity, Alkalinity, Oxidation and Reduction Potentials (ORP), Inorganic Carbon (IC) and Organic Carbon (OC), Trace Metals and Isotopes ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{18}\text{O}$ , and D).

- Total/Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC) *increasing* “field wide” (>18 USDW wells).

- $\text{DIC} (C_T) = [\text{CO}_2] + [\text{HCO}_3^-] + [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$
- DIC is a measure of  $\text{CO}_2$  in an aqueous system**
- However!** No other indicators of  $\text{CO}_2$  leakage yet measure (pH steady, Alkalinity decreasing, ORP increasing)
- More data needed, but increasing DIC values likely due to regional recharge and/or groundwater contamination from the surface (e.g. fertilizers)

- Technology validates spatial and temporal sampling as a means to monitor USDW for potential leakage**



# MVA MAJOR FINDING: COUPLING OF GEOPHYSICS, MODELING & TRACERS

## Geophysical modeling & structural interpretation using 3D reflection seismic

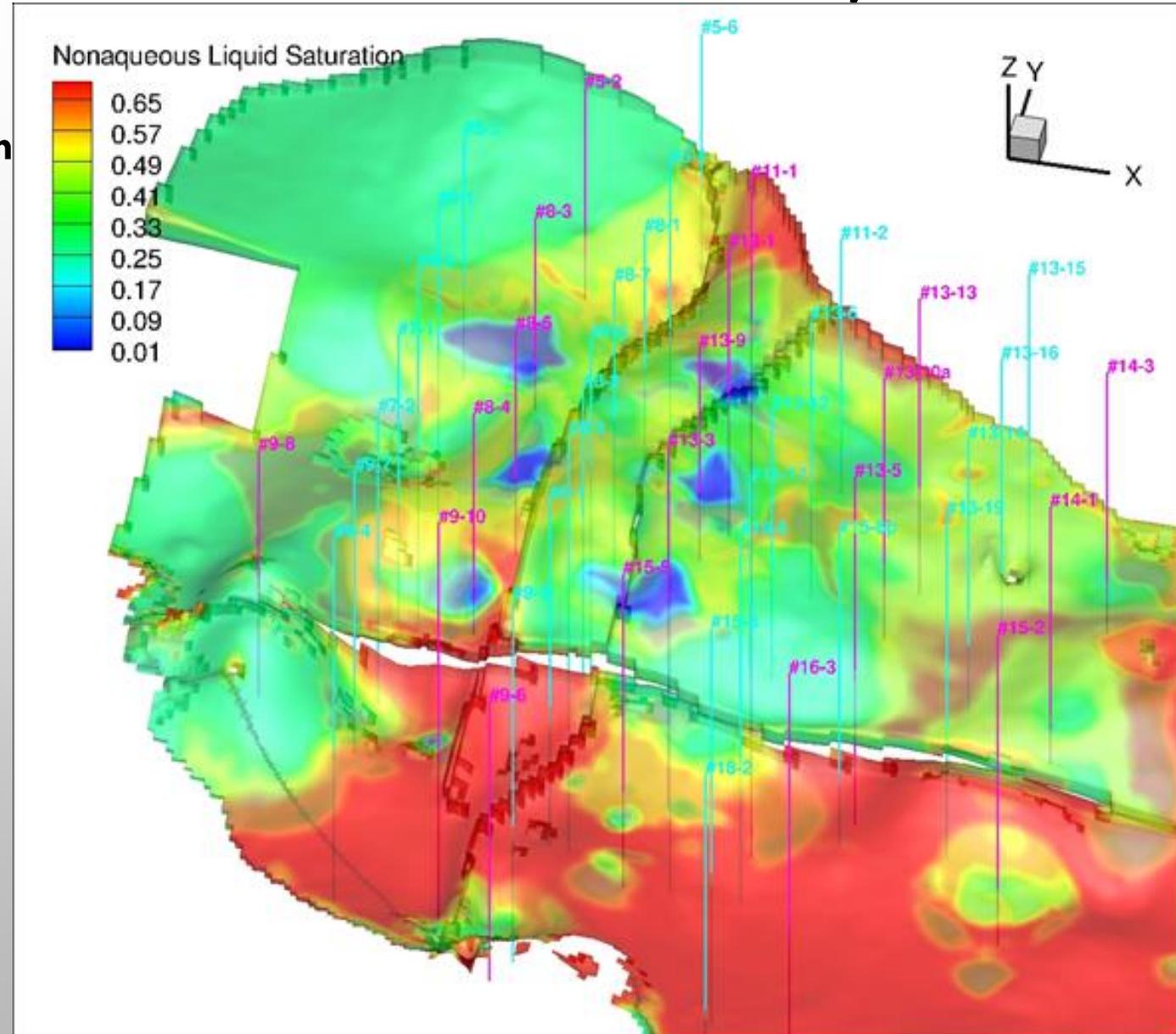
- Seismically resolvable faults/fault-like features interpreted by seismic attributes
- Implies many smaller faults/fractures
- Faults probably act as sealing features rather than seal bypass systems
- Faults affect geologic properties in geomodel

## Reservoir Tracers

- Reservoir tracer data yielded useful model development data, including verification of and characterization of faults and transport pathways.

## Modeling & Simulation

- Numerical simulations of the aqueous-phase tracer injections were able to successfully predict fluid transport in specific well patterns and increased permeabilities along adjacent faults.



# SWP SIMULATION EFFORTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

# SIMULATION: TECHNOLOGIES AND APPROACH

## SOFTWARE:

- Different software used to satisfy the full range of THMC processes
- STOMP-EOR (PNNL)
- Eclipse/Petrel (Schlumberger)
- Geochemist's Workbench (U. Ill.)
- TOUGHREACT (LBNL)
- Other in-house codes for specialty applications (proxy/ROMs, resource analysis, economics, etc.)

## CALIBRATION:

- Porosity & permeability inverted from logs
- Calibration with laboratory tests yields good results, e.g.
  - Slim tube experiment for MMP
  - Relative permeability tests

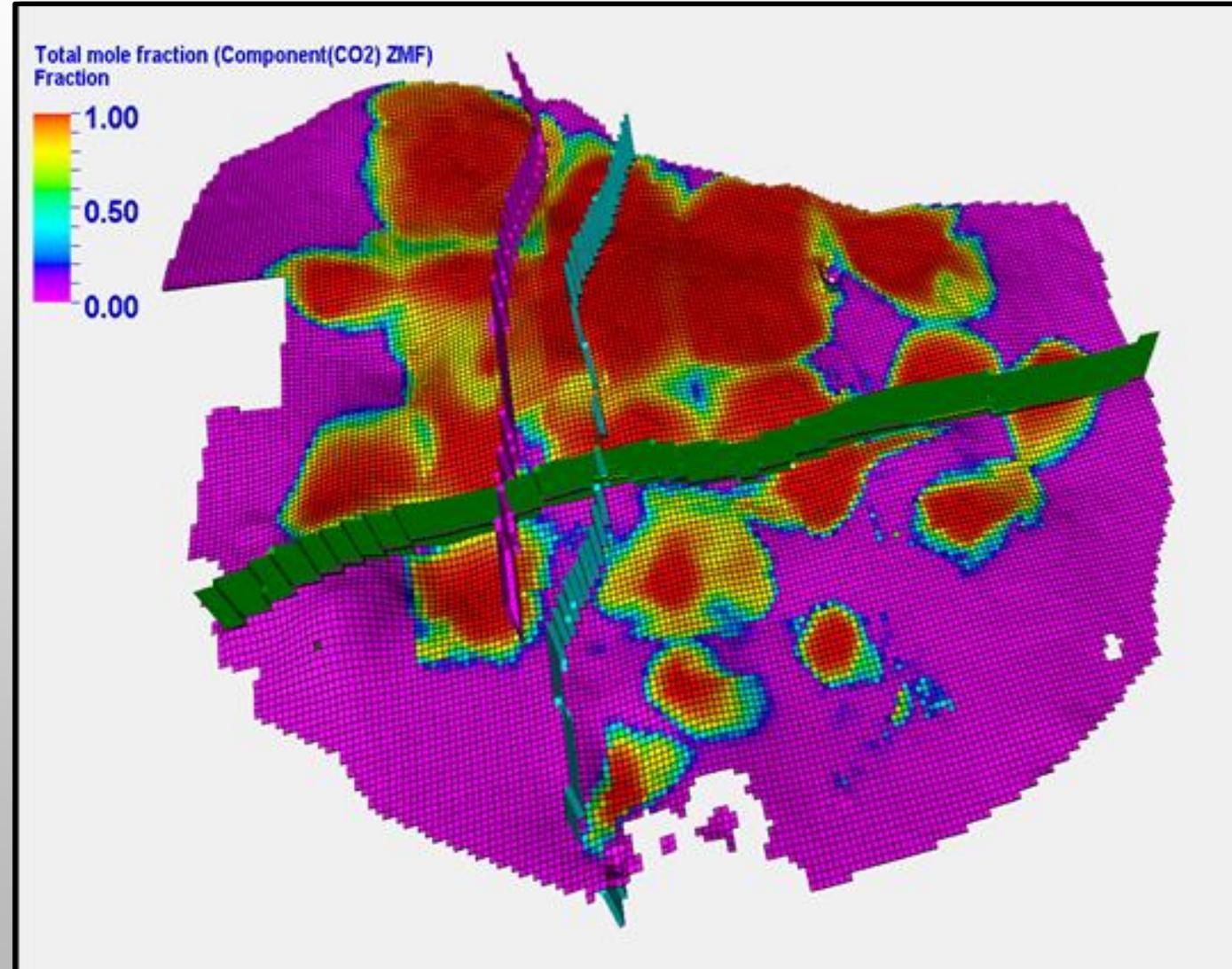
## SOME HIGHLIGHTED GOALS:

- Computer assisted history matching
- Proxy Modeling (ROMs)
- Optimization framework



# SIMULATION: MAJOR FINDINGS

- Successfully history matched several generations of geomodels provided by the Characterization group
- Successfully implemented proxy modeling technique to reduce computational time without compromising accuracy
- Successfully developed co-optimization of CO<sub>2</sub> storage and oil recovery framework which may be applied to other projects



# SIMULATION: MAJOR FINDINGS

- For this field, injected CO<sub>2</sub> persists as an immiscible phase for only a few decades after injection ceases
- Calcite was predicted to be the most abundantly precipitated carbonate mineral over the entire study area (model domain)
- In the immediate vicinity of injection wells, dolomite was the most abundantly precipitated carbonate mineral
- Native reservoir minerals, albite, clinocllore, and illite, were predicted to dissolve, whereas quartz, kaolinite, and smectite were predicted to precipitate
- Dissolution and precipitation of minerals in the Morrow B Sandstone induce negligible changes in its porosity

**SWP RISK ASSESSMENT EFFORTS  
AND  
LESSONS LEARNED**

# RISK ASSESSMENT: TECHNOLOGIES

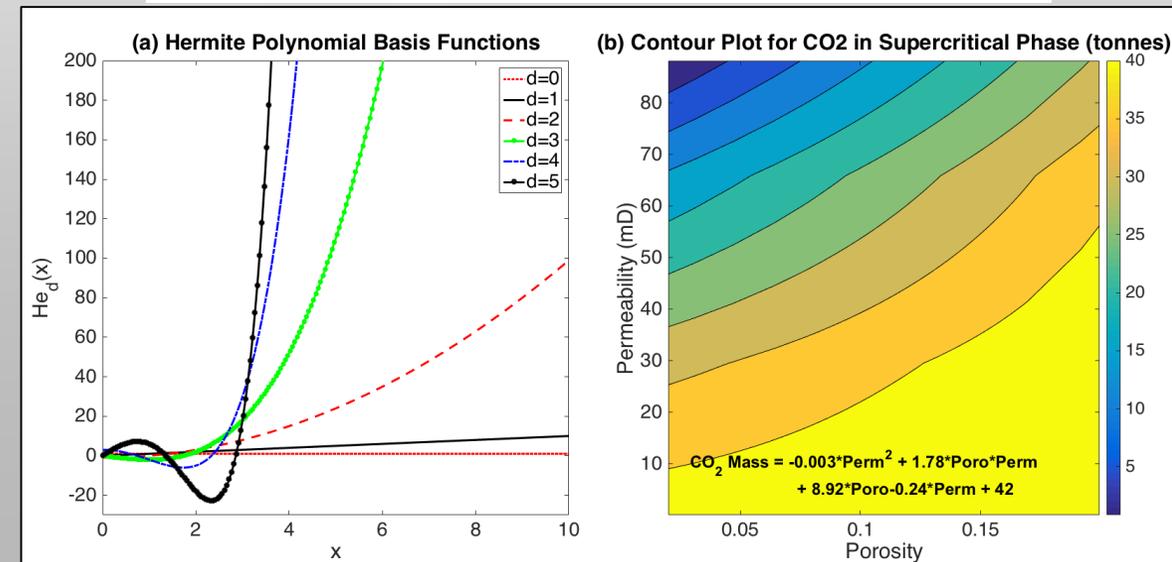
- Qualitative Risk Analysis (MOSTLY COMPLETE)
  - Risk Registry via Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA)
  - Annual Risk Survey (2014-2017)
  - Process Influence Diagram (PID)
- Quantitative Risk Analysis (ONGOING)
  - Probabilistic Assessment
  - Geologic/reservoir models
  - Reduced Order Models (ROMs)
    - Response Surface Method
    - Polynomial Chaos Expansion (PCE)
  - NRAP tools: NRAP-IAM-CS, RROM-GEN



# RISK ASSESSMENT: RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Updated Risk Rankings in 2018 (much like in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017)
- Constructed process influence diagrams (PIDs) for quantitative risk assessment
- Developed apparently-robust ROMs for representing full-reservoir model simulation results, to save computational time and effort.
- Developed workflow from physics-based reservoir simulators to performing leakage calculations using NRAP-IAM-CS
- Developed integrated framework of combined batch experiments and reactive transport simulations to analyze mechanisms of trace metal mobilization.

2017 FEP No.	2016 FEP No.	Rank 2014	Rank 2015	Rank 2016	Rank 2017	2017 FEP (* different wording in prior year/s)
F515	F22	6	1	1	1	Price of oil (or other related commodities)
F506	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	2	DOE financial support
F407	F65	35	28	16	3	On-road driving
F501	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	4	Change of field owner and/or operator
F502	F19	2	7	4	5	CO2 supply adequacy
F508	F23	37	2	7	6	EOR oil recovery
F513	F24	7	3	5	7	Operating and maintenance costs
F511	F63	29	18	2	8	Legislation affecting CO2 injection or CO2-EOR*
F306	F40	1	36	23	9	Simulation and modeling - parameters*
F609	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	10	Well component failure (tubing, seals, wellhead, etc.)
F109	F13	16	15	29	11	Reservoir heterogeneity
F401	F66	18	8	3	12	Accidents and unplanned events
F207	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	13	Workovers: Damage to instrumentation
F603	F53	48	16	24	14	Defective hardware*
F310	F36	9	6	25	15	Simulation of geomechanics
F206	F16	12	25	39	16	Seismic method effectiveness*
F608	F41	84	#N/A	10	17	Severe weather
F111	F06	52	#N/A	51	18	Undetected features
F516	F26	21	9	31	19	Project execution strategy (DOE project, not EOR or production)*
F304	F33	10	10	41	20	Over pressuring



# RISK ASSESSMENT: MAJOR FINDINGS

## Wellbore Leakage:

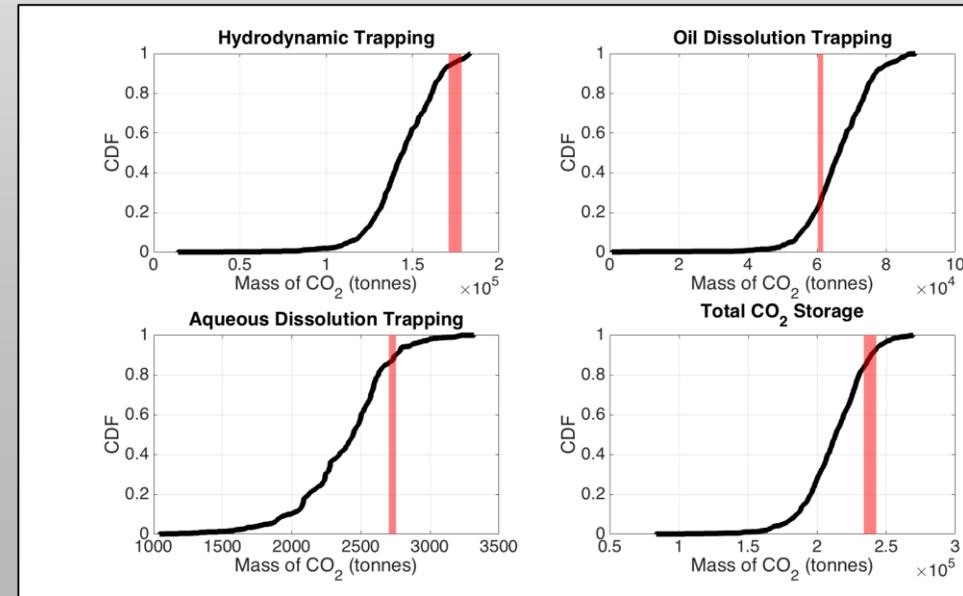
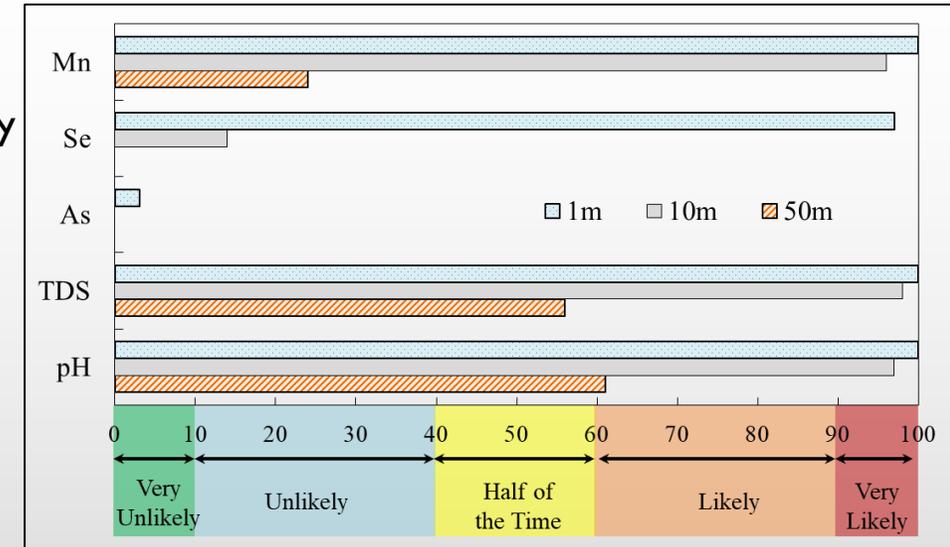
- Wellbore cement at the FWU will likely maintain its structure and integrity within 100 years, and is unlikely to provide leakage pathways.

## USDW Impact:

- Toxic trace metals may be considered an insignificant long-term concern for the Ogallala formation: simulations indicate that clay adsorption mitigates impact of CO<sub>2</sub> and brine leakage from the reservoir
- Increased salinity of USDW via leaked saline water may likely be a larger concern than associated trace metals release.

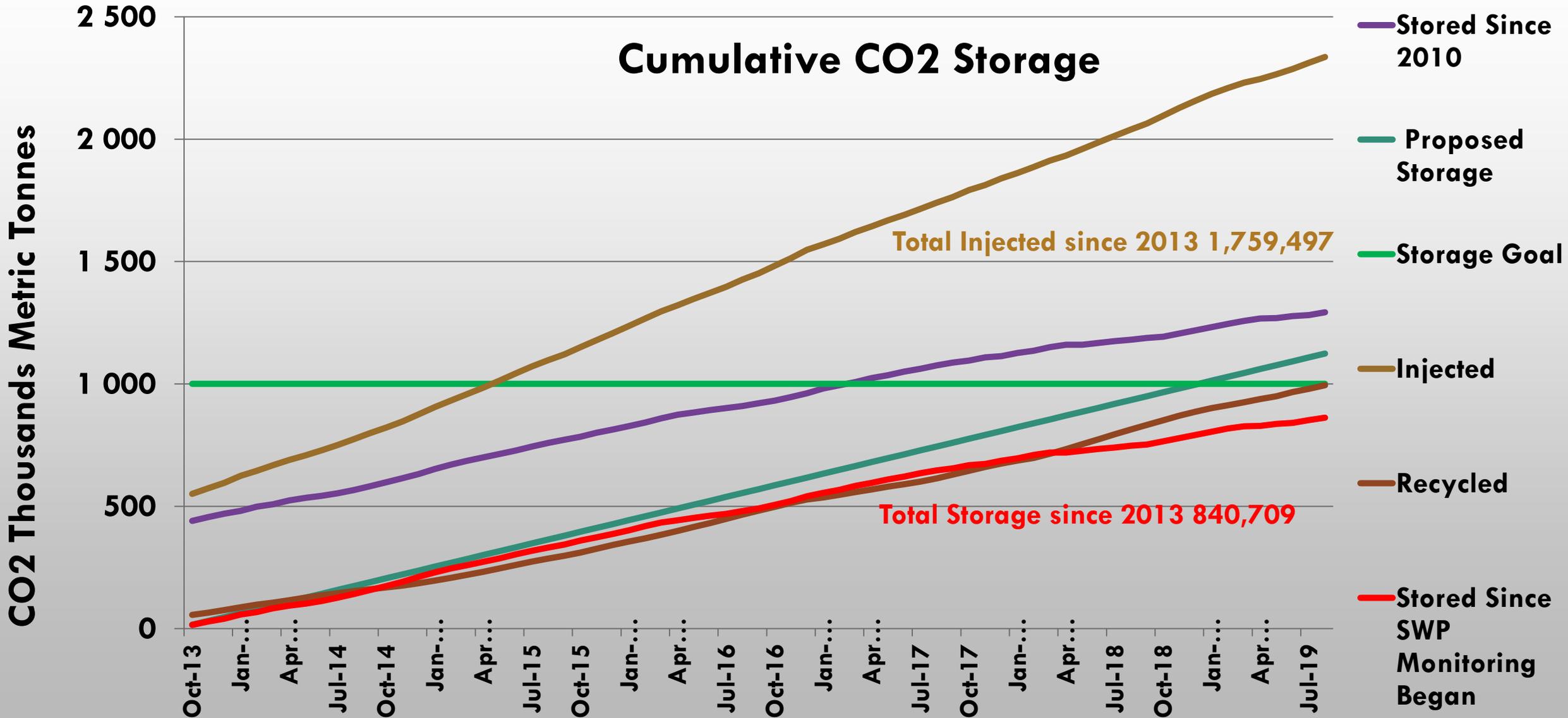
## CO<sub>2</sub> Storage and Economics:

- Hydrodynamic trapping sequesters the most injected CO<sub>2</sub> at the FWU, followed by oil dissolution trapping, and aqueous dissolution trapping.
- ROMs analyses suggest that 31% of the 1000 realizations designed for FWU may be profitable.



# POST-INJECTION PERIOD (BP4) PLANS

# SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP: CO<sub>2</sub> STORAGE



# INCOMPLETE AND FINAL WORK ITEMS

## Critical work that is incomplete

- Support work
  - Characterization
  - Simulation
  - Monitoring (MVA)
- Passive seismic
- Depleted oilfield storage analysis (post EOR storage)
- Risk assessment (quantitative things)
  - Storage security
  - Leakage pathways
  - Wellbore integrity

**Risk relies on much input from prior tasks and thus significant work remains**

# FOCUS AREA: SUPPORT WORK

- Characterization
  - VSP, Xwell, geobodies, larger scale mechanical earth model
  - Fine scale VSP based models and time-lapse geomodels
  - Better understanding of fault/fault-like features
- Simulation
  - Incorporate all tracer data
  - Contribute to long-term storage and risk assessments
  - Incorporate lab generated data, especially hydraulic flow and facies
- Monitoring (MVA)
  - Continue monitoring efforts until project close
  - Continue to provide support, data, and feedback to model builders, simulators, and risk assessment

# FOCUS AREA: RISK ASSESSMENT

Major work left in:

- Storage security
- Leakage pathways – chemomechanical studies of rock/fluid interactions under reservoir PT conditions
- Wellbore integrity – inventory older wells for cement quality, do sidewall coring, study effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on cement and near-wellbore rock
- Take results from reduced order models back into full-scale simulation

# FOCUS AREA: DEPLETED OILFIELD (POST-EOR) STORAGE ANALYSIS

- Capacity analysis – quantifying capacity for commercial storage when factoring in post-EOR storage.
- Portability to other Anadarko or SW basins (Morrow reservoirs in particular – screen other fields based on FWU criteria and results).
- Evaluate impacts of credits such as 45Q on future projects
- Provide example and operational procedures for future EOR operations utilizing storage credits

# FOCUS AREA: PASSIVE SEISMIC

- Test of an inexpensive off the shelf system to monitor if activity existed was successful in that it identified microseismic activity related to injection
- The system ultimately failed due to hardware limitations and damage incurred during emplacement leading to increasing signal to noise ratio
- Utilization of passive seismic not only as a risk assessment but also characterization tool
  - example: Aneth faults for characterization/risk and
  - example: AZMi and BZMi for risk
- New system installed this year
  - Borehole array
  - 20 Surface seismic stations

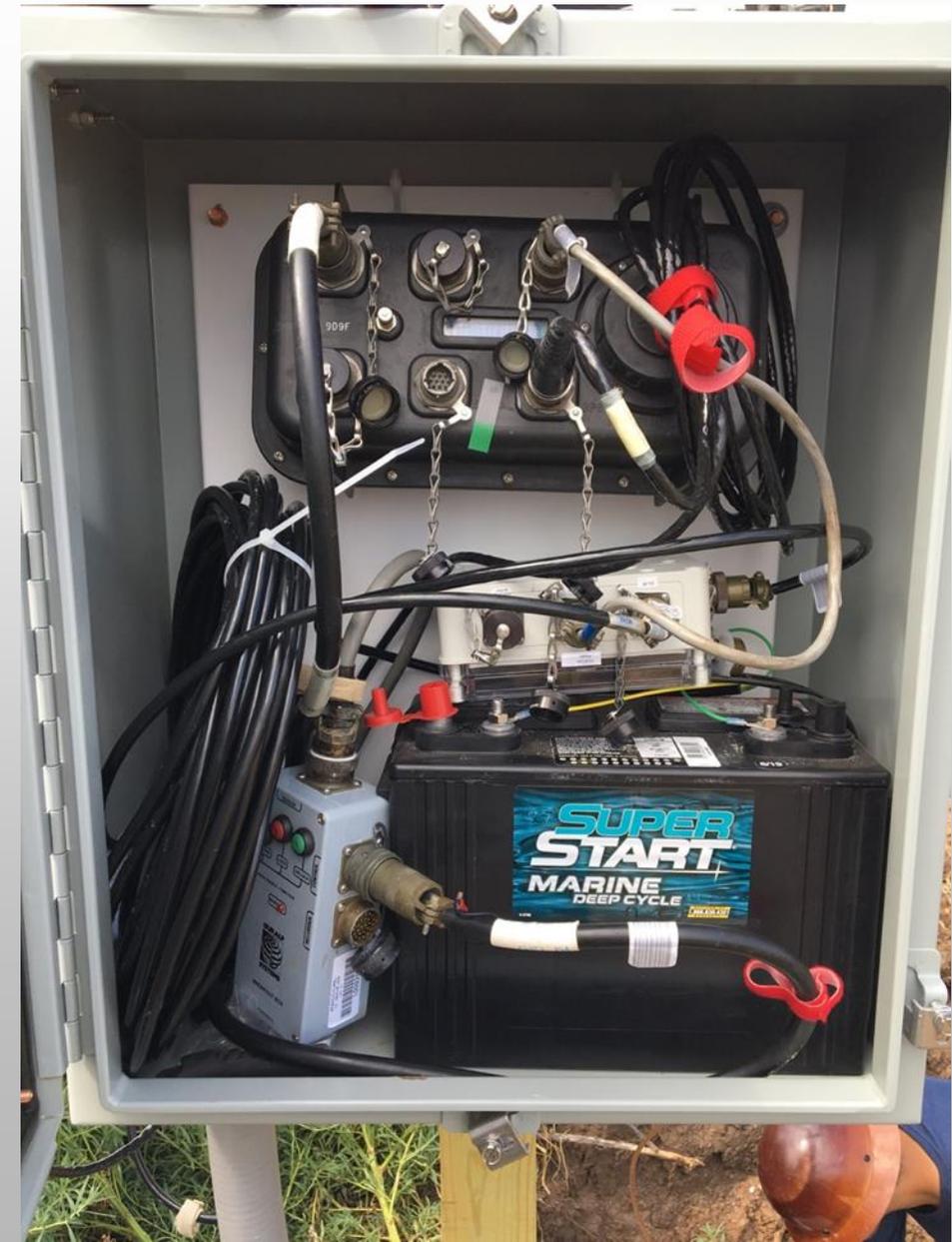
# PASSIVE SEISMIC: BOREHOLE ARRAY REPLACED

- GeoRes recording system
- 16 levels three components geophone array
- 100 ft geophone spacing
- Depth interval: 4,389 – 5,889 ft
- 1 ms sampling rate
- Each geophone is contained in a protector and clamped to production tubing
- Geophone housing and protector were redesigned for optimal coupling to casing and tubal noise reduction
- System was installed in December 2018



# PASSIVE SEISMIC: SURFACE STATIONS INSTALLED

- Survey design and modeling was performed for optimal sensor placement
- Twenty Guralp 3T-1 20 Broadband sensors were deployed in the FWU
- Samples per second: 250
- All Sensors oriented to true North:  
Declination  $5^{\circ}$  East.
- Continuous recording data acquisition system (DAS) was deployed with each sensor



# PASSIVE SEISMIC: SURFACE LOCATIONS

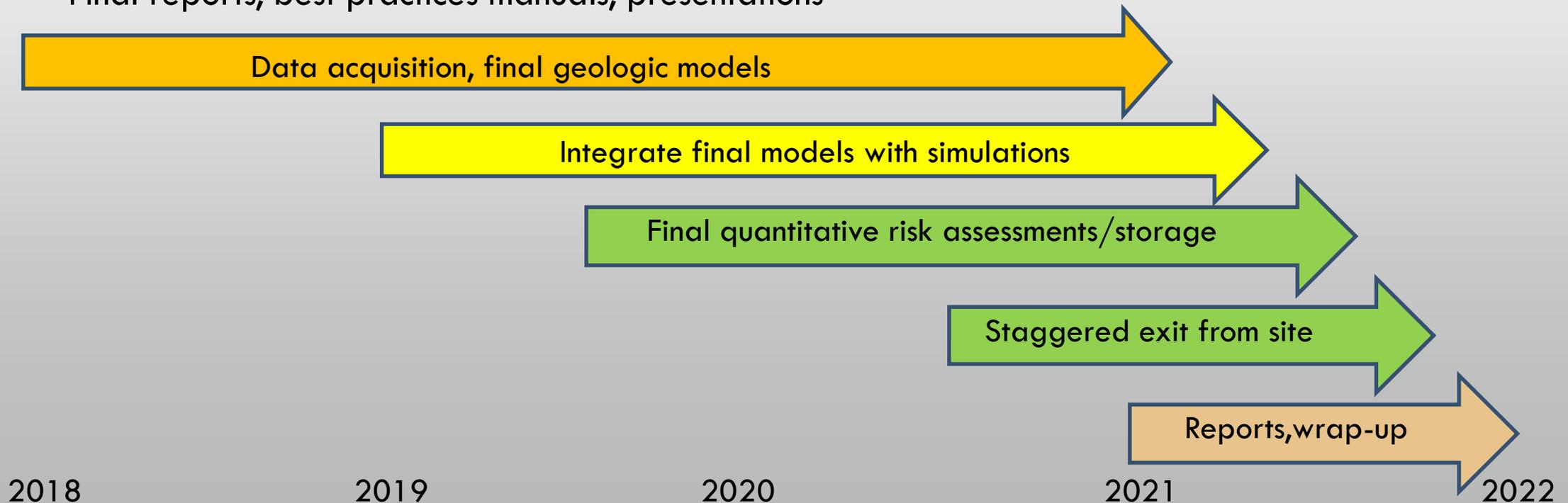


# PASSIVE SEISMIC: BOREHOLE ORIENTATION



# TIMELINE TO COMPLETE PROJECT – 4 YEARS

- 24-36 months data collection: Passive seismic installation, acquisition, processing, and assimilation; Hydrophone Cross-well baseline and repeat; tracer results to be acquired and assimilated
- Integration of new data into geologic, simulation, and risk models
- Quantitative risk estimates using final models
- SWP exits FWU site
- Final reports, best practices manuals, presentations



# CONCLUSIONS

- Demand for CO<sub>2</sub> for EOR projects has outpaced natural supplies
- Carbon Capture can mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions using geologic storage and is responsive to government interests in reducing carbon emissions, worldwide
- Costs for using anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> for EOR purposes is mitigated by existing oilfield infrastructure and increased oil production
- Case studies can provide “best practices” and demonstrate viability of the use of local anthropogenic sources
- The Farnsworth project highlights enhanced recovery with ~93% carbon storage
- Extensive characterization, modeling, simulation, and monitoring studies have demonstrated long term storage security

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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<http://SWP.rocks>

