

The Colorado wedge of the Uinta Basin

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This Resource Assessment reports on a literature search for data on the Colorado portion of the Uinta Basin. Specifically investigated was the wedge of land between the Utah/Colorado state-line and the Douglas Arch. Numerous Utah State, Uintah County, and industry investigations of projects in the Uinta Basin covered land up to the state-line but as might be expected stopped there. Colorado investigations generally focused on the Piceance Basin. The neglected Colorado portion of the Uinta Basin, an area of about 10,000 acres, proves to be of intriguing geologic interest because of the meanderings of the White River as the depositional axis of the Uinta Basin moved south while the Basin filled with sediment. The result is a thickening of the oil shale members as one moves north of the present location of the White River. The potential for sand lenses to have been left behind in the various channels of the White River raises the potential for a vertical stack of tight sand gas reservoirs in the area. The confirmed presence of a deeply buried twelve-foot seam of gassy coal and several hundred feet of deep organic shale provides a source of gas for any reservoirs that may be present. The investigation was greatly aided by recent work of the U.S. Geological Survey in the newly defined Uinta-Piceance Oil and Gas Province.