Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the project is to promote the oil and gas potential of the North Dakota portion of the Williston Basin. Promotion of ongoing oil plays and the deep gas potential of the basin creates an opportunity to increase mineral leasing and ultimately lead to increases in exploration for oil and gas.

Work Accomplished

The North Dakota Geological Survey, Oil and Gas Division, State Land Department, and North Dakota Petroleum Council participated in the North American Prospect Expo held in Houston on February 2-3, 2006. Our exhibit consisted of recently published maps showing deep gas potential of the Williston Basin, a pipeline map, and a poster of available state acreage and its position relative to the current oil plays. A listing of nominated land tracts for the state sale on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 was also available. Additional information included a demonstration of the ND Oil and Gas Division’s subscription service and information about the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference and Expo held in Minot May 7-9, 2006. The expo attracted over 13,000 representatives from the oil and banking industry.

Project Results

Activity in the North Dakota booth was continuous throughout the entire expo. Questions related to the oil play in the Bakken and pipeline capacity dominated the inquiries. Mineral lease activity, the Birdbear play, the Oil and Gas Division’s subscription website, and the 2006 Williston Basin Petroleum Conference and Expo were also topics of interest. It appears likely that most, if not all, of the Williston Basin players (geologists, engineers, and financial officers) that were present at the expo stopped by the North Dakota exhibit. Several of the companies were new to the basin, having just acquired an acreage position or prospect. Some of the companies that visited the North Dakota booth included: Slawson Exploration, Missouri Basin, Marathon Exploration, Suncor Exploration, Encore Exploration, Conoco-Phillips, Shell E & P, Kirkwood Oil & Gas, Ansbro Exploration, Headington, Continental Resources, Amerada-Hess, Black Rock Resources, True Oil, etc.

Monthly downloads of Bakken, Ratcliffe, and Birdbear articles, posters, and maps from the ND Geological Survey website. Activity often peaks around the time of the NAPE meeting.
NAPE exhibitors in the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

Left to right: Rick Larson (ND State Land Department), Julie LeFever (ND Geological Survey), and Ron Ness (ND Petroleum Council) in the North Dakota booth at the 2006 NAPE.
Available North Dakota State Land Mineral Leases

Bakken, Birdbear, and Mission Canyon Plays

2006

Map of available North Dakota State Land mineral leases that was created for NAPE 2006. This map has since been updated and linked from the ND Geological Survey, Oil and Gas Division, and Land Department websites.
NAPE 2006 Project Budget

Grant Support
Registration for booth $ 995
Power outlet $ 53.90
Accessories  (bulletin board, lamination, etc) $ 202.35
TOTAL $1,251.25

Cost Share
Julie LeFever, NDGS Petroleum Geologist
Prep time to update and create posters and time at meeting $ 791.00
Travel $ 384.71
Per Diem $ 775.52

Lynn Helms, Director ND Department of Mineral Resources
Prep and meeting time $1,185.00
Travel $ 354.69
Per Diem $ 843.28

Rick Larson, ND State Land Department Director of Minerals Management
Prep time and meeting time, travel, and per diem $2,563
TOTAL MATCH $6,897.20