IDAWRA: THE FIRST PRODUCING PETROLEUM FIELD IN IDAHO'S HISTORY—WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW, AND WHAT WE MAY NEVER KNOW

Nov. 16, 11:30 - 1:00

Washington Group Plaza Executive Dining Room, 720 Park Blvd., Boise Dr. Renee L. Breedlovestrout, Idaho Geological Survey

Idaho Section of the American Water Resources Association

IDAWRA: The First Producing Petroleum Field In Idaho's History—What We Know, What We Want To Know, And What We May Never Know

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Dr. Renee L. Breedlovestrout, Idaho Geological Survey

Sandstone and mudstone deposits in the Weiser-Payette Basin of southwest Idaho provide several stacked reservoir intervals for Idaho's first producing hydrocarbon field. This presentation will focus on what we understand so far about the natural gas and liquid condensate play and outlines the work that needs to be done in the future. This NW-SE-trending intercontinental extensional basin of the western Snake River Plain contains seventeen active hydrocarbon wells, eight of which are in production. From oldest to youngest the Payette, Chalk Hills, and Glenns Ferry formations were deposited during basin extension and normal faulting. These formations provide potentially sufficient amounts of organic material to source the basin with hydrocarbons and a decent reservoir to store the accumulations. More exploration is needed to assess adequate hydrocarbon traps, and the maturation and migration history in the basin. Other older organic-rich sedimentary rocks also occur in southern Idaho and may also contribute to the hydrocarbons of the Payette Basin.

Renee Breedlovestrout got her PhD in geology from the University of Idaho with a focus on paleobotany and stratigraphy. She worked for ExxonMobil Exploration Company for three years on fields from offshore Angola-Congo and Deep Water Gulf of Mexico and ExxonMobil's Production subsidiary, XTO Energy in east Texas. She became the Senior Petroleum Geologist at the Idaho Geological Survey in 2015. Her work focuses on assessing the petroleum plays in Idaho and educational outreach to the public.

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