

2006 Oil and Gas Activity Update for Montana

Monte Besler¹

Drilling and completion activity in Montana has continued the trend towards horizontal wells and re-entries in the oil-dominated areas like the Williston Basin and Cedar Creek Anticline in the eastern part of the state. The Middle Bakken play in the Elm Coulee Field of Richland County has started to plateau as the remaining available acreage to drill declines. Increased prices for natural gas have also spurred activity in the shallow gas provinces throughout the state. Drilling and completing shallow gas wells have become nearly year-round activities with the increased demand for limited service resources.

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