

# Whirlwind Tour of Drilling Activity in the Williston Basin 2013

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## **Abstract**

*Take away all the provincial, state and international borders, remove any reference to drilling statistics and economics, and we will have a tour around the Williston Basin highlighting new drilling developments. No doubt, the Bakken and Three Forks development overshadows all other developments in the basin in the past decade. However, a closer examination of the Bakken and Three Forks developments, within and surrounding the basin, reveals a very diverse geological picture with a variety of unique targets from less than 2000' on the basin margin in Manitoba to the deepest of the basin in Williams County, North Dakota where we see a classic model of deep basin center oil generation and entrapment. In addition to Middle Bakken oil pools under development, we will see examples of oil trapped in the Lodgepole, False Bakken, Pronghorn, plus the four or five carbonate cycles or benches in the Three Forks Formation.*

*Other interesting developments to highlight include horizontal drilling and frac stimulation of the Spearfish in North Dakota and Manitoba, Midale and Ratcliffe reservoirs that are drilled horizontally and fraced in Saskatchewan and finally some old fashioned deep Red River development that is underway in North Dakota.*

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**Dean E.G. Potter** is President and CEO of Elkhorn Resources Inc. He is a petroleum exploration geologist with a primary career focus in the Williston Basin, working both sides of the Canada/US international border since early 1980's. After working with several oil and gas companies in the Williston Basin and the Alberta Basin, Dean was a consulting geologist for almost 10 years working western Canada, US Rockies and various international assignments. During this period of time, Dean was also actively generating oil and gas prospects in the Williston Basin. In 2005, Dean started Medora Resources exploring for Mississippian and Bakken reserves in southeast Saskatchewan. Following the sale of Medora in 2009, the team re-started as Elkhorn Resources in 2010, again focusing on exploration and development in southeast Saskatchewan. Dean holds B.Sc. (1976) and M.Sc. (1981) degrees from the University of Regina.