

## The Big Picture

*If you're painting by numbers, the Bakken shale presents an impressive portrait.*

**Geographic size of Bakken Shale:** 25,000 square miles in North Dakota, Montana, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

**2011 ranking among U.S. oil fields:** 14<sup>th</sup> (and rising).

**Proven reserves:** Between 19-24 billion barrels using most recent technology (that only recovers a maximum of 15 percent of reserves). Experts predict rapid advances in recovery technology, however. Above the Bakken lies the Tyler formation, with one billion barrels of recoverable oil; underneath the Bakken lies the Three Forks formation, which may contain two billion barrels of recoverable oil.

**Natural gas reserves:** Two trillion cubic feet.

**Number of Bakken dry holes drilled in 2012:** Zero.

**Total expected life of a Bakken well:** 29 years, producing an average of 580,000 barrels of oil.

**Expected returns per well:** At \$85/barrel oil, nearly \$50 million (gross) per well. The North Dakota Industrial Commission's Oil and Gas Division conservatively estimates that each well generates \$22 million in net profit over its lifetime.

**Expected life of current production levels:** 10-15 years, although drilling is not expected to decrease much until 2030.

**Total field life (including secondary and tertiary production):** 80-90 years.

**Cost to drill a well in the Bakken:** \$8.5 -\$11 million, or about \$3 million higher than other shale oil plays, like Eagle Ford, Texas. Continental Resources can drill a well for \$7.7 million. Costs are expected to continue to drop as technology further develops.

**Current barrels per day production:** 700,000 and projected to reach one million by August 2013.

**Investments (2009-2012) oil and gas infrastructure, including pipelines, processing plants, and oil service companies (as of 2012):** Figure unavailable. According to Peter Elzi, senior economist for THK Associates in Denver, energy companies are pumping about \$2 billion every month into the region in wages, salaries, equipment purchases, and the sale of oil and gas.

**Projected percentage population growth, 2010 – 2025:**

North Dakota overall: 25%

Bakken northern region: 137 %

Bakken southern region: 58.5 %

**Projected percentage growth in occupied housing units:**

North Dakota overall: 30.2%

Bakken northern region: 167 %

Bakken south region: 69 %

**State funds proposed for new roads, 2013-2015:**

\$600 million, \$228.6 million alone for state highway projects within the 17 oil and gas producing counties in western North Dakota.