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The Promise and Peril of Oil Shale Development  
(February 5)

2010

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### SLIDES: Promise or Peril: Shale Oil, Energy, and the Region

Chase Huntley

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# Promise or Peril?

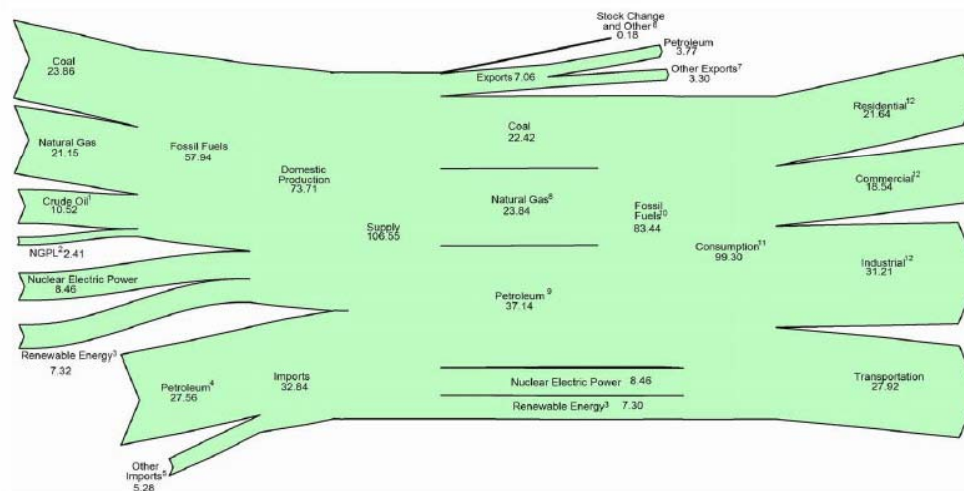
## *Shale Oil, Energy, and the Region*

Chase Huntley  
The Wilderness Society  
February 5, 2009



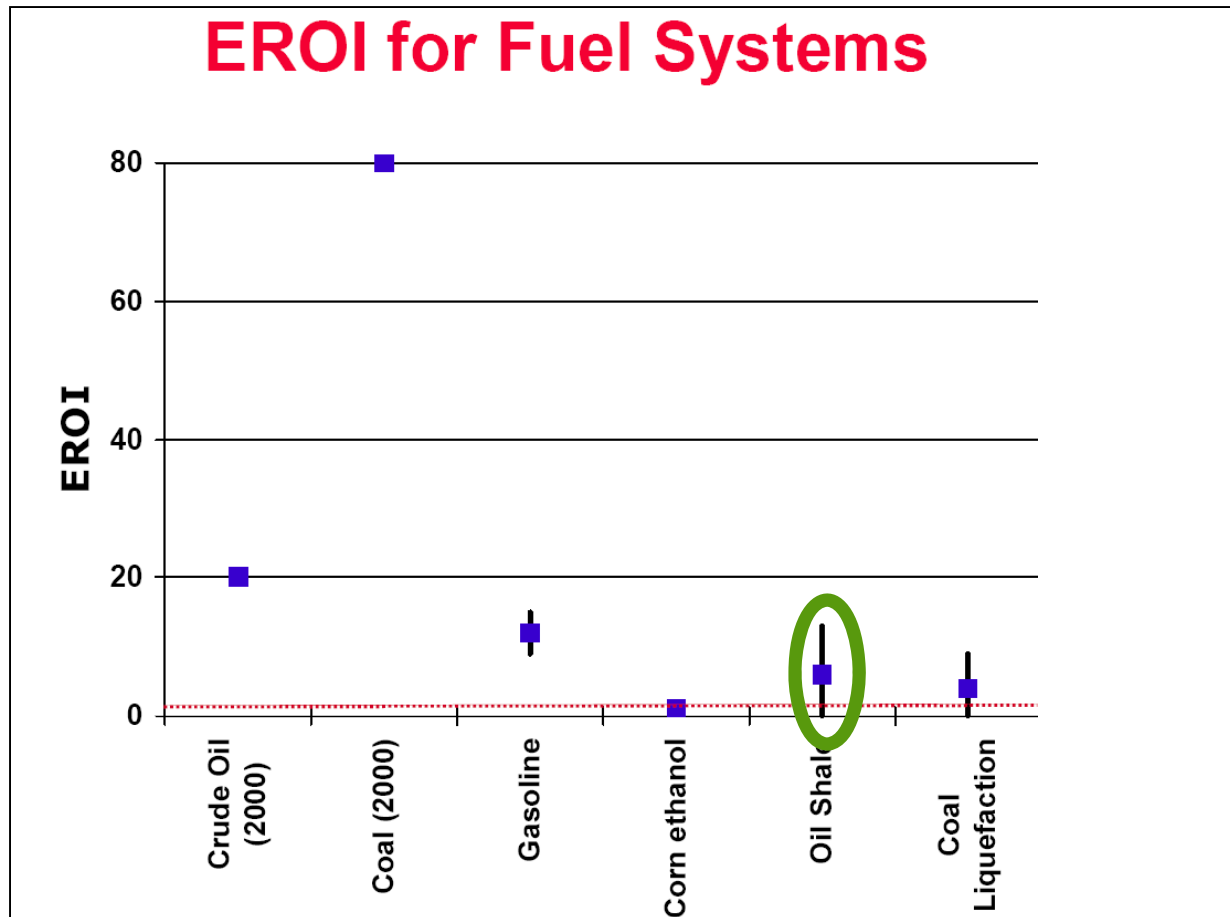
# Key points

- Oil shale must be considered in context of national energy policy
- Not proven that the amount and quality of energy derived from oil shale is worth the economic, social, and environmental risks of pursuing it



Source: EIA AEO 2009

# Energy in, energy out



Source: Cleveland et al. 2006.

# Social burden

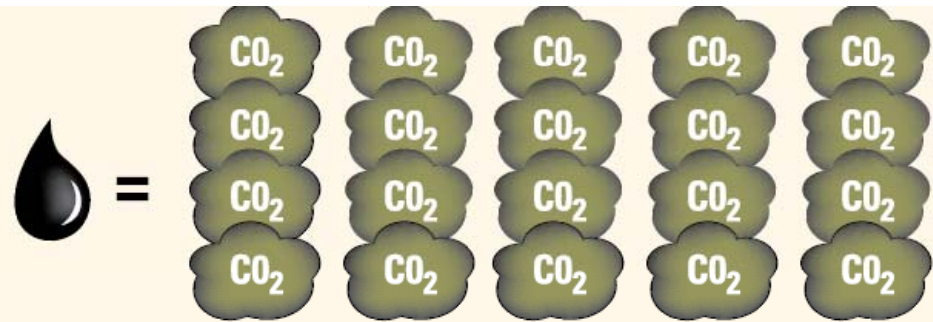
- Existing infrastructure inadequate to handle significant production
- Layered on top of oil and gas boom
- Viability of oil shale relies on ability of region to absorb added development

*“If the Department of the Interior were to authorize a commercial oil shale industry in Colorado, the development would constitute the largest industrial development in the State's history -- with enormous implications for all of Northwest Colorado and for the State itself.”*

*-- CO Governor Bill Ritter*

# Environmental consequences

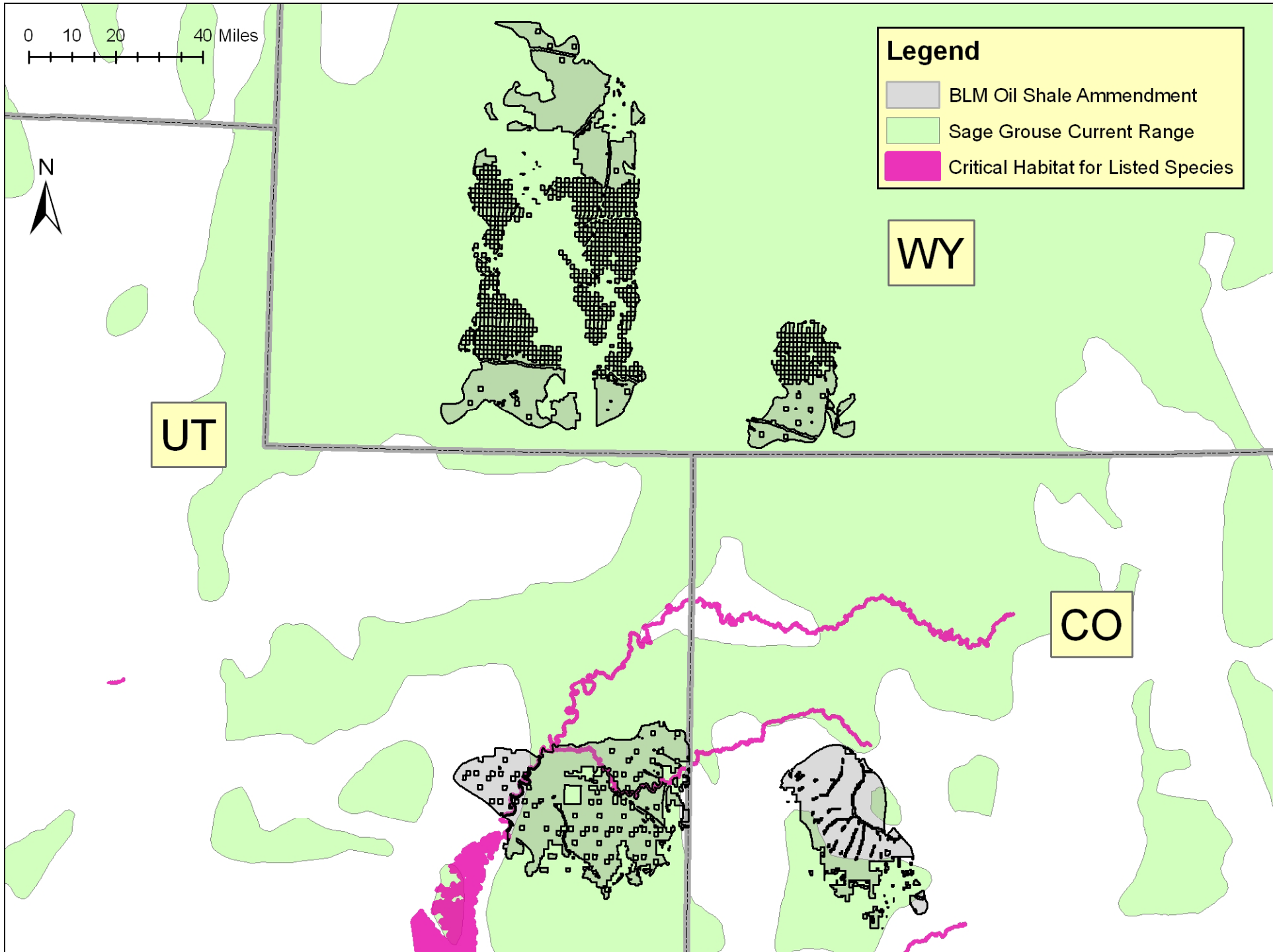
- Global warming pollution



- Water supplies



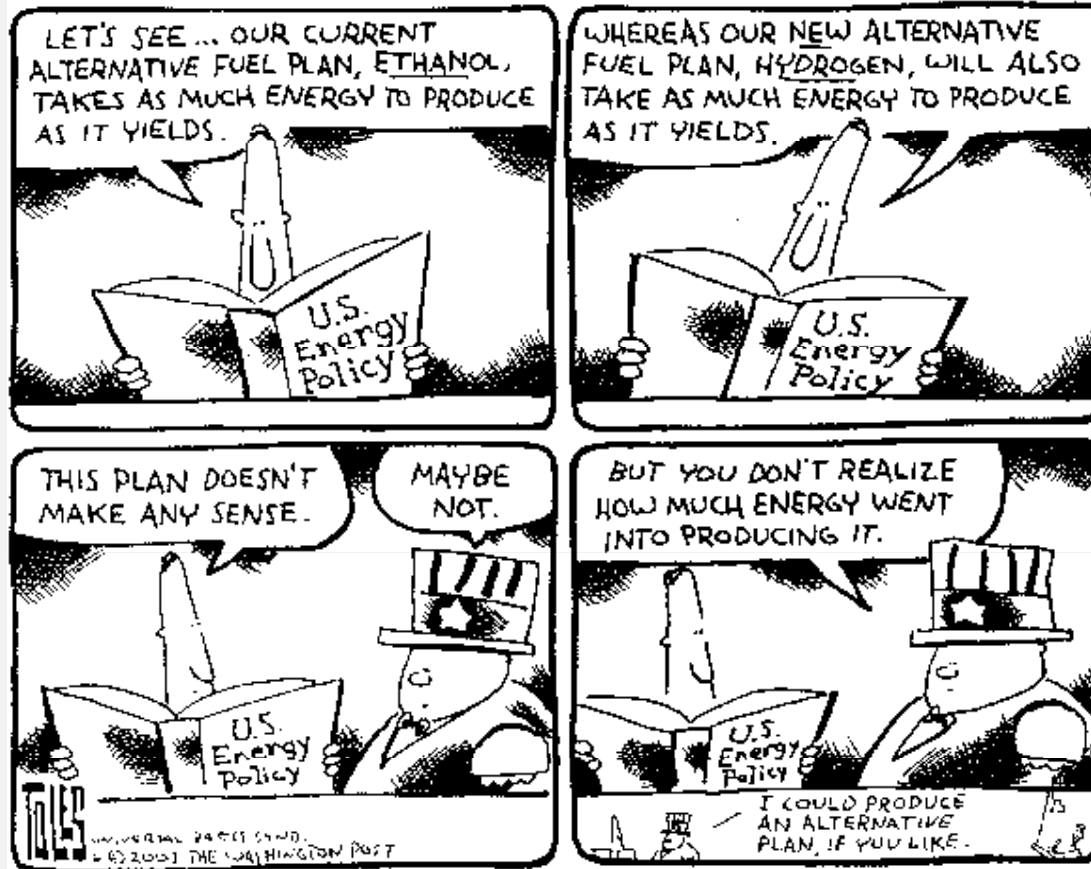
- Surface disturbance



# Critical questions

- Can new technologies overcome the operational difficulties that plague existing operations?
- Are these technologies viable in a carbon-constrained economy?
- Can the region absorb this added development?
- Does it make sense to turn clean energy into dirty fuel?





Thank you

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