



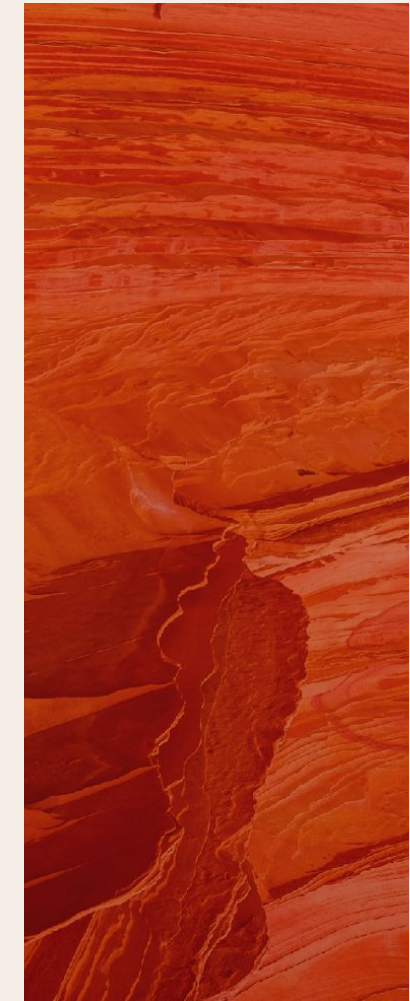
Mountain West
Geothermal Consortium

Building the geothermal pipeline in the Mountain West

Presentation to IOGCC
July 23, 2026

Agenda for today

1. Overview of the geothermal challenges we're trying to solve
2. Brief walkthrough of our intervention areas to solve those challenges
3. Opportunities for O&G <> Geothermal Regulator Crossover
4. Discussion





Geothermal energy
is the fastest,
cheapest path to
clean baseload
power today.

**If you are lucky
enough to buy it.**



Speed to power

- A 100MW project can come online in as few as **3 years**
- A 500MW project can come online in as few as **5 years**



Cost competitiveness

- Competitive with solar/wind + storage, offshore wind, and combined cycle gas
 - \$5,500-7,000/kw in Fervo's IPO
- Ahead of nuclear & gas peaking

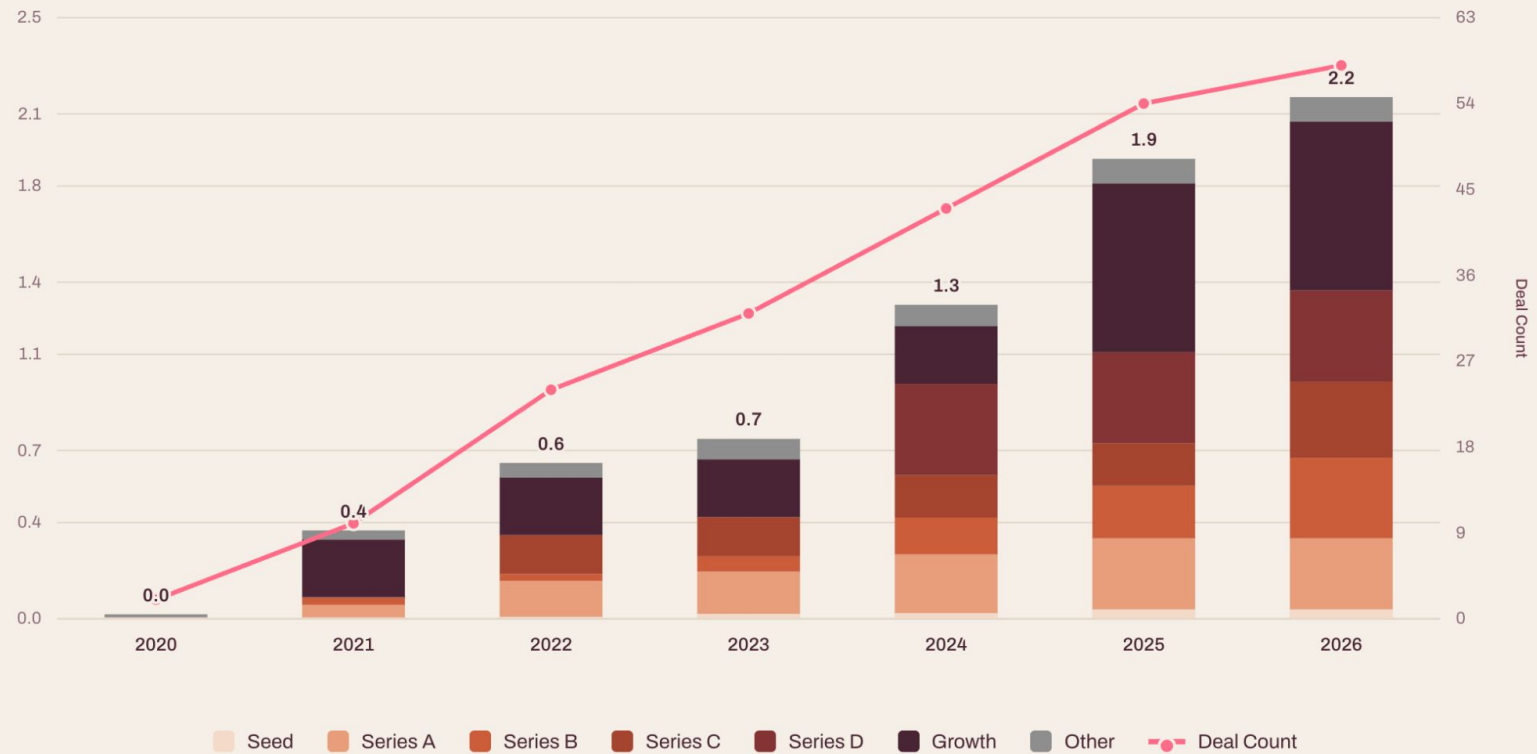


The pipeline of projects has dramatically accelerated

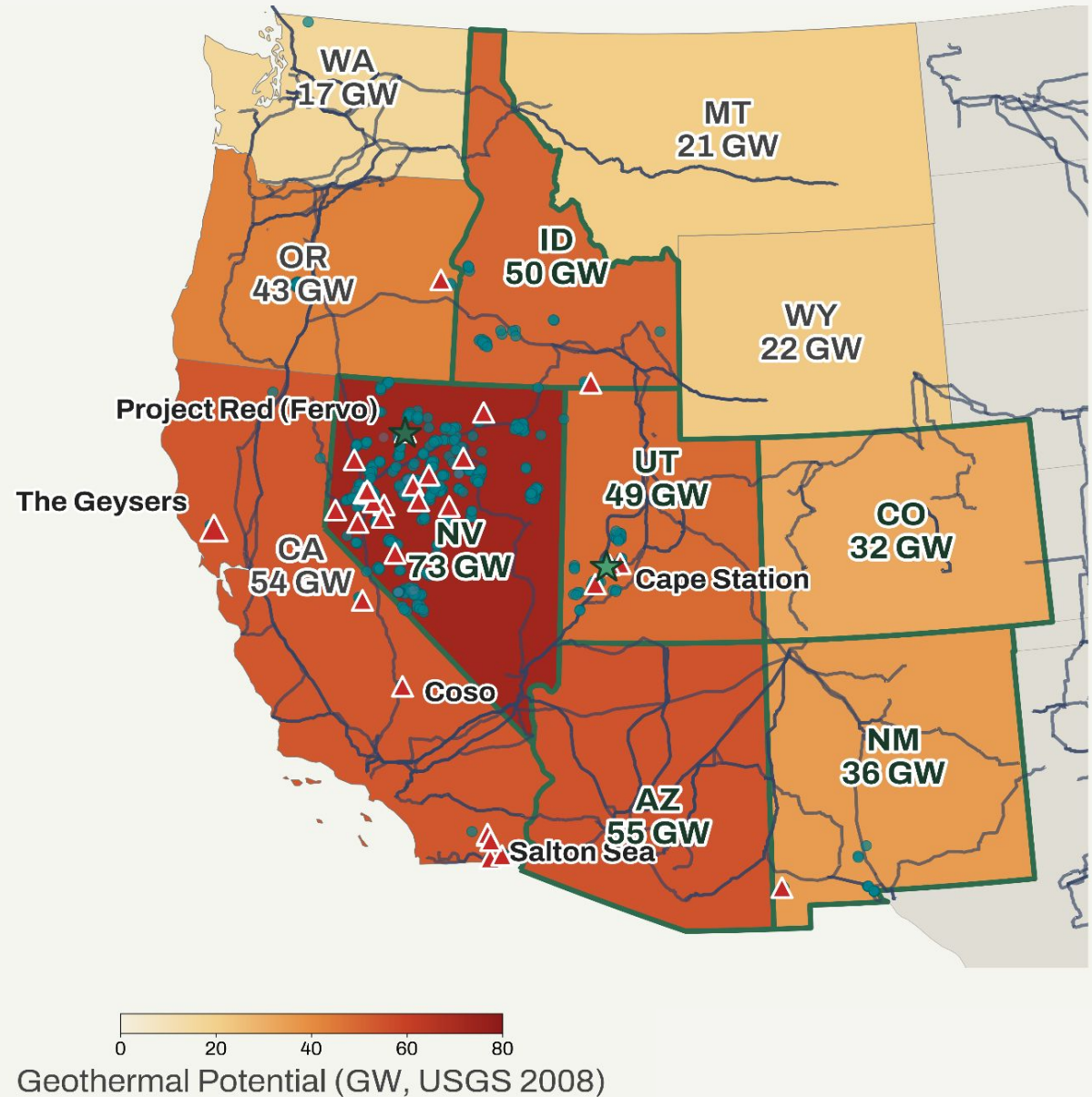
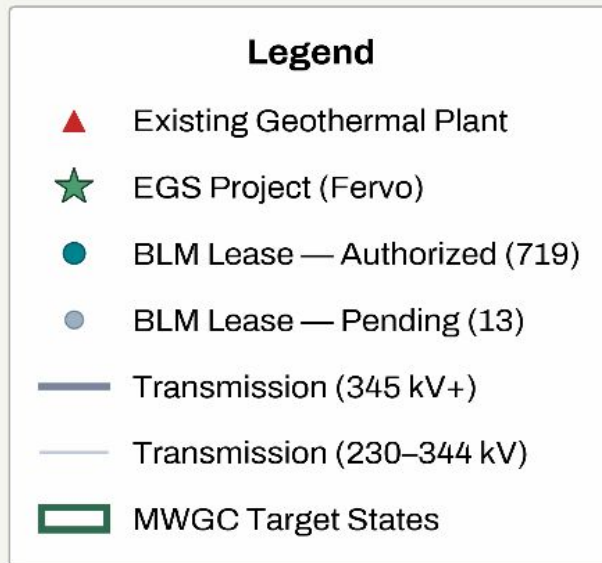
In the last year alone:

- Ormat
 - \$875 M debt financing
- Fervo
 - \$462 M Series E
 - \$421 M non-recourse debt
 - Filed for IPO
- Zanskar
 - \$115 M Series C
 - \$40 → \$100 M dev facility
- Sage
 - \$97 M Series B
- Mazama
 - Amidst a \$100 M Series C ([Axios](#))

Stage (US\$B)

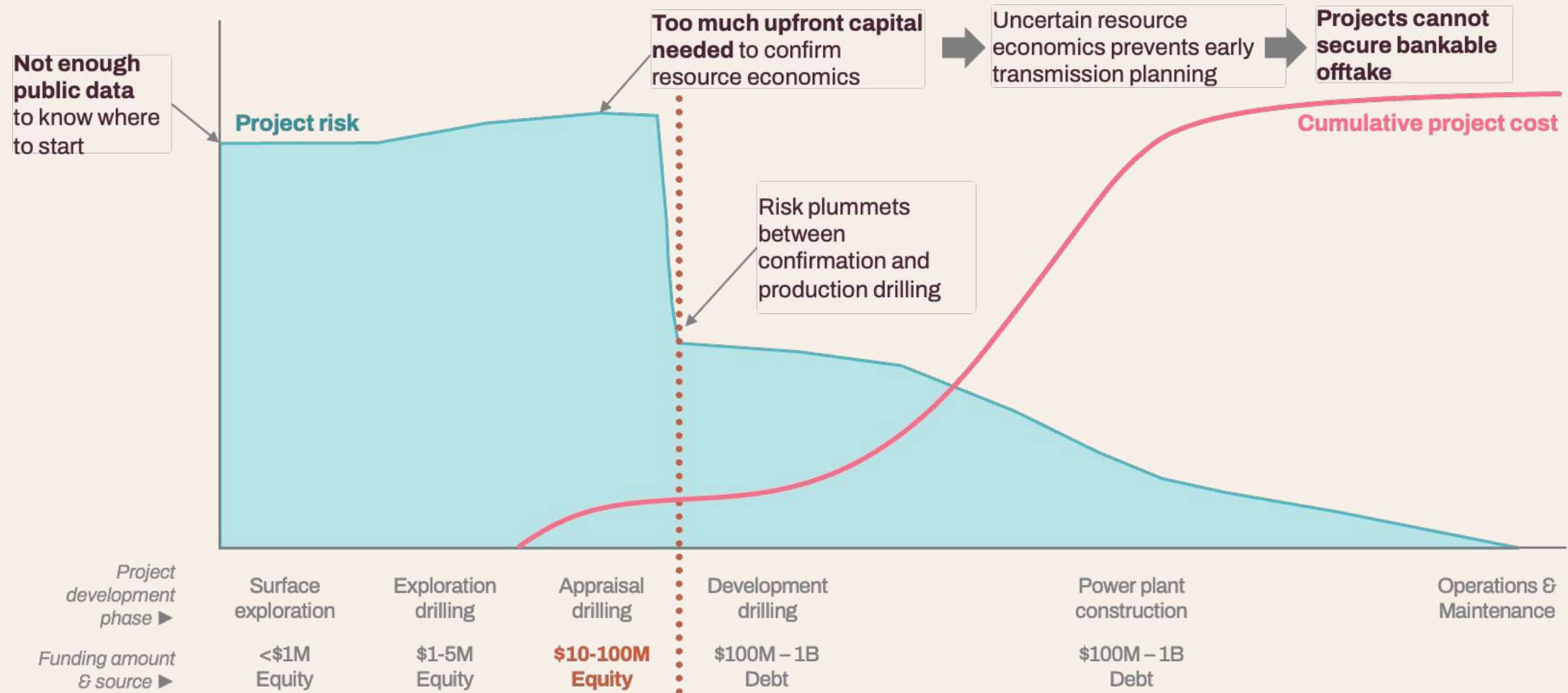


But geothermal
deals aren't
expanding the map
like we need them to.





Early project risks are throttling the potential pipeline





Appraisal drilling in oil & gas is similarly risky – but the industry had key advantages

The shale boom faced similar risks to geothermal...

	Conventional O&G	Shale
Exploration Success Rate	20-40%	~100%
Appraisal Success Rate	60-85%	40-70%

... but had access to key tax writeoffs and large balance sheets

Intangible drilling tax credit (IDC) allows deduction of 80%+ of the cost of drilling

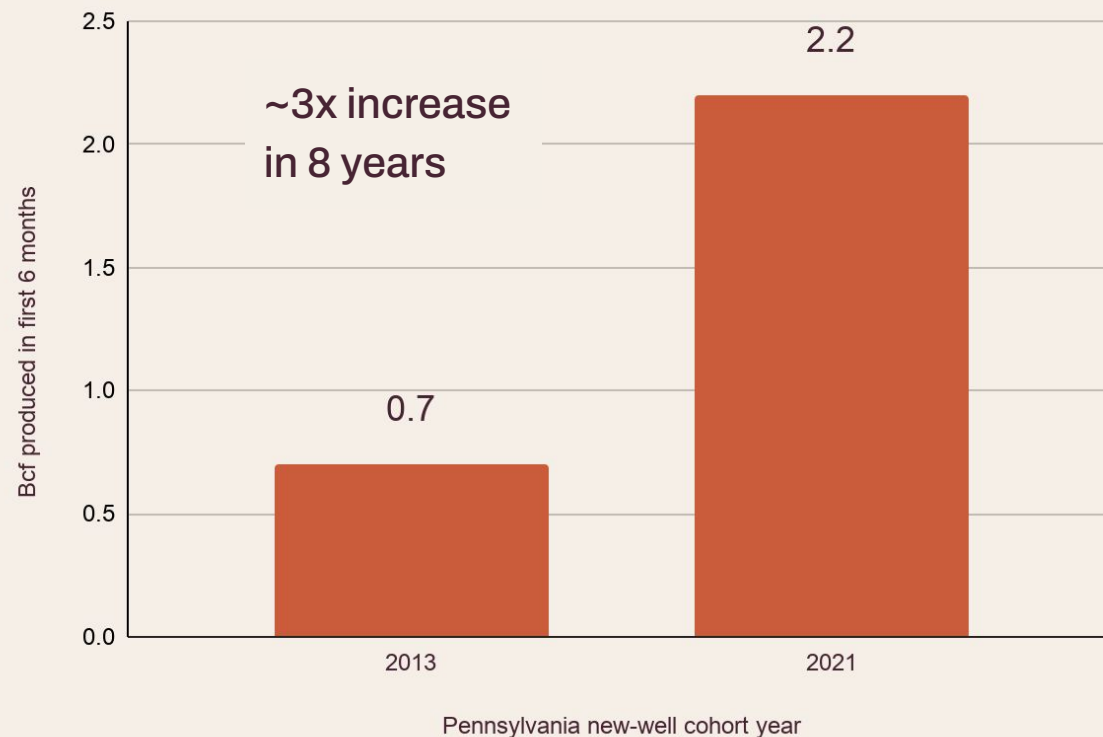
- If appraisal succeeds, companies collect profit from new resource
- If appraisal fails, companies benefit from tax write offs on huge balance sheets

Result: almost **400,000 wells drilled** and **\$300 B spent** on shale between 2010-2020

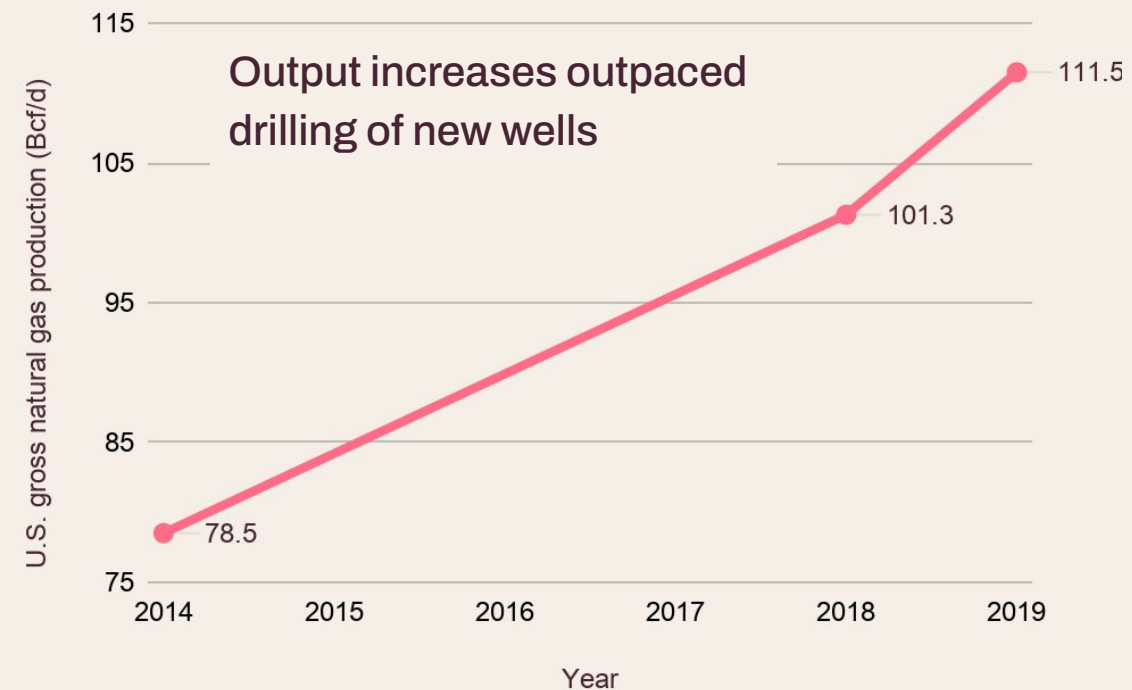


Those key advantages were critical to the industry's scale and success

1. New-well productivity rose sharply



2. Output hit records even as drilling stayed lean





The Geothermal Struggle

Ineffective tax incentive

Geothermal can't monetize the 80%+ writeoff for unsuccessful drilling campaigns

+

Small balance sheets

Can't use balance sheet capital for high-cost appraisal drilling
...and couldn't collect on an IDC if it existed

+

Limited data

Drivers of appraisal uncertainty are not as well understood

= hesitant capital **when we need it most**



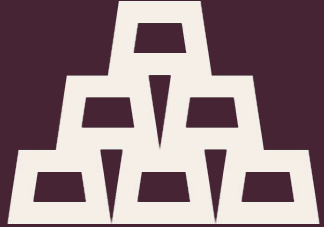
Every next-gen geo project announced today leveraged some concessionary head start

	Technology	Concessionary Head Start	
		Capital	Strategy
Cape Station <i>Fervo</i>	Next-Gen	DOE Awards [\$30M] FORGE [~\$100M]	Brownfield site <i>Alongside Utah FORGE & Roosevelt Hot Springs</i>
Blanford <i>Fervo</i>	Next-Gen		50 mi from FORGE
Big Blind <i>Zanskar</i>	Conventional	DOE Award for different project [<i>share of \$80M</i>]	Truly hidden system... but within DOE “hidden systems” study
Pumpnickel <i>Zanskar</i>	Conventional		Current geothermal plant
Newberry <i>Mazama</i>	Next-Gen	DOE Award [\$20M]	Brownfield site <i>Former AltaRock project</i>
XGS NM Proj. <i>XGS</i>	Next-Gen		Brownfield site <i>Former Fenton Hill demo area</i>

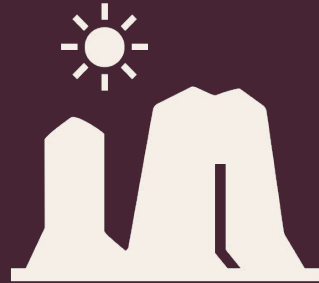


The Mountain West Geothermal Consortium

Theory of Change: Build & execute interventions tailored for implementation



Design low burden, high-impact interventions that address market failures



Socialize & refine with public & private sector to ensure utilization



Implement interventions with state buy-in and legislative support



Coordinate regional funding requests to federal government & philanthropy

Why the Mountain West?

Resource + willingness today



Arizona

- Governor's Task Force on Geothermal - first-ever public position on geo
- First-ever geothermal-specific appropriation for data collection - \$2.5M committed across FY26 & FY27, plus unanimous legislative approval of permitting predictability resolution

Colorado

- Opened \$8M per-project tax credit this year
- SB 26-142 signed into law, establishing utility procurement frameworks (up to 300 MW), resource data collection mandates, and a pathway to a Geothermal Development Authority

New Mexico

- \$22.5M for geothermal development
- Ongoing wholesale revision of its permitting process, considering new technologies

1

Utah

- Senate Bill 132, enabling large loads to bypass interconnection process
- Statewide geothermal strategy in development; stakeholder input being solicited

Membership is never closed!
Contact us if you're interested in joining

We serve state partners through regular, cross-state strategy meetings



- Signed charter with the energy offices of the Four Corners
- Working with the geologic surveys in NV and ID

...for now! Membership is never closed.

Advised by world-class collection of developers, investors, offtakers, policymakers



(commitments as of 16 June)



Our strategic focus areas are designed to de-risk investment and grow project pipelines

Development of accessible, valuable public resource data

Project finance instruments that target appraisal uncertainty

Utility & regulatory policies that align developer & offtaker timelines



Building an Appraisal Drilling Revolving Fund

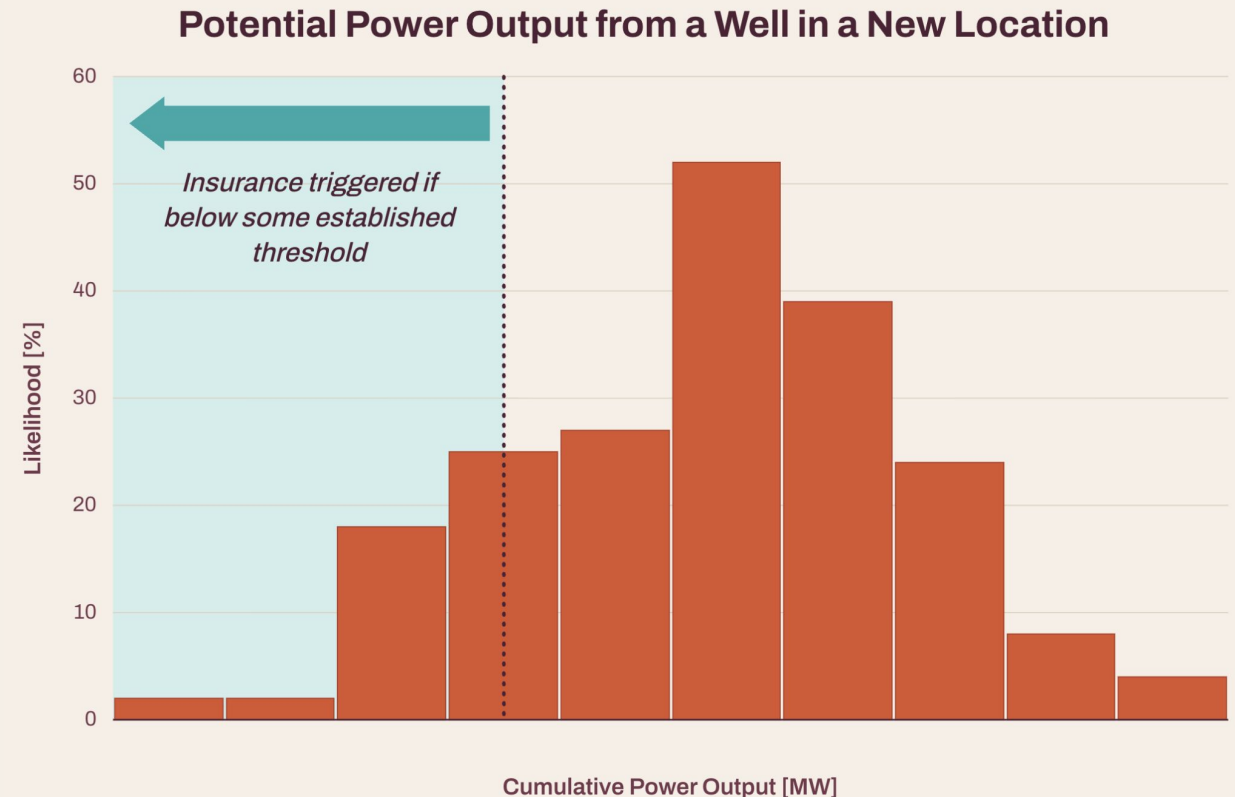


Predictable risks can be priced *and therefore insured*

The subsurface has randomness, but that randomness has limits. **We can model those limits.**

We took **real** exploration data from a **real** reservoir in Colorado and modeled likely power output outcomes.

If risk can be modeled, it can be priced.



Modelling of a five well cluster based on real data from a basin in Colorado Courtesy of ResFrac (K. Beckers, A. Zebrowski)

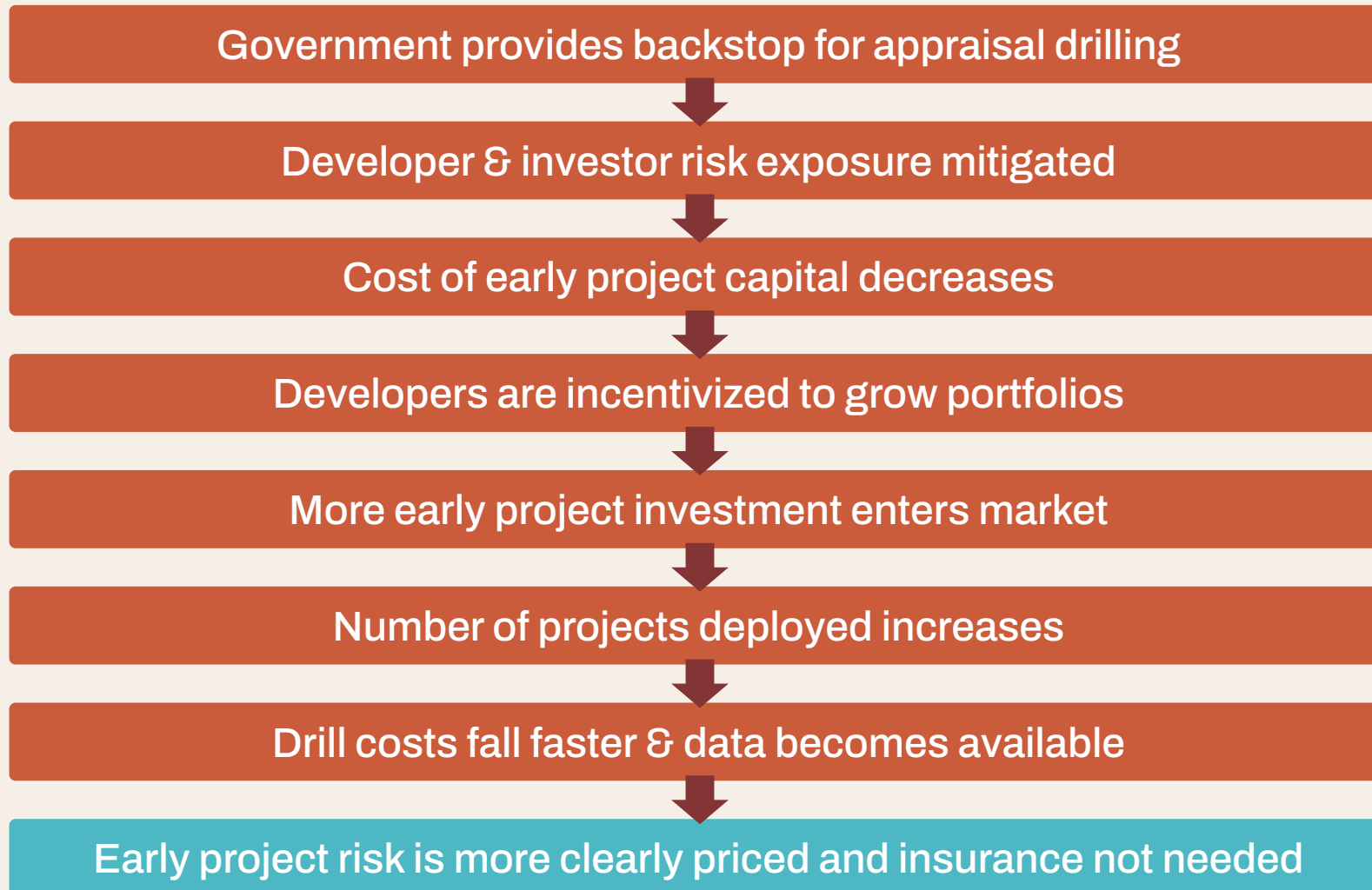


The fastest way to grow the pipeline is to mitigate downside risk





Impact & value to the industry





Digitizing Legacy Public Data



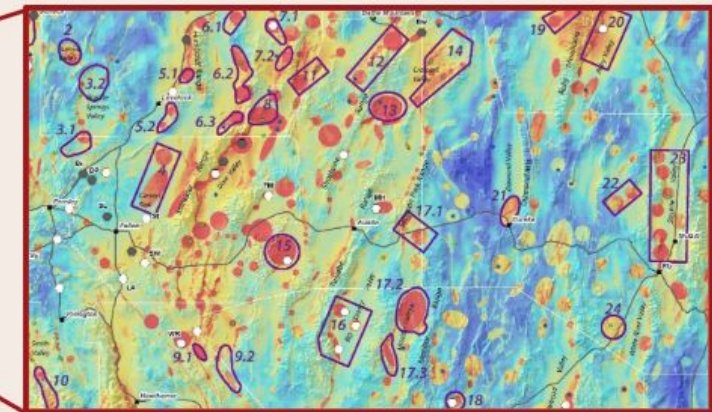
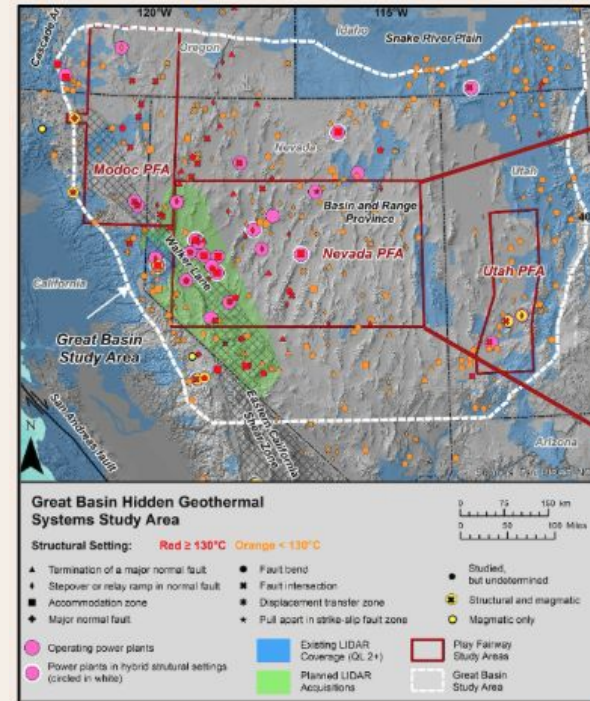
Public data modernization is a high leverage intervention for accelerating deployment

The opportunity

Existing data is fragmented, inaccessible, and in inconsistent formats. Based on developer interviews, a **highest-impact intervention is making that data usable.**

\$1-3M per state could help:

- **Digitize legacy well logs**
- **Standardize temperature reporting**
- **Centralize access** through GIS databases
- **Extract and structure** key subsurface data



Once digitized, AI/ML consolidates available data into temperature estimates that developers need to scope new wells

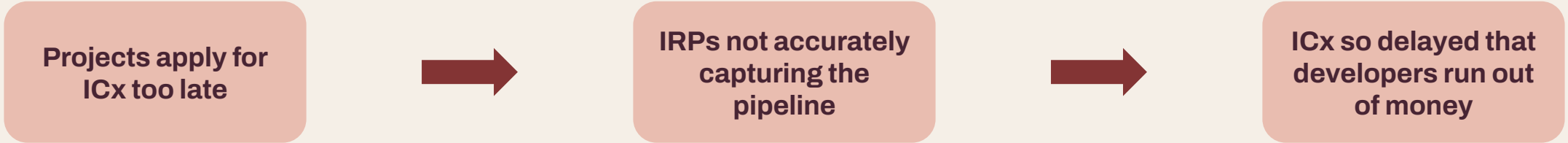
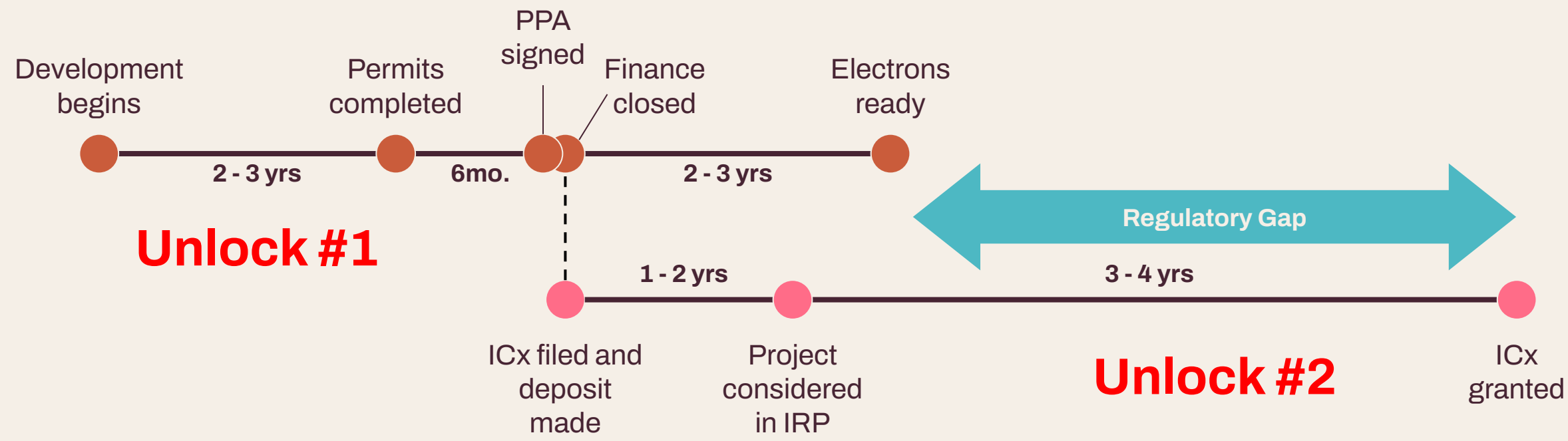
We have secured SEED funding and are hiring for a program manager



Improving Timelines via Regulatory Frameworks



A story of missed connections





Unlock #1:

Increase permitting certainty

- **Clarity:** Ensuring that each state has an established and accessible path towards approving a next-generation geothermal project
- **Education:**
 - Ensuring permitting authorities are well-equipped to adjudicate geothermal permits with the best-available information
 - Ensuring developers understand data expectations for permits

Understanding how regulators make decisions helps us design interventions that responsibly improve the process.



Unlock #2: Improve utility understanding

- **IRP Inclusion:** How utilities incorporate next-gen geothermal into long-term planning
- **Interconnection & Transmission:** Current barriers in to achieving interconnection and transmission
- **Risk & Contracting:** The conditions that would lead to early geothermal offtake (investment structures, PPAs, ratepayer protection)

Understanding how utilities make decisions helps us design interventions that accelerate offtake.



**Where we are
and where
we're going**



Major organizational milestones

Intervention Development	See next slide
Program Development	• Signed bipartisan charter across 4 states (AZ, CO, NM, UT) • Launched May 2026 with bipartisan press conference with Governors Cox (R-UT) and Polis (D-CO) • Secured inclusion of geothermal drilling de-risking fund in Western Governors Association (WGA) policy recommendations • Influencing design of geothermal strategies, state budgets, and task forces for CO, AZ, NM, MT, and UT state entities • Leading finance workstream of the state-led CO Geothermal Market Assessment
Engagement & Advocacy	• Led 5+ effective convenings to inform interventions & build coalitions incl: infrastructure investor coalitions, philanthropic investors, policymakers, developers, and offtakers



Intervention area milestones

Across all three interventions, we have validated and socialized the policy case with private and public sector stakeholders and are actively working on execution

Appraisal Drilling Revolving Fund (ADRF)

- Designed intervention & financial model
- Recruited insurers, engineers, and developers to working group
- Secured inclusion in several state strategies
- Identified strong Federal advocacy partners

Data Discovery & Digitization

- Co-designed intervention with Clean Air Task Force
- Solicited and integrated feedback from 7 State Geo Surveys
- Secured seed funding, and launched additional partner fundraising

Improving utility offtake

- Completed interviews with developers and utilities in Mountain West to understand permitting and transmission challenges
- Scoped potential policy options for state implementation



Advisory Working Groups

ADRF

Goal:

Inform the development of regional drilling derisking funds

Stakeholders:

Infrastructure Investors, Developers, Engineering Firms

Target:

A policy paper & supporting modeling released at Geothermal Rising 2026

Data Discovery & Digitization

Goal:

Inform regional data collection & standardization program designs

Stakeholders:

State Geological Surveys, Developers

Target:

A policy paper released at GSA 2026

Improving utility offtake

Goal:

Identify and inform regulatory & investment policy that improve early offtake certainty

Stakeholders: Utility & Hyperscaler Offtakers, Developers

Target:

Policy paper(s) targeting different interventions released at NARUC 2026

Come to our Capstone!



Golden, CO | Dec 2-3
in collaboration with CO Energy Office
More info in August



Discussion



Mountain West
Geothermal Consortium

**Please reach out if you
want to be involved!**

info@mountainwestgeo.org | mike@mountainwestgeo.org