



GUSSOW 2026

CRACKING THE CRETACEOUS CODE

October 13-15 | Banff, AB

Why Mannville Matters

Speaker: Chase Gilbert, McDaniel & Associates

ABSTRACT

The Mannville heavy oil trend of eastern Alberta and western Saskatchewan is one of Western Canada's oldest producing oil plays, yet it has re-emerged as one of its fastest growing. Regional production has increased from approximately 52 Mbbbl/d in 2021 to 150 Mbbbl/d in 2026, representing 188% total growth and a 24% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the past five years.

This presentation examines the key drivers behind this resurgence, including the application of modern multi-lateral drilling technology, advances in production optimization such as flow control devices and circulation strings, and an improved understanding of reservoir architecture. These developments are expanding the economic limits of mature pools, unlocking previously uneconomic reserves while leveraging an extensive legacy infrastructure network to deliver attractive full-cycle economics.

Unlike many unconventional resource plays, the Mannville remains a fundamentally conventional reservoir system where geological characterization is critical to maximizing value. Detailed understanding of stacked reservoir architecture, reservoir continuity, and fluid distribution enables operators to optimize well placement, improve recovery, and efficiently develop multiple producing horizons from a single surface location. Initial production performance is also highly attractive, with typical declines of approximately 50% in the first year and 30% in the second year, allowing operators to generate meaningful production growth rather than simply offsetting base declines.

Finally, the long-term potential of the play extends beyond primary recovery. Continued deployment of secondary and tertiary recovery methods is expected to further increase recovery factors, extend reserve life, and sustain the growth trajectory of one of Canada's most enduring oil resource plays.