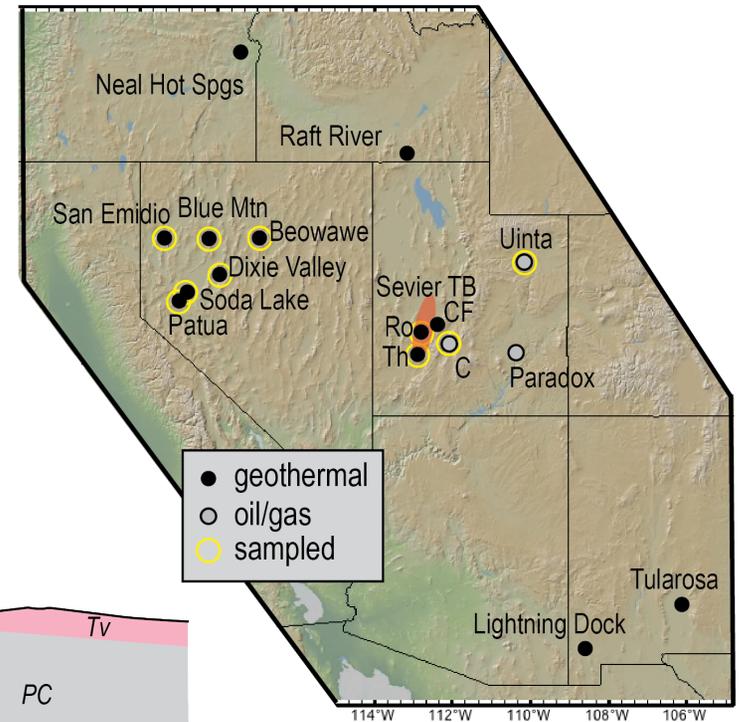
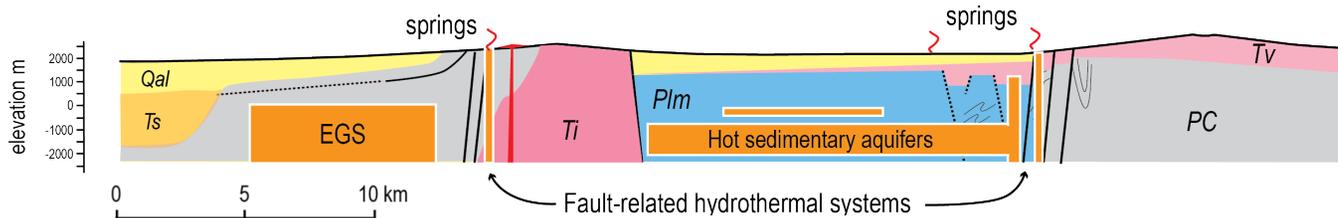


*Strategic, Critical and Valuable Materials  
Produced Waters-Geothermal & Oil-Gas Wells*

- metals: Ag, Co, Ga, Ge, In, Ir, Nb, Os,  
Pd, Pt, Re, Rh, Ru, Se, Te
- REE: Ce, Dy, Er, Eu, Gd, Ho, La, Lu,  
Pr, Nd, Sc, Sm, Tb, Tm, Y, Yb
- alkali metals : Li
- noble gases: He, <sup>3</sup>He



**Western USA Assessment of High Value  
Materials in Geothermal & Produced Fluids**

Project Officer: Holly Thomas  
Total Project Funding: \$606,701  
November 15, 2017

**Stuart Simmons**  
**EGI, University of Utah**

Mineral Recovery

## Objectives

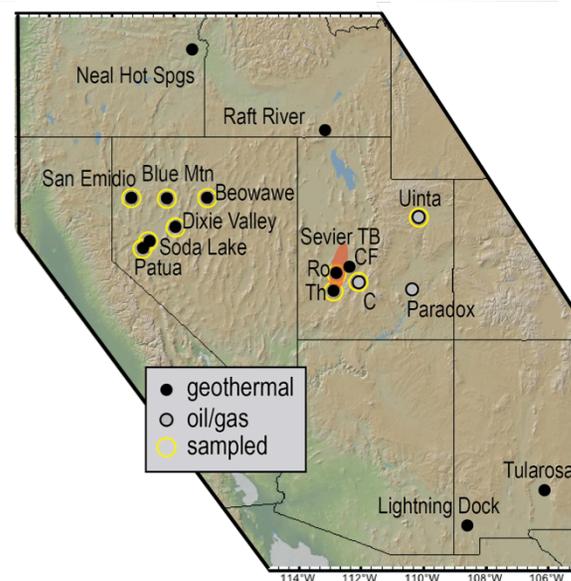
- Quickly build a public, western USA resource assessment of dissolved critical and high-value materials in production fields, using expertise in geologic regimes as well as sampling and analysis.
- Advance geothermal energy conversion processes by characterizing the concentrations and availabilities of SCVM in geothermal and hydrocarbon reservoirs in the western USA.
- Sample and analyze production fluids and rocks from a number of fields, ranging from 50-250° C.
- Integrate results with information on reservoir volumes to calculate the grades and inventories of strategic, critical, and valuable minerals (SCVM) across the Great Basin, in the Colorado Plateau, and in the Rio Grande Rift.

# Relevance to Industry Needs and GTO Objectives

- The results provide insights to chemical, thermal, and geological controls on dissolved SCVM.
- These data and interpretations are being compared to geological information of known SCVM deposits in the USA.
- The project aims to provide fundamental knowledge that may add revenue streams to production of intermediate to low grade geothermal resources, in addition to basic energy production

## *Strategic, Critical and Valuable Materials Produced Waters-Geothermal & Oil-Gas Wells*

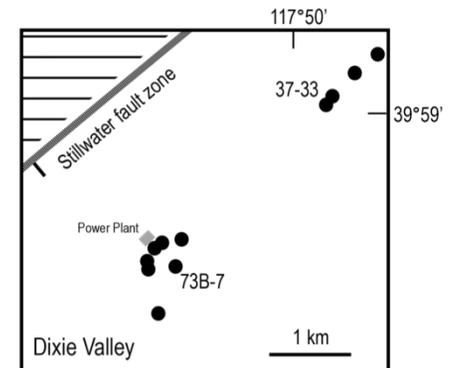
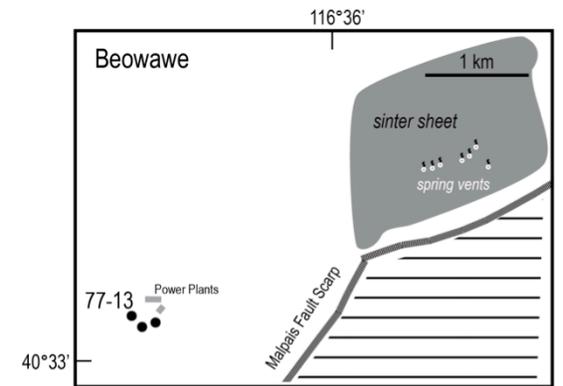
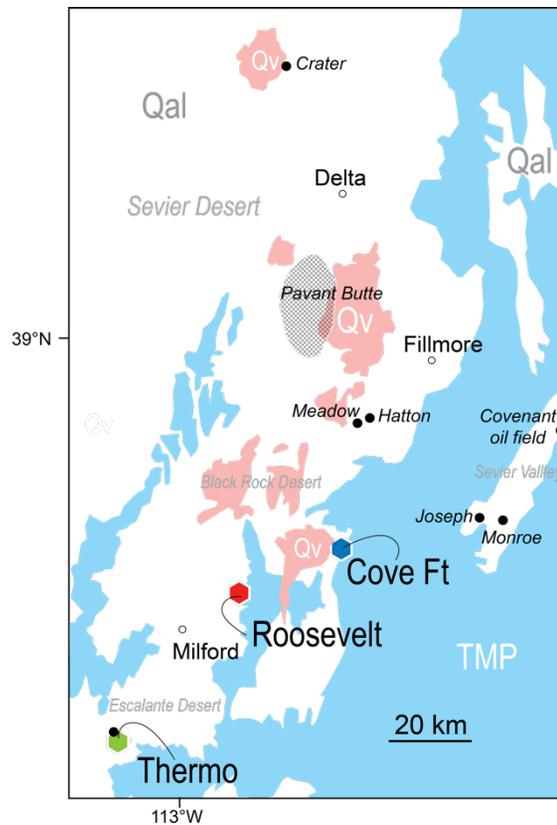
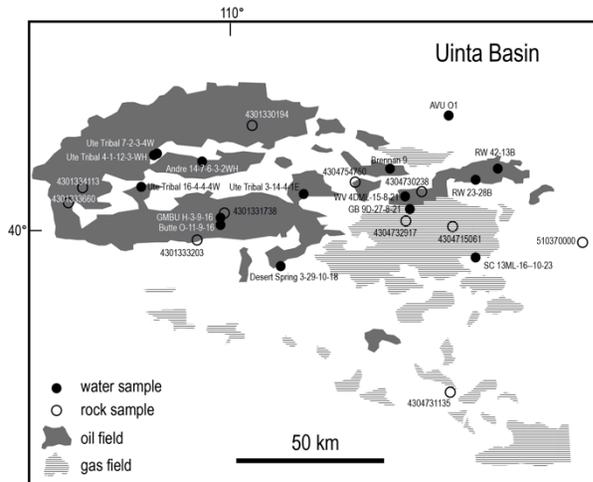
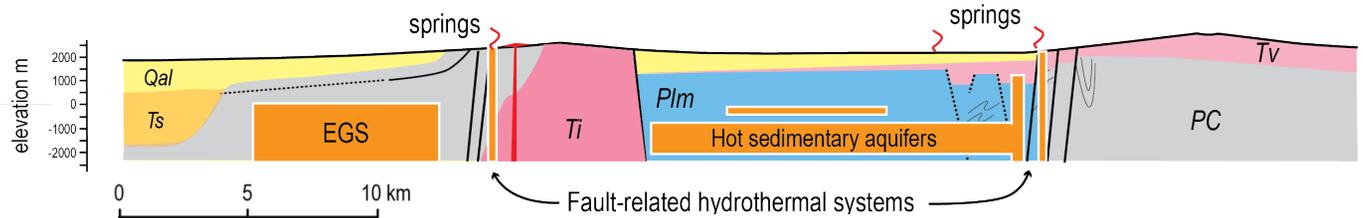
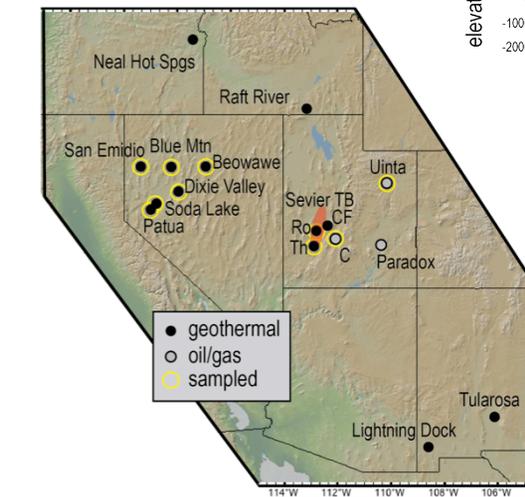
alkali metals :       Li  
noble gases:        He, <sup>3</sup>He  
metals:             Ag, Co, Ga, Ge, In, Ir, Nb, Os,  
Pd, Pt, Re, Rh, Ru, Se, Te  
REE:                Ce, Dy, Er, Eu, Gd, Ho, La, Lu,  
Pr, Nd, Sc, Sm, Tb, Tm, Y, Yb



- Sample and analyze production fluids and rocks from a number of fields, ranging from 50-250° C.
- Integrate concentration data with information on reservoir volumes to calculate the grades and inventories of SCVM in the Great Basin, the Colorado Plateau, and the Rio Grande Rift reservoirs.
- Evaluate the chemical, thermal, and geological controls on hydrothermal transport of SCVM through comparative analysis.
- Assess data and interpretations with geological information and origins of SCVM deposits in the USA and the rest of the world.

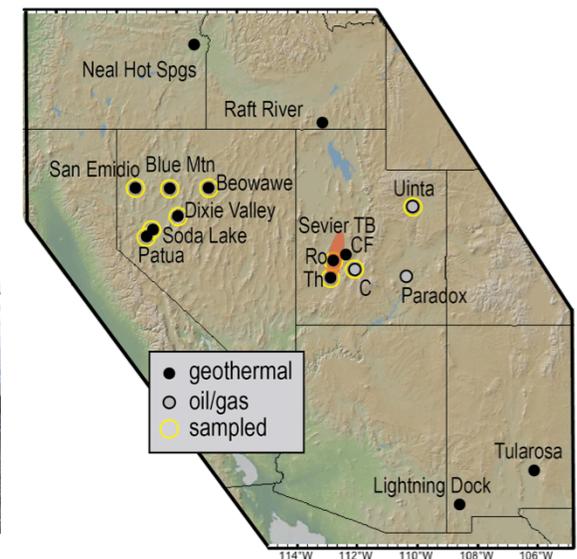
# Methods/Approach

## Study Areas



# Methods/Approach

- The inventories and grades of SCVM in geothermal reservoirs from eight sites in Nevada and Utah have been measured, calculated and tabulated.
- The inventories and grades of SCVM in the Uinta basin are measured, calculated, and tabulated.
- All first year Milestones achieved, all data uploaded to GDR



## Analytes-Fluids (48 samples)

Major species: pH, Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Cl, F, SO<sub>4</sub>, HCO<sub>3</sub>

Trace Elements: Rb, Sr, Cs, Al, Sc, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Y, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Cd, In, Sb, Te, Ta, W, Re, Ir, Pt, Au, Tl, Pb, U, Th

Gases: H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, He, Ar, N<sub>2</sub>

noble gas isotopes: <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He

### *University of Minnesota Geochemistry Lab*

Ion chromatography: Cl, F, SO<sub>4</sub>

ICP-OES: Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, SiO<sub>2</sub>

ICP-MS (HNO<sub>3</sub>-HCl-HF matrix): Ge, Sr, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, In, Sb, Te, Ta, W, Re, Ir, Pt & Au

ICP-MS (HNO<sub>3</sub> matrix): Al, Sc, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ga, As, Se, Rb, Y, Ag, Cd, Cs, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Tl, Pb, Th, & U

### *Utah Public Health Laboratory*

Alkalinity titration & electrode: pH & HCO<sub>3</sub>

### *University of New Mexico Geochemistry Lab*

Wet chemical titration: CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S,

Gas chromatography: CH<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, He, Ar, N<sub>2</sub>

### *University of Utah Noble Gas Lab*

Mass spectrometry: noble gases & <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He

## Analytes-Rocks (73 samples)

Lithology, Mineralogy, & Trace Elements:

Drill cuttings: Beowawe, Dixie Valley, & Roosevelt Hot Springs

Calcite scales: Dixie Valley

Travertine: Hatton-Sevier Thermal Belt

Drill core-reservoir & source rocks: Uinta Basin

Trace Elements: Sc, Co, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Y, Nb, Ru, Rh, Pd, In, Sb, Te, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Re, Ir, Pt, Au, Pb

*EGI University of Utah & University of Minnesota Geochemistry Lab*



Cove Ft-lava



RHS-granodiorite

Uinta Basin-organic rich carbonate



Beowawe



Dixie Valley



Dixie Valley-Scales

# Technical Accomplishments and Progress

- Report on concentrations & inventories of strategic, critical and valuable materials (SCVM) in geothermal & hydrocarbon reservoirs (50-250°C)
- 34 Production well sampled: 8 geothermal fields, Uinta Basin, Covenant oil field, hot springs in the Sevier Thermal Belt; Nevada-Utah.
- Most SCVM aqueous concentrations range from <0.1 to 100 ug/kg

Lithium	1000	to	25,000	ug/kg
Gallium	5	to	10,000	ug/kg
Germanium	2	to	200	ug/kg
Scandium	0.03	to	0.4	ug/kg
Selenium	1	to	80	ug/kg
Tellurium	0.1	to	100	ug/kg
Rhodium	0.1	to	6.0	ug/kg
Iridium	0.1	to	0.3	ug/kg
REEs-Uinta	0.05	to	5.0	ug/kg
REEs-Geothermal	<0.01			ug/kg

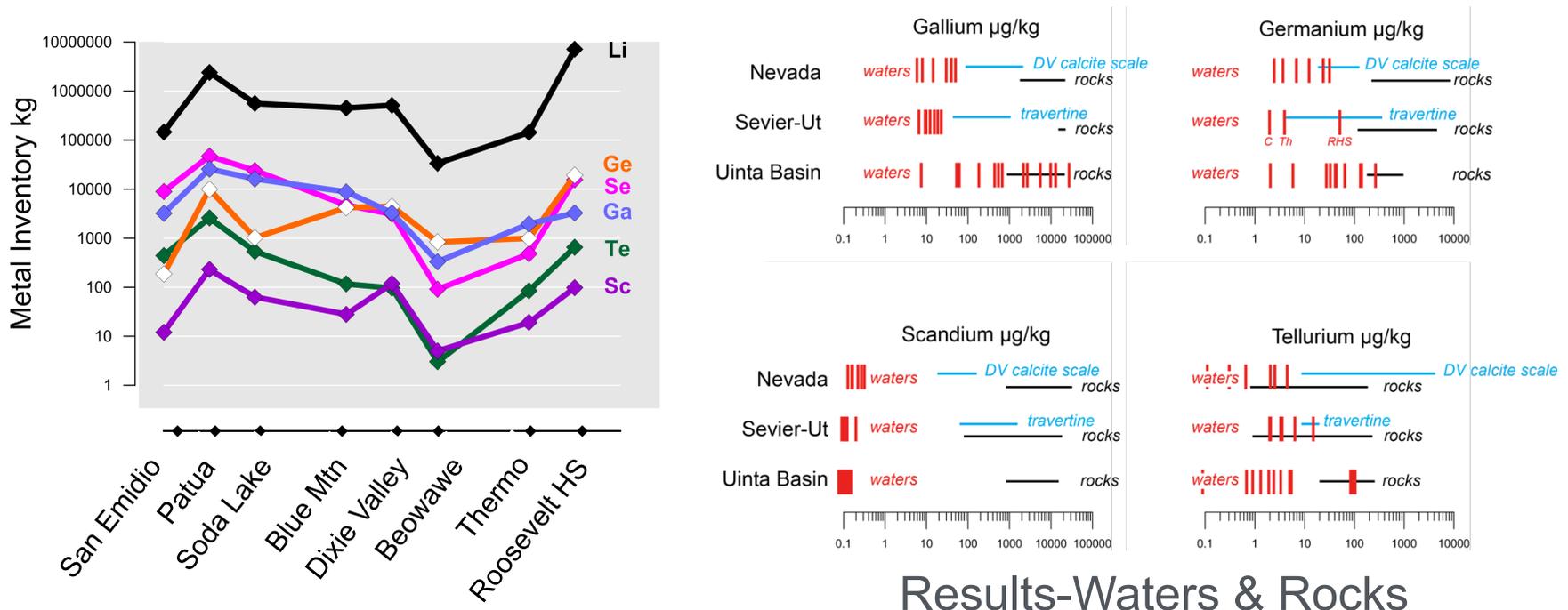
Analytical accuracy & precision above detection limits are to within 20%; except As, Ru, Rh, Sb, Te ~50%.

- Roosevelt Hot Springs: 20,000 kg Ge & 7,000,000 kg Li
- Patua: 25,000 kg Ga, 220 kg Sc, 47,000 kg Se & 6.5 kg Te
- Uinta: >100,000 kg Ga
- Ga, Ge, Li, Sc, Se, Te concentrations show moderate to strong correlation with temperature and TDS
- High Li in Roosevelt Hot Springs may relate to granitic-gneissic host rocks

All first year Milestones achieved, all data uploaded to GDR

# Technical Accomplishments and Progress

- Calcite scales (Dixie Valley) contain Co, Ga, Au, Pd, Se & Te-boiling
- Comparisons with SCVM deposits suggest brines enable aqueous transport of Ga, Ge, and Li
- Data compiled in 5 Tables-separate Excel Spreadsheets with multiple tabs:
  - Table 1. Field Characteristics
  - Table 2. Geochemistry produced fluids Nevada-Utah
  - Table 3. Geochemistry of Reservoir Rocks, and Calcite Scales, Nevada-Utah
  - Table 4. Lithology and Mineralogy of Drill Cuttings
  - Table 5. Geological Settings of Critical Metal Mineral Deposits.



Results-Waters & Rocks

# Technical Accomplishments and Progress

Original Planned Milestone/ Technical Accomplishment	Actual Milestone/Technical Accomplishment	Date Completed
1.1: Tabulated analytical results in produced thermal fluids from Nevada and Utah	1.1: Tabulated analytical results in produced thermal fluids from Nevada and Utah	8/17
1.2: Tabulated analytical results in reservoir rocks from Nevada and Utah.	1.2: Tabulated analytical results in reservoir rocks from Nevada and Utah.	8/17
1.3 Tabulated SCVM grades/inventories in Nevada and Utah geothermal reservoirs.	1.3 Tabulated SCVM grades/inventories in Nevada and Utah geothermal reservoirs.	8/17

# Technical Accomplishments and Progress

Original Planned Milestone/ Technical Accomplishment	Actual Milestone/Technical Accomplishment	Date Completed
2.1: Tabulated analytical results of fluids from the Sevier thermal belt.	2.1: Tabulated analytical results of fluids from the Sevier thermal belt.	8/17
2.2: Tabulated analytical results of rocks from the Sevier thermal belt.	2.2: Tabulated analytical results of rocks from the Sevier thermal belt.	8/17
2.3: Topical report on processes controlling SCVM hydrothermal transport in the Sevier thermal belt. Part 1	2.3: Topical report on processes controlling SCVM hydrothermal transport in the Sevier thermal belt. Part 1	8/17

# Technical Accomplishments and Progress

Original Planned Milestone/ Technical Accomplishment	Actual Milestone/Technical Accomplishment	Date Completed
3.1: Tabulated analytical results in formation fluids from Uinta basin	3.1: Tabulated analytical results in formation fluids from Uinta basin	8/17
3.2: Tabulated analytical results in reservoir rocks from Uinta basin.	3.2: Tabulated analytical results in reservoir rocks from Uinta basin.	8/17
3.3: Tabulated SCVM grade/inventory for Uinta basin	3.3: Tabulated SCVM grade/inventory for Uinta basin	8/17
4.1: Topical report on comparison of results with other SCVM deposits. Part 1	4.1: Topical report on comparison of results with other SCVM deposits. Part 1	6/17

- A paper on preliminary results will be presented at the Stanford Geothermal Workshop
- There are no efforts underway to transition technology to the private sector, as this project involves resource assessment only.

# Future Directions

- Execute year two planned activities, including sampling and analysis of fluids from Neal Hot Springs, Raft River, Lightning Dock, Tularosa, and the Paradox Basin, as summarized in the milestones tabulated below.

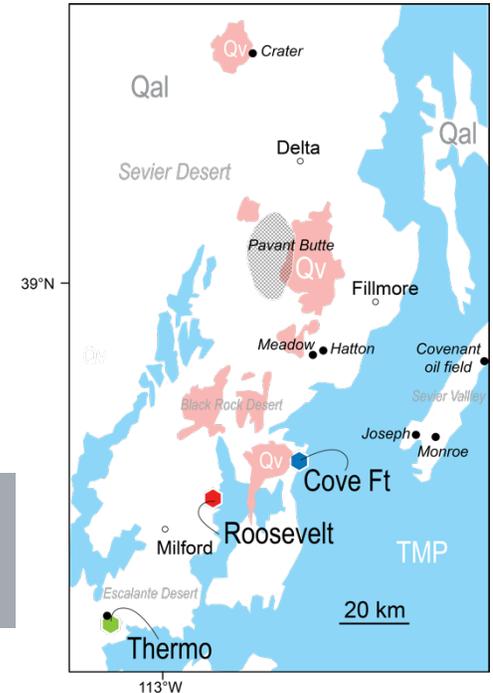
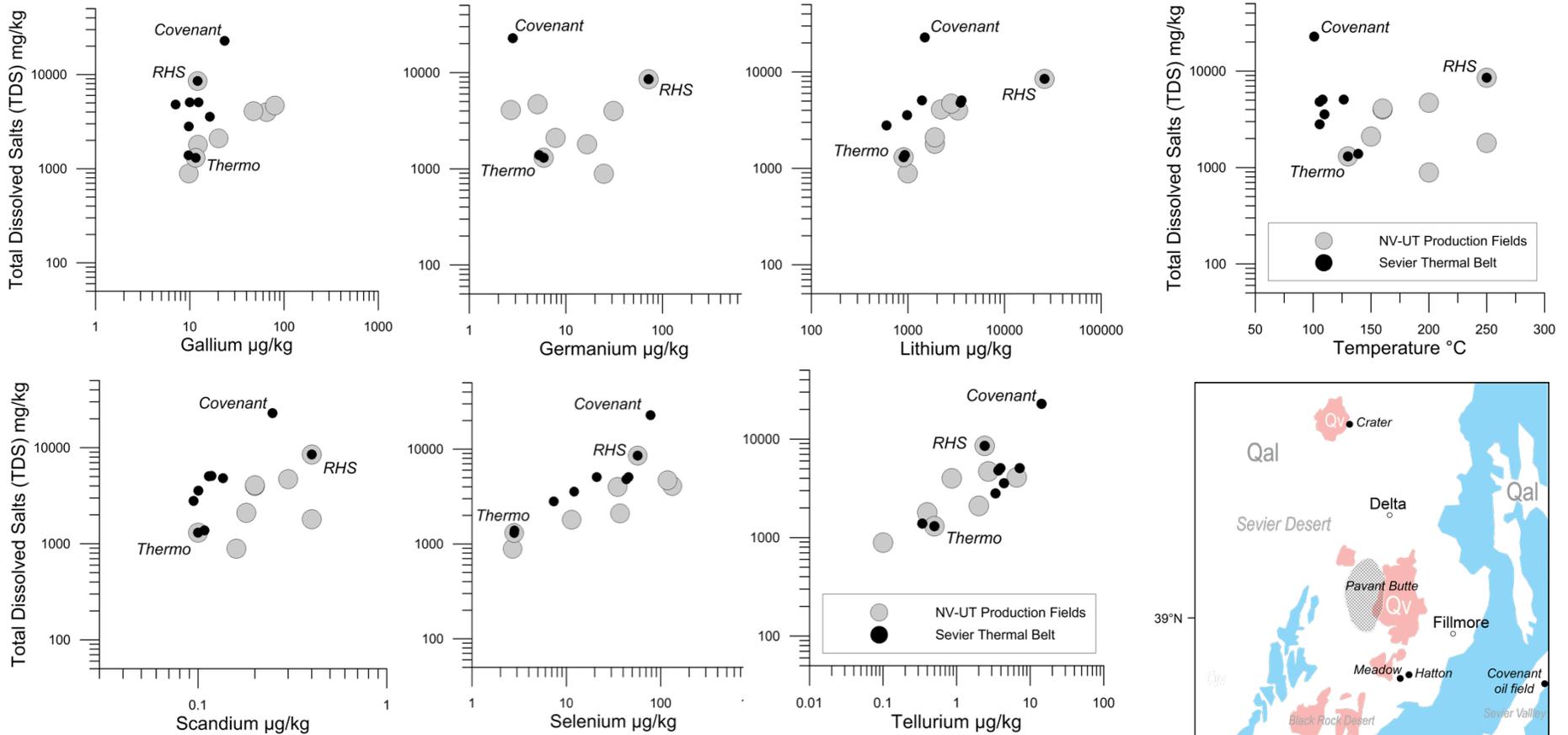
Milestone or Go/No-Go	Status & Expected Completion Date
5.1: Tabulated analytical results in produced thermal fluids from Idaho, New Mexico, and Oregon	field work is underway; 4/18
5.2: Tabulated SCVM grades/inventories in Idaho, New Mexico, and Oregon geothermal reservoirs	waiting for samples and analyses; 6/18
6.1: Topical report on processes controlling SCVM hydrothermal transport in the Sevier thermal belt. Part 2.	analysis is underway; 1/18

# Future Directions

Milestone or Go/No-Go	Status & Expected Completion Date
7.1: Tabulated analytical results in formation fluids from Paradox basin.	field work is underway; 4/18
7.2: Tabulated analytical results in reservoir rocks from Paradox basin	waiting for samples and analyses; 6/18
7.3: Tabulated SCVM grade/inventory for Paradox basin	waiting to complete 7.1 & 7.2; 1/18
8.1: Topical report on comparison of results with other SCVM deposits. Part 2	analysis in progress; 6/18

- All year one milestones achieved, including sampling, analysis, and preliminary interpretation of results from 8 geothermal fields (NV-UT) and the Uintah basin
- No impediments to completing year two milestones, including sampling, analysis, and interpretation of results from 4 geothermal fields (ID, NM, OR) and the Paradox basin.

# Additional Information



- Te shows strongest correlation with TDS (Covenant), followed by Sc & Se
- Li shows strong correlation with TDS, omitting Covenant
- Ga & Ge show poor correlation with TDS