

Effectiveness of shallow temperatures surveys to target a geothermal reservoir at previously explored site at McGee Mountain, Nevada

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Project Start Date: January 15, 2010

Project End Date: March 31, 2012

Percent Complete: 10%

Total Project Funding: \$3,277,851

– DOE Share: \$1,609,275

– GP Share: \$1,668,576

– Funding for 2009: \$0

– Funding for 2010: \$510,391

Challenges This Project Addresses

- High geothermal exploration risk and up-front costs
- Confirm additional geothermal energy capacity

Project Objectives

- To evaluate the cost-effectiveness of two innovative technologies in early-stage geothermal exploration:
 - a) shallow (2m) survey
 - b) hydroprobe
- Identify a geothermal resource at the project site

Shallow temperature surveys

- Measures temperature at 2m depth: below the zone of most solar thermal variation
- Quick, cheap, portable
- Can delineate shallow outflow and steam-heated fault zones
- Thermal anomaly can be masked by shallow groundwater
- Not suitable for bedrock terrains

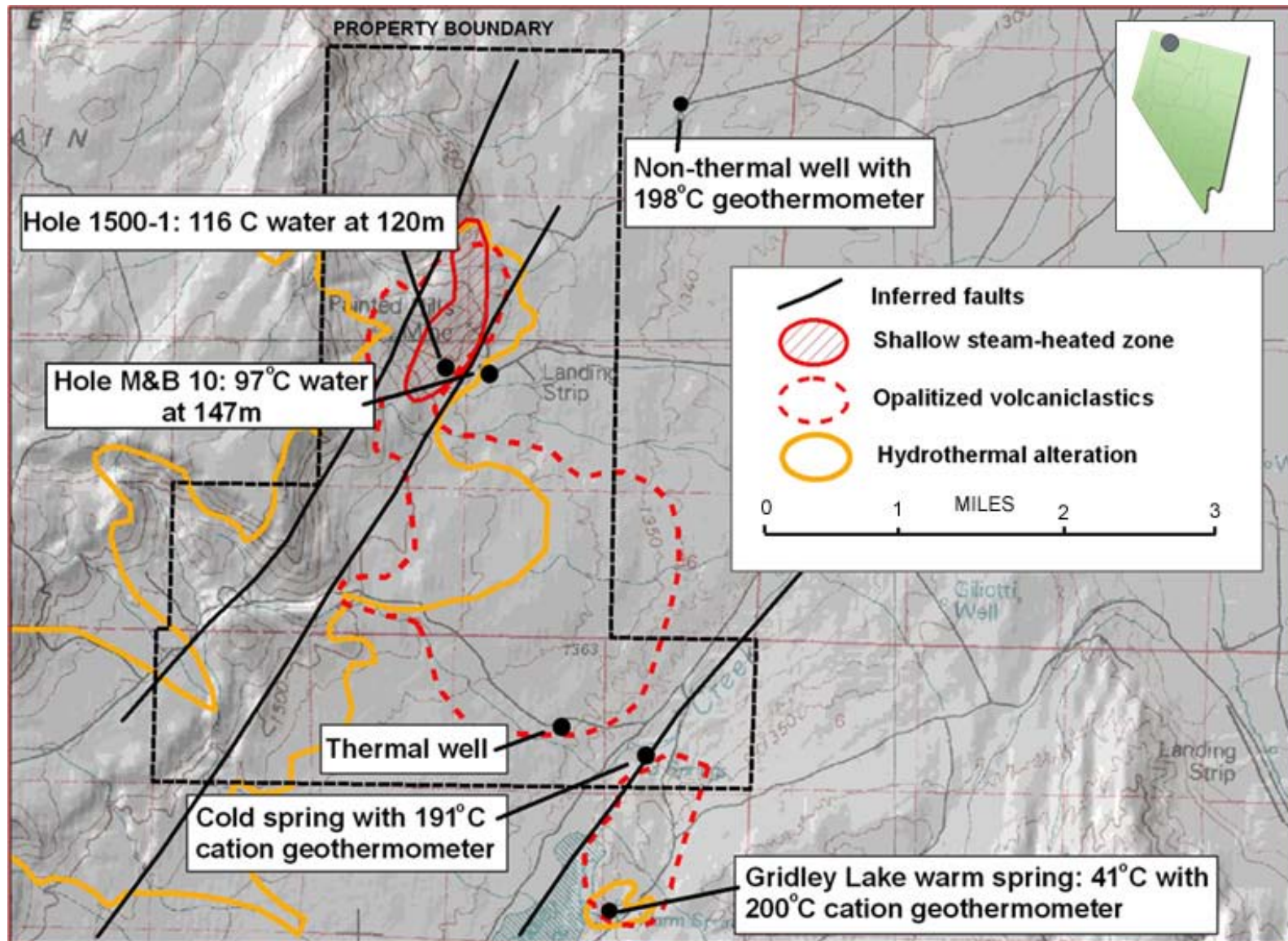


Hydroprobe

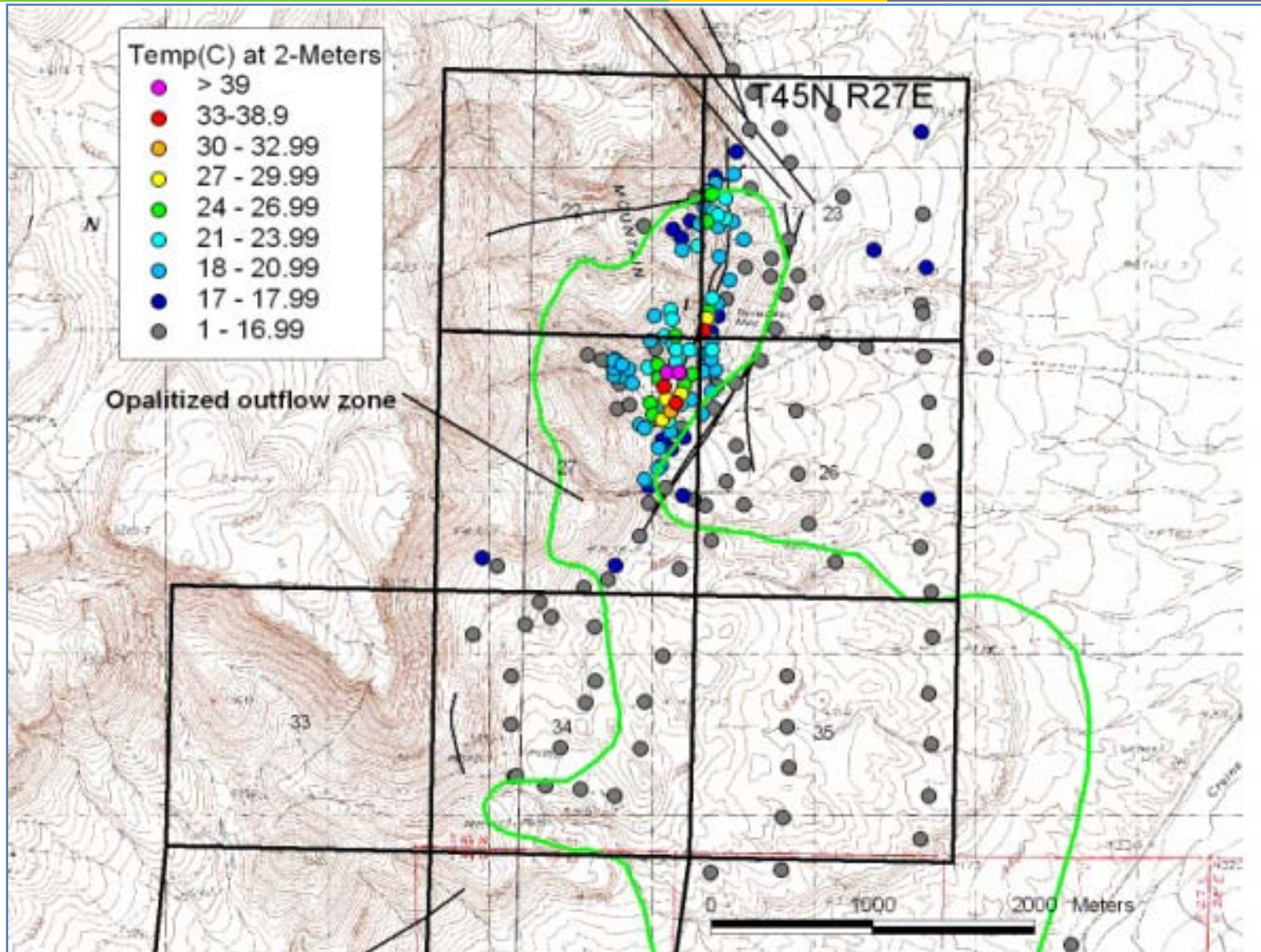
- Direct push technology on 1 1/2" hollow tube up to 50m depth
- Easy to permit, leaves little impact
- Groundwater sampling for geochemistry/geothermometry
- RTD placement for cheap temperature gradient measurements
- Confined to roads
- Not suitable for bedrock terrains

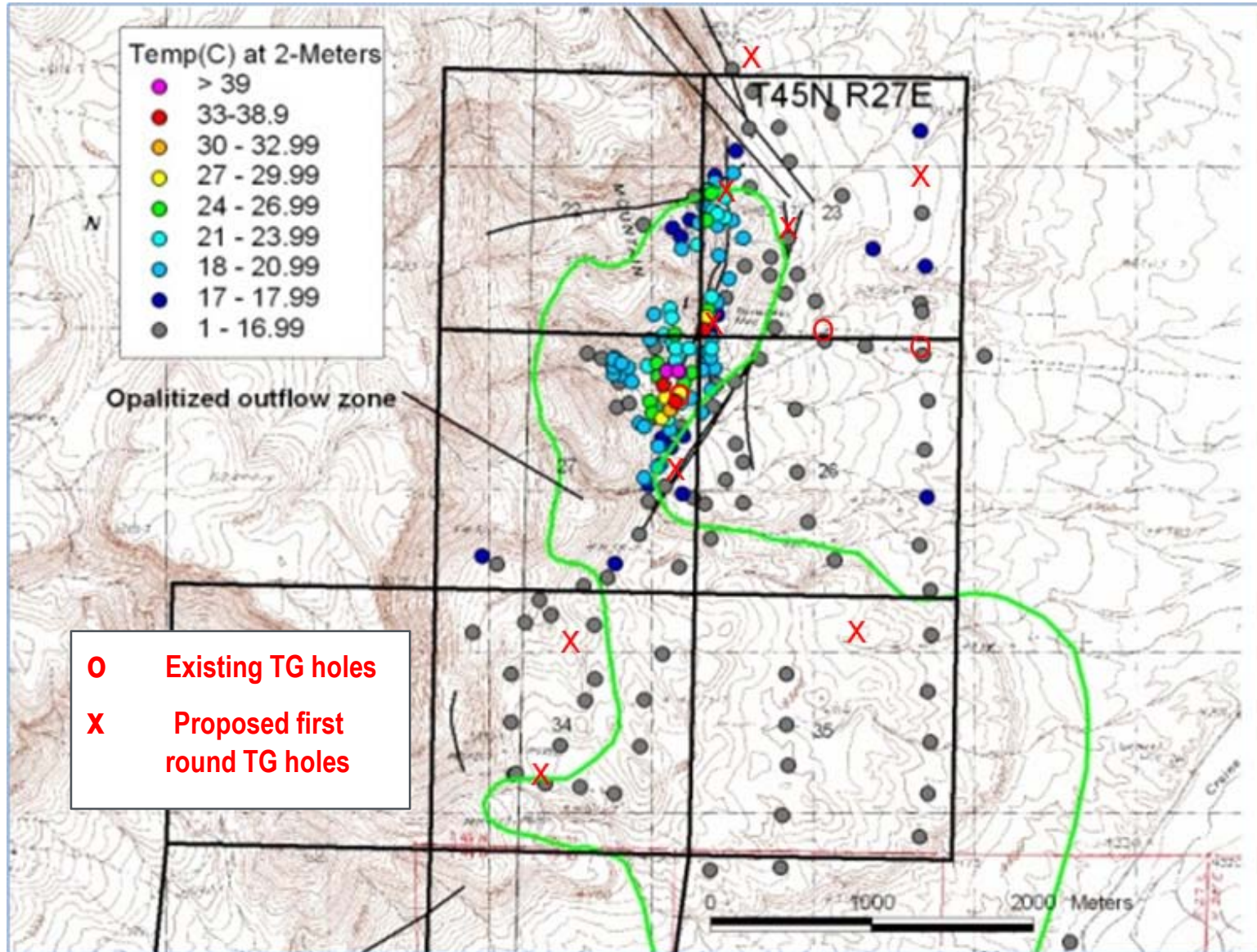


McGee Mountain Site Description



McGee shallow (2m) thermal anomaly



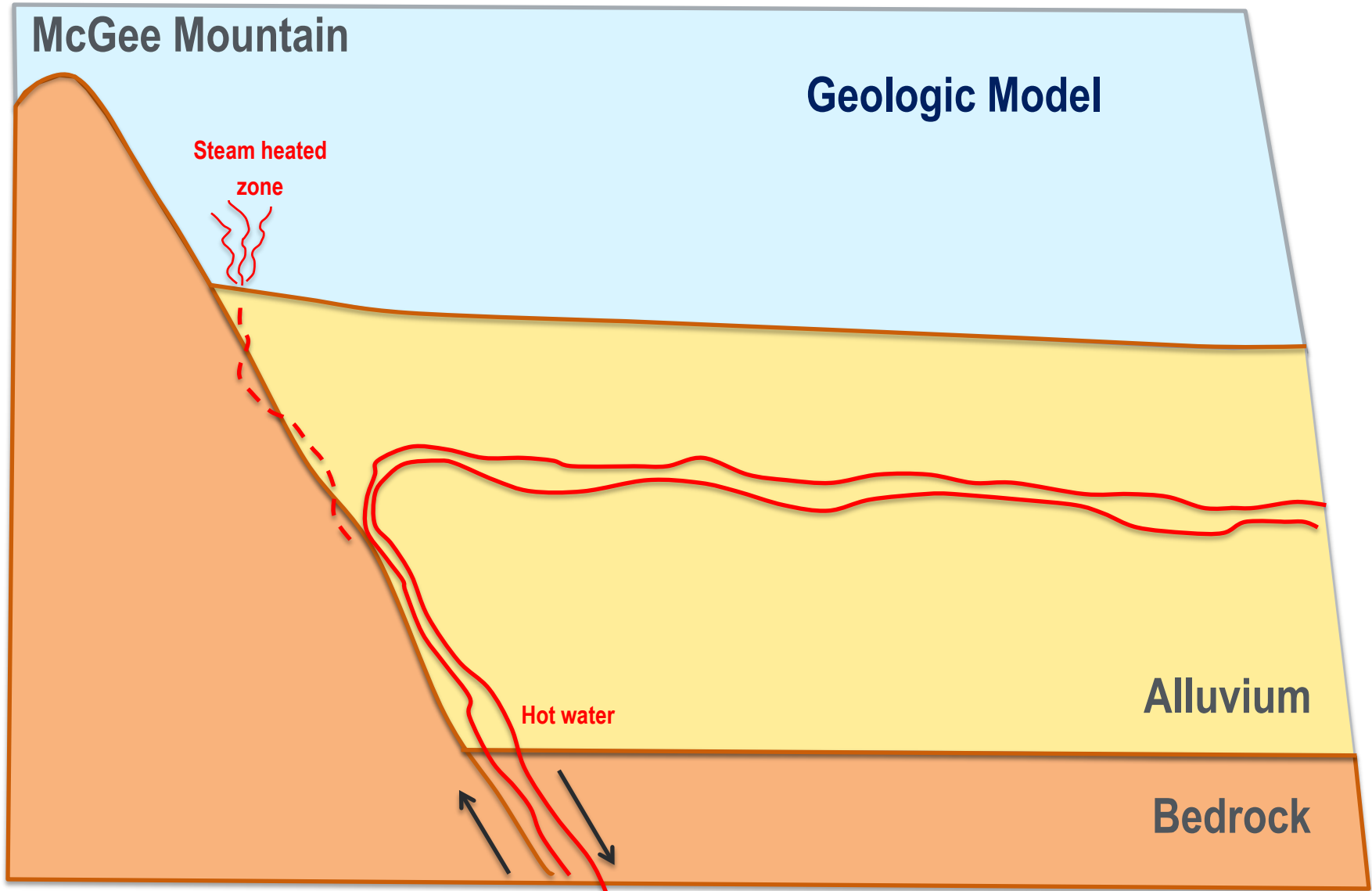


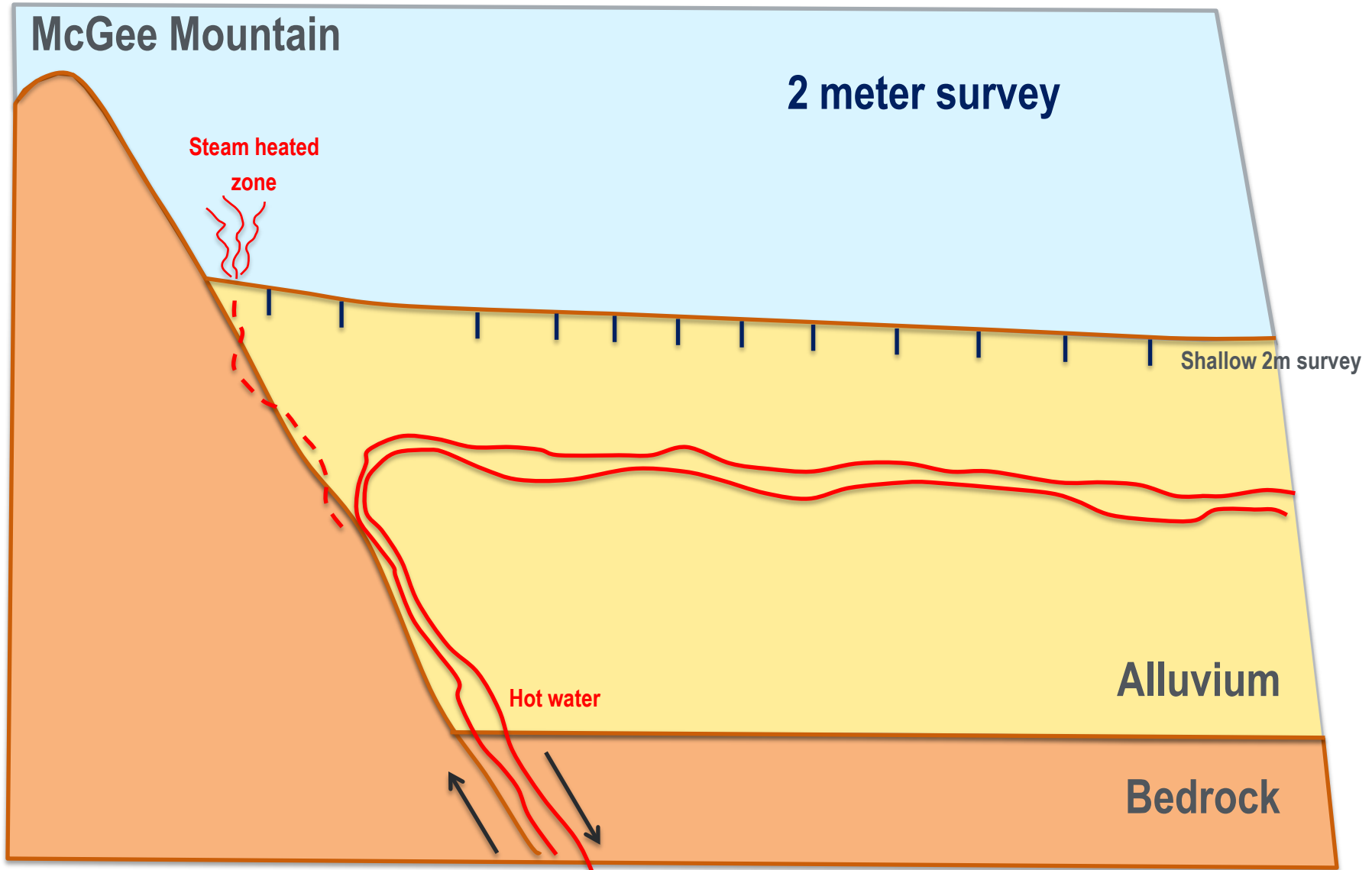
Project Steps and Timeline

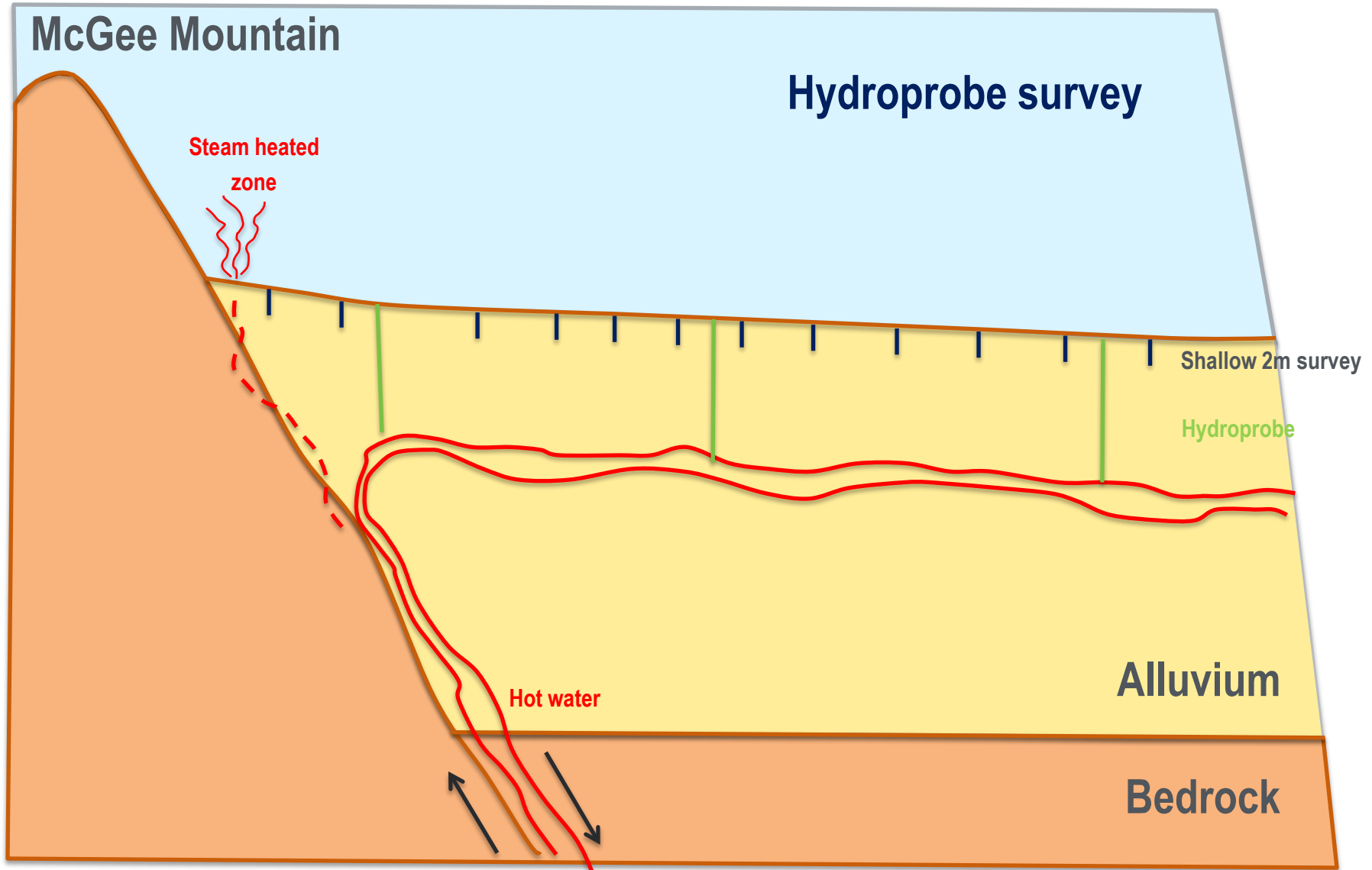
1. Compile legacy and current data into a GIS (completed)
2. Run shallow (2m) temperature survey (completed)
3. Perform closely-spaced gravity survey (completed)
4. Complete hydroprobe survey (May-June 2010)
5. Temperature gradient drilling: 14 200m holes in two separate programs (August and November 2010)

Go – No Go Decision Point

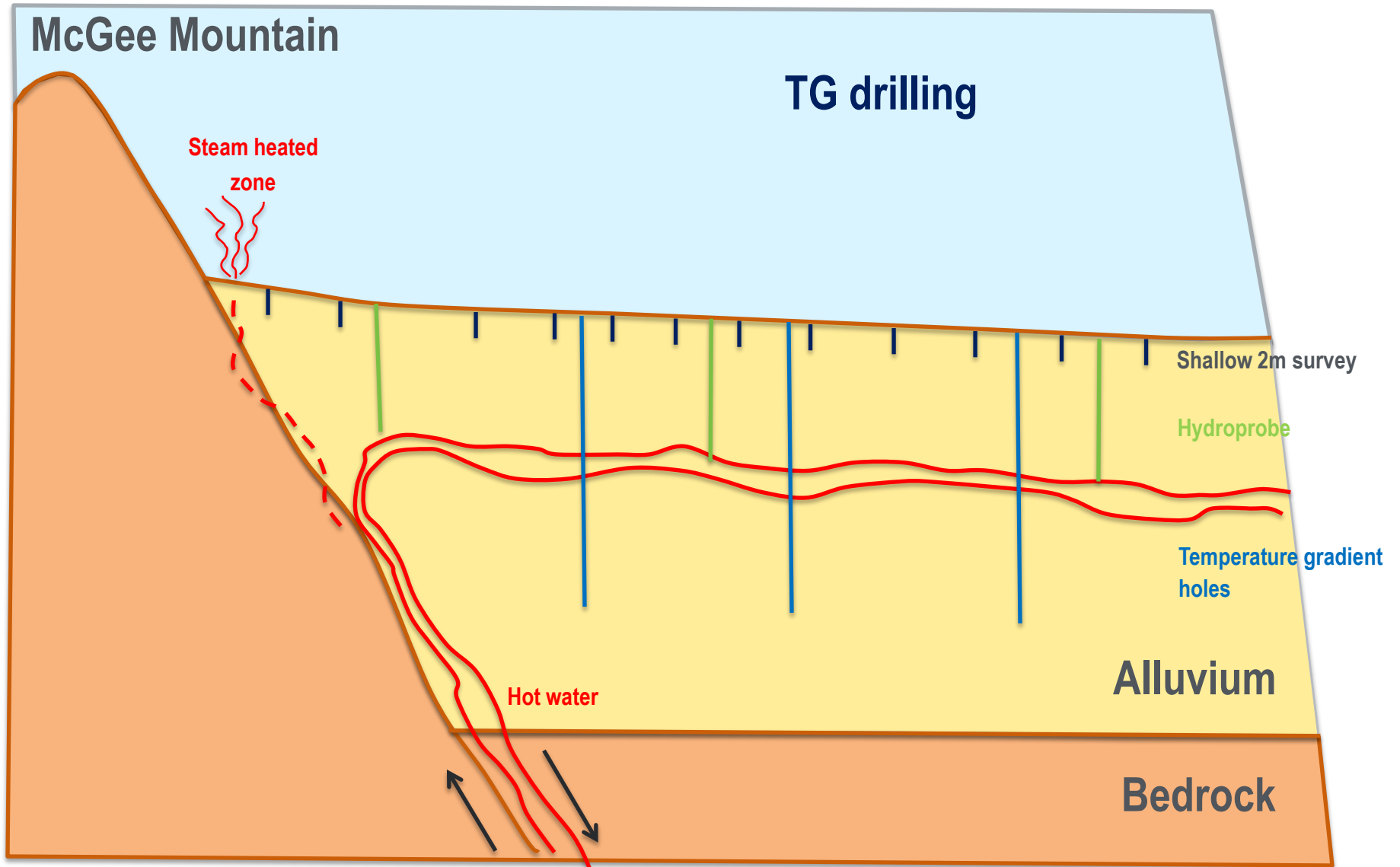
1. Two resource conformation wells “slim holes” to penetrate inferred reservoir (Summer 2011)
2. Site reclamation (late summer 2011)
3. Data compilation and write-up (March 2012)

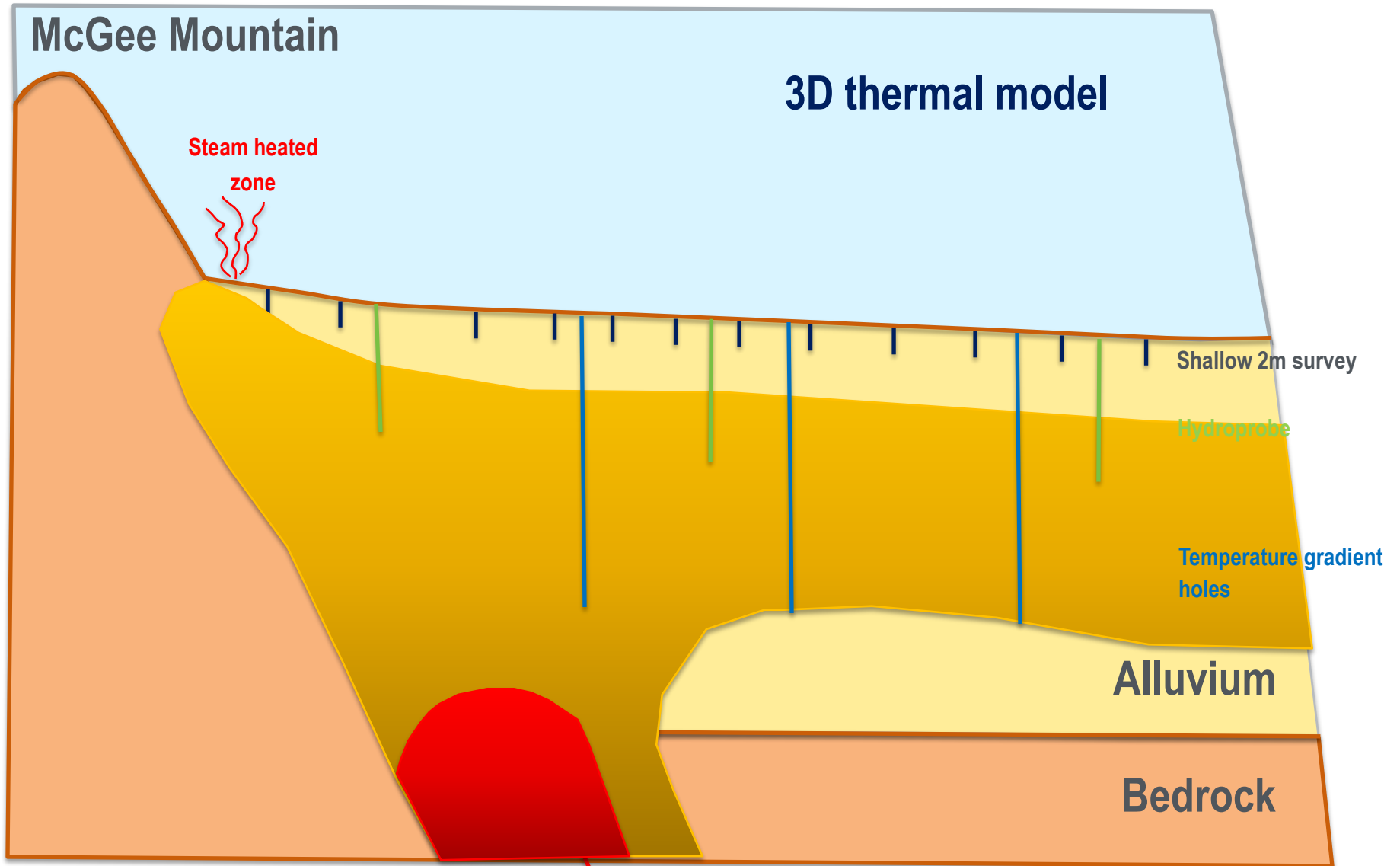


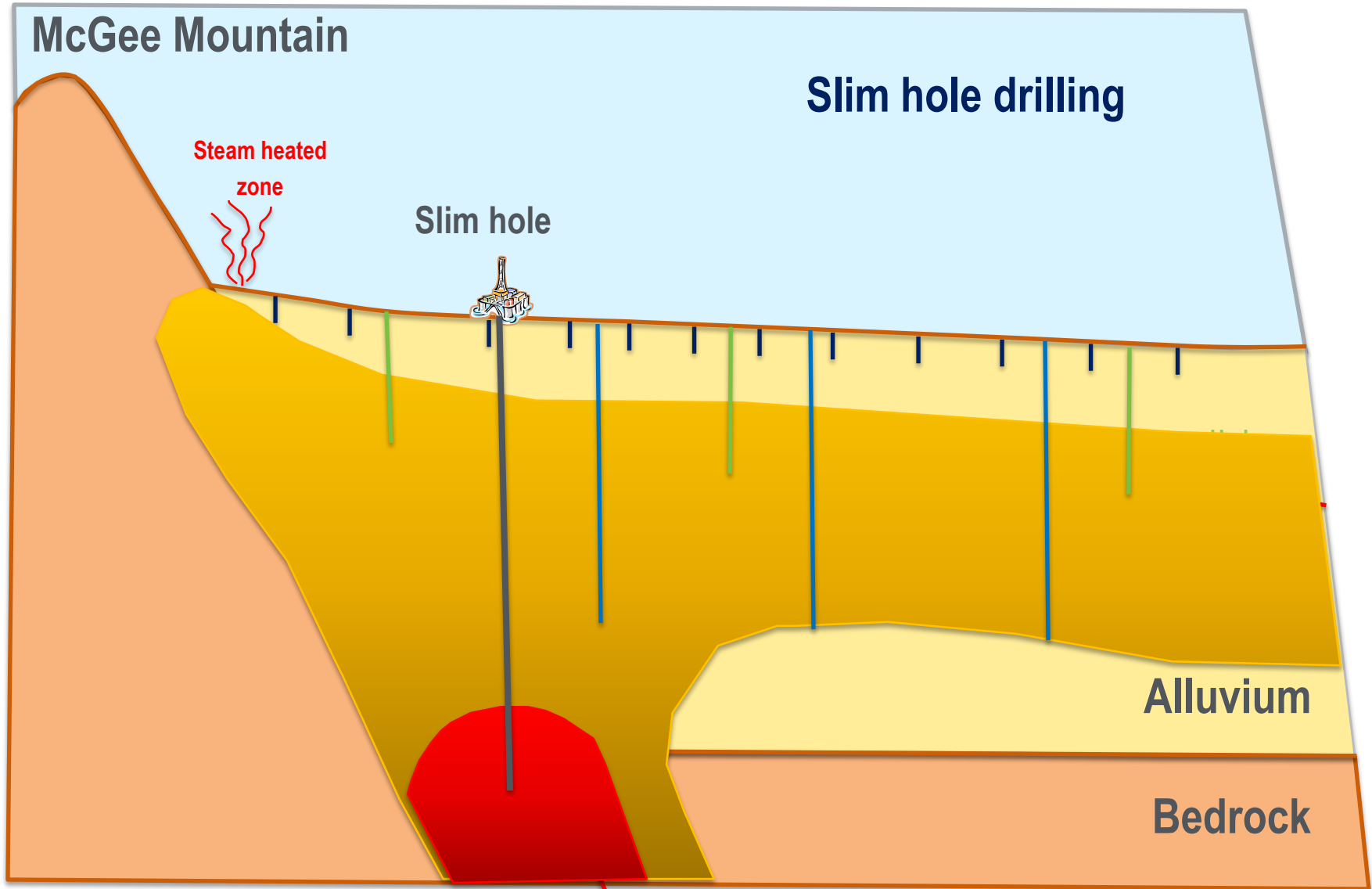




Expected Outcomes







ITEM	DATE	Cost DOA/TTL	COMMENTS
Shallow (2m) survey	8/2008	NA	Completed
Existing data into GIS	6/2009	NA	Completed
Closely spaced gravity survey	1/2010	\$0K/\$16K	Delayed 2 mo. but completed 3/2010
Hydroprobe survey	1/2010	\$20K/\$40K	Delayed 4 mo. until 5/2010 due to funding, technical issues
First round TG drilling	6/2010	\$110K/\$220K	Delayed 2 mo. until 8/2010 due to funding, permitting issues
Second round TG drilling	9/2010	\$62K/\$122K	Delayed 2 mo. until 11/2010 due to permitting issues
Decision point to continue program	11/2010		
Resource confirmation holes and flow test	8/2011	\$1,284K/\$1,619K	
Site reclamation	11/2011		
Report writing	3/2012		

- Shallow temperature surveys have the potential to reduce costs and thus risk in early stage geothermal exploration
- DOE funds for the McGee Mountain project will be used to:
 1. Determine the relationship between the shallow thermal anomaly and the underlying conditions that caused it
 2. Document advantages and limitations of these technologies
 3. Quantify \$ savings these surveys provide as compared to conventional exploration technology
 4. Hopefully, discover a geothermal resource at McGee Mountain
- 1-2 publications describing the work, plus conclusions
- Data generated from this project will be sent to the National Geothermal Database