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# Geothermometry of Two Cascade Geothermal Systems

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Geothermometry of Two Cascade Geothermal Systems

by

Donnel Alexander Malkemus

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

> Master of Science in Geology

Thesis Committee: Robert B. Perkins, Chair Max Rudolph Carl Palmer

Portland State University 2016

#### **ABSTRACT**

For this thesis I applied classical and multi-component geothermometry techniques to new water chemistry data from Breitenbush Hot Springs, Oregon and the Wind River Valley, Washington. A total of 20 well, spring, and stream samples from Breitenbush Hot Springs and 4 spring samples from the Wind River Valley were collected and analyzed for major, minor, and select trace anions and cations, as well as stable oxygen and hydrogen isotopes. I used two computer programs, GeoT and RTEst, to conduct multicomponent geothermometry reservoir condition estimation on each water sample. Water chemistry data from Breitenbush Hot Springs indicates a range of thermal, nonthermal, and mixed waters in wells and springs. Isotope data from Breitenbush Hot Springs indicates that thermal water is a mix between "andesitic waters" (6-10%) and meteoric water (90-94%) from the crest of the Oregon Cascades. Classical and multi-component geothermometry conducted for Breitenbush samples for this thesis suggest a reservoir temperature of approximately 137 °C, which is close to the bottom hole temperature recorded in the nearby 2,457 meter deep SUNEDCO well of 141 °C, but contrasts with previous applications of geothermometry which estimate a reservoir temperature between 170 and 180 °C for the system. Reservoir estimates from this thesis for the Wind River Valley hot spring samples range from 80 to 100 °C, which is consistent with previous studies. Multi-component geothermometry optimization indicates a loss of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  (i.e. degassing) during the water's ascent at both Breitenbush Hot Springs and the Wind River

Valley, and that dilution from nonthermal water occurs in some samples from both areas. Multi-component geothermometry estimates were generally consistent between RTEst and GeoT; inconsistencies were primarily due to differences between the thermodynamic databases used for each program.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Interest in the development of geothermal resources for power generation in the Pacific Northwest has grown in recent years, in part due to mandated targets for renewable energy use from both federal and state governments (Grainey, 2014). In Oregon, geothermal power production is currently limited to sites east of the Cascade Mountains, with four active geothermal power plants and active exploration at several other central and eastern Oregon locations (Sifford, 2014). Elsewhere in the state, thermal waters are used directly as spas and to heat buildings, and radiant earth heating and cooling systems are widespread in urban areas. The success of eastern Oregon geothermal power projects has re-invigorated interest in identifying other areas of Oregon and Washington that could be developed as a geothermal resource.

The Cascade Range has been recognized for its geothermal energy development potential (Hook, 2005). However, this potential has been overshadowed by its challenges, which include the presence of cool, abundant meteoric water, and the apparently small, disconnected nature of the known hydrothermal systems (Guffanti and Muffler, 1995). In addition, despite indications of steep geothermal gradients, the maximum observed water temperatures in deep borings in the Cascades Range are generally less than the desired temperature for a traditional flash-steam power plant. Recent innovations in geothermal power development such as more efficient low temperature, binary phase power plants, and enhanced geothermal systems have the

potential to overcome some of these challenges. In addition to innovations to larger-scale infrastructure development, the tools associated with assessing geothermal potential have also improved, in part due to the advances in computational ability. One field of inquiry that has profited from these developments is geothermometry, the ability to estimate geothermal reservoir temperatures from surface water chemistry data.

This thesis describes the application of geothermometry to two Cascade geothermal systems in an attempt to understand how recent developments in chemical numerical modeling can improve estimates of reservoir characteristics in the Cascade Range. The first geothermal system considered, Breitenbush Hot Springs, profits from a large number of historical studies regarding the region's geothermal potential, including the drilling of numerous deep boreholes and acquisition of thermal gradient data. These data can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the geothermometric estimates. The second geothermal system, the Wind River Valley, has less data and provides an opportunity to apply the new geothermometers to a less constrained system.

A variety of geothermometers are used for this study, including two automated multi-component geothermometry computer codes. Disparity between the results of the various geothermometers allows for an assessment of their relative efficacies as well as environmental conditions that may affect their results. I present a detailed description of the geothermometers used in this study, as well as their history and evolution in the following section, followed by relevant background information for both study areas considered. I then discuss the methods used in field data collection, laboratory analysis,

and application of quantitative geothermometers. This section is followed by a summary and discussion of results, with separate sections for both of the study areas. I finish by summarizing the conclusions of this thesis.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

#### **2.1 Geothermometry**

The original use of the term geothermometry seemed to simply refer to any indication of high temperature with depth (White, 1970). On a theoretical level, this can include large structural or topographic features such as the presence of an active volcano or an active system of extensional tectonics. More localized theoretical indicators might include hot springs or vent systems. The first applied geothermometers were indicators that provided only slightly more specific information than did these geologic features. These so-called qualitative geothermometers included anomalous elemental concentrations or elemental ratios in soil, water, or vapor. Examples of qualitative geothermometers include the enrichment of B,  $NH_4$ ,  $HCO_3$ ,  $Hg$ , or  $H_2S$  in surface waters, the ratios of Cl/F or Cl/SO4 in water or gas, or the presence of Hg in soil (Fournier, 1977). Quantitative geothermometers are methods for generating specific estimates of geothermal reservoir temperatures from surface or well (gas and/or liquid) geochemical data. This section focuses on the development and application of quantitative geothermometers (hereafter geothermometers) that are applied in liquid dominated systems.

The underlying principle of geothermometry is that waters attain chemical equilibrium with host rocks of deep-seated geothermal reservoirs with which they are in

contact, and that the processes governing this equilibrium are temperature dependent. The following five underlying assumptions are typically applied in geothermometry (Fournier, 1977):

- 1. Reactions between host rock and water fix a certain amount of an indicator in the water.
- 2. These reactions are governed by thermodynamic equilibrium.
- 3. There is a sufficient reactive mass of the mineral(s) to allow for equilibrium and enough time elapses in order to achieve equilibrium.
- 4. Re-equilibration of the indicator does not occur during its ascent from the reservoir to the surface.
- 5. No mixing of waters occurs between the reservoir and the surface.

There is no fundamental law of chemistry or physics that establishes any of these assumptions to be true; however, the general accumulation of information from geothermal sites has led to consistent demonstration that equilibrium conditions are likely to be present, thus promoting the continued use of quantitative geothermometry and its assumptions (Arnórsson, 2000). During application of geothermometry, it is possible to test the validity of each assumption.

#### **2.1.1 Classical Geothermometers**

The study of geothermometry resulted from laboratory investigations into the solubility of quartz at various temperatures and pressures (particularly high temperature, high pressure) in the 1940s and 1950s (Walther and Helgeson, 1977). Various geochemical models were developed to fit equations describing silica speciation to the observed laboratory solubility measurements (Walther and Helgeson, 1977). It is from these models that the idea of geothermometry seems to have grown. If certain concentrations of aqueous silica can be predicted at certain temperatures, then it stands to reason that temperatures can be predicted by silica concentrations. The earliest applications of quantitative geothermometry to geothermal environments appear to have been in 1966, at wells drilled in Wairaki, New Zealand (Mahon, 1966), and at hot springs in Yellowstone National park (Fournier and Rowe, 1966). Both studies were based on quartz solubility with temperature curves developed by Morey et al. (1962). Estimated temperatures from silica concentrations at the Wairaki well were 246 to 252°C, which closely resembled a maximum measured borehole temperature of 250°C (Mahon, 1966). Estimated temperatures in Yellowstone exceeded maximum borehole temperatures, but drilling was stopped before the maximum temperature had been reached (Fournier and Rowe, 1966). These early examples of success seemed to demonstrate that quartz solubility measurements conducted in pure water in a laboratory environment underwent the same processes as did highly mineralized water at depth, which encouraged the continued study and refinement of geothermometers (Fournier and Rowe, 1966). By the 1970s, several quantitative geothermometers had been developed, and silica geothermometers were applied in various environments and consistently improved to

match new analytical data and actual field observations. The following sections describe several classical geothermometers that are used for comparison purposes in this thesis.

#### *2.1.1.1 Geothermometry of Fournier*

Several geothermometers were proposed by Robert Fournier in the 1970s for different cations and cation ratios (Fournier and Truesdell, 1970; Fournier and Truesdell, 1973; Truesdell and Fournier, 1976; Fournier, 1977; Fournier and Potter, 1979). All of these geothermometers were based on empirical fitting of curves to data. Equations relating temperature to solubility for quartz and its polymorphs were summarized in Fournier, 1977. The following equations for amorphous silica, β-cristobalite, αcristobalite, and chalcedony are still applied in geothermal investigations:

Amorphous Silica: 
$$
T = \frac{731}{4.52 - \log 5}
$$

$$
\beta \text{ Cristobalite: } T = \frac{781}{4.51 - \log S}
$$

$$
\alpha \text{ Cristobalite: } T = \frac{1000}{4.78 - \log S}
$$

Chalcedony: 
$$
T = \frac{1032}{4.69 - \log 5}
$$

Where T is temperature in K and S is silica concentration as  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  in mg/kg.

In addition to silica, other cations were beginning to be assessed for their potential use as geothermometers. In 1979, Fournier and Potter published a version of a Na, Ca,

and K geothermometer that is still in use (Fournier and Potter, 1979). The justification behind this alkali geothermometer is essentially that of equilibrium with feldspars related to the equilibrium equation (Fournier and Truesdell, 1973):

$$
K^+
$$
 + Na feldspar = Na<sup>+</sup> + K feldspar

Simply comparing Na to K was found to be problematic because experimental results of their relationship with temperature varied depending on which of the various minerals containing these elements were used for the basis of the reaction (Fournier and Truesdell, 1973). Although not necessarily involved in each reaction, it was observed that the addition of Ca to the Na/K equations resulted in a more predictive temperature estimate. It was suggested that Ca competes with both K and Na, but has a relatively greater effect on the abundance of K than Na in warmer waters, due to the higher general ratio of Na/K (i.e. there is less K so any missing is more noticeable). In lower temperature environments, there is generally less of both elements, so Ca competes with both elements with less apparent bias (Fournier and Truesdell, 1973). The resultant equation was determined to be:

$$
T = \frac{1647}{\log\left(\frac{Na}{K}\right) + \beta \log\left(\frac{\sqrt{Ca}}{Na}\right) + 2.24}
$$

Where Na, K, and Ca are the molal concentrations of sodium, potassium, and calcium, respectively, T is temperature in K, and β is either  $1/3$  or  $4/3$  depending on the log ratio of  $\frac{\sqrt{c}a}{Na}$  and the resultant temperature estimate (Fournier and Truesdell, 1973). Figure 1

shows the fit between the Na-K-Ca geothermometer and the data on which it is based.



**Figure 1:** The fit between the Na-K-Ca geothermometer and chemical data, from Fournier, 1977.

This estimate was found to work well for high temperature systems and poorly for low temperature, magnesium-rich systems, which tended to drastically overestimate temperatures. For example, an analysis of ocean water resulted in an estimated "reservoir" temperature of 173°C (Fournier and Potter, 1979). It was observed that Mg was generally present in low concentrations in high temperature geothermal waters and relatively high concentrations in lower temperature waters. Initially both meteoric and

acidic magmatic waters will preferentially dissolve Mg bearing minerals; however, once pH and temperature reach stable conditions for Mg bearing chlorites and clays, the waters tend to show relative depletion of Mg as the minerals precipitate (Arnórsson, 2000). With this in mind, the equations were again corrected, this time to include Mg. The application of the Mg correction involved first calculating the ratio of Mg to Mg +  $Ca +$ K. If this ratio was high (R, defined below, greater than 50), it was recommended that the surface spring water temperature be accepted as the reservoir temperature. If the ratio was low  $(R \le 5)$ , it was recommended to ignore Mg, and apply the Na-K-Ca equations. If the ratio were moderate  $(5 < R < 50)$ , the following equations were to be applied (Fournier and Potter, 1979):

$$
T_{Mg} = 10.66 - 4.7472 \log R + 325.87 (\log R)^{2} - 1.032 * \frac{10^{5} (\log R^{2})}{T} - 1.968 * 10^{7}
$$

$$
* \frac{\log R}{T^{2}} + 1.605 * 10^{7} (\log R)^{3} / T^{2}
$$

Where T<sub>Mg</sub> is the corrected temperature for magnesium, R =  $\frac{Mg}{Mg + 0.61Ca + 0.31K} * 1000$ , and T is the temperature determined by the Na, K, Ca geothermometer equation described previously (Fournier and Potter, 1979).

#### *2.1.1.2 Na/Li Geothermometer of Fouillac and Michard*

Citing the tendency for silica geothermometers to underestimate high temperature environments, and Na-K geothermometers to overestimate low temperature

environments, an alternative approach was suggested, independent of these methods (Fouillac and Michard, 1981). Li, Cl, and Na concentrations of over 100 samples from a variety of water-type and thermal environments were plotted in various configurations against temperature (Fouillac and Michard, 1981). The following fits were obtained:

$$
T = \frac{1000}{0.389 + \log(\frac{Na}{Li})} \text{ if } Cl < 0.3 \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{kg}}, \text{ and}
$$
\n
$$
T = \frac{1195}{0.130 + \log(\frac{Na}{Li})} \text{ if } Cl > 0.3 \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{kg}}
$$

Where T is temperature in K, and Na and Li are concentrations in mmol/kg. The governing mineral equilibrium behind these apparent relationships was not determined by its authors. It was acknowledged that there is little chance of water being in equilibrium with a lithium dominant mineral, that lithium does not readily substitute for Na due to their differences in ionic radii, and that there was no observed relationship between lithium concentration and water-rock ratio (Fouillac and Michard, 1981). Nevertheless, the equations were determined to work in many environments.

#### *2.1.1.3 Quartz Geothermometer of Fournier and Potter 1982*

After several iterations of equations relating temperature to the solubility of quartz, a relationship encompassing all of the solubility data available up to the date of publication (i.e. 1982) was developed by Fournier and Potter (1982). Previous equations had been successful at interpreting specific experimental results, but were in conflict with other laboratory results (Fournier and Potter, 1982). A set of predictive equations developed by Walther and Helgeson (1977) using a regression analysis of all previously available data and incorporating enthalpy and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentrations was predictive of a majority of temperature and pressure environments, but did not seem to apply to some high temperature-low pressure results. Fournier and Potter (1982) attempted to improve upon these equations, with applicability at all temperatures and pressures, and to greatly simplify them into an easily applied format. The relationship between the logarithmic expression for molal silica concentration and the logarithmic expression of the specific volume of water were observed to have a roughly linear relationship at constant temperature. A multiple linear regression computer program was used to generate the following equation based on data from 518 experiments:

$$
logM = -4.66206 + 0.0034063T + \frac{2179.7}{T} - \frac{1.1292 \times 10^6}{T^2} + 1.3543 \times \frac{10^8}{T^3}
$$

$$
-\left(0.0014180T + \frac{806.97}{T}\right) \times logV + 3.9465 \times 10^{-4}T \times logV^2
$$

Where M is molal silica concentration, V is specific volume of pure water, and T is temperature in K (Fournier and Potter, 1982).

Holding specific volume constant, the equation can be solved for temperature (Arnórsson, 2000):

$$
T = -42.2 + 0.28831S - 3.6686 * 10^{-4}S^2 + 3.1665 * 10^{-7}S^3 + 87.841 \text{logS}
$$

Where S represents silica concentration as  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  in mg/kg.

#### *2.1.1.4 Giggenbach Diagrams*

In 1988, Giggenbach (1988) developed a ternary diagram from which to determine both temperature estimates and the extent to which waters are in equilibrium with a presumed mineral assemblage based on average crustal rocks and their hypothetical interaction with rising magmatic fluids. The three axes of the diagram represent observed and theoretical relationships between Na, K, and Mg cations. The relative ratio of these diagram end members was thought to suggest the stage of evolution of the thermal fluid, with an early state containing a comparatively large percentage of K and Mg relative to Na, a partial equilibrium state where the three cations are relatively balanced, and a fully equilibrated state at which Na is comparatively more dominant. It should be noted that the Na concentration is divided by 1000, the K concentration is divided by 100, and the Mg concentration is taken as its square root. In this regard, even the immature fluids have significantly more Na than the other cations, just less compared to the partially and fully equilibrated waters. The justification for this relationship is the initial dissolution of rock when exposed to acidic magmatic fluids liberates all three cations, and subsequent precipitation of K and Mg mineral species removes these cations from the fluid while leaving considerable dissolved Na behind (Giggenbach, 1988). The temperature dependence of these constituents used by Giggenbach is represented by the following three equations:

$$
L_{KN} = \log \left( \frac{C_{K^+}}{C_{Na^+}} \right) = 1.75 - \left( \frac{1.390}{T} \right)
$$
 for the K-Na axis

$$
L_{KM} = \log\left(\frac{C_{K^+}^2}{C_{Mg^{2+}}}\right) = 14.0 - \left(\frac{4.410}{T}\right) \text{ for the K-Mg axis, and}
$$
  

$$
L_{NM} = \log\left(\frac{C_{Na^+}^2}{C_{Mg^{2+}}}\right) = 10.5 - \left(\frac{1.630}{T}\right) \text{ for the Na-Mg axis.}
$$

The temperature and relative equilibration of a water sample can be found by plotting on the ternary diagram, as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2:** An example of a Giggenbach diagram, from Arnórsson 2000.

#### *2.1.1.5 Silica Geothermometry in Arnórsson, 2000*

Arnórsson (2000) summarizes the use of silica geothermometers, suggesting that the experimentally determined chalcedony geothermometer of Fournier (1977) should be used for temperatures below about 180°C, and that the silica geothermometer of Arnórsson (1998) should be used for higher temperatures. The 1998 silica geothermometer is an expanded version of Fournier and Potter's (1982) equation, based on an additional two decades of data. The equation is:

 $T = -55.3 + 0.3659S - 5.3954 * 10^{-4}S^2 + 5.5132 * 10^{-7}S^3 + 74.360 * logS$ 

#### *2.1.1.6 Statistical Analysis of Classical Geothermometers*

Verma and Santoyo (1997) used statistical data analysis to improve upon Fournier and Potter's 1982 silica geothermometer, Fournier and Potter's 1979 Na-K geothermometer, and Fouillac and Michard's 1981 Na-Li geothermometer. For the Na-K and Na-Li geothermometers, they developed a set of equations to find outlier residual values from application of the equations compared to observed values (borehole temperatures). This led to their discarding several values that were used to make the initial fits. With these values removed, they employed a system of linear regressions to generate coefficients that matched the remaining values better than the original equations. For Fournier and Potter's silica geothermometer, they were unable to throw out outliers in the same fashion because the coefficients appeared to be "perfect," perhaps as a result of the laboratory setting from which the original data were generated, or from initial

discarding of data that appeared as outliers (Verma and Santoyo, 1997). A close analysis of the equations led them to propose yet another set of equations that fit the data slightly better, one employing a fourth degree polynomial for temperatures below 210°C, and a simple linear equation for temperatures greater than 210°C. The new equations for all three geothermometers reduced errors when compared to the original equations in both the data from which the original equations were developed and other geothermal areas considered in the paper (Verma and Santoyo, 1997).

In 2008, the statistical methods described above were incorporated into the computer program SolGeo. The program incorporates 35 solute geothermometers, and develops estimates of relative uncertainty for each estimate (Verma et al., 2008). Outlier data points were found in the majority of geothermometers and the equations were recalculated with the data from the original studies. The authors also found a number of errors due to improper unit conversion (Verma et al., 2008). When outlier and conversion errors were accounted for, the various solute geothermometers were compared to a database that the authors created using geothermal reservoir conditions compiled from over 300 samples collected from geothermal fields in 17 countries. The authors concluded that the Na-K geothermometers were the most reliable reservoir estimators, and suggested that this simple elemental ratio was the least likely to be disturbed by processes such as mixing or degassing on route to the surface (Verma et al., 2008).

#### **2.1.2 Multi-component Geothermometry**

In 1984, Reed and Spycher introduced a technique utilizing bulk water chemistry that assesses the temperature dependent saturation indices of a suite of minerals (Reed and Spycher, 1984). This is done by first calculating ion activity for the component species of a particular mineral based on measured concentrations and taking the product of the species to arrive at an ion activity product  $(Q)$  for the reaction. The ratio of  $Q$  to the equilibrium constant (K) of the mineral dissolution reaction defines the reaction quotient for that chemical reaction, the log of which is taken as the saturation index  $(SI = log$ (Q/K)). A zero value for the saturation index implies that equilibrium conditions are met, a negative value implies unsaturated conditions, and a positive value implies supersaturated conditions. Because K is temperature dependent and Q is dependent on both temperature and the concentration of dissolved components, SI varies with both temperature and the concentration of dissolved components. For a given Q, it is possible to plot SI as a function of temperature.

With the assumption of equilibrium between water and a particular mineral, the equilibrium temperature will correspond to the x-intercept of a plot of SI versus temperature (Reed, 1982). When this is done for a suite of minerals that have equilibrated with a given water, the plots of each mineral's SI will intersect the x-axis at the same point, as shown in Figure 3. Reed and Spycher compared this method of estimating temperature to measured borehole temperatures and classical geothermometers (Reed and Spycher, 1984). Potential reasons for disagreement between estimates included

lack of equilibration of waters with the mineral(s) used for a certain classical geothermometer (i.e. feldspars with a Na-K geothermometer), apparent dilution of thermal fluids by other waters causing a displacement of equilibrium conditions away from the x-axis (i.e. multiple minerals SI intersect, but not at  $SI = 0$ ), or not attaining equilibrium with any mineral assemblage (i.e. a wide spread SI versus temperature curves) (Reed and Spycher, 1984). Figure 4 shows a SI versus temperature plot for a sample for which equilibrium conditions were apparently not achieved (Arnórsson, 2000).



**Figure 3:** Mineral saturation showing approximate equilibrium at about 230 to 250°C from a well in Krafla, Iceland with a measured temperature of 230°C, from Arnórsson, 2000.



**Figure 4:** An example of apparent dis-equilibrium conditions on the multi-component plot, from a surface water sample of the Svarta River in Iceland, from Arnórsson, 2000.

#### *2.1.2.1 Aluminum "Correction"*

In 1998, Pang and Reed published a method of back-calculating Al concentrations of waters to make up for the common lack of aluminum data in many chemical analysis that resulted because of Al's typical low concentrations  $(1 \mu \text{mol})$  under circumneutral pH conditions and the lack of readily accessible trace element measurement techniques prior to the introduction of bench top inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometers (ICP-MS) in the mid-1990s. Aluminum is a necessary component for multi-component

geothermometry given its occurrence as a major element in common hydrothermal alteration minerals, feldspars, and micas (Pang and Reed, 1998). The correction procedure involves assuming an alumino-silicate mineral controls aluminum in the system and solving for the Al concentration by forcing that mineral into equilibrium at a given temperature (Pang and Reed, 1998). This procedure can also be applied to Fe, Mg or other elements not present in the original assemblage. This method was applied to a hot spring sample collected from Breitenbush Hot Springs, located in the Oregon Cascades. Both Fe and Al were forced into equilibrium, and a reservoir  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ concentration was reconstructed based on equilibrium with calcite. This method resulted in several minerals achieving equilibrium at an estimated temperature of 180°C (Pang and Reed, 1998; Figure 5).

In an analysis of sedimentary basin waters in California, Texas, and Norway, Palandri et al. (2001) developed several methods for reconstructing the composition of waters present at depth for use in multi-component geothermometry. Using a similar method to the aluminum concentration estimation, silica concentrations in several waters were estimated by forcing equilibrium with quartz and chalcedony, and checking the results against a SI versus temperature plot (Palandri et al., 2001). In other waters that had silica data, but which did not seem to be at equilibrium, it was posited that the filtering of ferrous silica precipitates that may have formed during cooling upon ascent had reduced the measured values. When additional silica and iron were added to the reported values, apparent equilibrium among mineral suites was achieved (Palandri et al.,

2001). The assumption that calcite was saturated at depth was used to correct alkalinity data to account for organic acids and to add  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  back to the system that may have been lost due to degassing. The relative amount of carbon allotted to organic acid versus  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ was determined by observing the extent to which added  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  affected the hypothetical reservoir pH, and the extent to which the assumed mineral suites could reach equilibrium based on this pH (Palandri et al., 2001).



**Figure 5:** a) SI versus temperature from raw data collected at Breitenbush Hot Springs (Ingebritsen et al., 1992) showing relative scatter and colder equilibrium temperatures. b) The same data with aluminum and iron added to the system via forced equilibrium, from Pang and Reed, 1998.

#### *2.1.2.2 GeoT*

In 2011, Spycher et al. (2011) published a description of an automated multicomponent geothermometry computer application. The mechanics of the program allow for similar methods of reconstruction of initial reservoir characteristics as those used in Palandri and Reed (2001), including mixing with shallow waters or other end-members, re-constituting gas fractions that may have escaped from the system, and forcing equilibrium with particular minerals in order to extrapolate missing chemical data or concentrations lost to precipitation. The software, GeoT, was designed to be compatible with parameter estimation software such as iTOUGH2 and PEST in order to provide optimization of unknown parameters. It also allows for the simultaneous statistical and optimization analysis of up to 100 water chemistry samples, which allows for reduction of error across a particular geothermal system (Spycher et al., 2011). In addition to calculating (or plotting) SI versus temperature, the statistics of optimized minima are calculated and can be used to generate a companion chart showing statistics with temperature for reference (Figure 6).

GeoT was initially tested on fluids from Dixie Valley, Nevada and produced reservoir temperature estimates close to measured borehole temperatures (Spycher et al., 2011). A groundwater flow model of the Dixie Valley was constructed with various simulated groundwater flow rates and rock surface area to water ratios. The model was coupled with GeoT to find correlations between flow properties and apparent equilibrium conditions. The model yielded minimum flow rates (about 1 meter per day) and reactive
to nonreactive surface area ratios (0.001-1) that were considered to be necessary to effectively transport thermal water from the estimated reservoir depth to surface springs while maintaining the equilibrium signature (Wanner et al., 2013). GeoT has also been applied at the Newberry Caldera enhanced geothermal system (EGS) site to help estimate reservoir temperatures (Sonnenthal et al., 2012). Due to the absence of reliable aluminum data, GeoT was used to generate aluminum estimates by separate forced equilibration with muscovite and kaolinite. Depending on which mineral was used for this estimate, different equilibrium mineral assemblages and temperatures were generated, demonstrating the sensitivity of the estimates to aluminum concentrations (Sonnenthal et al., 2012).

 A recent application of GeoT involved a relatively unconstrained geothermal area in Ecuador (Gherardi and Spycher, 2014). Little subsurface mineralogical data was available and the water chemical analyses lacked several significant components. Various combinations of minerals and thermodynamic parameters were applied until optimization was achieved. Eventually, they were able to constrain aluminum by potassium feldspar, magnesium by clinochlore, iron by magnetite, dissolved sulfide by pyrite, and a reservoir temperature of  $260\pm2$  °C. This value contrasted greatly with that of classical geothermometers for non-reconstructed water concentrations of 89 to 236 °C (Gherardi and Spycher, 2014).



**Figure 6:** Output from GeoT. Top left chart shows original SI versus temperature plot. Top right chart shows the same plot with 10% reconstituted gas. The bottom charts show the associated statistics, from Spycher et al., 2011.

# *2.1.2.3 RTEst*

Another recently developed computer program (RTEst) also automates multicomponent geothermometry. RTEst was developed at the Idaho National Laboratory and estimates equilibrium conditions by acting as an intermediary between Geochemists Workbench, a suite of programs focused on aqueous geochemistry, and PEST, a parameter estimation program (Palmer, 2014). RTEst guides the user in the selection of a mineral assemblage based on minerals commonly associated with differing rock types, general water chemistries, and temperature ranges and verifies that the selected suite of minerals is compatible with the Gibbs phase rule (although it allows you to ignore the Gibbs phase rule if desired; Palmer, 2014). RTEst is able to adjust temperature, steamfraction, end-member mixing percentage, and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  fugacity to minimize an objective function that is the weighted sum of squares of the saturation indices of the selected mineral suite (Palmer, 2014). There are three built-in weighting procedures utilizing typical analytical uncertainties and mineral stoichiometry to place more weight on minerals with more certainty during its iterative calculation of the objective function (Palmer, 2014).

RTEst was used to generate estimates of equilibrium reservoir temperatures from spring samples collected in the Snake River Plain, Idaho (Neupane et al., 2014). The study was able to reduce uncertainties to between 2 and 20°C, which greatly improves on traditional geothermometry techniques that produced results varying as much as 80°C for the same samples (Neupane et al., 2014). Once again, due to unreliable aluminum data on some samples, aluminum concentrations were estimated by forced equilibrium with potassium feldspar as per Pang and Reed, 1998 (Neupane et al., 2014). The apparent effectiveness of RTEst in the Snake River Plain motivated its use in this thesis at the study areas described in the following sections.

## **2.2 Study Areas**

Two Cascade geothermal areas were evaluated using the geothermometers described in section 2.1. The following sections provide some background information regarding the geologic context of the areas, including past geothermal assessments.

## **2.2.1 Breitenbush Hot Springs**

Breitenbush Hot Springs is located in the central Oregon Cascades, approximately 15 kilometers northwest of Mount Jefferson, along the Breitenbush River (Fig. 7). Geothermal interest in the Breitenbush area dates back to its original settlement in the late 1800s and the establishment of a hot spring resort in the early  $20<sup>th</sup>$  century. The geothermal potential of Breitenbush has been the focus of several past studies that have included both classical and multi-component geothermometric assessments. The following sections summarize the geologic and structural framework of the Breitenbush area and the past assessment of its geothermal potential.



Figure 7: Breitenbush and Wind River Hot Springs regional location map. Image from Google Earth.

# *2.2.1.1 General Geologic Framework*

28 The bulk of the Cascade Range can be divided broadly into two major stratigraphic sections, both of which are related to arc volcanism associated with the subduction of the Juan de Fuca plate beneath the North American plate: the Western Cascades Group (WCG) and the High Cascades Group (HCG) (Hammond, 1979). The WCG is composed of a thick (5 to 8.5 km) section of volcanic and volcaniclastic rocks, generally older than 12 Ma (Hammond, 1979). In the Breitenbush area, the WCG consists of a diverse array of pyroclastic flows and lahars, basaltic to rhyodacitic lava flows, tuffaceous sandstones, and siltstones, and is designated the Breitenbush Formation (Figures 8 and 9; Sherrod and Conrey, 1988). The Breitenbush Formation is at least 2.5 km thick in the study area with an approximate age range of 25 to 18 Ma (Sherrod and Conrey, 1988). The HCG is composed of recent (about 5 Ma to present) andesitic and basaltic lava flows, with lesser pyroclastic flows (Hammond, 1979). Near the Breitenbush area, the HCG consists of "thick, stubby" andesite, dacite, and rhyodacite flows, generally higher in silica than other areas of the Cascades, the youngest of which is represented by recent flows at Mount Jefferson, approximately 15 km southeast of Breitenbush Hot Springs (Figures 8 and 9; Sherrod and Conrey, 1988).

The Breitenbush Formation is folded into a northeast plunging anticline associated with northwest-southeast crustal shortening that began approximately 18 Ma and ended by 12 Ma (Priest, 1990). The axis of the anticline is approximately 5 km northwest of Breitenbush Hot Springs (Sherrod and Conrey, 1988). The younger HCG volcanics unconformably overlie the anticline. Northwest trending faults present in a wide region of central and northern Oregon displace rocks older than about middle Miocene. Fewer north- and northwest- trending faults, including several mapped in the vicinity of Breitenbush Hot Springs, displace Pliocene and younger rocks (Figure 8).



**Figure 8:** Geologic Map of the Breitenbush area (map), from Sherrod and Conrey, 1988.

#### Geologic setting of the Breitenbush-Austin Hot Springs area

#### **EXPLANATION**



**Figure 9:** Geologic Map of the Breitenbush area (legend and cross sections), from Sherrod and Conrey, 1988.

## *2.2.1.2 Geothermal Exploration and Characterization*

In the 1970s and 80s, several investigations were conducted to assess geothermal potential of the Breitenbush Hot Springs area. The bulk of the results were published in a 1988 USGS special report, from which the majority of this exploration history is summarized (Sherrod, 1988).

Several geothermal exploration wells were installed in the vicinity of Breitenbush Hot Springs (Figure 8). In 1979, 4 temperature gradient holes (EWEB-3 through EWEB-6) were drilled close to the crest of the Cascades, approximately 15 to 20 km northnortheast of Breitenbush Hot Springs, through Miocene to Pleistocene basaltic andesite to rhyodacite flows (Conrey and Sherrod, 1988). In 1981, a 2,457 meter deep well was drilled approximately 3 km southeast of Breitenbush Hot Springs (SUNEDCO well; Bargar, 1994). Except for the upper  $\sim$ 100 meters, which extend through andesite and basalt flows, the entirety of the well was drilled through volcaniclastic deposits of the Breitenbush Formation (Bargar, 1994). In 1986, a 1,463 meter hole was advanced near Olallie Butte, approximately 10 km northeast of Breitenbush Hot Springs. The majority of the hole was drilled through basaltic andesite, with relatively minor intervals of basalt, dacite, and tuff (Conrey and Sherrod, 1988). In addition to these wells, several wells were drilled at the Breitenbush Hot Springs Resort for use as district heating and for filling soaking pools (Figure 10). Table 1 lists these wells and describes pertinent information such as depth, temperature, use, and approximate flow rates. Well logs from the Oregon Water Resources Department are included in Appendix A.



Figure 10: Breitenbush well and spring locations.



a: Blackwell and Baker, 1988

b: OWRD well logs, a "-" indicates nonartesian flow.

c: Waibel, 1983

d: Recorded depth is 610 m. According to Breitenbush staff, it may have been deepened to 710m.

e: Measured flow rates

Characterization of alteration mineralogy present in the geothermal wells and in

rocks exposed at the surface in the Breitenbush area showed higher temperature alteration

at the center of the Breitenbush anticline and at depth in the SUNDECO well when

compared to the flanks of the anticline or in shallower portions of the well (Keith, 1988). The fact that shallower exposures of the oldest rock share alteration mineralogy with deeper rocks of the same age implies that the highest temperature alteration occurred prior to folding (i.e. before 18 to 12 Ma) (Keith, 1988). Shallower alteration mineralogy is limited to the zeolite-facies, with lower temperature zeolite-facies assemblages present at and near surface (Keith, 1988). Table 2 lists minerals identified in boreholes in the Breitenbush area. Figure 11 shows the relative distribution of minerals in the SUNEDCO well with depth. These mineral assemblages are used as reference for application of multi-component geothermometry.



**Table 2:** A list of secondary minerals identified in borings in the Breitenbush Hot  $\vert$  Springs area, depth of descriptions are included where reported





Figure 11: Distribution of hydrothermal minerals with depth in the SUNEDCO well. Left column shows the stratigraphic section of rock units encountered. A temperature with depth curve is superimposed on the graph, from Bargar, 1994.

Heat flow data collected from temperature-gradient wells in the Breitenbush area show an extension of high heat flow from the Cascade crest to the west at the location of Breitenbush Hot Springs (Blackwell and Baker, 1988). The high temperature aquifer associated with this heat flow anomaly was present at a depth of 800 m in the SUNEDCO well at a temperature of approximately 116<sup>o</sup>C. Below this depth, the temperature gradient data suggest conductive heat flow to a maximum approximate borehole temperature of 141°C at the bottom of the hole (2,457 m) (Blackwell and Baker, 1988). The maximum recorded borehole temperature of a well installed at the Breitenbush Hot Springs Resort is 116°C recorded in W3 (Figure 10; Blackwell and Baker, 1988). Current surface well temperatures are as high as 85°C (Table 1). Based on the apparent depth of the thermal aquifer and its relationship to local geologic structures, it was posited that the source of the heat was derived from igneous processes beneath the Cascade crest (i.e. near Mount Jefferson). Permeability contrasts between a highly altered zone of the Breitenbush Tuff and the overlying HCG allow movement of thermal water from the east to the west along the Breitenbush anticline, thus producing the observed high heat flow anomaly to the west of the Cascade crest, and providing a theoretical framework for the hot springs (Sherrod and Conrey, 1988). Excess  $N_2/Ar$  ratio in total gas from Oregon Cascade Range hot springs, including Breitenbush, correlate with excess calcium and dissolved chloride concentrations, suggesting that nitrogen in the system is derived from water-rock interaction (Mariner et al., 2003). In addition, total nitrogen correlates with estimated aquifer temperature in a curve that shows similarity to the observed relationship in oil

field brines, suggesting a possible sedimentary source for nitrogen and chloride (Mariner et al., 2003). Helium isotope ratios suggest that Breitenbush is fed from a magmatic source; the coupling of a widespread sedimentary basement beneath the Cascades with a source of magmatic volatilization suggests a local High Cascade origin of the thermal signature at Breitenbush (Mariner et al., 2003). This scenario is in contrast to a previously hypothesized larger scale zone of crustal weakness (Blackwell and Baker, 1988).

Several estimates of reservoir temperature have been made by various chemical geothermometers. An estimated reservoir temperature of 174°C based on silica geothermometers was derived in 1982 as part of a large-scale study across the Cascades (Forcella, 1982). A second estimate of 174°C was derived from forced equilibrium with anhydrite (Ingebritsen et al., 1992). A summary of classical geothermometers, including a sulfate isotope geothermometer, resulted in estimates from 129 to 202 °C (Mariner et al., 1993). Multi-component geothermometers produced estimates of 180°C (Pang and Reed, 1998) and 176°C (Spycher et al., 2016). In both cases, Al concentrations were derived by forced equilibrium with microcline. These temperatures were considered reasonable when compared to the anhydrite equilibrium and sulfate isotope data of Mariner et al. (1993). An estimated temperature of 177°C was used in determination of the sedimentary source of Cascade geothermal waters discussed above (Mariner et al., 2003).

In addition to these reservoir estimates using geothermometers, an analysis of fluid inclusions found in the SUNEDCO and CTGH-1 boreholes determined

temperatures ranging from 113 to 232 °C (Bargar, 1994). The majority of fluid inclusion temperatures, particularly those from secondary calcite and anhydrite minerals, were coincident with measured bore-hole temperatures at the sample depth, suggesting that they had formed in equilibrium with the current geothermal system. Fluid inclusions found in hydrothermal quartz and primary quartz phenocrysts generally showed temperatures greater than the measured borehole temperature at the associated depth (Bargar, 1994).

# **2.2.2 Wind River**

The Wind River Valley trends northwest from the Columbia River at the town of Carson, approximately 50 kilometers northeast of Portland (Figure 7). Several thermal springs are present close to its intersection with the Columbia River. Due primarily to its potentially steep geothermal gradients and proximity to power transmission lines, a GISbased analysis of geothermal favorability in Washington determined that the Wind River Valley is one of the most promising areas for geothermal energy development in the state (Boschmann, et al., 2014). The following sections summarize the geology of the Wind River Valley and past geothermal resource characterization that has been conducted in the area.

# *2.2.2.1 Geology*

The oldest stratigraphic unit outcropping in the Wind River Valley is the late Eocene to early Oligocene Ohanapecosh Formation, part of the WCG (Figure 12;

Hammond, 1979). The unit is thought to represent early volcanism in the Cascade arc and consists of dacitic and andesitic volcaniclastic deposits in the Wind River Valley (Jutzeler, 2013). Based on geochemical and stratigraphic similarity between these deposits and Ohanapecosh Formation further north, which consists of lava flows and breccias, the Wind River Valley Ohanapecosh may represent the depositional products of distal volcanism (Berri and Korosec, 1983). The Ohanapecosh Formation has a high degree of mineral alteration, including groundmass alteration to yellow-green clays and chlorite that provides a green hue to its deposits. This alteration may be associated with Miocene-age folding (around the same time as that experienced at Breitenbush) which could have provided a regional low-grade metamorphic signature (Berri and Korosec, 1983).

**Figure 12:** Stratigraphic column of rocks in the Wind River Valley. From Berri, and Korosec, 1983



Unconformably overlying the Ohanapecosh Formation in the Wind River Valley are the late Oligocene to early Miocene Stevenson Ridge Lavas, which consist of pyroxene-rich basalt and basaltic-andesite flows (Berri and Korosec, 1983). These flows outcrop at the crest of Stevenson Ridge, which forms the western border of the Wind River Valley, and may represent inverted topography of a valley carved by the ancestral Wind River (Berri and Korosec, 1983). Overlying the Ohanapecosh to the east and southeast of the Wind River Valley is the Grand Ronde Basalt of the Columbia River Basalt Group (Berri and Korosec, 1983). Several intrusive plugs and sills outcrop in the Wind River valley. Wind Mountain is a quartz diorite intrusion near the confluence of Wind River with the Columbia that apparently intruded the Grand Ronde Basalt (Berri and Korosec, 1983). The Buck Mountain Intrusion is a diorite intrusion that outcrops at the Wind River near the hot springs and makes up the steep eastern flank of the Wind River Valley in this area. Age ranges for the intrusions are between 14 and 23 Ma (Berri and Korosec, 1983). The most recent volcanic deposits in the Wind River Valley are those associated with the Trout Creek Hill Volcano, located approximately 18 kilometers northwest of the hot springs. A succession of basalt flows of the Trout Creek Hill Volcano appears to have followed the topography of the Wind River Valley. K-Ar dating of the flows resulted in an estimated age of 340 Ka for Trout Creek Volcano (Berri and Korosec, 1983).

The linearity of the Wind River Valley, coupled with the consistent northwest orientation of past lava flows and intrusions, suggests a long-existing structural feature,

such as a homocline or a fault (Berri and Korosec, 1983). A northeast-trending fault designated the little River Fault is mapped close to the intersection of Wind River and the Columbia River.

### *2.2.2.2 Geothermal Exploration*

Three geothermal exploration borings were drilled in the 1980s, two to a depth of 152 meters, and a third to a depth of 357 meters. One of the 152 meter deep borings and the 357 meter boring were located in the western flank of the center of the valley and showed geothermal gradients of 75 and 79 °C/km, respectively (Figure 13). The second 152 meter boring was drilled close to St. Martin's Hot Spring and showed a gradient of 160 °C/km (extrapolated from a bottom hole temperature of 28°C). In 2012, the Washington Department of National Resources (DNR) drilled an 88 meter boring in the northwestern portion of the valley that had a gradient of 55.9 °C/km. No boreholes deeper than 357 meters have been drilled in the valley. In 2012, the DNR conducted 20 ground based magnetic anomaly transects and 4 electrical resistivity transects at various locations in the valley. These techniques support the existence of faults in the southeastern portion of the valley, the intersection of which may create a conduit that could explain the presence of the hot springs in this area (Czajkowski et al., 2013). The recent work was associated with the United State Department of Energy (DOE) national Play Fairway analysis. Based on these initial results, Washington State was one of five areas selected for Phase II of the Play Fairway project (Garchar et al., 2016) .

At least six springs are present in the valley (Figure 13) with temperatures ranging from 8 to 50°C, following a trend of lower temperatures to the northwest and higher temperatures to the southeast (Czajkowski, 2013). Sporadic water sampling data is available for nine named springs in and in close proximity to the valley between 1977 and 2013. The springs of the Wind River Valley have been divided into three categories based on their temperature and composition (Czajkowski et al., 2013). Group A springs are considered to be fault-related, and occur close to the Brush Creek Fault and the Wind River Fault, by the confluence of the Wind River and the Columbia River (Figure 14). Both St. Martin's Hot Spring and Shipherd's Hot Spring are assigned Group A. Reservoir temperatures at St Martin's Hot Spring and Shipherd's Hot Spring were developed from the classical geothermometers tabulated on the spreadsheet of Powell et al., 2010. Estimates for St Martin's Hot Spring were 65°C using a NA-K-Ca geothermometer and 73°C using a chalcedony geothermometer (Czajkowski et al., 2014). Shipherd's Hot Spring yeilded a reservoir temperature of 19°C using a Na-K-Ca geothermometer. Group B springs are high TDS springs at the northwestern end of the linear portion of the Wind River Valley. Group C springs are cold seeps that are likely sourced from local, cool recharge waters (Czajkowski et al., 2013). Group B and C springs were not evaluated for this thesis.



**Figure 13:** a) Geothermal favorability map for Washington State. B) A map of the Wind River Valley showing thermal gradient borings, and geothermal indicators, from Czajkowski, 2013.



**Figure 14:** Wind River Valley showing sampled Hot Springs and fault traces. Note that Shipherd's Hot Spring encompasses multiple seeps on the northeast side of the Wind River, from Czajkowski et al., 2013.

# **3 METHODS**

### **3.1 Field Methods**

A total of 13 well samples, 5 spring samples, and 2 river samples were collected from Breitenbush Hot Springs (Fig. 10) and 4 spring samples were collected from the Wind River Valley (Fig 14) for chemical analysis. Sample locations (Table 3) were determined in the field using a handheld GPS unit.

Samples were collected in five separate campaigns (four at Breitenbush and one at Wind River) at different times of the year in differing weather conditions. Samples from Breitenbush wells W10, W12, and W14 were collected on October 7, 2014, prior to significant rainfall in water year 2014-2015. Samples from Breitenbush wells W1, W3, and W4 and 180°, Iron, No Tobacco, and Sulphur Springs, were collected on November 19, 2014 following a period of significant precipitation and while several feet of snow blanketed the area. Samples from Breitenbush wells W2 and W11 were collected on February 21, 2015, on a sunny day after several days of rainfall. Samples from the W10 time series, South Camp Springs, and the Breitenbush River were collected on June 30, 2015, a dry day weeks after the spring freshet. Samples collected from Wind River's St. Martin's and Shipherd's Hot Springs were collected on November 16, 2015, immediately following several days of heavy rainfall.



Spring waters found as pools (180° Spring, South Camp Spring, Shipherd's #1) were collected by first observing any bubbles emerging from cracks on the pool bottom to identify the likely point of spring discharge. A Teflon beaker attached to a telescoping polyvinylchloride rod was then placed close to the point of likely discharge and inverted for sample collection. For flowing springs (Iron Spring, No Tobacco Spring, Sulphur Spring, Shipherd's #2), sample bottles were placed directly into the flow path.

Wells W1, W3, and W4 provide water for district heating and/or filling of soaking pools at the Breitenbush Hot Springs Resort. To sample these wells, a fire hose was attached to a discharge outlet and the wells were allowed to purge for at least one well volume prior to sample collection via a hose attached to a sample port at or near the wellhead. Wells at Breitenbush Hot Springs are completed as uncased holes in bedrock without filter pack (boring logs, Appendix A). When the wellhead is opened, well  $W10$ flows under artesian conditions at approximately 19 l/s. A total of six samples were collected from this well at intervals of ~20 to 60 minutes and increasing temperatures of 62, 64, 72, 77.5, 79.5, and 82 °C to identify any changes in water chemistry with additional purging and differing sample temperature. Samples were collected from tubing at a point approximately 7 meters from the wellhead. W14 flows constantly at a rate of approximately 0.06 l/s from the top of the wellhead. Samples were collected directly from the flowing water without purging. Water levels in wells W2, W11, and W12 are below the well casing and thus had to be pumped to the surface. The water level in W12 was high enough in the casing to sampling using a peristaltic pump. The low-flow nature of the pump allowed the use of a flow-through cell, which was constantly monitored until parameters stabilized before sample collection. The water levels in W2 and W11 were too deep for the use of a peristaltic pump. Well W2 was purged for three well volumes and

then sampled through tubing attached to an aboveground Toyota water pump. Well W11 was purged for approximately one well volume using a submersible pump attached to a 2.5 cm hose.

According to the owner of Carson Hot Spring Resort, St. Martin's Hot Spring flows under artesian conditions into a natural pool located near the river (Cam, 2015). This water is then pumped from the pool to the resort where it provides sufficient hot water to fill all of the resort's baths, which include a large swimming pool. Two samples were collected from this spring. The first was collected from a tap at the resort itself after allowing 45 minutes of flow, the second was collected from a sample port at the well house by the river. The spring pool itself was inaccessible due to a concrete and plywood covering.

At each sample location, measurements of temperature, specific conductance, electrical conductivity, oxidation-reduction potential (ORP), pH, and dissolved oxygen content were made using a calibrated YSI multimeter. For well samples, water was pumped via a hose into a YSI flow-through cell in which readings were collected. For waters in excess of 40°C, the water was first sent through a heat exchanger constructed of coiled stainless steel tubing surrounded by ice in a cooler in order to cool the water to temperatures appropriate for use with the YSI meter. For spring samples, either the probe was inserted directly into the spring or, for spring waters exceeding 40°C, readings were collected in filled containers which had been allowed to cool. ORP measurements were

made with a combination platinum electrode with a Ag/AgCl (4M KCl) reference electrode calibrated using ZOBELL solution. pH was calibrated in the field immediately prior to sampling using pH 4, 7, and 10 buffer standards. Alkalinity was determined in the field using a HACH digital titrator equipped with either a  $0.160$  or  $1.600$  N  $H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>$ cartridge and bromcresol green-methyl red to indicate the total alkalinity endpoint. Two alkalinity measurements were made at each location and the average of the two was tabulated. No field alkalinity data was collected for the Wind River samples due to an oversight in field preparation. Samples for ion analyses were filtered through a 0.45 µm polyethersulfone membrane syringe filter and collected into acid washed, low-density polyethylene bottles. Samples retained for cation analysis were acidified in the field to < pH 2 using trace-metal grade HNO3. Samples for anion, isotope and laboratory pH and alkalinity analyses were filled with every effort to eliminate air bubbles in the headspace. All samples were transported to the laboratory in an ice-filled cooler.

## **3.2 Laboratory Methods**

Total alkalinity was measured at Portland State within 48-hours of sample collection by titrating 0.05 N HCl into 50 ml of sample while recording pH values every  $0.1$  ml until reaching a pH well below the HCO<sub>3</sub> inflection point. Once sufficient data was recorded, the alkalinity value was calculated using the Gran Function (Gran, 1952). Alkalinities are reported as milligrams per liter (mg/L) of  $CaCO<sub>3</sub>$  and  $HCO<sub>3</sub>$ . Samples were analyzed for major anions (Cl, F, Br,  $PO<sub>3</sub>$  NO<sub>3</sub>, and N<sup>-</sup>) using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) on an LC25 Dionex chromatography unit equipped with a Dionex CD25 conductivity detector, a GP50 gradient pump, and an As40 automated sampler. The carrier fluid consisted of 4.5 millimollar (mM)  $Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>$  and 0.8 mM NaHCO3. Concentrations were determined using conductivity measurements relative to the conductivity of known standards from 0.1 to 200 ppm prepared from commercial, NIST-traceable stock solutions. Large dilutions of split samples were necessary to accommodate the high chloride contents of some water samples.

Samples were analyzed for select major, minor, and trace cations using an Agilent 700 Series axial ICP-OES equipped with an Agilent SPS3 auto-sampler, a glass concentric nebulizer, a glass cyclonic spray chamber, and a low-flow quartz torch with 1.4 mm id injector tube. Operating conditions are provided in Appendix B. Calibration was performed using up to 15 external calibration standards prepared from commercial NIST-traceable stock standards.

Although silica was analyzed via ICP-OES, silica concentrations were also evaluated for select samples using a Beckman Coulter DU 730 UV/Vis Spectrophotometer. Samples were prepared using sodium molybdenate solution and nitric acid. Frequency was read at 410 nm to determine concentration.

Samples were also submitted to the Northern Arizona University Stable Isotope Laboratory for analysis of deuterium and stable oxygen isotopes (i.e.  $^{18}O$  and  $^{16}O$ ) using a LGR Liquid Water Isotope Analyzer DLT-100.

## **3.3 Geothermometry Methods**

# **3.3.1 Classical Geothermometers**

Table 4 lists classical geothermometers used for this study. These were selected based on their continued use in the geothermal industry and/or their supposed effectiveness. The methods used to generate the estimates are described in the paper that is listed under the reference column with the exception of the Giggenbach Diagram, which was produced using the procedure outlined in Arnórsson, 2000. Equations for the majority of the geothermometers are presented in Section 2.1.1.



**Table 4:** Classical geothermometers used for temperature estimate comparison, reference key refers to the label used in figures

# **3.3.2 GeoT**

Several inputs were tested in the use of GeoT. The database used for GeoT was SOLTHERM, which is a database for geothermal applications developed and maintained by the University of Oregon (Reed and Palandri, 2006). The following list describes the

variation in inputs used with applicable subheadings. GeoT input files are included in Appendix C.

- Mineral selection
	- o Allowing GeoT to generate a mineral selection with no user input.
	- o Using a "free-silica" mineral such as quartz and chalcedony, and allowing GeoT to estimate nearby minerals based on these equilibrium temperatures.
	- o Adjusting the automated mineral assemblage based on secondary minerals reported in boreholes (Table 2).
- Input options
	- o Estimating reservoir temperature for each sample location independently.
	- o Estimating reservoir temperature using all applicable water chemistries simultaneously.
- Optimization using PEST on the following parameters:
	- o Optimization of steam weight fraction, which indicates the extent that fluid has lost species due to subsurface degassing. The remixed gas concentration was based on free gas concentrations measured at Breitenbush (Mariner et al., 2003). The reported gas concentration included noble gas elements; however, these components not included due to their conservative nature. Instead,

the concentrations reflect the relative proportions of the non-ideal gas constituents.

- o Optimization for adjustment of the initiation temperature, which describes the temperature at which the equilibrium chemistry of forced components is determined. The initiation temperature parameter adjusts the initial speciation of H+ ions and any species that are constrained by equilibrium with a mineral.
- o Optimization of "concentration," which adds (if less than 1) or removes (if greater than 1) pure water components from the water chemistry, thus representing mixing with pure water, or removal of H2O dominant steam.
- o Optimization using the built in mixing model, which is similar to the concentration parameter, but uses user-defined water as opposed to pure water. The mixing extent parameter allows the mixing or "unmixing" of thermal water with shallower water. For this study, the water chemistry of W12 was used as the shallow water.
- o Parameters for each of the basis specie activities were allowed to adjust depending on the analytical uncertainty associated with the species. For example, a 5% analytical error would allow the
associated component to vary over a range of  $\pm 5\%$  compared to the reported value.

## **3.3.3 RTEst**

A variety of different inputs were used for reservoir estimation using RTEst. Several of the methods are similar to those used with GEOT; however, the programs have different input options, and as such, have distinct methods of operation. The database used for RTEst assessment was the Geochemist's Workbench database thermo.dat. Use of RTEst with SOLTHERM was also attempted, as described in Section 4.2.3.3. The following list describes the variation in inputs used with applicable subheadings.

- Mineral selection
	- o Using a "free-silica" mineral such as quartz and chalcedony, and allowing RTEst and/or Geochemist's Work Bench to estimate minerals based on these equilibrium temperatures.
	- o Adjusting the automated mineral assemblage based on observed minerals (Table 2).
	- o Using a mineral assemblage generated using GeoT estimation processes (Section 3.3.2).
	- o Mineral assemblages were developed for each water sample independently to determine consistency between individual estimates.
- o Different mineral assemblages were applied to all of the water chemistries until a single assemblage could consistently reproduce reservoir conditions at each sample location while explaining the presence of the alteration minerals observed in the nearby geothermal wells.
- Optimization
	- o RTEst allows for optimization of temperature, CO2 fugacity, change in the mass of water, and mixing amount with user-input shallow water chemistry. Optimization runs were made with all combinations of these variables.

## **4 RESULTS**

## **4.1 Analytical Results**

Analytical results are listed in Tables 5 (field measurements), 6 (major ion concentrations), 7 (trace element concentrations), and 8 (isotope results). Figure 15 shows a Piper diagram for the Breitenbush Hot Spring samples. With the exception of the river samples, W12, and W11, all of the Breitenbush samples plotted distinctly as Na-Cl waters. W12 plots as a Na-HCO<sub>3</sub> water and W11 is somewhat in between. This separation of W11 and W12 from the others is consistent with total dissolved solids values of less than 400 for W11 and W12 compared to values greater than 2,000 for the remainder of the Breitenbush samples. These data indicate a potential shallow, more recently recharged source for W11 and W12.

W<sub>2</sub> and W<sub>14</sub> show similarities to the majority of the other thermal water samples collected from Breitenbush in some dissolved ion concentrations (Cl, F,  $SO_4^2$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Na}^+$ ) and differences in others (notably SiO<sub>2</sub>, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, As, and Mn<sup>2+</sup>). The similarity in the conservative Cl ion in particularly suggests that the waters may have originated from a similar thermal source as the other waters. Their depletion in other ions suggests that they may have experienced more shallow mineral precipitation than other wells and springs. W2 and W14 had water temperatures of 17.6 and 29 °C during sampling,, both of which are much cooler than the other waters with a thermal signature.

These cooler temperatures could be due to relatively slower flow paths, which would provide more time for mineral precipitation between the reservoir and the surface and thus explain the difference in water chemistry. The differences between the average concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$ , K<sup>+</sup>, and SiO<sub>2</sub> in W1, W3, W4, and the hot springs with the concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$ , K<sup>+</sup>, and SiO<sub>2</sub> in W2 are 0.030 mmol, 1.2 mmol, and 2.1 mmol, respectively. The differences between the average concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$ , K<sup>+</sup>, and SiO<sub>2</sub> in W1, W3, W4, and the hot springs with the concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$ , K<sup>+</sup>, and SiO<sub>2</sub> in W14 are 0.023 mmol, 0.91 mmol, and 1.3 mmol, respectively. The ratios of these differences  $(W2/W14)$  are 0.77, 0.76, and 0.62. The consistency in these ratios suggests that there is also consistency in the minerals precipitated during ascent, with the waters in W2 having undergone more precipitation than the waters in W14.

Isotope results are reported relative to Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW) in  $\delta$  notation (the same equation applies to  $\delta D$ , with D/H replacing <sup>18</sup>O/<sup>16</sup>O):

$$
\delta^{18}O\% = 1000 * [(Sample18O/16O - VSMOW18O/16O)/ VSMOW18O/16O].
$$

Figure 16 shows the extent to which the samples collected for this study fall on or away from the global meteoric water line of deuterium and <sup>18</sup>O isotopes. Both W12 and W11 fall close to a local meteoric water line (LMWL) developed from samples collected in the nearby Willamette Basin (Brooks et al., 2012), further suggesting a shallow recharge source for these wells. W11 falls to the left (more depleted in both isotopes) than W12. This may be due to the fact that W11 is 359 meters deeper than W12, and may

intersect higher elevation flow paths. In general, as precipitation moves further inland and to higher elevations, it becomes progressively depleted in heavier isotopes, which prefer liquid over vapor phase compared to their lighter counterparts.

All of the other samples from Breitenbush show enrichment of  $^{18}O$  over deuterium relative to the LMWL. A trend line drawn through these sample points is depicted on Figure 16. Figure 17 shows these samples with the trend line extrapolated to more and less isotopic enrichment. The trend line intersects the LMWL at -14 ‰  $\delta^{18}O$  and -101 ‰  $δD$ , close to the value for W11 (-13.9 ‰  $δ<sup>18</sup>O$  and -97 ‰  $δD$ ) and indicating a similarly higher elevation meteoric water source for the thermal waters compared to locally recharged precipitation. When extrapolated towards higher enrichment, the trend line intersects the area of "andesitic water" proposed by Giggenbach (1992). Andesitic water is considered to represent subducted seawater either trapped in pores or present in hydrated clays that interacts with the upper mantle during slab descent. Based on the  $\delta^{18}O$ shift along the trendline, Breitenbush waters represent 6 to 10 % andesitic waters. This mantle signature is consistent with He isotope values (Mariner, 2003). Other possible andesitic waters in the Cascade Arc were recognized by Clark and Fritz (1997) in regard to isotope data from the Meager Creek, Canada, geothermal area collected during the 1980s.

The Wind River samples isotopic data show the Shipherd's Hot Spring samples close to the meteoric water line and the St. Martin's Hot Spring samples less enriched in D, and slightly more enriched in <sup>18</sup>O. The offset of the St. Martin's Hot Spring samples

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may be due to water-rock interaction, which would tend to enrich the water samples with  $18$ O relative to D. In this case, the St. Martin's Hot Spring would have a have a higher elevation meteoric water signature than the Shipherd's Hot Spring. The Shipherd's Hot Spring samples are likely a mixture of St. Martin's thermal source and low elevation precipitation. The Wind River samples are less depleted in both deuterium and <sup>18</sup>O compared to the Breitenbush samples, which suggests that the original source water is from a lower elevation or closer to the oceanic water source.



Figure 15: Piper diagram of Breitenbush samples. Note that W12 and W11 are the only nonriver samples that plot outside of the Na-Cl water quadrant. The majority of the samples overprint each other near the tip of the Na-Cl quadrant. Wells are depicted with diamonds, springs are depicted with crosses, and stream samples are depicted with circles.



**Figure 16:** δD versus δ18O. The dashed blue line is the expected global meteoric water line. The dotted green line represents a local meteoric water line (Brooks et al., 2012). Breitenbush wells are depicted with diamonds, Breitenbush springs are depicted with crosses. Data from Mariner, 1983 are depicted with an x. Wind River Hot Spring samples are depicted with triangles. A line shows the trend between Breitenbush Hot Spring samples, excluding W11 and W12.



Figure 17: Isotopic data from Breitenbush Hot Springs in context of "andesitic water" of Giggenbach, 1992. The trend line fit from<br>Breitenbush data extrapolates to andesitic water and the local meteoric water line.

Figure 18 shows a Piper diagram for the Wind River Valley samples. St. Martin's waters plot as Na-Cl waters and the Shipherd's samples plot between Na-HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and Na-Cl waters. This is potentially indicative of shallow mixing occurring at the Shipherd's Hot Spring that is not present at St Martin's Hot Spring.



Figure 18: Piper diagram of Wind River samples. The St. Martin's Hot Spring samples directly overprint each other, but are located distinctly in the Na-Cl quadrant.







**Table 6:** Major ion concentrations, total dissolved solids, and charge imbalances for Breitenbush and Wind River samples.





**Table 7:** Trace element concentrations for Breitenbush and Wind River samples. Note that Cd, B, and Sb were not analyzed on every run.





**Table 8:** Isotopes analysis results for Breitenbush and

# **4.1.1 Quality Control**

Charge balance errors were generally acceptable (i.e. less than 5%). The majority of samples had charge balance errors with absolute values less than 1. The sign of the charge balance errors varied from sample to sample, suggesting random, rather than systematic, error. Five samples had charge balance errors with absolute values greater than 5%. These tended to be waters with relatively low total dissolved solids. For example, the upstream sample collected from the Breitenbush River had the highest charge balance error (12.29%) with an associated total dissolved solids value of 75. For Breitenbush wells W2 and W11, laboratory alkalinity results were processed outside of the applicable holding time and the results were considered unacceptable; field alkalinity values were used for these samples. Full quality control results are included in Appendix B.

#### **4.2 Breitenbush Geothermometry**

## **4.2.1 Classical Geothermometry**

Table 9 shows the temperature estimate of each classical geothermometer used for this report for both Breitenbush and Wind River samples. Shaded cells indicate estimates outside of the acceptable range for a particular geothermometer. Figure 19 shows results of the silica geothermometer of Arnórsson (1998) for all of the Breitenbush samples. Figure 20 shows results of the Na-K-Ca geothermometer of Fournier and Truesdell (1973-79) for all of the Breitenbush samples.



Shaded cells indicate that the estimate is outside of the applicable range for the listed geothermometer.



Shaded cells indicate that the estimate is outside of the applicable range for the listed geothermometer.



Shaded cells indicate that the estimate is outside of the applicable range for the listed geothermometer.



**Figure 19:** Silica geothermometer of Arnórsson, 1998, showing estimated reservoir temperatures of Breitenbush samples.



**Figure 20:** Na-K-Ca geothermometer of Fournier and Truesdell, 1973, showing estimated reservoir temperatures for Breitenbush samples.

Figure 21 shows the results of each of the classical geothermometers, as well as their mean and median values for W4. The average of the three quartz geothermometers is 169 °C. The chalcedony geothermometer yields an estimate of 138 °C. The average of the six Na-K geothermometers is 179 °C.

In contrast to W4, the sample collected from W12 indicates a cool shallow source. Figure 22 shows the results of each of the classical geothermometers, as well as their mean and median values for W12. These results are similar to that of the Breitenbush River (Table 9). When using chemistry from the river samples, the estimated reservoir

temperatures range from 25 to 260 °C. That the river water is only minutely contributed to from deep thermal water underscores that the empirical classical geothermometers were developed particularly with thermal waters in mind.



Figure 21: Each of the classic geothermometers used for this study applied to water chemistry of W4.



**Figure 22**: Each of the classic geothermometers used for this study applied to water chemistry of W12. Six of the geothermometers are outside of the applicable range.

Example 100 -  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>  $\frac{1}{50}$ <br>
Figure 22: Each<br>
W12. Six of the<br>
Figure 24 shows a plo<br>
W12 on the ex<br>
particular, the S<br>
waters. This we<br>
thermal waters<br> Figure 23 shows a Giggenbach diagram for all of the Breitenbush samples. Figure 24 shows a plot of  $SiO_2$  in mg/kg versus  $log(K^2/Mg)$ . These plots both show waters from W12 on the extreme between other samples and the bulk of the spring samples. In particular, the SiO<sub>2</sub> versus log ( $K^2/Mg$ ) plot shows a potential mixing curve between the waters. This would indicate that the shallow waters represented by W12 have mixed with thermal waters to yield the waters of W11, W2, and W14, in decreasing proportion. W10 also appears to be affected by mixing of W12 waters, though to a lesser extent than W11, W2, or W14.



**Figure 23:** Giggenbach diagram for Breitenbush Hot Spring samples.



**Figure 24:** SiO2 versus log (K2/Mg) diagram for Breitenbush Hot Spring samples. The curve between the clumped values and W12 shows a potential mixing pathway.

## **4.2.2 GeoT**

GeoT allows the user to simply input water chemistry and allow the program to generate the best fit temperature based on an arbitrary collection of minerals that are listed in the chosen geothermal database and that have basis species present in the provided water chemistry. This is a fast way to generate an initial temperature estimate and mineral assemblage. The temperature estimate is produced by calculating chemical speciation and mineral saturation indices and comparing the median of saturation indices (RMED) for a selected number of minerals at each evaluated temperature. Although RMED is used for the temperature determination, GeoT also calculates the root mean square error (RMSE), standard deviation (SDEV), and mean (MEAN) of the saturation indices for the chosen number of minerals. Each of these four statistics is optimized at a value of 0, which would correspond to equilibrium conditions for all of the minerals assessed. In addition to these statistics, GeoT also provides an automated measure of the discrepancy between statistics, TRMED-TSTATAV, which takes the difference between the temperature at which RMED is minimized and the mean of the temperatures at which RMSE, SDEV, and MEAN are minimized. This statistic also has an ideal value of zero, which would result if the temperature of each minimized statistic was identical. In addition, GeoT lists the average temperature at which the minerals used for statistics have  $SI=0$  (T<sub>DT</sub>), the difference between the highest and lowest of these temperatures (DT),

and the standard deviation of this difference  $(\sigma_{DT})$  (Spycher et al., 2014).

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A plot of temperature, minerals, and statistics output using water chemistry from W4 with no additional user inputs is shown on Figure 25. The default number of minerals to assess is 10, and this arbitrary number was used to generate temperature and statistics for the minerals shown in Figure 25. In Figure 25 and other GeoT figures presented here, TRMED is listed on the upper half of the figure and the TRMED-TSTATAV value is listed in the lower half of the figure.  $T_{DT}$  and  $T_{RMED}$  are generally different temperatures. For this GeoT result,  $T_{RMED} = 136$  °C,  $T_{DT} = 132.5$ ,  $DT = 23$ , and  $\sigma_{DT} = 6.87$ .



Figure 25: GeoT output for W4 with limited user input. Estimated reservoir temperature is 136  $^{\circ}C \pm 6.87$  °C and T<sub>RMED</sub>-T<sub>STATAV</sub> is 0.667.

Due to the prevalence of silicate minerals, it is likely that geothermal fluids contain enough dissolved silica to show equilibrium with quartz or its polymorphs. Both chalcedony and quartz were observed in deep borings and exhibit equilibrium temperatures within a reasonable range of temperatures (i.e. greater than measured

borehole temperatures and less than the highest classical geothermometer temperature estimates). As shown in Figure 25, chalcedony exhibited equilibrium with the W4 water sample with no additional inputs or forcing. Figure 26 shows the output from GeoT produced when limiting the mineral selection process to five minerals, all of which were observed within the deep Breitenbush area borings (Table 2). The mineral assemblage was further refined by allowing only one type of montmorillonite, and excluding tridymite from consideration, as chalcedony already suffices for a free silica mineral. The resultant mineral assemblage generated by GeoT using these constraints included celadonite, calcite, chalcedony, calcium-beidellite, and sudoite. This assemblage resulted in a temperature estimate of 122  $^{\circ}$ C  $\pm$  6.99  $^{\circ}$ C.



Figure 26: GeoT output using reported minerals in boreholes at or near chalcedony equilibrium temperature.

A similar process was conducted using quartz instead of chalcedony. In this case, however, simply limiting the mineral assemblage to include quartz and exclude its polymorphs was not sufficient to generate a mineral assemblage and temperature estimate

close to quartz' equilibrium temperature. Instead, minerals that were observed in the deep borings which showed equilibrium temperatures close to quartz (anhydrite and stilbite) were included in the estimation process in order to force GeoT to assess minerals in this temperature range. Figure 27 shows the resultant SI versus temperature curves with an associated temperature estimate of  $175 \pm 24.22$  °C.



Figure 27: GeoT output using quartz and other minerals close to its equilibrium temperature. Note the disagreement between saturation index curves and the x-intercept as well as the relative scatter among statistic curves.

## *4.2.2.1 Multiple Water Analysis*

GeoT allows the simultaneous assessment of up to 100 waters. For Breitenbush,

wells W1, W3, W4, and W10 and South Camp, Sulphur, No Tobacco, Iron, and 180°

Springs were simultaneously assessed. W11 and W12 were not assessed due to their

apparent shallow nature. W2 and W14 were not assessed due to their apparent mixing with shallow waters (Table 9, Figures 19, 20 and 24). Using chalcedony, calciumbeidellite, and sudoite yielded an average equilibrium temperature of 114 °C, with a range of 100 °C (South Camp Spring) to 133 °C (W1). Associated  $T_{RMED}$ -T<sub>STATAV</sub> values ranged from 1 (W4) to 17 (180° Spring), with an average of 6. Using quartz, stilbite, and anhydrite yielded an average equilibrium temperature of 172  $^{\circ}$ C, with a range of 170  $^{\circ}$ C (Sulfur Spring) to 174 °C (W4). Associated  $T<sub>RMED</sub>-T<sub>STATAV</sub>$  values ranged from 11 (W1) to 44 (South Camp Spring) with an average of 22. In this regard, the range of estimated temperatures using the chalcedony mineral assemblage was much higher, but the statistics were closer to minimization when compared to the quartz mineral assemblage.

## *4.2.2.2 Optimization*

Optimization using GeoT was performed with PEST. The optimized parameters included steam weight fraction, concentration factor, mixing extent, initiation temperature, and activities (see Section 3.3.2 for a description of these parameters). Various iterations were conducted to determine the range of allowable parameters and the interval with which to adjust the parameters. In addition, the sensitivities of the various parameters were evaluated and tweaked until the salient adjustable parameters were determined. The associated PEST files used with GeoT, including control files, instruction files, and template file, are provided in Appendix C.
Figure 28 shows the results of using optimization on a chalcedony-based mineral assemblage. Optimization was achieved by "unmixing" 20% of a shallow water equivalent to W12, allowing no gas/vapor loss, and adjusted input activities that were generally equal to the original estimate, with the exception of Cl- and F-, both of which increased, and K+, which decreased. The estimated equilibrium temperature was  $134\pm$ 1.52 °C, and TRMED-TSTATAV was 0.00. All six minerals had saturation indices equal to 0 between 134 and 138 °C.



**Figure 28:** Optimized GeoT output, with optimization for gas loss, shallow water mixing, and activities (within the bounds of analytical uncertainty). Small variation in crossing temperatures was observed, and all four statistics agreed on a temperature of 134 °C.

Figure 29 shows the results of optimization using quartz, anhydrite, heulandite, celadonite, and calcite. The optimized parameters are identical to the original inputs (i.e. no gas loss, no mixing, no dilution), with the exception of an optimized initiation

temperature of 170 °C. The optimized  $T<sub>RMED</sub>-T<sub>STATAY</sub>$  value was 1 (compared to 13.3 not optimized) and the optimized RMED was 0.045 (compared to 0.066 not optimized). All of the selected minerals in the assemblage were identified in deep borings.



**Figure 29:** Optimized GeoT output with resultant reservoir estimate of 170°C, and minerals anhydrite, quartz, celadonite, heulandite, and calcite.

## *4.2.2.3 Summary*

An assessment of the sensitivities of the various parameters used in optimization of W4 indicated that the most sensitive parameters were initiation temperature, steam weight fraction, and concentration factor. Using these parameters, each of the well and spring waters collected from Breitenbush were assessed using GeoT. For each sample, the mineral assemblages were adjusted based on observed equilibrium or disequilibrium. Mineral assemblage clusters at both chalcedony and quartz were used for each sample. Table 10 summarizes the results, including the four minerals used for statistics for each water sample. Using the chalcedony mineral assemblage, the median estimated temperature was 134 °C with a standard deviation of 5.8. Using the quartz mineral assemblage, the median estimated temperature was 170 °C, with a standard deviation of 6.8. Table 10 includes statistics for each optimized sample. As is evident in Table 10, steam weight fraction was not determined to have a significant effect on the temperature estimates. This is largely due to the fact that few of the minerals used had carbon bearing basis species, and that the concentration factor parameter already dilutes and concentrates the remaining species such that the additional dilution or concentration of  $H_2O$  in the steam fraction is already accounted for.



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#### **4.2.3 RTEst**

Multi-component geothermometry was also conducted using the program RTEst. The fundamental principles of the program are the same as GeoT. Both programs assess the speciation of a water's chemistry at various temperatures, calculate the saturation indices at those various temperatures, and compare some statistical measure of similarity between the saturation indices of a mineral assemblage to determine which temperature best reflects aquifer conditions. However, whereas GeoT conducts these calculations internally, RTEst uses the thermodynamic reaction capability of Geochemist's Workbench to assess the speciation and saturation indices, and has PEST determine parameter values that minimize the weighted sum of squares of the saturation indices. In this regard, there is no way to use RTEst without optimization, although the user can choose to optimize for temperature,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ -fugacity, the mass of water gained or lost, and/or the amount of mixing with another user-input water sample. The "total saturation index," which is included in RTEst output files, describes the square root of the objective function. The weighting option used for this report depends on each mineral's basis species and each species' assumed analytical uncertainty. The scheme takes the inverse of the square root of the sum of the squares of the analytical uncertainties of each basis species multiplied by its stoichiometric coefficient in order to create a weighting scheme that more strongly considers simple mineral formulas. For instance, an  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  mineral has only one basis species (i.e.  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ ) with an estimated uncertainty of 5.0%. The associated

weight would be 20 (i.e.  $1/(\sqrt{[1*(0.05)^2]})$ , as compared to a more molecularly complex clay mineral, which may have a weight close to 1. This approach helps to ensure that minerals with a large number of basis species or large analytical errors are not overly weighted in the optimization.

RTEst has a user interface that informs the mineral selection process by eliminating minerals based on rock type, temperature, and pH, and ensures that the constituents of the selected minerals do not violate the Gibb's phase rule, in order to make sure that each constituent is independent. Unfortunately, the user interface was not compatible with my computer, and this functionality was not utilized.

To help further narrow down the possible minerals, the saturation indices of the remaining minerals were evaluated at temperatures estimated by classic chalcedony and quartz geothermometers in Geochemist's Workbench. Figure 30 shows a plot of candidate minerals with their saturation index curves for W4 water chemistry.



**Figure 30:** Geochemist workbench plot of mineral SIs versus temperature based on initial speciation of W4. Note the proximity of anhydrite, Ca-clinoptilolite, enstatite, and heulandite (all yellow) to the quartz curve (purple) and calcium beidellite, prehnite, strontianite, clinochlore and albite (all brown) to the chalcedony curve (orange).

` Using this initial estimate of likely mineral assemblages, a variety of mineral groups were attempted. The outputs from each attempt include a list of saturation index values for various minerals at the predicted reservoir temperature. This output file was visually examined for minerals with clustering saturation indices to further refine possible mineral combinations. Figure 31 shows a Geochemist's Workbench plot from an RTEst output using W3 water chemistry and the minerals quartz, anhydrite, laumontite,

and siderite. The associated equilibrium temperature is  $174 \pm 4.1$  °C. The optimized log  $(fCO<sub>2</sub>)$  is -0.709 which is an increase from the initial value of -1.615, indicating a loss of CO2 between the reservoir and surface fluids (i.e. degassing during fluid ascent, observed in springs and at W14). The optimized  $dH<sub>2</sub>O$  is -26.25 grams, a slight decrease in the mass of water, indicating a more concentrated reservoir fluid than the surface water (i.e. dilution of fluid during ascent).



**Figure 31:** RTEst output for W3 water chemistry using anhydrite, laumontite, quartz, and siderite. Estimated temperature of  $174 \pm 4.1$  °C.

Figure 32 shows a Geochemist's Workbench plot of an RTEst output for W4 waters using calcium-beidellite, clinochlore, illite, and chalcedony showing a resultant temperature estimate of  $138 \pm 3.3$  °C. The corresponding optimized fCO<sub>2</sub> was -0.73, an increase from the initial value, indicating gas loss during ascent. This sample was not optimized for dH2O, because adding an additional parameter for optimization resulted in an error of  $\pm 20$  °C. A number of Breitenbush waters showed large increases in standard error when mineral assemblages that included chalcedony were selected for three parameter optimization.



**Figure 32:** RTEst output using W4 water chemistry with the minerals chalcedony, illite, calciumbeidellite, and clinochlore. Optimized temperature is  $138 \pm 3.3$  °C.

Table 11 shows the results of applying RTEst to each of the Breitenbush water samples. Good fits were not identified for the shallow waters (W2, W11, and W12) and a chalcedony mineral assemblage for W14 and are thus not present on the table. The median temperature estimate for chalcedony mineral assemblage was 131 with a standard deviation of 6.7. The median temperature estimate for the quartz mineral assemblage was 171 with a standard deviation of 6.0. The median  $log(fCO<sub>2</sub>)$  for both assemblages indicates degassing of the reservoir during assent, though less pronounced for the

chalcedony assemblages when compared to the quartz assemblages. Similarly, both assemblages show an optimized reduction in water mass, indicating apparent dilution during ascent, though with more pronounced reduction in the quartz assemblages when compared to the chalcedony assemblages. Seven of the water samples were not optimized for three parameters with the chalcedony assemblage due to a large increase in standard error. Each sample was optimized for all three parameters using quartz assemblages.











NO = Not optimized. If a parameter value has this note, it suggests that a reasonable range of temperatures could not be constrained using sufficient minerals to optimize an

# *4.2.3.1 Mixing*

In addition to the three parameters optimized above, mixing between select thermal signature waters (W1, W3, Sulphur Spring, and 180° Spring) and W12 was optimized using RTEst. Table 12 shows a comparison of mixing results with unmixed results. Mixing was done with the same quartz mineral assemblage as was determined in the preceding section. In this case, only temperature,  $log(fCO<sub>2</sub>)$  and "react times" (essentially mixing mass) were optimized, as mixing essentially incorporates change in water mass, and when dH<sub>2</sub>O and mixing were optimized synchronously, it generally led to a large range of possible temperatures (high standard error). Temperature estimates using the mixing parameter were similar to those using  $dH_2O$ . In both cases, temperature estimates using one parameter were within the range of error of those using the other.



**Table 12:** Results of using the RTEst mixing module on select Breitenbush waters. Also shown are the results of optimizing for change in water mass for ease of comparison between the two parameters.

## *4.2.3.2 Parameter Sensitivity*

Using 180° Spring water chemistry and a mineral assemblage consisting of quartz, anhydrite, chamosite, and heulandite, each combination of parameters was optimized to assess temperature estimates and error using each parameter. Temperature was always optimized. Table 13 lists the results of each combination of parameters and the mineral assemblage. Each set of parameter combinations results in slightly different standard error and objective functions. However, the actual temperature estimate is more or less the same, ranging from 171 to 173 °C. As mentioned in the previous section, using  $dH_2O$ and mixing results in a large temperature range. Using all four parameters resulted in an estimate of  $173 \pm 18.1$  °C, though this run includes a fifth mineral (pseudowollastonite) in order to constrain the confidence interval.

Table 14 shows the same data, but with an equal weighting scheme for all minerals. In this case, the estimates for temperature and temperature plus  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ -fugacity are 10 °C less than with the original weighting scheme. All other temperature estimates are within 2 °C of those listed in Table 13. The standard error is larger for the equal weighting scheme, with the exception of the run during which all four parameters are simultaneously assessed. This is likely due to the fact that in the original weighted scheme, after PEST has preferentially optimized parameters for quartz, any adjustments away from these parameters will have a stronger effect on the objective function than if it was not weighted, and the confidence interval will become closer to these values as a

result. The standard error of the estimate optimizing for temperature, dH2O and mixing is 92.7 °C, and the temperature estimate of 173 °C is likely a product of the initial guess (173 °C for all of the runs). The Total SI and objective functions are less for the equal weighting scheme, but this is simply due to the fact that they are not multiplied by weighting coefficients before being summed and does not imply a better fit. In general, it appears that the weighting scheme used by RTEst provides better constrained results than if it simply regarded each mineral equally.

**Table 13:** A comparison of the results of each combination of RTEst optimization parameters. All runs used 180° spring chemistry and a mineral assemblage of quartz, anhydrite, chamosite, and heulandite. In addition, the run with all four parameters included psuedowollastonite.



NO = not optimized.

**Table 14:** A comparison of the results of each combination of RTEst optimization parameters with equal weights for all minerals. All runs used 180° spring chemistry and a mineral assemblage of quartz, anhydrite, chamosite, and heulandite. In addition, the run with all four parameters included psuedowollastonite.



NO = not optimized.

#### *4.2.3.3 RTEst Utilizing the GeoT Database*

In order to compare the outputs of RTEst and GeoT, I attempted to reproduce the database I used for GeoT (SOLTHERM) in a format recognizable to Geochemist's Workbench. Unfortunately, GeoT reads the coefficients used to generate temperature dependent equilibrium constants and Geochemist's Workbench only allows input of the constants themselves. The program reads the constants and calculates its own best-fit coefficients internally. Due to this inconsistency, some minerals were able to translate between the programs and some were not. Figure 33 shows an optimized output using W1 water for GeoT and RTEst for the mineral assemblage anhydrite, quartz, calcite, and heulandite optimized in both cases for water loss, steam weight fraction, and temperature. The GeoT temperature estimate is 174  $\degree$ C and the RTEst temperature estimate is 175  $\degree$ C. However, the shape of the curves is inconsistent between the two plots, even though they are both ostensibly using the same database.

Table 15 shows the effect that using the SOLTHERM database has on parameter sensitivity for minerals estimated using RTEst (again for 180 °C water using quartz, anhydrite, chamosite, and heulandite). The estimated temperatures are relatively close to those listed in Tables 13 and 14; however, this is largely a product of the initial guess value used for all three tables (173 °C). The standard errors range from 44.3 °C when optimizing for temperature only to 877.3  $\degree$ C when optimizing for all four parameters. In addition, the suggested change in water volume and mixing rates show positive values,

which implies a concentration of fluid during ascent in contrast to all of the other estimates of Breitenbush Hot Spring behavior. These data further indicate a disagreement between the two databases, or the manner in which Geochemist's Workbench interprets the logK values provided.



Figure 33: GeoT and RTEst outputs using W1 water, optimizing for temperature and dilution/concentration with pure water. A similar temperature estimate, but quite different curves.



NO = not optimized.

## *4.2.3.4 RTEst Using a Single Mineral Assemblage*

In addition to the independent runs exhibited in Table 11, RTEst was also applied to all of the Breitenbush thermal water samples using a common mineral assemblage in order to develop a model of reservoir conditions consistent between points. Samples from W<sub>11</sub> and W<sub>12</sub> were not included due to their apparent influence from a separate water source (Sections 4.1 and 4.2.1). Samples from W2 and W14 were not included because of differences between their chemistries and the other thermal water samples that may be the result of mineral precipitation during ascent (Section 4.1). Results were compared to the saturation states of minerals observed in the nearby geothermal wells (Table 2). The quartz mineral assemblages included in Table 11 showed undersaturation of chalcedony, which was commonly observed throughout the borings. In contrast, the chalcedony mineral assemblages showed supersaturation of quartz (also commonly observed), and thus both minerals could be explained by chalcedony equilibrium. In this regard, mineral assemblages that included chalcedony or that resulted in reservoir conditions showing supersaturation of chalcedony were preferred to those using quartz. A number of mineral assemblages were attempted.

It was observed that samples with similar Al concentrations were capable of attaining consistent estimates of reservoir conditions, but that samples with contrasting Al concentrations did not provide similar estimates. The well samples generally had much higher Al values than the springs, possibly due to Al present as colloidal particles from

well materials that were smaller than the filters used for the collection of cation samples (i.e. smaller than 0.45 um) or dissolved Al from well materials. The time-series pumping of W10 showed a decrease in Al with time, which may have been due to the gradual removal of these particles from the well as it was purged. W14 shows the highest Al concentration of any of the Breitenbush Hot Spring samples. This well was filled with rocks and could not be properly purged before sampling, further suggesting that high Al concentrations may be related to insufficient well purging. Another possibility is that the spring samples showed low concentrations of Al due to near surface precipitation of Al bearing minerals, including co-precipitation with iron oxides resulting from the oxidation of  $Fe<sup>2+</sup>$  near the surface. Due to this uncertainty, the Al concentrations for each sample were generated by assuming equilibrium with K-feldspar as per the fix-Al method of Pang and Reed (1998).

The most promising mineral suite consisted of chalcedony, heulandite, mordenite-K, and calcite. Table 16 shows the resultant saturation indices of minerals that were observed in nearby geothermal borings and that were present in the thermodynamic database thermo.tdat for each water sample using this assemblage. Included on Table 16 is the uncertainty of saturation index estimation, which is related to the analytical uncertainty of each of its component species and is calculated using the methods described in Palmer (2014). Most of the minerals show equilibrium or supersaturation. Laumontite and analcime both show apparent undersaturation. However, In the case of laumontite, the average saturation index for laumontite is -0.34, which is well within the

range of uncertainty for laumontite saturation  $\left(\frac{1}{1}\right)$  standard deviations below saturation). Analcime is clearly undersaturated (by > 3.5 standard deviations). However, this could be due to deviations from ideal stoichiometry as analcime can have significant variations in Na, Al, and Si contents (Neuhoff et al., 2004).

In addition to minerals identified in nearby borings, Table 16 includes calculated SIs for muscovite, fluorite, and petalite. Although muscovite was not described, it is included as a proxy for celadonite, with which it forms a solid-solution series and which was not present in the chosen thermodynamic database. Flourite is in equilibrium with the chosen assemblage and may control F- in the system, which ranges from 3.2 to 3.7 mg/L among the samples included in Table 16. Petalite is also in equilibrium with the assemblage and may control Li in the system. Li ranges from 1.6 to 2.6 mg/L among samples included in Table 16.

Table 17 shows the estimated pH, charge balance error, temperature,  $log CO<sub>2</sub>$ fugacity, and estimated Al concentration for each sample using a chalcedony, heulandite, mordenite-K, and calcite mineral suite and deriving Al from equilibrium with K-feldspar. Optimization was conducted on CO2 fugacity and temperature. When also optimizing for  $dH<sub>2</sub>O$ , the resulting reservoir estimates were similar with a large increase in uncertainty and close to zero change in water mass. This suggests that there was not significant loss or gain of water during ascent and that optimization with  $dH_2O$  caused an unnecessary over-parameterization of the system, and optimization for  $dH_2O$  was therefore excluded. Temperature estimates ranged from 130 to 141 °C, with a mean of 136  $\pm$ 3 °C. The

sample collected from W10 yielded an estimate 5 °C lower than the next coolest estimate. This well may have been influenced by mixing with a shallower aquifer, as recorded in the temperature gradient log (Waibel, 1983). Excluding this well, temperature estimates ranged from 135 to 141 °C, with a mean of 137  $\pm$ 2 °C.

Estimates of reservoir  $log CO_2$  fugacity ranged from  $-5.54 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $-1.14 \times 10^{-1}$ , all of which are greater than the surface water  $log CO<sub>2</sub>$  fugacity values, which ranged from -2.36 to  $-1.47$ , suggesting that  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  was lost during ascent at each of the sample locations. Estimates of pH showed consistency between sampling points within 0.2 pH units. Absolute values of calculated charge balance errors were less than 3% for all samples. The Al concentrations from assumed equilibrium with K-feldspar were also consistent between sample locations. Values ranged from 9.1 to 11 ppb, with a mean of 9.95 ppb. This value is between the average measured Al value for the wells (11.5 µg/L) and the springs (5.9  $\mu$ g/L) and is close to the value measured from 180° Spring (8.8  $\mu$ g/L). Isotopic data suggests that 180° Spring may have the greatest contribution from andesitic water (Section 4.1, Figures 16 and 17). Figure 34 is a graphical representation of the temperature, log CO2 fugacity, and pH results. Standard deviations calculated from PEST are included in the temperature and  $log CO<sub>2</sub>$  fugacity displays.


**Table 16:** Saturation states from Geochemist's Workbench/RTEst outputs using a mineral assemblage consisting of



a = Muscovite was not identified in nearby borings. It is used here as a proxy for celadonite, which was described in nearby borings, but which was not in the geothermal database.

b = Flourite and petalite were not identified in nearby borings. They are included here due to their apparent equilibrium conditions, which would explain the consistency of F (flourite) and Li (petalite) in Breitenbush thermal water samples.



 $\mathbf{I}$ 

SD = standard deviation



**Figure 34:** Temperature, log fCO2, and pH estimates from RTEst outputs for thermal springs and wells at Breitenbush using a mineral assemblage consisting of mordenite-K, chalcedony, heulandite, and calcite.

#### **4.2.4 Discussion**

There is good agreement between the temperature estimates from the quartz mineral assemblages of GeoT and RTEst, and the median of estimates of the Na-K and quartz classical geothermometers with estimates ranging from 169 to 175 °C. Similarly, there is agreement between the chalcedony geothermometer and multi-component estimates using a chalcedony mineral assemblage, with estimates ranging from 130 to 140°C.

Using RTEst with a chalcedony, mordenite-K, calcite, and heulandite mineral assemblage and deriving Al concentrations from assumed equilibrium with K-feldspar resulted in an average estimate of  $137 \pm 2$  °C. This estimate shows promise in its consistency in estimated reservoir  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  fugacity and pH (Table 17; Figure 34) and that many of the minerals observed in samples collected during drilling of nearby geothermal wells can be explained by equilibrium or supersaturation (Table 16). The mineral assemblages containing quartz show undersaturation of chalcedony, which was frequently observed in the geothermal wells. In addition, the estimates using quartz mineral assemblages relied upon equilibrium between quartz and anhydrite. Although anhydrite was observed in samples obtained from boreholes drilled in the area, pyrite and chalcopyrite were much more frequently described, suggesting that sulfate reducing conditions exist in the subsurface that would preclude anhydrite equilibrium.

All four of the minerals used in the assemblage were identified in both the CTGH-1 and SUNDECO borings (Table 2; Figure 4; Bargar, 1994; Bargar, 1988). Calcite and heulandite were also identified during drilling of W10 (Table 2; Waibel, 1983). Regarding the occurrence of mordenite, Bargar states that, "mordenite is a late hydrothermal mineral deposited in open spaces of fractures and vugs together with heulandite and chalcedony" (Bargar, 1994). The chosen assemblage may thus represent the current geothermal system. The use of K-feldspar to derive Al concentrations has been applied in many other multi-component geothermometry investigations, including at Breitenbush Hot Springs by Spycher (2016). In addition, adularia was reported in a sample collected from CTGH-1 at a depth of 1,293 m (Bargar, 1988), showing that it is present in the geothermal system.

Minerals identified in the SUNEDCO drillhole that did not show supersaturated conditions using chalcedony, mordenite-K, calcite, and heulandite include analcime and laumontite. The former was found in only a few of the core samples. The latter was found consistently at depths between 768 and 1,981 meters (Bargar, 1994). However, as described in Section 4.2.3.4, laumontite is within the range of equilibrium conditions when the uncertainty in estimating its saturation index is accounted for. It may have also formed prior to the present hydrothermal system. Bargar states that "SEM studies indicate that laumontite formed later than quartz, mixed-layer chlorite-smectite, and siderite and was deposited earlier than smectite and heulandite."

Past reservoir temperature estimates range from 174 to 180 °C (Forcella, 1982; Ingebritsen et al., 1992; Pang and Reed, 1998; Spycher et al., 2016) . These are consistent (if slightly higher) than the median quartz assemblage temperatures determined with GeoT and RTEst, but much higher than the chalcedony, heulandite, mordenite-K, and calcite temperature estimate of 137 °C. The previous multi-component geothermometry applications at Breitenbush relied on mineral assemblages that were not necessarily observed in the subsurface (Pang and Reed, 1998; Spycher et al., 2016). In both studies, Al concentrations were generated by assumed equilibrium with a feldspar. However, because of the other minerals used to generate temperature estimates (in particular quartz and anhydrite) the resultant Al concentrations were much higher. Pang and Reed (1998) describe a reservoir estimate of 180 °C for Breitenbush Hot Springs by forced equilibrium with albite, coincident with quartz and anhydrite equilibrium. This would necessitate an Al concentration of 0.6 to 0.7 x  $10^{-5}$  mol/kg (using GeoT's built-in FixAl feature). Similarly, Spycher et al. (2016) use forced equilibrium with microcline at quartz and anhydrite equilibrium to generate a temperature of 176 °C , which would result in Al concentrations of 0.3 to 0.5 x  $10^{-5}$  mol/kg. These estimates are two orders of magnitude greater than the measured and predicted concentrations during this study. In addition to these studies, other previous estimates involved assessing equilibrium with anhydrite as a reliable method for estimated reservoir temperature in the Cascades (Ingebritsen, 1992; Mariner, 1993). As described above, the reliance on anhydrite does not reflect the

apparently reduced subsurface conditions suggested by the frequent occurrence of sulfide minerals.

The maximum recorded borehole temperature from the SUNEDCO well of 141 °C (Bargar, 1994) is consistent with estimates based on chalcedony mineral assemblages, and not the quartz-based assemblages used in previous studies. An estimated reservoir temperature close to 140 °C is also consistent with fluid inclusion data from the SUNEDCO well, which showed a good correlation between measured borehole depth and fluid inclusion temperature (Bargar, 1994). As mentioned in Section 2.1.1.5, Arnórsson (2000) recommended as a general rule of thumb that for temperatures less that 180 °C, the chalcedony geothermometer of Fournier (1977) should be applied. The median estimate for thermal water samples from Breitenbush using this geothermometer is 135 °C.

#### **4.3 Wind River Geothermometry**

#### **4.3.1 Classical Geothermometry**

Geothermometry estimates for the four samples collected from the Wind River hot springs yielded lower temperatures than Breitenbush Hot Springs. As evident in Table 9, few of the classic geothermometry estimates have values in excess of 100 °C. Figures 35 and 36 shows each of the considered classical geothermometers applied to St Martin's Hot Spring and Shipherd's Hot Spring, respectively. The difference between ion concentrations are generally within the range of analytical uncertainty between the two St. Martin's samples and between the two Shipherd's samples, and each will be treated as a single source. In particular, St Martin's Well sample (collected closer to the source) and the upstream Shipherd's sample (slightly higher concentrations) are those chosen for this analysis.





**Figure 36:** Shipherd's Hot Spring by classical geothermometer.

### **4.3.2 GeoT**

As with the Breitenbush samples, the initial mineral selection process for GeoT was to allow it to generate the closest fit based on all the minerals in its database. The resultant plot for St. Martin's Hot Spring is depicted as Figure 37, and shows good agreement among saturation index curves at 89 °C. Figure 38 shows the plots for the

temperature estimate was 71 °C. The curves for several of the minerals were quite flat for these plots. Neither initial input included a free-silica mineral.



**Figure 37:** GeoT output using the chemistry of St. Martin's Hot Springs.



**Figure 38:** GeoT output using Shipherd's Hot Springs chemistry.

The GeoT inputs were amended to force inclusion of a free silica mineral and to eliminate minerals that did not fit within the geologic framework of the Wind River area. Both chalcedony and quartz were used to identify possible proximal mineral assemblages. Figures 39 and 40 show the resultant plots for St. Martin's Hot Spring, with a temperature estimate of 68 °C  $\pm$ 5.26 °C for the listed chalcedony suite, and an estimate of 97 °C 3.35 °C for the listed quartz suite. Figures 41 and 42 show the resultant plots for Shipherd's Hot Spring sample, with a temperature estimate of  $55 \pm 3.21$  °C for the listed chalcedony suite, and an estimate of  $85 \pm 3.85$  °C for the listed quartz suite.



**Figure 39:** GeoT output for St. Martin's Hot Spring using chalcedony.



Figure 40: GeoT output for St. Martin's Hot Spring using quartz.



Figure 41: GeoT output from Shipherd's Hot Spring using minerals with SI=0 close to chalcedony equilibrium.



Figure 42: GeoT output using from Shipherd's Hot Spring using quartz mineral assemblage.

## *4.3.2.1 Optimization*

Optimization of the St. Martins Hot Spring chemistry using a quartz mineral assemblage resulted in a temperature estimate of  $83 \pm 2.28$  °C and approximately 17% steam loss (Figure 43). Optimization for St. Martins using a chalcedony mineral assemblage resulted in a temperature estimate of  $101^{\circ}C \pm 3.2^{\circ}C$ , with an associated

concentration factor of 1.8, suggesting mixing between a mass of dilute water almost equal to that of the thermal water prior to its discharge at the surface.



**Figure 43:** Optimized GeoT output corresponding to approximately 17% steam loss from St Martins Hot Spring.

Optimization of Shipherd's Hot Spring chemistry with a quartz mineral assemblage yielded a temperature estimate of 80  $^{\circ}$ C  $\pm$ 2.87 $^{\circ}$ C and 20% water loss. Optimization using a chalcedony mineral assemblage (Figure 44) yielded a temperature

estimate of 93 °C±58°C and a concentration factor of 2.74, implying that the thermal

water has mixed with almost three times its volume in dilute water before discharging at the spring.



**Figure 44:** Optimized GeoT output for Shipherd's Hot Spring using the listed mineral assemblage.

## **4.3.3 RTEst**

RTEst was applied for the Wind River Valley samples in a similar fashion to its application at Breitenbush Hot Springs. Figure 45 shows the initial mineral suite estimation using Geochemist's Workbench. This initial snapshot indicates a number of

possible minerals in equilibrium with chalcedony, and few close to equilibrium with quartz.



**Figure 45:** Initial mineral suite estimation based on St. Martin's Hot Springs water chemistry. Minerals close to the chalcedony (orange) equilibrium temperature are in brown. Quartz does not seem to cross close to any minerals, though those colored yellow are possible fits.

RTEst output for St. Martin's Hot Springs using a chalcedony mineral assemblage resulted in a temperature estimate of 83 °C when constraining all three parameters with minerals chalcedony, clinoptilolite, clinochlore, and aragonite (Figure 46). Optimized

 $d_{2}O$  was -0.24 kg, suggesting dilution by surface waters. Optimized  $log(fCO_2)$  was -2.5, which is approximately one order of magnitude greater than present in initial speciation, suggesting loss of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  during ascent. I was unable to generate a temperature estimate with reasonably constrained standard error using a quartz mineral assemblage for St. Martin's Hot Springs with RTEst. This suggests that the initial snapshot of equilibrium conditions (Figure 45) showing quartz far from equilibrium with St. Martin's Hot Spring water may be accurate.



**Figure 46:** RTEst output for St. Martin's Hot Spring water showing an estimated temperature of 83°C.

The optimized temperature for Shipherd's Hot Spring using a mineral assemblage consisting of chalcedony, clinoptilolite, and siderite was  $83 \pm 10.4$  ° C (Figure 47). Optimized dH2O was -0.34, indicating mixture with a dilute source. Optimization was not possible with  $log(fCO<sub>2</sub>)$  for this sample without resulting in an unreasonable range of temperatures. Using quartz, chamosite, and aragonite, the optimized temperature was 85  $\pm 6.8$  °C with an increase in water mass of 0.09 kg, suggesting steam loss. Similar to the chalcedony assemblage, optimization with  $log(fCO<sub>2</sub>)$  increased the error substantially, with a resultant temperature of  $85 \pm 26.1$  °C. No shallow water sample was available for use in RTEst's mixing optimization schema.



**Figure 47**: RTEst output for Shipherd's Hot Spring with an estimated temperature of 83°C.

#### **4.3.4 Discussion**

A curious feature of the Wind River sample results is the consistency between the silica concentrations of the two springs and the disparity between them when almost every other analyte is considered. It is tempting to imagine that Shipherd's represents the product of mixing between shallow, cool water and water of the St. Martin's reservoir (as seemed to be the case on the Piper Diagram [Figure 14] and the isotope plot [Figure 13]). If this is the case, however, we would expect the silica values to also be much lower in the Shipherd's Hot Spring sample. This could indicate silica precipitation of the St. Martin's Hot Spring sample during ascent. Based on geothermometry results, it appears that St. Martin's and Shipherd's Hot Springs have the same thermal source, but that Shipherd's has mixed with a greater quantity of shallow, dilute waters.

For both spring samples, the GeoT optimization suggested that if the water had been in equilibrium with quartz, it would have meant substantial steam loss during ascent. This was also true of the Shipherd's RTEst quartz mineral assemblage result. In contrast, both GeoT and RTEst suggest dilution of waters during ascent for the chalcedony mineral assemblages, with more dilution for Shipherd's Hot Spring. Considering the proximity to the Wind River, the precipitation in the days before the sampling event, the number of shallow seeps in the vicinity, and the apparent mixing pathways between the two springs, it seems more likely that the reservoir is in equilibrium with the chalcedony assemblage. In addition, chalcedony is a lower temperature polymorph and, based on all geothermometers assessed for Shipherd's and

St. Martin's Hot Springs, the Wind River geothermal system appears to be a low temperature resource.

Optimized temperature estimates range from 83 °C using RTEst to 101 °C using GeoT. This discrepancy is possibly due to differences in the thermodynamic databases used for the programs, which affects the mineral selection process in that different groups of minerals appear closer to equilibrium with each other than other possible assemblages. The optimized amount of mixing with shallow waters was also higher for GeoT (for St. Martin's 1.8) than it was for RTEst (for St. Martin's 1.24), which explains why the estimate with GeoT is higher. The RTEst estimate is consistent between springs and mineral assemblages (83, 83, and 85 °C) in contrast to the apparent spread in the GeoT estimate (80, 83, 93, and 101 °C).

### **5 CONCLUSIONS**

#### **5.1 Breitenbush Hot Springs**

The most likely reservoir temperature for Breitenbush Hot Springs corresponds to chalcedony equilibrium at a temperature of approximately 137 °C. This value is close to the maximum recorded borehole temperature in the SUNEDCO well of 141 °C (Conrey and Sherrod, 1988) and is supported by fluid inclusion data and the apparent order of mineral formation within the thermal aquifer identified in the SUNEDCO well (Bargar, 1994). Multi-component geothermometry outputs using a mineral assemblage consisting of chalcedony, mordenite-K, heulandite, and calcite were able to explain many of the minerals observed in the nearby geothermal wells and showed consistency in estimated reservoir conditions, including a temperature of  $137 \pm 2$  °C.

An estimated reservoir temperature of 137 °C contrasts with past reservoir temperature estimates, which range from 174 to 180 °C for both classic and multicomponent geothermometry (Forcella, 1982; Ingebritsen et al., 1992; Pang and Reed, 1998; Spycher et al., 2016). These estimates relied on either equilibrium with quartz (which would preclude the presence of chalcedony which shows undersaturation when quartz is in equilibrium) or anhydrite (which would preclude the presence of pyrite and chalcopyrite due to a difference in oxidation state). Chalcedony, pyrite, and chalcopyrite were commonly observed in nearby geothermal wells (Bargar, 1994). Previous multicomponent temperature estimates used forced equilibrium to determine Al concentrations that were several orders of magnitude greater than those detected in Breitenbush well and spring samples analyzed as part of this thesis. Using higher Al concentrations is counter to the pattern observed during time-series sampling of W10, which showed a reduction in Al concentrations as time elapsed. When deriving Al concentrations from assumed equilibrium with K-feldspar while optimizing with a chalcedony-based mineral assemblage, the resultant Al concentrations are consistent with the pattern of observed Al distribution in wells and springs.

Isotopic data from samples collected for this thesis indicates between 6 and 10 percent mixing with "andesitic waters" of Giggenbach (1992), suggesting the hot springs are contributed to by subducted ocean and oceanic sediment interacting with the upper mantle. This fits within the framework described by Mariner et al. (2003) that postulates a sedimentary source for chloride and calcium, and a magmatic source for He. Isotopic data further suggest that the remainder of the thermal waters is sourced from precipitation deposited near the Cascade crest, based on depletion of isotopes relative to nearby meteoric water. A higher elevation source for Breitenbush Hot Spring water is consistent with a narrow High Cascade heat source for the area that is then distributed laterally, as described by Ingebritsen et al. (1992).

#### **5.2 Wind River Hot Springs**

Both Wind River hot springs seem to share the same thermal source. Whereas Shipherd's Hot Spring shows more dilution, St. Martin's Hot Spring shows the potential of silica precipitation during ascent. Based on multi-component geothermometry, a reservoir temperature between 83 and 100 °C is likely for these springs. This conclusion is consistent with previous estimates of Wind River Hot Spring reservoir temperatures. Although specific deep mineralogy was not available, the application of multi-component geothermometry to the Wind River geothermal system was constrained by knowledge of likely mineral occurrence. In this regard, the lack of subsurface data did not significantly hinder this study. The collection of a shallow, dilute end-member sample, such as from Gunderson Spring, would have allowed use of the GeoT and RTEst mixing modules which could have increased confidence in these estimates.

An estimate of less than 100 °C for the Wind River Valley reservoir temperature contrasts with a reported geothermal gradient of 160 °C/km. This steep gradient was extrapolated from a well with a bottom hole temperature of 28 °C. It is likely that the extrapolated thermal gradient is not realistic. The temperature estimates generated during this thesis are consistent with theoretical heat source being a shallow cooling intrusion (Czajkowski et al., 2013).

## **5.3 Multi-Component Geothermometers**

For GeoT and RTEst, there appears to be a built-in hierarchy of effective utilization and parameter optimization. Based on these results, the list of components in order of importance is:

- Mineral selection
- Thermodynamic database
- Weighting scheme (for RTEst)
- Concentration/dilution parameter
- Shallow water mixing parameter
- Gas loss parameter
- Activity correction parameters

Without successful mineral selection it is not possible to find success in multicomponent geothermometry, despite the sophistication of optimization schema that can be incorporated. In this regard, a possibility for future multi-component geothermometer development would be the incorporation of a method with which to automatically test various mineral assemblages. The use of PEST regularization and prediction modes to identify range of possible "correct" estimates could also be a useful method of further constraining uncertainty and potential strength of fits for each potential assemblage.

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## **APPENDIX A: OREGON WATER RESOURCES**

## **DEPARTMENT WELL LOGS FOR BREITENBUSH HOT**

**SPRING RESORT WELLS**

Appendix A consists of nine .pdf files. Files are named based on the well displayed on the well log. The following wells are included: W1, W2, W3, W4, W11, W12, W14, and W15. Files can be accessed at the Portland State digital archive:

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/

# **APPENDIX B: LABORATORY QUALITY CONTROL**

## **RESULTS**

Appendix B consists of a .csv file containing laboratory quality control results. The file can be accessed at the Portland State digital archive:

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/
## **APPENDIX C: GEOT INPUT FILES**

Appendix C consists of 47 .inp files used with GeoT to generate the results tabulated in Table 10. The files are labeled based on the well from which the sample with the input chemistry was collected. For each well, there is at least one quartz and one chalcedony mineral assemblage relating to the associated assemblages listed on Table 10. Quartz assemblages are indicated by the letter 'q' after the sample name. Chalcedony assemblages are indicated by the letter 'c' after the sample name. For the W10 time series, the naming scheme is W10 followed by the temperature of collection. For example, W1082c is the input file associated with the sample collected from W10 at 82 °C using a chalcedony mineral assemblage and W1072q is the input file associated with the sample collected from W10 at 72°C using a quartz mineral assemblage. Files can be accessed at the Portland State digital archive:

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/

## **APPENDIX D: PEST FILES USED WITH GEOT**

Appendix D consists of the .ins, .pst, and .tpl files used for optimization of GeoT to generate the results tabulated in Table 10. Each file type is located in a separate sub-file on the server

Instruction files: There are only two .ins files. The first, 'Geot.ins,' is used for PEST runs when analyzing one water chemistry at a time. The second, 'allwaters.ins' is used for PEST optimization for all waters simultaneously. Currently the files are stored as 'filenameins.txt'. Before running pest, it would be necessary to change this to 'filename.ins.'

 PEST Files: A total of 37 .pst files are included in the Appendix D. The .pst files are named based on the well or spring from which the sample was collected. For example, "sulphurc.pst" is the file used to optimize water collected from Sulphur Spring using a chalcedony mineral assemblage.

Template Files: A total of 37 .tpl files are included in Appendix D. The .tpl files are named similarly to their corresponding .pst files. For example "W1q.tpl" represents the template file used with "W1q.pst" for optimization of W1 water chemistry using a quartz mineral assemblage. These files need to be changed to "GeoT inp.tpl" in the chosen PEST directory prior to using.

Files can be accessed at the Portland State digital archive:

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/

## **APPENDIX E: RTEST INPUT AND REACT FILES**

Appendix E consists of files for use with RTEst. The files in this appendix are arranged in folders associated with a particular sample. Each folder contains at least one .rea file and two .txt files. The .rea file is the associated Geochemist's Workbench file. The .txt files are used as RTEst input files. For example, the folder "180" contains the files 180.rea 180chalcmins.txt, and 180qrtzmins.txt. Several folders contain react files used with the soltherm database. These files are labeled with Solt in their filename, for example "W10Solt.rea" is the react file used with the Soltherm database on water chemistry from W10. A total of 105 files are in Appendix E.

Files can be accessed at the Portland State digital archive:

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/