

Montana Ground Water Assessment (GWAP)

Prepared by Thomas Patton, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology: February 7, 2011

GWAP characterizes and monitors Montana's aquifers and makes groundwater data widely accessible through the Ground Water Information Center (GWIC). GWAP does not focus on issues, but provides data across all parts of Montana in support of groundwater protection, management, and development.

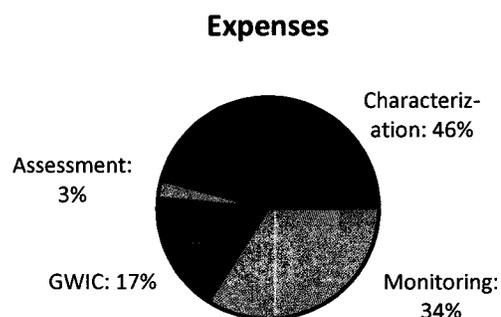
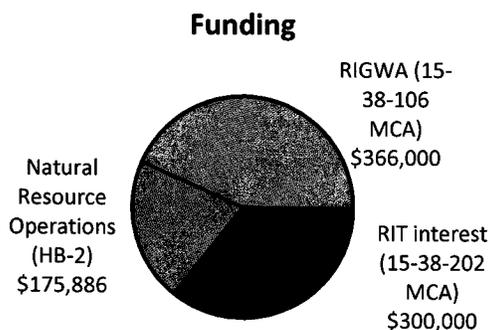
What have we done, what do we do?

- **Ground Water Characterization** has published **52 maps and reports covering 22 Montana counties**. Customers have downloaded these products **~17,600 times** this biennium.
- **Ground Water Characterization** has made **~9,000 site visits** to measure groundwater parameters and has added **~2,100 groundwater-quality analyses** to Montana's groundwater knowledge base.
- **Ground Water Monitoring tracks groundwater levels in Montana's aquifers**. Long-term groundwater records show how aquifers respond to climate variability and development: the program makes quarterly visits to more than **950 wells**
- **GWIC** provides information on more than **230,000 wells**. The GWIC website has **19,370 registered users** and each month **answers ~34,000 queries**, including the delivery of **~3,100 groundwater-level trend charts**.
- **GWIC** customers come from all economic sectors in Montana; anyone who needs or uses groundwater data or even has a well is, or can be our customer.
- **GWIC** surveyed its customers in November/December 2010. Based on the survey results and monthly GWIC logins, Montana citizens receive about \$6M in annual benefit as they use GWAP and other groundwater data for their various purposes.

Who are our customers?

- **GWAP customers** include farmers, ranchers, banks, attorneys, contractors, water-well drillers, engineers, land surveyors, legislators, students, realtors, teachers, and state and local government agencies.

How are we funded? / How are the funds spent?



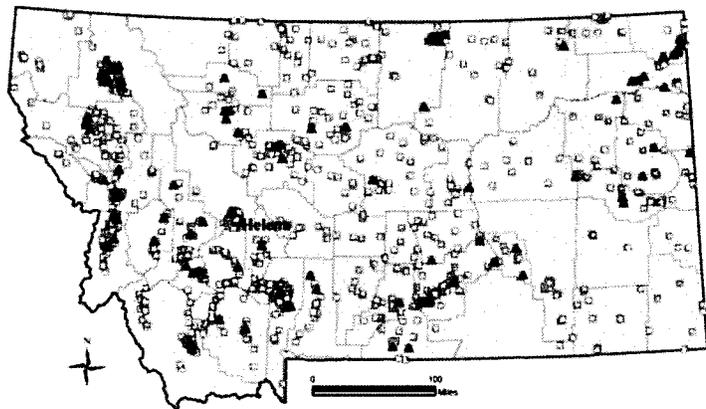
What will the impact be?

- The table below summarizes the financial impact of HB-316 by decreasing allocations to Ground Water Assessment from RIT interest and from the Natural Resources Operations Account (HB316 Fiscal note and page C-70 of the LFD Budget analysis).

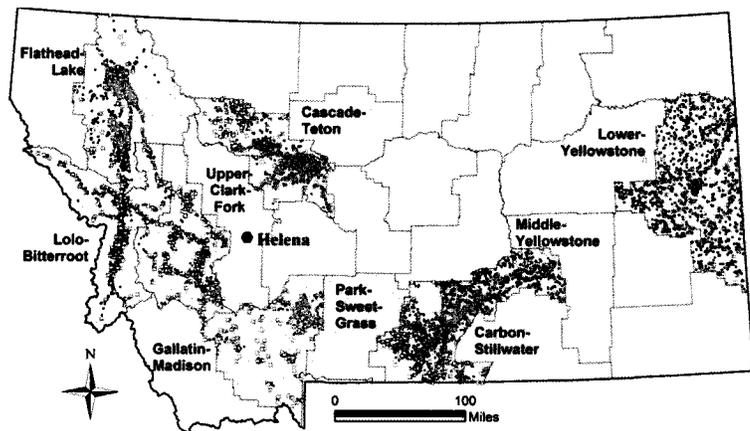
HB316 impacts	FY2012	FY2013
Governor's Budget:	\$841,886	\$841,886
Decreased RIT Interest:	\$ 28,334	\$ 30,000
Decreased Natural Resources Operations Account allocation:	\$ 13,289	\$ 13,289
Total Cuts:	\$ 41,623	\$ 43,289
Biennial Impact:	\$84,912	

- Because Ground Water Assessment does not receive increased appropriations to cover Legislature approved pay plans, should HB13 pass the Legislature the Ground Water Assessment Program would incur biennial pay plan increases of about **\$17,800**. The total biennial impact of HB316 in conjunction with HB13 would be about **\$103,000**.

Ground Water Assessment Monitoring Network



Ground Water Assessment Study Areas



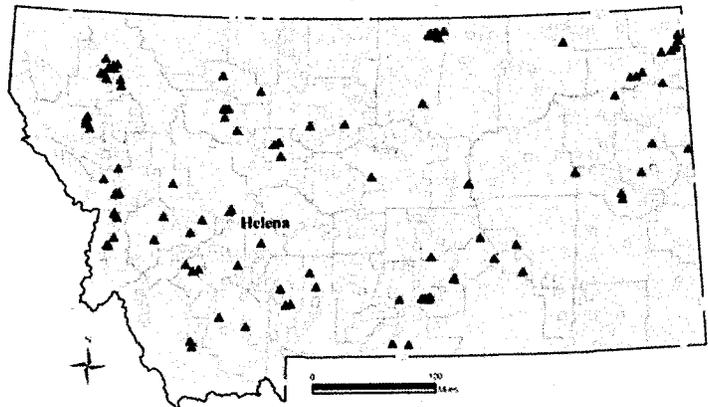
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