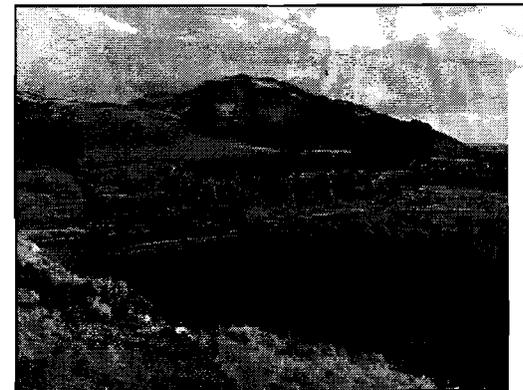


# *Montana Water*

*An assessment of Water Availability and Use in Montana*

**Montana Water Policy Interim Committee  
Helena, MT  
January 13, 2010**

Paul Azevedo  
Water Management Bureau  
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

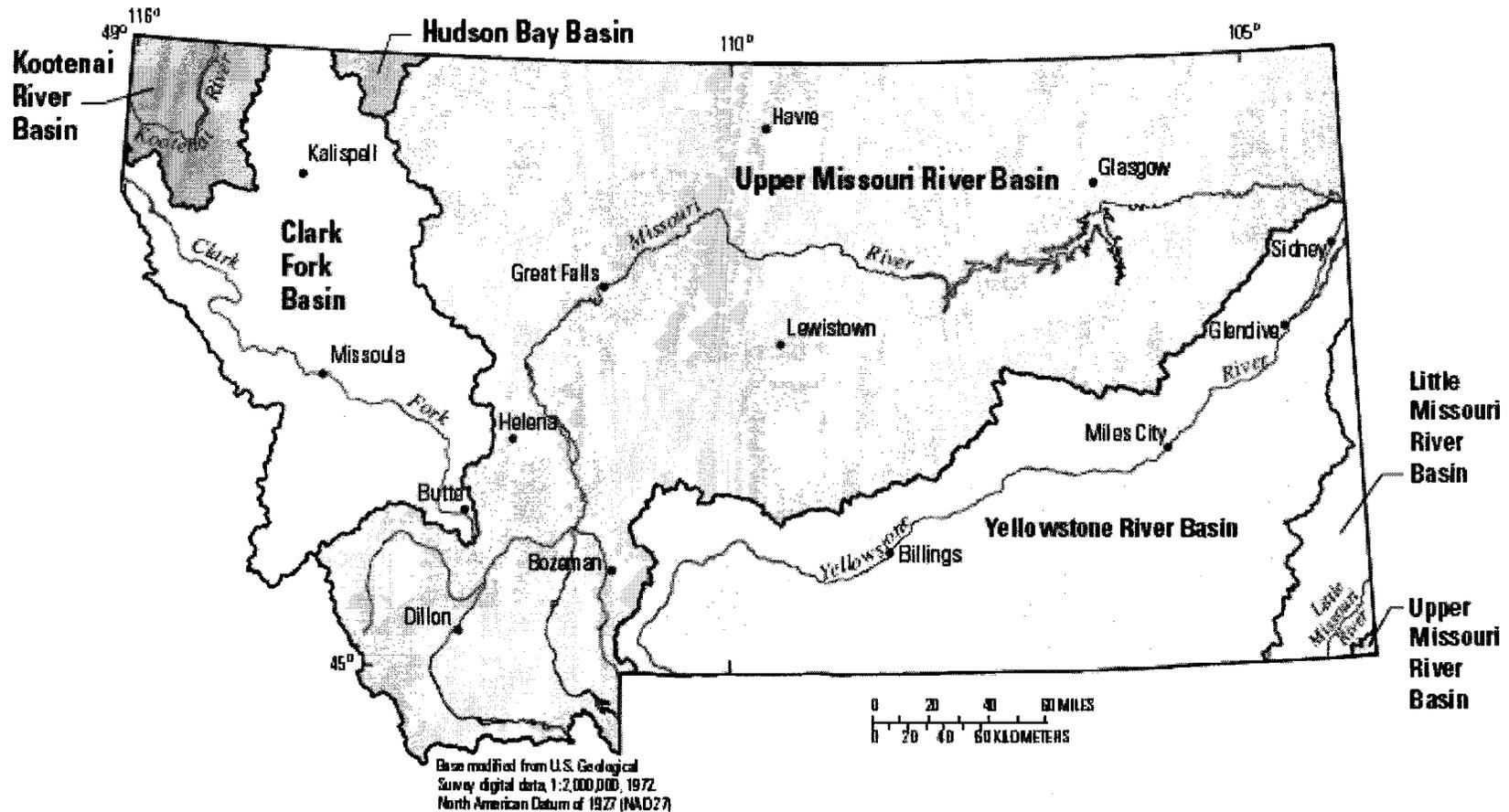




## ***State Water Plan*** ***§85-1-203 MCA***

*“The department shall gather from any source reliable information relating to Montana’s water resources and prepare from the information a **continuing comprehensive inventory** of the water resources of the state.”*

# Montana River Basins



Source: USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2004-5223: *Estimated Water Use in Montana in 2000*

# STATE WATER PLAN §85-1-203 MCA

*As Amended*

- ◆ An inventory of consumptive and nonconsumptive uses **associated with existing water rights;**
- ◆ A continuing inventory of the state's **groundwater resources;**
- ◆ An analysis of the **effects of drought and increased depletions** on water availability;

# ***STATE WATER PLAN §85-1-203 MCA***

***As Amended - continued***

- ◆ **An estimate of surface and ground water needed to satisfy new future demands;**
- ◆ **Proposals for the best means, such as an evaluation of opportunities for storage of water by both private and public entities, to satisfy existing water rights and new water demands;**
- ◆ **Possible sources of water** to meet the needs of the state; and
- ◆ **Legislation necessary** to address water resource concerns in these basins.

# CENTRAL QUESTIONS



💧 *What are Montana's current and future water resource needs?*

💧 *Is this water physically and legally available to meeting existing and future needs?*



# FOCUS



## ***To Compile, Develop and Deliver***

*Water Resource Information to water users and decision makers*

◆ *Increase knowledge and understanding of current water supply, demand, and future needs.*

◆ *Support informed decision making at all levels.*

# History of Water Planning in MT

- ◆ Pre-1965 – Water Project Development Era
  - MT Water Resources Board (1933)
  - US Bureau of Reclamation (1902)
- ◆ 1965 -1981 – Basin Planning Era
  - 1965- Federal Water Resources Planning Act, Basin Commissions
  - 1967-MT Water Resources Act
  - 1981- Federal funding ended
- ◆ 1987-1999 – Section Planning Era
  - Issue Oriented
  - Focus on Policy Development
- ◆ 1999 – Present
  - Support of local watershed groups

# UPDATED APPROACH

- ◆ Information Management and Technology
- ◆ Geographic Information Systems
- ◆ Internet
- ◆ Public Engagement

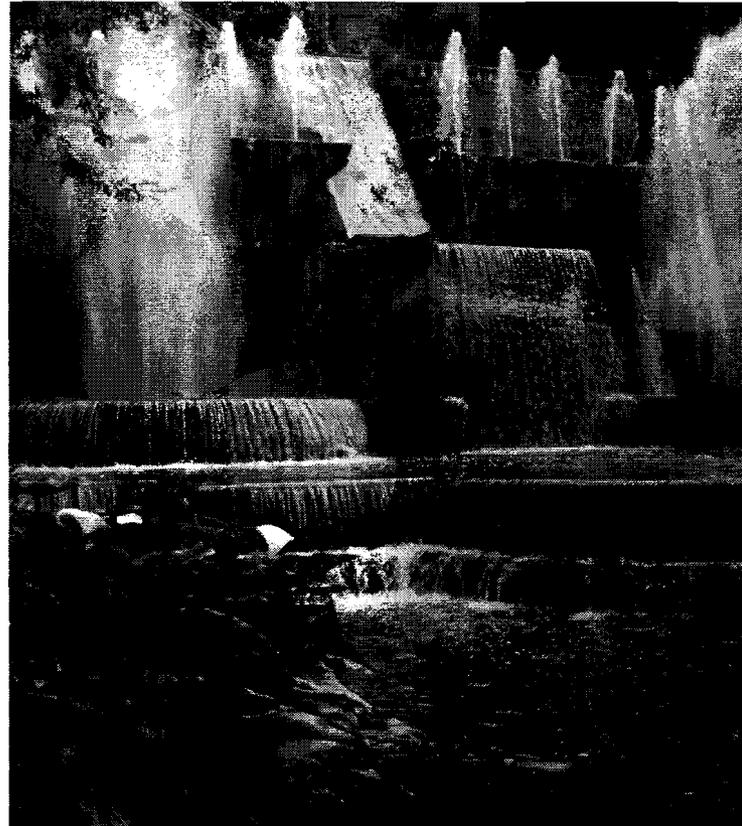
# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- Water Resource Decision Support System
  - Information & Data
  - Analysis
  
- Public Involvement
  - Outreach
  - Partnerships

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

## Objectives

- ◆ Compile
- ◆ Analyze
- ◆ Deliver
- ◆ Update



# WATER RESOURCE DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

## 💧 *Water Use (Demand)*

- *Consumptive*
- *Non-consumptive*

## 💧 *Water Availability (Supply)*

- *Total flow through a basin (hydrology)*
- *Infrastructure*
- *Laws / Regulations*

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- ◆ Local (Watershed level)
  - Local information gathering, review and presentation of summaries
  - Ongoing technical assistance
  
- ◆ Regional (Basin Water User Councils - §85-1-203)
  - Regional information gathering, review and presentation of basin summaries
  - Ongoing technical assistance and information refinement
  
- ◆ State
  - Coordinate with other state and federal agencies to ensure data consistency and a comprehensive approach

# OUTREACH TO DATE

- *Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council*
- *Missouri River Conservation Districts Council*
- *Clark Fork River Basin Task Force*
- *MT Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention*

# POTENTIAL PARTNERS

## Local

Water User Councils (§85-1-203)  
Conservation Districts  
Watershed Organizations  
County Commissions/Planners  
Water Users

## Federal

US Geological Survey  
US Fish & Wildlife  
NRCS  
US Army Corps of Engineers

## State

DNRC  
MT Water Center  
MT Watercourse  
Dept of Fish Wildlife and Parks  
Dept of Environmental Quality  
MT Bureau of Mines and Geology  
MACD

NRIS  
Dept of Agriculture  
MT Watershed Coordination Council  
Universities  
Wetlands Protection Program  
Conservation Organizations

# Proposed Timeline

