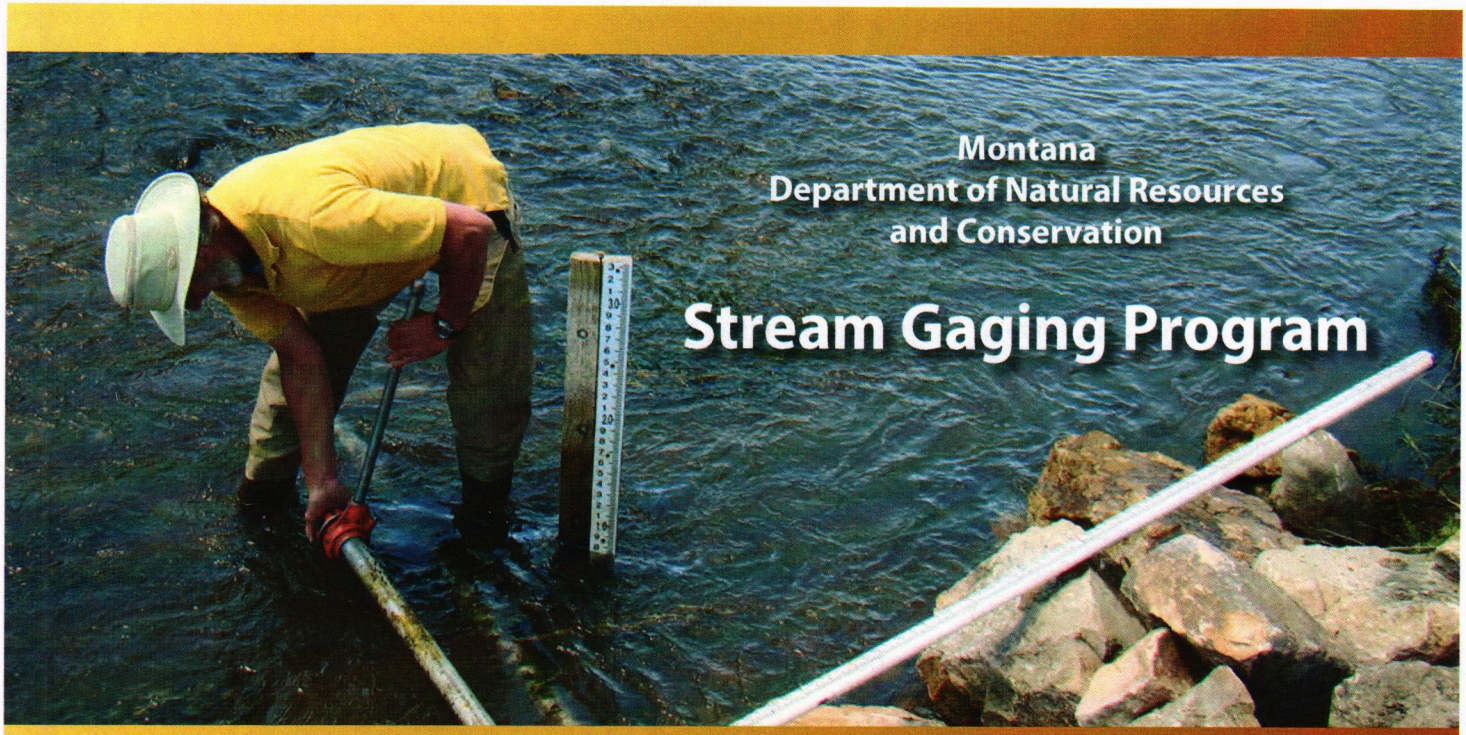
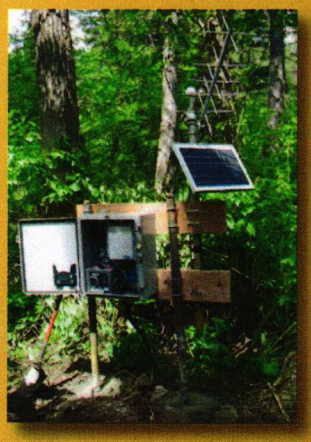


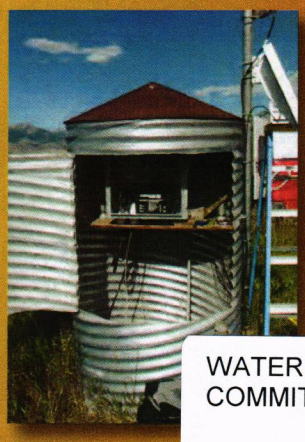
Montana
Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation

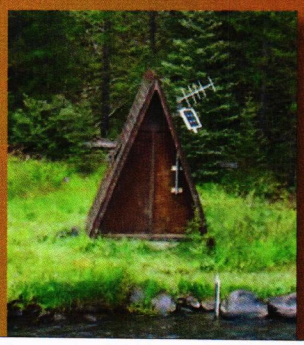
Stream Gaging Program

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is committed to providing high quality hydrologic data and information to support all water users in the management and use of Montana's water resources.

Effective water management and distribution depend on accurate, real-time measurements of streamflow. Water users across Montana identified the need to develop a network of real-time stream gages on the many streams and tributaries that are not part of the USGS stream monitoring network (Montana State Water Plan, 2015). Expanding the state's current stream flow monitoring network will enable Montanans to better manage water supplies necessary to meet both existing and future water demands and help plan for the effects of drought and climatic changes. DNRC currently has funding and resources to install and operate 25 stream gages. DNRC will add additional gages to support the program as funding for resources and personnel become available.







DNRC Water Resources
Stream Gaging Program
Matt Norberg 406-444-6041
mnorberg@mt.gov

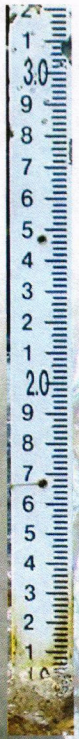
WATER POLICY INTERIM
COMMITTEE 2015-16

July 11, 2016 Exhibit 5

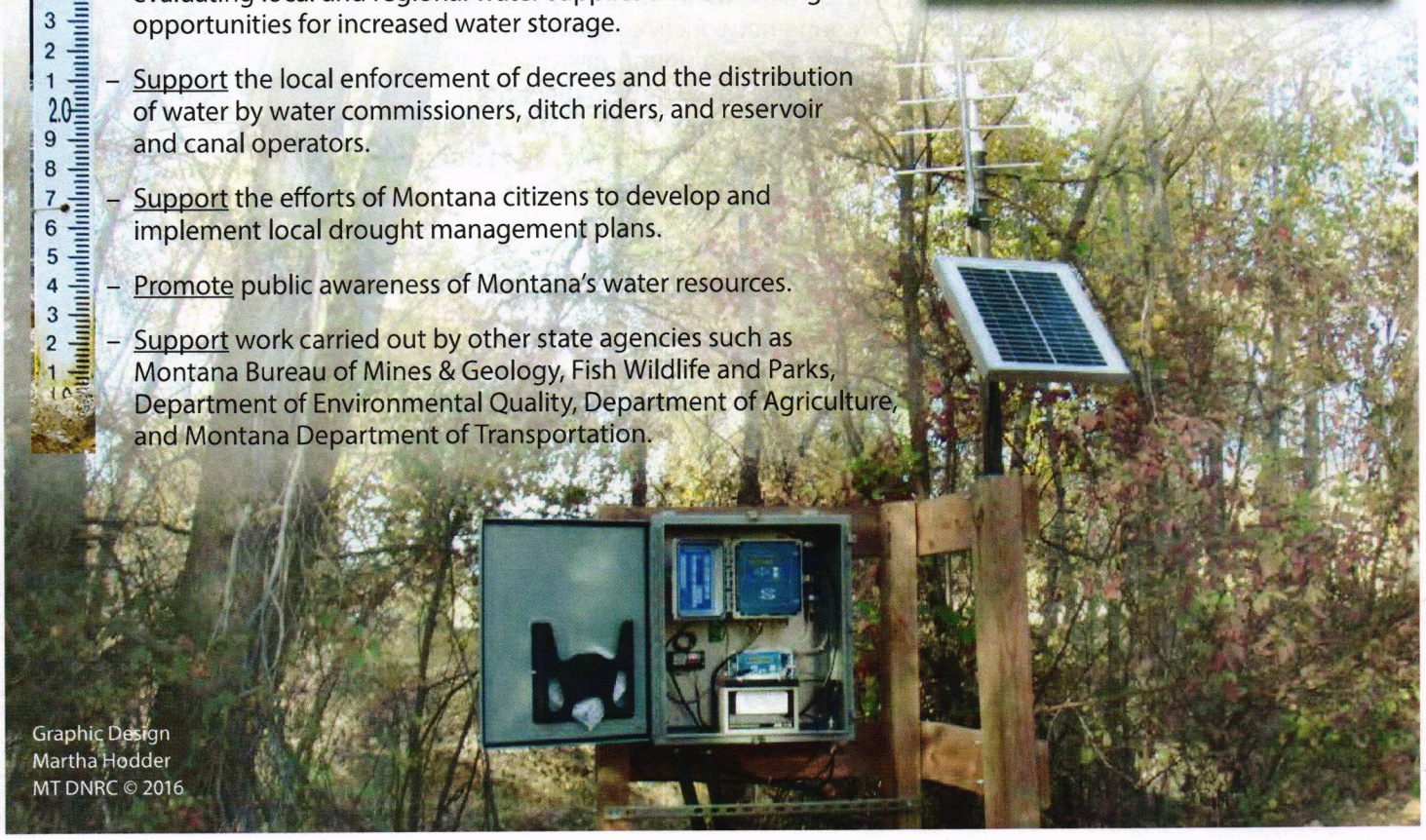
Goals:

- Collect, analyze, and present accurate, high quality 'real-time' streamflow data in Montana's rivers, streams, and other critical surface water locations, not monitored by the National USGS program.
- Install and maintain up to 100 permanent real-time stream gages by 2025.
- Provide stream flow data and information to a user friendly, publically accessible web site developed by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.
- Support local and regional water resource allocation, distribution, and management goals.

Benefits:



- Enable water users and managers to make water use and distribution decisions based on real-time information.
- Collect and provide essential information on the amount of water physically available for new appropriations.
- Expand the capability for both short and long-term water resource planning such as developing basin water budgets, evaluating local and regional water supplies and evaluating opportunities for increased water storage.
- Support the local enforcement of decrees and the distribution of water by water commissioners, ditch riders, and reservoir and canal operators.
- Support the efforts of Montana citizens to develop and implement local drought management plans.
- Promote public awareness of Montana's water resources.
- Support work carried out by other state agencies such as Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology, Fish Wildlife and Parks, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, and Montana Department of Transportation.



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Martha Hodder
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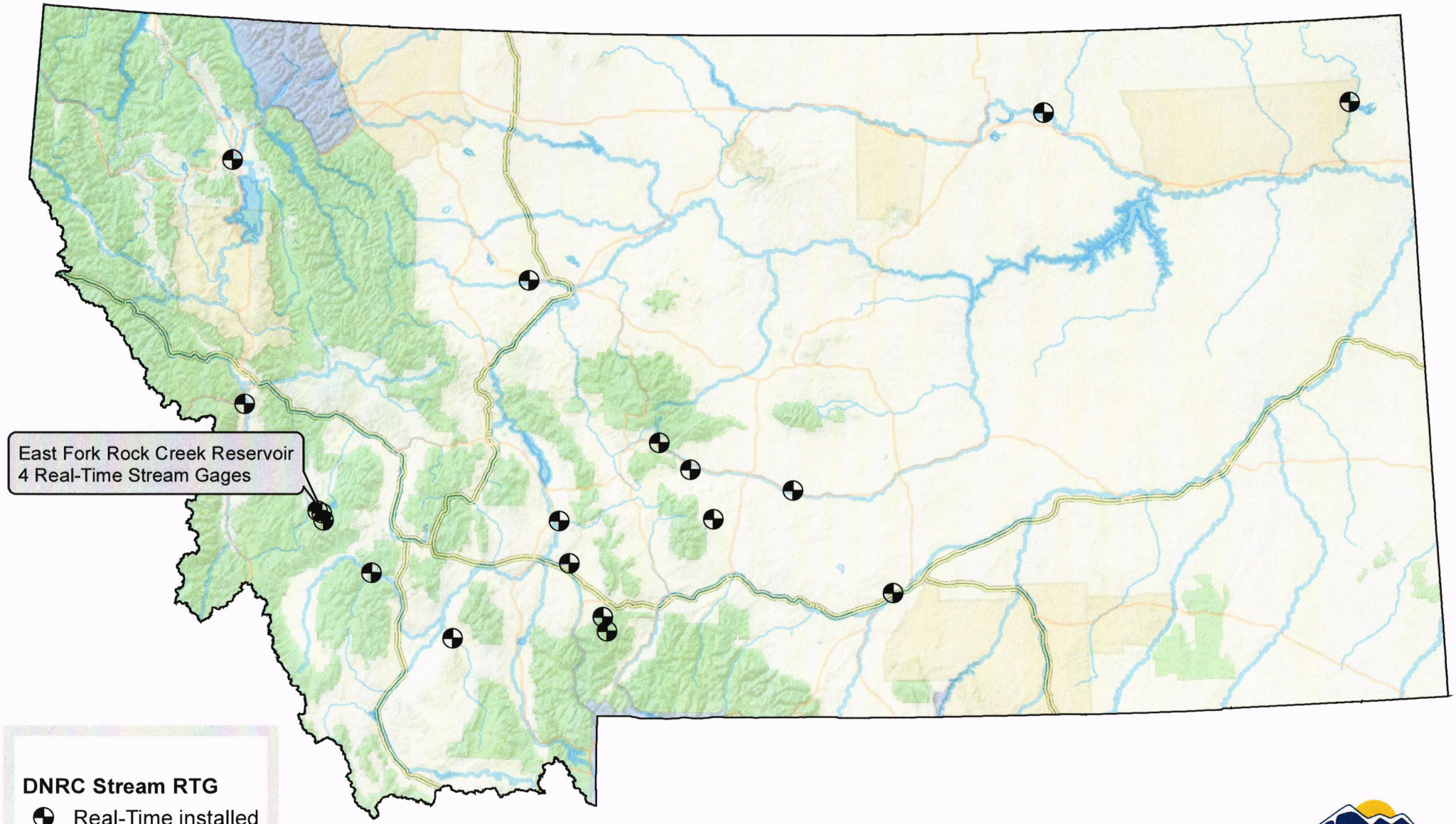
STATEWIDE DNRC
REAL-TIME STREAM GAGE NETWORK