



MONTANA WATER RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION

Update: Summer 2009

Many organizations collect water data; most research takes place at the universities.

MONTANA STATE ORGANIZATIONS

The University of Montana – various departments

- » River Center
- » Flathead Lake Biological Station
- » Montana Climate Office

Montana Tech – various departments

- » Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

Montana State University – various departments

- » Montana Water Center
- » USGS Fisheries Co-op Unit
- » MSU Extension Water Quality Program

MT Department of Agriculture – data collection

- » Groundwater pesticide analysis, concentrating on one or two areas each year

Montana Department of Environmental Quality – data collection

- » Hazardous waste site investigations
- » Mine site investigations
- » Water quality condition assessment for CWA 305b listing, cleanup monitoring
- » Some water quality monitoring

FEDERAL AGENCIES

US Geological Survey – data collection and research

- » Water resources of Montana – surface and ground water data collection
- » Special studies – Tongue River, fishery resources and glaciers of Glacier National Park, hydrology of constructed wetlands, floodplain re-mapping, etc.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – data collection

- » Fishery surveys, radio tracking studies to determine seasonal movements of fish, studies to determine factors limiting fish populations

Montana Department of Transportation – data collection, special studies

- » Wetland mapping, mitigation evaluation, environmental assessments

Natural Resources Damage Program, Department of Justice – data collection

- » Site assessment phase prior to remediation or property acquisition

Natural Heritage Program - data collection

- » Amphibian surveys, wetland mapping

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – both monitoring and research

- » RRGL and RDGP grants for site-specific research, site contamination investigation

Flathead Basin Commission – assessing status of Flathead Lake and the watershed

- » Contract research

US Fish & Wildlife Service – research and development

- » Bozeman Fish Tech Center – hatchery research, fish biology research
- » Bozeman Fish Health Center - diagnostic service for fish health
- » Wildlife refuges – special studies

US Environmental Protection Agency – Superfund site data collection

US Army Corps of Engineers

- » Yellowstone cumulative impacts assessment, other special studies

US Forest Service – special studies, Tenderfoot Creek Experimental Forest

Bureau of Land Management – ground water monitoring in SE Montana

USDI Bureau of Reclamation – AgriMet and reservoir data collection

Bonneville Power Administration

Northwest Power & Conservation Council – data collection and analysis

- » Projection and analysis of water power resources in the Columbia Basin

National Weather Service

- » Data gathering by a network of weather monitors; forecasting

Natural Resources Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture

- » Snow data gathering, streamflow forecasting, drought tracking

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS – most data gathering comprises site characterization to meet permit requirements or develop remediation plans

- » Drawdown monitoring and aquifer characterization for new ground water wells
- » Modeling of septic drainfield leachate plumes for new subdivisions
- » Pre-project or ongoing water resource characterization associated with mining, gravel extraction, CBM development, etc.
- » Avista and PPL Montana – monitoring to meet FERC licensing requirements
- » Superfund Responsible Parties and contractors – site investigations and remediation monitoring

OTHERS

- » Public water and wastewater systems - regular testing of treated water or wastewater, some testing of source water
- » Conservation Districts and watershed groups - surface water monitoring for TMDL development (~20 districts and 20 groups)
- » Tribes and tribal colleges – principally water data collection
- » Local water quality districts – data collection, special studies