

# TOWN OF JUDITH GAP WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



## The Problem

The Town of Judith Gap maintains a public water system supplied by an artesian well located approximately 2.5 miles north of Town and water is transmitted to an elevated storage tank and then distributed to the Towns system by gravity flow. Although the Town replaced a large portion of its distribution mains in 2010, several issues continue to exist, including additional aged mains to be replaced and water meters that are currently rendered unusable.

When the existing water meters were being used, they were a direct read type with some located within residences, subjecting operator interaction with residents and subject to entering confined spaces, contributing to potentially unsafe and hazardous situations. The water meters are aged so that replacement parts are no longer available or supported by the manufacturer. The lack of water meters prevents the Town of Judith Gap from conducting a water audit to evaluate water loss and promote water use efficiency.

## The Solution

The Town is currently requesting funding from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) program to replace water meters. The implementation of operable water meters will allow the Town to properly manage the water system by charging rates more equitably based on usage to develop a means for the additional capital improvement reserves. Future phases of improvements include additional replacement of undersized and aging water mains.



## The Cost

Current water meter installation project estimate: \$250,000  
Funding in place  
Local Funds \$34,586  
Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \$32,026  
Montana Minimum Allocation Funds \$58,388  
Funding applied for:  
RRGL (ranked #49) \$125,000

## The Need

The Town of Judith Gap water system serves approximately 40 commercial and residential rate payers. With a population comprised of more than 50% low to moderate income households, increases in rates, especially for those living on fixed incomes, are felt deeply in the community. Grants that ease the debt burden on rate payers can make a difference. Furthermore, providing for the ability to better manage the water system and promote water use efficiency will preserve the valuable water resource that town residents rely on.

*Your support of RRGL or other infrastructure funding is critical for the success of the Town of Judith Gap Water System Improvement Project.*