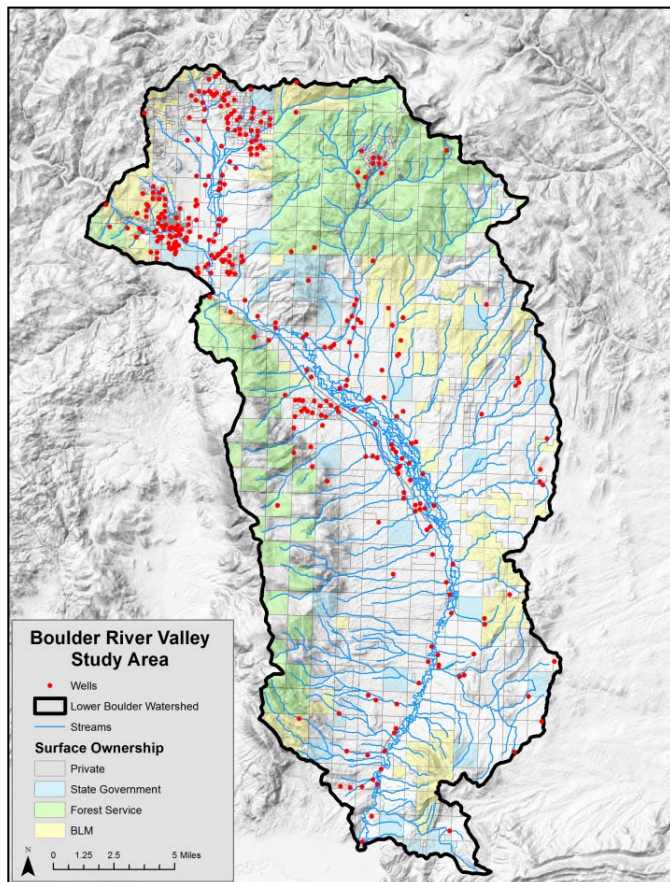


# Boulder River Valley Groundwater Investigation:

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) Groundwater Investigations Program (GWIP) is conducting a groundwater study of the Boulder River Valley. The purpose of GWIP is to investigate specific local groundwater issues. More information on GWIP is available at <http://www.mbmg.mtech.edu/gwip/gwip.asp>.



It is believed that the alluvial aquifer of the Boulder River provides baseflow to the Boulder River. In its current state, the Boulder River often runs dry in the late summer, eliminating the ability to irrigate, even for senior water rights holders. As such, there are concerns that continued groundwater development in the watershed will adversely impact senior water rights holders. This GWIP study examines the flux of water between the alluvium and the river, the magnitude of impacts that would be expected from existing and potential housing developments in the watershed, and the potential for increasing water availability throughout the year. Water quality samples will also be collected from groundwater and surface waters in the study area.

This is a two year study, running from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013. The area of study is the Lower Boulder River Watershed from Boulder to Cardwell (USGS Watershed 1002000605), with the focus being on the

alluvial aquifer along the Boulder River.

In the initial phase of the project, wells were inventoried and surface water sites (including on irrigation ditches) were established as part of a monitoring network. Additional wells are being installed where more data are needed, such as upland bedrock areas and alongside the Boulder River.

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