Although data will be collected in the entire watershed, the focus area will be in the lower Lolo valley area. Data collection began in April of 2016:

1) Installation of surface water gaging stations throughout the watershed (a collaborative effort with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation), and

2) Develop a groundwater monitoring network throughout the watershed with monitoring concentrated in the lower reach (Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology).

**This project will investigate:**

- Groundwater/surface-water interactions

- Historic and current groundwater-level trends as they relate to land-use changes in the area and climate

- Make predictions on natural and man-made changes to surface water and groundwater

In some years Lolo Creek goes dry in its lower reaches. The causes of the dewatering will be investigated. Specific topics include:

- **Geology**
  
  Evaluate the geology as it relates to depositional and structural controls on Lolo Creek

- **Hydrogeology**
  
  Understand groundwater and surface water interactions
  
  Sources of recharge and discharge to the focus area
  
  Bitterroot River elevation effects on Lolo Creek and groundwater

- **Domestic and irrigation demands**

- **Climate**

The products of this investigation will include an interpretive report and a numerical groundwater flow model. These publicly available products will provide land owners and public agencies with scientific information and tools to help make data-driven water management decisions.

**For more information contact:** Ginette Abdo, 406-496-4152, John Wheaton, 406-272-1603, or Camela Carstarphen, 406-723-9501.

Find more GWIP project information on MBMG’s website: [http://www.mbg.mtech.edu/gwip/gwip.asp](http://www.mbg.mtech.edu/gwip/gwip.asp)