

BIG SKY GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION

UPDATE TO THE BSWSD BOARD, MAY 24, 2016



Purposes

- Develop a conceptual model of the bedrock aquifers in the Big Sky area
- Investigate the Meadow Village alluvial aquifer
- Develop a groundwater model for the Meadow Village alluvial aquifer
- Provide a report and model products

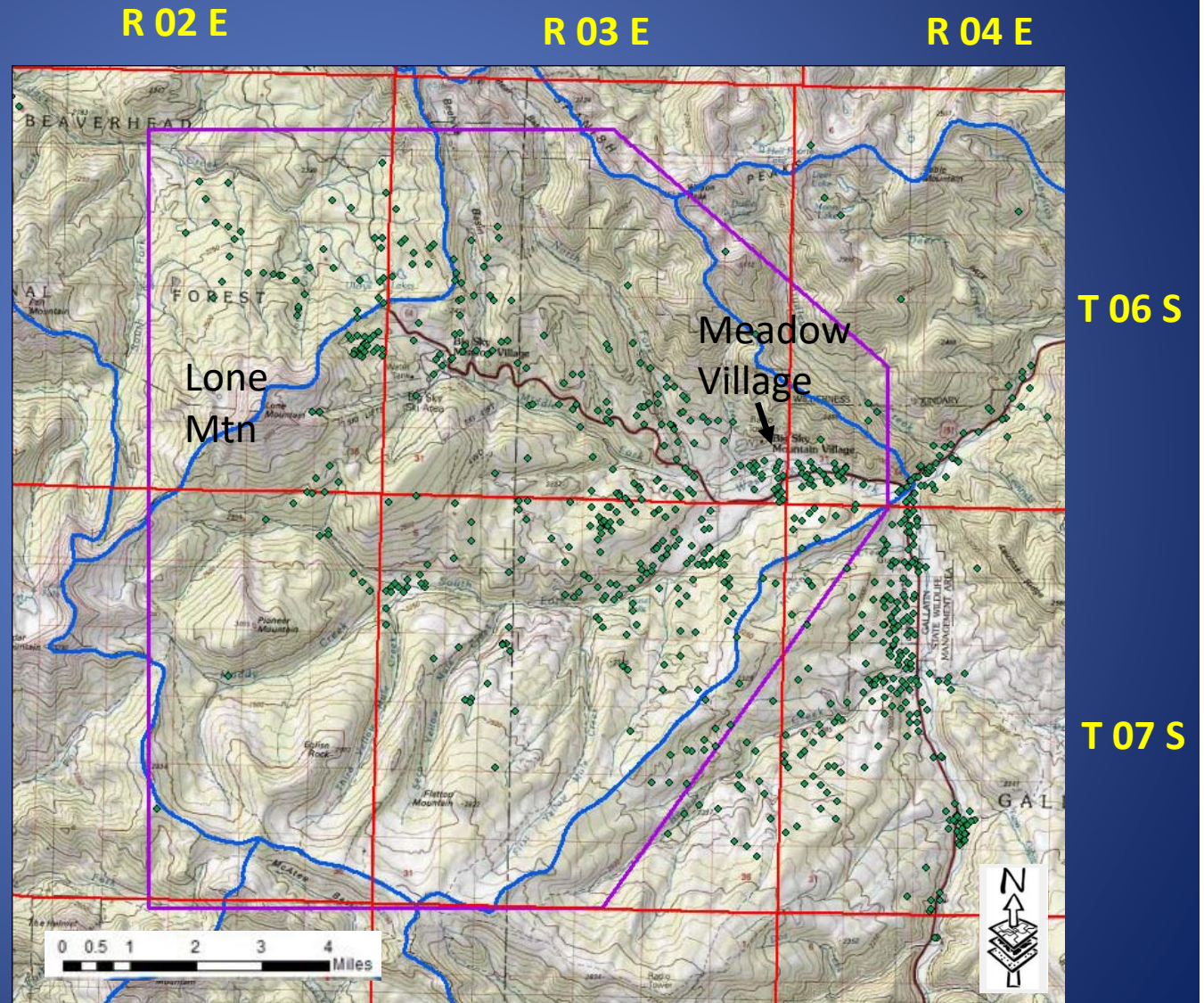
Kirk Warden
James Rose
Connie Thomson
Allison Brown



2013

Big Sky Groundwater Investigation Study Area

- Approximate study area
- Watershed divides
- Townships
- Ground Water Information Center water well locations



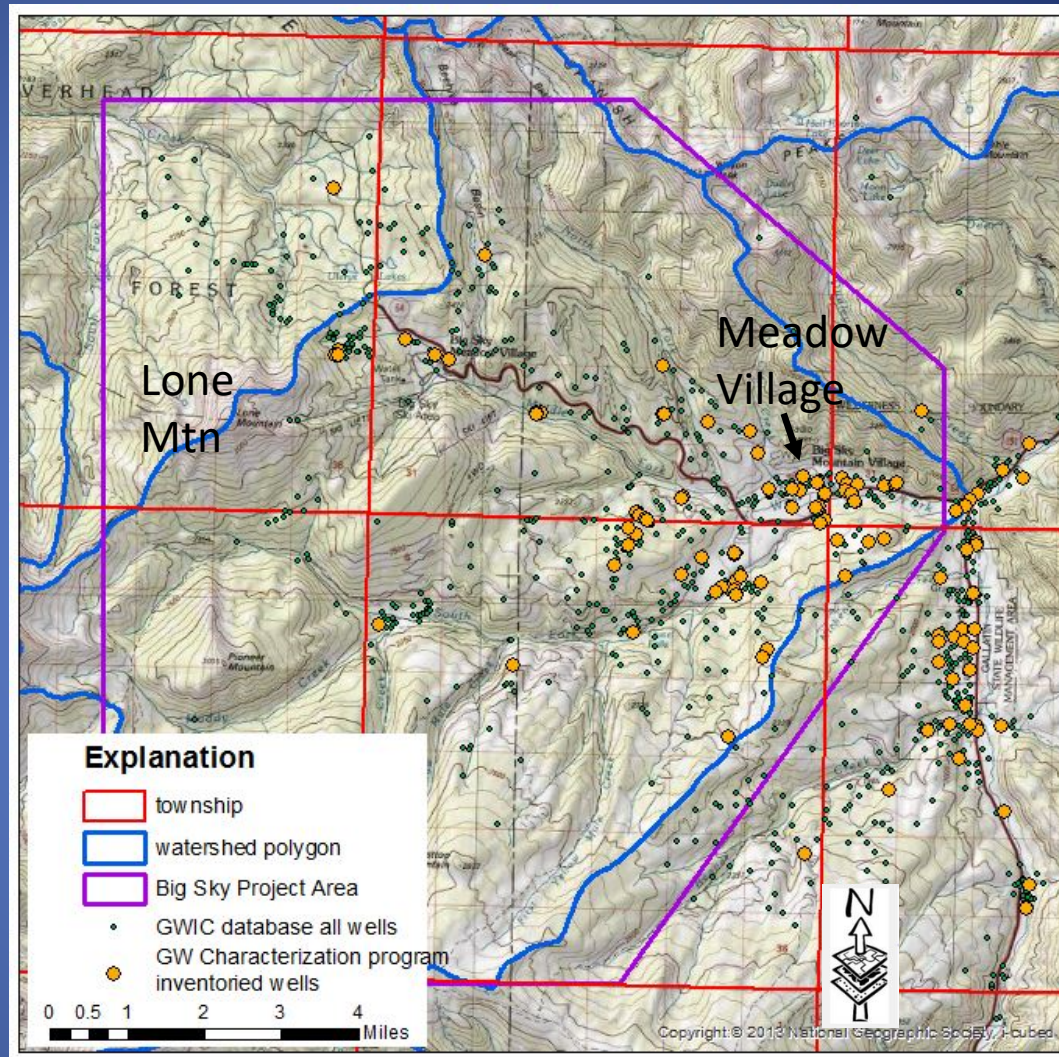
COOPERATORS:

- Gallatin River Task Force
- Big Sky Water and Sewer District No. 363
- Gallatin Local Water Quality District
- Big Sky Resort including Moonlight Basin
- Meadow Village Homeowners Assn.
- Private landowners throughout Big Sky
- Montana Dept. of Natural Resources
 - Water Management Bureau
 - Bozeman Water Resources Regional Office
- Steve Custer, MSU
- Yellowstone Club – access and permissions

Thanks to all for your interest, permissions, and assistance!

Groundwater Characterization Program

July, 2013



Groundwater Characterization Program inventoried well sites

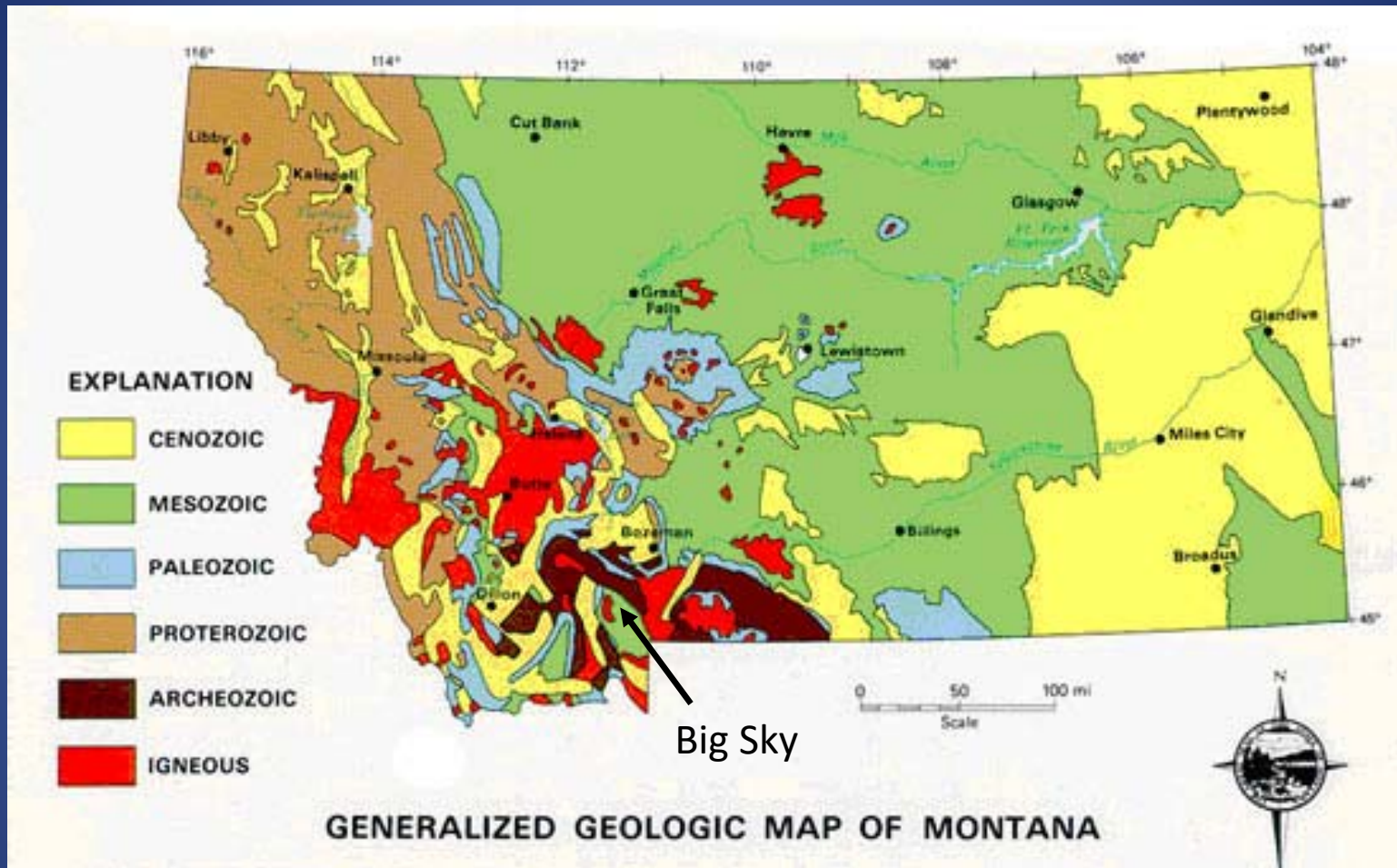
**All currently monitored surface water sites
Big Sky**

Mountain Village

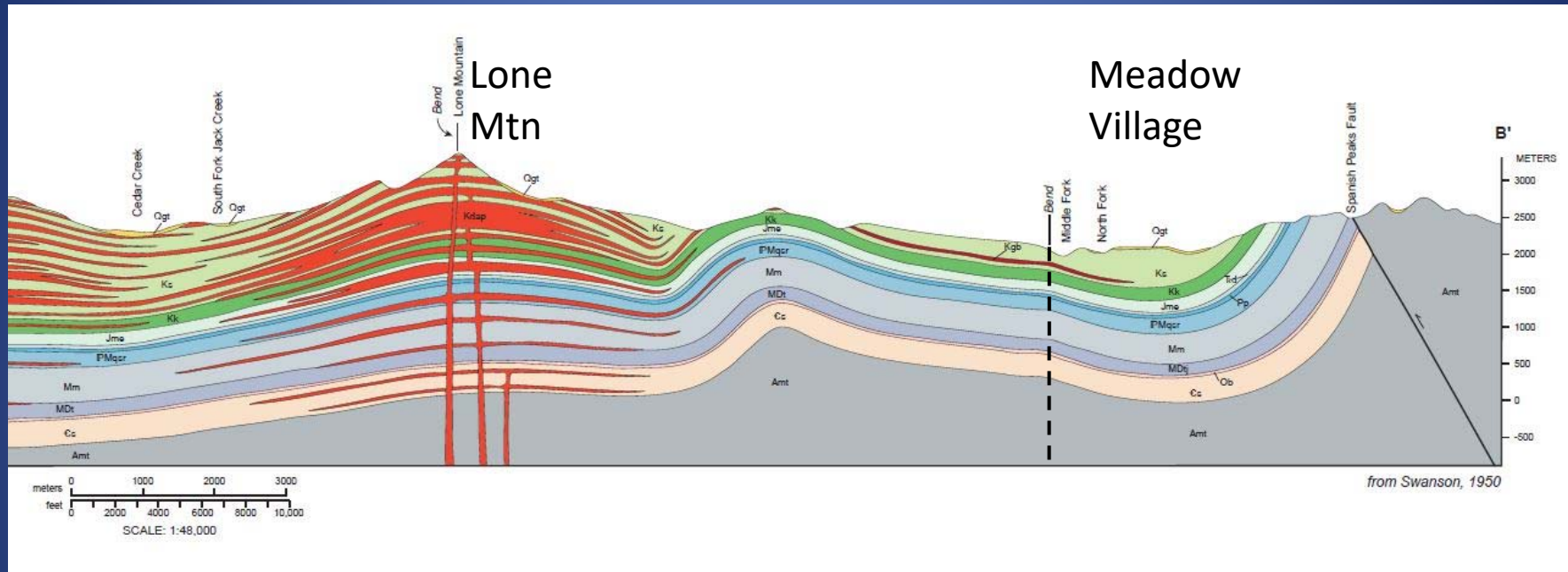


Meadow Village

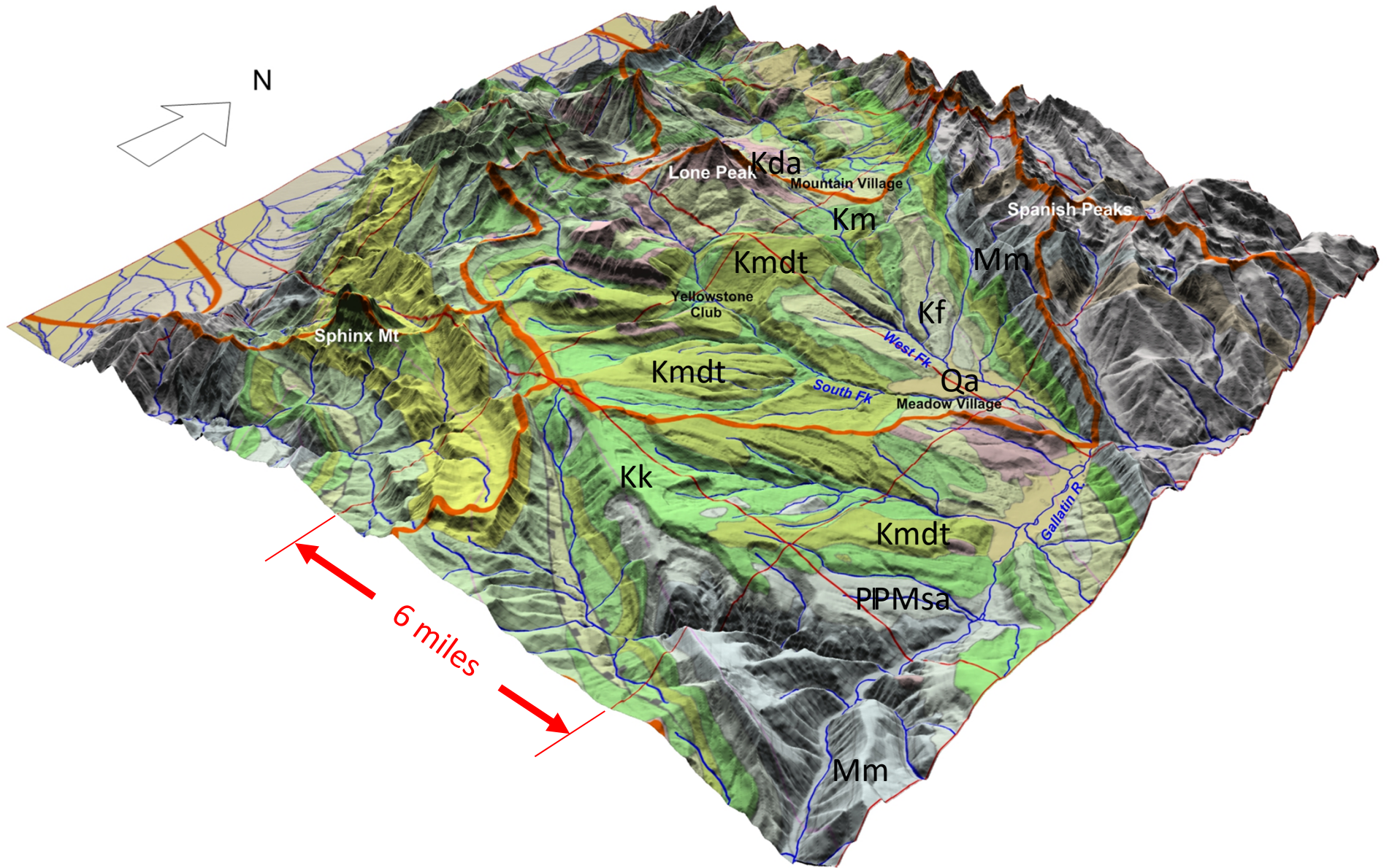




Geologic Cross Section from Vuke, 2013



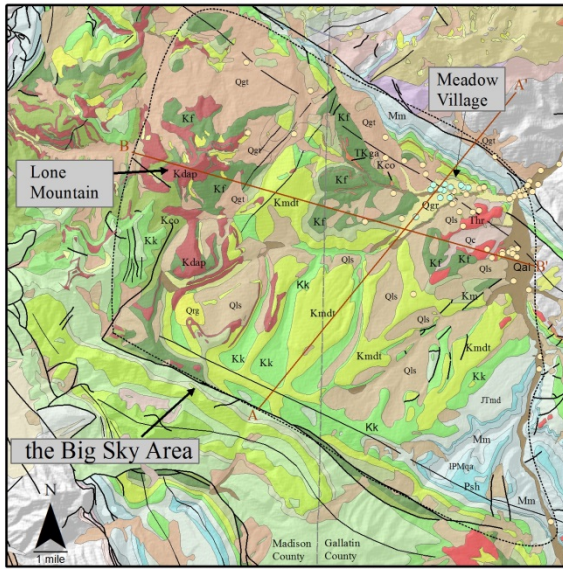
Vuke, S.M., 2013, Geologic map of the Fan Mountain, Lone Mountain, and Gallatin Peak 7.5' quadrangles, Madison Range, Madison and Gallatin Counties, Montana: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 633, 27 p., 1 sheet, scale 1:24,000.



2014

Previous works gathered from the Big sky Water and Sewer District's Library

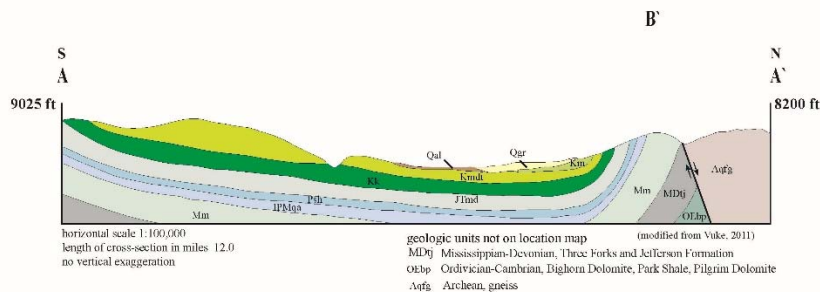
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's (MBMG) Gallatin and Madison County Characterization Study Area monitoring sites in the Big Sky Area



Geologic base from Kellogg, R. S., and Williams, V. B., 2005. Geologic map of the Emin 30' x 60' quadrangle, Madison and Gallatin Counties, Montana, Park County, Wyoming. Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 529

Legend

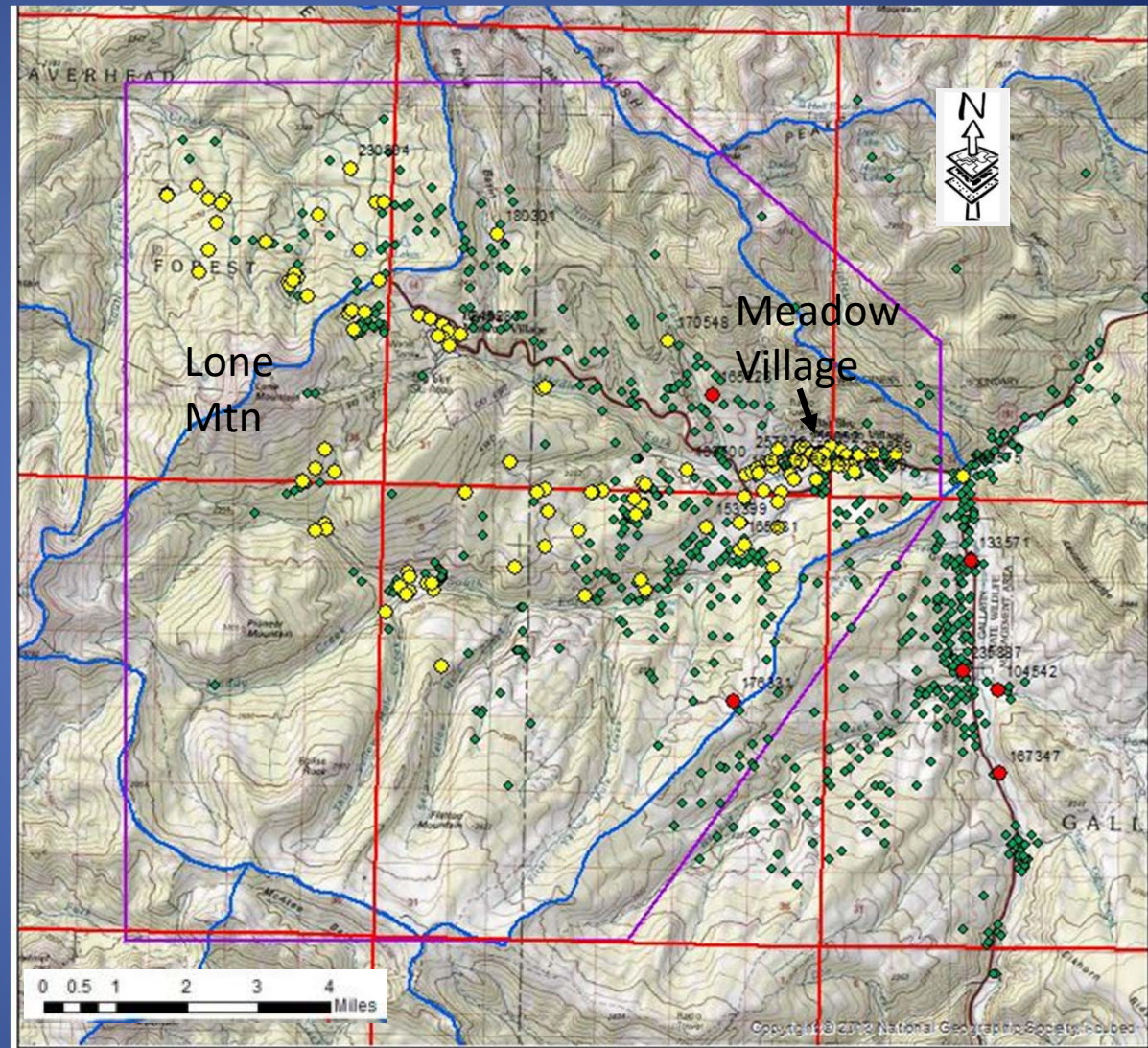
- ○ MBMG's Study Area inventoried sites
 - sites in the Meadow Village sampled for nitrate periodically
 - county line
 - Big Sky area
 - fold
 - fault
- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Geologic Units | Quaternary | Quaternary con't | Cretaceous con't |
| Qal recently deposited alluvium | Qgr glacial outwash, and younger alluvium | Qgr glacial till | Kk Kootena shale and sandstone |
| Qls older landslide | | Qgr rock glacier | Jtmd Morrison through Dinwoody Formations |
| | | Qls older colluvium | |
| | | Tertiary/Cretaceous | Permian |
| | | TKga intrusive, gabbro | Psh Shedhorn sandstone |
| | | Thr extrusive, welded tuff | |
| | | Kdap intrusive, dacite | Pennsylvanian |
| | | | IPMqa Quadrant and Amsden Formation |
| | Cretaceous | | Mississippian |
| | Kco Cody shale | | Mm Madison limestone |
| | Kf Frontier shale and sandstone | | |
| | Km Mowry shale and mudstone | | |
| | Kmdt Muddy sandstone | | |
| | Thermopolis shale and sandstone | | |
- **geologic abbreviations on map in larger font act alone or with other units as aquifers



Groundwater level monitoring

Monitoring expended into Jack Cr. Basin and the Yellowstone Club area

Many wells instrumented with water level and temperature data loggers

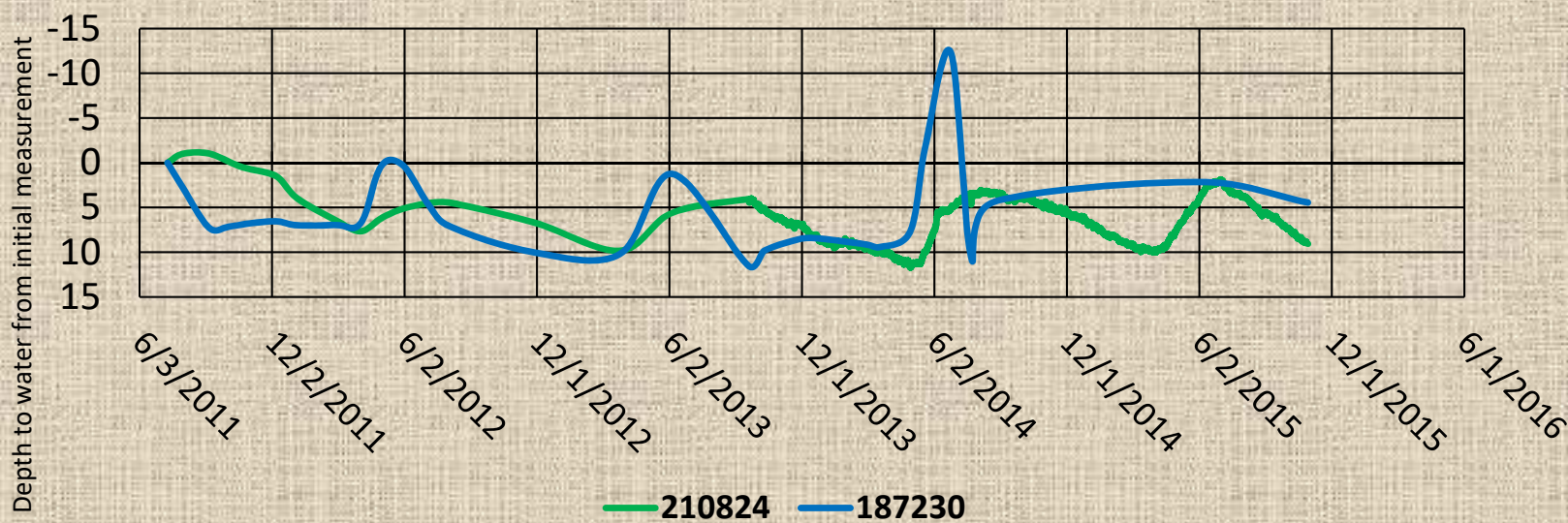


Groundwater Investigation Program monitored well sites

Spanish Peaks Area



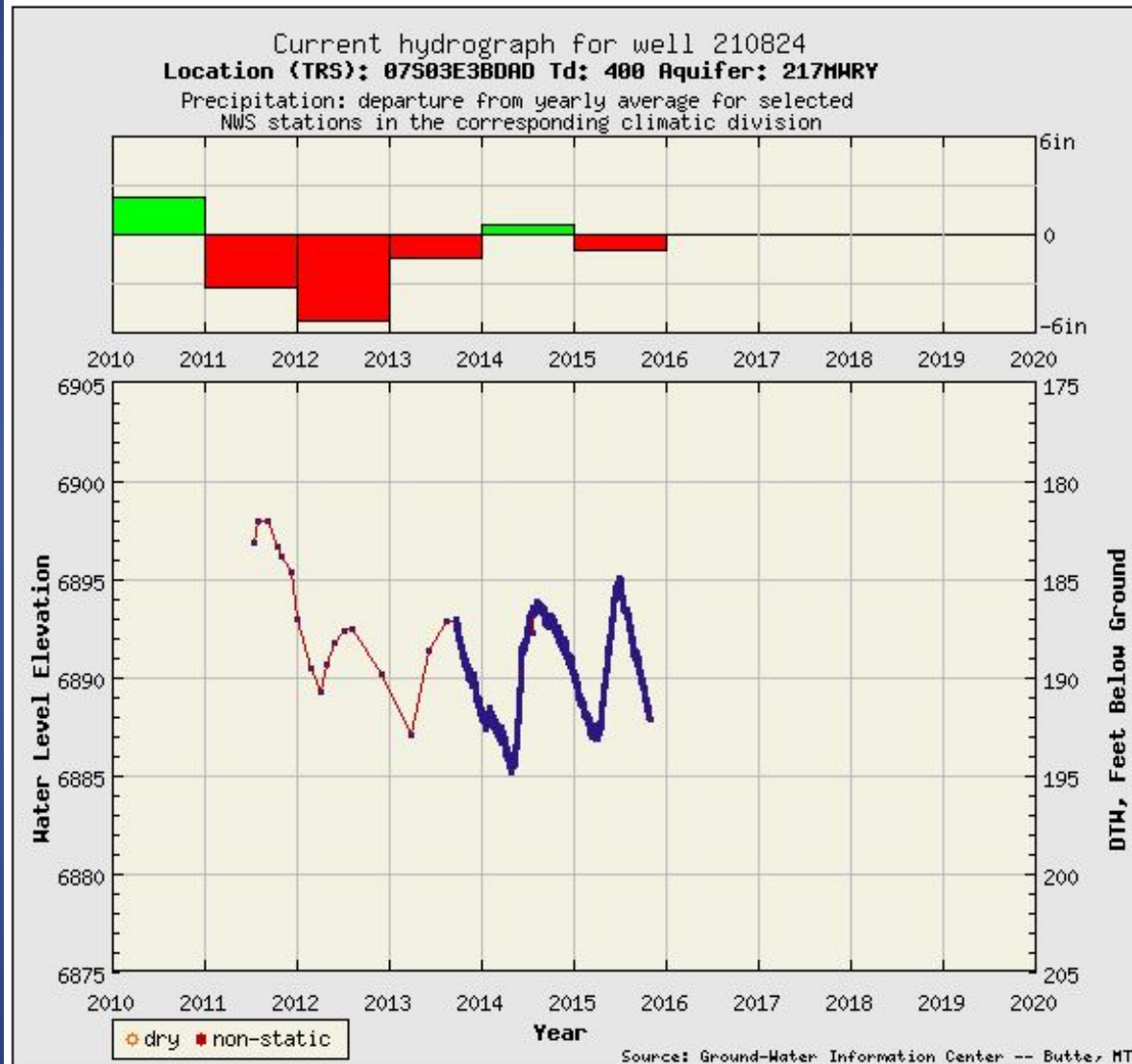
Wells in Spanish Peaks North area



/2013

Groundwater Information Center Well Hydrograph

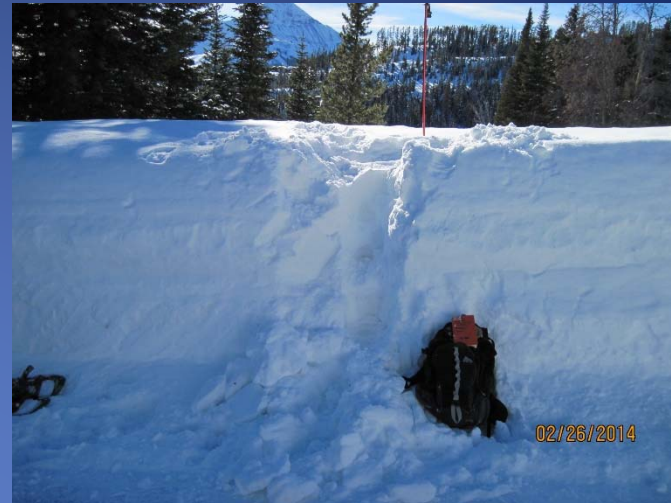
The following chart represents the current hydrograph for this well. Data reported are in feet



GWIC Id: 210824



Monitored and sampled GW and SW sites



Sampling of snowpack water chemistry



Additional stream flow measurements and stream water chemistry sampling

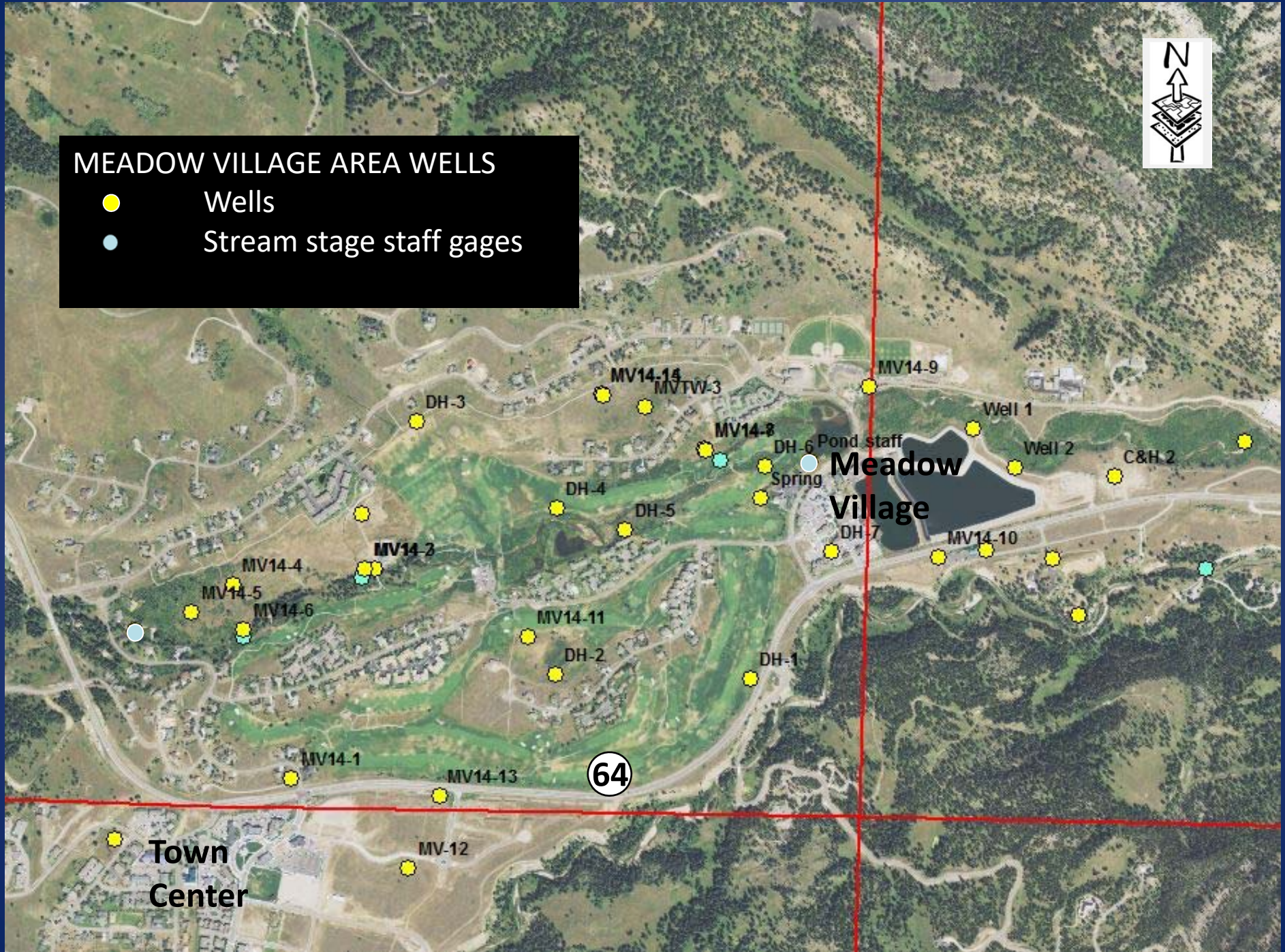


Installation of new monitoring wells



MEADOW VILLAGE AREA WELLS

- Wells
- Stream stage staff gages



Town Center

64

Meadow Village

Pond staff Spring

Well 1

Well 2

C&H.2

MV14-10

DH-7

DH-1

DH-2

MV14-11

DH-4

DH-5

MV14-8

MVTW-3

MV14-14

MV14-9

DH-3

MV14-2

MV14-4

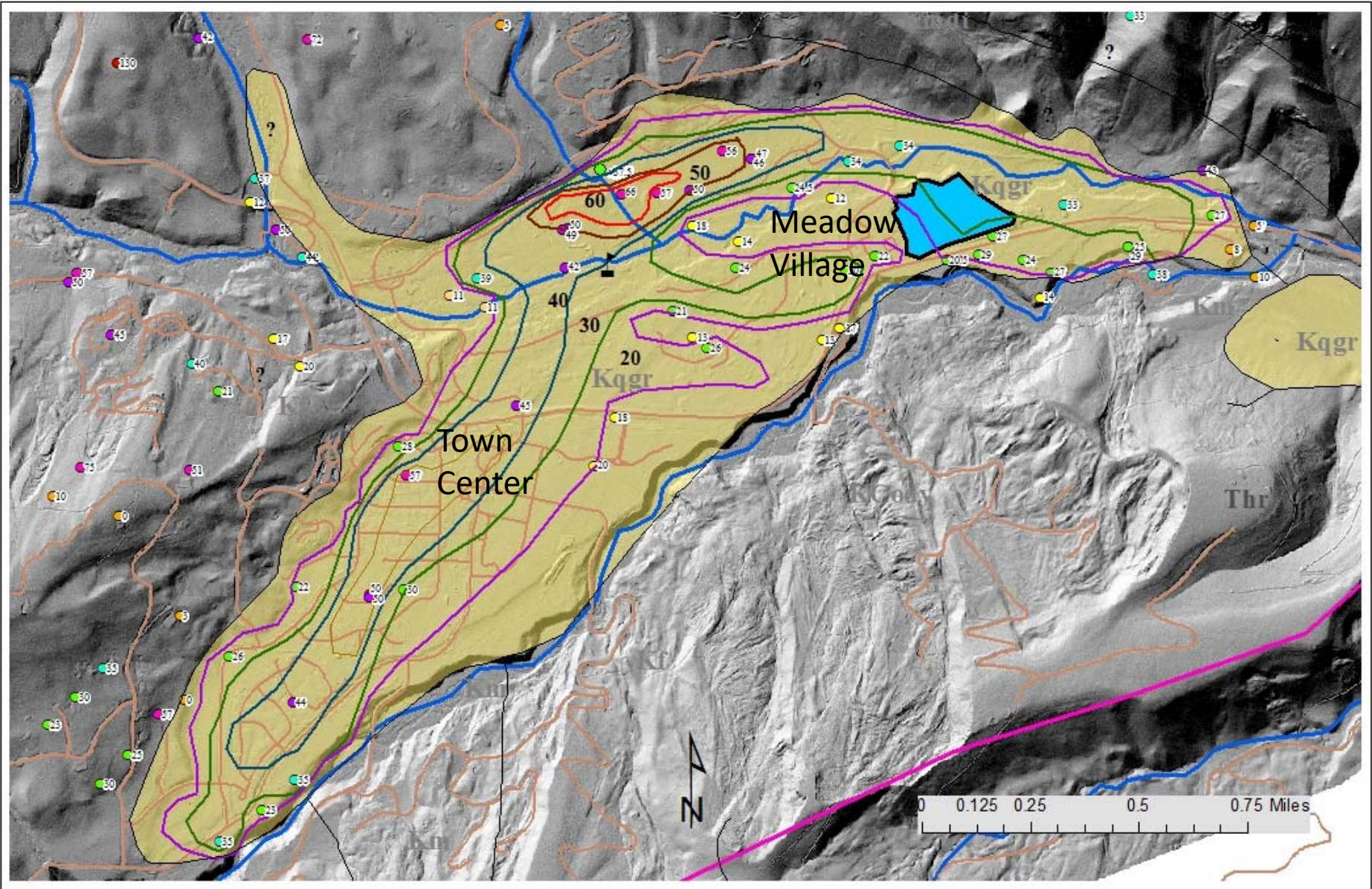
MV14-5

MV14-6

MV14-1

MV14-13

MV-12



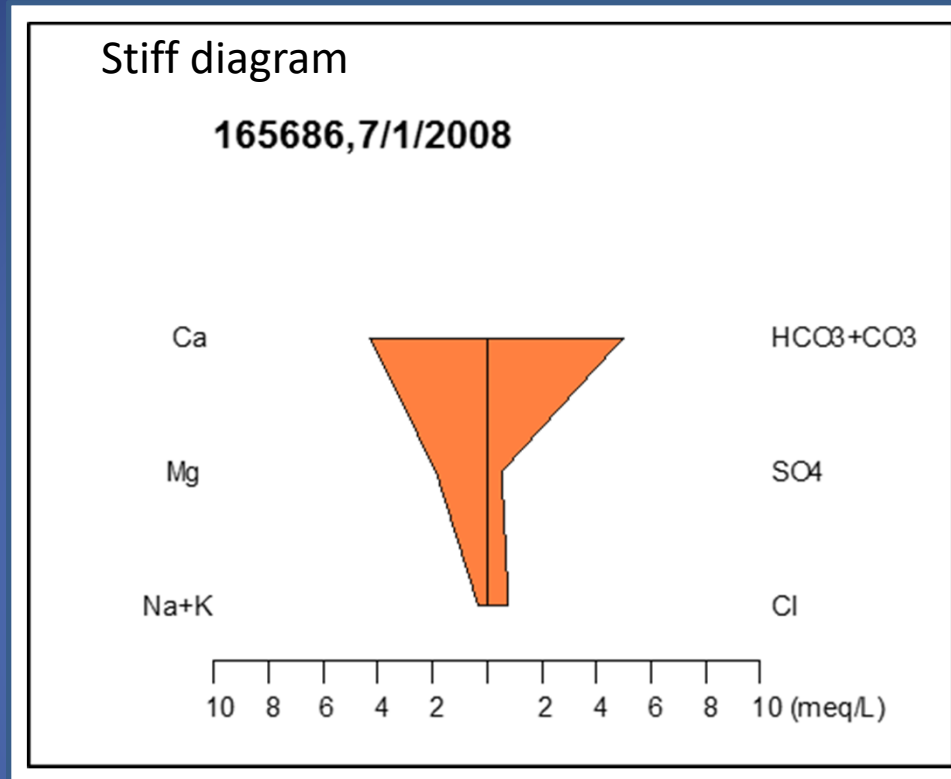
2015



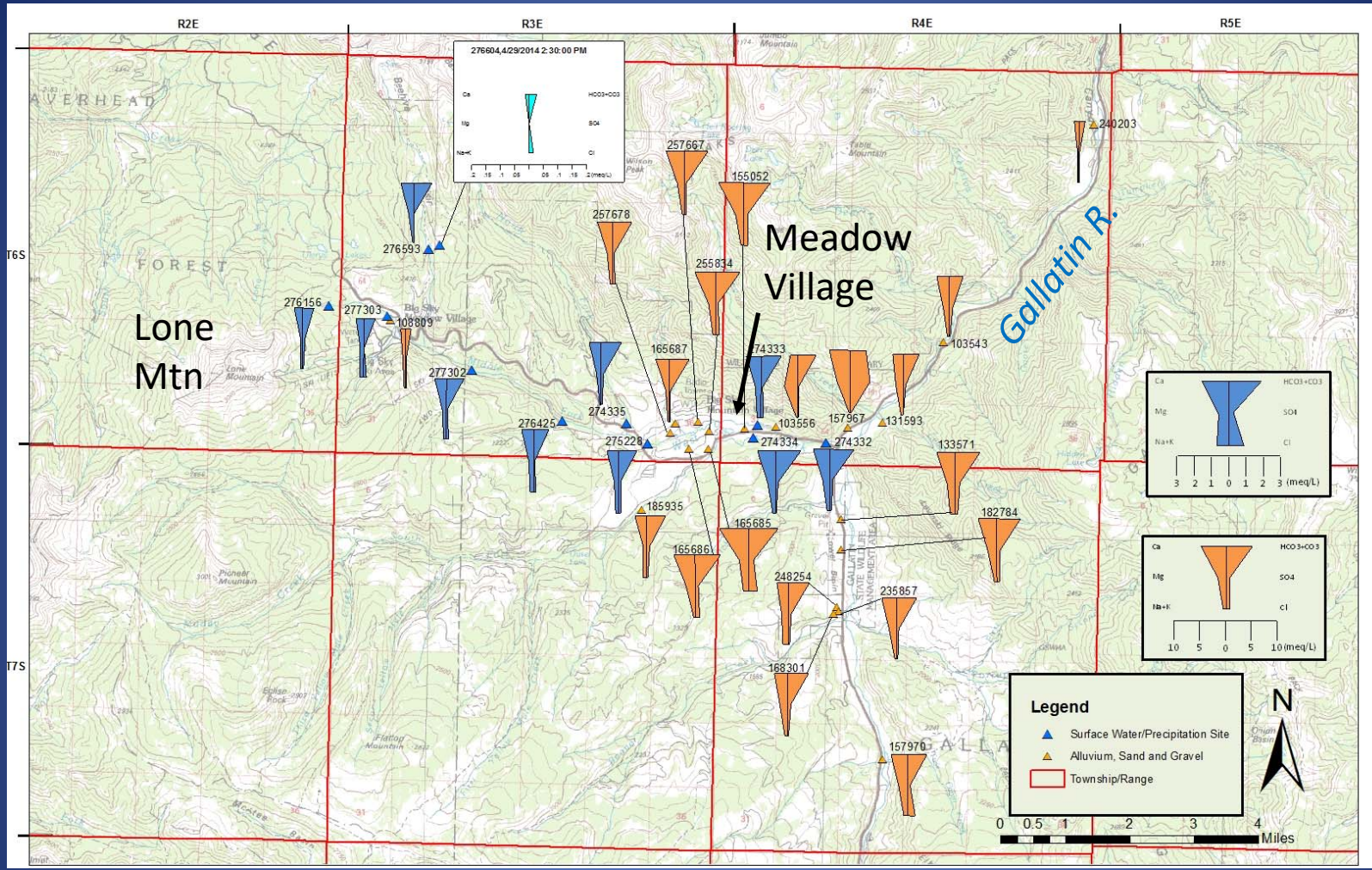
Water quality sampling: 38 wells, 7 springs, selected stream sites, rain and sewage plant effluent

– Samples tested for:

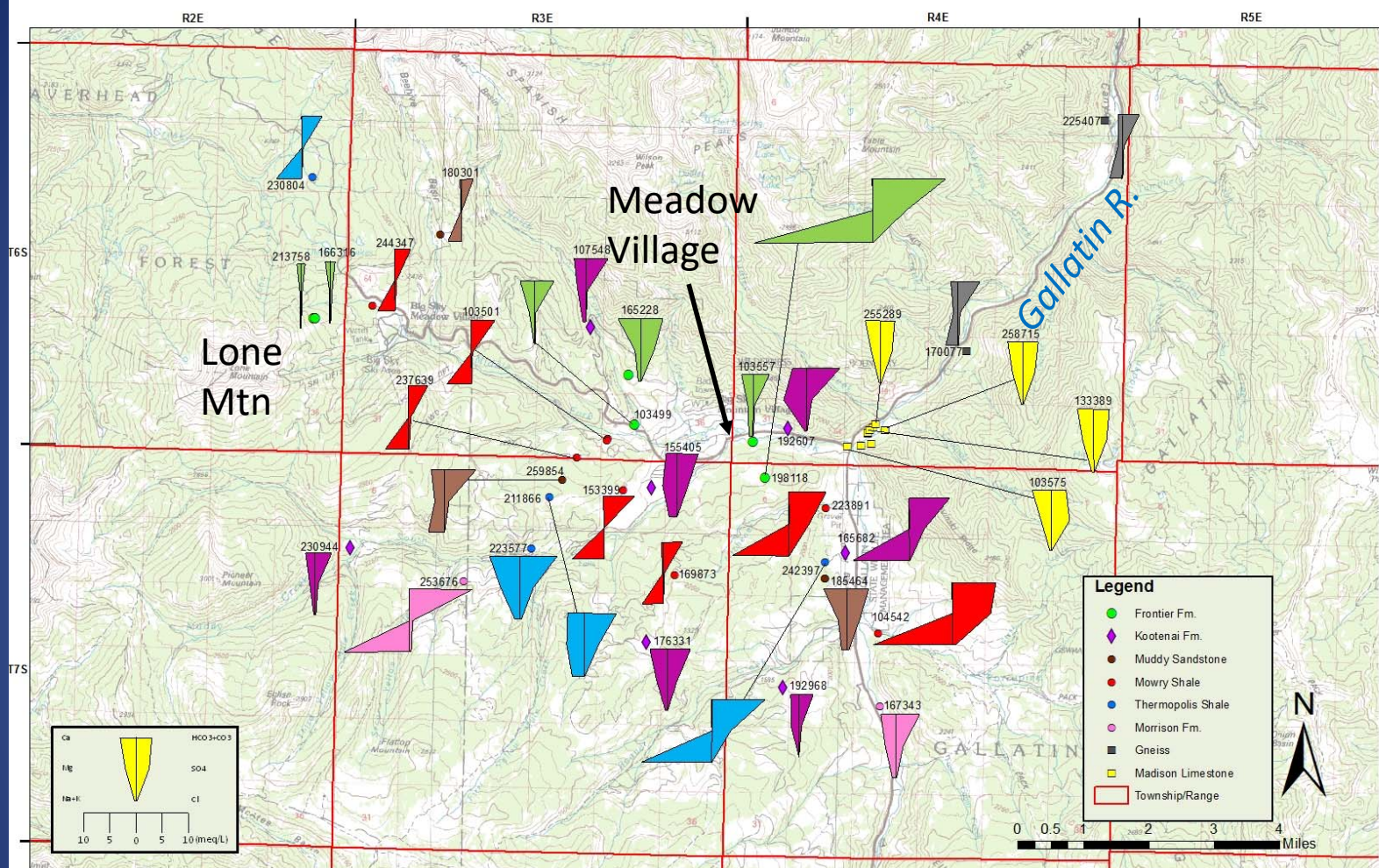
- Full suite water chemistry
- Isotopes of water molecules
- Isotopes of some other elements



A Stiff diagram is a small graph showing the concentrations of major dissolved constituents in water



Surface water (blue) and alluvial groundwater (orange) stiff diagrams



Bedrock aquifer stiff diagrams - the colors indicate various mapped bedrock formations.

Meadow Village
area wells and
Stream sites surveyed

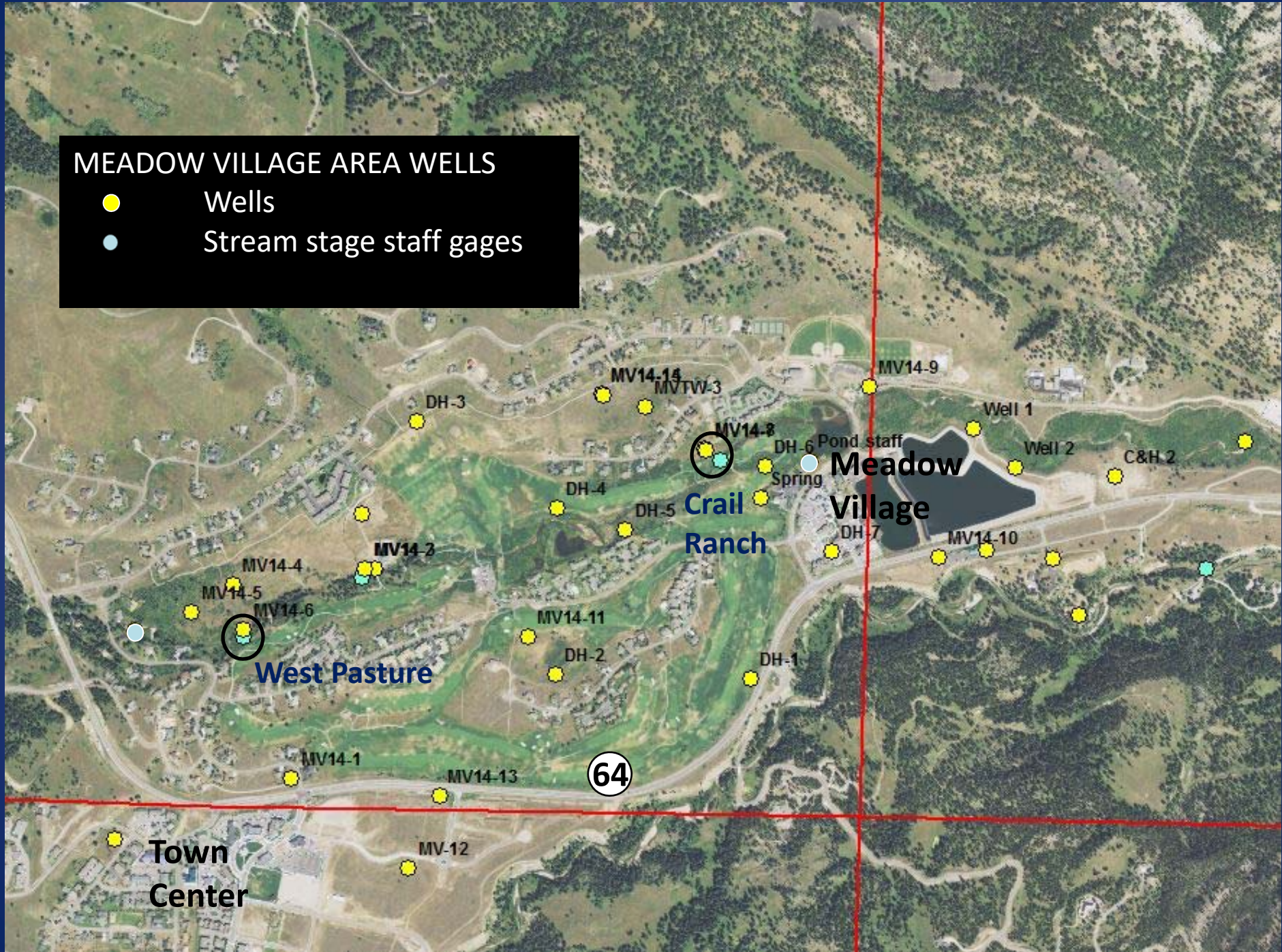


Meadow Village
area staff gages and
wells instrumented

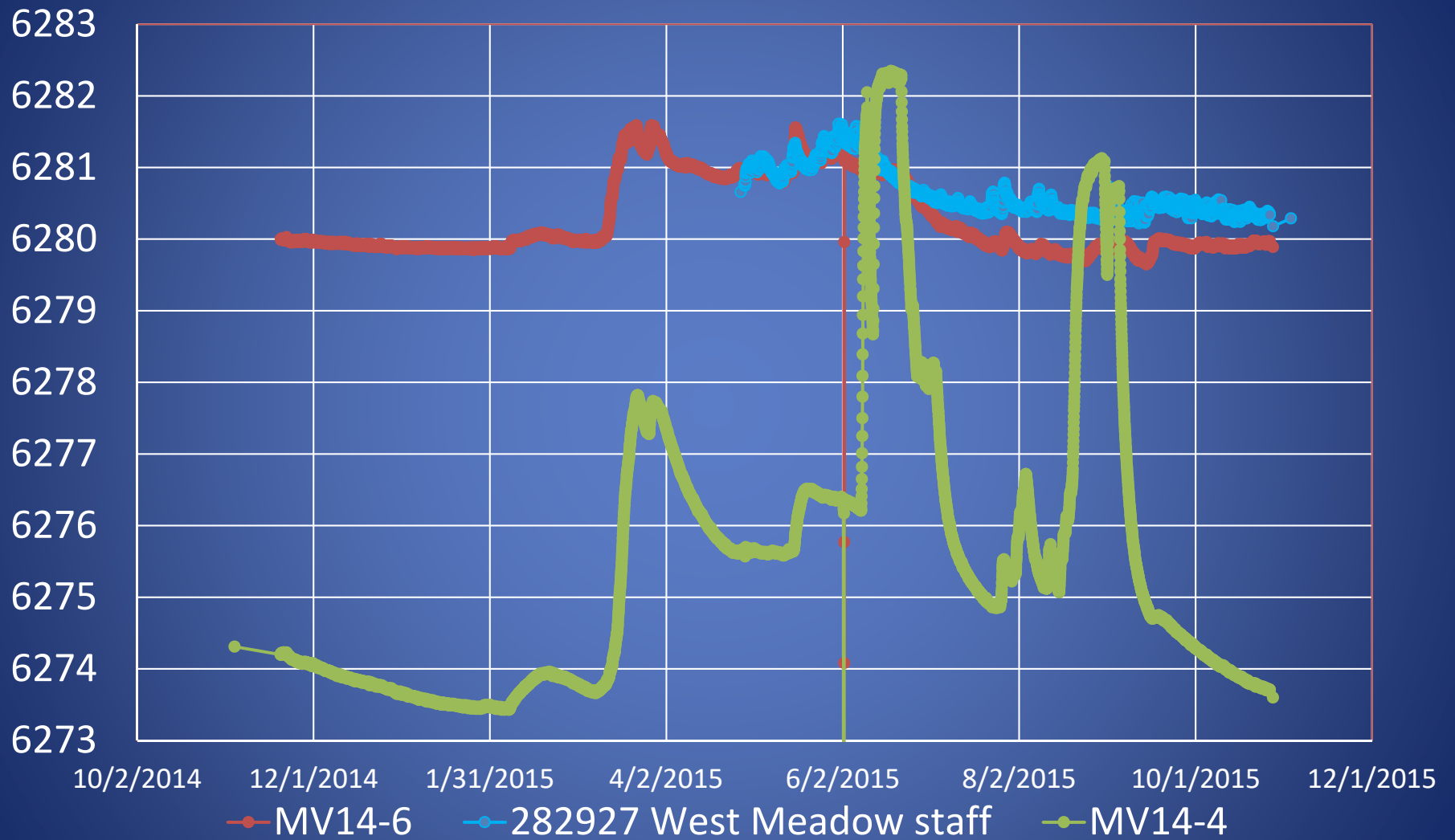


MEADOW VILLAGE AREA WELLS

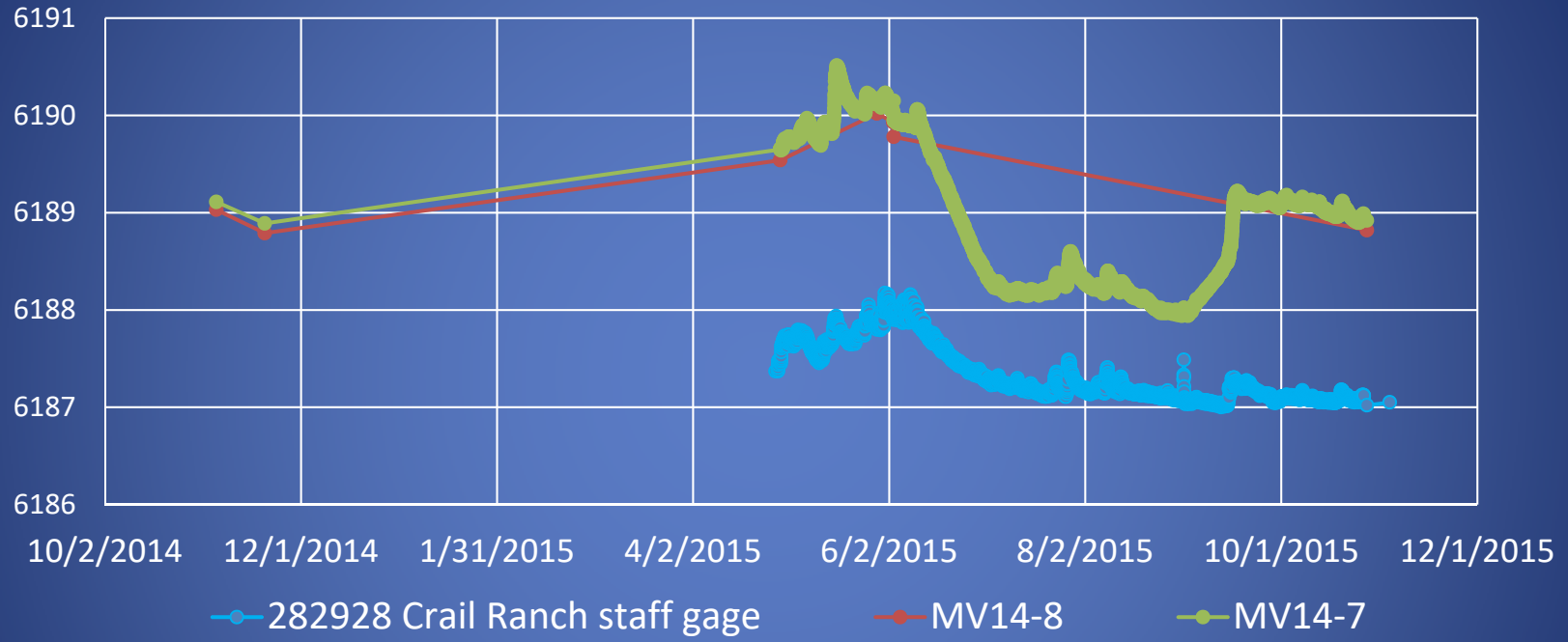
- Wells
- Stream stage staff gages



West Pasture sites



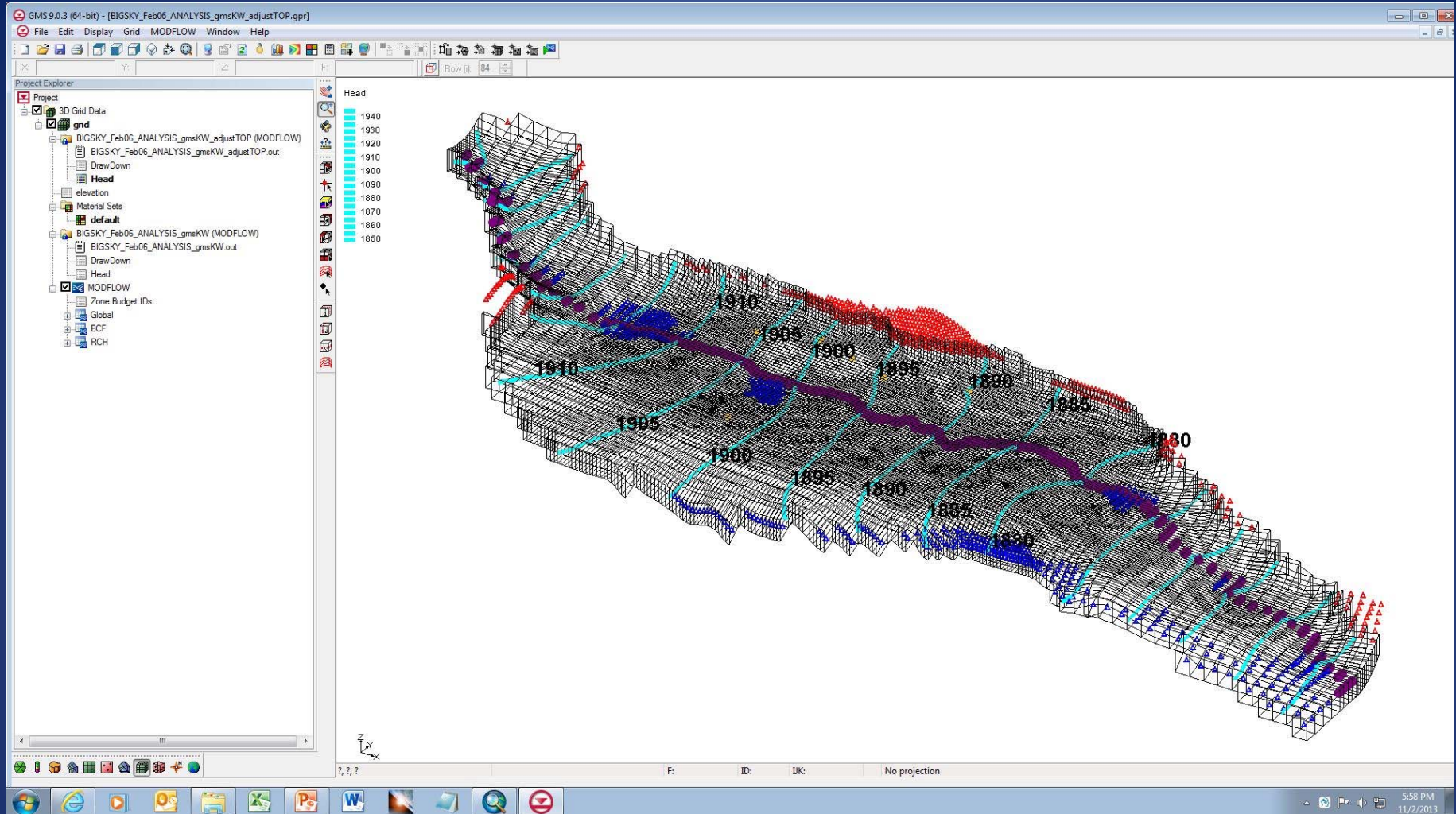
Crail Ranch Sites



Groundwater use data



Sewage effluent / treated water



Groundwater Modeling System (GMS) software –
Meadow Village area model provided by
Mark Cunnane - Western Groundwater Services

2016



West Fork
Gallatin R.

- Gather and analyze recorded data from well and stream sites
- Seek measurable losses and gains in the West Fork during June and July
- Analyze water chemistry data
- Evaluate area geologic maps and well logs
- Develop a water budget for the Meadow Village aquifer
- Develop a groundwater model for the Meadow Village area
- Refine the project report scope and outline
- Write and assemble draft report
- Develop the first draft of an educational pamphlet