



TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION IS TO CONSERVE,
PROTECT AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S
COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

Groundwater in Montana: Common Ground Between Ranchers and Anglers

April 15, 2011 Boise, Idaho

Laura Ziemer, Director
Trout Unlimited's
Montana Water Project







Photo: Keith Graham
Montana Journalism Review, Summer 2004 No. 33

2002: John “Jack” McGuire of the McGuire Ranch says that the South Fork of the Smith was “close to killed” for the first time since their family homesteaded their place.



Photo courtesy of Big Sky Fishing

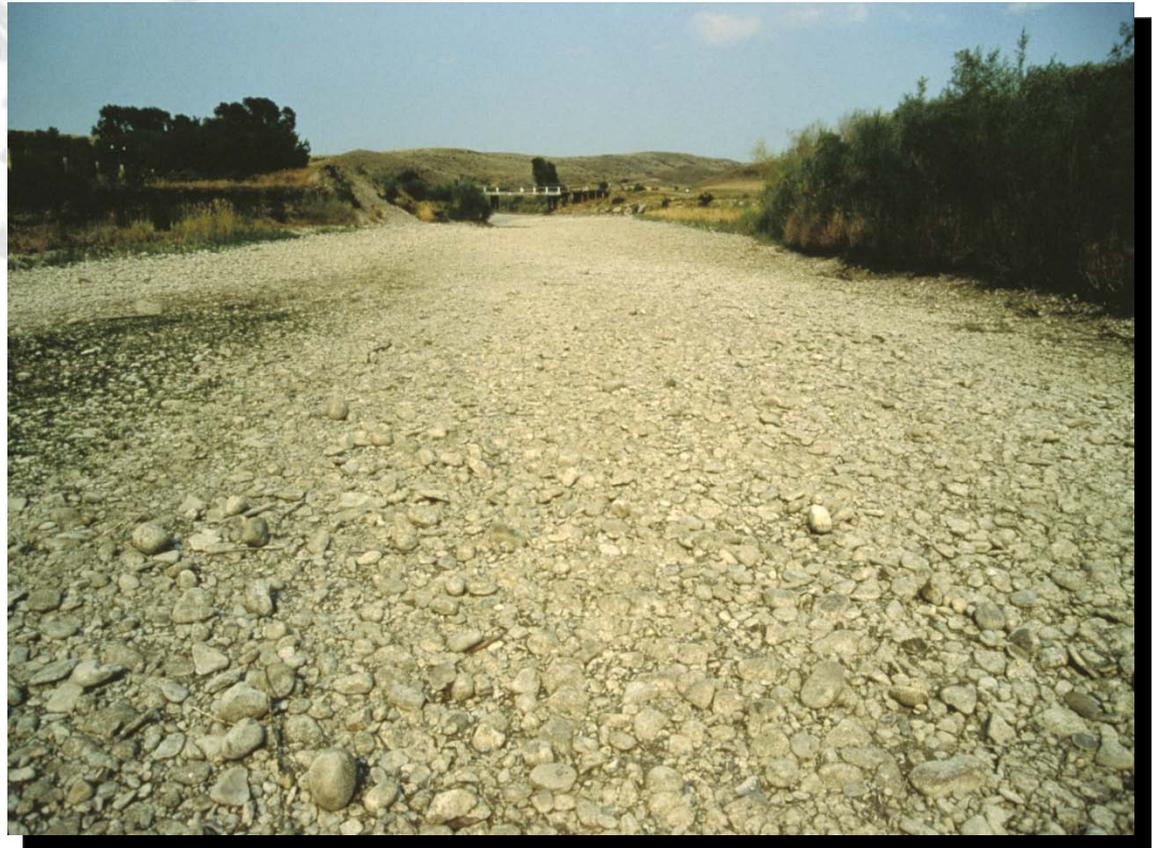


Kestrel Aerial
WWW.KESTRELAERIAL.COM



Smith River: TU v. DNRC (April, 2006)

- TU and Ranchers challenge agency groundwater permitting
- Landmark ruling a catalyst



October 2006:

Gallatin County
Commission
petitions MT DNRC
to amend their
exempt well rule

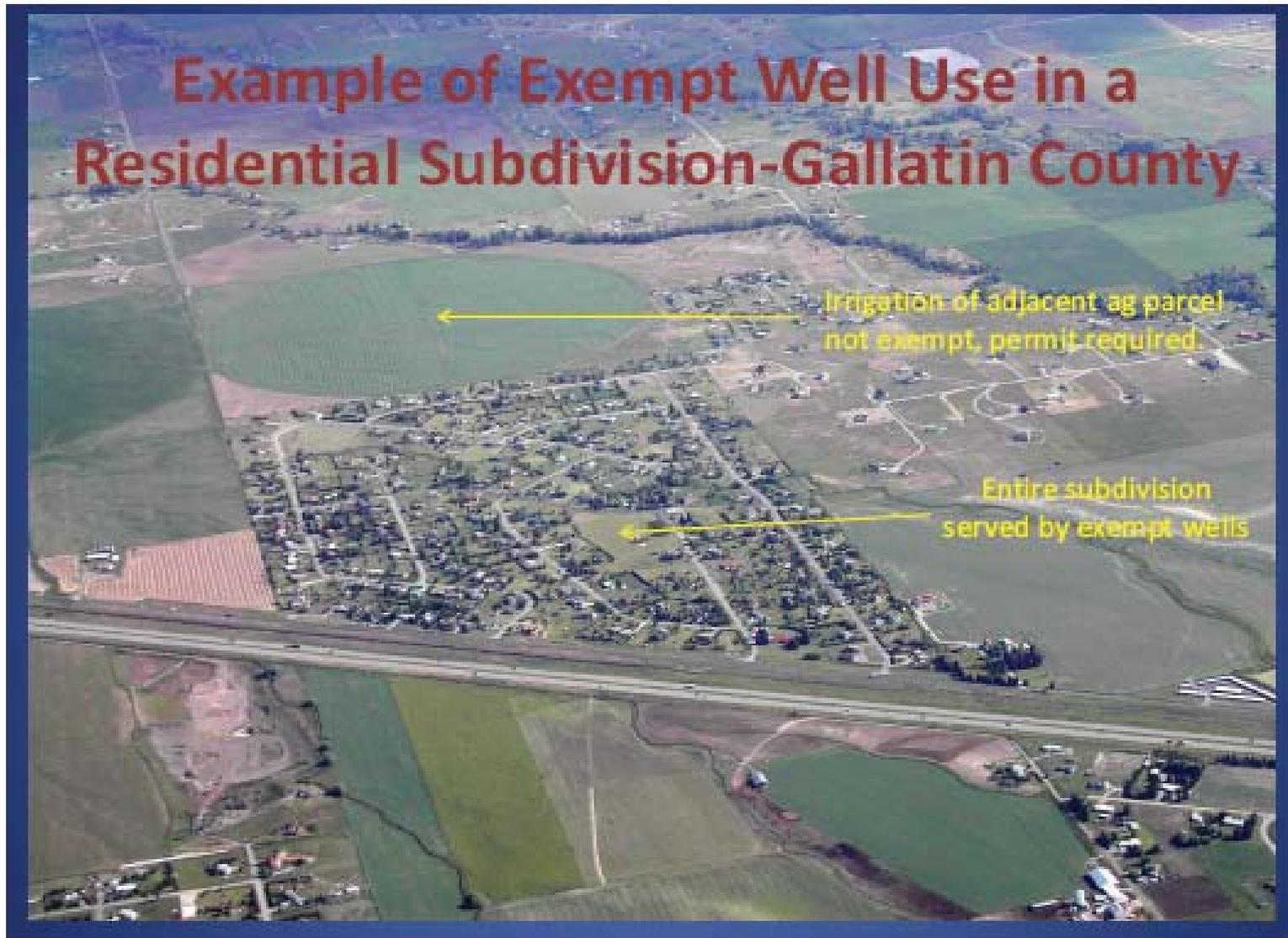


2007 Legislative Session





Example of Exempt Well Use in a Residential Subdivision-Gallatin County

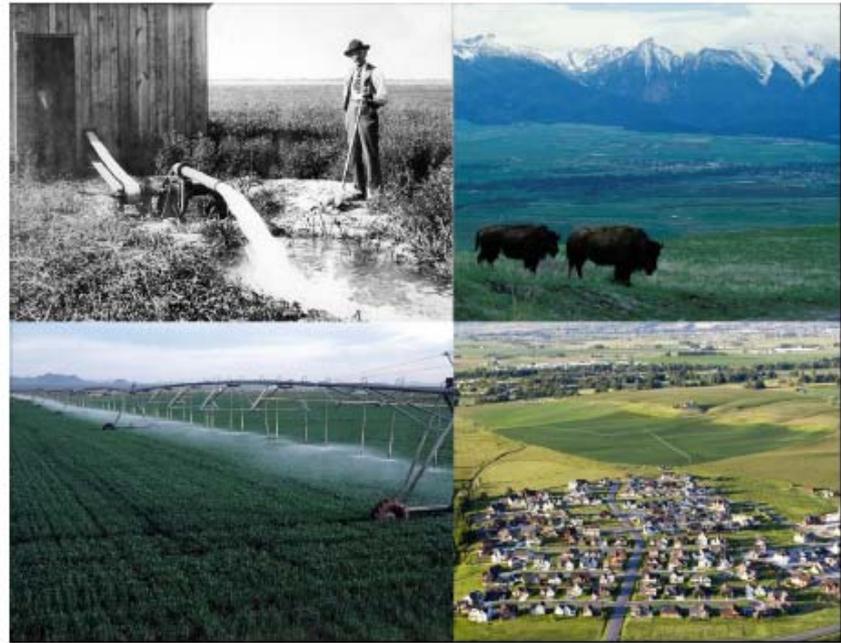


2009 TU "Blueprint"

- Reports on successful mitigation water banking models from around the Pacific NW
- Looks at how it could apply in Montana



BLUEPRINT FOR A GROUND WATER MITIGATION EXCHANGE PILOT PROJECT IN MONTANA



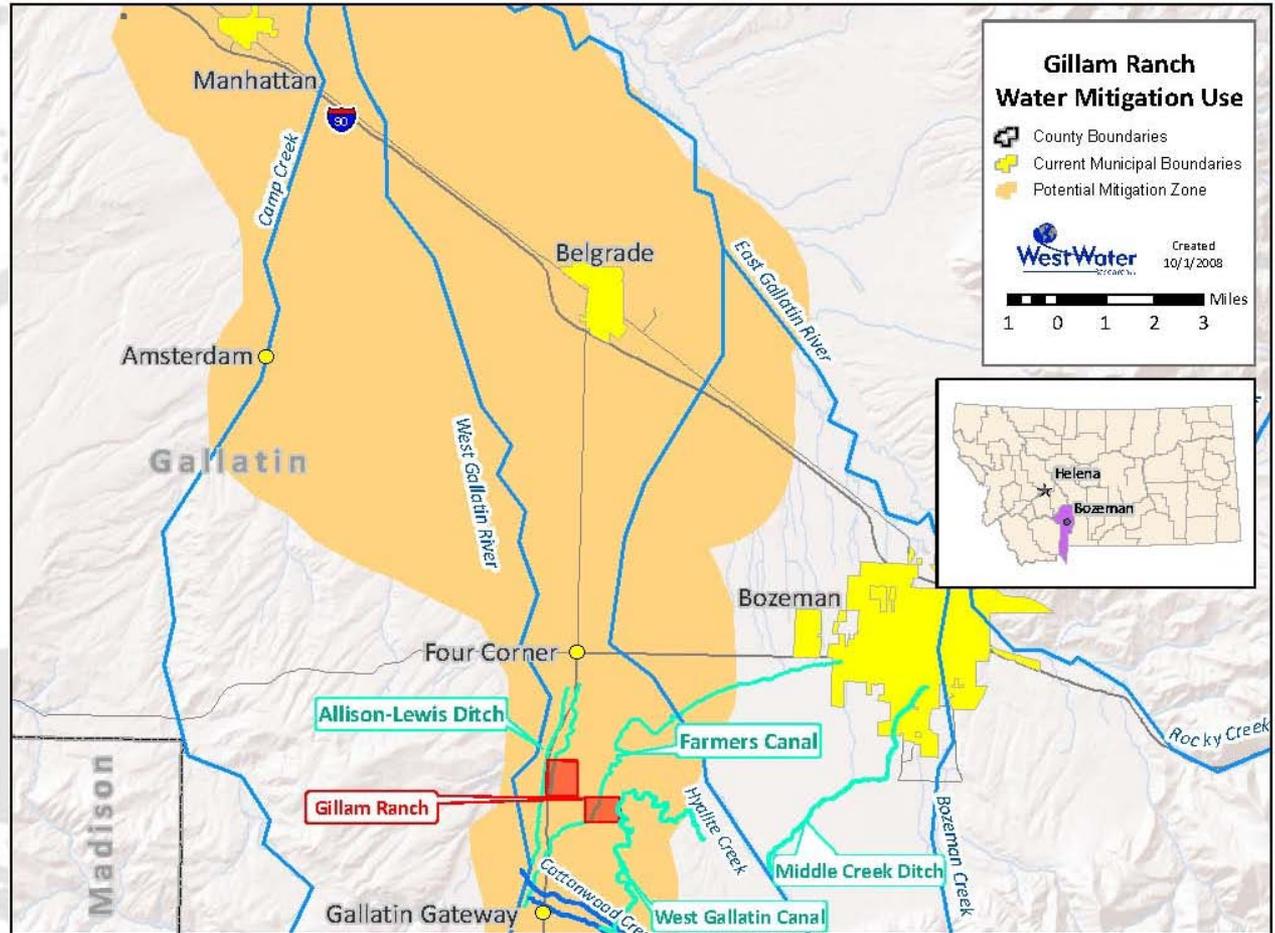
A report to the Montana Water Project of Trout Unlimited

By Sarah Bates

September 2009

Mitigation Credit Exchange

- Basin-scale mitigation for permit-exempt wells
- Reduce transaction costs



Potential mitigation zone shown on map is for illustrative purposes only.



Buyers: Exempt Well Users

1. Drill Exempt Well



2. Purchase Mitigation Credits From Seller



3. Check Mitigation Box on Form 602



Form No. 602 R 4/21/2009

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT

Use this form for completed groundwater developments where the water has been put to use for the purposes identified with a maximum use of 35 GPM not to exceed 10 AC-FT per year.

Incomplete forms will be returned.

Filing Fee \$125.00

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Notice No. _____	Basin _____
Priority Date _____	Time _____
Rec'd By _____	
Fee Rec'd \$ _____	Check No. _____
Deposit Receipt # _____	
Payor (if different from name(s) listed in item _____)	
Refund \$ _____	Date _____
Deficiency Letter Sent _____	

☞ Your priority is determined by the date of filing. If it is determined this form was improperly filed, your priority date may be changed.
 ☞ If your development is within a Controlled Ground Water Area, the regional office will contact you to explain the correct filing requirements.

- NAME _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 WORK PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____
- DIVERSION USED TO OBTAIN GROUNDWATER
 Well – Attach well log, if available. Water Well Contractor Name: _____

Protect Senior Water Rights

- Keep senior water rights intact
- Provide workable mechanisms for mitigation water
- Model for 21st Century water management



Photo: Keith Graham
Montana Journalism Review, Summer 2004 No. 33



Photo by Jennifer Boyer

