Gallatin Valley
GWIP Projects Update
2014 Spring Water Meeting
April 9, 2014

Presented by:
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Ground Water Investigation Program
Four Corners Study Area:
Start 2009
Completion Spring 2013
Published reports 2014

Belgrade/Manhattan Study
Area: Start 2009
Combined with Manhattan 2012
Reports by the end of 2014

Big Sky Study Area:
Start June 2013
Complete 2015

Future Gallatin Valley Projects?
Hydrogeologic Investigation of the Four Corners Study Area
Gallatin County, Montana

Tom Michalek
Mary Sutherland
Ground Water Investigation Program
Objectives

• Determine the extent of alteration to the groundwater system in the Four Corners Area over the last 60 years.

• Correlate groundwater changes to land use conversion.

• Document the effects of irrigation and canal leakage on groundwater recharge.

• Evaluate likely effects of future changes and development.
Water table could drop 30 to 40 feet.
Use of Model:
- Look at past changes
  - Some change (but not as much as would be expected)
- Estimate future changes
  - Could cause significant change in water availability
- Baseline model for future applicants
  - Saves time and money in application process

Limitations of Models:
- Good data = better model
  - No model is perfect
- Non-unique
  - Other models may be reasonable
- Not final product
  - Can and should be revised/verified with new information