

Groundwater Use in Montana

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 268
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 3.51%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 65.6
Percentage of total groundwater..... 24.5%
Percentage of total public supply 47.5%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 21.2
Percentage of total groundwater..... 7.91%
Percentage of total individual household supply 95.5%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 127
Percentage of total groundwater..... 47.4%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 1.77%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 14.9
Percentage of total groundwater..... 5.54%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 24.5%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 36.9
Percentage of total groundwater..... 13.8%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 55.6%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 1.73
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.65%
Percentage of total mining..... 6.20%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 0.85
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.32%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 0.56%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

Groundwater's Role in Montana's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 155,000 known residential wells statewide.²
- 615 community water systems use groundwater for 320,000 people³
- 245 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 84,400 people⁴
- 1,060 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 176,000 people⁵
- 1,650 irrigation wells used serving 1,060 farms and 54,900 acres⁶

¹ US Geological Survey, November 2014 report on 2010 water use.

² Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Ground Water Information Center

³ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2014.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.



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Montana's Groundwater Industry Employment

Men and women working to provide and protect Montana's groundwater resources for the benefit of people, business, and our environment.

Montana's Contracting Employment

Drill and service water wells, install and service pumps, install and service point of use water treatment devices. This portion of the industry is characterized by small firms, many of which are multi-generation family-owned and operated.⁷

- 80 firms employ an estimated 469 people⁸
- Annual estimated sales of \$114 million

Montana's Scientists and Engineers Employment

Geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, geochemists, geophysicists, microbiologists, regulators.

Environmental Consulting⁹

NAICS 54162: Establishments primarily engaged in providing advice and assistance on environmental issues, such as the control of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.

- 188 firms employ an estimated 592 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$89.6 million

Remediation¹⁰

NAICS 56291: Establishments include those engaged in remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or groundwater.

- 36 firms employ an estimated 258 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$36.1 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁷ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, March 2015.

⁸ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

⁹ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.

¹⁰ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2015.