

Groundwater Use in Montana

Overview¹

Total

Groundwater (mgd — fresh, not saline)..... 188
Percentage of total freshwater* supply for state..... 1.92%

Public Supply

Groundwater (mgd) 83.3
Percentage of total groundwater..... 44.3%
Percentage of total public supply 54.4%

Individual Household

Groundwater (mgd) 22.6
Percentage of total groundwater.....12.02%
Percentage of total individual household supply 95.4%

Irrigation

Groundwater (mgd) 59.6
Percentage of total groundwater..... 31.7%
Percentage of total irrigation..... 0.63%

Livestock/Aquaculture

Groundwater (mgd) 15.8
Percentage of total groundwater..... 8.40%
Percentage of total livestock/aquaculture..... 26.6%

Industrial, Self-Supplied

Groundwater (mgd) 5.22
Percentage of total groundwater..... 2.78%
Percentage of total industrial, self-supplied 54.0%

Mining

Groundwater (mgd) 1.06
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.56%
Percentage of total mining..... 4.91%

Thermoelectric

Groundwater (mgd) 0.80
Percentage of total groundwater..... 0.43%
Percentage of total thermoelectric..... 1.06%

(mgd = million gallons per day)

*All totals and ratios are measures of freshwater only.

¹ US Geological Survey, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015, released 2018.

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

³ US EPA Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System Data for 2019.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Census of Agriculture 2013 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey.

Groundwater's Role in Montana's Economic Vitality

- Approximately 155,000 known residential wells statewide.²
- 650 community water systems use groundwater for 324,700 people³
- 253 non-community, non-transient water systems use groundwater for 86,100 people⁴
- 1,057 non-community, transient water systems use groundwater for 193,100 people⁵
- 1,650 irrigation wells used serving 1,060 farms and 54,900 acres⁶



Address 601 Dempsey Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081-8978 U.S.A.
Phone 800 551.7379 • 614 898.7791 **Fax** 614 898.7786
Email ngwa@ngwa.org **Websites** NGWA.org and WellOwner.org

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

- 64 firms employ an estimated 407 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$134.4 million

Montana's Scientists and Engineers Employment

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

Environmental Consulting⁸

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.

- 302 firms employ an estimated 757 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$136.8 million

Remediation⁹

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

- 36 firms employ an estimated 291 people
- Annual estimated sales of \$71.0 million

Public Service and Universities, Colleges, and Research Centers

- Many more dedicated individuals



⁷ InfoUSA, SIC 1781, June 2019.

⁸ Barnes Reports: Environmental Consulting Services Industry (NAICS 54162); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.

⁹ Barnes Reports: Remediation Services Industry (NAICS 56291); C. Barnes & Co., 2019.