

Project Benefits:

- ☑ **COST:** Residents & their communities won't have to absorb cost of upgrading numerous smaller water facilities.
- ☑ **JOBS:** The system will provide jobs during construction & for ongoing operation & maintenance.
- ☑ **WATER CONSERVATION:** Total water consumption by all communities will be less than if each community provides water treatment.
- ☑ **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** A dependable, high-quality water source is an incentive to businesses & industry to relocate to Central Montana.

CMRWA Funding:

This project has received a Montana DNRC direct appropriation for 6 years and a DNRC grant for well drilling, \$1 per capita from its members, Montana Coal Board grant for the test well at Utica, and Bureau of Reclamation grants for appraisal and feasibility.

CMRWA plans to seek authorization for construction in 2013.



Musselshell River running dry near Ryegate, Montana.
Photo courtesy of Big Sky Fishing.com

Accomplished To Date:

- ☑ Utica Test well proved water quality and quantity. Water right acquired.
- ☑ Appraisal report was submitted to and approved by the Bureau of Reclamation under the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 rules.
- ☑ First Phases of Feasibility Report completed. Preferred alternative points to a wellfield site south of the test well.

What's Next?

- ☐ Drilling of the U-bet well, west of Garneill, which is the preferred alternative well site.
- ☐ Finish the Feasibility Study. (This work is under contract with Great West Engineering.)
- ☐ Seek Federal Authorization
- ☐ Construction

Central Montana Regional Water Authority

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Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System

*A regional water project seeking
clean, plentiful & affordable
water for its residents...*



Member communities include
Hobson, Judith Gap,
Harlowton, Ryegate, Lavina,
Roundup, Melstone
and Broadview.

“When the well is dry,
we know the
worth of water.”

- Benjamin Franklin

The Problem:

Good water is not a luxury enjoyed by some Central Montana communities:

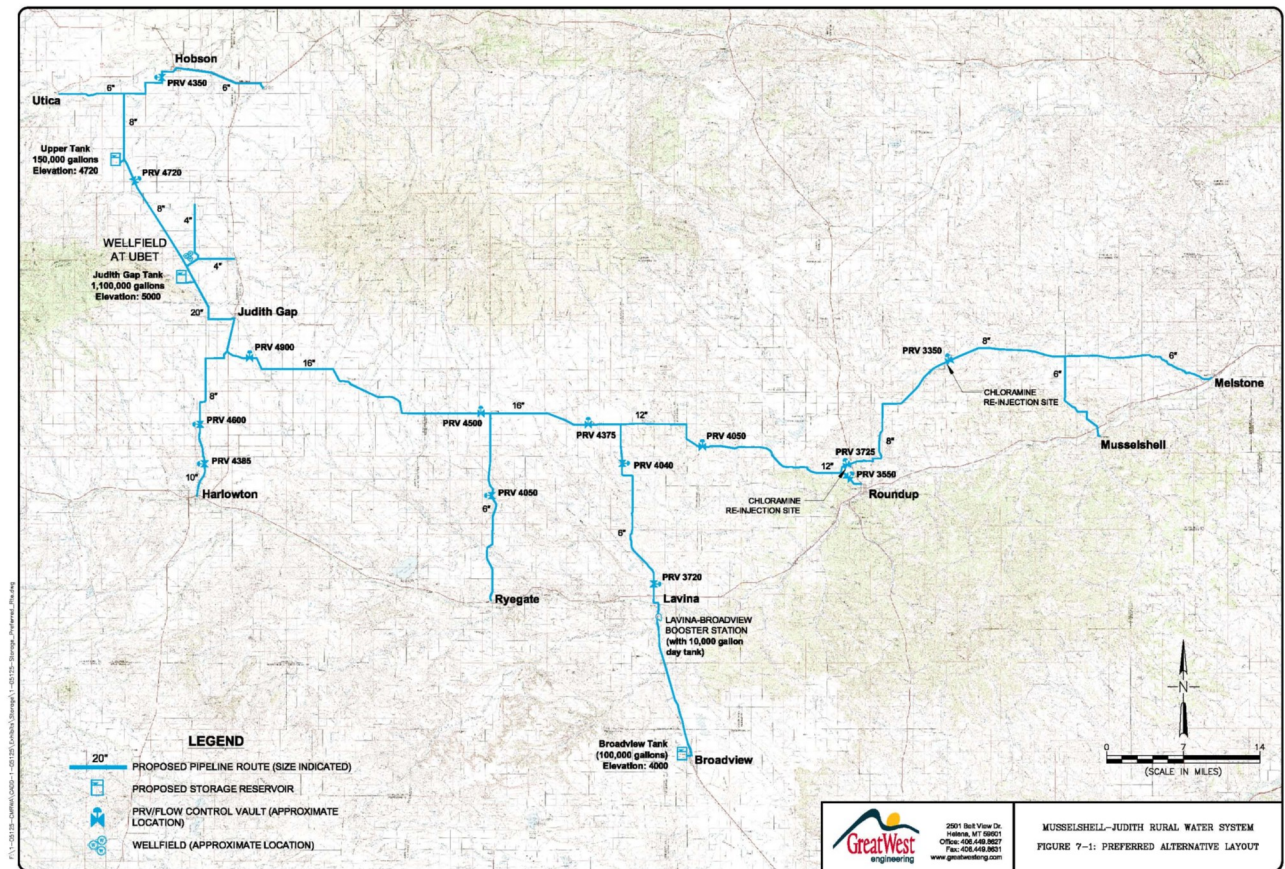
- ☑ High mineral or sulfate contents make it undrinkable;
- ☑ Businesses are threatened to be shut down because of high nitrate levels;
- ☑ Water restrictions are common during dry years.

The Solution:

An informal group had been meeting to look for solutions to the water dilemma in the Musselshell Valley region since 2001. The Central Montana Regional Water Authority formed in 2004 to search for a good and plentiful municipal water source for residents. A test well was drilled into the Madison Aquifer near Utica, which proved the water quality and quantity. Alternatives were explored and the preferred wellfield site is west of Garneill—the Ubet site. Drilling of this well is set for August 2012.

“We are a small community in Montana with a big problem... The fact is that the water here isn’t fit to drink.”

- Peggy Jones, Roundup



Proposed route of the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System.

About the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System:

- ◆ Proposed wellfield to be located six miles NW of Judith Gap, with deep wells drawing water from the Madison Aquifer.
- ◆ Core transmission line will be about 230 miles long, beginning near Utica, going northeast to Hobson and possibly Moore, south to Judith Gap and Harlowton, east to service Ryegate, Lavina, Broadview, Roundup and Melstone.
- ◆ The project will initially provide municipal water for about 5,800 residents, and eventually service about 7,500. The project will also serve interested rural customers along the route.