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# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA

and

FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE...SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. and MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State, and private organizations listed on the inside back cover of this report.

**FEB. 1, 1969** 

### TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1400 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. In the near future, it is anticipated that automatic snow water equivalent sensing devices along with radio telemetry will provide a continuous record of snow water equivalent at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

### PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 701 N. W. Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	P. O. Box "F", Palmer, Alaska 99645
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85205
Colorado (N. Mex.)	12417 Federal Building, Denver, Colorado 80521
Idaho	P. O. Box 38, Boise, Idaho 83707
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 340, Casper, Wyoming 82602

# CONSERVATION OF WATER BEGINS WITH THE SNOW SURVEY STATION STREAM

### PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA

and

FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

Issued by

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KENNETH E. GRANT

ADMINISTRATOR SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C.

Released by

A. B. LINFORD STATE CONSERVATIONIST SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE Bozeman, Montana

In Cooperation with

J. A. ASLESON DIRECTOR Montana Agricultural Experiment Station

Report prepared by

P. E. FARNES, Snow Survey Supervisor

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE P.O. Box 98 Bozeman, Montana 59715



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA	Page 1-2
MAP OF SNOW COURSES AND SOIL MOISTURE STATIONS	3
SNOW SURVEY DATA	4-7
SOIL MOISTURE DATA	8
RESERVOIR STORAGE DATA	9
LIST OF COOPERATORS Inside Back Co	over



### MONTANA WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

### February 1, 1969

### COLUMBIA RIVER DRAINAGE

<u>Snow</u> - The mountain snow pack is well above average along the Continental Divide in the Blackfoot River headwaters, and along the Montana-Idaho border in the Lower Clark Fork area. Snow pack in the Kootenai River headwaters is increasing to above average in the Montana portion of the drainage. The remainder of the Columbia River drainage in Montana is 10 to 30 percent above average. Soil moisture is generally above average and will increase runoff normally expected from the snow pack.

<u>Streamflow</u> - Water supply forecasts are not prepared until after March 1 snow surveys, but present indications are for runoff in the Kootenai River to be 110 to 115 percent average. The Upper Clark Fork, Blackfoot and Bitterroot Rivers are about 125 to 130 percent; the Flathead River and tributaries, 110 to 120 percent average. Combined the flow is about 120 to 125 percent average for the Clark Fork below the junction with the Flathead River.

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### MISSOURI RIVER DRAINAGE

<u>Snow</u> - Surveys are made at only a portion of the snow courses for February, but heavy snow pack is indicated in the headwaters of the Red Rock River along the Continental Divide, along the Missouri main stem, and in the Yellowstone River headwaters. The remainder of the Missouri River drainage appears to have well above average snow pack. Many snow courses now have snow water equivalents greater than their April 1 average. Mountain soils under the snow pack are wetter than normal and will require less snow melt for recharge.

<u>Streamflow</u> - Water supply forecasts are not prepared until after March 1 snow surveys. It is likely that all streams in the Missouri River will flow 10 to 30 percent above average. Some smaller streams, particularly the Red Rock and Beaverhead Rivers will probably have flows greater than 130 percent of average, depending on snowfall for the next two months and precipitation during the spring melt. Depending on temperatures and other climatic conditions, snow on the valley floors could provide some runoff between now and April.

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Drainage basin A Conversion		K OOTENAI RIVER Jajd Eagle Peek Barreald Hcuntein Barree Midum y Barree Midum y Barree Trealt Barree Trealt	Bruhb Creek Cadar irove Cladar irove Glaklas Creek Dodge Creek Jarwar Creek Jarwar Creek Weikins Lawe Asalar Creek	Franch Pranch Pranch Stahl Peak Stahl Peak Vessi Jyijé FLATHEAD RIVER Mark Paak	<pre>11 reak 12 reak 14 reap Maary 14 reak 14 reak 1</pre>	Hell Scaring Divide N Lbrock Kishemehn Logen Greek Marlen Pess	Mireral Craek North Fork Jocko Spotted war Mountain Trintus Lake Tvin Creeks Upper Nolland Lake	CLARK FORK RIVES Black Fine Copper Creek User Mine	yote Hill Li Corndo Mine Fred Surr Pess Joid Creek Lake Heart Lake Trail	Noodoo Paain Noodoo Creak Inter aard Lubrecht Forest No. 3	Lubreck Forst No. 6 N. Pork Elk Creek Sed Licn Stalkah Sumait	Slije Fra Mruntain Scuthern Croas Sprin, ulch Stract Mill Stuart Mull Stuart Muutain T.V. Mountain	BITTERROOT RIVER Ambrose East Firk R.S. Viebons Pass	Lost M ree Naz Perce azp Naz Perce Pens Sel le M untain . welvemile fraek . win Lakes	ST. MARY RIVER 84 Hule n Bay Livide Iceber Lake No. 3 J Septime Uver No. 9 Month Allen Ver No. 9	Pleration No. 8	BEAVERHEAD RIVER	sincy Dick arter rear Lou frank Lake sik Mren Sninua	-11 Stone Lakevlev Canyon Lakevlev Klije Leati Pese	Leahi Flise Trais Creek White Pine . liga

AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1969

				CURRENT DATA	4	PAST R	ECORD
	SNOW COURSE		DATE	SNOW	WATER	WATER C	ONTENT
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION	SURVEY	DEFIN	CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
		COLUMBIA	RIVER B	ASIN			
KOOTENAI	RIVER						
BC 10 BC 12A BC 11 BC 43 BC 33 BC 32 BC 32 BC 10B BC 10A BC 10A BC 8A BC 20A	Fernie Field Glacier Gray Creek Kicking Horse Marble Canyon Morrissey Ridge New Fernie Sinclair Pass Sullivan Mine	3500 4200 5100 5400 5000 6100 4100 4500 5100	1/31 1/30 1/28 1/28 1/30 1/30 1/30	48 24 58 50 40 45 20 53	11.8 4.7 19.7 12.6 10.5 11.3 5.5 14.2	4.2 5.3 19.7 10.3 10.6 8.4 15.7 8.4 4.0 10.6	7.1 5.5 20.5 12.4 11.4 10.6 20.0* 11.1 4.7 9.7
T.ATHEAD	BTVER	2200		22		TO:O	701
13A02 14A03 13B13 13A05 13B02 13B11	Desert Mountain Hell Roaring Divide Holbrook Marias Pass Spotted Bear Mountain Twin Creeks	5600 5770 4530 5250 7000 3580	1/31 1/30 2/4 1/29 2/4 2/4	55 92 50 56 56 57	15.9 28.1 12.5A 14.0 15.0A 14.0A	10.2 18.2 6.0A 9.3 9.0A 7.0A	10.7 22.3* 7.4 12.1 10.1* 8.7*
CLARK FO	RK RIVER		y ,				
13013 13013 13810 14010 15010 15010 1501 13004 13004 13021 13022 13028 13005 13018 13007 13006 13001	Black Pine Black Pine Pillow Coyote Hill Heart Lake Trail Hoodoo Basin Hoodoo Basin Pillow Hoodoo Creek Intergaard Lookout Lubrecht Forest No. 3 Lubrecht Forest No. 4 Lubrecht Forest No. 4 Lubrecht Forest No. 6 Southern Cross Spring Gulch Storm Lake Stuart Mill Stuart Mountain	7100 7100 4200 4800 6000 6000 5900 6450 5250 5450 4650 4040 6500 6000 7780 6500 7400	1/31 1/31 2/4 1/30 1/30 No Rep 1/30 1/31 1/31 1/31 1/31	48 SP 41 66 132 ort 129 34 133 28 46 30	13.6 12.9 10.1 20.4 44.7 41.8 7.1 38.7 6.5 12.0 6.8	$   \begin{array}{c}     10.9 \\     11.2 \\     6.8 \\     \hline     31.3 \\     28.9 \\     27.6 \\     7.2 \\     21.0 \\     5.4 \\     3.2 \\     5.7 \\     10.6 \\     12.4 \\     5.7 \\     23.6 \\   \end{array} $	- 7.8 - 5.3 25.0 5.2 2.7 3.3 4.4 8.5 8.5 4.5 *

A - Aerial observation - water content estimated.



AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1969

							(Inches)
		(	(	CURRENT DATA		PAST RI	ECORD
	SNOW COURSE	DATE	SNOW	WATER	WATER CONTENT		
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION	SURVEY		CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
BITTERI	ROOT RIVER						
13D02	Gibbons Pass	7100	1/28	79	22.0	14.8	15.1
14005	Lolo Pass	5230	1/29	84	25.6	620)	
13D16	Moose Creek	6200	1/30	60	15.2	9.0	10.9
13D22	Saddle Mountain	7940	1/29	83	25.1	18.8	-
13D22	Saddle Mountain Pillow	7900	1/28	SP	25.6	17.9	azat);
14004	Savage Pass	6600	1/29	78	23.3	18.5	
14013	Twelvemile Creek	5600	1/31	65	18.9	13.9	-
14013	Twelvemile Creek Pillow	5600	1/31	SP	15.8	11.8	-

SP - Snow pillow observation - water content only.

-5-

### MAN ASAMINE ALLAND

AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1969

							(Inches)
				CURRENT DATA		PAST R	ECORD
	SNOW COURSE		DATE OF	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	WATER C	ONTENT
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION	SURVEY	1		LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
		MISSOURI	I RIVER H	BASIN			
BEAVERI	HEAD RIVER						
12E03 12D04 11E12 11E04 11E03	Camp Creek Carter Creek Kilgore Lakeview Canyon Lakeview Ridge	6800 7400 6200 6930 7400	1/27 2/1 2/1 1/31 1/31	55 22 51 71 64	14.5 4.2 14.8 18.4 15.5	8.0 3.4 8.5 10.1 10.7	6.3 6.2 8.3* 7.7*
JEFFER	SON RIVER						
12009 12010 12006 12D01 12011 12011 12011 12012	Copper Mountain Nez Perce Creek Picnic Grounds Pipestone Pass Rocker Peak Rocker Peak Pillow Uncle Sam Gulch	7700 6500 7200 8000 8000 6500	1/30 1/30 1/30 1/30 1/29 1/29 1/29	40 27 23 26 52 SP 36	8.8 6.1 4.6 5.3 13.8 12.6 8.7	10.6 5.1 3.9 4.3 13.9 13.0 8.1	3.1 3.4
MADISOI	NRIVER						
11E09 11E05 11E10 10E02 11E08 11E07 11E07	Big Springs Hebgen Dam Island Park Norris Basin Valley View West Yellowstone West Yellowstone Pillow	6500 6550 6315 7500 6500 6700 6700	1/29 2/1 1/30 2/3 1/30 2/2 1/27	69 44 64 43 75 49 SP	21.3 11.6 19.4 8.6 22.4 13.4 9.8	12.1 10.2 8.9 10.9 13.6 7.7 7.2	13.1 7.5 10.6 7.2 10.3 7.4
GALLATI	IN RIVER						
10D14 10D15 10D04 10D03 10D13 10D13 10D18 10D18 10D18 10D18 10D16 10D16 10D16 10D16	Arch Falls Bridger Bowl Bridger Bowl Pillow Devil's Slide Hood Meadow Lick Creek Lick Creek Pillow Maynard Creek Maynard Creek Maynard Creek Pillow New World Shower Falls Shower Falls Pillow Twenty-One Mile	7350 7250 8100 6600 6860 6860 6210 6210 6210 6700 8100 8100 7150	1/30 1/29 1/29 1/30 1/30 1/30 1/29 1/29 1/29 1/29 1/30 1/30 2/2	37 68 SP 54 31 31 SP 50 SP 33 65 SP 79	10.0 22.0 18.3 15.8 7.8 6.9 6.7 14.5 10.2 8.3 19.5 16.7 21.8	13.6 24.5 23.7 22.7 10.6 11.0 9.8 16.1 11.3 12.0 25.3 22.0 13.2	8.0* 13.2* 5.8* 6.3* - - 6.4 
SP – Si	now pillow observation - w	water con	itent onl	у.			

-6-



		A3 01	TUDROANT	1, 1909	(Inches)			
			(	URRENT DATA		PAST R	ECORD	
	SNOW COURSE		DATE	SNOW	WATER	WATER C	ONTENT	
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION	SURVEY	DEFIN	CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE	
MISSOUR	<u>I RIVER (Main Stem)</u>							
12C05 10C09 10C09 9A01 9A01	Chessman Reservoir Deadman Creek Deadman Creek Pillow Rocky Boy Rocky Boy Pillow	6200 6450 6450 4700 4700	1/31 2/4 2/4	24 40 SP	5.8 9.4 8.9	6.4 9.2 8.2 5.0 4.4	2.6*	
12002 12003 12004	Ten Mile Lower Ten Mile Middle Ten Mile Upper	6600 6800 8000	1/31 1/30 2/3	36 42 48	8.8 11.2 14.0	7.5 9.4 13.0	4.6 6.9 8.8	
JUDITH	RIVER							
10006 10006	Spur Park Spur Park Pillow	8000 8000	2/4 2/4	61 SP	17.6 15.9	18.2 17.0		
ST. MAR	Y RIVER							
13A18	Hudson Bay Divide	5800	1/28	50	13.3	<b>8</b> 54		
SASKATC	HEWAN (Bow River)							
Alb. 1 Alb. 8 Alb. 6 Alb. 10 Alb. 2	Bow River Chateau Lake Mirror Lake Mount Eisenhower Upper Pipestone	5100 5700 6600 5000 5400	1/31 1/30 1/30 1/31 1/29	33 39 38 26 31	7.2 9.2 9.6 5.5 6.2	6.6 7.6 8.8 3.6 6.0	65) 65) 65) 65) 65)	
UPPER Y	ELLOWSTONE RIVER							
10E03 10E06 9D05 10E04 10E01 10D07 10E05 10E07 9D02	Canyon East Entrance Grizzly Peak Lake Camp Lupine Creek Northeast Entrance Northeast Entrance Pillow Sylvan Pass Thumb Divide West Bosebud	7750 7000 8400 7850 7300 7400 7400 7100 7900 7500	1/29 1/28 1/31 1/30 2/1 1/30 1/30 1/28 1/29 1/29	56 35 32 47 44 34 SP 45 85 38	14.8 8.6 7.5 10.4 12.3 8.6 7.8 12.2 23.0 10.0	10.8 4.5 13.4 5.0 8.4 6.4 6.7 7.6 14.8 9.8	10.1 7.1* 10.1* 5.8* 7.1 6.0 8.8 14.6*	

SP - Snow pillow observation - water content only.

-7-



	SOI	L MOI	STUF	RE DA	ATA				
SOIL PROFILE CURRENT DATA PAST									
	SOIL MOISTURE STATION		501L	FIELD	DATE	SOLL	I AST	RECORD	
NO.	NAME	ELEVATION	DEPTH	CAPACITY	OF SURVEY	MOISTURE	YEAR	AVERAGE	
		COLUMBI	A RIVER	BASIN					
<u>Kootenai</u> 15B15M 14A1OM 15A02M	Baree Trail Murphy Lake R.S. Raven R.S.	3800 3000 3050	48 48 48	7.5 22.6 23.0			19.0 20.5	451. 453.	
<u>Flathead</u> 13A02M 13A05M	Desert Mountain Marias Pass	5600 5250	54 54	8.4 6.5	1/31 2/1	8.7 5.6	6.9 5.4	7.0 5.1	
<u>Clark Fork</u> 13C13M 13B19M 13C03M	Black Pine Seeley Lake R.S. Skalkaho Summit	7100 4030 7260	48 48 48	10.0 11.9 10.8	1/31 2/4	8.7 8.3	8.0 5.1	- 6.8 -	
<u>Bitterroot</u> 13D18M 14C05M	Gibbons Pass Lolo Pass	7100 5250	48 48	7.1 10.6	1/28 1/31	5.8 7.0	6.2 10.1	5.4 6.6	
		MISSOUR.	I RIVER	BASIN					
<u>Beaverhead</u> 11E13M	Lakeview	6700	48	15.3	2/1	6.1	5.2	7.1	
<u>Madison</u> 10D04M 11E07M	Red Bluff West Yellowstone	4800 6700	40 48	4.7 6.5	1/27	3.5	2.3	-	
<u>Gallatin</u> 10D15M 11D02M 10D1 <i>3</i> M 11E06M	Bridger Bowl College Site Lick Creek Twenty-One Mile	7250 4856 6860 7150	48 54 48 48	17.0 14.5 18.8 10.0	1/29 1/31 1/30 1/26	13.7 12.2 16.6 7.1	15.5 10.3 17.8 3.2	9.7 2.8	
<u>Missouri 1</u> 10CO1M 13CO8M	<u>Main Stem</u> Kings Hill Stemple Pass	7420 6350	48 48	11.8 5.9	1/31 1/31	7.4 4.1	6.3	7.1 4.1	
Yellowston 10D11M 10D07M	ne Battle Ridge Northeast Entrance	6020 7350	48 48	17.6 9.4	1/29 1/31	14.5 7.7	12.7 5.6	14.6 6.5	

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# RESERVOIR STORAGE DATA

AS OF JANUARY 31, 1969

(1000 Acre Feet)

				USEABLE STORA	GE
BASIN	RESERVOIR	USEABLE CAPACITY	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
COLUMBIA RIV	ER BASIN				
Flathead	Hungry Horse Flathead Lake Camas (Sum of 4) Mission Valley (Sum of 8)	3,428.0 1,791.0 45.2 ) 100.3	2,902.0 1,184.0 14.3 80.2	2,034.0 1,272.0 22.4 24.2	2,474.0 1,186.0 26.6 31.0
Clark Fork	Georgetown Lake Nevada Creek Noxon Rapids	31.0 12.6 334.6	29.4	28.7 5.8 325.7	25.1 4.4 320.2**
Bitterroot	Como Painted Rocks	34.9 31.7	16.0 29.4	14.4 21.8	9.3 21.7
MISSOURI RIV	ER BASIN				
Beaverhead	Clark Canyon Lima	328.9 84.0	152.8 44.9	156.7 42.1	126.5** 22.8
Ruby	Ruby	38.8		-	21.1
Madison	Hebgen Lake	377.5	299.5	237.0	168.7
	Ennis Lake	41.0	35.4	34.6	38.4
Gallatin	Middle Creek	8.0	3.5	3.3	3.3
Missouri	Canyon Ferry Hauser & Helena Lake Helena Holter Lake Smith River Durand Martinsdale Deadman's Basin Fort Peck	2,043.0 61.9 10.4 81.9 10.7 7.0 23.1 72.2 19,410.0	1,649.0 63.0 10.9 51.2 8.0 6.1 10.6 46.6 16,210.0	1,709.0 59.0 9.4 75.4 8.1 4.6 9.8 60.4 16,100.0	1,602.0** 56.5 8.6 61.5 5.7 4.0 6.3 42.2 10,930.0
Sun	Gibson Willow Creek Pishkun	105.0 32.2 32.0	61.9 20.4 17.2	32.1 16.6 16.7	47.0 20.4 17.9
Marias	Lower Two Medicine Four Horns Swift Lake Frances Tiber	16.6 19.2 30.0 112.0 1.313.0	79.5 450.2	9.5 70.8 461.2	0.0 12.1 17.9 83.3 625.5**
Milk	Fresno Nelson Lake Sherburne	127.2 66.8 66.1	86.8 45.2	66.8 41.0 24.6	59.6 42.4 17.9
Yellowstone	Mystic Lake Tongue River Cooney	20.8 68.0 27.5	12.0 33.0 18.5	13.5 30.7 15.0	10.4 19.9 13.0
Big Horn	Yellowtail	1,356.0	731.8	800.6	

Note: All Averages Based on 1953-67, 15 year period. \*\*Average for Period of Record

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# Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Montana Snow Surveys

- U. S. Forest Service Region I, Missoula, Montana Montana Forests and Ranger Districts
- U. S. Geological Survey Helena, Montana Portland, Oregon
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland, Oregon Seattle, Washington Walla Walla, Washington Omaha, Nebraska
- U. S. Indian Irrigation Service St. Ignatius, Montana
- U. S. Weather Bureau Helena, Montana Portland, Oregon Kansas City, Missouri
- U. S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife Red Rock Lakes Refuge Monida, Montana
- U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Billings, Montana Boise, Idaho
- U. S. Bonneville Power Administration Portland, Oregon

- U. S. Soil Conservation Service Montana, Wyoming, Idaho
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts Montana Counties
- U. S. National Park Service Yellowstone National Park Glacier National Park
- Montana Power Company Butte, Montana
- Montana Water Resources Board Helena, Montana
- North Montana Branch Station Agricultural Experiment Station Havre, Montana
- Montana State University Agricultural Experiment Station Bozeman, Montana
- University of Montana School of Forestry Missoula, Montana
- Water Rights Branch, Dept. of Lands and Forests Victoria, British Columbia
- Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Calgary, Alberta

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE P. O. Box 98 BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

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