



TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION IS TO CONSERVE,
PROTECT AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S
COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS



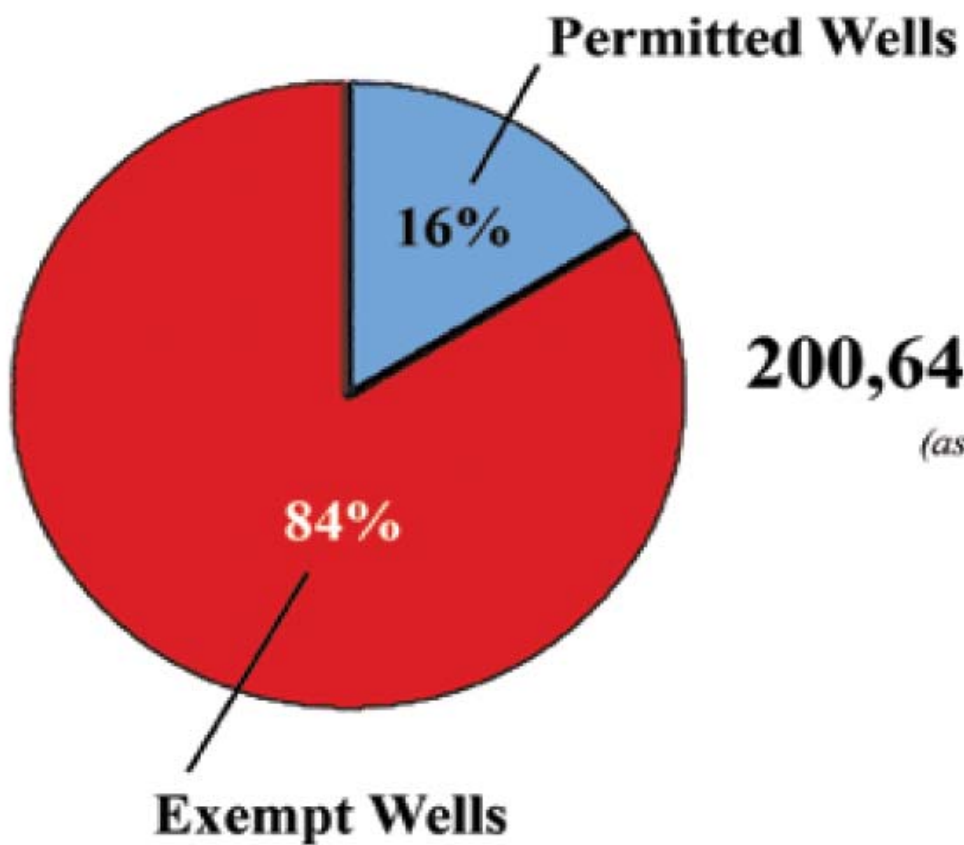
Exempt Wells and Sportsmen: What's the Connection?

Laura Ziemer

WPIC Choteau, Montana
October 25, 2007

Sportsmen and Exempt Wells?





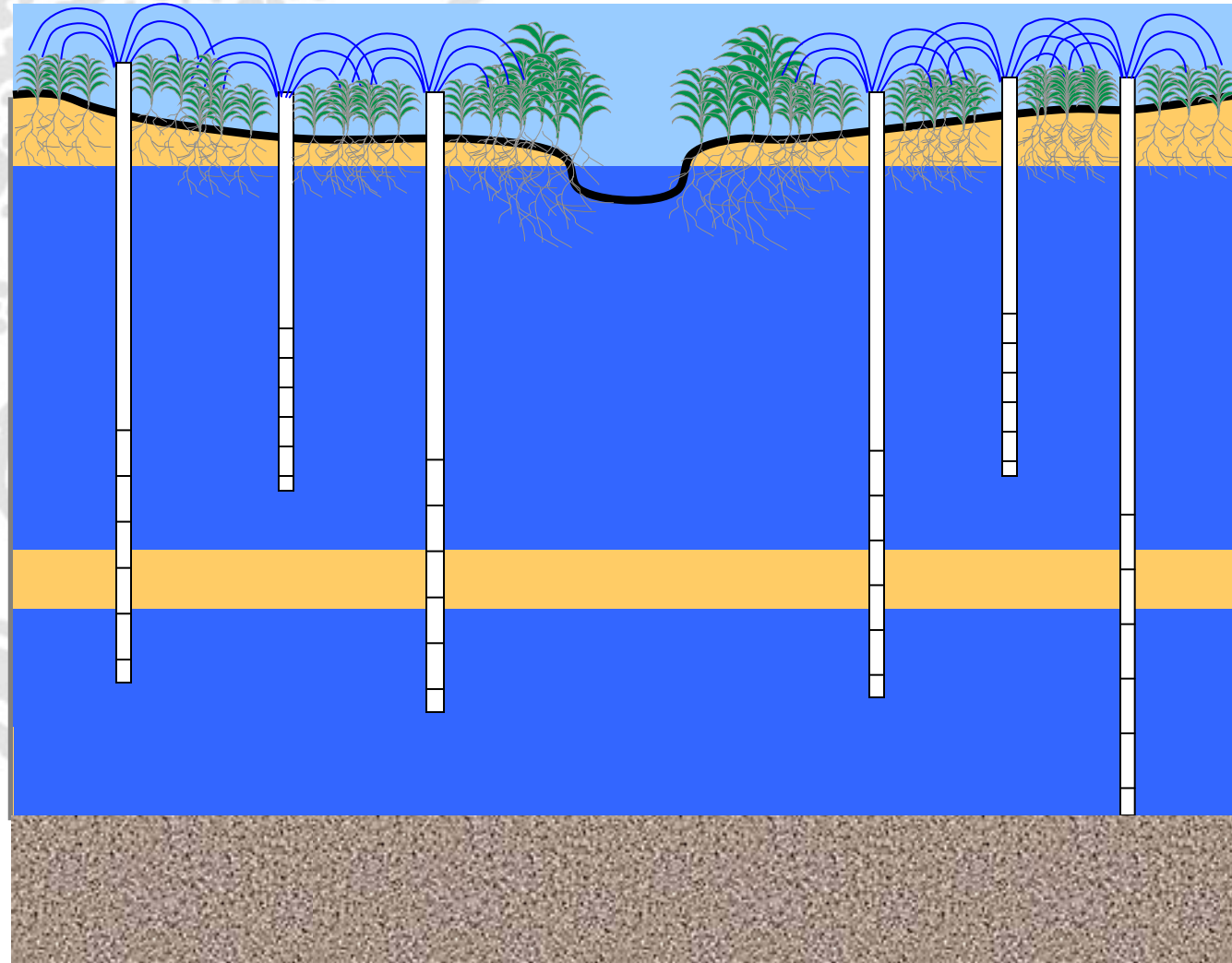
200,640 Total Wells

(as of October 2006)

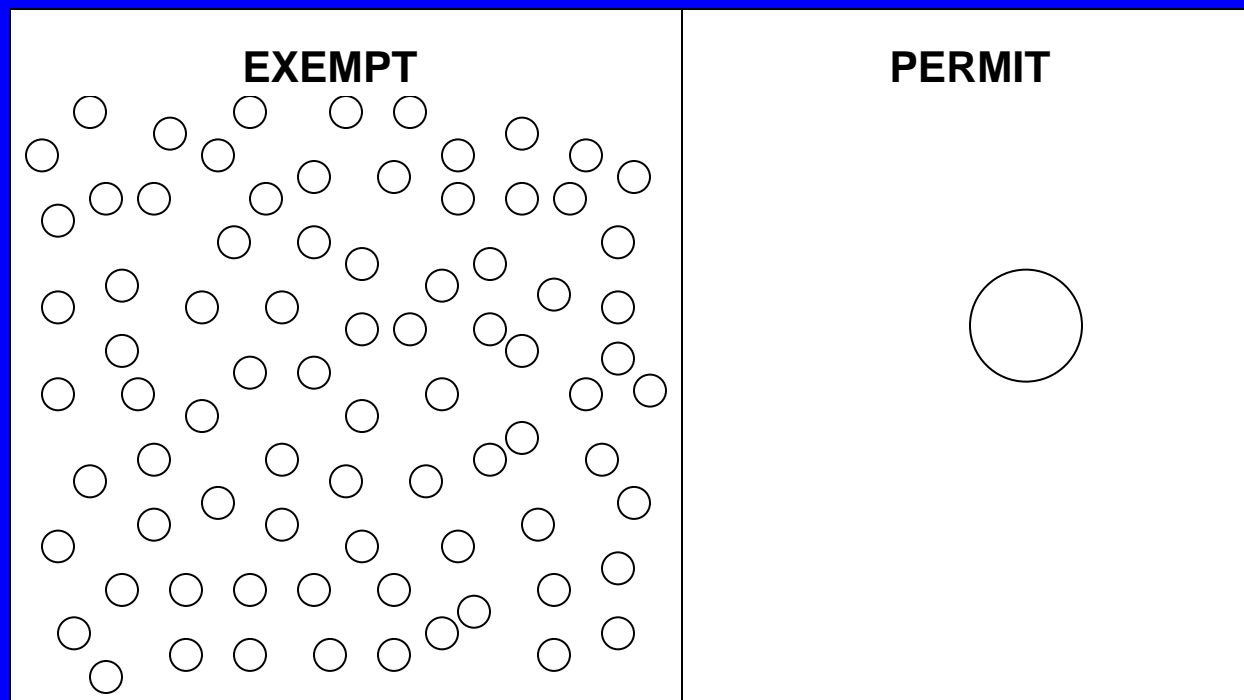
Exempt Wells Are a Water Grab



We Live in the Top Two Feet



No Mitigation for Exempt Wells' Depletion



Solution A: Mitigation Water Bank

- Individual Wells Purchase Mitigation Credit
- Counties Purchase Senior Surface Water Rights to provide Mitigation Water Credits
- Working in Bend, Oregon and Eastern Washington



Solution B: Require Permitting

- Impose irrigated acreage limitation at 1/2 acre-foot
- Require subdivided parcels with individual wells to go through permitting



Streamline HB 831 Permitting with “Bucket-for-Bucket” Mitigation under Section 15(1)



“Sticker Shock: \$1 Billion for Water”

- Rocky Mountain News, September 26, 2007
- Denver’s southern suburbs must spend \$1 billion to wean themselves off cheap groundwater that fueled rapid growth in the 1980’s and 1990’s.

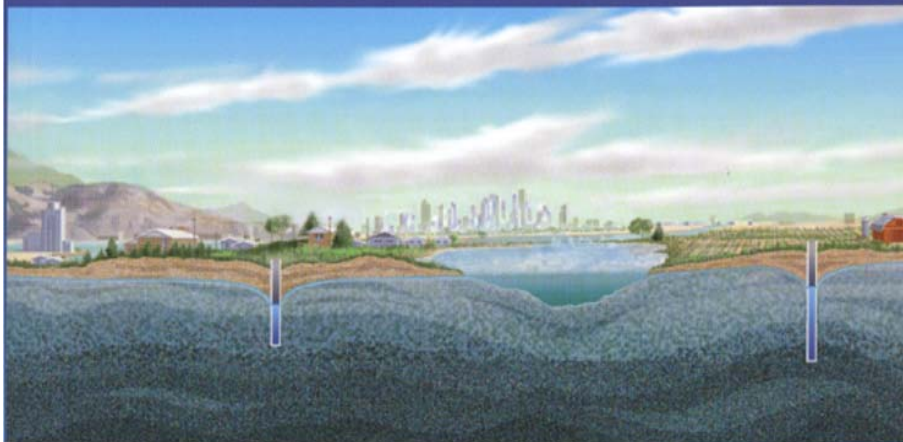


Highlands Ranch, South of Denver





Sustainability of Ground-Water Resources



U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1186



1942 Photo of Santa Cruz River, Tucson, AZ



1989 photo reflecting 100-foot drop in water table



