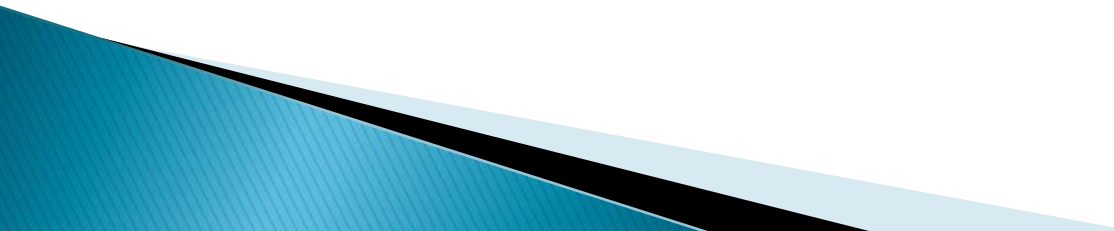


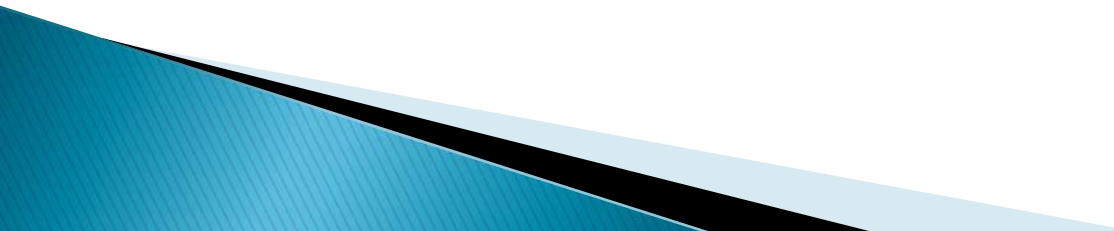
VISION 2005

IRRIGATION AKA
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

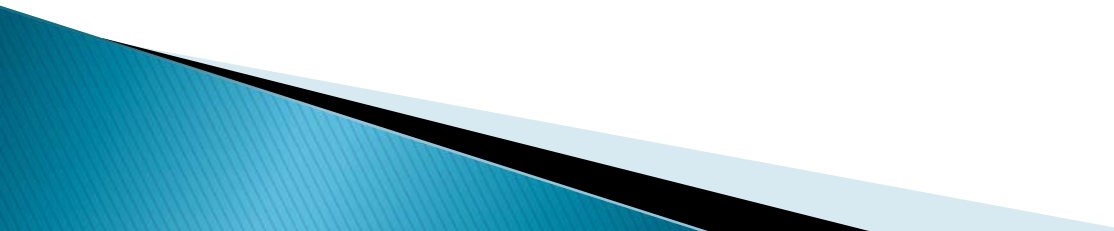
What Was the Goal of the Vision 2005 Task Force?

- ▶ Double the value of agriculture by 2005.
 - ▶ Add 500,000 acres of irrigation.
 - ▶ Assist local producer in efforts to increase and sustain their individual agricultural enterprises.
 - ▶ Attempt to stop the out migration of rural populations throughout Eastern and Northern Montana. 1 to 2 % per year.
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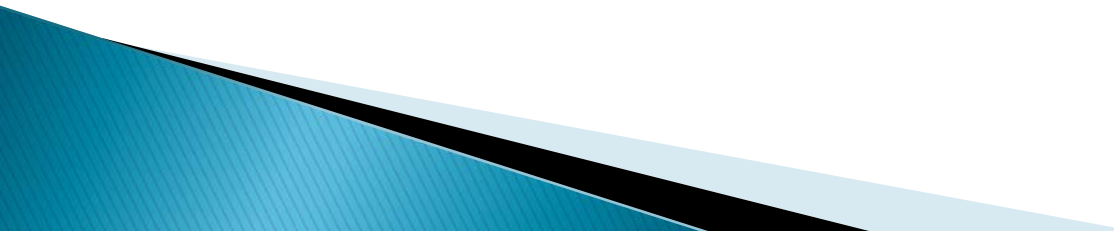
Program's Initial Set-up

- ▶ 3 full time positions
 - ▶ Irrigation Development Officer
 - ▶ Irrigation Engineer
 - ▶ Administrative Support position
 - ▶ \$150,000 grant fund per year
 - ▶ Technical assistance
- 

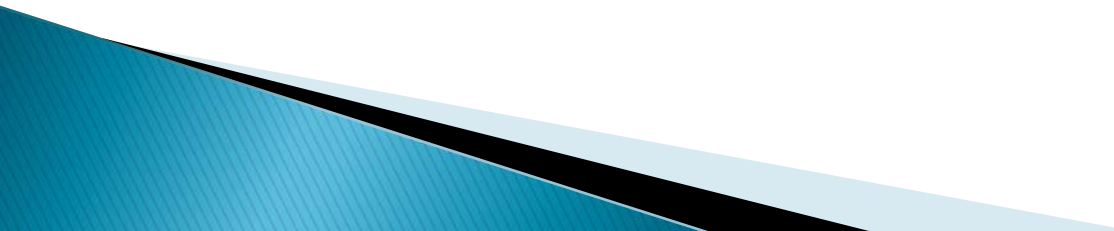
Evolution of Program

- ▶ Montana Bureau of Mines Technical Assistance Contract
 - ▶ Actual review of requests by producers to determine groundwater potential.
 - ▶ Assistance in ranking of test well applications.
 - ▶ Onsite/oversight and review of drilling efforts.
- 

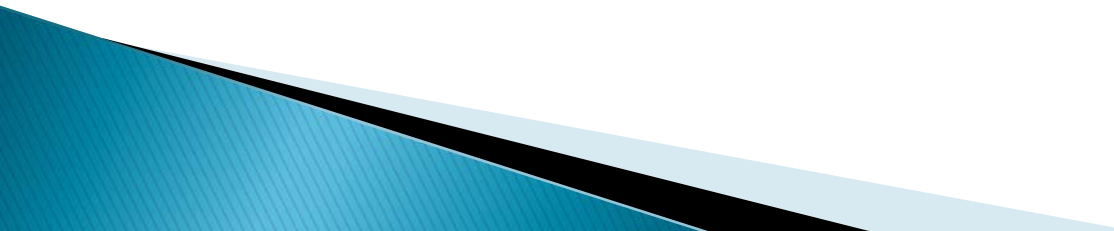
Test Well Program

- ▶ MBMG Review and Recommendations
 - ▶ Ranking of Applications
 - ▶ Offering \$5,000 grants to drill well and test for quantity and quality.
 - ▶ Pit falls and problems
- 

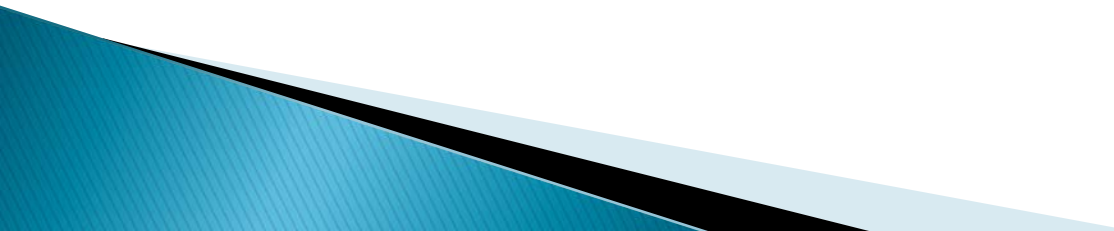
Assistance to Individual Irrigation Districts

- ▶ Technical assistance efforts
 - ▶ Support for Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District's efforts to obtain title transfer
 - ▶ Efforts to increase acres
 - ▶ Other Irrigation District efforts
- 

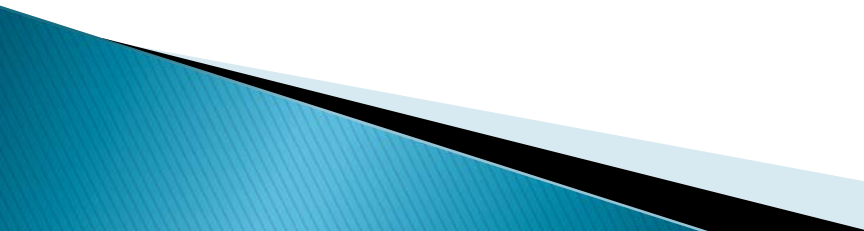
Why did we not add 500,000 acres?

- ▶ Energy cost were 4 to 6 times higher than was planned. (Don't Steal from REA's!)
 - ▶ Average age of Farmers 50+. Risks much less likely. (Federal Farm Policy)
 - ▶ Upper Basin areas water rights junior to all other uses. (Storage only option areas)
 - ▶ Tribes unable to get funding.
- 

Priorities For Irrigation

- ▶ Rural water demand versus irrigation
 - ▶ Federal priorities.
 - ▶ State Priorities
 - ▶ Food Security (Not even thought about yet)
- 

How we have evolved.

- ▶ Realization that fixes and management on irrigation projects actually helped increase production and water conservation.
 - ▶ Managers and Boards that can function in the new world of agriculture are better for irrigation.
 - ▶ Realization that many fixes to infrastructure are going to have to be done internally even if there is a public benefit.
- 

Things that we have changed

Attempted to find funding sources for irrigation projects to assist in infrastructure repairs and maintenance. (hydro/wind/ cooperative efforts)

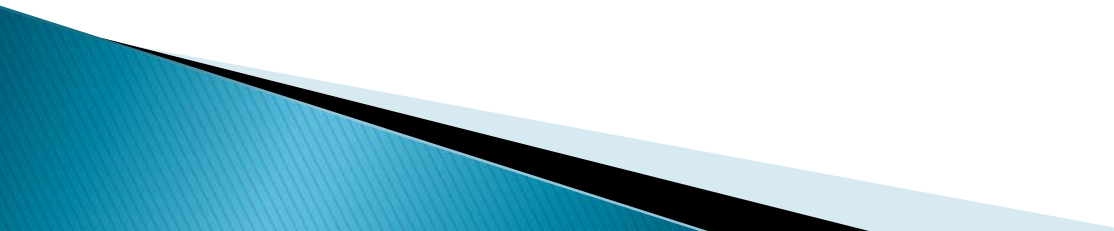
Empowering Irrigation Managers/Boards to be able to manage their resources better.

Assisting in efforts to by small irrigation projects to wrestle back control of their projects.

Continual Education

- ▶ Attempt to keep abreast of national and state issues and inform water managers. (MWRA, Family Farm Alliance, Upper Missouri Water Association, etc.)

What could the future be?

- ▶ Training & Education
 - ▶ Engineering assistance
 - ▶ Infrastructure assistance
 - ▶ Innovation
 - ▶ Technology (Hydro Assessments)
 - ▶ Policy
 - ▶ More grant funds \$150,000 goes about ½ as far
- 

Questions???

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