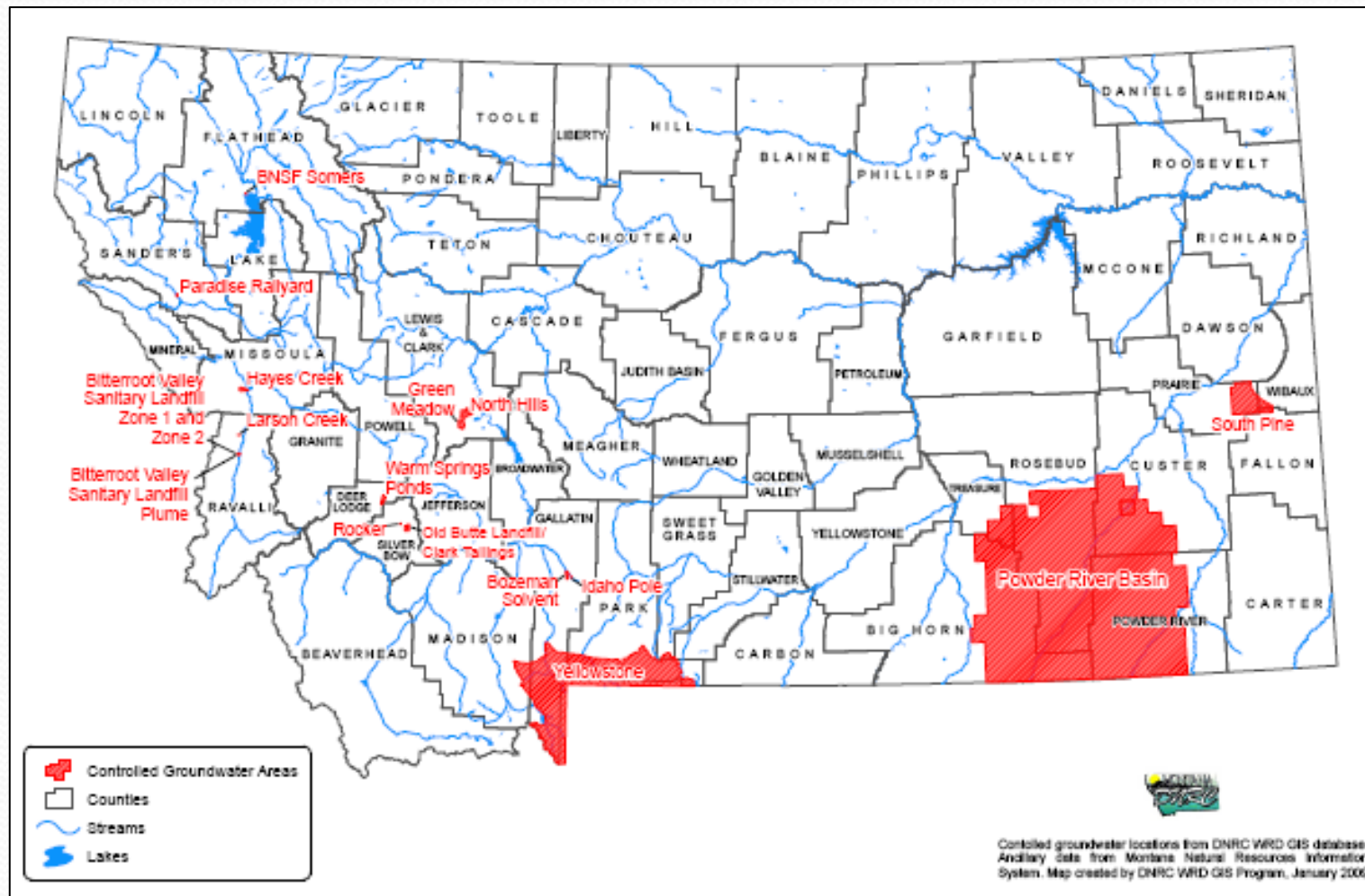


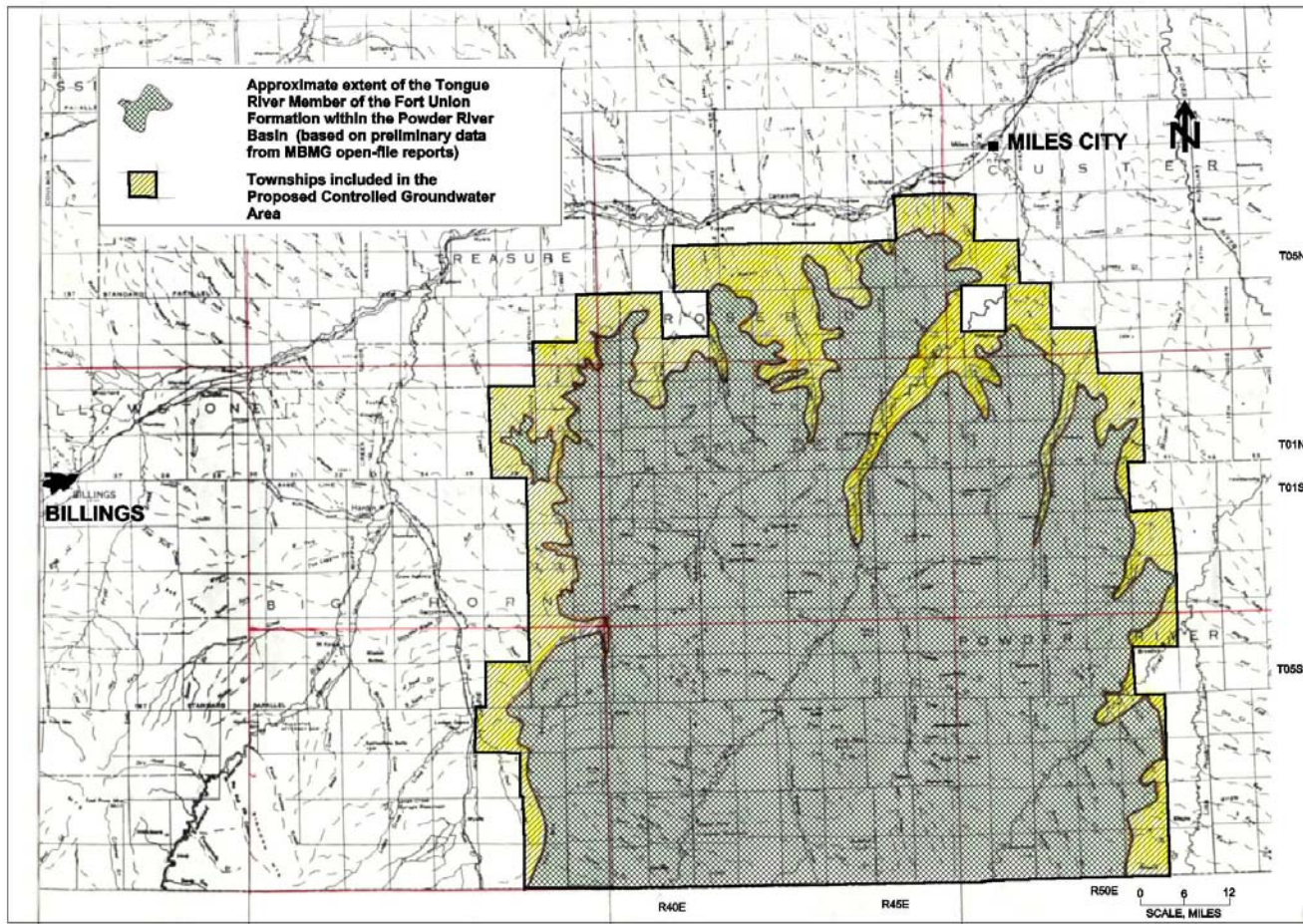
# Powder River Basin Controlled Groundwater Area

Russell Levens, DNRC

# Controlled Groundwater Areas



# Powder River Basin CGA



# Conclusions of CGWA Order

- CBM extraction will reduce groundwater levels in a water-scarce area
- Withdrawals need to be monitored and controlled, if necessary, to protect existing beneficial uses
- Withdrawals under the prior jurisdiction of the Montana Board of Oil and Gas
- DNRC can petition the Board regarding impacts to existing water uses

# Provisions of CGWA

- Applies only to coalbed methane wells on state or private land
- Requires an inventory and hydrologic assessment of existing wells, springs and streamflow that could be impacted
- Requires CBM operators offer mitigation agreements to owners of wells or springs
- Establishes a Technical Advisor Committee



# Technical Advisory Committee

- Expertise in hydrogeology and CBM extraction operations
- Oversee monitoring, characterization, and reporting requirements
- Review groundwater data and scientific evidence related to the CGA
- Make recommendations to the BOGC

# TAC Review

- Groundwater monitoring and reporting plans are reviewed by TAC and approved by Board
- Monitoring data are submitted to the Board, TAC, and MBMG
- MBMG prepares consolidated annual report
- TAC reviews the annual report and may advise the Board

# Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting Plans

- Describe process for collecting data
- ID geographic area to be monitored
- Compile private well and spring inventory
- Propose monitoring network and evaluations
- Propose data management schedule



# CBM Regional Groundwater Monitoring Report

- Consolidated report of data and evaluations of regional impacts for all producers
- Prepared by MBMG
- Reviewed by TAC