

Time for Truth
on
Platte River Issues

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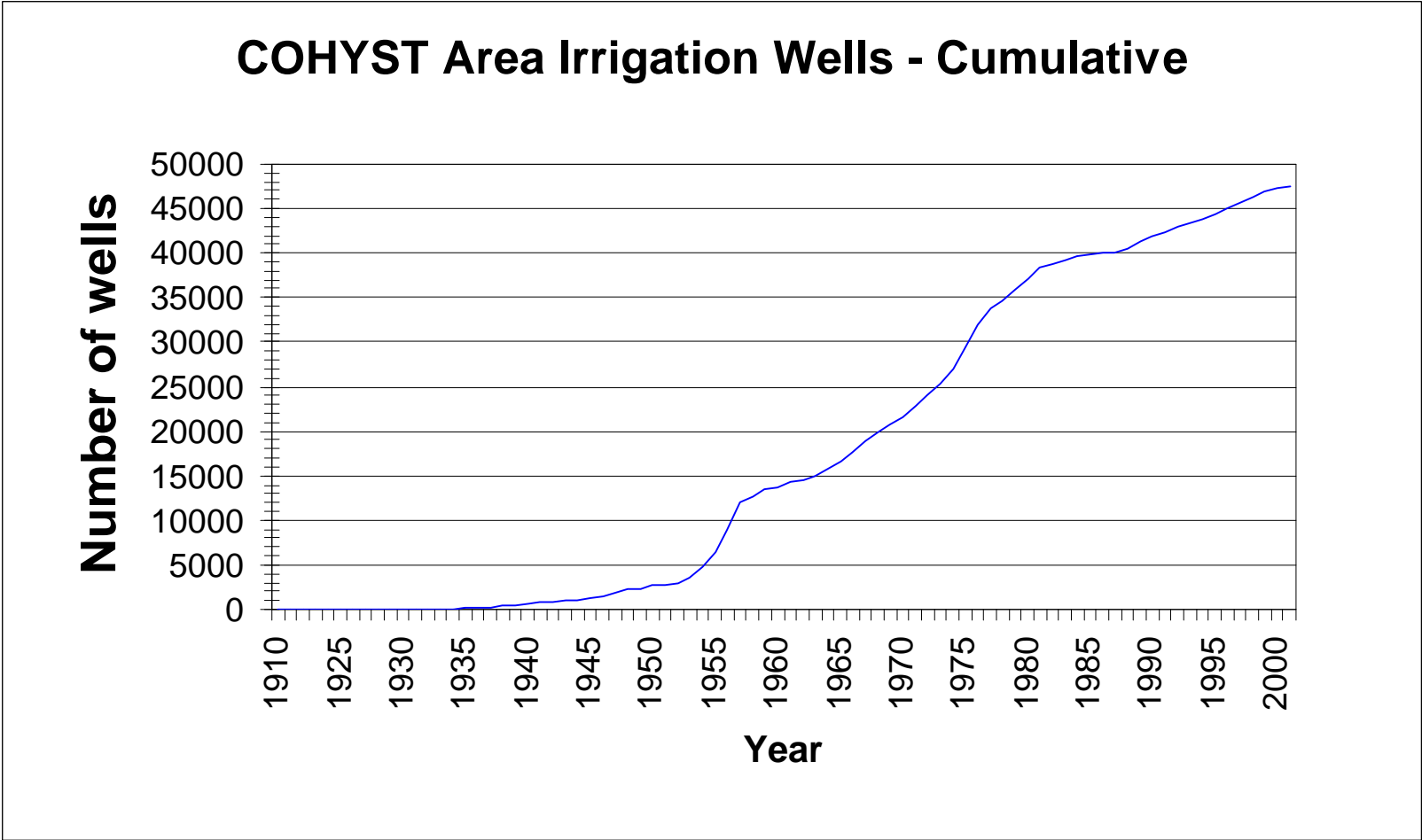
Presentation Purpose

- Describe Platte River Issues of concern
- Present claims which appear to be accepted
- Present data which will show:
 - **TRUTHS** about certain claims being made that publicly available data shows to be **FALSE.**

Platte River Issues

- Application of Endangered Species Act has changed the culture of the Platte Valley in very negative ways
- **Historically** a place of **hard work & cooperation**
 - Now a place of **big arguments** and **fighting** between opposing interests over **water, birds, and fish**.
- Bureaucrats, politicians, and environmental extremists propose actions **which harm agriculture and the entire state** supposedly to “protect the environment”.
- When **FACTS** are examined, **TRUTH** is:
 - These actions are based on false theories
 - Disproven by FACTS (Truths)

TRUTH: Number of wells in COHYST area has increased from less than 1,000 in 1941, to more than 47,000 today



FALSE CLAIM #1:

Groundwater Development reduces Platte River Flow

CLAIM:

The large amount of groundwater development and use of irrigation wells is reducing the flow in the Platte River.

There are those who are claiming that the large increase in the use of groundwater for irrigation beginning in the early 1950's is harming the flows of the Platte River. A major modeling effort called COHYST is underway to predict this **claimed** effect of irrigation well use on Platte River flows.

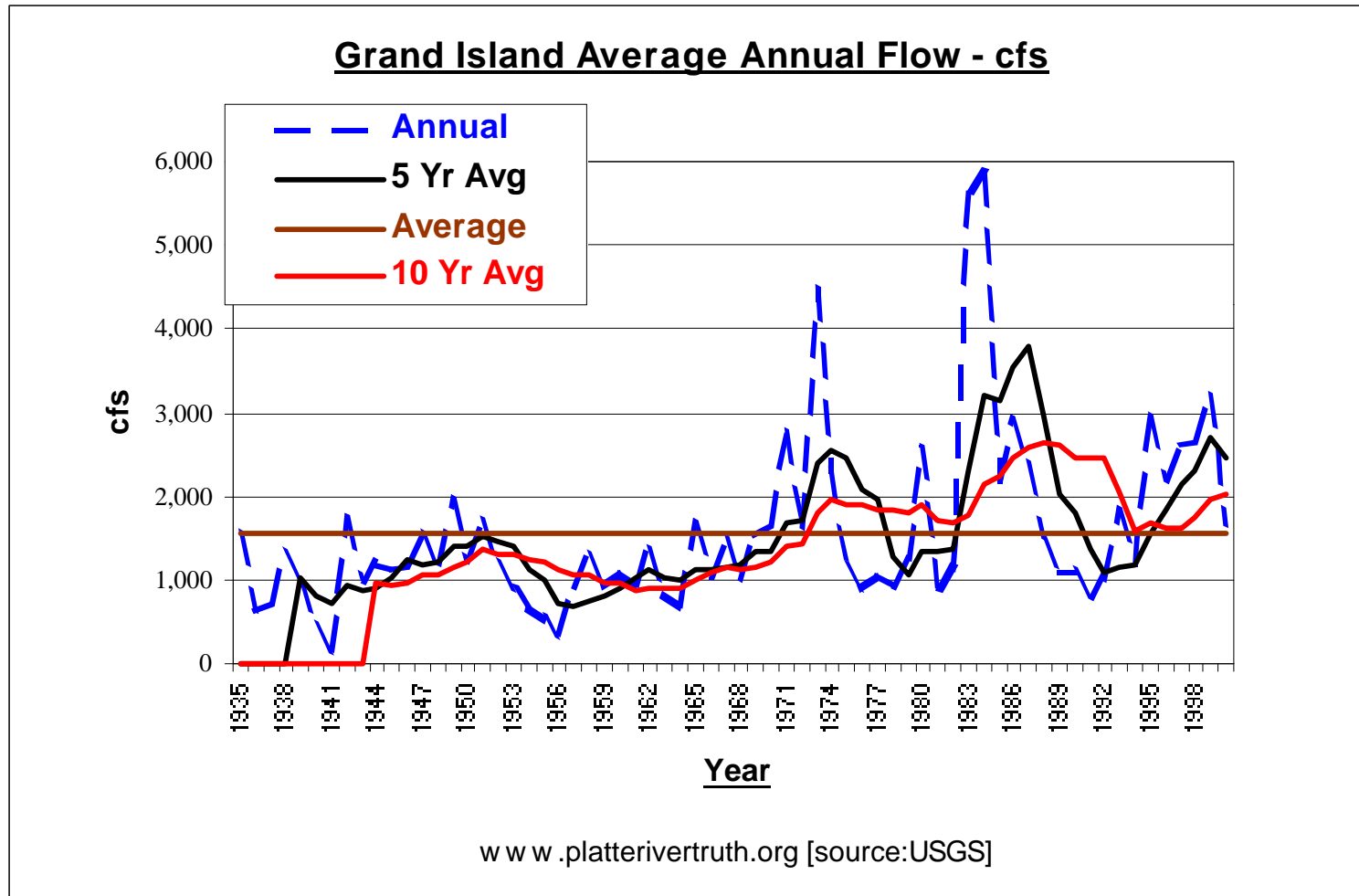
TRUTH:

Publicly available data shows this is a FALSE CLAIM!

While the number of irrigation wells in the COHYST area has increased by more than 4600 % since 1941, instead of reduced river flow, the Platte River flow has actually **INCREASED**.

Following plots from USGS flow measurements confirm the **CLAIM IS FALSE**.

MORE River Flow with More Wells NOT LESS Flow



FALSE CLAIM #2:

Groundwater Development Lowers Aquifer Level

CLAIM:

The increased use of irrigation wells is depleting the Ogallala Aquifer.

There are those who are claiming that the large increase in the use of groundwater for irrigation beginning in the early 1950's is depleting the aquifer in the Central Platte Valley. This has been the subject of numerous monitoring efforts and studies for many, many years.

TRUTH:

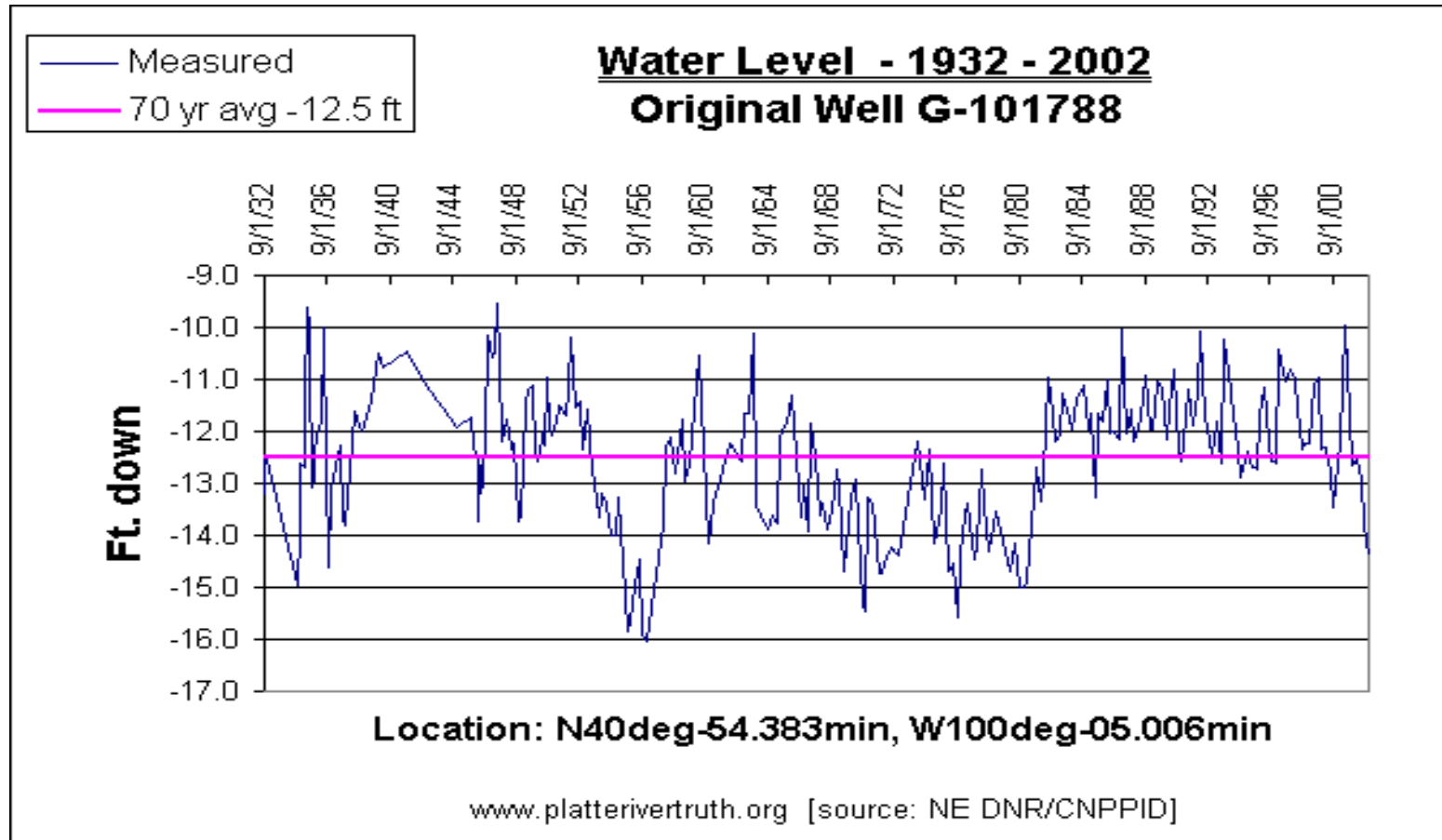
Publicly available data disputes this claim.

While this is a complex question, there is data from long-standing observation wells which show that on a long-term basis, the aquifer levels have declined for a few years and then recovered.

This question needs to be examined from a long-term "big picture" perspective, and not just for a few years. Simply looking at a few years will lead to an incorrect conclusion.

Depth measurements over a 70 year period on the following plot clearly disputes this claim.

Long-Term Water Levels have NOT dropped
and have recovered from short-term drops



Conclusions

- **Claims that wells need to be controlled to protect river flow appear FALSE.**
- **Claims that Aquifer levels are declining appear to be FALSE.**
- **HOW MANY OTHER FALSE CLAIMS ARE BEING MADE??**
- **IT IS TIME THE PUBLIC BE TOLD THE WHOLE TRUTH!**

Website being Launched at www.platterivertruth.org

- Purpose is to inform the public of the **TRUTH** on Platte River issues
- The data in this briefing - and more - is now there
- New information will be added as it is available
- Public is encouraged to watch the site for future information updates