

## The City of Bozeman Public Works Department increased productivity and decreased costs with B3 (formerly Water Sage).



Bozeman is a city in southwest Montana, home to Montana State University and known as “The Most Livable Place.” Bozeman has seen enormous growth in recent years as more and more people move to the area. Because of the semi-arid Montana climate, the city’s growth is tied to access to reliable water sources. This requires the Public Works team to be quick and nimble in their ability to protect and secure water rights and understand the nuances of both Montana state law and Bozeman’s challenges as a headwaters community.

Lain is the Water Resources Manager working for the City of Bozeman Public Works Department. A longtime water professional, she manages the city’s water rights portfolio for both existing water rights and proposed new rights as the city continues to grow and expand. Lain’s background is in water law and she can remember working extensively with USGS topographic quad maps, pencil and paper to plot points of diversion. This required hours of time looking for foundational information and left less time for focusing on other statutory obligations associated with serving as water referee. She also used to rely on private and division water engineers, who were both costly and time-strapped.

In her current role, Lain uses B3 to minimize the time spent on foundational information and spends more time focusing on the nuances of water right strategic development and water resource management. She can quickly and efficiently understand water uses, places of use and points of diversion and no longer needs to rely on her busy GIS department to find the information she needs – which is beneficial to both parties. And she can use the information she finds in B3 to bring to her engineers to move projects along at a more rapid pace.

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*Having been in the water world for about 15 years now, B3 is something I’ve been wishing I had for a long time.*

*If I’d had B3 [when I was] a referee...with over 300 cases per year, I would have gotten rulings out more quickly. This makes my life much easier.*

*I have B3 open all day long – it’s become an indispensable tool for me to perform my job to the best of my abilities.*

– **Lain Leoniak**, Water Resources Manager

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### RESULTS

**What used to require half a day’s work now takes 10 minutes, increasing productivity and allowing for much more time to focus on strategic water resources management.**

**The research and reports from B3 help Lain save the City of Bozeman time and money when it comes to engineering projects surrounding water conservation and diversion.**

