

Groundwater Assessment San Simon Sub-Basin, Arizona



Introduction

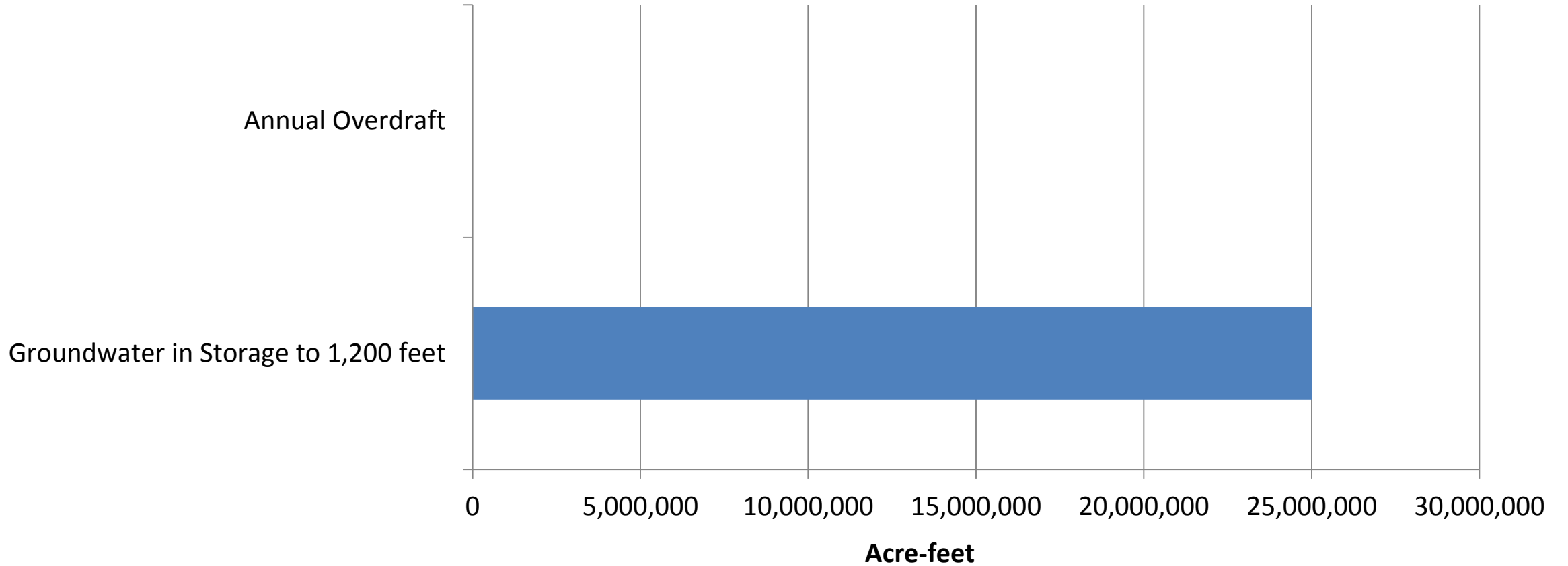
- Mason Bolitho, R.G.: 16 years at ADWR including head of State-wide Water Planning
- Source of all data presented is published ADWR, AZGS, or USGS reports or file information
- Final data analyses awaiting completion of ADWR basin-wide groundwater model
- Technical data does not support establishment of INA
- There are thousands of years of groundwater available in the basin at current rate of use!

Key Facts: San Simon Sub-Basin, Arizona

- 25,000,000 acre-feet of groundwater are in storage to 1,200 feet.
- Groundwater use for agriculture has fallen from a peak of 116,000 acre-feet/year (1970s) to approximately 39,500 acre-feet today.
- Irrigated acreage has dropped from a peak of 39,000 acres (1970s) to 20,400 acres today.
- Groundwater overdraft is negligible at current rate of use.
- At current withdrawal rates, groundwater above 1,200 feet will last thousands of years, with substantial water below that depth.
- Average water level declines are less than 1 foot/year; some wells are rising.
- Willcox Basin is not hydrologically connected to San Simon Sub-basin

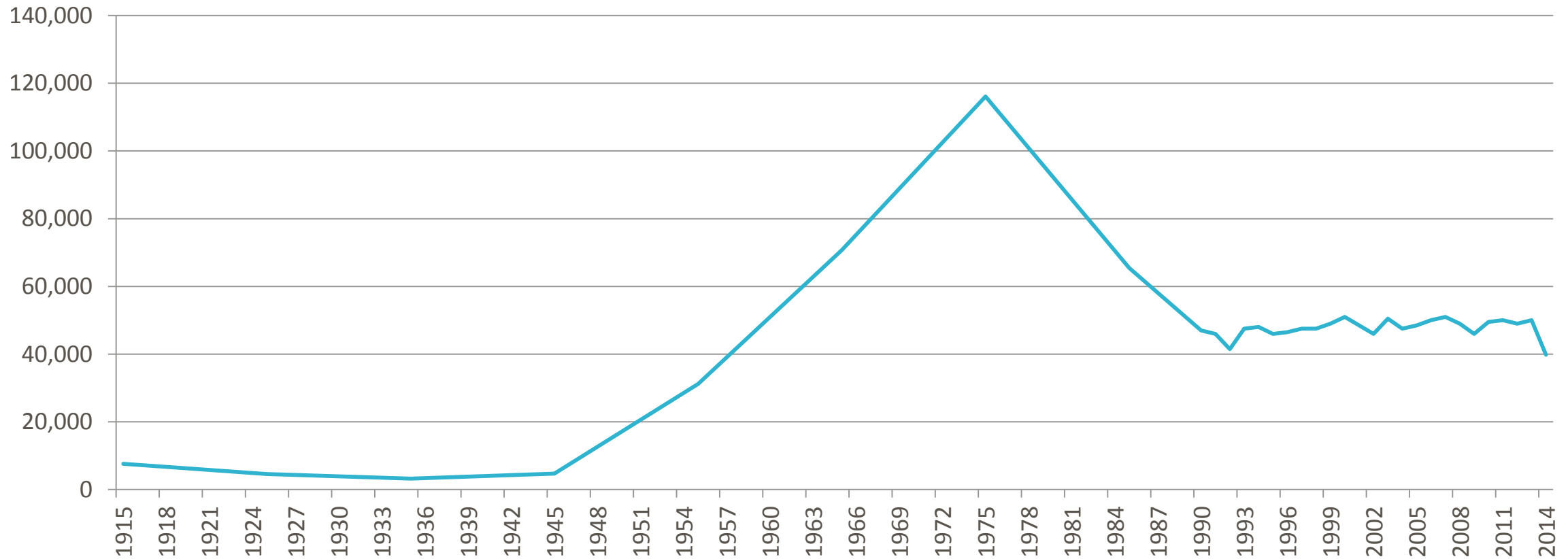
Current Annual Overdraft is Negligible

**Groundwater in Storage vs. Annual Overdraft (acre-feet)
San Simon Sub-basin, Arizona**



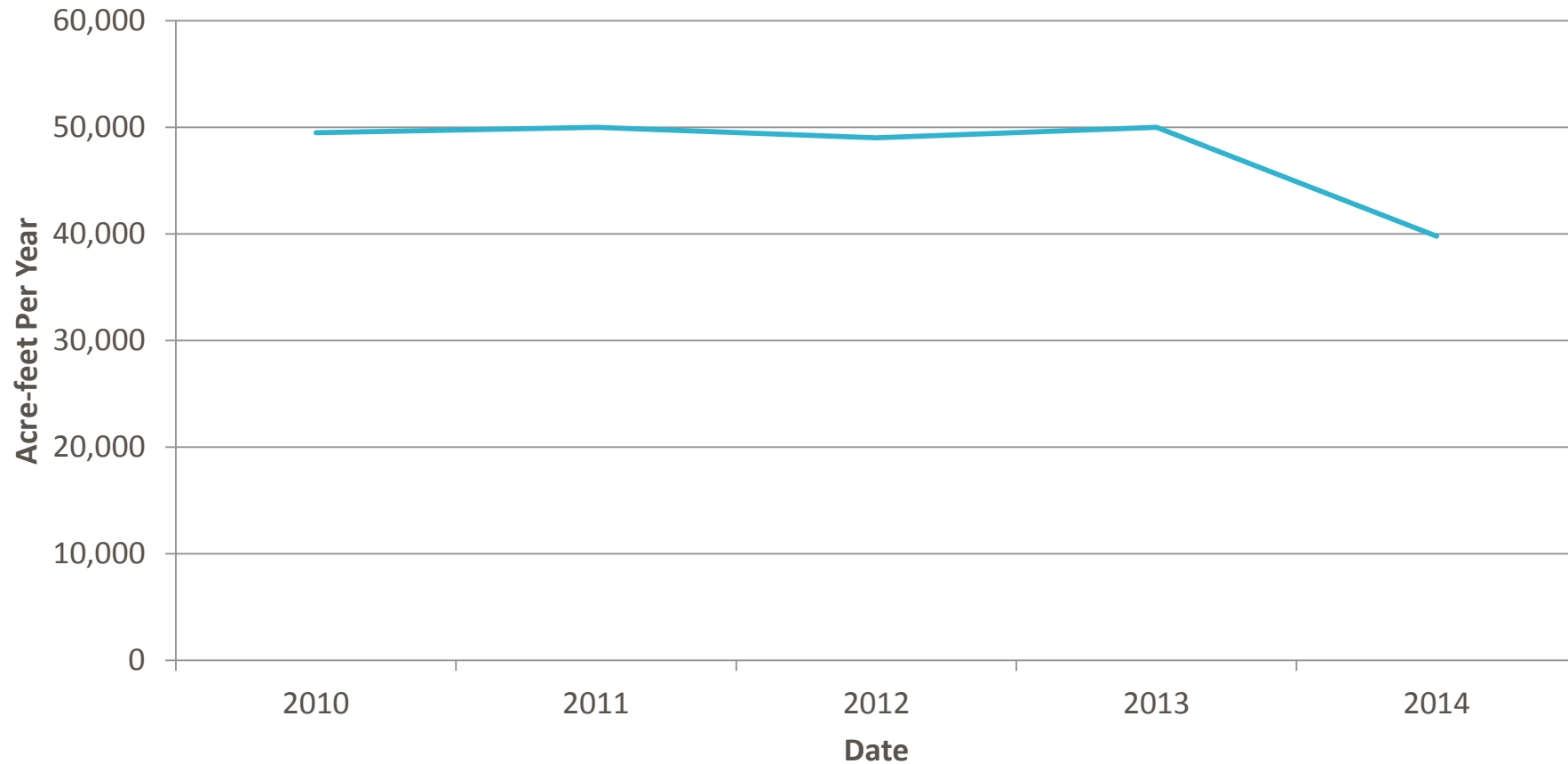
Agricultural Groundwater use has dropped over 50% since the 1970s

San Simon Sub-basin
Groundwater Withdrawals (Acre-Feet)



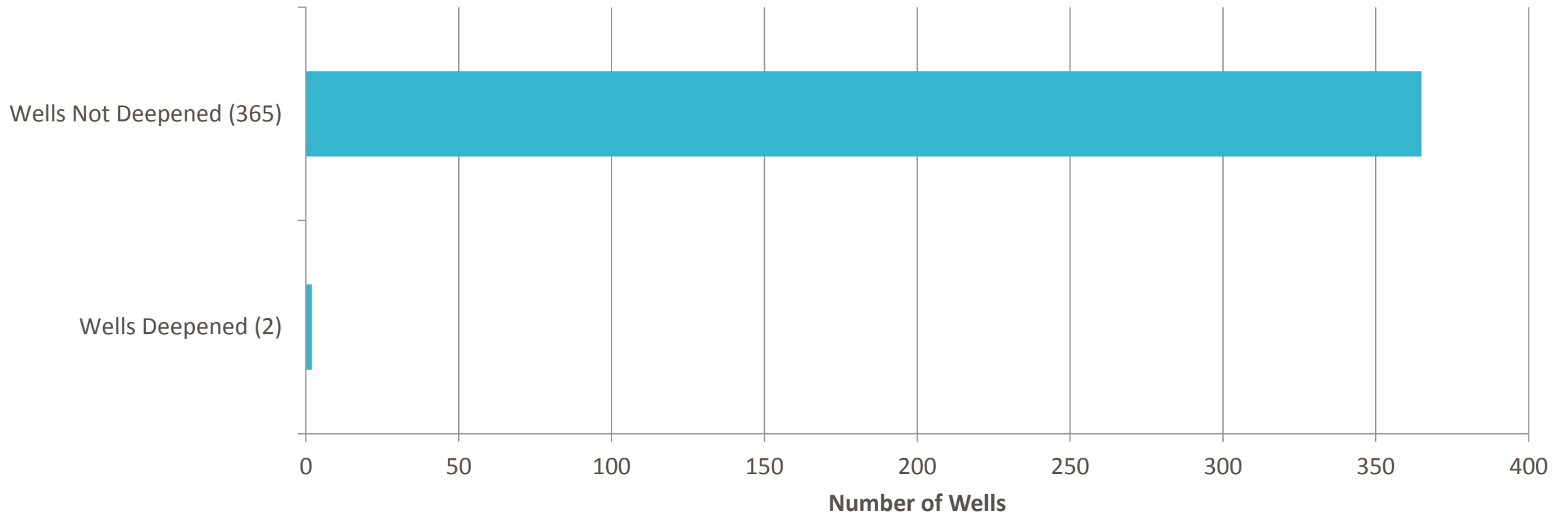
Don't Believe the Hype: Current Groundwater Withdrawals Don't Warrant State Intervention

San Simon Sub-basin Groundwater Withdrawals
2010-2014



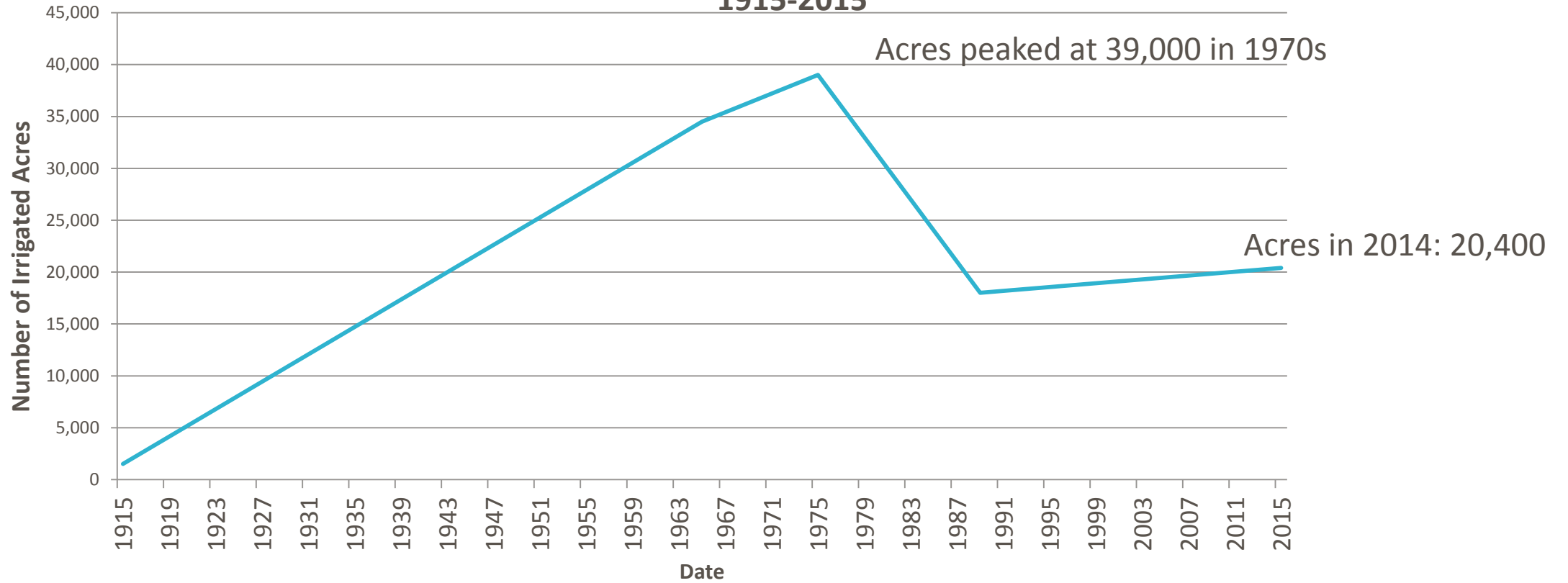
Of the 367 Wells in the San Simon Area, only 2 have been Deepened

Wells Deepened Since 1980
in the San Simon Agricultural Area



Irrigated acres in the San Simon area have fallen by almost 50% since the 1970s

Irrigated Acreage, San Simon Sub-basin
1915-2015



Wells Permitted Immediately Before Submission of INA Petition

Well Location	Well Owner	Date
D(14-31)15cda	A&P Ranch*	7/24/2014
D(14-31)27baa	H&R Farms*	7/24/2014
D(13-31)27dcc	FICO*	1/26/2015
D(13-30)34acd	David's Agrigold Farms	8/15/2014
D(13-30)28bdd	David's Agrigold Farms	9/29/2014

* Indicates INA Petitioner

San Simon Sub-basin is NOT running out of water

- Both agricultural production and water use are around 50% of peak use in 1970s
- Irrigation use has remained stable for the past 25 years
- Current annual “overdraft” amounts to approximately 0.016% of water in storage
- At current rates of use, there are thousands of years of groundwater available
- There is no technical basis for establishing an INA

