Aquifer timeline:

- 1894: Aquifer accidently discovered by City of Spokane contractor during Upriver Dam construction.
- 1895: Dr. J. Harlen Bretz discovers the geologic process (catastrophic floods) that created the Aquifer and the channeled scablands of eastern Washington.
- 1905: Aquifer rediscovered by City of Spokane contractor while excavating for a new pump station foundation at Upriver Dam site.
- 1908: The Aquifer replaces the Spokane River as the City of Spokane’s primary source of drinking water.
- 1918: James Madison Alden paints “Plante’s Crossing” shown on page 3.
- 1923: The results of a four year USGS Bi-State Aquifer Study and monitoring program are presented to the public.
- 1938: A survey of all major Washington rivers and waterways found the Spokane River the foulest water body in the state.
- 1940: Joseph T. Pardee, a USGS geologist, proposes that an Ice Age glacial lake (Lake Missoula) had drained rapidly creating Bretz’s catastrophic floods.
- 1948: Since 1977 cities, counties, health districts, and states over the SVRP Aquifer have adopted regulations and programs to protect the Aquifer from contamination. These include critical and hazardous materials regulations, storage tank regulations, septic system regulations, stormwater regulations, household hazardous waste collection programs, and wellhead protection plans.
- 1952: USGS publishes an updated inventory of Aquifer wells in the Spokane Valley.
- 1955: Corp of Engineers publishes 14 volume Spokane Region Water Resources Study.
- 1964: Corp of Engineers publishes 14 volume Spokane Region Water Resources Study.
- 1965: Federal Clean Water Act provides authority and funding for Aquifer protection planning efforts.
- 1972: EXPO ‘74 opens in Spokane with the theme: “Celebrating Tomorrow’s Fresh New Environment.”
- 1974: USGS publishes Molenaar’s Aquifer Report, the first modern Aquifer study.
- 1976: EPA designates the Aquifer as a “Sole Source Aquifer” under Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 1977: Local citizens and environmental groups petition the EPA to designate the Aquifer as a “Sole Source Aquifer”.
- 1978: IDEQ designates the Aquifer as a “Sensitive Resource Aquifer” in the state Ground Water Quality Rule.
- 1979: Local “208” studies are completed, and the sources of Aquifer pollution are identified.
- 1980: Spokane County and Panhandle Health District initiate a Ground Water Monitoring Program for the Aquifer.
- 1980: Spokane County authorizes the Aquifer Protection Area for 20 years in a public vote.
- 1982: Spokane County promulgates rule that limits domestic septic systems to one per 5 acres.
- 1987: Panhandle Health District promulgates rule that limits domestic septic systems to one per 5 acres.
- 1988: U.S. Congress provides Aquifer Protection Funding through the EPA.
- 1988: IDEQ designates the Aquifer as a “Sensitive Resource Aquifer” in Idaho, the highest level of state protection.
- 1989: Local citizens and environmental groups petition the IDEQ to designate the Aquifer as a “special resource water” in Idaho.
- 1990: Spokane County authorizes the Aquifer Protection Area.
- 1994: Spokane County reauthorizes the Aquifer Protection Area.
- 1997: Local citizens and environmental groups petition the EPA to designate the Aquifer as a “Sole Source Aquifer”.
- 1998: Panhandle Health District promulgates rule that limits domestic septic systems to one per 5 acres.
- 2000: Spokane County and Panhandle Health District initiate a Ground Water Monitoring Program for the Aquifer.
- 2004: Kootenai County residents vote to form and fund an Aquifer Protection District to fund Aquifer programs. 
- 2007: The results of a four year USGS Bi-State Aquifer Study and monitoring program are presented to the public.
- 2010: Local efforts to halt a new train refueling depot and other large water withdrawal projects evolve into grass roots Aquifer protection movements.

Background is a photograph of the Upriver Dam constructed of timber on the Spokane River in 1895.