The New York Times

UNCOVERED WATERS

America Is Using Up Its Groundwater Like There's No Tomorrow

Farmers are drawing down the nation's aquifers substantially, a New York Times data investigation reveals.

A swath of underground water lies beneath central Arizona, in vast cities and farmlands. Now, it is being depleted at a rate that alarms even the most thirsty Western prospectors.

By Jack Ewing and Jeremy Ashkenas | Feb. 25, 2023, 5:00 AM

The Times analyzed new hydrologic data to reveal the extent of the crisis, including a map that illustrates prospective

Photo credit: Jeremy Ashkenas | Feb. 25, 2023, 5:00 AM

Nearly half the sites have declined enough that their owners could no longer pump water that the nation can replenish.

Photo credit: Jeremy Ashkenas | Feb. 25, 2023, 5:00 AM

In the past decade, four of every 10 sites in the U.S. where farmers pump water

Photo credit: Jeremy Ashkenas | Feb. 25, 2023, 5:00 AM

By Nick Bunkley, Christopher Flavelle, Nicole Hernandez and Jeremy Ashkenas

Photo: Nicole Hernandez

Photo: Nicole Hernandez

Photo: Nicole Hernandez