

### *Population Density - Map 7*

Montana has a total population of nearly 799,000 (1990 Census). Map 7 shows that most of the population is concentrated along major stream valleys, and many of the state's urban centers are near large rivers. This places a large part of the state's population within recharge zones associated with alluvial aquifers. Examining Map 3 and Map 7 together confirms that a large number of Montanans live on top of the same aquifers they use for their water supply. In addition, many potential contaminants associated with urban centers and agricultural areas are used, stored, and disposed of in these recharge zones. This is a precarious situation that underscores the need to be proactive in protecting sources of ground water from contamination. Maps 3 and 7 also make it clear that everyone in Montana should be interested in protecting ground-water quality. Even if you do not use ground water for your water supply, chances are you know some one who does. The following sections present additional information related to the issues of population, ground-water use, and potential threats to ground-water quality. Maps in the following sections show specifically where ground water is used, where that use is most intense, and where some threats to ground-water quality are greatest.