

**Budget Proposal for  
MSU Extension Flathead Reservation On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Educator**

**Position Foci and Priorities:**

Heavy component of Extension outreach and education to producers, irrigators, and agency/ organization partners on the Flathead Reservation serving local area irrigators. Duties include one-on-one education and interactions with producers, integration of technologies and education to improve water use efficiency on their properties, educational workshops and seminars offered locally, and development of materials to assist irrigators throughout the growing season. Other duties associated with serving the area producers and irrigators on the Flathead Reservation.

Some limited duties associated with MSU Extension faculty responsibilities, and some efforts may have broader applicability for a wider statewide audience (Montguides, guest lectures or presentations to other stakeholder groups, etc).

**Salary Funding Scenario:** Based on five-year funding agreement.

**Field Faculty Agent:**

- MS or BS degree holder. May have some experience in irrigation systems and/or ag engineering, soils, agronomy systems.
- Position salary approximately \$60,000 per year (dependent of final salary negotiations with the successful candidate). Salary plus benefits would equal approximately \$85,000 annually.

**Annual Contributions:**

CITT Funding Salary and Benefits (80% of \$85,000.)	\$68,000.
CITT Funding for Operating Budget	\$10,000
MSU Extension Funding Salary and Benefits (20% of \$85,000.)	\$17,000.
<b>CITT Total Contribution</b>	<b>\$78,000.</b>
<b>MSU Extension Total Contribution</b>	<b>\$17,000.</b>

**Office Location and Accommodations:**

Primary office location at the MSU Extension Flathead Reservation Office, Polson, MT.

**Operating Budget:**

\$10,000. Annual operating budget for position supplied by CITT. This amount shall be revisited at the renewal of the MOA. To request an increase to the operating budget before the expiry of the MOA, the incumbent must make a request and formal presentation to CITT, explaining the need and value of the increase in funding.

**Funding Usage:** (successful candidate will develop budget of operations annually)

- Mileage for travel using person vehicle for day to day work related travel around Flathead Reservation; farm visits, meetings, other business-related duties.
  - o Potential to 50/50 cost-share a vehicle lease with MSU Extension Flathead Reservation Extension Office Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent (Patrick Mangan) for joint program use.
- Professional development funds to travel and attend meetings, trainings, and other professional development opportunities to enhance job related knowledge and performance.
- Purchase of supplies and equipment needed for field days, one-on-one teaching opportunities, and day to day program operation.
- Development of additional educational and program management modules with current consultant Barry Dutton (or another consultant) to reach program goals.
- Other annual expenses as budgeted by position holder.

**MSU Extension Budget Contributions:**

- Office space, furnishings, and infrastructure for day-to-day work: Office, phone service, internet, copier machine, presentation technology, small meeting room, general office supplies, etc.
- Computer for official use.
- Supported travel to MSU Extension meetings and trainings statewide as needed. Financial and collaborative support for joint programming with office Agriculture and Horticulture Agent (Patrick Mangan) to develop and deliver education and programming opportunities.

**MSU Extension Flathead Reservation Office Special Grant Funding:** (current 2025-2026)

- \$20,000 available grant funds through the Northern Plains Climate Hub for programming topic on the Flathead Reservation. Program objectives identified split between on-farm irrigation efficiency and grazing management. On-Farm Efficiency Extension Agent and Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent would collaboratively set goals, priorities, and budget for this allocation.