

# Off Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 11/15/2024

This document will be updated as new questions are posed and answered.

### **General Questions**

**Q.** Who is on the CITT?

**A.** The Compact Implementation Technical Team (CITT) is established under Article IV.G of the Compact. Its primary role is to and advise the Project Operator on the implementation of FIIP Operational Improvements, Rehabilitation and Betterment, and Adaptive Management, with additional duties defined in Appendix 3.5. CITT is composed on five representatives:

<b>Name</b>	<b>CITT Position</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Nick Belcourt	Project Operator Representative	Maintenance Supervisor	BIA, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)
David Lake	FIIP Irrigator Representative	Irrigator	
Daniel Lozar	Federal Representative	Irrigation Engineer	BIA, Northwest Region
Maya Rao	State Representative, CITT Chair	Hydrologist	DNRC, Compact Implementation Program
Casey Ryan	CSKT Representative	Hydrologist	CSKT, Natural Resources Department

**Q.** Who is eligible to apply for the funds?

**A.** Eligible applicants are:

1. Landowner or Lessee:
  - Landowner with FIIP assessed acres. OR
  - Lessee of land with FIIP assessed acres with authorization to apply from the Landowner.
2. Own livestock per the definition of livestock in Appendix A.
3. Applicant must be in good standing with FIIP.

**Q.** Why is the Camas Division an ineligible area?

**A.** Consistent with their official stock water policy, FIIP does not permit stock water deliveries in the Camas Division. Therefore, this area is not eligible for funding to mitigate the loss of off-season stock water deliveries.

**Q.** My lease will expire before the term of the grant agreement is over. Can I still apply?

**A.** If there is less than one year remaining on the current lease, a letter from the landowner should accompany the application stating that the lease will be renewed. If the lease will not be renewed, then it is recommended that the landowner should apply for the grant.

**Q.** What information was used to create the Off-Season Stock Water Historical Delivery Area maps? Why are Mission South and Jocko the only areas that get preference?

**A.** To help identify stock water mitigation priority projects, in 2017 the CITT developed maps that highlighted the geographical areas that consistently received off-season stock water. These maps are consistent with FIIP's Stock Water Policy and were vetted through in-depth tract-level review by FIIP. The maps were approved by consensus by the CITT in 2017 and display the tracts that received consistent off-season stock water deliveries. These parcels represent the primary areas for stock water mitigation and will receive highest priority in the scoring criteria.

Stock growers in the Mission and Jocko Valleys that are outside the priority areas are still eligible for funding. Eligible projects within the yellow-shaded parcels will receive funding preference, as reflected in the scoring criteria.

**Q.** How are the applications reviewed?

**A.** See Section 4: Application and Award Process in the CITT Grant Application Guidelines for detailed information.

**Q.** Who is the administrator of the funds?

**A.** Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is the administrator of the funds.

**Q.** Where did the funding for the grant come from?

**A.** As part of the Compact, the State of Montana contributed \$4 million to mitigate the loss of stock water deliveries from the FIIP. CITT recommended this money be made available to affected producers through the Off-Season Stock Water Mitigation Grant Program.

**Q.** Can I apply for more than one project?

**A.** You may only apply per one project per discrete area that is in your control. For example, you could not apply for two projects on a single 40-acre parcels that you have a herd of cattle on. But if you have a parcel in The Jocko Valley and another in Round Butte, and you have livestock on both parcels, you may apply for one project in each area.

**Q.** How long do I have to complete the project?

**A.** Grant funds must be expended within 24 months of grant agreement execution. 12-month project extensions may be available under certain circumstances

**Q.** What if I do not justify the amount of grant money that I am requesting in my budget narrative?

**A.** If the review panel decides that an applicant did not adequately justify the requested grant amount in the budget narrative or determines that the requested amount significantly exceeds reasonable actual cost, then the applicant's potential award may be reduced or the applicant may be required to provide additional documentation.

**Q.** When will grants be awarded?

**A.** Spring 2025.

**Q.** How many grant cycles will there be?

**A.** There is currently only one scheduled grant cycle. If funds remain after the solicitation, the CITT will determine how to utilize the remaining funds and will announce it.

**Q.** What is an Authorized Person and why is it important?

**A.** The Authorized Person is the individual authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the State of Montana on behalf of the applicant entity. DNRC requires that applications be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant entity (for example, an owner, individual, board chair, association supervisor, etc.). Application forms CANNOT be signed by a different representative even if that representative has signing authority within the entity. This is because DNRC has no way of knowing who has signing authority within the applicant entity. Additionally, DNRC needs to be confident that the authorized signatory can enter into a grant agreement in the future should the application be successful.

**Q.** How do I find the latitude and longitude of my project?

**A.** There are many different mapping softwares that you may use to determine the coordinated of my project. One option is to do the following:

- 1) Go to <https://www.google.com/maps>
- 2) Zoom into the location of your proposed project (make sure the satellite layer is on to make it easy to find).
- 3) Copy the latitude and longitude that appear in the pop-up box.
- 4) Type or paste the latitude and longitude into the application.

### **Grant Recipient Selection**

**Q.** I was selected to receive an award. What are my next steps?

**A.** An official award letter will be sent to the Authorized Person, outlining the level of award and the requirement to complete and meet Start Up Conditions.

**Q.** What are start up conditions?

**A.** Recipients are provided with the opportunity to update the scope, schedule, and budget that was submitted as part of the application. The reason for this is to identify and address any issues which may have arisen between the time of application and award. Your Grant Manager will work with you to collect this information in a timely manner. Once received, the official grant agreement will be issued. **Only expenditures made following agreement execution are eligible for reimbursement.**

**Q.** What if my project cannot be completed during the term of the agreement?

**A.** Grant agreements may be amended to allow for an extension of up to 12 months. Contact the DNRC Grant Manager to discuss the justification for the requested extension. If the reason for the extra time is justified, the Grant Manager will walk you through the process for the formal request.

**Q.** The project for which I was awarded is no longer feasible. Can I use the funds on another project?

**A.** Maybe. Contact the DNRC staff to discuss the situation with your project, highlighting the reason it is no longer feasible. DNRC staff will determine whether or not the funds can be used on another viable project that meets the requirements of the grant program.

**Q.** I completed my project and have funds remaining. Can I use them on another project or give them to a colleague to use on his/her/their project?

**A.** No, you may not transfer the funds to another individual or entity. Work with your Grant Manager to determine if there are additional tasks that can be done with the funds on your project.

### **Reimbursements**

**Q.** Do I receive the grant funds in full once I sign the agreement?

**A.** No. It is a **REIMBURSEMENT** grant program. Recipients must complete the Request for Reimbursement and Progress Report forms to receive grant funds.

**Q.** What is the reimbursement process?

**A.** Before a project can be reimbursed, it must be under contract. Submission includes:

- Progress Report Form
- Vendor Invoice Form
- Updated Budget Document
- Copies of invoices of services provided
- Proof of payment for services and/or materials

**Q.** Can I receive my reimbursement electronically?

**A.** Yes! The quickest way to receive your reimbursement is to set up an Electronic Funds Request. Your grant manager will provide you with the necessary documentation to complete and submit.

**Q.** My bill from my contractor is more than I can pay without the grant funds. Can I request an advance?

**A.** In limited circumstances, recipients may request relief from the terms of the agreement to pay a vendor with grant funds. Justification must be provided to the Grant Manager. The work must be completed before the request can be made. See Reimbursement Instructions for more information. The Grant Manager will assist you in making this request.

### **Procurement and Recordkeeping Requirements**

**Q.** Are recipients required to follow procurement procedures?

**A.** Yes. Recipients must follow State of Montana procurement processes in order to receive grant funds. Refer to Appendix H in the Application Guidelines for more information or reach out to the Grant Manager for assistance.

**Q.** What are the recordkeeping requirements?

**A.** Grants are required to be heavily documented. Recipients must retain project records and financial documents for five years after all funds have been expended.

### **Environmental Requirements**

All applicants must consider the potential environmental impacts of their projects. Consideration of these impacts on the location, design, or construction actions may help avoid expensive mitigation or construction costs. A project will not be eligible for funding if it results in significant adverse impact after mitigation. All applicable forms may be downloaded from the grant website. Contact the Grant Manager for assistance on the environmental documentation to be completed.