

AgriMet Weather Station Funding Change

To: Parties to the CSKT-MT Compact

From: CSKT-MT Compact Implementation Technical Team

Date: April 2021

Re: Proposal to change funding of annual operation and maintenance from irrigator paid to CSKT paid using Compact settlement dollars

Summary of Project:

As part of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) – Montana Water Rights Compact (Compact), the Compact Implementation Technical Team (CITT) is working with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to improve the AgriMet weather station network that serves the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) area. Three new stations will be added in the Little Bitterroot, Moiese, and Arlee areas to the already existing network of two stations located at Round Butte and St. Ignatius. This plan includes placing a new station at Round Butte, maintaining a period of overlap with the existing station, and then moving the existing Round Butte station to the Arlee area. We propose this because site conditions have changed at the existing Round Butte station, reducing its overall representativeness.

The two existing AgriMet stations are being paid for by FIIP irrigators, either directly through the Flathead Irrigation District or indirectly through the BIA. Existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this funding cite the former Flathead Joint Board of Control (FJBC) which no longer exists as a legal entity. The CITT recommends unburdening the irrigators of this recurring annual operation and maintenance (O&M) fee. The Parties to the Compact have already agreed to execute a CITT recommendation to fund the three new stations. The CITT now recommends using CSKT-MT Compact contributions to settlement to fund the two existing stations. As with the three new stations, annual O&M will be administered by the CSKT using an updated MOU with Reclamation as the funding vehicle.

Funding approximates \$1,600/station/year for two stations.

Process:

1. The irrigator's CITT representative will seek approval to shift the funding from the irrigators to the CITT
2. If so agreed to shift the funding, the irrigator's CITT representative will sponsor this recommendation at a CITT meeting.
3. If so agreed to recommend, the CITT will recommend to the Parties to the Compact to fund these two stations for an initial 10-year or a period running concurrently with the funding of the three new stations.
4. If so agreed to fund, funds will be transferred annually from MT to CSKT for O&M with all five stations bundled and the CSKT will enter into MOU with Reclamation for O&M for all five stations.