

**WHEN TO USE
IRRIGATION FEATURE FORM
MT-CPA-8F**

The following conditions and stipulations do not apply to Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) systems. If proposing a practice on a BOR system, contact William Vincent, Area Archaeologist, Billings, Montana at (406) 247-7666.

The only systems we need to consider are those listed in the Water Resources Survey and those depicted on the maps. Irrigation systems include laterals, sublaterals, diversions, headgates, and any other structure on the system that assists in the delivery and distribution of water. Therefore, a lateral carrying water from a main canal that shows in the Water Resources Survey must be documented even if the lateral is not in the Survey. If you are working on a ditch (probably a single ditch) that is not in the Water Resources Survey and not associated with a system in the Survey, document on a Negative Findings Report, if appropriate, and note this exception in the comment section.

If the ditch is a single unit (not a lateral to another ditch) and it irrigates less than 320 acres, document project on Negative Findings Report, if appropriate, and note this exception in the comments.

If the work involves field ditches (defined as running less than 8 cfs and serving a single operator and likely moved in the past), document project on Negative Findings Report, if appropriate, and note exception in the comment section.

For the following types of projects fill out an Irrigation Feature Form, MT-CPA-8F with photos. Send the information to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cultural Resource Specialist/Archaeologist, who can immediately clear the project to proceed.

- a. Installation of new water control structures when existing structures will not be affected. Water control structures are defined as headgates, overflow wasteways, check structures, drop/gradient control structures, siphons, division boxes, flumes, measurement devices, etc. NRCS will conduct field reviews if work requires ground disturbance for new pipe or ditches to connect to an existing system.
- b. Lining laterals or main canals where the lining material will not be visible.
- c. Repairing headgates, diversion works, and other water control structures in-kind. In-kind is defined as replacement of materials that exactly match the original materials.
- d. Replacing headgates, diversion works, and other water control structures which have been removed by a natural event.
- e. Replacing less than 5% or 1,500 feet, whichever is less, of open ditch with pipeline.
- f. Replacing, moving, or removing headgates, diversion works, pipes, and other features documented as less than 50 years old, unless hydraulically or structurally unique (generally refers to application of technology that has better counterparts in terms of material, function, or style; in other words, a structure or use no longer available).
- g. Repairing bank washouts.

- h. Trenching to install a pipeline or other utilities under a ditch when the actual cut will be less than 20 lineal feet including side slope requirements, and when the sides and bottom will be re-contoured to original appearance. NRCS will satisfy its cultural resource responsibilities for the new pipeline or utility route.
- i. Placing sumps on the inside banks of canals or laterals.

Any questions about interpretation of the above categories will be discussed with the NRCS Cultural Resource Specialist/Archaeologist.

The next level involves projects that constitute a No Adverse Affect to the irrigation system. We will document on Irrigation Feature Form, MT-CPA-8F with photos. This will be sent to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for a 15-day review, if they agree the project can proceed without further consultation.

- a. Moving or replacing headgates, diversion works, pipes, and other features not documented as less than 50 years old, unless hydraulically or structurally unique.
- b. Lining laterals or main canals when the lining materials will remain visible.
- c. Altering the route of, obliterating, or replacing with pipeline greater than 5% or 1,500 feet (whichever is less) of an open lateral or main canal.

Any other types of projects will have to go through the entire process of documentation, reporting, and SHPO review.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL YOUR NRCS CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST/ARCHAEOLOGIST.