

More About the Irrigation Management Program

This program will establish a toolkit to inventory, describe, analyze & prioritize water management activities on the Musselshell River.

Task 1: Irrigation infrastructure inventory & GIS database development, including the collection of irrigation infrastructure data & further development of a GIS database-user interface accessible to all water user groups.

Task 2: Purchase & installation of three measuring devices on primary storage & distribution infrastructure to achieve consistent & accurate measurement of water use & to inform the timely & appropriate delivery of water among storage facilities & water users.

Task 3: Provide funding for a facilitator to provide a consensus-driven process to guide decisions relevant to the interests of all water users.

Thanks to Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation for an \$18,000 grant to begin this project. Another \$60,000 grant is pending approval by the Montana Legislature.

This portion of the project is administered by:

Central Montana RC&D
Monty Sealey, Coordinator

PO Box 660, Roundup, MT 59072
323-2755 • cmrcd@midrivers.com

Find more info at www.cmrcd.com

MWC Contacts

- ◆ **Upper Musselshell Water Users Association**
Leon Hammond, manager, 220-2093
- ◆ **Deadman's Basin Water Users Association**
Teri Hice, project manager, 323-3533
- ◆ **Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association**
Lynn Rettig, manager, 947-3131
- ◆ **Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group**
Cal Frank, coordinator, 374-2451
- ◆ **Garfield County Conservation District**
Amanda Horn, administrator, 557-2740
- ◆ **Lower Musselshell Conservation District**
Donna Pedrazzi, administrator, 323-2103
- ◆ **Petroleum County Conservation District**
Carie Hess, administrator, 429-6646
- ◆ **Upper Musselshell Conservation District**
Cheryl Miller, administrator, 632-5534
- ◆ **MWC Project Coordinator**
Bill Milton, 323-1771

Musselshell Watershed Coalition



A unique partnership of individuals and groups with a shared vision...

Supporting whole river management through whole river collaboration.

Our Mission

To benefit water users and the river through basin-wide cooperative management of the Musselshell River.

Who We Are

We are a voluntary partnership of the Upper Musselshell Water Users Association, Deadman's Basin Water Users Association, Delphia Melstone Canal Water Users Association, Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group, Upper Musselshell Conservation District, Lower Musselshell Conservation District, Petroleum Conservation District, Garfield Conservation District and state and federal agencies including DNR, DEQ, FWRs, USGS and NRCS.

A Watershed Vision

Water users are improving communication along the Musselshell River. Water rights conflicts are rare & quickly resolved. Relationships with support agencies are more trusting & more effective, leading to timely completion for prioritized projects. The public understands how the health of the river is monitored and appreciates the measurable gains in water quality & quantity.

The management of water is closely linked with an improving local economy & MWC is widely respected for its inclusive & pro-active leadership.

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition is a unique achievement in the region because it includes many different political jurisdictions, special purpose districts & water users groups. The basin spans five eastern Montana counties & includes 280 miles of river channel that irrigates nearly 80,000 acres & supplies municipal water.

Three Part Goal to Achieve Our Desired Quality of Life

Goal 1: Water Quantity—Meet decreed & contract water rights obligations by sustaining sufficient water in the Musselshell through cooperative flow management & a well-maintained irrigation infrastructure system.

This will be accomplished by continued support of the Musselshell River Distribution Project and by coordinating and implementing an inventory process for primary irrigation infrastructure (state storage reservoirs, inlet & outlet canals, etc.) along the entire Musselshell main stem with all four partner water user groups.

DNRC awarded \$18,000 to Central Montana RC&D for Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Another \$60,000 from DNRC's RRGL program is pending approval by the Montana Legislature & will be used to build a standardized irrigation infrastructure database, accessible to a web-based information center, serving partners of the Musselshell Watershed Coalition. This will help the Coalition prioritize infrastructure needs.



Goal 2: Water Quality—Pro-actively work with State agencies to meet State Water Standards using a volunteer local approach.

To be accomplished by helping to sustain & support the existing certified volunteer water monitoring program in place on the Musselshell sponsored by the Lower Musselshell Conservation District in Roundup.

Goal 3: Provide Governance, Planning & Outreach for the Coalition—

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition will develop a governance & decision-making model & agree to core annual monitoring indicators to measure the group's effectiveness & to meet the desired goals & vision for the Musselshell River & its users; sustain & improve communication & outreach for the Coalition's partners & interested parties; & prepare & update an annual plan of work.