

**Bureau of Reclamation, Great Plains Region, Montana Area Office (MTAO)**

**www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao**

- MTAO administers Reclamation Projects in Montana east of the continental divide.

**Water Available from MTAO**

**Canyon Ferry Reservoir – Canyon Ferry Unit – Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program (P-SMBP)**

Authorized (by congress) Purposes – Power, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies.

Current Contracts: approximately 9,100 acre feet

Water available: 291,000 acre feet

Current Rates: M&I \$25.25 per acre foot

No rate has been established for irrigation

**Lake Elwell – Tiber Dam – Lower Marias Unit - P-SMBP**

Authorized Purposes - Flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies.

Current Contracts: approximately 13,841 acre feet

Water available: 236,000 acre feet

Current Rates: M&I \$18.34 per acre foot

Irrigation \$2.23 per acre foot

**Yellowtail Dam and Reservoir - Yellowtail Unit - P-SMBP**

Authorized Purposes – Power, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies.

Current Contracts: 1 Reclamation contract – 6,000 acre feet

Water available: Northern Cheyenne Tribe – 30,000 acre feet

Crow Tribe – 300,000 acre feet (not yet available, settlement negotiations ongoing)

**Helena Valley Unit - P-SMBP – Operated by Helena Valley ID**

Authorized Purposes - irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies.

Current Contracts: M&I – Approximately 11,500 ac ft

Contract with Helena Valley ID to irrigate 18,300 acres in the District

Water available: Minor amounts available with concurrence of Helena Valley ID

Current Rates: M&I \$28 per acre foot

Irrigation: negotiated repayment contract with Helena Valley ID

**East Bench Unit - P-SMBP – Operated by East Bench ID**

Authorized Purposes - Flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies.

Current Contracts: 1 with East Bench ID to irrigate approximately 28,000 ac ft

1 with the Clark Canyon Water Supply Co. to irrigate approximately 34,000 ac ft

Water available: Minor amounts available with concurrence of East Bench ID.

Current Rates: M&I rate not established

Irrigation: negotiated repayment contracts with East Bench ID and Clark Canyon Water Supply Co.

Other Montana Area Office Projects Authorized for Irrigation

**Buffalo Rapids Project** - 2 contracts with Buffalo Rapids ID – no additional water available

**Crow Creek Pump Unit** – 1 contract with Toston ID– no additional water available

**Huntley Project** - 1 contract with Huntley ID – no additional water available

**Intake Project** - 1 contract with Intake ID – no additional water available

**Lower Yellowstone Project** - 2 contracts with Lower Yellowstone ID – no additional water available

**Milk River Project** - 9 Contracts with Irrigation Districts  
9 Municipal Contracts (1920 Act - Miscellaneous purposes)  
1 Agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Bowdoin NWR  
150 contracts with individual irrigators  
- no additional water available

**Savage Unit - P-SMBP** 1 contract with Savage ID – no additional water available  
**Sun River Project** 1 contract with Greenfields ID  
1 Contract with Fort Shaw ID  
– no additional water available

Water trading - examples

The East Bench and the Crow Creek Pump Units were designed to benefit from storage in Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Storage from Canyon Ferry is available to alleviate any potential impacts on senior water right holders when the contractors at East Bench and Crow Creek use water out of priority.

Additionally, we have one long term “replacement” contract downstream of Canyon Ferry (5,600 ac ft) and one currently in process upstream of Canyon Ferry (620 ac ft). Both contractors were referred to Reclamation by DNRC.

Process for new Water Service Contracts – water sales

Reclamation and the contractor enter into an MOU under which Reclamations estimated costs are paid up front and describes the responsibilities of each party before work begins. After an MOU is signed Reclamation will:

- Conduct all necessary studies to finalize an environmental document (NEPA, NHPA, ESA).
- Complete internal process to gain authority to negotiate and execute a water service contract.

Authority to execute contracts

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Area Manager –                | 1,000 ac ft or less for up to 12 months   |
| Regional Director –           | 1,000 ac ft or less for up to 40 years or<br>10,000 ac ft or less for up to 5 years |
| Commissioner of Reclamation – | Any amount for up to 40 years   |

- Complete all public notices as required
- Draft long term water service contract to offer to the contractor.
- Determine market value of the water to be delivered.
- Conduct technical meetings and negotiations with contractor as needed.