

# WHAT IS A WATER RIGHT?

A water right is defined as the right to use water, as established by state law. By law, a recorded water right is required for the majority of water uses to be valid, legal, and defensible against other water users.



## WATER RIGHTS ON THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) - Montana Water Rights Compact established the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board. This entity is the exclusive regulatory body for water rights administration on the Flathead Indian Reservation (FIR) under the Unitary Administrative Management Ordinance (UAMO)

## CONTACT US

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# WATER RIGHTS

**DOES YOUR PROJECT APPLY?**



## DOES YOUR PROJECT REQUIRE A WATER RIGHT?

A person must apply for and receive a permit to appropriate water before beginning to construct diversion works or diverting water from a water source.

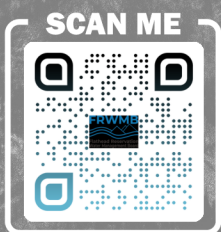
## SEARCH FOR YOUR WATER RIGHT



*Check out the Water Rights Query System!*

Need help finding your water right? Visit the resources provided below:

**CSKT Water Rights Program**  
(Contact info on back!)



**Flathead Reservation Water Management Board**

✉ Contact@frwmb.gov  
☎ 406-201-2532

## YOU SHOULD APPLY IF...

There are any changes to the point of diversion, the place of use, period of use, purpose of use, or the place of storage associated with a water right, these actions require approval from the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board.

## CHANGING THESE ELEMENTS OF YOUR WATER RIGHT?

- **Source:** the waterbody the water is being allocated from
  - Any new appropriations of water from a stream, river, lake, undeveloped spring or groundwater source (well, developed spring).
- **Purpose:** types of purpose include domestic, commercial, industrial, irrigation, livestock, mining, municipal, power generation, instream fishery, geothermal heating and cooling, and mitigation.
  - Any changes to a water right purpose requires an application—for example if you have an irrigation water right, you cannot divert water for stock water purposes—this is a separate water right that you must apply for.
- **Point of Diversion:** The location the water is first diverted from its source
  - Any changes to the location the water is being diverted from requires an application
- **Place of use:** The place where water is put to use. This location information is described by legal land description (township, range, and section).
  - Any changes to place of use requires an application

- **Period of Use:** The waterbody the water is being allocated from
  - Any changes to period of use requires an application
- **Period of Diversion:** The period of the year during which water is allowed to be diverted from the source; this may differ from the period of use if water is stored
  - Any changes to the period of diversion requires an application
- **Flow Rate:** The maximum flow rate at which water can be diverted from the source. Usually described in gallons per minute (gpm) or cubic feet per second (cfs).
  - Any changes to the flow rate at which water is diverted requires an application
- **Volume:** The maximum volume that can be diverted or used during the Period of Use.
  - Any changes to the volume that can be diverted or used during the period of use requires an application.

***File appropriate applications and paperwork with the Flathead Reservation Water Management Boards' Office of Engineer prior to putting water to use.***

**Contact the CSKT Water Rights Program for questions or more information!**

*(contact info back)*