

SUMMARY OF COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION TECHNICAL TEAM (CITT) MEETING

August 13, 2025

1:00pm-5:00pm

Mission Valley Power Conference Room
Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, MT

In Attendance

Maya Rao, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Nick Belcourt, Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP)
Brian Hogenson, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
Daniel Lozar, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Call to Order [00:00:00]

Chair Maya Rao called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM. Four of five CITT members were present, and a quorum was established.

Approve Agenda [00:02:15]

CITT members were given an opportunity to review the draft agenda for the meeting. Brian made a request to remove item four (Mill Creek Historical Data Review) from the agenda as Amanda Courville was unable to attend the meeting. Dan made a motion to adopt the agenda with the omission of item four. Second by Brian. Approved unanimously.

Informational Updates [00:03:30]

FIIP Updates [00:03:35]

- The Hot Springs division is running out of water and will be shut down by Friday.
- The Jocko Division is struggling to maintain deliveries as Jocko River flow has dropped significantly. FIIP is currently diverting 40 cfs at Jocko K Diversion and about 26 cfs at S Diversion. As the Jocko River drops, K will be shut off while S and E will remain on for stock water delivery only.
- Tabor and Mission Division water is being moved into Kicking Horse and Nine Pipes. Water is being transferred to bring a fair distribution of water to both divisions before shutdown occurs at end of August.
- There are 26 gravity feed systems on A Canal that are currently rotating as they have been causing instream flow issues. FIIP sets water distribution amount to ensure there is sufficient instream flow. If water users take water without notifying FIIP, instream flows drop below the minimum amount causing instream violations.
- North and South Divisions will continue to supply water until the end of August or early September.
- Gene Hughes aka Bear is the new acting Project Manager for FIIP. He will be working every other week on the FIIP project.
- The rate increase for 2026 has been rescinded. FIIP has notified the districts.
- The Flathead River Pumping Station is running well. The #2 pump is slated to be repaired this fall.
- FIIP is still waiting to hear how to manage Eurasian Watermilfoil issues in Pablo Reservoir.

CSKT Updates [00:12:45]

- Funding constraints will limit the amount of treatment on the Eurasian Watermilfoil in Pablo Reservoir this year. The funding provided to CSKT can treat about 300 acres. The treatment will

occur in early September when drawdown occurs, and the reservoir is at minimum elevation (below 3196 ft). The product contact time is 14 days so refill elevation will be projected so that treatment locations do not contact water for 14 days. Will need new funding to continue treatment next year.

- North Fork Jocko Project continues to move forward as the bypass is in place.
- Contractors are on site and fusing is in place for the Jocko Canal Pipeline Project.
- Crow Pump Plant has a notice to proceed with a start date of August 25.
- CSKT has produced a series of story maps that provide information for the public on current and proposed projects. Once they are on the website Brian will forward link to CITT members.

DNRC Updates [00:22:35]

- DNRC hosted the last office hours/help session yesterday for recipients of the CITT stock water grant.
- Out of the 80 projects funded, 14 are authorized to break ground, 18 have water right authorizations, 29 environmental assessments completed, and 18 FIIP consults completed. Two wells have been drilled.

BIA Updates [00:26:20]

- ITRC visited in FIIP in July to continue review of the irrigation infrastructure so they can develop a plan to improve water measurement in the project area.
- Bureau of Reclamation visited Flathead River Pumping Plant to do a slope assessment of penstocks and will develop recommendations for penstock project.
- The development of rehabilitation specifications for #1 pump and #3 pump for the Flathead River Pumping Plant are ongoing with HDR. Once those are finalized, CSKT will begin the bidding process.

On-Farm Efficiency Hiring Process Updates [00:31:00]

- Patrick Mangan from MSU Extension provided updates.
- The position is currently open and two applications have been received.
- The application is open for 30 days (until August 22). At that time, Patrick and the hiring team will assess if there are enough applicants that meet minimum qualifications to move forward with the screening process. If there are not enough applicants that meet criteria, the application process will be extended.

Water Year 2024 Annual Report [00:44:45]

- Cody Goklish of CSKT presented CSKT's Annual Water Measurement Program Report for 2024.
- The report included hydrologic conditions for the 2024 Water Year Determination and a comparison of water year determinations to streamflow data.

Water Management Coordination [01:12:50]

- Brian updated the team on the amount of water diverted within each RDA geographical area based on River Diversion Allowances.
- RDAs are not yet enforceable, and data is provided for information purposes only.

RDA Workgroup [1:21:10]

- Dan, Brian, and Maya have met twice to look at Appendix 3.2 to continue the understanding of RDA measurement and management.

Potential New AgriMet Station [01:23:20]

- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) contacted CSKT about moving the equipment from old Round Butte AgriMet Station to a new site on the Flathead Reservation.
- There is a new Agrimet Station in the Round Butte that was installed five years ago and now has sufficient overlapping data with the old site.
- BOR has stated that the equipment from the old Round Butte station has been grandfathered in so there would be no additional costs to relocate or operate the station.
- CSKT will meet with BOR tomorrow to discuss and visit potential sites. CITT members are invited to the meeting.

Discuss Next Steps and Schedule [01:33:10]

- Next meeting will be October 15, 2025.
- Dan brings up the need to begin discussing the topic of RDA's at the irrigation district meetings.
- Brian and Maya will be presenting at the Western Montana Conservation Commission meeting September 9

Public comment [01:39:00]

The CITT received no public comment.

End Meeting [01:39:50]

Motion to end the meeting by Brian, second by Nick. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.