

**FLATHEAD RESERVATION WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD
AND THE OFFICE OF THE WATER ENGINEER**

WATER POLICIES & PROCEDURES (WP&P)



THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING FRWMB WATER POLICIES & PROCEDURES (WP&P) FOR A 15-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD STARTING ON **MARCH 13, 2026**. COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY **5:00 PM MARCH 27**. THESE DRAFT POLICIES INCLUDE:

- **WP&P 22-117(14)(c) UPDATED SUBSECTION: Number of Connections and Standards**
- **WP&P 22-117(15) UPDATED SUBSECTION: Volume Calculation**
- **WP&P 22-117(21)(b) UPDATED SUBSECTION: Maximum Number of Wells**

INTRODUCTION

The Water Policy & Procedures (“WP&P” or “Procedures”) are created by the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board (“FRWMB” or “Board”) and the Office of the Water Engineer (“OE”) to specify and clarify details relating to water administration for the achievement and implementation of the Unitary Administration and Management Ordinance (“UAMO” or “Ordinance”). These Procedures, and amendments thereof, shall be published by the OE on the FRWMB website (www.frwmb.gov).

The FRWMB has the authority to develop and promulgate these Procedures pursuant to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)—Montana (MT) Water Compact (Compact):

Compact Article IV.I.5.a: Powers and Duties.

a. In General. The Board shall have the power to promulgate procedures, prescribe forms, develop additional materials, and implement amendments thereto as may be necessary and proper to exercise its jurisdiction and carry out its assigned functions under this Compact and the Law of Administration. A set of forms for initial use by the Board in the implementation of the Law of Administration is attached hereto as Appendix 37. The Board may amend these forms at its discretion. Such modifications are pursuant to, and shall not be deemed an amendment of, this Compact.

The Board shall promulgate the Procedures through public meetings of the Board. These meetings shall be open to the observation of the general public pursuant to the Compact, Ordinance, and Policies of the Board. Where there is a conflict of laws, the law that provides for greater openness to the public applies. The Board shall notice the public of any scheduled drafting workshops in the creation of these Procedures and shall encourage the participation of the public through public comment, to be considered by the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting. The Board shall not approve any portion of these Procedures until public comment has been solicited.

These Procedures are intended to clarify and supplement details into the implementation of the Ordinance and the administration of water within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation. In the event that these Procedures conflict with the Ordinance or the Compact, the language of the Ordinance or the Compact shall control.

This document is intended to track the organization of the Ordinance for purposes of easy referencing to sections of the Ordinance for which the procedural clarification is intended to elucidate; 100 is added to each Ordinance section directly referenced with less direct sections added before and after.

PART 2 – PERMIT AND CHANGE APPLICATION PROCESS

WP&P 22-117. Appropriation Rights for Domestic Allowances for Homes and Businesses; Process for Application, Review, and Issuance.

- 14) Number of Connections and Standards.
 - a) Individual Domestic Allowances may only be connected to one Home or Business. Ordinance, § 1-1-104(8) and (31).
 - b) Shared Domestic Allowances may only be connected to two or three Homes or Businesses. Ordinance, § 2-2-117(5).
 - c) Development Domestic Allowances as per Ordinance, § 2-2-117(6) are connected to more than one Home and/or Business.

- 15) Volume Calculation: For the purpose of calculating maximum annual water volumes for Individual and Shared Domestic Allowances, each of the following purpose volumes apply. Cumulatively, volumes from each purpose shall not exceed 2.4 AF annually.
 - a) Domestic (Homes and or Business): Each Home or Business will be calculated at 0.5 AF annually.
 - b) Lawn and Garden: The volume associated with irrigated acres of Lawn and Garden will be calculated at an annual rate of 0.9 AF per acre of Lawn and Garden.
 - c) Stock: Stock use volumes are to be calculated using the same method as the State of Montana: a consumptive use of 15 gallons per day or 0.017 acre-foot per year per AU. Animal unit (AU) equivalencies for water consumption are set out in ARM 36.12.101 and the water conversion table, MT DNRC Form No. 615.
 - d) Other Uses: Other use volumes will be calculated based upon the gallons per day provided by the applicant on Form 60DF.

- 21) Maximum Number of Wells.
 - a) Individual and Shared Domestic Allowances are restricted to one Well.
 - b) Development Domestic Allowances are restricted to one Well or Developed Spring per Home and/or Business within a Development. Ordinance, § 2-2-117(6)(e).