

Work Group: *Irrigation Water Management*

Objectives:

- (1) Information and Outreach: *The Work Group will collaborate with Conservation Districts, state agencies, federal agencies, and non-profit organizations throughout the Yellowstone River Basin to identify outreach and project opportunities associated with the Council's YRRP 6.1 Irrigation Water Management Recommended Practice (March 1, 2016). A 5-year information/outreach strategy will be developed.*
- (2) Montana State Water Plan: *Review the Montana 2015 State Water Plan findings and key recommendations that pertain to irrigation water management and water use efficiency in the Yellowstone River Basin. The Work Group will incorporate pertinent State Water Plan recommendations into a 10-year project priority strategy for the YRCDC.*
- (3) Project Identification and Prioritization: *Irrigation water management projects within the Yellowstone River Basin will be identified and prioritized. These potential projects will be listed in the 10-year project priority plan.*
- (4) Project Implementation: *The 10-year project priority strategy will include potential project sponsors and funding sources for all actions recommended to the Council.*
- (5) YRPP 6.1 Revisions: *The Work Group will review and recommend revisions to the YRRP 6.1 Recommended Practice and Implementation Approach as needed.*

Goals:

- 1) *Five-year information and outreach strategy. This information component of this strategy will identify topics, approaches, venues, partners, and funding sources to most effectively convey the efficient application of irrigation water in the Yellowstone River Basin. The strategy will also include an outreach component that will solicit stakeholder input and vetting on irrigation system efficiency improvements and modernization.*
- 2) *Ten-year project prioritization plan. The project priorities will be based upon the results from the Yellowstone River Cumulative Effects Study (2016). The initial prioritization of reaches for on-farm distribution improvements have been identified in the Irrigation Water Management YRRP 6.1 (Pages 68-69). Project identification and prioritization will also incorporate the 2015 Montana State Water Plan recommendations and outreach efforts identified above. Potential sponsors and funding sources will be included in the plan.*