

CD NAME: Yellowstone, YEAR: 2023

**YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
RESERVED WATER ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

I. Reservation Data

A. Amount, source, and purpose of reservation as granted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC):

1. Amount 57,963 acre/feet (ac/ft)
2. Flow 378.2 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.)
3. Source(s) Yellowstone River and Tributaries
4. Purpose Agricultural Irrigation

B. Total number of applications and amounts for use by DNRC:

1. Total number of applications currently approved for use by DNRC 17
2. The total amount of reserved water currently approved for use by DNRC:  
8104.70 ac/ft  
72.45 c.f.s.
3. The amount of reserved water undeveloped and available for future use  
49,858.30 ac/ft  
305.75 c.f.s.

II. Action on applications in the last year by Conservation District (CD):

- A. Number of new applications received 0
- B. Total number of applications approved by CD 0
1. Amount of water approved \_\_\_\_\_ ac/ft \_\_\_\_\_ c.f.s.
  2. Number approved by CD but pending DNRC approval 0
  3. Amount of water approved \_\_\_\_\_ ac/ft \_\_\_\_\_ c.f.s.

Number of applications denied and reasons for denial 0

Number of applications received pending CD approval 0

III. The Yellowstone Conservation District Water Reservation brochure is displayed at public meetings and district projects

- Articles are printed in local media outlets
- Yellowstone County Legislators were updated on water reservation use in the county.

IV. Legal Activities – none

V. Long Term Project Development Activities

- Working with outlying communities for future water use that may involve changing the use of a portion of our water. Off-stream storage development is a high priority for the YCD

VI. Future Activities and Anticipated Progress -

- Offer the Water Reservations to develop a strategic plan for Yellowstone County and adjacent watershed areas.
- Working with the City of Billings to utilize a portion of YCD water, if needed, to supplement the new West End Reservoir water demands. The area is currently in the planning phase.

VII. Water Conservation Measures -

- Water measuring devices are required on all water reservation projects
- Every project on irrigated land is evaluated for water conservation by the NRCS & DNRC staff

VIII. Other Points of Interest or Problems with the Reservation

- Three (3) Water reservation holders have sold their land and are in the process of either transferring the water right or cancelling the water right. We will have more information after the first of the year.