



# Eligibility Criteria for Irrigation Ditches and Associated Water Control Features

## FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN MONTANA

Project APEs (Areas of Potential Effect) often intersect with portions of linear features like irrigation systems. When seeking Montana SHPO’s concurrence on eligibility determinations for the National Register of Historic Places, evaluators must first convey the *significance of the entire resource* (i.e., irrigation system) within its historic context, and then evaluate the *integrity of the segment* being recorded. Evaluation can be done through historical research and does not require field recordation of every feature.

Criteria to consider when assessing the eligibility of irrigation ditches/systems includes:

1. Does it have unique construction or features?
2. Does it retain its original features (headgates, overflow structures, siphons, etc.)?
3. Does it basically follow its original alignment?
4. Is it the first ditch or the largest ditch in the area?
5. Was it constructed by or for an important time period or event (Homesteading Act, Great Depression, Carey Act, etc.)?
6. Was it constructed by or for an important individual or group?
7. Is it directly associated with the interpretation of a single historic site?
8. How much water does it convey?
9. Did it serve an important purpose in the development of the local area?
10. How many different individuals/farmsteads does it serve?
11. Is it a primary ditch?
12. Does it have a name?
13. Does it continue to function in its original capacity?
14. Does it appear in the Montana Water Resources Survey?  
(<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights/records-unit/survey-books>)

Additional Resources:

[www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Documents/OR\\_Linear\\_Resources\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Documents/OR_Linear_Resources_Guidance.pdf)

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB30-Complete.pdf>

<http://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/survey/Irrigation.pdf> (Pages 229-269)

<https://www.fcgov.com/historicpreservation/pdf/holleran.pdf?1508793205> (Pages 82-88)