



TO: Project Stakeholders & Cooperating Agencies
FROM: Terry Tatsey, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
Steve Becker, P.E., COR, NRCS State Conservation Engineer
Amy Darlinton, NECI
DATE: January 10, 2019
RE: Willow Creek Watershed Project Plan Scoping Meeting

The Blackfeet Tribe, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and NECI invite you to participate in the Willow Creek Watershed Planning Study Scoping Meeting. The scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 2 pm in the Blackfeet Tribal Council Chambers, 640 All Chiefs Road, Browning MT. An additional scoping meeting geared toward public participation will be held at 6 pm on Thursday, January 24th in the Tribal Council Chambers. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to identify relevant issues and reasonable alternatives for preparation of the Plan-EIS, as well as provide an opportunity for project stakeholders to learn about the project.

The Willow Creek Watershed Planning Study is being undertaken by the Blackfeet Tribe and NRCS to prevent or reduce flood damages in Browning. The project plan will develop and evaluate reasonable alternatives to reduce Willow Creek flood damages through Browning and will result in a physically, environmentally, socially, and economically sound project plan and environmental impact statement (Plan-EIS). Mitigation measures that may be evaluated include construction of a flood retarding dam and/or diversion structures, channel modifications, land use management, and floodplain management/structure relocation. The project and watershed area are shown on the attached project map.

Items to be discussed at the scoping meeting include:

- Preliminary flood mapping for Willow Creek through Browning
- Community flooding concerns, issues, and reasonable alternatives
- Anticipated schedule for preparation of the Plan-EIS
- Synopsis of preliminary investigations and previous studies, including the 1975 Project Plan and EIS for a floodwater retarding dam on Willow Creek approximately 4 miles southwest of Browning and floodwater diversion structures west of Browning.

To further discuss the project or obtain additional information, please contact any of the following:

Tribal Sponsor:

Terry Tatsey
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
640 All Chiefs Road
Browning, MT 59101
(406) 338-7522
ttatsey@blackfeetnation.com

Responsible Federal Official:

Steve Becker, PE, COR
NRCS State Conservation Engineer
10 E. Babcock Street, Ste. 443
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-6811
steve.becker@mt.usda.gov

Consulting Engineer:

Amy Darlinton, PE
NECI Project Manager
200 N. 34th Street
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 206-5248
amy.darlinton@neciusa.com

