

Willow Creek Watershed Project  
Watershed Project Plan - Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS)

**Public and Agency Initial Scoping Meetings - Response Tabulation**

Date Received	Name	Title	Orgization (if applicable)	Method of Comment Transmittal	Summary of Comments
11/14/2018	Don White and Joe Birdrattler		Blackfeet Transportation Planning and Blackfeet Tribal Security, respectively	Personal Interview in Conjunction with Site Investigation Report	Rapid snowmelt and rain cause flooding in the northwest quadrant of Browning as a result of modified drainage channel overflow. Crawlspace and basements in south Browning flood as a result of pond overflow. Beaver dams and lack of drainage infrastructure maintenance may also be contributing to flooding in Browning.
12/3/2018	Joseph A. McHahan	Chief, Regulatory Branch	Army Corps of Engineers	Letter in response to cooperating agency request letter	Project is under jurisdiction of Section 404 of Clean Water Act and Corps will verify aquatic resource delineations, assist in EIS development as necessary to meet 404 permitting requirements, and assist in developing compensatory mitigation strategies
12/7/2018	Jodi Bush	Office Supervisor	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Letter in response to cooperating agency request letter	Declined to be a cooperating agency, but will assist in Section 7 consultation under the ESA
3/11/2019	Jeanine D. Petterson	Mitigation Division Director	FEMA	Letter in response to cooperating agency request letter	If located in an SFHA, the proposed flood risk reduction project will require local floodplain administrator review, which includes the Glacier County Floodplain Administrator. Technical assistance regarding FEMA mapping process and EO 11988 may be available from FEMA.
1/24/2019	Gerald Wagner	Director	Blackfeet Environmental Office	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Identifies with flooding in Browning. Retention basins and channel widening/stabilization are best alternatives to control flooding. Retained water could be used throughout summer for irrigation.
1/24/2019	Gerald Wagner	Director	Blackfeet Environmental Office	Written Comment at Agency Scoping Meeting	Diversion may enhance wetland and riparian areas.
1/24/2019	Gerald Lunak		Blackfeet Water Office	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Drastic flood control facilities may not be acceptable solution in Browning. A lack of maintenance may exasperate flood risk to Browning; therefore maintenance funding should be considered, including irrigation to Tribal Ranch. Steep concrete linings may pose safety hazard; channel already cleared of beaver dams to eliminate deep and unsafe pools before community celebrations.
1/24/2019	Dylan Hickey		Army Corps of Engineers	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Corps Individual Permit will likely be required. Proposal must be for LDPA and evaluate economic and environmental factors.
1/24/2019	Melissa Weatherwax		Blackfeet Community College	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	BFCC has property adjacent to Willow Creek and participates in beaver mimicry project to determine how beaver dams slow water flows and promote riparian habitat development. Current infrastructure maintenance is not adequate to prevent flooding.
1/24/2019	Melissa Weatherwax		Blackfeet Community College	Written Comment at Agency Scoping Meeting	Capacity of existing drainage facilities is impaired. Consider maintenance of existing drainage infrastructure. Agree with storage and management of flood waters to protect infrastructure and housing. Does not agree with dam.
1/24/2019	Mark Magee	Director	Blackfeet Land Department	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Very little tribal land is available in area of previously proposed dam and significant land acquisition costs may be incurred with this project. The owner of the 1975 dam site has indicated willingness to sell to Tribe.
1/24/2019	Don White	Director	Blackfeet Transportation Planning	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Tribal Transportaiton Department is undertaking Northwest Boundary Road project, which may provide potential to impound water upstream of Browning.
1/24/2019	Graham Gaither		Agricultural Resources Managmeent Plan	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Willow Creek water being considered for use at proposed multi-species meat processing facility. Revenue from meat processing facility could be used to offset the Tribe's maintenance costs.
1/24/2019	Graham Gaither		Agricultural Resources Managmeent Plan	Written Comment at Agency Scoping Meeting	Consider leveraging infrastructure construction with mitigation of excess material use and generate revenue to offset maintenance costs. Multi-species meat processing plant scoping underway.
1/24/2019	Don McNett		Montana Department of Transportation	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	No road topping occurred in 2018 and Highway 89 culverts have recently been replaced.
1/24/2019	Roland Kennerly	Councilman	Blackfeet Tribal Business Council	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Ice typically builds up along Willow Creek near the campground and northwest area of Browning floods annually. 2018 not a bad year for flooding since there were no rapid temperature increases to spur rapid snowmelt.

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1/24/2019	Ray Augare	Director	Blackfeet Water Resources	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	The proposed Northwest Boundary Road as currently shown may exacerbate flooding in Norman Tract, which currently floods every year. Damming may increase already high water table leading to additional infrastructure damages. Improved conveyance may help alleviate groundwater issues in Browning.
1/24/2019	Cheryl Reevis	Director	Blackfeet Planning	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Recreational improvements associated with flood control measures desired. Siyeh intends on expanding casino in area shown as within floodplain. Many federal grants prohibit utilization of funding to develop facilities within floodplains.
1/24/2019	Dean Berkram		Glacier Electric	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	No known significant flood damages have occurred to existing facilities and most new electrical lines are underground.
1/24/2019	Stephanie Vielle		Blackfeet Parks and Recreation	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Potential detention at Pikuni Park, since it is a State wetland mitigation site. Stampede Park development potential warrants filling of wetland areas, although walking paths and a waterpark are desired recreational developments.
1/24/2019	Stephanie Vielle		Blackfeet Parks and Recreation	Written Comment at Agency Scoping Meeting	Diversion of water into Pikuni Walking Park (state mitigated wetland) desired to enhance recreational uses. Removal of wetland at Charging Home Stampede Park and cleanliness awareness also desired.
1/24/2019	Dylan DesRosier		The Nature Conservancy	Verbal at Agency Scoping Meeting	Beaver mimicry bio-storage many provide upstream storage.
1/24/2019	Name not provided			Written Comment at Agency Scoping Meeting	Willow Creek flooding is an issue and a concern. Micro and natural storage (beaver mimicry) desired upstream and west of Browning. Other options requested to be explored include flood mitigation that doesn't divert water out of watershed or far from natural drainage, small scale energy development, and riparian area restoration.
1/24/2019	Public (name not provided)			Verbal at Public Scoping Meeting	Flood insurance condition of home mortgage and is requesting to know if Council and Browning residents support project and its potential to reduce or eliminate flood insurance requirements and flood damage potential in Browning. Also inquired about Tribe's willingness and ability to obtain fee land through condemnation if necessary.
1/24/2019	Virgil Edwards		THPO	Verbal at Public Scoping Meeting	Inquiry about cap on NRCS Watershed Flood Control Program construction funding.
1/24/2019	Ardis Dayrider		Whitetail Creek Watershed Service	Verbal at Public Scoping Meeting	Groundwater and surface water uses and effects to entire watershed should be of paramount importance in alternative development. Portions of Willow Creek are fenced off to protect cultural resources.
1/24/2019	Chuck Piling	Landowner		Written Comment at Public Scoping Meeting	Historically Willow Creek has been rechanneled near the Highway 89 crossing.
1/24/2019	Colleen Barcus	Landowner		Written Comment at Public Scoping Meeting	Requested notification prior to going onsite. Looking forward to next meeting.
1/25/2019	Marshalene & Lolly Last Star	Landowners		Onsite Personal Interview	Willow Creek occasionally overflows culvert along Cemetary Road. Tipi rings (near old homesite), sweetgrass, and sage are in the area.
1/25/2019	Roxanne Demorce	Landowner		Onsite Personal Interview	Floodplain mapping appears to correspond to observed flooding. 337 2nd Ave North doesn't flood since the house was built about 3 ft above the adjacent grade, although yard north of home is often marshy. \$1300 paid annually for flood insurance.
1/25/2019	Calvin Hill	Pastor	Methodist Church	Onsite Personal Interview	Floodplain mapping appears to correspond to observed flooding. Ice jams occur at culvert/cattle guard near highway flood Norman Tract when broken up. Development of irrigation would be beneficial. Beavers and old parsonage area present along Willow Creek.
1/25/2019	Patrick Higgins	Executive Assistant to CEO	Siyeh Corporation	Onsite Personal Interview	Old post office flooded to kickplate in 2003 or 2004 from Willow Creek overflows. Siyeh unable to obtain flood insurance, so business interruption insurance obtained. Dikes to protect properties in the floodplain desired.
1/25/2019	Denise Salois	Landowner		Onsite Personal Interview	Norman Tract FID 299-300 floods up to house and water ponds in area for months, creating West Nile potential. Flooding does not originate from overbank flooding, but instead comes from drainage on Methodist land. Culvert repairs and diversions before runoff enters Norman tract are desired.