



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

November 27, 2018

Montana State Office

10 East Babcock
Street, Room 443
Bozeman
Montana, 59715

Voice 406.587.6811
Fax 855.510.7028

Recipient Name
Title
Organization
Street Address
City, State and Zip Code

Dear Recipient:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Section 1501.6, the NRCS is formally requesting that your agency become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Willow Creek Watershed. The EIS will be used to evaluate alternatives to prevent or reduce flood damages caused by Willow Creek floodwater in Browning, Montana, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

This request is being made because your agency has been identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. The EIS is being prepared to fulfill NRCS' NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our potential federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566) for this project. As your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning this project or other future projects that may be evaluated in this EIS, preparation of this EIS should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency or other Federal agencies and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency, then please return a written explanation why your agency cannot participate. Please note that a response declining to be a cooperating agency is also required to be submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality per 40 CFR Section 1501.6(c). Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or a formal MOU can be established.

Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Steve Becker of my staff at steve.becker@usda.gov or by phone at (406) 587-6828.

Sincerely,

TOM WATSON
State Conservationist

Recipient Name
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cc:

Steve Becker, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Bozeman, Montana

Kale Gullett, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Bozeman, Montana

Terry Tatsey, Councilman, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, Browning, Montana

Amy Darlington, Project Manager, Northern Engineering Consulting, Inc, Billings, Montana

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Amy Darlington', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.