

Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek Project Plan

March 14th, 2019 Public Scoping Meetings

The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) and NRCS will be hosting the following meetings:

- Interagency scoping meeting @ 10 am in Fort Belknap Agency, MT
 - @ FBIC Council Chambers; 656 Agency Main Street
- Community based public scoping meeting @ 6 pm in Hays, MT
 - @ Kills At Night Community Center (Food will be provided!)

The public and interested stakeholders are invited to participate in the scoping meetings to identify and provide more information on the environmental evaluation and reasonable design alternatives to rehabilitate Lake Seventeen Dam and the Little Suction Creek Diversion.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community received funding for this planning study from the NRCS - Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Program. Over the next 9 months, NECI and DOWL Engineering will work closely with the community to develop a Watershed Project Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA). It will be a physically, environmentally, socially, and economically sound plan to evaluate all reasonable alternatives ranging from enhancements to rehabilitation to removal of the dam and diversion.

The dam and diversion were constructed in the 1930's by the BIA and Civilian (Indian) Conservation Corps with the intended purpose of providing a reliable reservoir for cropland irrigation. Over the past 80 years, the system has become a cultural and historic resource only purposed for wildlife, stock water, and public recreation. This system has fallen into a chronic state of disrepair so the FBIC reached out to the NRCS for assistance rehabilitating the diversion and dam in 2010. However, the actual rehabilitation construction was delayed and ultimately suspended due to funding limitations.

Over the next 9 months, a Watershed Project Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) will be developed in close cooperation with the community. The Plan-EA will be a physically, environmentally, socially, and economically sound plan to rehabilitate the dam. Irrigation potential and recreational opportunities will also be evaluated for economic viability.

The FBIC will also post project news to their website (<http://ftbelknap.org>) and the Fort Belknap Indian Community Facebook page.

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

Tribal Sponsor:

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