

Willow Creek Watershed Project Plan January 24th, 2019 Public Scoping Meeting

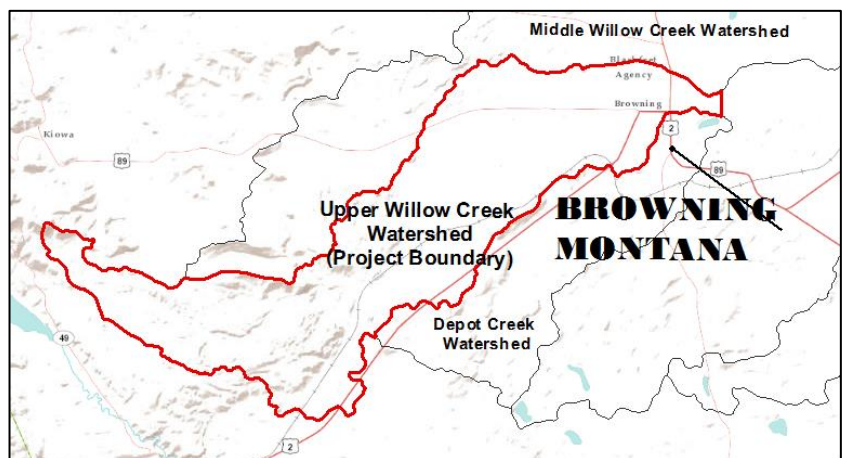
The Blackfeet Tribe and NRCS will be hosting an interagency scoping meeting at 2 pm and a community based public scoping meeting at 6 pm for the Willow Creek Watershed Planning Study on Thursday, January 24th in the Tribal Council Chambers in Browning.

The public and interested stakeholders are invited to participate in the scoping meetings to identify flooding concerns, issues, and reasonable alternatives to reduce flood damages in Browning.

Food will be provided at the meetings.

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. Mitigation measures that may be evaluated include construction of a flood control dam and/or diversion structures, channel modifications, land use management, and floodplain management/structure relocation.

Major flooding occurred in Browning in 1920, 1948, 1958, and 1964. In 1975, the NRCS helped the City of Browning, the Blackfeet Tribe, and the Glacier County Conservation District prepare a Watershed Work Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement to reduce flooding in Browning. Proposed



measures included Willow Creek channel improvements, a floodwater detention dam approximately 4 miles southwest of Browning, and two channel diversions along the west edge of Browning. However, the final design was suspended in 1976 possibly because the necessary land could not be acquired. Since that time, numerous developments have encroached upon the channel diversion routes making the 1975 plan no longer feasible.

Over the next year, a new Watershed Project Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Plan-EIS) will be developed in close cooperation with the community. The Plan-EIS will be a physically, environmentally, socially, and economically sound plan to reduce flood damages in Browning. It will generate flood inundation mapping for Browning as well as identify and analyze potential flood control improvements.

The Tribe will also post project news to their website (<http://blackfeetnation.com>) and the Blackfeet Nation Facebook page.

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

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