



**TO:** Blackfeet Tribal Business Council  
Ray Augare, Blackfeet Water Administrator  
Verna Biladeaux, Blackfeet Extension Office  
Loren Bird Rattler, Blackfeet ARMP  
Beep Grant, BNRCD Chair  
Jerry Lunak, Blackfeet Water Administrator  
Mark Magee, Blackfeet Land Department  
John Murray, Blackfeet Historic Preservation Office  
Dustin Weatherwax, Elaine Bird Rattler, Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife  
Gerald Wager, Blackfeet Environmental Office  
Don White, Blackfeet Transportation Planning  
Michael DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioners  
Thedis Crowe, BIA Blackfeet Agency Superintendent  
Will Shuter, BIA Dam Safety, Division of Water and Power  
John Anevski, BIA Division of Water and Power  
Melissa Passes, BIA Regional Office Environmental Branch  
Todd Tillinger, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Jodi Bush, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Environmental Protection Agency  
FEMA

**FROM:** Terry Tatsey, Blackfeet Tribal Business Council  
Steve Becker, P.E., COR, NRCS State Conservation Engineer  
Amy Darlinton, NECI

**DATE:** October 23, 2018

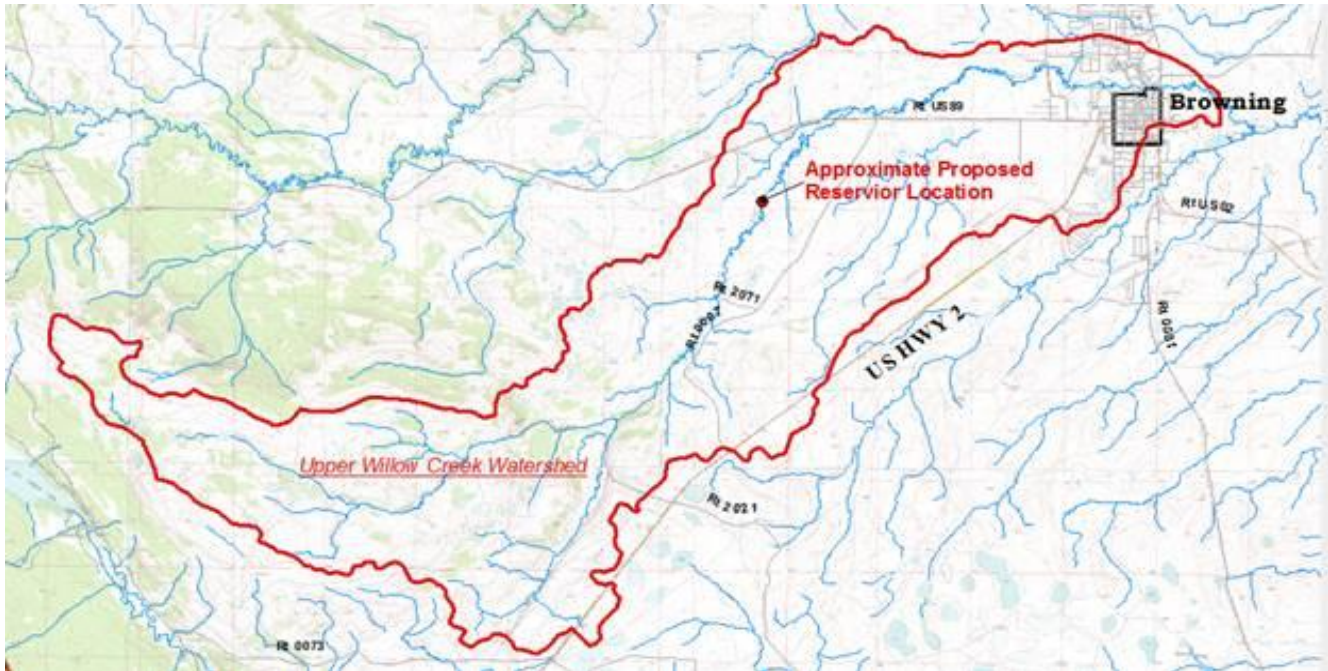
**RE:** Willow Creek Watershed Project Plan-EIS Stakeholder Meeting

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**The Blackfeet Tribe, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and NECI invite you to attend a stakeholders' orientation meeting for the Willow Creek Watershed Planning Study. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 am in the Blackfeet Tribal Council Chambers, 640 All Chiefs Road, Browning MT.** This meeting will provide detail on the information presented at the Tribal Business Council meeting on November 1, 2018.

The Willow Creek Watershed Planning Study is being undertaken by the Blackfeet Tribe to prevent or reduce flood damages in Browning. NECI has been contracted by the NRCS to develop and evaluate reasonable alternatives and prepare a physically, environmentally, socially, and economically sound project plan and environmental impact statement (Plan-EIS).

The project and watershed area are shown as follows:



In 1975, a Project Plan and EIS were developed for a Willow Creek Flood Control Project. It included a floodwater retarding dam on Willow Creek southwest of Browning, and floodwater diversions west of Browning. However, the final design was suspended in 1976 because the necessary land could not be acquired. The 1975 plan is no longer feasible due to development over the proposed floodwater diversion routes. The 1975 plan, original analysis of engineering alternatives, 80% design of the selected alternative, and preliminary and final watershed project plans can be viewed at: <http://www.neciusa.com/willow-creek-watershed/>, password: willowcreek.

Items to be discussed at the stakeholders' orientation meeting include:

- Anticipated schedule for preparation of the Plan-EIS
- Synopsis of preliminary investigations to identify the type of cooperation and information from the Tribal departments and the community, including land access permissions, field schedules for data collections, etc.
- Discussion to develop a comprehensive list of potential stakeholders
- Strategy for conducting the public participation/scoping process, which will occur after the preliminary investigation is completed.

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

Consulting Engineer:

Amy Darlinton, PE  
Project Manager  
Northern Engineering &  
Consulting, Inc. (NECI)  
200 N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Billings, MT 59101  
(406) 206-5248  
[amy.darlinton@neciusa.com](mailto:amy.darlinton@neciusa.com)

Tribal Sponsor:

Terry Tatsey  
Blackfeet Tribal Business  
Council  
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Browning, MT 59101  
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Responsible Federal Official:

Steve Becker, PE, COR  
State Conservation Engineer  
NRCS  
10 E. Babcock Street, Ste. 443  
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[steve.becker@mt.usda.gov](mailto:steve.becker@mt.usda.gov)