

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

#### **Final Environmental Assessment for the proposed Crow Pump Diversion Reconstruction, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation, Lake County, Montana**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to advise interested parties that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as lead federal agency, with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Indian Reservation, has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed action on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Lake County, Montana.

The project is needed to address the dual objectives of the CSKT-MT Water Rights Compact, providing both irrigation improvements and restoration. The primary purposes of the project are to reconstruct the Crow Pump Diversion and related irrigation infrastructure to improve operational flexibility, add redundancy, increase the facility's capacity to divert and pump water, improve passage for a wide variety of fish species and life stages in Crow Creek, and to accommodate aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration and enhancements in the diversion area.

This notice also announces that the EA and FONSI are now available in hard copy at the address(s) below.

**ADDRESSES:** You may request a hard copy of the EA and FONSI by writing the BIA Northwest Region Office, Division of Environmental & Cultural Resource Management (DECRM), 911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4169, and/or

BIA Flathead Agency, Old Admin Office, 42464 Complex Blvd. (HWY 93 N), PO Box 40, Pablo, Montana 59855-0040, and/or

CSKT Natural Resources Department, Division of Engineering and Water Resources, PO Box 278 Pablo, Montana, 59855.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shane Hendrickson, BIA Flathead Agency Superintendent, at (406) 675-2700 OR Taryn Bushey, CSKT NEPA Coordinator, at (406) 675-2700 or [taryn.bushey@cskt.org](mailto:taryn.bushey@cskt.org). An electronic copy can be downloaded at:

<https://cskt.org/natural-resources/dewr/irrigation-infrastructure/> or

<https://www.csktwatercompact.com/crow-pump-diversion-reconstruction/>

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** CSKT Natural Resources Department, Division of Water, through contractual obligations to the BIA, has proposed the Crow Pump Diversion Reconstruction Project. The activities under the agency proposed action include removal and replacement of the existing Crow Pump Diversion, construction of a new pump building, placement of a portion of the Crow Pump Canal within a pipeline, and restoration and enhancement of the Crow Creek Corridor. The proposed action area is found in Sections 15, 16, and 21 of Township 20 North, Range 20 West on the Charlo, Montana, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic series map. The activities will occur under guidelines in Chapter 5.0 of the EA.

**AUTHORITY:** This notice is published pursuant to 43 CFR 46.305 of the Department of Interior Regulations (43 CFR 46 et seq.), the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.), and in accordance with the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8. The decision has been made to go forward with the proposed action for the Project on the content of the Final EA and issuance of the FONSI.

You may appeal this decision directly to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) in accordance with the regulations in the 43 CFR Parts 4.310-4.340 and 25 CFR 2.7. The IBIA is located at the following address: U.S. Department of the Interior, Interior Board of Indian Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia, 22203.

Your notice of appeal to the IBIA must be signed by you or your attorney and postmarked within 30 days of the date of this decision. It should clearly identify the decision being appealed. You must send copies of your notice of appeal to the following offices: (1) the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mailstop 4140-MIB, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20240; (2) each interested party known to you; and (3) this office. Your notice of appeal sent to the IBIA must certify that you have sent copies to all necessary parties. If you file a notice of appeal, the IBIA will notify you of further appeal procedures. If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior at the expiration of the appeal period. No extension of time may be granted for filing the notice of appeal.

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Shane Hendrickson, Superintendent  
Flathead Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Date