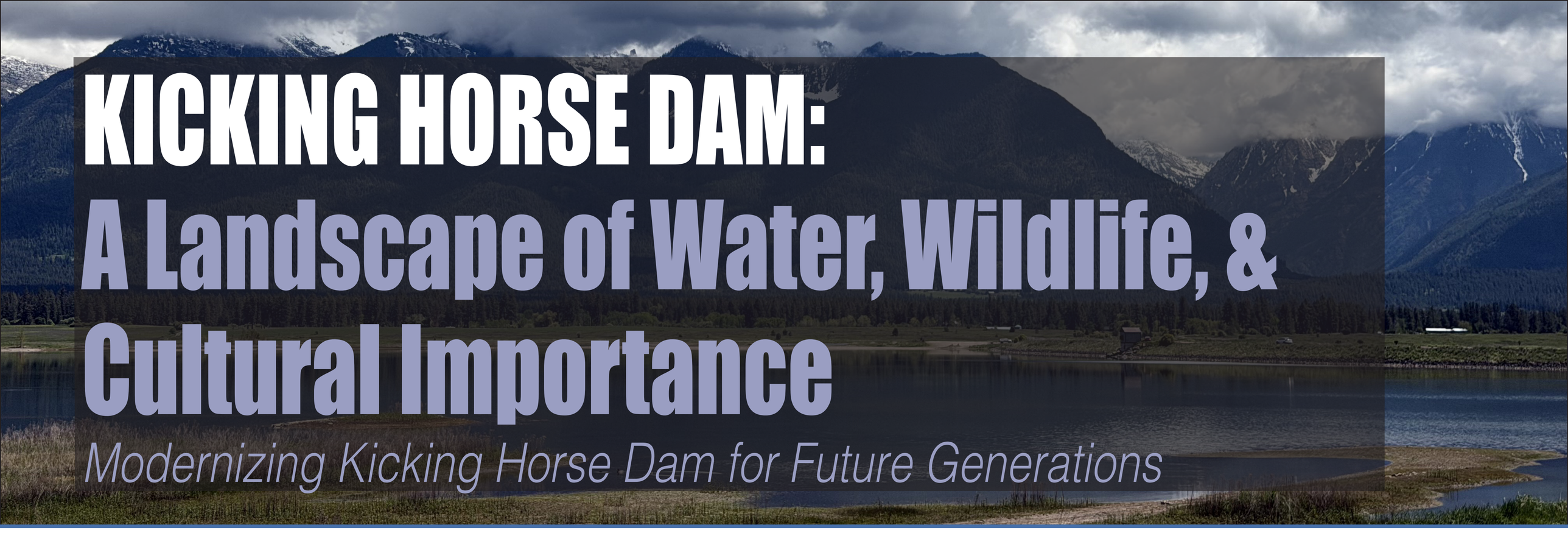


KICKING HORSE DAM:
A Landscape of Water, Wildlife, & Cultural Importance

Modernizing Kicking Horse Dam for Future Generations

Cultural Significance & Stewardship

Beyond its role in water management, Kicking Horse Reservoir is located within a landscape of cultural importance to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Throughout project planning and design, DEWR worked closely with the CSKT Preservation Department, the Ksanka Culture Committee, and the Séliš-Qʼlispé Culture Committee to help identify potential impacts and ensure cultural values were considered during project development.

Project review included site visits, interdisciplinary coordination, and consultation throughout the design process, reflecting a commitment to stewardship of the landscape and its resources for future generations.

The wetlands and grasslands surrounding the reservoir are also managed as habitat lands that help offset impacts associated with the operation of Séliš Ksanka Qʼlispé Dam, supporting long-term conservation efforts in the Mission Valley.

Native Prairie & Wetlands

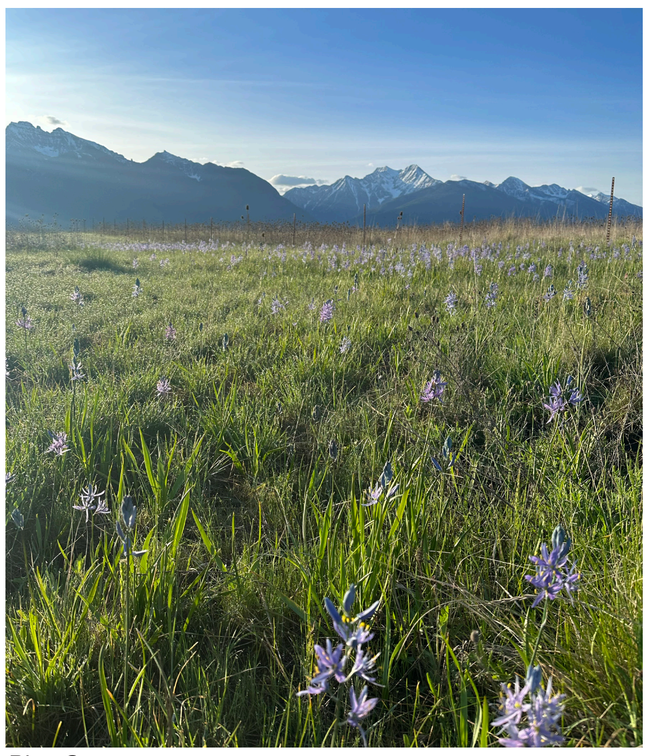
A Unique Landscape

The reservoir is surrounded by pingo wetlands and native prairie habitat that support a wide variety of plants and wildlife.

Highlights

- Contains some of the last remaining untilled native prairie soils in Mission Valley.
- Supports native plant communities that developed over thousands of years.
- Home to numerous pingo wetlands and prairie pothole habitats.
- Provides important habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Native prairie soils and wetland systems are difficult to replace once disturbed and contribute to the ecological diversity of the Mission Valley.



Blue Camas

Lupine

Wildlife, Fisheries & Recreation

Wildlife Habitat

The wetlands and grasslands surrounding the reservoir provide habitat for numerous species of birds and wildlife

Species Found in the Area

- Bald Eagles
- Trumpeter swans
- Great blue herons
- Common loons
- Black Terns
- Waterfowl and wetland birds

Oregon Checker-Mallow

Fisheries & Recreation

- Popular destination for anglers
- Supports recreational fishing opportunities
- Used by hunters, wildlife viewers, and other recreationists
- Fisheries management helps protect aquatic resources

Stewardship During Construction

Project planning includes measures to reduce impacts to nesting birds, wildlife habitat, and fisheries resources during construction.

CSKT Natural Resources Department

Division of Engineering & Water Resources (DEWR)