

Circle Speaker

OCTOBER–DECEMBER, 2024

Aaniih & Nakoda Environmental Newsletter

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2024 Department of Interior Environmental Achievement Award

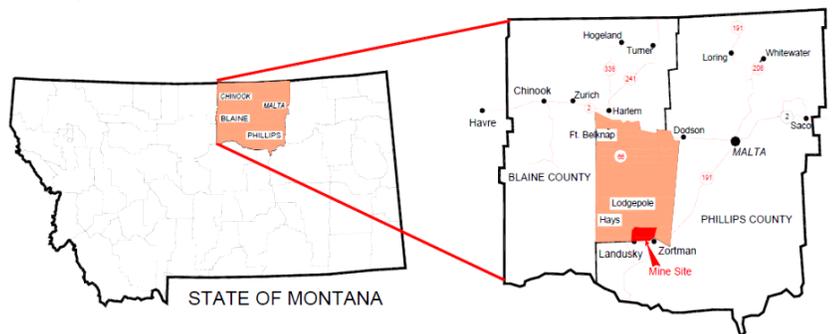
On October 28, 2024, the Bureau of Land Management Zortman and Landusky CERCLA Site Technical Working Group were notified of their selection as a recipient of a 2024 Department of Interior Environmental Achievement Award in the Environmental Justice category for their work forming interagency relationships to implement water treatment and reclamation options for the Zortman and Landusky mines CERCLA site. The Environmental Achievement Awards recognize employees and partners for excellence in environmental management and performance.

Environmental Justice BLM, Zortman and Landusky Mines Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site Technical Working Group, Partnership, MT

Submitted by Golala Arya, PhD | U.S. Department of the Interior

The Zortman and Landusky Technical Working Group (TWG) has worked since 2005 to review and develop water treatment and reclamation options for the Zortman and Landusky Mines CERCLA site. The TWG is comprised of representatives of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community (Tribes), and BLM. Releases of hazardous substances from the

Zortman and Landusky Mines CERCLA site present an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare or the environment. Without treatment, contaminated water would flow from the site to Environmental Justice communities.



Nic?-Mni (Water) Center Monitoring Well Installation Project

By James Swierc, Nic?-Mni (Water) Center, ANC



The Nic?-Mni (Water) Center completed the monitoring well installation project in the Pow Wow Grounds in early November this year. The snowstorm slowed down the program, but the drilling contractor was able to finish the work this year. Wells were installed at two locations. The purpose of these wells is to monitor for groundwater impacted by mining, as we see in South Bighorn Creek as it flows from Swift Gulch on to the Reservation.

Both locations have well “clusters” with wells installed to different depths. For these locations, there is a deep well installed into the bedrock aquifer, the same one that the USGS well in the central part of the pow wow ground is installed to. The shallow wells are installed at the top of bedrock to assess the connection with stream water. Data from well clusters shows how water quality can vary in different aquifers (geologic units transmitting water) at different depths at a location. Vertical flow gradients can also be determined based on the difference in pressure head between the wells, or to determine if the deeper waters are under artesian pressure. This determination is important because we know that the mining-impacted water from Swift Gulch infiltrates into the subsurface by the reservation boundary – as evidenced by the dry streambed during much of the summer. While some of those waters appear to re-surface near King Spring, they again infiltrate the ground by the pow wow grounds, with the dry streambed as evidence.

The questions the research is trying to address are where is this water going, how fast is it moving, and how much of this water is there? The new wells will help determine if the contaminated water is moving

northward towards the reservation. Water quality and water level data from the wells, combined with streamflow and stream water quality data (when there is water) will provide data to help determine what is happening.

We are hoping to sample the wells yet this December, but with the weather, we may have to wait until springtime. In the meantime, we'll be installing data-logging sensors to monitor the water levels, and how they change with precipitation and snowmelt events, providing data to characterize the hydrologic system. For the next two years, we will sample the wells several times to see how things change from late winter, to spring, mid-summer, and then early fall. After this assessment a long-term water quality and water level monitoring program will be established with yearly sampling events.

The results of this research effort will be presented at the Water Forum by the Nic?-Mni Center staff this spring. We will also continue to provide updates on the research activities to the Environmental Protection Department and in every Circle Speaker. If anyone has any questions about the research being conducted by the water center and the results, please feel free to email me at jswierc@ancollege.edu. Also, don't forget to contact us if you would like to get your well tested. We will send staff to sample the well and return the results in approximately one month after the samples are collected. Our samples are analyzed for total dissolved solids, hardness, major cations and anions (what's mostly dissolved in water), trace metals, nitrates, and total nitrogen. If you suspect there are bacteria problems, let us know, and we will collect a sample to test for coliforms.



Winners of the Fort Belknap Environmental Protection Department **Aluminum and Metal Can Drive**

Congratulations

1st Place—Lillian Alvernaz
2nd Place—Sheri Windy Boy & Raelle Snell

The Fort Belknap Environmental Protection Department's Brownfields Program will be hosting a community meeting in Lodge Pole, MT on December 17th, from 11am to 12noon at the Enemy Killer Recreation Center on the cleanup plans for the "Old Lodge Pole School". For more information, call (406) 353-8411.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

By Shelby Main, Nonpoint Source Coordinator



My name is Shelby Main, a proud descendant of the Upper Quarter Clan and a member of the Aaniiih community in Fort Belknap. I am the granddaughter of Gerald B. Main Sr. (Christine Cliff) and Leon Cochran (Dorothy Ellis) and the daughter of Gerald Jr. "Shorty" Main and Tanya Cochran. As the mother of four awesome children—Kianna, Jay Willie II, Frankie Sundance, and Otis Rodeo—I

am honored to have recently been appointed Nonpoint Source Coordinator at the Environmental Protection Department. This role is one I have diligently prepared for through years of self-education and research.

I am excited to join the environmental department and build relationships that will help protect our treaty rights and access to quality and clean water. With a strong personal passion for nature and cultural preservation, I am grateful to FBICC and FBEPD for this opportunity to contribute to environmental protection and support the future of The Aaniiih/Nakoda Nations.

In my role within the project, I concentrate on safeguarding water quality, promoting low-impact development, and minimizing toxic waste, including urban and agricultural runoff. I plan to enhance community outreach and education while contributing to more efficient water management practices. The Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Programs oversee four watersheds within the Fort Belknap Reservation: Middle Milk, Peoples, Beaver, and Fort Peck Reservoir. My objective is to raise awareness within our tribal community and foster partnerships with tribal, state, and federal water resource agencies.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about Nonpoint Source issues, or if you would like more information regarding the program, please contact me directly at (406) 353-8416 or via email at shelbymain.nps@gmail.com.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL "RFP"- The Fort Belknap Indian Community "FBIC" is soliciting proposals for a consultant/contractor for assessment, abatement & removal of 10-contaminated homes & debris piles located on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Fort Belknap Agency, Hays, and Lodge Pole, MT. The project is funded by the Brownfields 128(a) Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act grant awarded to the FBIC. The complete RFP package provides the specifications/requirements for prospective applicants to complete a proposal. The lead Project Manager must meet EPA's requirements of a Qualified Environmental Professional as defined in 40 CFR § 312.10. The remedial action & disposal of materials must be conducted in accordance with US Environmental Protection Agency & federal regulations, FBIC solid & hazardous waste regulations, and Montana laws/regulations. The **deadline** for proposals is **5:00 PM January 8, 2025**. To obtain the complete RFP, please contact Adrian Kulbeck at 406-353-8411, adrian.kulbeck@ftbelknap.org or Ina Nez Perce at 406-353-8429, inperce@ftbelknap.org. FBIC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.



Tracking Ferrets Thermal Camera Technology

By Kristy Bly, Black-footed Ferret Program Restoration Manager
https://wwfgifts-files.worldwildlife.org/wwfgifts/assets/WWF_Catalog_2024.pdf

As a nocturnal species living mostly in underground burrows, black-footed ferrets are challenging to monitor in the wild. Until recently, scientists primarily used high-intensity spotlights to locate their green eye-shine. While somewhat effective, spotlighting is a time-consuming and logistically difficult way to estimate population numbers.

To increase the effectiveness of these surveys, WWF and the **Fort Belknap Reservation's Fish and Wildlife Department** have begun using forward-looking infrared (FLIR) cameras to locate ferrets by their body heat, which is proving more effective.

Infrared cameras locate ferrets missed by spotlighting surveys. The tower-mounted cameras detect ferrets at nearly twice the distance as a spotlight. And the drone-mounted infrared camera is effective at spotting ferrets as they move across a prairie dog colony in remote areas difficult to access by vehicle. These technologies are making it easier to assess population status to provide better guidance for conservation management for one of the most endangered mammals in North America.

Climate Change Program Highlights

By Dennis Longknife, Jr., Climate Change Coordinator | November 5, 2024



Hello Climate Change Warriors!

Its Fall and that means hunting season! As a hunter and longtime fisherman ever since I was a young boy, I still remember my outings with my father and grandfather, fishing and hunting along the Milk River Valley and the prairies around Snake Butte, one of our sacred sites on the reservation.

With climate change I have some interesting observations I would like to share. I remember the small log cabin were my grandparents George and Mary Longknife lived, and my grandmother Mary, would make Sagehen Soup, which was delicious! Back then Sagehens were plentiful and our families all would harvest them in the wintertime, when it was harder to get around on the snow-covered hills and hunt deer. We also had plenty of gamebirds such as Sharp-tail Grouse, Quail and Prairie Chickens. As you can see we ate a lot of soup during the winter as well as deer meat. Even when I was in high school, we still had the pleasure of hunting these game birds, but that is when things started changing in the 1980's. No longer were the annual migrations of Sagehens, maybe a few dozen at most in the winter time, and in the spring the Leks and Strutting grounds for the Sagehens, and Sharp-tail Grouse, no longer held large number of birds.

Extreme weather events also played a role in reducing numbers of wild game and birds, from heavy wet

snow, that caused antelope to starve from lack of available ground cover to graze, as well as deer. You wouldn't think of it, but the deep snow also impacted the Pheasant numbers and other animals that made tunnels in the snow to protect themselves from the weather, as the snow and warm winds came, they would cause the deep snow tunnels to cave in and suffocate any animal that was underneath the snow at that time. I did not know this until an elder mentioned that to me and it made perfect sense. I also noticed that our annual springtime fishing trips along the Milk River were great, but suddenly I began noticing how extreme weather events also impacted fishing. The spring months of April and May used to be when we fished for Walleye, Northern Pike, and Burbot. As our weather patterns intensified, we had only a few weeks at a time to spring fish because on-coming floods from rapid snowmelt would keep us from accessing the river, or the river would be too high to catch anything. Some of our family's relied heavily on harvesting Walleye, so we had to get ducks, geese and rabbits, during those times. I remember when walleye fishing was good, we always shared our bounty with our families and other relatives as well. Fish Frys were very common and was a time when houses were full of families. Even in the winter time, I used to ice fish for walleye on the Milk River when I was out of high school in the 1980's. We had good hard ice on the river back then, and we could fish for 2-3 months, from November to February, then came the change in weather patterns that seemed to bring warmer weather, that would melt our ice and make it too dangerous to be on, we now have only a few weeks to ice fish when the ice is safe to do so.



FORT BELKNAP AIR STRIP RUNWAY HOMES



Before



After

FORT BELKNAP AGENCY, MONTANA

Site Background

In 2013, the US Department of Defense donated 30 homes to the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) from Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana. Due to the potential presence of asbestos and lead-based paint, the homes were stored on the Fort Belknap Airstrip until they could be remediated and utilized as residences. In 2020, US EPA Brownfields funding provided a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment and confirmed the presence of asbestos, lead-based paint, and PCB-containing light ballasts in many of the homes. From 2020 to 2023, 27 of the 30 homes were burned through acts of vandalism, and piles of regulated asbestos waste occupied the runway.

Cleanup Actions

In 2024, the FBIC Environmental Department used EPA Brownfields 128(a) BIL funding to hire contractors for the abatement, demolition, and removal of both the burned homes and the three remaining standing structures. EPA and DEQ-accredited personnel carried out the work in compliance with federal, state, and tribal regulations. Water was applied as an engineering control to suppress dust during the demolition and cleanup process. Over 315 tons of regulated asbestos waste were transported to the Hill County Landfill near Havre, MT. All structures and debris have been successfully cleared from the Fort Belknap Airstrip.

Redevelopment Plans

The Fort Belknap Airstrip and "Runway Homes" site has been fully cleaned, with no further environmental remediation needed. The property is now safe and ready for redevelopment. The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) plans to repair the airstrip's surface to restore its use as a functional runway. Once operational, the airstrip will provide critical access to emergency medical flights, as well as facilitate the rapid delivery of emergency personnel, supplies, and relief efforts during natural disasters and other crises. The restored runway will help ensure long-term connectivity, safety, and self-sufficiency for the FBIC community.

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Reclamation announces \$9.2 million for Tribal water projects and emergency drought relief supported by the Investing in America agenda

Reclamation's Native American Affairs Program is providing funding for technical assistance and drought mitigation for Tribes

Media Contact: Reclamation Office of Communications, communications@usbr.gov | Released: Oct 1, 2024
<https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/news-release/4978>

WASHINGTON – The Bureau of Reclamation today announced a \$9.2 million investment supported by President Biden's Investing in America agenda to support Tribal efforts to develop, manage and protect water and related resources, and mitigate drought impacts and the loss of Tribal trust resources. The 25 projects selected through the Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program, with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and annual appropriations will benefit 18 federally recognized Tribes across 11 western states.

“Reclamation is committed to working with Tribal nations to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change across all western basins,” said **Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton**. “The projects we're funding today will improve water use efficiency and increase Tribal water supplies by upgrading infrastructure and programs and modernizing existing facilities. Reclamation is providing the resources necessary to ensure these sovereign nations have the modern water infrastructure crucial to the health and economic vitality of their communities.”

Projects will assess and repair a water treatment plant and drinking water system, replace failing irrigation system equipment and lower pump elevations for river access, establish an on-site training and testing center for Tribal water system operators, and map a reservation water utility system to aid future improvement, expansion, and enhancements.

Examples of the projects selected for federal funding include:

- **Hopi Tribe** (Arizona) – \$397,476 to establish an on-site training and testing center to provide specialized training, operator exams, and attainment of Tribal Utility Management certifications. This will alleviate the need for water system operators



Reclamation is investing \$9.2 million to support Tribal efforts to develop, manage and protect water and related resources, and mitigate drought impacts and the loss of Tribal trust resources.

to travel for training.

- **Chickasaw Nation** (Oklahoma) - \$400,000 to develop a project to protect and manage diminishing groundwater supplies, accomplish community water assessments, and devise a regional water management plan to safeguard critical community water supplies. The project is in partnership with the Southern Oklahoma Water Corporation, Arbuckle Master Conservancy District and the city of Ardmore, Oklahoma.
- **Ute Mountain Ute** (Colorado) – \$278,434 to design the 1,000 acre-foot Red Arrow Regulating Reservoir to help stabilize irrigation water supply. The reservoir design will allow for banking water during wet years and capturing the operational spill at the end of the 39.9-mile Towaoc- Highline Canal.
- **Fort Mojave Indian Tribe** (California) – \$400,000 to replace irrigation intake pumps and related equipment on the Tribe's land along the Colorado River. The declining river level is impacting the Tribe's ability to irrigate agricultural fields which

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Reclamation announces \$9.2 million for Tribal water projects and emergency drought relief supported by the Investing in America agenda

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members depend on for income. Declining water level due to extended drought conditions necessitates the revamping of pumping stations. Replacing the 1980s-era pumps and lowering their elevation will improve the supply of irrigation water.

- **Ute Indian Tribe** (Utah) – \$400,000 to complete an assessment and repairs to its water system treatment plant to benefit the Tribes’ drinking water system.
- **Fort Belknap Indian Community** (Montana) – **Three Mile Reservoir Pump Station Rehabilitation Reclamation Funding: \$398,389.** The Fort Belknap Indian Irrigation Project consists of 10,435 acres of irrigated farmland. The Project receives water from Reclamation's Milk River Project. During times of low flow in the Milk River, the crest of the diversion dam on the Milk River near the agency is not high enough to take the entire water right of the Fort Belknap Indian Community by gravity flow. Therefore, the Tribe stores water when possible in the Three Mile Reservoir. However, the pumping facilities and equipment needed

to deliver water to the Reservoir were designed and built in the late 1940's and are no longer functional. This severely limits the ability of the Tribe to deliver its full share of irrigation water. Under this project, the Tribe proposes to rehabilitate and modernize the Three Mile pump station to enable restore its ability to pump water to the Reservoir.

View a full list of projects on Bureau of Reclamation's website: <https://www.usbr.gov/native/docs/FY24TribalWaterProjectsList.pdf>

Section 80004 of the Inflation Reduction Act appropriates \$12.5 million for Reclamation to provide near-term drought relief to Tribes that are impacted by the operation of a bureau water project.

Reclamation's Native American Affairs Program provides funding opportunities and technical assistance through cooperative working relationships and partnerships with Tribes. To learn more about these and other funding opportunities, visit www.usbr.gov/native.

Northern Arapaho Tribe secures nearly \$9.2 million from federal government to improve wastewater infrastructure

Story by Press Release | May 15, 2024

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/northern-arapaho-tribe-secures-nearly-9-2-million-from-federal-government-to-improve-wastewater-infrastructure/ar-BB1msjh1?ocid=socialshare&cvid=f4cf970c0cac417882fa5752e6bd11fc&ei=58>

Ethete, Wyo. (Press Release) – The Northern Arapaho Business Council announced it has been awarded a nearly \$9.2 million federal grant to fund improvements to Beaver Creek Lagoon, the wastewater system that serves the Beaver Creek housing development and Wind River Hotel & Casino.

The grant is via the federal Indian Health Service and made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was signed by President Biden in November 2021. The legislation includes funding to improve wastewater systems, sanitation and access to drinking water for Native communities, such as the Wind River Reservation.

“Water is a precious resource, yet reliable access to clean water and sanitation remains challenging for too many people living in Indian Country,” the Northern Arapaho Business Council said in a statement. “We thank our federal partners with IHS for this assistance, which will fund necessary wastewater improvements for the Beaver Creek housing development and Wind River Hotel & Casino, making a positive difference in the lives of the Arapaho people.”

Last month, the NABC welcomed IHS Director Roselyn Tso as she toured Wind River Family & Community Health Care.



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Northern Arapaho Tribe secures nearly \$9.2 million from federal government to improve wastewater infrastructure

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In September 2023, Director Jola WallowingBull of the Northern Arapaho Tribal Engineering Department testified before an influential U.S. Senate panel

about Northern Arapaho water and wastewater systems that are “underfunded, outdated and at capacity.”

USDA and Fort Belknap Indian Community Partner to Support Working Lands Conservation

Contact: FPAC Press Desk, FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov | July 16, 2024

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-events/news/07-16-2024/usda-fort-belknap-indian-community-partner-support-working-lands>

The Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help conserve, maintain and improve grassland productivity, reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Fort Belknap Indian Community is entering into a CREP agreement with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) to enroll eligible grassland, pastureland, and other agricultural lands within the boundaries of the reservation, as well as on other eligible land owned by Tribe members.

“This partnership with the Fort Belknap Indian Community represents a significant milestone for both USDA and our efforts to strengthen working land conservation, while also underscoring the vital contribution Native communities make to our country’s agriculture and conservation efforts,” said Maureen Wicks, FSA State Executive Director for Montana. “It’s a clear reflection of our dedication to broaden the scope and reach of our voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs and engage Tribal communities. It’s critical that programs like Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program are not just available but also accessible to all agricultural communities.”

This CREP agreement authorizes the Fort Belknap Indian Community to enroll up to 625,000 acres. Under CREP, high-priority conservation goals are identified by the partner, and then federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to achieve those goals. FSA will open enrollment in the coming weeks.

CREP is part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Fort Belknap Indian Community CREP agreement is modeled after grassland CRP, a working

lands program, which protects grassland while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and eligible land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. CRP participants maintain permanent, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or forbs (known as “covers”) to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community CREP is the fourth such partnership between USDA and a Native American Tribal Nation—the Cheyenne River, Oglala, and Rosebud Sioux tribes became the first three to do so in late 2022 and early 2023.

How to Participate

Through the Fort Belknap Indian Community CREP, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers voluntarily enter into contracts with the federal government for 10-to-15-years, agreeing to maintain an existing vegetative cover of permanent grasses and legumes, while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments, and cost-share assistance for, among other things, establishing permanent fencing and livestock watering facilities needed to support livestock grazing, along with other conservation measures.

Only Tribal lands, either owned by the Tribe or owned by a member of the Tribe, are eligible for this project. To learn more and determine eligibility, contact FSA at your local USDA Service Center.

Brownfields/Tribal Response Program

2024 Public Record

SITE NAME →	Old Agency Landfill	Old Agency Dump	Lodge Pole Community Hall	Peoples Creek Dipping Vat	Fort Belknap Agency Airstrip Homes “Runway Homes”
<i>Type of Site</i>	Abandoned Landfill	Abandoned Landfill	Abandoned Historic Building	Former Cattle Dipping Vat	Abandoned Homes
<i>What Type of Response Action was Taken?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 2002—Phase I ESA Final Report • Dec 2003—Phase II ESA Final Report • Sept 2006—Phase III Final Report (included further sampling activities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 2003—Phase I ESA Final Report • Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) • March 2004—Phase II ESA Final Report • April 2019—FBIC Brownfields received a State of Montana DNRC Planning grant to be utilized in conducting further assessment of contamination of the Old Agency Dump. • 2nd Phase II ESA Scheduled for Summer/Fall 2020 postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. • April/May 2021—2nd Phase II ESA conducted. • September 2021—2nd Phase II ESA completed. • November 2021—Phase II Report of Findings Completed. • November 2021 Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives for Old Agency dump was completed. • August 2022—Cleanup Grant secured. • June 2023- Fort Belknap Indian Community USEPA Brownfields Cleanup Project Work Plan Submitted & approved. • October 2023-Fort Belknap QAPP was signed & approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 2007—Final Report Phase I ESA (Lead and Asbestos survey included) • Dec 2007—Final Phase II ESA Report • April 2008—Phase III Report completed • Oct 2008—Cleanup Process implemented • Dec 2010—Cleanup activities & post sampling completed • April 2011—Final Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 2010—Final Report-Phase I ESA complete. • Mar 3, 2010—EPA Site Eligibility form complete and approved. • June 2011—QAPP/ Field Sampling Plan completed. • Aug 16, 2011—Phase II ESA field sampling event completed. • Jan 2012-TBA—Phase II ESA Final Report. • June 2015—Programmatic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) completed & approved. • Oct 12, 2015—Cleanup of arsenic contaminated soils and confirmation sampling. • Dec 29, 2015—Cleanup Verification Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2020 – Phase II ESA completed on Runway Homes. • May 2024 – Workplan on Runway Homes Approved. • May 2024 - Community Relations Plan for Runway Homes Approved. • June 2024 – Final ABCA for Runway Homes Approved. • June 2024 - Community Meeting held on Runway Homes cleanup. • July 2024 – SAP for Runway Homes Approved. • August 2024 – Cleanup completed on 31-Runway Homes. • October 2024- Cleanup Reporting on Runway Homes project was completed.

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2024 Brownfields Public Record

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SITE NAME →	Old Agency Landfill	Old Agency Dump	Lodge Pole Community Hall	Peoples Creek Dipping Vat	Fort Belknap Agency Airstrip Homes "Runway Homes"
What Type of Response Action was Taken?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2024 – Community Relations Plan developed; Approved March 2024. March 2024 - ABCA developed & Approved for Old Agency Dump site. April 2024 – Public Meeting for Old Agency Dump held at Fort Belknap Agency 04/23/24. October 2024 - Clearance SAP for Old Agency Dump Approved. 			
Date Action is Planned	No Action Planned at this time.	2025-2026	Renovation for community hall	Oct 2015—Cleanup of soils and confirmation sampling completed.	August 2024 – Cleanup of 31-Runway Homes
Name of Owner at Time of Clean-up	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community
Owner Address, City, State, Zip	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526
Latitude/Longitude	N48.48283° W108.77411°	N48.47454° W108.78374°	N48.20606° W108.319750°	<u>N48.155270°</u> W108.302386°	8°29'05"N 108° 46'47"W
Legal Description	T32N, R23E, SEC32	T31N, R23E, SEC6	T26N, R25E, SEC8	T29N, R25E, SEC 20	T31N R23E SEC32
Are Institutional Controls (IC) Needed at Site?	Yes	Yes	Yes-Lead Based Paint Dust exceed cleanup levels	Yes	Yes
Are ICs in Place?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Type of Institutional Control (IC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 2008-Signage posted Sept 2009-Tribal Resolution-notification requiring further sampling or soil removal before future use of site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 2008-Signage posted Sept 2009-Tribal Resolution-notification requiring further sampling or soil removal before future use of site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building locked and signage posted describing environmental concerns. Final Report provided to Transportation/ Planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 2015—Fencing completed and Signage placed at site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A notice was sent out to the public to not drive "Motorized Vehicles" on the site. Site is open for FBIC programs to use. Signage needs to be purchased/posted to deter motorized vehicles & illegal dumping on site.
Summarize Nature of Contamination at Site	DDD, DDE, DDT, - Specific areas of landfill. Sampling in 2006 confirmed site does not warrant cleanup.	DDE, DDT, DEHP, PCB'S	Lead Based Paint dust remains. Asbestos-abated, DPH, EPH (diesel derivatives)-cleaned up.	Arsenic in soils	Lead Based Paint, Asbestos, PCBs, Mercury Switches – Abated & Properly Disposed of in Certified Landfill.
Site Size in Acres	5 acres	10 acres	<5	<2 acres	<5 acres

(Continued on page 11)

2024 Brownfields Public Record

(Continued from page 10)

SITE NAME →	Snake Butte Rock Quarry	Old Lodge Pole Elementary School	Old Sacred Heart Church	Old Agency Water Treatment Plant
Type of Site	Rock Quarry Site	Abandoned School	Abandoned Historic Building	Abandoned Water Treatment Facility
What Type of Response Action was Taken?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2002—Phase I ESA conducted • Dec 2003—Phase II ESA Report (Brownfields Assessment Project) • June 28, 2016—START Contractor conducted Phase II ESA Sampling. • August 22, 2016—received Draft Phase II ESA – Snake Butte Quarry report for review/comment. • August 30, 2016—copy provided to Brownfields Environmental Technician & Environmental Compliance Officer. • No additional assessment is recommended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2019 TBA submitted to EPA Region 8 to conduct ESA. • December 10-14, 2019, Weston Solutions, Inc., EPA Contractors, conduct Phase II ESA. • March 2020—Phase II ESA Completed. • November 2021 Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) for Old LP elementary school was completed. • August 2022—Cleanup Grant secured. • June 2023- Fort Belknap Indian Community USEPA Brownfields Cleanup Project Work Plan Submitted & Approved. • October 2023 - Fort Belknap QAPP signed; Approved. • January 2024 - Community Relations Plan developed; Approved March 2024. • July 2024 – Final ABCA for Lodge Pole Elementary School completed & Approved. • November 2024 - Land Revitalization Technical Assistance (LRTA) Workshop in Lodge Pole, MT 11/19-20/24. • Clearance SAP – Waiting for new EPA Project Officer to be assigned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2019 TBA submitted to EPA Region 8 to conduct ESA. • December 10-14, 2019, Weston Solutions, Inc., EPA Contractors, conduct Phase II ESA. • March 2020—Phase II ESA Completed. • November 2021 Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) for Sacred Heart Church was completed. • August 2022—Cleanup Grant secured. • June 2023- Fort Belknap Indian Community USEPA Brownfields Cleanup Project Work Plan Submitted & Approved. • October 2023-Fort Belknap QAPP was signed & approved. • January 2024 - Community Relations Plan developed; Approved March 2024. • March 2024 - ABCA developed & approved for Sacred Heart Catholic Church. • April 2024 - Pre-cleanup Public Meeting held for Sacred Heart Catholic Church 04/23/24. • June 2024 – THPO site visit to Sacred Heart Church site. • Clearance SAP – waiting for new EPA Project Officer to be assigned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2019 TBA submitted to EPA Region 8 to conduct ESA. • December 10-14, 2019, Weston Solutions, Inc., EPA Contractors, conduct Phase II ESA. • March 2020—Phase II ESA Completed. • November 2021 Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) for Old Agency Water Treatment plant was completed. • August 2022—Cleanup Grant secured. • June 2023- Fort Belknap Indian Community USEPA Brownfields Cleanup Project Work plan was Submitted & Approved. • August 2023- Water Treatment site inspection was done. • October 2023-Fort Belknap QAPP signed & approved. • January 2024 - Community Relations Plan developed; Approved March 2024. • March 2024 - ABCA developed & approved for Water Treatment Plant. • April 2024 - Pre-cleanup Public Meeting held for Water Treatment Plant 04/23/24. • October 2024 - Clearance SAP for Water Treatment Plant Approved.
Date Action is Planned	Spring 2017—Signage & fencing at site.	2023-2025	2023-2025	2023-2025
Name of Owner at Time of Clean-up	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Fort Belknap Indian Community
Owner Address, City, State, Zip	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526	Fort Belknap Agency 656 Agency Main St. Harlem, MT 59526
Latitude/Longitude	N48.23445° W108.50179°	N 48.48428° W108.7722°	N48.4488° W108.65863°	N48.48428° W108.7722°

(Continued on page 12)

2024 Brownfields Public Record

(Continued from page 11)

SITE NAME →	Snake Butte Rock Quarry	Old Lodge Pole Elementary School	Old Sacred Heart Church	Old Agency Water Treatment Plant
Legal Description	T31N, R22E, SEC 35	T26N, R25E, Sec 5	T31N, R24E, Sec 18	T32N, R23E, Sec 32
Are Institutional Controls (IC) Needed at Site?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are ICs in Place?	No	Yes	Yes	No
Type of Institutional Control (IC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage- Spring #1 (Alternate DW) & Springs #2 & #3 (Toluene Presence). • Fencing-Spring #1 (Spring Box); Springs #2 & #3 (Perimeter); and 2-Tunnels (Remove Access). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building is locked up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building boarded up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building was not locked up/secured. • August 2023-Building was locked up & secured.
Summarize Nature of Contamination at Site	<p>Springs #2 & #3 indicate low levels of toluene, but due to no human contact, pathway is incomplete. Spring #1 indicates no exceedances above EPA Regional Screening Level (RSL). No contamination of surface soils or waste rock soil piles.</p>	<p>Lodge Pole Elementary School was built in 1957. <u>ACM</u> - Shop, Residence, North Addition, School Old Section Exterior, School Old Section Interior, School New Section. <u>LBP</u> - Shop Interior, Shop Exterior, School Residence Interior, School Residence Exterior, School Old Section. <u>Lead in Soils</u> – Around Shop and Residences. <u>PCB-Containing Ballasts</u> – School Old Section, School New Section. <u>Mercury Thermostat Switches</u> – Maintenance Garage and School Old Section. <u>Mold</u> – School Old Section. <u>Guano</u> – School Old Section. <u>Petroleum Hydrocarbons & Unknown Chemicals</u> – Several containers in Maintenance Garage.</p>	<p>Sacred Heart Catholic Church was built in 1931. <u>ACM</u> in Boiler Jacket in Basement. <u>LBP</u> on exterior door frame, door jam, window frame. <u>Guano</u></p>	<p>Agency Water Treatment Plant was built in 1973. <u>ACM</u> in Dry Wall Compound, in ceiling, walls throughout building, seam tape in north addition. <u>PCB-Containing Ballasts</u> <u>Guano</u> > 1 foot in interior throughout building. <u>Petroleum Hydrocarbons & Unknown Chemicals</u> 3-drum diallyl dimethylammonium chloride; 1-drum corrosive liquid coagulant; 1-drum unknown contents, labeled “mixup”; and 1-drum over-packed (inside and outside facility).</p>
Site Size in Acres	<800 acres	8.750 acres	10 acres	<5 acres



Biden-Harris Administration Issues Final Rule Requiring Replacement of Lead Pipes Within 10 Years, Announces Funding to Provide Clean Water to Schools and Homes

EPA announces new final regulations and \$2.6 Billion under the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda for clean drinking water

Contact Information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov) | October 8, 2024

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-issues-final-rule-requiring-replacement-lead-pipes-within>

WASHINGTON – Today, October 8, the Biden-Harris Administration issued a final rule requiring drinking water systems across the country to identify and replace lead pipes within 10 years. The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) also require more rigorous testing of drinking water and a lower threshold requiring communities to take action to protect people from lead exposure in water. In addition, the final rule improves communication within communities so that families are better informed about the risk of lead in drinking water, the location of lead pipes, and plans for replacing them. This final rule is part of the President's commitment to replace every lead pipe in the country within a decade, making sure that all communities can turn on the tap and drink clean water.

Alongside the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, EPA is announcing \$2.6 billion in newly available drinking water infrastructure funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will flow through the drinking water state revolving funds (DWSRFs) and is available to support lead pipe replacement and inventory projects. Additionally, 49% of the funding must be provided to disadvantaged communities as grant funding or principal forgiveness that does not have to be repaid. EPA is also announcing the availability of \$35 million in competitive grant funding for reducing lead in drinking water. Communities are invited to apply directly for grant funding through this program. Additional federal funding is available to support lead pipe replacement projects and EPA has developed a website identifying available funding sources.

EPA estimates that up to 9 million homes are served through legacy lead pipes across the country, many of which are in lower-income communities and communities of color, creating disproportionate lead exposure burden for these families. Eliminating lead exposure from the air people breathe, the water people drink, and the homes people live in is a crucial component of the Biden-Harris Administration's his-

toric commitment to advancing environmental justice.

The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements establish achievable, common-sense practices which have been implemented by several states and cities. The public health and economic benefits of the final rule are estimated to be up to 13 times greater than the costs, and together with new funding announced today under Biden-Harris Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, water systems will be able to accelerate removal of lead pipes and create good-paying local jobs in the process.

"We've known for decades that lead exposure has serious long-term impacts for children's health. And yet, millions of lead service lines are still delivering drinking water to homes," said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "President Biden is putting an end to this generational public health problem. With the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements and historic investments in lead pipe replacement, the Biden-Harris Administration is fulfilling its commitment that no community, regardless of race, geography, or wealth, should have to worry about lead-contaminated water in their homes."

"There is no higher priority than safety, and this announcement advances the safety of drinking water all across the country," said **Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson**. "We are making progress through partnerships. And I am so pleased President Joe Biden and the Environmental Protection Agency are working with local governments to speed the replacement of lead pipes that carry drinking water into homes."

"The EPA's new lead rule will begin to reverse the massive public health disaster of lead-contaminated tap water that has affected generations of our children. Every person has a right to safe and affordable drinking water, no matter their race, income, or zip code," said **Manish Bapna, president and CEO of**

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Biden-Harris Administration Issues Final Rule Requiring Replacement of Lead Pipes Within 10 Years, Announces Funding to Provide Clean Water to Schools and Homes

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NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council). “NRDC has had the privilege of working with residents of Flint, Newark, Chicago and beyond to help secure this meaningful rule and stop the flow of toxic lead from the tap into water glasses in homes across the nation.”

“A game changer for kids and communities, EPA’s finalized lead and copper rule improvements will ensure that we will never again see the preventable tragedy of a city, or a child, poisoned by their lead pipes,” said **Mona Hanna, Flint, Michigan pediatrician and Associate Dean for Public Health at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine**. “I commend the Biden-Harris administration for their steadfast efforts to finally update this ancient rule, and I am thrilled that this rule proactively centers our children and their potential. The children win!”

The science is clear: Lead is a potent neurotoxin and there is no safe level of lead exposure, particularly for children. In children, lead can severely harm mental and physical development, slow down learning, and irreversibly damage the brain. In adults, lead can cause increased blood pressure, heart disease, decreased kidney function, and cancer. If someone is impacted by lead exposure, there is no known antidote, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements strengthen nationwide requirements to protect children and adults from these significant and irreversible health effects from lead in drinking water.

Communities across the country have already begun to tackle lead pipes.

- Milwaukee Water Works is on track to replace all remaining lead pipes within the EPA’s ten-year timeframe. In 2024 alone, Milwaukee received approximately \$30 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to replace 3,400 lead service lines.
- The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department has received \$90 million from the Administration and will replace more than 8,000 lead service lines this year, putting the city on track to replace all lead pipes in 10 years.
- The Erie, Pennsylvania Water Works has received \$49 million from EPA to enable the city to replace all lead pipes within 5 years instead of 25 years.

- Denver Water has accelerated its efforts through \$76 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, allowing the city to be on track to replace all lead pipes within a decade.

The Lead and Copper Rule Improvements will help protect millions of Americans from exposure to lead in drinking water. EPA estimates that on average, every year after the LCRI is issued it will:

- protect up to 900,000 infants from having low birthweight.
- prevent Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in up to 2,600 children.
- reduce up to 1,500 cases of premature death from heart disease.
- prevent up to 200,000 IQ points lost in children.

Investments in identifying lead pipes, planning for their removal, and replacing them will create jobs in local communities while strengthening the foundation of safe drinking water that supports economic opportunity.

For more information about the final rule, including a pre-publication version of the federal register notice and fact sheets, visit the rule webpage.

Background

EPA is taking a comprehensive approach to getting the lead out, including:

- **Regulatory Framework:** EPA’s final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements follow the science and EPA’s authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act to strengthen regulatory requirements to address lead in drinking water.
- **Funding:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$50 billion to support upgrades to the nation’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. This includes \$15 billion over five years dedicated to lead service line replacement and \$11.7 billion of general Drinking Water State Revolving Funds that can also be used for lead service line replacement. There are a number of additional pathways for systems to receive financial support for lead service line replacement. These include bil-

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Biden-Harris Administration Issues Final Rule Requiring Replacement of Lead Pipes Within 10 Years, Announces Funding to Provide Clean Water to Schools and Homes

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lions available as low- to no-cost financing through annual funding provided through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program and low-cost financing from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. Funding may also be available from other federal agencies, state, and local governments. These efforts also advance the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, which sets the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overbur-

dened by pollution.

- Technical Assistance: EPA's water technical assistance (WaterTA), including the LSLR Accelerators and the Get the Lead Out Initiative, helps communities identify lead services lines, develop replacement plans, and apply for funding, including DWSRF funding, to get the lead out.
- Practical Implementation Tools: Through training, tools, webinars, and case studies, EPA provides support to drinking water systems to reduce lead exposure.



Secretary Haaland Delivers Remarks on Historic Progress in Indian Country During the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov | 12/09/2024

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-delivers-remarks-historic-progress-indian-country-during-2024-white>

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland today delivered opening remarks during the Biden-Harris administration's fourth White House Tribal Nations Summit at the Department of the Interior. Secretary Haaland highlighted the enduring progress that has been accomplished on behalf of and in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, from transformational investments in Indian Country made possible by President Biden's Investing in America agenda to historic progress to empower Tribal sovereignty, self-determination and prosperity.

The White House Tribal Nations Summit, re-initiated by President Biden in 2021, provides an opportunity for the Administration and Tribal leaders from the 574 federally recognized Tribes to discuss ways the federal government can invest in and strengthen nation-to-nation relationships as well as ensure that progress in Indian Country endures for years to come.

Speeches and panel discussions will be ongoing throughout today. A livestream of the day's events can be viewed at the Interior Department's YouTube page.

Remarks as prepared for delivery are below:

Greetings Tribal leaders, elders, community members, friends, and colleagues – and happy White House Tribal Nations Summit!

Thank you so much to the Native American Women Warriors Color Guard for the beautiful presentation of colors. Thank you to the Warpaint Drummers out of North Carolina for the songs and for guiding us through this day. And thank you for that opening prayer, David. I'm so honored to have each of you with us for today's event.

Early on in my tenure as secretary – when this building was unfamiliar and the road ahead packed full – I knew one thing for sure: that while my role as secretary was new, my intentions for Indian Country were not.

I knew that it was my job – our job – to achieve enduring progress for our people with the time we were given.

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Secretary Haaland Delivers Remarks on Historic Progress in Indian Country During the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit

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January marks the 50th anniversary of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act – a seminal law that gave Tribes the right to administer and oversee the implementation of their own federal programs.

50 years of asserting that Tribes have the right to make decisions about the well-being of our own people. It gave us the power to chart much of our own course and to decide how our people could best thrive after generations of relocation, termination, boarding schools, underfunding, and neglect.

That Act was written into our country's lawbooks only after the federal government was swayed to action by gamechangers whose indisputable and unflinching activism spoke, clear and loud and unified: We are still here.

Well, my friends and family – a half-century later, we are still here, charting our own course. And together, with the Biden-Harris administration, we have made extraordinary accomplishments for Indian Country – progress that would make our trailblazing ancestors proud.

Transitions are disruptive, regardless of how we might feel about one leader or another. That's true on Tribal councils, and it's true in Washington. We don't know what the future may hold, but what I want to focus on today is the enduring progress we have made – progress that, no matter what, cannot be taken away, as long as we continue to press our voice and our action forward.

We're going to talk a lot today about the damage caused by federal Indian boarding school policies, and – in spite of the trauma this brings up for so many of us in this room – I wouldn't have it any other way.

I launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative in my first few months in office. I didn't know then where it would lead us, but I knew that its purpose was long overdue.

Over the past three years, this Initiative has shed light on this horrific era of our nation's history, but it also led to our two-part investigative report, which found that the federal government took deliberate

and strategic actions through boarding school policies to isolate children from their families and steal from them the languages, cultures, and traditions that are foundational to Native people.

It created The Road to Healing, a 12-community journey for Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland, for our dedicated colleagues, and for me. Our visits to Indigenous communities gave survivors and descendants opportunities to share their boarding school experiences and the aftermath those schools left behind.

It also led to the creation of our oral history project. So many of you spoke bravely and forthright during The Road to Healing about the horrors you endured, or the trauma that was passed down over generations. Those stories must continue to be told.

That's why, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Mellon Foundation, we engaged the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to help create an oral collection of first-person narratives from boarding school survivors.

Today, I am so proud to announce new agreements between the Department, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and the U.S. Library of Congress that will preserve these survivor stories and experiences and share them through far-reaching resources, such as online, and both traveling and long-term exhibitions.

That is enduring progress.

And because of this work, and because of us, President Biden formally apologized for this brutality. He stood on Tribal land, he listened to our songs, and he honored us with his words.

As we heal from our past, we have worked to change the way the federal government engages with Indian Tribes. That includes enhanced involvement in land management decisions.

Over the past four years, our Administration has made co-stewardship of our lands and waters a top priority. While the concept is not new, the Biden-Harris administration is the first to make it a strategic

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Secretary Haaland Delivers Remarks on Historic Progress in Indian Country During the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit

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priority for the health of our ecosystems and the durability of Tribal sovereignty.

Today, our Department is publishing our third Tribal co-stewardship annual report, which outlines the details of 69 new agreements from this year alone.

You'll hear me talk more about this in our afternoon panel, but here's the number I want to underscore. Between the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce Departments, our Administration has entered into 400 co-stewardship agreements with Tribes that span across our entire country.

Since time immemorial, ancestral homelands have been central to the social, cultural, spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing of Indigenous peoples.

Through this unprecedented number of co-stewardship agreements, the Biden-Harris administration demonstrates our commitment to acknowledge and empower Tribes as partners in the management of our nation's lands and waters. These agreements have become foundational to our work.

Add to that, the Tribally-led conservation efforts that we followed through on and that President Biden supported, like Avi Kwa Ame and Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monuments.

That is enduring progress.

We've also made quick work of delivering historic funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to projects that support Tribes and their access to critical resources. One area that I am deeply proud of is our effort to fulfill settlements of Indian water rights claims, long-promised water resources to Tribes that depend on them for resilience and long-term planning.

For those of you who have engaged in these settlement negotiations, you know they are long overdue. But even after the arduous process of negotiation, many Tribes have waited several more years to find financial resolution.

Thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, our Department was tasked with implementing

an historic 2.5 billion dollars through the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund.

This work has never been more important, and today I am excited to announce a nearly 65-million-dollar investment that will help fund nine different settlements. This marks our final Indian water rights settlement allocation – meaning our team has exhausted every last dollar provided to us from the Law.

That is enduring progress.

Our expansive investments in Indian Country – to the tune of 45 billion dollars – will undeniably build a better future that our kids and grandkids will inherit.

But to build a better future for Indigenous peoples, we can't only rely on the federal government doing its job. We need to expand access to capital for Tribes to invest in their people, and on their terms.

We have talked in previous summits about access to capital. With tools like the Buy Indian Act, our Department has had an outsized impact on improving the funding that Tribes and Native business leaders receive. This past year alone, Interior awarded over 1.4 billion in contracts to Indian-owned and controlled businesses – up from just 317 million in Fiscal Year 2019.

Now, it's time to raise the bar even higher.

In partnership with Native Americans in Philanthropy and our colleagues at the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, today we applaud the launch of the Tribal Community Vision Partnership.

Over the next seven years, the Vision Partnership will raise and deploy 1.2 billion dollars in impact for Tribal communities – a historic effort that will support priorities like community development, new clean energy opportunities, and support for Native small businesses.

Now more than ever, these types of partnerships and allyship will be needed. By working together with partners in the philanthropic and private sector, I know

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Secretary Haaland Delivers Remarks on Historic Progress in Indian Country During the 2024 White House Tribal Nations Summit

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we can support the advancements that have been made over the last four years to support Tribes' self-determination and their right to govern and grow on their own terms.

That is enduring progress.

If you take nothing else from my remarks today, let me say again: the Biden-Harris administration has ushered in a level of enduring progress that no one can take away.

This is my last year to address this audience as Secretary of the Interior, and I want you to know that I leave here inspired. I leave empowered by all that we have accomplished together.

When I was a young kid – moving from city to city and coast to coast with my family for my dad's military career – our people were demanding something simple: a seat at the table; a voice in the decisions that affected us; our self-determination.

And because our people spoke up, stayed engaged, and remained unwilling to accept the status quo, we are here and finishing up a monumental Administration where Indian Tribes had a true seat at the table.

Everything that we accomplished was real and tangible. A transition was inevitable and even though some of the future seems uncertain at this point – one thing is certain: we're not going anywhere!

But it's on each of us to stay here, to stay engaged, to refuse to let anyone threaten the enduring progress we have worked so hard to accomplish. Like our ancestors who made previously unimaginable feats possible, we must never back down.

So – to my friends and family from far and wide here today and online – thank you for joining in what has been the most incredible journey of my life. Indian Country is better because of each of you.

Dawaa'e – Thank you all so much for welcoming me here today.

Joint Statement on NCAI's Resolution to Strengthen Tribal Engagement in BLM's Public Lands Management

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Joint-Statement-on-NCAI-s-Resolution-to-Strengthen-Tribal-Engagement-in-Blm-s-Public-Lands-Management.html?soid=1140041865539&aid=hpavArLo1pU>

December 13, 2024 — The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, formally adopted Resolution LV-24-005, titled *Enhancing Tribal Engagement and Co-Stewardship in Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Practices* at their 2024 Annual Convention and Tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada. This significant resolution underscores the collective voices of Tribal Nations advocating for the effective implementation of BLM's Final Public Lands Rule, ensuring that conservation practices align with the priorities and cultural values of Tribes across the country.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Final Public Lands Rule, announced in April 2024, clarifies

land stewardship by placing conservation on an equal footing with other uses such as resource development and recreation. This landmark rule integrates Indigenous Knowledge and emphasizes co-stewardship opportunities, paving the way for more inclusive management practices that recognize the unique expertise and historical connection of Tribal Nations to their ancestral lands.

Key Provisions of NCAI's Resolution:

- **Active Tribal Co-Management:** The resolution calls for enhanced tribal participation, urging the BLM to implement the rule with strengthened co-management commitments. Tribal Nations should

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Joint Statement on NCAI's Resolution to Strengthen Tribal Engagement in BLM's Public Lands Management

(Continued from page 18)

be regarded as active partners, ensuring that public lands management benefits future generations of Native people and safeguards vital cultural and ecological sites.

- **Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge:** NCAI stresses the need for BLM to develop clear guidelines for integrating Indigenous Knowledge into land management, maintaining respect for cultural heritage and proprietary information under the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:** The resolution emphasizes direct Tribal involvement in managing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) to support culturally informed management strategies that prioritize the protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources.

missions emphasizing the necessity of co-stewardship provisions that empower tribes and prioritize their role in public land governance.

Quotes from Tribal Leaders:

NCAI President Mark Macarro stated, “The adoption of NCAI’s Resolution represents a pivotal step in strengthening the role of Tribal Nations in public land management. With the Bureau of Land Management’s Final Public Lands Rule, we have a unique opportunity to ensure that conservation efforts reflect the wisdom and knowledge inherent in our communities. This resolution reaffirms our call for active tribal co-management and the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge to safeguard our cultural heritage and ecological resources. Our collective voices will shape a future where public land stewardship is inclusive, respectful, and sustainable.”

Chief Eugene Paul, Chairman of the Bering Sea Interior Tribal Commission, remarked, “We applaud the BLM’s Public Lands Rule that places conservation on equal footing with other land uses. For years, our Tribes have sought land protections that recognize the intrinsic connection between traditional and contemporary ways of life and our homelands. This rule and its co-stewardship provisions and acknowledgment of Indigenous Knowledge signals a long overdue shift toward honoring the ways of knowing and the longstanding stewardship of this land by Indigenous peoples. If the Rule’s provisions had been in place before, many critical areas would have the protections Tribes asked for. This is progress.”

Acoma Pueblo Governor Randall Vicente stated, “As Pueblo leaders, we stand in firm support of Resolution LV-24-005, a declaration that aligns with our enduring commitment to steward our ancestral lands with care and reverence. The BLM’s rule marks an important recognition of Indigenous Knowledge and the necessity of integrating tribal perspectives into land management practices. This resolution underscores the essential role of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and prioritizes culturally sensitive co-management of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. We call upon the BLM to fully embrace these commitments and foster true partnerships with Tribal Nations.”

NCAI Resolution #LV-24-005

Title: Enhancing Tribal Engagement and Co-Stewardship in Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as it Implements the Final Rule on Conservation and Landscape Health

Download Resolution: https://files.constantcontact.com/3495acf6901/3917e263-043d-4d76-bf6e-39c18426089f.pdf?rdr=true_gi=1*1oek2zg*_gcl_au*0TI2MDYxMj04LjE3Mz0xMD050DU.*_ga_*ZmMOMD03ZitMThkYS00NzNhLWFIZGltN2YwYzlwZGFmZWJi*_ga_14T5LGLSQ3*MTczNDEwODkwMy4yNi4xLjE3Mz0xMTEzNjEuMzkuMC4w

Collective Support from Tribal Nations The adoption of this resolution has drawn widespread support from tribal coalitions and individual Tribal Nations who share a commitment to preserving their cultural connections to the land and promoting environmental resilience. In a joint statement, influential groups, including the Bering Sea Interior Tribal Commission and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, highlighted the Final Public Lands Rule as a critical tool for addressing the impacts of climate change and promoting ecosystem health.

A Step Toward Equitable Land Management The resolution reflects NCAI’s longstanding dedication to advocating for policies that align with tribal sovereignty, cultural preservation, and sustainable resource management. It follows recent appeals from tribal com-

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

How to Protect Livestock Water Sources and Limit Livestock Exposure



The ABCs of HABs

Freshwater harmful algal blooms (HABs) are usually caused by rapid growth of blue-green algae (known as cyanobacteria) in water bodies such as lakes, ponds, and streams. These organisms can produce toxins (known as cyanotoxins) that are harmful to humans, livestock, working animals, and pets. Contacting or ingesting contaminated water (including water spray or mist) can result in irritation, illness, or even death.

Cyanobacteria are naturally found in water bodies, so they cannot be eradicated. Instead, it's important to understand how and why blooms occur. Cyanobacterial blooms and their potential toxicity often are a result of excess nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, in water bodies. Excess nutrients can come from adjacent agricultural lands, livestock waste, and leaky septic systems, among other sources. HABs typically form in summer, when warm, nutrient-rich, stagnant waters and more frequent sunlight increase the opportunity for their growth.

Treatment of current HABs involves chemical, biological, or mechanical treatment targeted directly at the contaminated waters. Prevention of future HABs involves changing the conditions that favor cyanobacteria, including nutrient management of the surrounding land and trapping or treating nutrient losses to waterbodies.



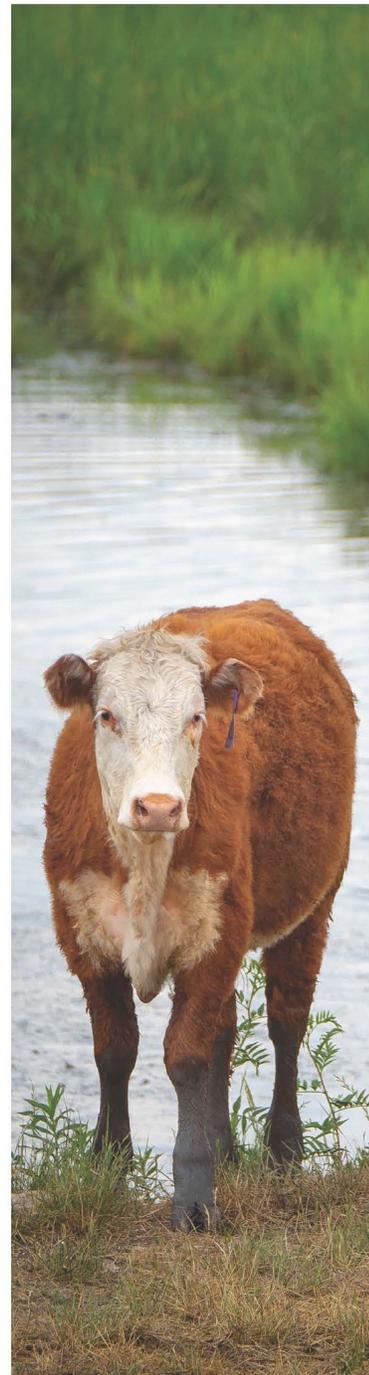
Risks HABs pose to livestock, working animals, and pets

Symptoms* of cyanotoxin exposure in animals include:

- ◆ vomiting
- ◆ excessive salivation
- ◆ fatigue
- ◆ staggered walking
- ◆ difficulty breathing
- ◆ weakness
- ◆ convulsions
- ◆ liver failure

In severe cases, HAB poisoning can lead to death. Therefore, any potential intoxication needs to be immediately addressed by qualified professionals.

** The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is not the authority on HAB symptoms in animals and humans. Please refer to the CDC website for further information, or your state or county health department.*



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HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABs)



Steps you can take if a potential exposure to cyanotoxins has occurred:

1. Eliminate animal access to the suspected contaminated water source.
2. Wash animals with clean water and monitor for symptoms of exposure to cyanotoxins. Isolate any animals exhibiting symptoms and seek veterinary care as soon as possible.
3. An alternative source of livestock drinking water might be needed.
4. Contact the appropriate state agency for sampling and testing guidance to test the water source for HABs and cyanotoxins. It is not safe for landowners to sample the water themselves without proper personal protective equipment and procedures.
5. If a HAB occurs, there is potential for recurrence. Therefore, the waterbody should be monitored.
6. Adopt conservation practices that reduce the risk of livestock exposure to HABs and prevent and reduce nutrient loading to waters to minimize the risk of future HABs occurrences.



Reduce livestock exposure to HABs

If HABs or cyanotoxins have been detected in a water body, preventing exposure by restricting access is key to ensuring the health and well-being of people, livestock, working animals and pets on the farm.

NRCS has several conservation practices that may be useful to exclude livestock from contaminated waters or provide alternative water sources. Some examples are:

- ◆ Fencing (382)
- ◆ Pond (378)
- ◆ Access Control (472)
- ◆ Water Well (642)
- ◆ Watering Facility (614)



For more information or assistance:

To learn more about how NRCS can help address HAB concerns or other natural resource concerns, visit the NRCS website or contact your local NRCS office.

Find your local USDA Service Center:

farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers

National NRCS HABs contacts:

Lisa Duriancik
Watershed Assessments Leader
lisa.duriancik@usda.gov

Gene W. Kim, PhD
National Water Quality Specialist
gene.w.kim@usda.gov

Additional Resources

Environmental Protection Agency:

epa.gov/nutrientpollution/harmful-algal-blooms

Centers for Disease Control:

cdc.gov/habs

Food and Drug Administration:

fda.gov/food/natural-toxins-food/blue-green-algae-products-and-microcystins

Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council:

hcb-1.itrcweb.org



U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
News Release



Interior Department Strengthens Conservation of American Bison Through New Agreement with Canada and Mexico

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov | Date: Friday, November 1, 2024

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-strengthens-conservation-american-bison-through-new-agreement>

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources recently signed a new agreement to strengthen cooperation and coordination for the conservation of the American bison across its range in North America. Through a Letter of Intent, the countries will work to pursue bison conservation, restore ecological processes, and support traditional human use of natural resources with a particular focus on the unique historical connection between bison and Indigenous peoples.

This Letter of Intent was worked on at the recent Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management held in San Diego, California and outlines additional collaboration across national borders towards the United States, Mexico and Canada’s shared goal of domestic bison conservation. The Trilateral Committee began in 1996 as a pioneering initiative among the three countries to align efforts safeguarding North America’s wildlife and ecosystems. The committee’s Species of Concern Working Table brings together state, federal and Tribal resource managers and non-governmental organizations to share their expertise and coordinate conservation of species that span the continent.

“While the overall recovery of bison over the last 130 years is a conservation success story, significant work remains to ensure that bison will remain a viable species,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “Our col-

laborative efforts with Canada and Mexico are an important step forward as we work to restore this majestic species and facilitate the return of bison to Tribally owned and ancestral lands.”

The recently signed Letter of Intent outlines the various ways that the three North American nations will work together, including by:

- Improving collaboration on regional activities to promote policies, practices and effective methods in support of the ecocultural conservation of bison;
- Promoting joint work plans within the Trilateral Committee’s Species of Common Conservation Concern working table;
- Fostering transparency about the technical information that is developed jointly; and
- Streamlining reporting on activities conducted under the Letter of Intent with the Executive Table of the Trilateral Committee for its review.

These international efforts will continue to build on the Interior Department’s domestic bison restoration efforts, including the Grasslands Keystone Initiative. In 2023, Secretary Haaland issued a Secretary’s Order and announced a \$25 million investment to empower the Department’s bureaus and partners to use the best available science and Indigenous Knowledge to help restore bison across the country. The Order formally established a Bison Working Group (BWG)

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Interior Department Strengthens Conservation of American Bison Through New Agreement with Canada and Mexico

(Continued from page 22)

composed of representation from the five bureaus with bison equities: the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Geological Survey. The BWG is developing a Bison Shared Stewardship Plan, which will establish a comprehensive framework for American bison restoration, including strengthening long-term bison conservation partnerships. Central to the development of that plan will be robust engagement with Tribes, including prioritizing Tribally led opportunities to establish new large herds owned or managed by Tribes and Tribally led organizations.

The American bison once thrived across the largest original distribution of any native large herbivore in North America, ranging from desert grasslands in northern regions of Mexico to interior Alaska. After North America's European settlement, bison popula-

tions were reduced from an estimated 60 to 80 million to a mere 1,000 animals. These surviving bison were saved from extinction and became the founders of several protected populations that put the species on a path of recovery and conservation.

Today, bison remain absent from nearly 99 percent of their historic range. Most of the bison in North America are in herds that are constrained by fences, isolated from each other, and have fewer than 1,000 individuals, raising concerns about their genetic integrity, wildness and long-term viability of the species.

Approximately 31,000 bison are currently being stewarded by the United States, Canada and Mexico with the goal of conserving the species and their role in the function of native grassland systems, as well as their place in Indigenous culture.



The following is excerpted from the National Tribal Water Program Updates—
News & Announcements | December 2024

U.S. EPA Office of Water

EPA Releases a Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Guide

U.S. EPA Office of Water tribalwater@epa.gov | 12/4/2024

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with coordinating support from the Federal Water Sub Cabinet Tribal Team, released a Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Guide for Tribal environmental program managers and staff. This guide aims to provide resources to Tribal environmental programs about federal assistance opportunities that can support Tribally led efforts to protect and restore waters, protect air quality, protect wildlife and habitat, prepare for climate change and natural hazards, steward lands, and support and engage Tribal communities. This comprehensive resource guide includes:

- An introduction to federal assistance for new Tribal staff,
- Quick reference tables highlighting Tribal-specific funding and technical assistance programs,
- 10+ Tribal case studies highlighting how Tribal

programs have completed conservation projects with federal assistance.

- Examples of federal planning frameworks and tools.

The EPA also published a federal funding program inventory as a supplement to the guide, available as a downloadable Excel Workbook that contains basic information about 150+ federal funding programs that can support Tribal conservation work.

The EPA is hosting a webinar, with presentations from federal and Tribal programs featured throughout the guide, on December 17, 2024 at 2:30 pm ET.

Register here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fd9246f5-1580-4a06-a2d1-1167d53f7727@a40fe4ba-abc7-48fe-8792-b43889936400>



Interior and Reclamation are investing nearly \$82 million to bring clean, safe drinking water to Tribal communities in the West.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$82 Million To Bring Clean Drinking Water to Tribal Communities

Media Contact: Interior Press, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov | Reclamation Office of Communications, communications@usbr.gov |
For Release: Oct 31, 2024
<https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/news-release/5001>

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today announced a nearly \$82 million investment from President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to bring clean, safe drinking water to Tribal communities in the West. The investment will fund 23 projects through a new program established through the Inflation Reduction Act—the largest climate investment ever.

Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Gary Gold made the announcement during a visit to San Carlos Apache Tribe in eastern Arizona, which is receiving \$7.3 million to plan, design and obtain approvals and permits for a new raw water delivery and domestic drinking water treatment facilities for the San Carolos Regional Water System. The system serves the central portion of the reservation. Much of the population of the tribe resides in this area without access to safe and reliable drinking water. The area is prone to frequent water curtailments or shutdowns due to poor water quality and system mechanical failures, which often occur in the hot summer months.

President Biden's Investing in America agenda is de-

playing record investments to provide affordable high-speed internet, safer roads and bridges, modern wastewater and sanitation systems, clean drinking water, reliable and affordable electricity, and good paying jobs in every Tribal community.

“Investing in water infrastructure projects is crucial to ensuring the health, safety and economic prosperity of Indigenous communities,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “This new program, funded by the President’s Investing in America agenda, will help us ensure all Tribal families and communities have access to the clean, safe drinking water they need in order to thrive.”

“Through new resources provided through President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda, we are able to support our Tribal partners who have demonstrated a need and plan for providing or improving their domestic water systems,” said **Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo**. “This new program will help our Tribal partners ensure a basic necessity like clean, reliable drinking water is available in their communities.”

The Inflation Reduction Act includes \$550 million for

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$82 Million To Bring Clean Drinking Water to Tribal Communities

(Continued from page 24)

domestic water supply projects in historically disadvantaged communities. In April, Reclamation made \$320 million available through Fiscal Year 2031 to provide up to 100% of the cost for planning, design and construction of domestic water supply projects to support disadvantaged communities or households lacking access to reliable domestic water supplies. Reclamation did significant outreach to Tribes in the 17 western states to engage them throughout this funding opportunity.

Twenty-one projects through today's announcement were selected to receive funding for planning and de-

sign and two were selected to receive funding for construction.

View a complete list of projects on Reclamation's website. <https://www.usbr.gov/native/programs/DomesticWaterprogram.html>

This funding is also advancing President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy, and other federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Domestic Water Projects

Colorado

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Cortez to Towaoc Water Transmission Line Project Reclamation Funding: \$7,538,802 The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will conduct planning and design on a project to focus on providing a shovel-ready design for the final 18 miles of a larger, 22-mile project that encompasses the entire Cortez to Towaoc Water Transmission Line.

Wyoming

Northern Arapaho Tribe, Ethete Surface Water Intake and Water Treatment Facilities Improvements Reclamation Funding: \$5,313,053 The Northern Arapaho Tribe will plan, design, and acquire permits and easements for a new Water Treatment Plant to replace the existing that serves approximately 410 homes and a population of approximately 1,700 within the City of Ethete and surrounding area, including schools, stores, college, and mission, and other public buildings on the Wind River Indian Reservation in central Wyoming. The existing Water Treatment Plant has significant deficiencies that are making it increasingly unreliable and more difficult to efficiently operate. The project will evaluate water treatment facility alternatives, including alternate processes and site locations, as well as alternative locations/routes for a new surface water intake.

Arapaho Tribe, Ethete and Arapahoe Distribution System Improvements Reclamation Funding: \$3,854,357 The Northern Arapaho Tribe will plan, design, and acquire permits and easements as required for water distribution system improvements that include valve repairs, valve installation where additional isolation is needed for maintenance, replacement or upgrade to existing watermains that are leaking, undersized, or constructed of asbestos cement pipe, and watermain extensions and looping to provide redundancy to existing served areas.

For a complete list of Project Descriptions, go to:

<https://www.usbr.gov/native/docs/FY24TribalDomesticWaterProjectList.pdf>

USDA Announces Strategy to Uphold its Federal Trust Responsibilities to Increase Support for Conservation on Tribal Lands

Publish Date November 26, 2024

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/our-agency/news/usda-announces-strategy-to-uphold-its-federal-trust-responsibilities-to-increase>



NRCS has released a new Tribal Relations Strategy, demonstrating the agency's commitment to honoring its federal trust relationship with the 574 federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Villages that have sovereign interest in more than 119 million acres of land across the United States.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has released a new Tribal Relations Strategy, demonstrating the agency's commitment to honoring its federal trust relationship with the 574 federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Villages that have sovereign interest in more than 119 million acres of land across the United States.

"I'm proud to release this Tribal Relations Strategy, which contains six action items that will increase NRCS's service and commitment to tribes, as they have requested," said NRCS Chief Terry Cosby. "NRCS is furthering its commitment to work closely with Tribal nations to steward lands and waters. This natural alliance ensures the ongoing health of the nation's renewable resources. We appreciate Tribal Nations' consultation, collaboration, and cooperation to enhance and strengthen NRCS's Nation-to-Nation relationships."

The strategy was based on feedback from Tribal Na-

tions, including recommendations made to Chief Cosby at the 2021, 2022, and 2023 National Tribal Consultations, and in-depth collaboration that took place at seven Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council meetings. Its six action items include:

1. Hiring a Tribal Relations Director to establish an NRCS Office of Tribal Relations within the Office of the Chief.
2. Filling positions dedicated to tribal conservation.
3. Providing housing assistance on tribal lands (in partnership with the Department of the Interior).
4. Implementing a tribal knowledge training plan.
5. Creating an advanced tribal development program.
6. Recording correctly tribal conservation data.

This strategy builds on many years of listening, working and consulting with tribes to address their natural resources concerns. NRCS is committed to carrying out its federal trust responsibilities by ensuring that

(Continued on page 27)

USDA Announces Strategy to Uphold its Federal Trust Responsibilities to Increase Support for Conservation on Tribal Lands

(Continued from page 26)

the agency has tribal operations built into its organizational structure.

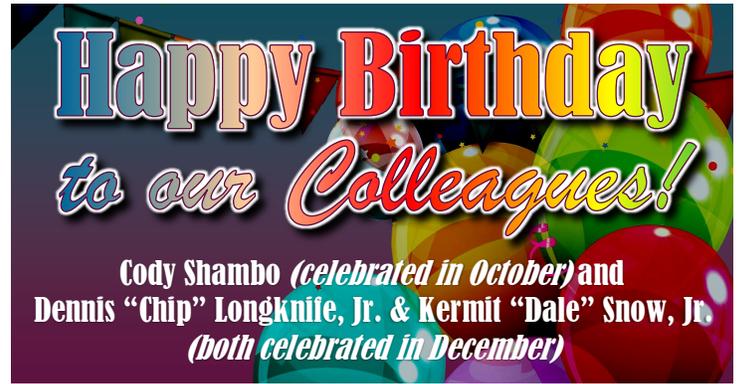
NRCS plans to announce a new national Tribal Relations Director in the coming months. Tribal organizations can reach out to their State Conservationist for more information and submit a request for assistance.

More Information

In addition to NRCS, USDA's Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency are also supporting Tribal Nations. Learn more on the Partnerships with Tribal Nations webpage on farmers.gov.

For more than 90 years, NRCS has helped farmers, ranchers and forestland owners make investments in their operations and local communities to improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat. NRCS uses the latest science and technology to help keep working lands working, boost agricultural economies, and increase the competitiveness of American agriculture. NRCS provides one-on-one, personalized advice and financial assistance and works with producers to help them reach their goals through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs. Now, with additional funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, NRCS is working to get even more conservation practices on the ground while ensuring access to programs for all producers. For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



Circle Speaker

Aaniih & Nakoda
Environmental Newsletter

VOLUME 29; ISSUE 2 (January-March)
Deadline for Articles is
Friday, March 7th, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Articles can be emailed to: onettebc@ftbelknep.org

To allow time for editing and layout of the newsletter, articles must be submitted on time in order to be considered for publication. Articles received after this deadline will be considered for the following issue. All articles submitted are subject to review and approval.

SNAP BENEFIT MEDICAID ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE

A Montana OPI employee will CALL the Child Support/ Hays 477 Employment & Training office directly to assist with the SNAP/MEDICAID application process, SNAP/MEDICAID interview or recertify

December 3 & 17, 2024

Call and reserve a slot for the SNAP representative to call and assist you.

Child Support Office
406.353.4230
8:30-12 pm

Hays 477 E&T office
406.673.3535
1-4 pm

Any questions please call
Child Support Office 406.353.4230

Fort Belknap Indian Community
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT**
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VACANT

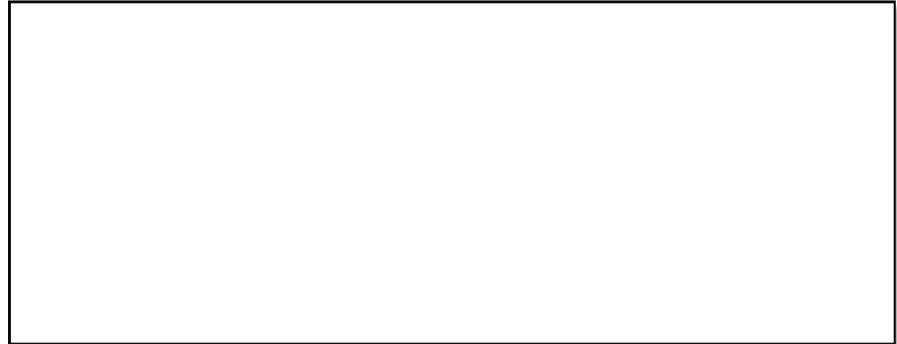
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Find our newsletters on <https://ftbelknap.org/forms%2Fdocuments> (EPA)



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ftbelknap.environmental/>

The following is excerpted from the Full Circle Newsletter | September/October 2024 Vol. 16 Issue 4



FULL CIRCLE



Newsletter for Tribes

Waste Management & Tribal Response

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

2024 TLEF Recordings Are Available!

https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/About/itep_Newsletters#fc

Todd is still kicking himself that it took a global pandemic for him to realize how helpful it is for our colleagues to have recordings of all the sessions at the TLEF. We're amazed every time we run analytics and see how many thousands of you all view recordings going back to the 2020 TLEF. But we're really gratified that these resources are so helpful! If you missed anything at the 2024 and want to check it out (or jog your memory banks and rewatch a session you already saw) please visit our 2024 TLEF Recordings channel! <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/channel/2024%2BTribal%2BLands%2Band%2BEnvironment%2BForum/349437462>

And if there is a specific environmental media you are interested in, you can jump directly to them by following these links:

- Brownfields: <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/tag?tagid=tlef%202024%20brownfields>
- Emergency Response: <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/tag?tagid=tlef%202024%20emergency%20management>
- Solid Waste: <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/tag?tagid=tlef%202024%20solid%20waste>
- Superfund: <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/tag?tagid=tlef%202024%20superfund>
- UST: <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/tag?tagid=tlef%202024%20ust>