

## Fort Belknap Website – Project Webpage



### Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek Watershed Project Sponsored by the Fort Belknap Indian Community

In cooperation with the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be preparing a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (EA) for Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek and associated watersheds in Blaine and Phillips Counties.

#### **How will the project benefit the community?**

The watershed Plan-EA will consider opportunities to conserve and improve habitat for fish and wildlife, public recreation, and agricultural water management in conjunction with Lake Seventeen, its dam, and diversion channel; Little Suction Creek; Duck Creek and/or Peoples Creek. It will include exploration of how to best use Tribal water rights and what opportunities exist to meet needs associated with those rights.

#### **Current Project Status**

The project is currently in the scoping phase, which involves identifying natural resource concerns in the watershed and exploring potential alternatives to address these concerns. The project team also aims to share information and get feedback/comments from the community to better understand the project area and potential opportunities for the watershed.

#### **How can I learn more and provide comments?**

To facilitate the community's participation, NRCS will hold two public scoping meetings to provide more information about the project and to collect written public comments. A brief presentation will be provided at the start of each meeting, followed by an open house meeting format. The meetings will have identical information and are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Agency Bingo Hall  
400 Agency Main St.  
Harlem, MT 59526

Thursday, September 19, 2024 – 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Kills At Night Center (Green Building)  
2192 Hays Rd.  
Hays, MT 59527

A meal will be provided at both events.

If you are unable to attend one of the public meetings, written comments may also be submitted in the following ways:

**Mail:**

USDA NRCS Montana  
Attn: Alyssa Fellow  
10 E Babcock St, Rm 443  
Bozeman, MT 59715-4704

**Email:** [lake17@pinyon-env.com](mailto:lake17@pinyon-env.com)

Comments must be postmarked **by October 4, 2024**.

Additional information, including project documents, can also be found on the Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek Watershed Plan-EA project webpage on the NRCS website:

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/montana/watershed-and-flood-prevention](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/montana/watershed-and-flood-prevention)

**2018-2020 Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek Plan-EA Project**

A previous watershed Plan-EA for Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek was started in 2018 under a federal contract, which was terminated in 2020 before the Preliminary Draft Plan-EA could be completed. Comments submitted as part of the 2018 project can be resubmitted.

The NRCS thanks the many community members, regional stakeholders, and cooperating agencies for their participation in this previous effort and continued interest in the project.

Through new funding and the continued support of the project's sponsor, the Fort Belknap Indian Community, NRCS is committed to completing the Lake Seventeen and Little Suction Creek Plan-EA project under a new NRCS program with greater flexibility in scope.

**How is the current project being funded?**

The watershed Plan-EA will be prepared under the NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and funded through the P-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.