

Fort Belknap Indian Community



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Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboiné and the Gros Ventre Tribes
of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

July 29, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, OFFICE OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY, AWARDS \$1,499,999.95 TO FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTANA FOR SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING (SWIFR) GRANT

The Fort Belknap Indian Community has been awarded \$1,499,999.95 through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The funding will support the Fort Belknap Sustainable Aggregates & Organics Diversion Program, an initiative that will strengthen recycling infrastructure while protecting the Tribe's natural resources.

The project will establish on-reservation capacity to recycle concrete and untreated wood waste collected from illegal dumping sites, ditches, and road rights-of-way. Recycled materials will be used to improve Tribal roads, support erosion control, reduce landfill waste, and create long-term environmental and economic benefits for the Fort Belknap Indian Community. All project activities will take place at the existing Prairie Mountain Utilities (PMU) stock yard with no new ground disturbance. By turning waste into reusable materials, the program will reduce landfill stress, improve environmental conditions, support Tribal infrastructure projects, and expand circular economy opportunities across the reservation.

Statement by President, Randall Werk, Sr., Fort Belknap Indian Community Council:

“The Fort Belknap Indian Community is excited to be awarded the SWIFR grant. This will allow us to crush and recycle discarded concrete waste and untreated wood waste. All aspects of infrastructure improvement will result in recycling waste and provide economic development opportunities. The results will be a cleaner and safer environment for the people of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and the environment. On behalf of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, we acknowledge Ina Nez Perce, CAO for assigning guidance to the Planning Department to work with Prairie Mountain Utilities and Grant Writer, Louise Doney for securing this award. Thank you to Kasey Ramone, PMU Director and staff, all vital for building a successful program and ensuring future funding success.”

The project will be administered by Kasey Ramone Johnson, PMU Director. For more information, please feel free to contact the Fort Belknap Planning Department at 406-353-8380 and/or Fort Belknap PMU at 406-353-8313.