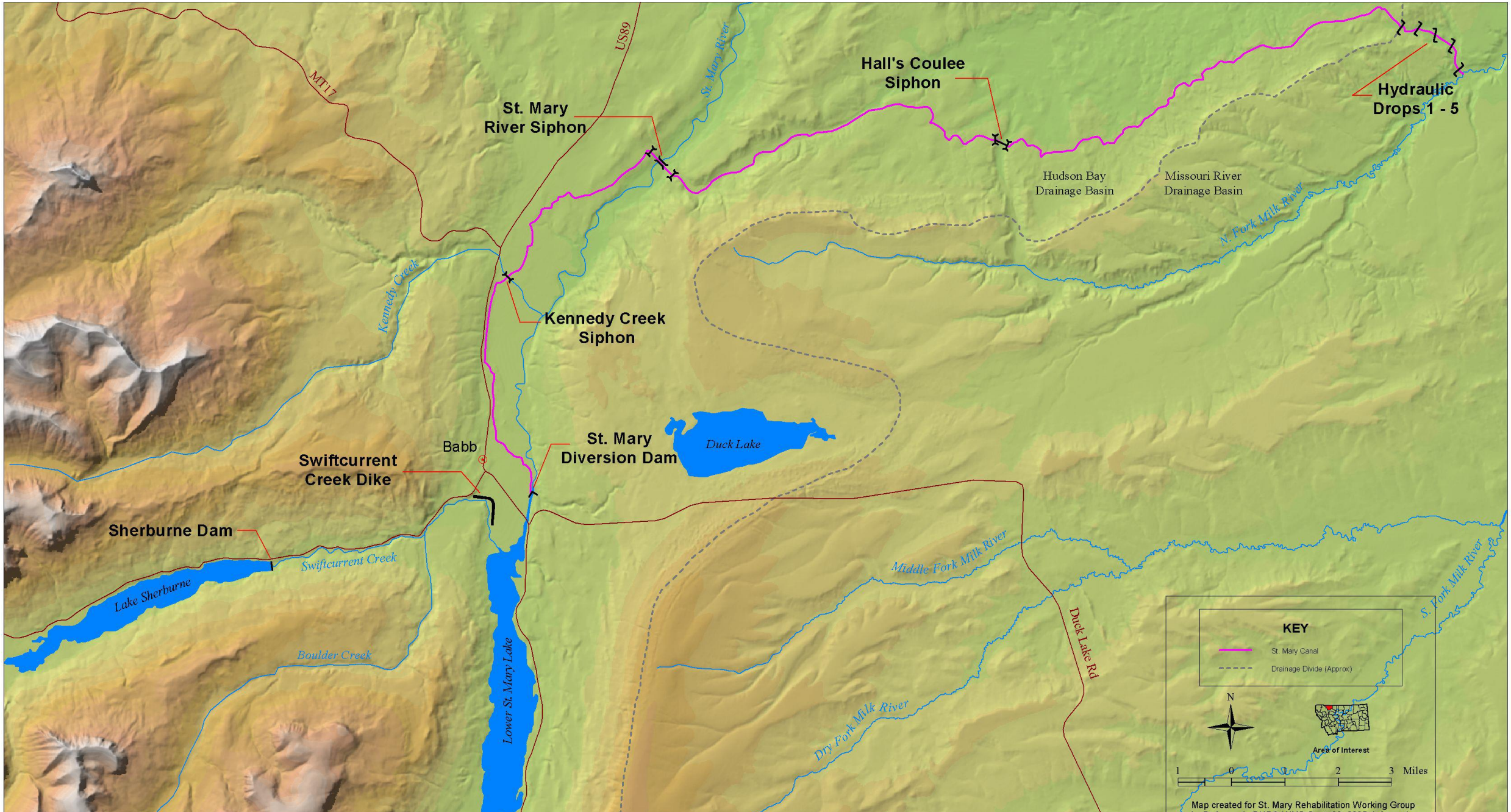
St. Mary – Milk River Project

SMRWG

St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group


© Nations Online Project
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
CANADA
SASKATCHEWAN
ND
IDAHO
WYOMING
Eureka
Libby
Whitefish
Kalispell
Browning
Cut Bank
Shelby
Chester
Havre
Morgan
Scobey
Plentywood
Malta
Glasgow
Culbertson
Fort Peck
Wolf Point
Sidney
Conrad
Choteau
Fort Benton
Great Falls
Jordan
Circle
Glendive
Wibaux
Lewistown
Grass Range
Terry
Missoula
Drummond
Helena
White Sulphur Springs
Harlowton
Roundup
Miles City
Baker
Deer Lodge
Townsend
Forsyth
Hamilton
Anaconda
Butte
Three Forks
Big Timber
Colstrip
Ekalaka
Bozeman
Livingston
Billings
Laurel
Hardin
Crow Agency
Broadus
Dillon
Virginia City
Red Lodge
Granite Pk
3,904 m
West Yellowstone
Thompson Falls
Polson
Flathead Lake
Hungry Horse Reservoir
Canyon Ferry Lake
Fort Peck Lake
Kootenai R
Cabinet Mts
Clark
LEWIS RANGE
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
BITTERROOT RANGE
Bitterroot R
Big Hole River
Pioneer Mts
Big Belt Mts
Little Belt Mts
Crazy Mts
Big Snowy Mts
Bearpaw Mts
Milk River
Marias River
Teton R
Sun R
Missouri River
Musselshell
Yellowstone R
Powder River
Tongue River
Bighorn
Bighorn Mts
ABSAROKA RANGE
MONTANA
POPULATED PLACES
25,000 – 99,999 • Billings
24,999 and less • Livingston
State capital ★ Helena
TRANSPORTATION
Interstate; limited access highway 15
Other principal highway
Railroad
PHYSICAL FEATURES
Streams: perennial; intermittent
Lakes
Highest elevation in the state +3,904 m
Lowest elevation in Montana is 550 m at Kootenai River
N
0 25 50 75 100 125 150 km
0 20 40 60 80 100 mi
Albers equal area projection

St. Mary Diversion Facilities



Milk River Project Facts

In 1903, the Secretary of Interior Approved Construction of the Milk River Project

THIS PROJECT IS
ONE OF THE FIRST FIVE RECLAMATION PROJECTS TO BE AUTHORIZED
AS A SINGLE PURPOSE IRRIGATION PROJECT

Milk River Project Facts

Cost allocation is 74% beneficiary and 26% Federal Government. This is on all O&M and Construction

We need cost allocation change so that beneficiaries are not bankrupt replacing 106-year-old structures.

Milk River Project Facts

Operation and maintenance costs are still borne primarily by irrigators on approximately 693 farms within the USBR's Milk River Project.

Milk River Joint Board of Control Assessments on 101,366 acres

MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER

The Milk River Project Facilities provides municipal water to approximately 14,000-18,000 people in

Havre, Chinook, Harlem & Fort Belknap

May 17, 2020 Drop Structure 5 Catastrophically Failed

Leaving the project without a water source

RECREATION
FISH & WILDLIFE

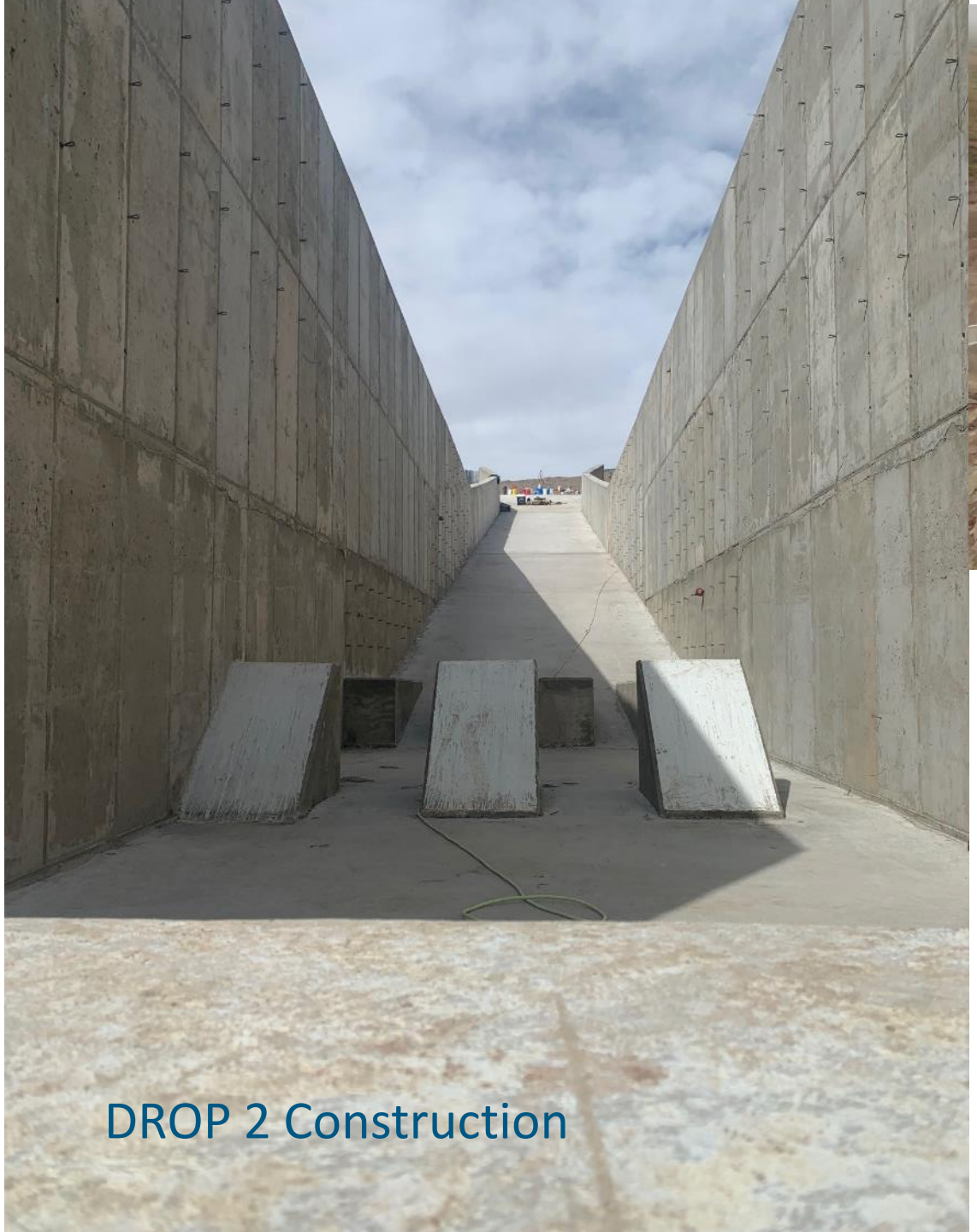
Beneficiaries also include fisheries, recreation, tourism, water quality, and wildlife.

THE RESULTS OF THE MILK RIVER FROM FAILURE

HOW DID WE MOVE FORWARD WITH REHABILITATION?

- **RECEIVED FULL COOPERATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS**
- **TRANSFERRED ALL O&M TO JOINT BOARD**
- **MODIFIED DESIGN FROM DROP 2**
- **HIRED A CONTRACTOR THROUGH EXIGENCY**
- **WORKED WITH THE BLACKFEET TRIBE AND US/CUSTOMS TO FACILITATE BORDER CROSSING**

May 27, 2020 - Drop 5



DROP 2 Construction

DROP 2 FINAL CONSTRUCTION

DROP 2 & 5 CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

- **18,859 hours worked onsite**
- **205 tons of steel**
- **4,200 tons of concrete**
- **202 trucks crossed the border**
- **44 US Agencies &**
- **10 Canadian Entities**
- **85% of the labor workforce was provided by our Tribal partners**
- **22 weeks from failure to running water**
- **1.5 hours to the jobsite**

DROP 2 & DROP 5 TOTAL COST $8 MILLION

Stakeholders		
Project Beneficiaries	$147,000	Joint Board Assessments Pumper and M&I Contracts DNRC Planning Grant Growth Through Agriculture Grants
State of Montana	$3.6 Million	House Bill 540 59th Legislature Authorized $10 Million State Share Bonding Authority
Bureau of Reclamation	$4 Million	Extraordinary Maintenance Repayment (EXM) Public Law 111-11
Total Project Cost	***$8 Million***	

DROP 1 CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

The Joint Board of Control decided to take advantage and complete regular O&M maintenance on Drop 1.

Total Cost $355,000.

Bureau of Reclamation (26%)

Project Beneficiaries (74%)

Drop 5 is not the only aging infrastructure on the project

Total Project Rehab ~ $200 million

St. Mary Siphon Leaks

St. Mary Diversion Dam

Concrete Conditions

How Do We Move Forward?

In 2020, the lawsuit against the project brought by the Alliance of the Wild Rockies for the unlawful entrainment and passage of Bull Trout was dismissed after a Biological Opinion and "Take Permit"was issued. USFWS has given the project 5 years to get into compliance.

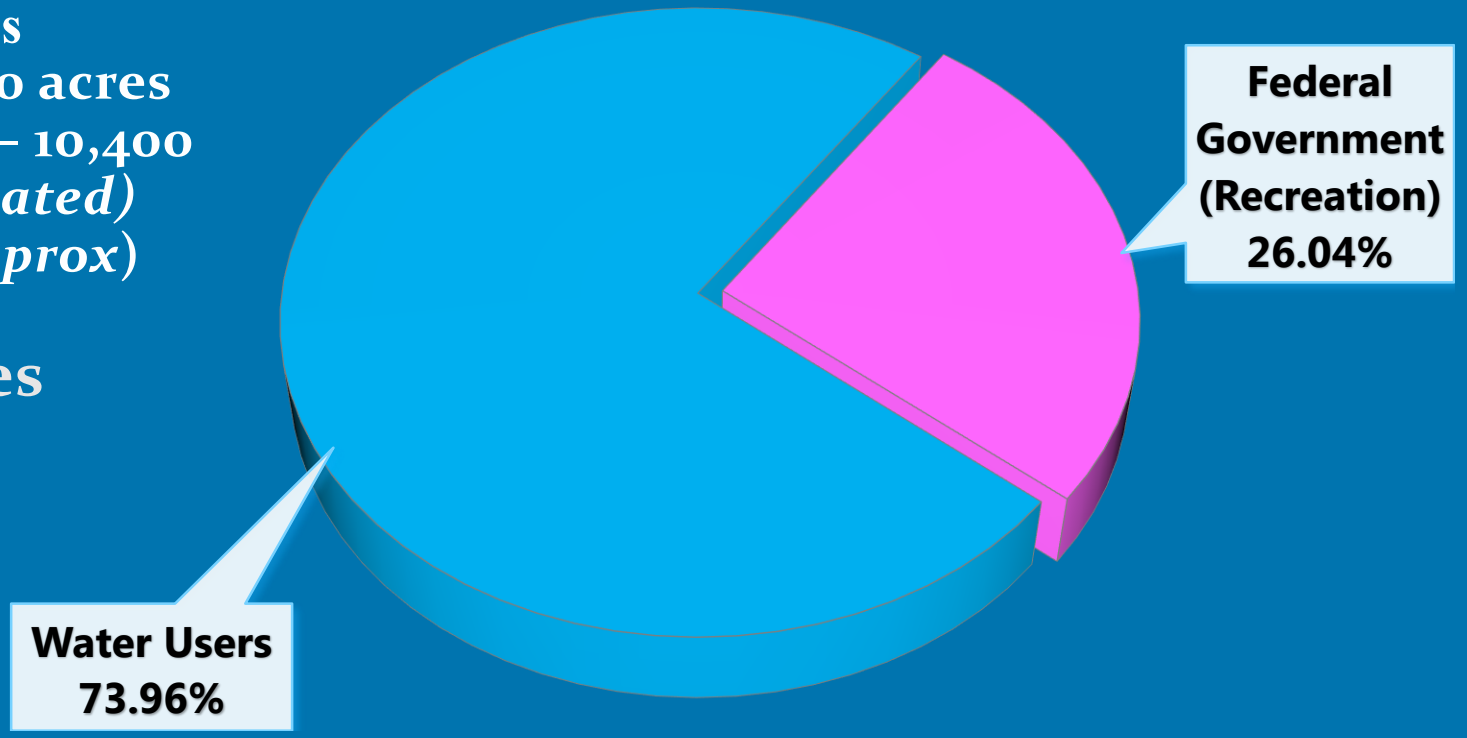
Costs of replacing the Diversion Dam and adding fish passage and screens are estimated at *$50-$60 million*.

Current Cost Allocation Breakdown

Diversion Dam

8 Irrigation Districts – 101,366 acres
Reclamation Contract Pumpers – 11,500 acres
Fort Belknap Indian Irrigation Project – 10,400
(5,000 to 6,000 currently irrigated)
Private and Tribal Rights – 25,000 (*approx*)

Total Irrigated – 148,266 acres



Current Cost Allocation Breakdown

Diversion Dam

We need cost allocation change so that beneficiaries are not bankrupt replacing 106-year-old structures.

Current Congressional Legislation Diversion Dam

Requires beneficiaries to conduct an "ability to pay" study to determine appropriate cost share. Cost $100,000 and take BOR 6 to 9 months to complete.

Deferred Maintenance $200 Million – St. Mary Project

Project Beneficiaries Share

Current Allocation (74%) = $147.9 Million

Proposed Allocation (25%) = $50 Million


THANK YOU!
Questions?