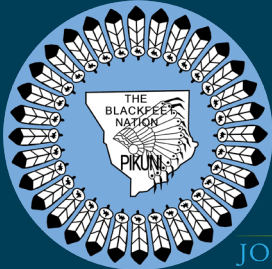


# St. Mary Siphon Briefing

April 2025 Update



## Project Team

### Project Stakeholders:

Bureau of Reclamation  
Milk River Joint Board of Control  
Blackfeet Tribe  
State of Montana

### Project Sponsors:

Ryan Newman (BOR)  
Wade Jones (Joint Board)

### Technical Team Lead:

Stan Schweissing (HDR)

### Primary Contractors:

Sletten Construction  
NW Construction

### Project Managers:

Steven Darlinton (BOR)  
Jennifer Patrick (Joint Board)

Website: [Milk River Project](#)

## Project Briefing

NW Construction and Pro Pipe have installed all pipe on both sides of the bridge up to the inlet and outlet. Backfill of the pipe is on-going along with the installation of all pipe accessories.

Concrete for the inlet and outlet have been placed and backfill is occurring around structure to begin placement of the canal transitions followed by liner installation.

Sletten Construction has finished construction of the bridge. The temporary bridge will remain in place until installation of the expansion joint is completed at the beginning of June

River restoration is nearly complete, however, rip-rap placement will not occur until after spring run-off.

## Operations

### 2025 Water Supply

- Irrigation water supply projections show approximately a 0.4 AF/Acre with a start date of May 20.
- The supply will depend on natural runoff from precipitation in the Milk River Basin. Runoff will be stored in Fresno and Nelson reservoirs prior to irrigation.
- Some storage in Fresno will be reserved for municipalities to ensure a minimum release of 40 cfs. The reserved storage target is 8,000 acre-feet but may vary depending on the certainty of St. Mary Siphon completion.
- Fort Belknap Indian Irrigation Project natural flow and storage rights will be released from Fresno until depleted.

## Schedule

- Completed Tasks
  - Project Start: June 17, 2024
  - Qualified EXM Determination: July 3, 2024
  - FONSI: July 31, 2024
  - Biological Opinion: August 2, 2024
  - Bridge and Pipe Removal: August 29, 2024
  - Start of Pipe Production: September 3, 2024
  - Pipe Delivery: October 16, 2024
  - Bridge Completion: April 12, 2025
- Upcoming Milestones
  - Backfill of Pipe: May 2025
  - Inlet/Outlet Construction: June 2025
  - Canal Start-up: July 1, 2025

## Costs

Estimated cost of \$70 million to replace both St. Mary (\$51.6M) and Halls Coulee (\$18.4M) Siphons.

- Reclamation:
  - Aging Infrastructure Account: \$36,351,000
  - Disaster Supplement: \$33,649,000
- River Restoration:
  - NRCS EWP Grant (MRJBOC): \$876,571
  - DNRC RDG Grant (MRJBOC): \$100,000

Task based project budget summary is available on request:

- Total Baseline Project Estimate = \$70,000,000
- Total Project Spent = \$41,960,000
- % Spent = 60%