



# **Crow MR&I Project**

## **Crow Irrigation Project**

**Presented by: Titus Takes Gun**  
**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**





**Blackfeet  
Reservation**

**Rocky Boy's  
Reservation**

**Fort Peck  
Reservation**

**Flathead  
Reservation**

**Fort Belknap  
Reservation**

**Crow  
Reservation**

**Northern  
Cheyenne  
Reservation**

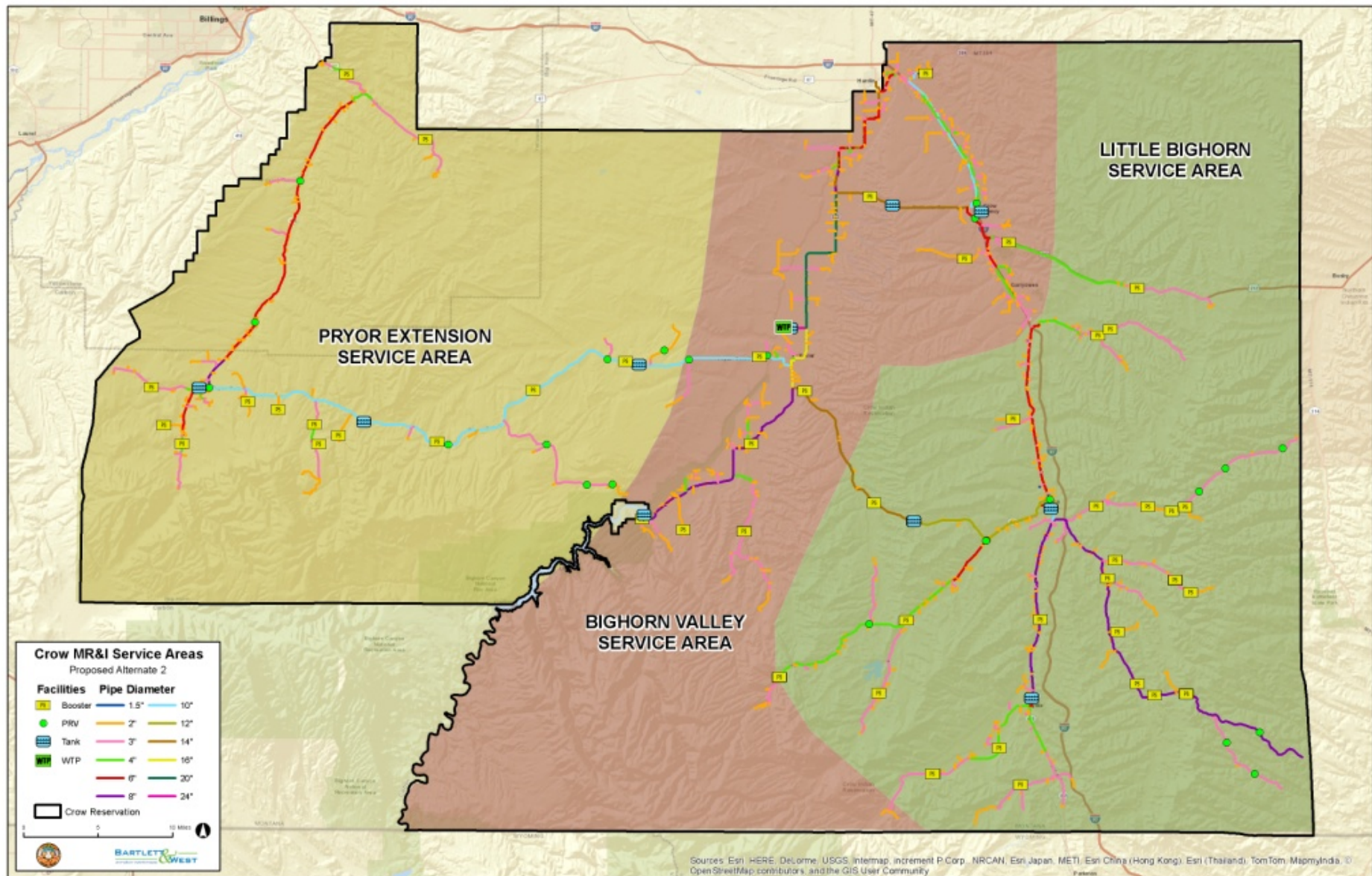
# Overview



- [illegible]



# Crow Reservation: 2 3 million acres



# Funding



\$246.4 million – Construction

\$47 million – OM&R



# Population & Water Needs



- 2010 Population -6863
- 2060 Population -9050



# Intake

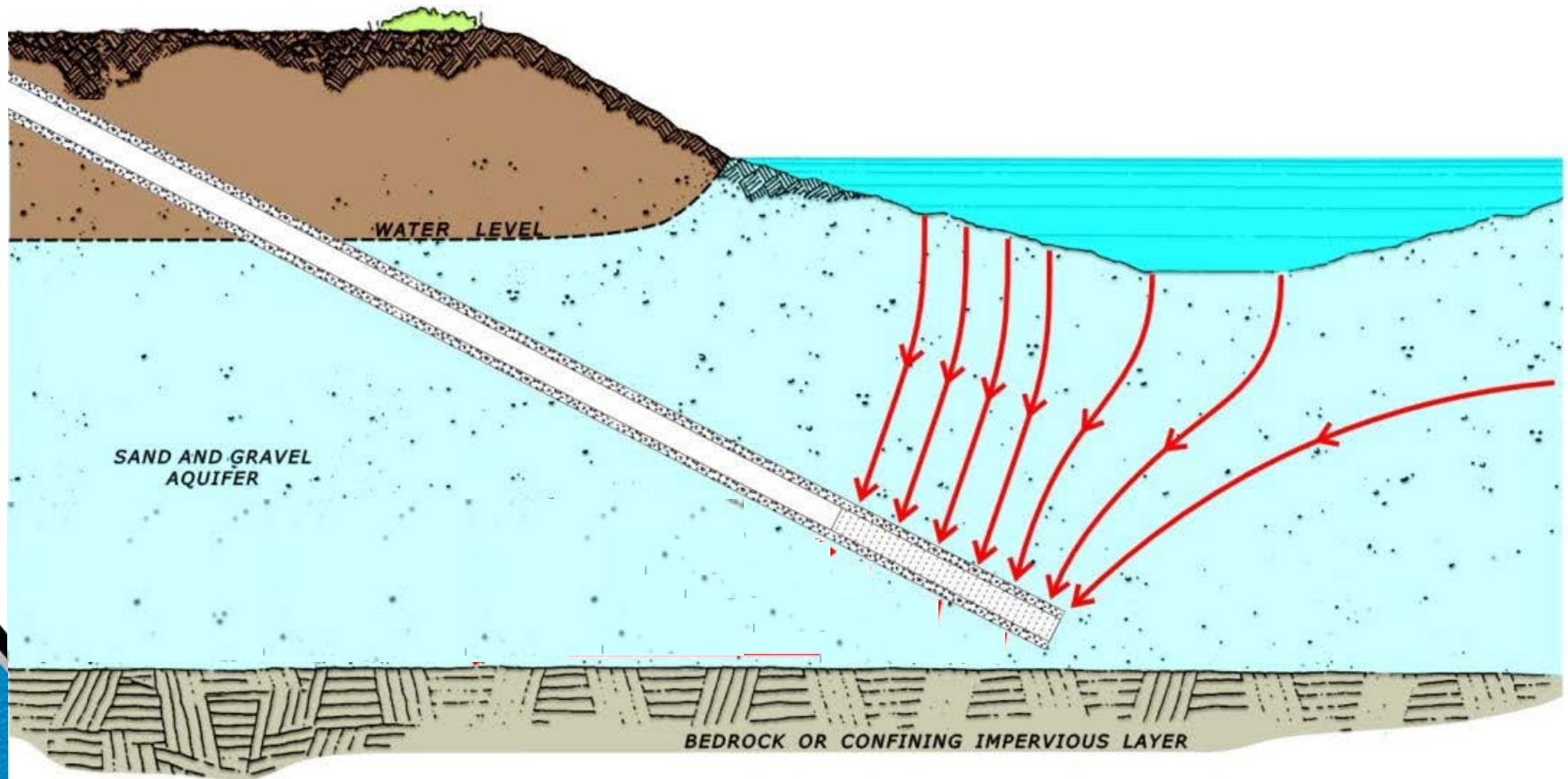


- Bighorn River near St. Xavier
  - 7-10 cfs of Water
    - 2,500 cfs – Optimum River Flow





# Angled Well



# Treatment Plant



- 4.5 MGD To 6.7 MGD





# Pipelines



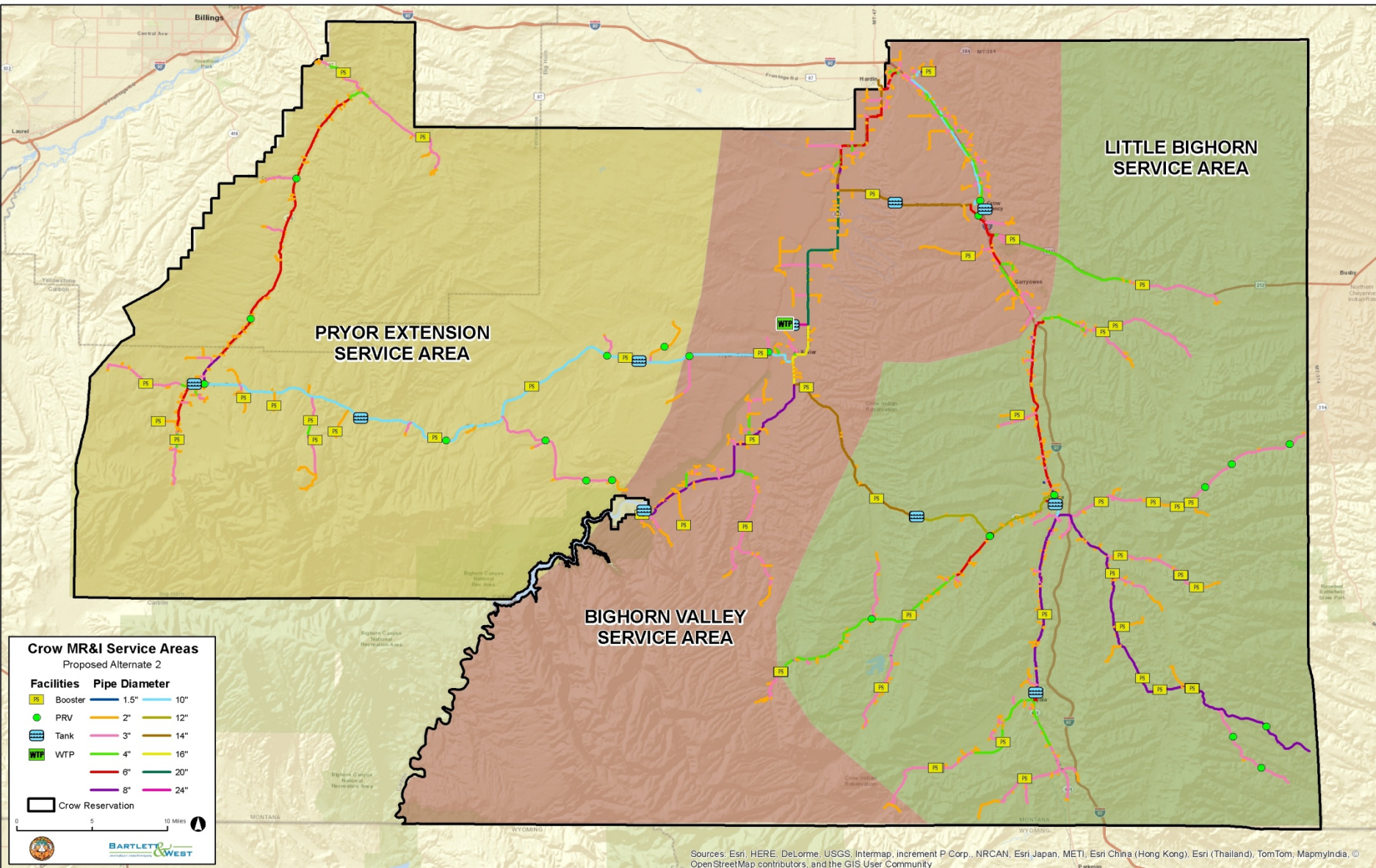
- 750 Miles of Pipe
- PVC and Ductile Iron Pipe
- 1.5" to 24" Diameter
- Route along roads
- Pump Stations



# Preliminary Routing



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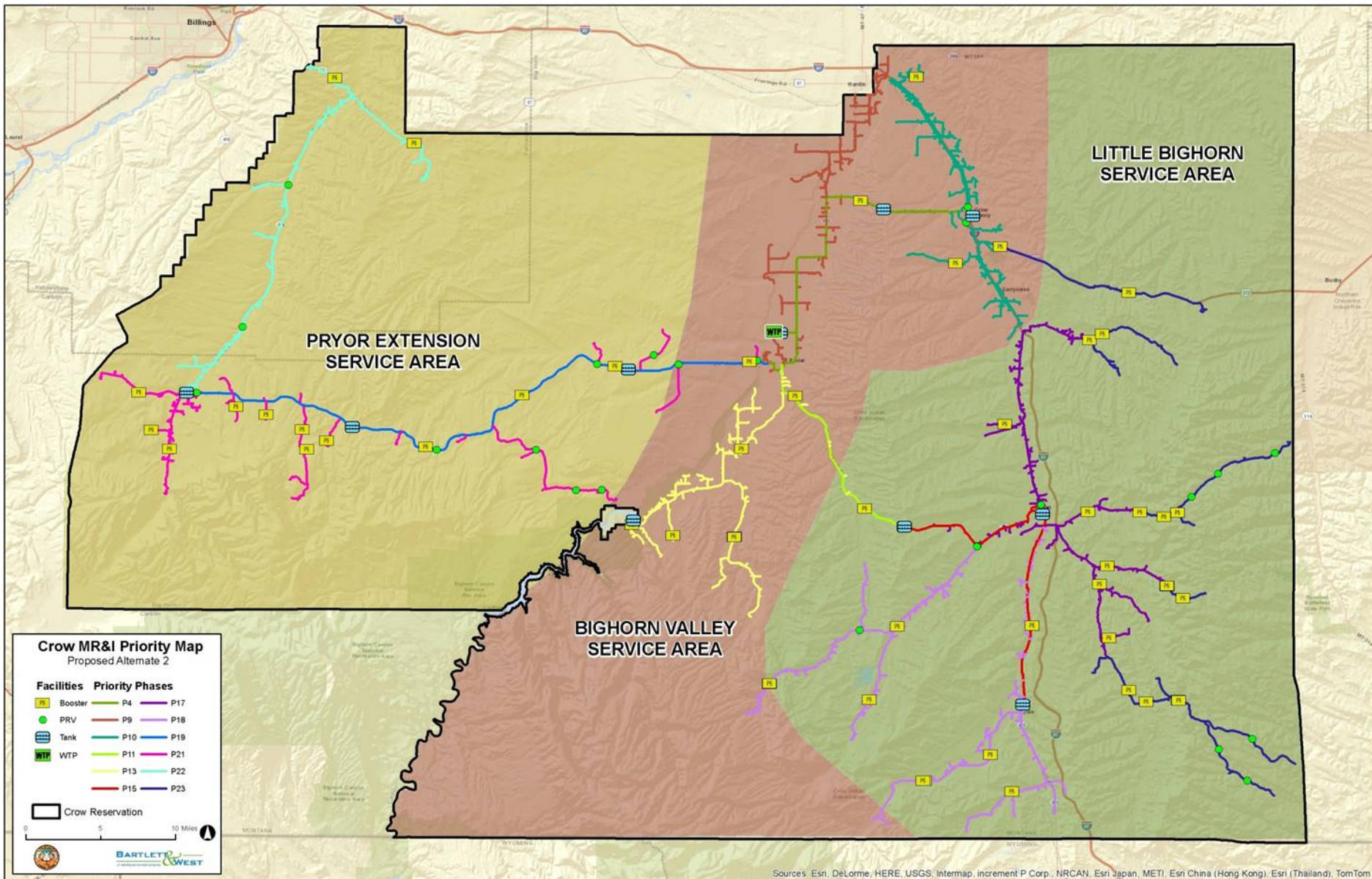


# Priority List



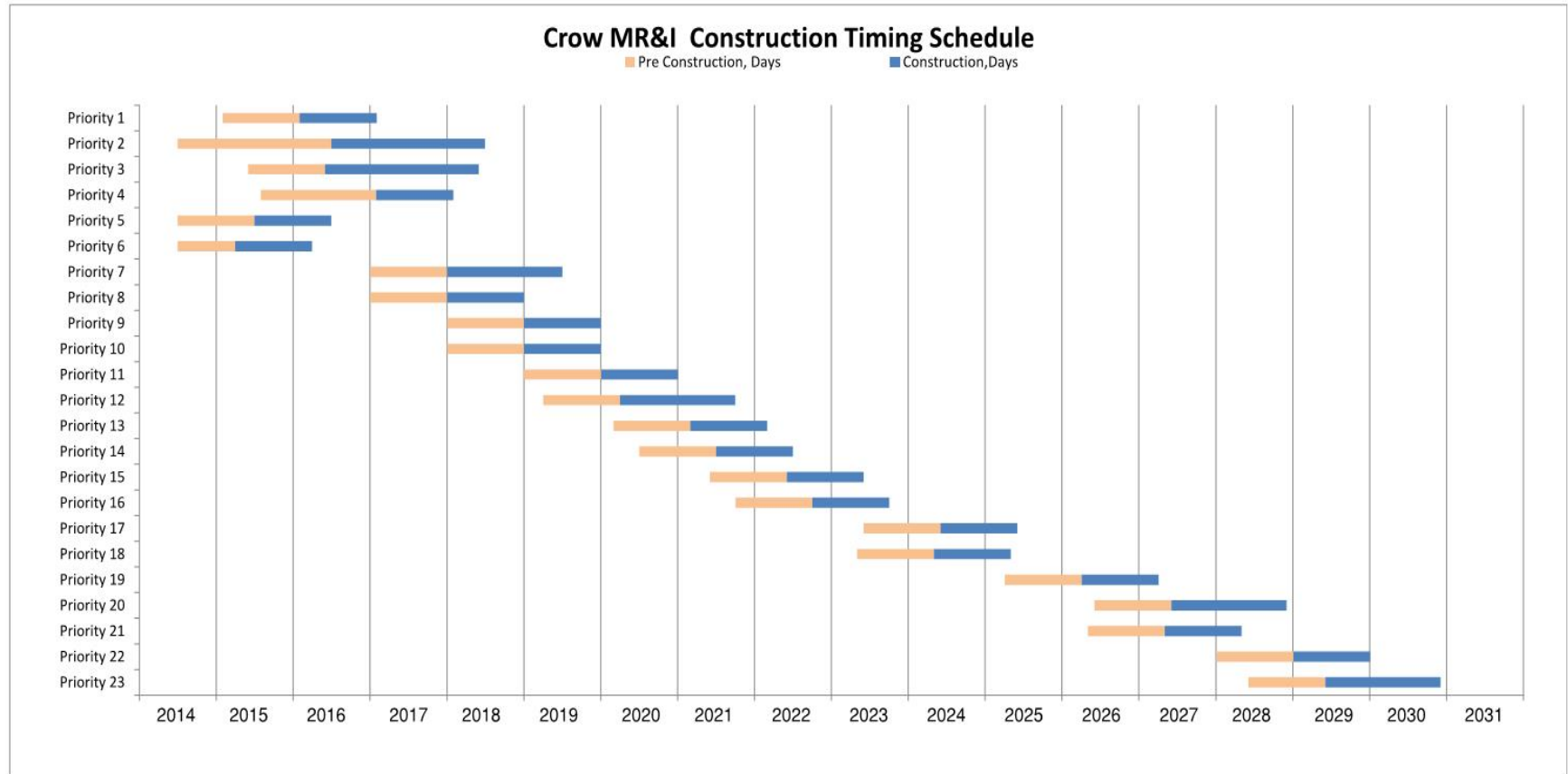
Priority	Project
1	Intake & Discharge Facility & Raw Water Pipeline
2	Water Treatment Plant
3	St. Xavier Regional Tank
4	Transmission Pipeline from WTP to Crow Agency Regional & Community Tank
5	Pryor & Wyola Community Upgrades
6	Pryor & Wyola Community Tanks
7	Crow Agency Regional Tank
8	Crow Agency Community Tank and Upgrades
9	St. Xavier to Hardin Distribution Pipeline
10	Crow Agency Region Distribution Pipeline
11	Transmission Pipeline from WTP to Lodge Grass Regional Tank
12	Lodge Grass Regional Tank
13	South Big Horn Valley Distribution Pipeline
14	Fort Smith/Government Camp Regional Tank
15	Transmission Pipeline through Lodge Grass and Wyola
16	Lodge Grass Community Tank and Upgrades
17	North and East Little Big Horn Valley Distribution Pipeline
18	South and West Little Big Horn Valley Distribution Pipeline
19	Transmission Pipeline from WTP to Pryor
20	Pryor Regional Tank
21	East and South Pryor Distribution Pipeline
22	North Pryor Distribution Pipeline
23	Cloud Peak Extension

# Priority Map





# Schedule





# WATER TREATMENT



## WATER TREATMENT GOALS

- High quality water
- Affordable
- Easy to operate & maintain
- Creates jobs
- Regulation compliance (now and future)
- Reliable
- Positive economic impact

- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Primary & Secondary drinking water standards
- Disinfection By-product (DBP) compliance
- Softened water

## PROCESS OPTIONS

Treatment Processes	Lime Softening and Media Filtration	Lime Softening and Biological Media Filtration	Lime Softening and Microfiltration	Media Filtration and Reverse Osmosis	Microfiltration and Reverse Osmosis
Water Quality and Flexibility to meet Current and Future Regulations	Good	Good	Good	Better	Best
Capital Costs, in millions	\$19-23	\$19-23	\$20-24	\$23-27	\$23-27
Operating, Maintenance, and Replacement Costs	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High

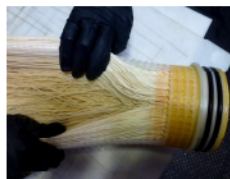
## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Treatment	Operations	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize DBP precursors</li> <li>• Iron &amp; Manganese removal</li> <li>• Hardness removal</li> <li>• Treatment of Secondary goals identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexibility of treatment processes to meet current and future regulations</li> <li>• Challenges of a large distribution system</li> <li>• Labor intensity</li> <li>• Technical difficulty</li> <li>• Residual handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital costs</li> <li>• OM&amp;R costs</li> <li>• Labor</li> <li>• Residuals handling</li> <li>• Positive economic impact and jobs source for Crow Tribe</li> </ul>

## CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

Contaminant	EPA Required Limit of Treated Water	Big Horn River & River Bank Well Raw Water Sample	Crow MR&I Water Treatment Goal
Iron	0.3 mg/L	0.02-0.06	<0.05
Manganese	0.05 mg/L	0.01-0.7	<0.03
Aluminum	0.2 mg/L	ND-0.6	<0.1
Arsenic	0.01 mg/L	ND-0.002	0.00
Bromide	0.010 mg/L	NA	0.00
Selenium	0.05 mg/L	ND-0.002	<0.05
Sulfate	250 mg/L	157-273	<200
Nitrite	1 mg/L	ND-0.45	<1
Nitrate	10 mg/L	Non-Detection	0
Radium	5 pCi/L	0.2-0.6	0
Uranium	30 ug/L	1.0-6.4	0
Chloride	250 mg/L	9-13	<250
TDS	500 mg/L	472-613	<500
Hardness	NA	176-322 mg/L	100-150

Microfiltration



Lime Softening



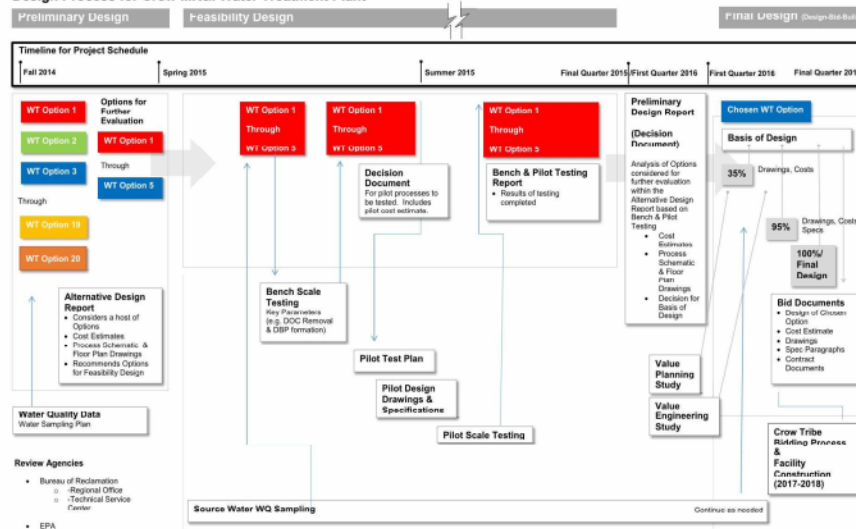
Reverse Osmosis



Media and Bio Filtration



## Design Process for Crow MR&I Water Treatment Plant







# WATER AFFORDABILITY (RATES)



## GOALS

- High quality, safe and affordable water service
- Affordable service for residents with all levels of income
- Financially sustainable

## MR&I SYSTEM OM&R FUNDING

- Annual Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement (OM&R) Cost = **\$ 4,095,000**
- Settlement Fund OM&R Account includes:
  - \$ 47 Million Principal (2018 Index = \$ 56 Million)
  - **2% Annual Interest = \$1,136,800 Million**, which is ≈ 28% of the OM&R annual cost
- Initial operation shortfall of **\$2,958,200** annually to be paid by users.
- \*Inflation will increase operation costs and water rates

## AVAILABLE RATE OPTIONS

- Flat Rate
- Budget Billing
- Income-based
- Late Payment Forgiveness
- Leak Detection Assistance
- Payment Discounts
- Partial Credits
- Minimum Essential Use Rates
- Targeted Conservation

## AFFORDABILITY

- Low-income ( below \$20,000 per year) threshold
  - Maximum water bill not to exceed **1%** of income or **1%** of median household income (whichever is less)
- System-wide average threshold
  - Maximum water bill not to exceed **1%** of median

## WATER CONSUMPTION

Category	Gallons Per Person Daily		
	Average	Winter	Summer
<b>Municipal &amp; Rural</b>	100	60	210
<b>Livestock</b>	18	18	18
<b>Commercial</b>	80	80	80
<b>Industrial</b>	Varies	Varies	Varies

## WATER PRICING

## WATER RATE SCENARIOS

### Projection Assumptions/Criteria

- Preserve OM&R account principal (use only earned interest to offset MR&I operation costs)
- An annual interest rate on the OM&R account of 2%
- Average per capita water demands based on USGS study from 2005-10
- OM&R costs based on current appraisal level design (Crow MR&I Master Plan)

### SCENARIO 1: even allocation of costs across all sectors of water use

#### Projections

- Average unit price of water per 1000 gallons = **\$3.30**
- National average monthly water use of 5000-7000 gallons = bills ranging from **\$16.50\* to \$23.10\***

\*Exceeds 1% of income for low-income households

### SCENARIO 2: adjusted based on low income affordability thresholds

- Adjusted unit price of **\$1.53 per 1000 gallons** for households below the low income level
- Adjusted unit price of **\$3.45 per 1000 gallons** for all other water users
- National average monthly water use = bills for low-income households ranging from **\$7.65 to \$10.71**
- National average monthly water use = bills for households above low income ranging from **\$17.25 to \$24.15**
- Range in monthly water bill is proportional to household size

bottles at **IGA**



or

MR&I water



1,000 gallons = \$10,000

1,000 gallons = \$3.30

## UNIT PRICE OF WATER

- The unit price of water will vary based on the type of treatment plant used, if customer classification is used, and the method of predicting average volumes used.

Treatment Alternative	Unit Price (\$ per 1,000 Gallons)			
	Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
	Single User Class	Below Low-income	Level Above Low-income	Level
Microfiltration with Reverse Osmosis softening	\$ 3.30	\$ 1.53	\$ 3.45	
Microfiltration with Lime softening	\$ 3.12	\$ 1.53	\$ 3.25	
Conventional media filtration with Lime softening	\$ 2.57	\$ 1.53	\$ 2.65	



# OM&R FUNDS

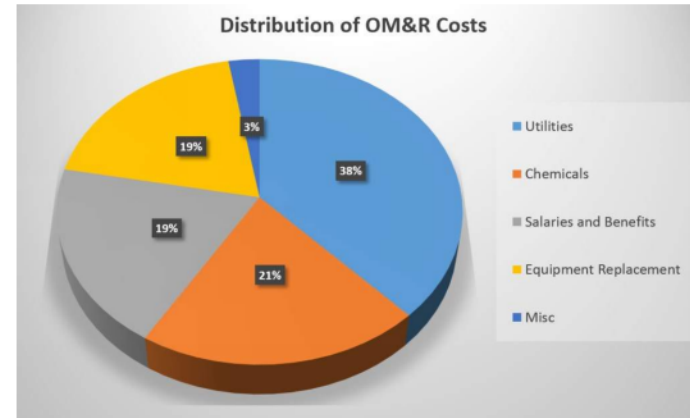


**Water Settlement Act OM&R Language:** *“The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary \$47,000,000, adjusted to reflect changes in appropriate cost indices during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and Ending on the date of the transfer, for MR&I System OM&R.”*

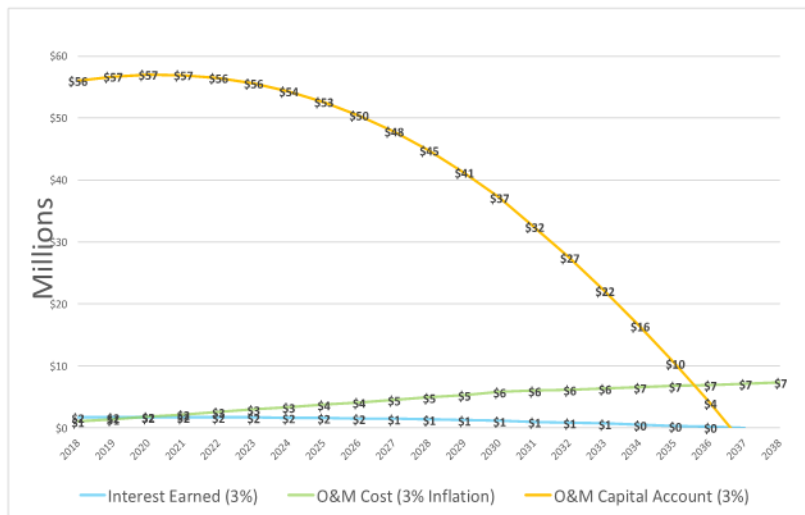
2010

2018

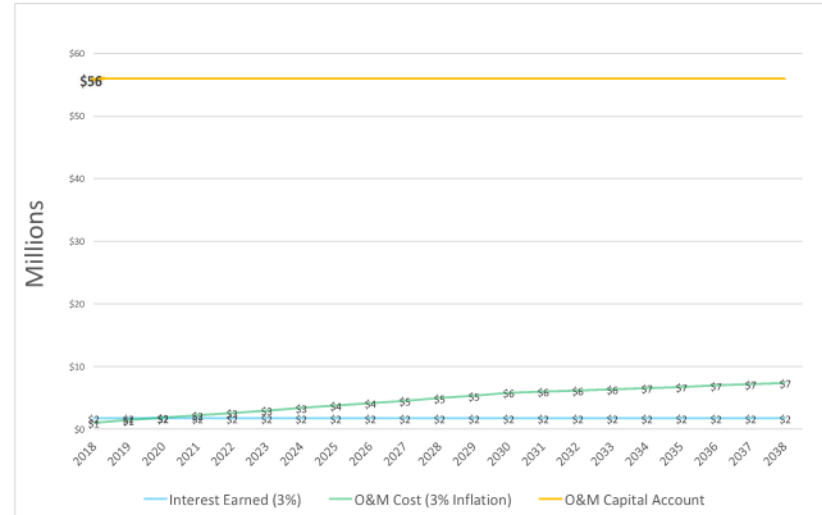
**\$47,000,000 → \$56,000,000**



## Scenario #1—Use Capital



## Scenario #2—Maintain Capital



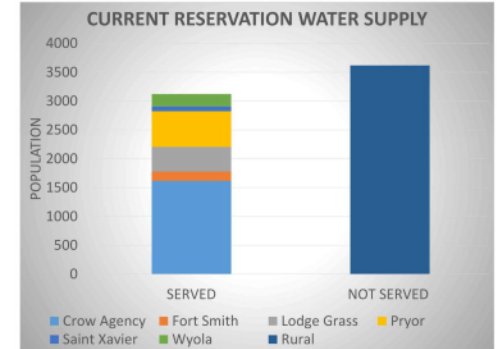
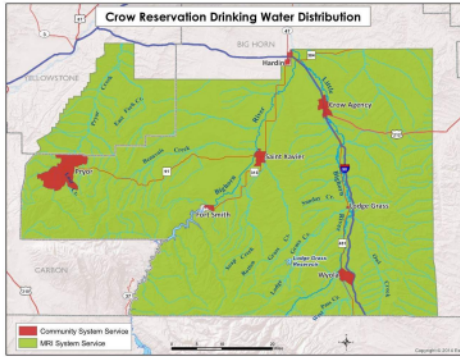
## OTHER OPTIONS

- Use interest earned to offset a portion of the Tribal Members costs
- Reinvest a portion of the account interest earned back into the account to grow the balance



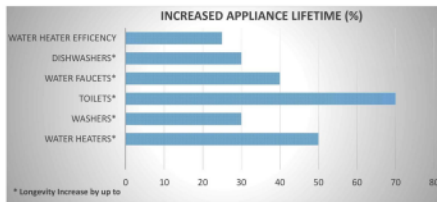
# SYSTEM COMPARISON

## Centralized Rural Water System vs. Existing Satellite System



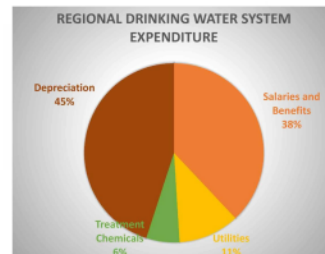
### REGIONAL SYSTEM ADVANTAGES

- Entire reservation benefits
- Reduce/eliminate purchased supplemental well water
- Reduce operational costs
- Efficient water delivery
- Increase economic development potential
- Tax revenue
- Property values
- Centralized softening rather than home softeners
- Decrease cleaning time
- Decrease pipe and appliance water scaling
- Decreased appliance repair and replacement costs
- Meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements efficiently and reliably
- Allow future growth
- Excess capacity
- Ability to upsize
- Develop most reliable quality water source on the Crow Reservation, Bighorn River
- Jobs during construction and operation
- Livestock benefits
- Increased livestock production
- Decreased vet visits
- Decrease pipe scaling
- Extend distribution system life
- Centralized softening would remove softening by individuals



### EXISTING SATELLITE SYSTEM DISADVANTAGES

- Increasing difficulty meeting Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations
- Adversely impact public health and safety
- Especially infants and elderly
- Enforcement action
- Livestock consume existing water
- Potentially leading to loss of profits
- Rural areas water supply
- Individual wells
- Commonly shallow alluvial groundwater wells
- May be surface water connected
- Purchased water
- Existing facilities approaching or surpassed expected lifetime
- Current operating conditions require water quality treatment upgrades
- Financial debt
- Existing satellite systems near or at capacity
- Limiting potential growth
- Pipeline hard water deposits
- Commercial/industrial expansion requires new water source development
- Limit coal mining development



Sources:  
 Crow M&I Master Plan  
<http://www.sdrmc.com/POI/SDRW/RC/EconomicImpactofSouthGaleatRWWS.pdf>  
<http://www.sdrmc.com/pdf/sdrmc-socialphysicalimpactsandwaterconsumptionofrws.pdf>  
<http://www.gao.gov/archive/1999/rc99115.pdf>  
[http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/562429/ra174t\\_3\\_.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/562429/ra174t_3_.pdf)  
<http://technotes.alconox.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/get-scale.jpg>  
<http://fisher.kiwi.com/using-SD/>  
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<http://www.who.int/en/>





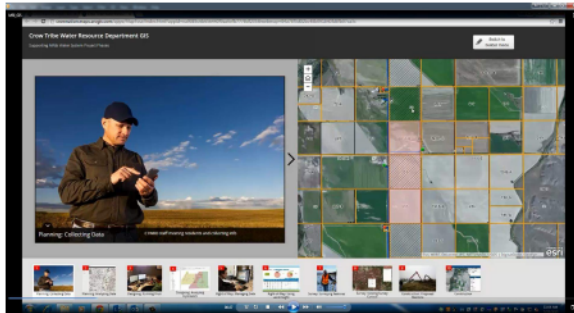
# RIGHT-OF-WAY



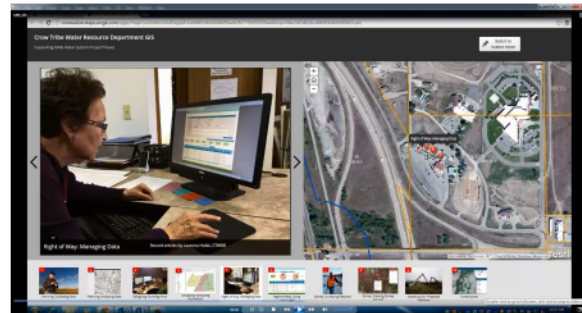
## LAND insight

Mobile GIS Solutions

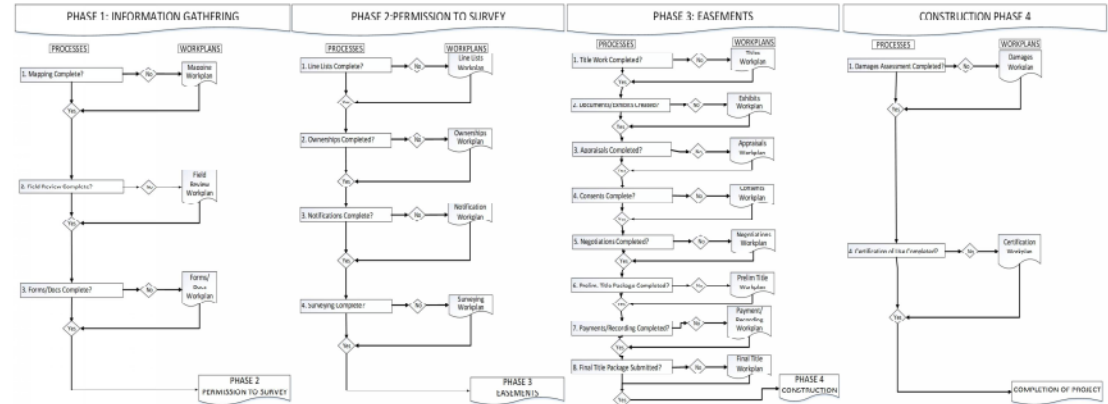
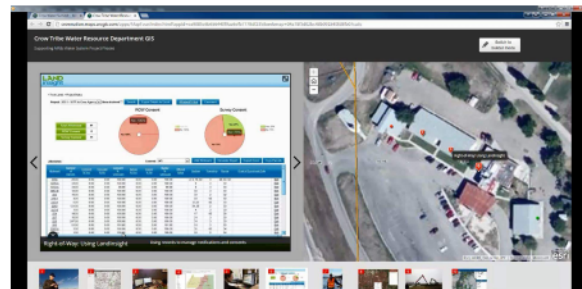
• CONNECT FIELD TO OFFICE



• VIEW CRITICAL DATA IN REAL TIME



• MAKE BETTER DECISIONS FASTER



## Land Management-ROW Procedures

1. Project Area & Use
  - A. Determine if within the Crow Irrigation Project (CIP) or Municipal Rural & Industrial (MR&I) Project
2. Site visit with Project Engineers, go over project details and specifics
  - A. Note if staging area, borrow or fence issues may present themselves
    - i. If within existing ROW and/or covered in Encroachment permit or
    - ii. If further permission needed, use a Surface Use Agreement or Revocable Permit from BIA.
3. Map (GIS/Research Assistant) of the Project showing legal descriptions
  - A. Research land ownership
    - i. If project parameters fall within:
      1. Fee land:
        - A. Obtain landowner information from Big Horn County
        - B. Work with landowners, explain project details
        - C. Then consult Bureau of Reclamation for appropriate forms and permissions.
        - D. Mail letters to landowners
      2. Tribal/Allotted:
        - A. Obtain Title Status Report (TSR) and addresses from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, discuss permissions needed
        - B. Work with landowners, explain project details
        - C. Mail letters to landowners
4. Work done outside Land Management: Request for NEPA Clearance-Categorical Exclusion Checklist, and Environmental Assessment (EA) from Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Request Form from Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) for clearance concurrence.
5. CTWRD/B & W Work with Big Horn County Electric for any electrical easements. Ensure this is completed before project work commences.



# *Crow Irrigation Project:*

## Overview



- CIP work commenced 1885
- 11 Irrigation Units
- Water Source
  - Bighorn & Little Bighorn River
  - Sunday Creek
  - Lodge Grass Creek
  - Pryor Creek
  - Lost Creek

# Funding



- \$131.8 million - Construction
- \$10 million - O&M



# Archive Pictures



THE FLOOD PLUME - LOOKING WEST

<http://ctwrd.com/DidYouKnow.html>



PLUME ON SMALL LATERAL

<http://ctwrd.com/DidYouKnow.html>



<http://ctwrd.com/DidYouKnow.html>

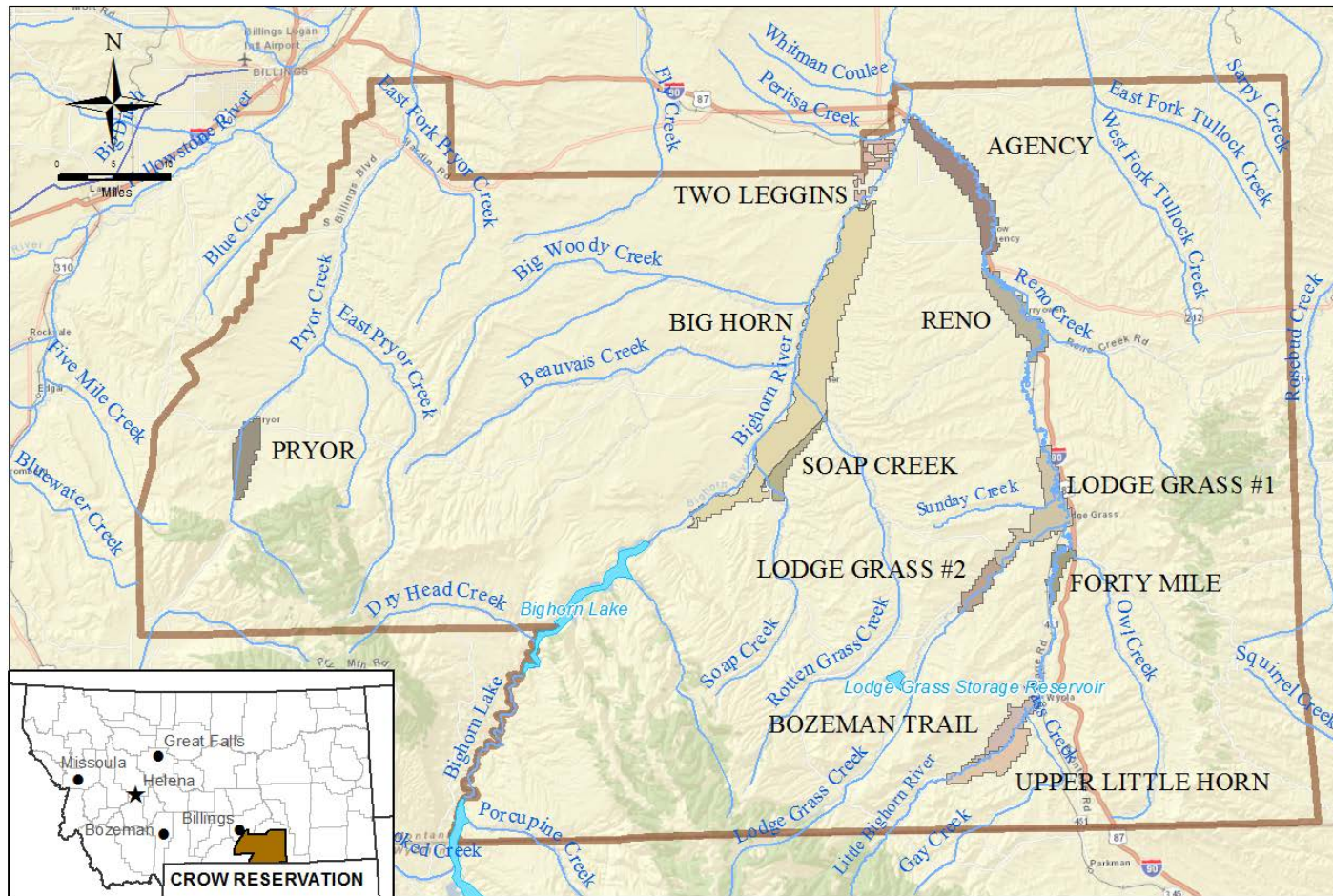


CHUTE - AGENCY DITCH

Chute - Agency Ditch  
Sta. 499 + 5  
Photo No. 19



# Irrigation Units



# Overview



- $\approx$  125 miles main canals
- $\approx$  260 miles laterals, sublaterals, drains
- $\approx$  3,800 structures
- 11 diversion dams
- 1 storage reservoir





# 1. Rehabilitation of Structures





## 2. Rehabilitation of Canals

- Cleaning/Reshaping
- Lining
- Piping



### 3. Alternative On-Farm Systems

- Lining
- Land Leveling
- Gated Pipe
- Surge Irrigation
- Center Pivots
- Wheel Lines

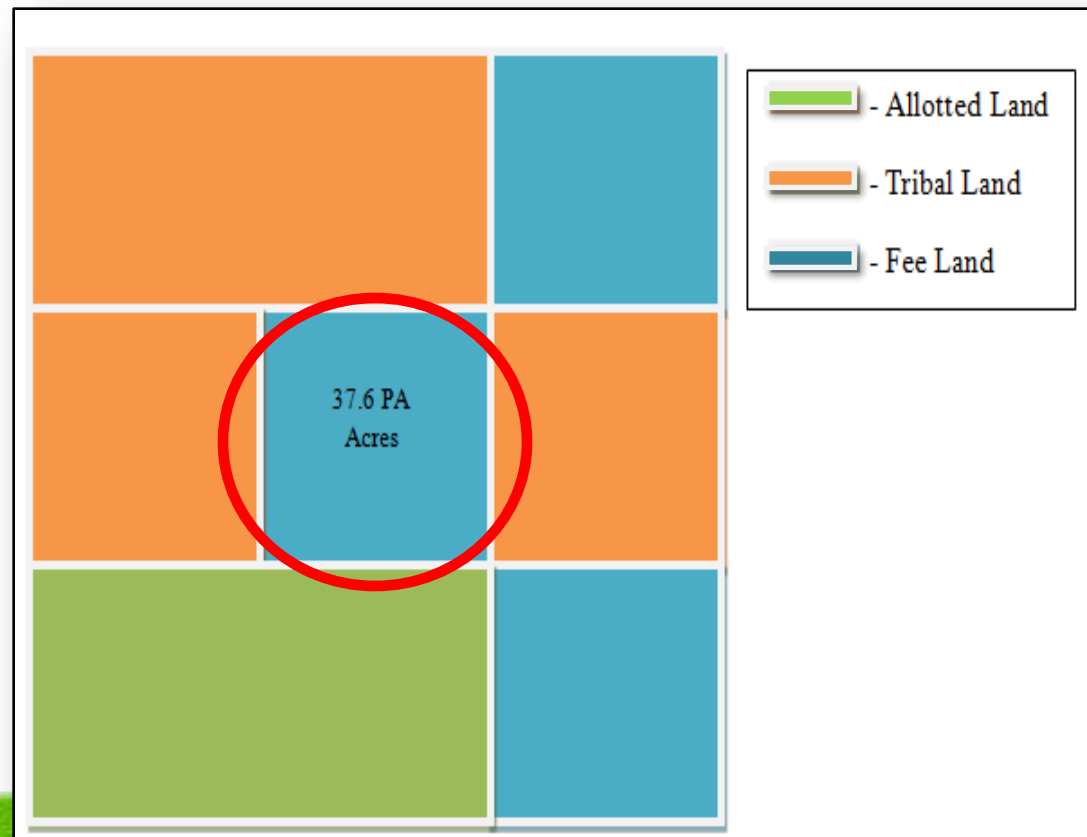




## 4. Purchase of Fee Lands



- Tribal Status
- Create land “blocks”

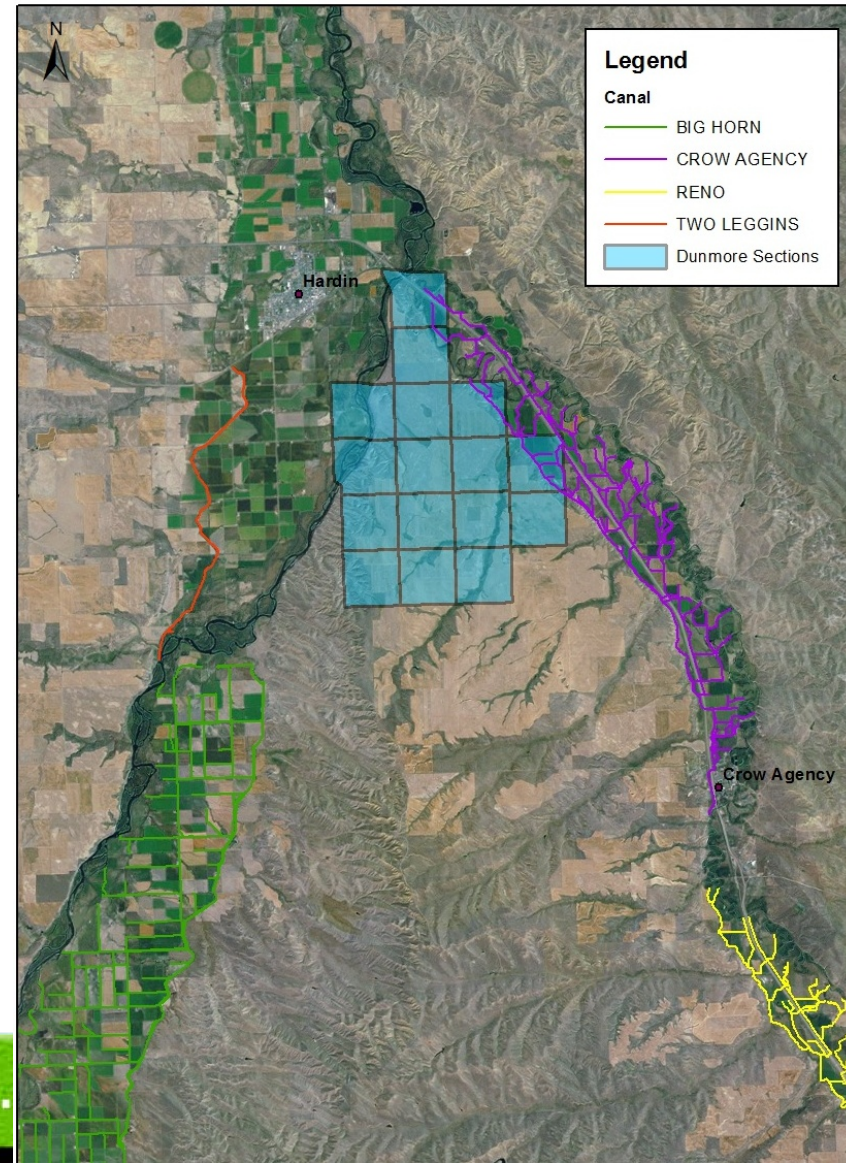




# 5. Irrigation Development



- Dunmore Bench
- Other CIP Units





# COMPLETED PROJECTS



**Lodge Grass No. 1 Headworks**



**Before**

**Lodge Grass No. 2 Headworks**



**After**



SERVICE. TH



# Big Horn High Check Emergency Repair



## High Check O&M Road

**Before**



**After**





Before

# PRYOR WASTEWAY

After





# SOAP CREEK WASTEWAY

After





# PILOT PLANT OPERATIONS







# Questions?



**Thank you!**