

Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Crow Irrigation Project, Montana

Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act (Section 405, P.L. 111-291)

Finding of No Significant Impact



Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Introduction

Irrigation on the Crow (Apsàalooke) Reservation in southeast Montana dates back to the late 1800s, with the existing irrigation system installed by the 1940s. Currently, the system contains 11 irrigation units spread over slightly less than 75,500 acres of land within the system boundaries. Features of the system include 11 diversion dams, one storage dam, approximately 122 miles of main canals, 43 miles of drains, 257 miles of other canals (e.g., laterals, sub-laterals, and wasteways), and approximately 3,800 irrigation structures (such as checks, headgates, headworks, flumes, siphons, turnouts, road crossings, spillways, and diversion dams). All current irrigation units are gravity fed and lack automated flow measurement or gate controls.

Several reports have detailed the condition of the existing facilities, with specific emphasis on the reduced capacity of the system, disrepair of system facilities, and operational inefficiencies. With the support of these engineering assessments, the *Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Crow Irrigation Project* (CIP) was authorized as a component of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (Act). The Act provided \$131.843 million for rehabilitation work and authorized the Crow Tribe (Tribe) to proceed with design and construction of the CIP. In this respect, the CIP is unique because the decision to implement the project has already been made. Rather, the decision to be made is how best to undertake rehabilitation and improvement of the existing system.

In implementing the Act, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has been designated the lead federal responsibility for making a decision regarding the CIP as part of environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as Amended, 42 U.S.C. Sections 4321-4347). The Regional Director for Reclamation's Great Plains Region is the Responsible Official for matters pertaining to the CIP. Because the proposed work will cross lands held in trust by the federal government for the Tribe, the DOI's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the agency responsible for decision-making related to these trust lands and operation and maintenance responsibility of the CIP, is a cooperating federal agency.

Environmental effects of the proposed CIP were evaluated under the provisions of NEPA and are documented in the Final CIP Environmental Assessment (Final EA), dated January 2015. Reclamation has independently reviewed the Final EA, prepared by the Tribe and their consultants, Bartlett & West and Wenck Associates, Inc., and has determined that the document meets the quality and accuracy standards for an EA under 40 CFR 1508.9. Pursuant to DOI's NEPA regulations under 43 CFR 46.320, Reclamation has utilized the Final EA to reach an environmental conclusion regarding the proposed CIP.

Coordination

Planning activities for the CIP, including interagency coordination, have been underway since early 2014. Initial public scoping began in earnest in January of 2014, with the development of a project website, distribution of mailings, posting community notices, and hosting three public input meetings and one separate meeting for interested government entities. The initial scoping period closed on February 28th, 2014. In addition, Reclamation and the Tribe entered into an agreement to cooperatively plan and review the proposed activities and the Tribe has a comprehensive role with the Project Management Committee created under the Act. While no formal cooperating agency agreement was implemented beyond the procedures described in a 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (R12MU60037), for all practical purposes, the BIA has participated in NEPA activities as a cooperating agency.

The Tribe's consultants, Bartlett & West and Wenck Associates, Inc., prepared a Draft EA. A 30 day review period for public comment was provided. Copies of the Draft EA were made available to agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in the CIP. The comment period for the Draft EA ended on November 21st, 2014. The comments received on the Draft EA were considered and addressed during preparation of the Final EA. Comments and responses can be found in Appendix B of the Final EA.

Purpose and Need for the Project

The existing irrigation system was constructed in the 1940s and maintenance of the system has not been able to keep pace with the aging infrastructure. The lack of maintenance, combined with other factors, has resulted in reduced efficiency of the entire system, unreliable irrigation water deliveries, impacts to natural resources, and an imbalance in the benefits provided to tribal and non-tribal users. A need exists to correct these deficiencies. The purpose of the CIP is to address the deficiencies in the existing irrigation system through various rehabilitation and improvement activities. At the same time, an opportunity exists to implement modern, more efficient technologies and practices, as well as improve the cost-effectiveness of the system and increase its capacity.

Summary of the Proposed Action

As described previously, the following CIP work has already been authorized by the Act and will occur in the phases, listed by order of priority:

- 1) Rehabilitation/betterment of irrigation structures
- 2) Rehabilitation/betterment of canals and laterals
- 3) Alternative on-farm irrigation systems
- 4) Purchase of fee lands
- 5) Developing irrigation on future trust lands

Each of these five CIP phases will involve a variety of construction activities, with the exception of Phase 4 (purchase of fee lands), which does not involve construction.

Due to the CIP's anticipated 10-15 year timeframe, the large project area, and extensive facilities, the Proposed Action contains a programmatic, phased approach for undertaking the authorized planning and construction activities.

First, broad project details and environmental commitments will be established through the Master Plan and the Final EA. The Master Plan is a technical document, prepared by the Tribe, which contains information regarding materials, location, construction techniques, and other information to help guide overall project design. Reclamation reviewed and negotiated the final Master Plan to ensure the CIP is being implemented in a manner which 1) is consistent with applicable industry standards, 2) improves cost-effectiveness of water delivery, and 3) considers equitable distribution of water to allottees. The Final EA (pg. 2-20 to 2-24) incorporates conservation measures for protecting physical, biological, and heritage resources, which will be applied to all activities, project-wide.

Second, the Tribe will prepare annual work plans. The Tribe, Reclamation, and the BIA will develop an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) to provide a detailed review and approval of the site-specific designs, techniques, and methods presented in the annual work plans. During this review, natural resource conservation measures will be applied based on site-specific conditions/needs and, when determined necessary by Reclamation, additional NEPA analysis will be prepared and tiered to the Final EA.

Third, the Master Plan will be supplemented to keep current with CIP activities. The Master Plan will be updated annually to reflect adjustments in scheduling, prioritization of activities, and costs. An in-depth review of the Master Plan will be completed every three years.

In this manner, the Tribe, Reclamation, and BIA will coordinate and prioritize annual work activities and budget allocations until funds are expended and the CIP is finalized. At such time, management of normal operation and maintenance of the CIP will be undertaken by the BIA.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The effects of implementing the CIP, via the procedures described in the Proposed Action, have been analyzed and are summarized below:

Soil Resources

The Proposed Action will have minimal impacts on soils in the project area. Disturbance and compaction of soils is almost certain to occur during construction activities, although, for the most part, these activities will occur in soils which were disturbed during initial construction of

the irrigation system. Converting previously undisturbed pastures to irrigated acres could create permanent changes to native soils, including a potential for increased surface salinity and water-logging. Disturbed soils will be more susceptible to erosion, especially during precipitation events. Typical conservation measures, such as erosion control structures, reuse of topsoil, and seeding and mulching, have been proposed to minimize these potential impacts.

In the long term, rehabilitating and improving structures and canals will reduce erosion, seepage, and sedimentation throughout the system. The impacts to soils as a result of the Proposed Action are expected to be insignificant.

Water Resources and Water Quality

Some construction activities require temporary dewatering of surface waters. When construction is complete, diverted water will return to natural flow patterns, with no long-term significant impacts to surface or groundwater resources.

Several CIP actions will contribute to increased efficiency within the irrigation system, which may reduce water demands and decrease the amount of water flowing through the system. A decrease in water use could, in turn, reduce the amount of irrigation return flows contaminated with chemicals, excess nutrients, and sediments returning to source streams, which will likely improve water quality.

Conversely, previously undeveloped land that will be converted into irrigated acres could result in additional water demands and create an opportunity for chemicals, excess nutrients, and sediments from farm fields or canals to be carried in irrigation return flows. New development will utilize more efficient irrigation systems and will draw from excess water available within the irrigation system prior to drawing from other water sources. New development is the lowest CIP priority and will only occur if adequate funding is available after the completion of higher priority phases. As such, it is difficult to predict the extent to which new development will occur as a result of the Proposed Action, and thus, it is even more difficult to evaluate the effects to water quality and quantity as a result of such new development.

The maximum amount of acres with potential for inclusion is estimated to be 14,841 acres, which represents an approximate 30% increase in the existing system's service area. In reality, it is unlikely that all potential acres will be converted into irrigated lands due to site-specific factors, such as landowner participation in the development program and landscape constraints (i.e. lands with steep slopes), in addition to possible funding limitations.

Regardless of the amount of acres converted, new irrigation development can contribute to factors which reduce water quality. An increase in irrigated lands could create further opportunity for chemicals, excess nutrients, and sediments to be carried in irrigation returns. Changes in surface hydrology could also result during clearing and leveling activities while preparing new lands for irrigation service.

Increased system efficiency will likely have beneficial effects on water resources and water quality; the extent of new irrigation development is unclear, but conservation measures would be

applied to any lands developed for irrigated agriculture. Impacts from new development are expected to be compensated for by improvements in existing system operation and agricultural practices, particularly when compared to no action.

Wetlands

Some CIP work (canal cleaning, lining, converting open canals to buried pipe, etc.) will change hydrologic conditions and reduce or eliminate many of the leaks and seepage areas which occur throughout the system. Work activities could remove wetland vegetation, increase soil compaction, and create impermeable surfaces, all of which could result in long-term impacts, such as a reduction in size or total removal, to artificial wetlands which are being fed by the existing canal leaks. Water use efficiencies implemented by the CIP, such as on-farm improvements, could further reduce excess water available to support wetlands. Even though permitting or mitigation of impacts to artificial wetlands is not required, certain measures have been included in the Proposed Action to avoid adverse impacts and retain ecological value.

Unlike artificial wetlands, natural wetlands are within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and some activities may require a federal permit under the Clean Water Act of 1977 (as Amended, 33 U.S.C. Section 1251). Natural wetland basins will likely be impacted if new farmland was converted or improved. Most of the natural wetland basins in the project area are not within areas available for conversion to new farmland; however, an estimated 50 to 100 wetland acres are within lands identified for potential new development.

The CIP activities will have minimal impacts to artificial and natural wetland areas with implementation of the avoidance and mitigation measures included in the Proposed Action. Thus, the impacts to wetlands as a result of the Proposed Action are expected to be insignificant. No impacts to natural riverine wetlands are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

Noxious or Invasive Species

Bare ground and disturbed soils, which are common in construction work areas, present an excellent opportunity for noxious weeds to become established and thrive. If populations of noxious weeds or invasive plants are present at a specific work site, those populations are likely to spread unless sensible precautions are taken. The effects of noxious weeds or invasive species infestations are likely long-term. Mitigation measures and practices, such as inspection and cleaning of equipment, have been included in the Proposed Action to prevent or minimize the opportunities for spread of noxious weeds or aquatic invasive species.

The Proposed Action is expected to have insignificant impacts on the spread of noxious or invasive species.

Fisheries

Temporary effects on fisheries could occur as a result of construction work at diversion dams or headworks within stream channels. A short term increase in sedimentation is likely to occur during and immediately following construction, however, most streams in the area have a naturally high sediment load, with the exception of the trout fishery below the Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River. Implementation of standard construction best management practices, such as those identified within all required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans or Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasure Plans, will help ensure sedimentation impacts are minimized and localized to the immediate work area. CIP activities could improve the water quality of irrigation return flows, which could result in long-term benefits to fisheries and aquatic habitats by reducing pollutants (excess nutrients, sediments, etc.) flowing into the Bighorn River.

Development of new irrigated lands may require more water to be pumped from the Bighorn Main Canal. However, for all new lands developed in the Bighorn Unit, Reclamation is required to release an equal amount of water from Yellowtail Dam, so it is likely that in-stream flows will have no net change.

No significant impacts to fisheries are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

Socioeconomics

Rehabilitating and improving the existing irrigation system will provide users with a more reliable water supply, which will likely increase crop success and benefit livestock ranchers. Expanding irrigation services and increasing production on Indian lands will have potentially positive economic impacts to Tribal members. Depending upon market values, which are external to the Proposed Action, farmers and ranchers could expect to see an increase in household income.

Project construction has the potential to create jobs in the community. On the Reservation, the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) requires that employment and contracting preference is given to qualified local Indians and Indian-owned businesses, especially those that live locally. The TERO ordinance applies to all projects using government funding. As many as 60 construction crew member positions could be created for the 10-20 year duration of the CIP.

There are no measurable effects anticipated on housing, public services such as schools and hospitals, population, unemployment, or demographic shifts as a result of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action will provide beneficial effects by allowing for residential and commercial growth within the community.

Trust Assets

The existing irrigation system is an Indian Trust Asset for the Tribe. The Proposed Action will support Reclamation's and the BIA's responsibilities to protect trust assets and interests for the Tribe and allottees. The Tribe and its individual members could benefit economically from

expansion of irrigated trust lands and thus, the Proposed Action will likely have a positive effect to trust resources.

Environmental Justice

The proposed improvements to the irrigation system have the potential to indirectly benefit the local Reservation economy by expanding the production and revenue generation capacity, primarily in the agricultural and tourism sectors. Short-term employment for an estimated 60 Indian-preference construction positions is expected. These job opportunities will likely benefit individual Tribal members and households. Improvements will also provide long-term economic benefits to current users, both Tribal and non-Tribal, with the potential for new Tribal users with the expansion of irrigation services and Indian-owned lands.

Impacts that are anticipated to occur as a result of the CIP will be positive, with a special emphasis on benefiting Tribal members. The existing irrigation system and the proposed CIP activities do not pose a hazard that will have negative health or environmental effects to minority or low income populations. As such, no adverse or disproportionately negative impacts to minority or low income populations are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

Historical Properties, Cultural Resources, and Sacred Sites

Potential permanent effects to historic properties, cultural resources, and sacred sites include the removal and replacement of historical irrigation structures, some of which have been recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties (National Register). Disturbance or destruction of previously undiscovered cultural resources could occur during construction related soil disturbance or excavation. Reclamation has determined that CIP work will have an adverse effect on the elements which make the existing system eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Because sites within the proposed project area may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register, the Tribal State Historic Preservation (THPO) will be consulted during the site-specific IDT review process to ensure that the Proposed Action's adverse effects on historic properties are addressed and mitigated. Reclamation, BIA, the Tribe, and the THPO have entered into a Programmatic Agreement (PA). The PA identified appropriate mitigation for adverse effects to the existing irrigation system, established procedures for cultural resource inventory and consultation on the various phases of the CIP, and established procedures for the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources during construction.

In conjunction with consultation requirements and the commitments made in the PA, the Proposed Action is not expected to have significant impacts to historic properties, cultural resources, or inhibit the access or use of ceremonial or sacred sites.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover

Most CIP activities will result in direct impacts to vegetation. Construction impacts will be limited to small (work areas are typically between 2-10 acres) areas around existing structures,

which have generally been disturbed by previous construction activities. Impacts to native vegetative communities could occur and such impacts will likely be long-term, as it is difficult to achieve full restoration with typical reclamation and reseeding methods. Although most of the areas identified for new irrigation development have been previously cultivated, some native communities may be permanently converted to agricultural use.

There are no plants listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) present within the project area. Several rare plant species, as identified by the Montana Natural Heritage Program, could occur in the area. These rare plants are likely to be present in natural or native habitats, whereas the majority of CIP activity will occur in previously disturbed areas with non-native vegetation. It is also possible that culturally important native plants could be present in the area. Pre-construction surveys and consultation with the THPO will be used to ensure rare or culturally significant plants are not affected by the proposed activity. Mitigation or avoidance measures will be considered during the site-specific IDT review.

No significant impacts to lands and vegetation, including plants listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), are expected as a result of the Proposed Action.

Wildlife Resources

The proposed CIP activities will have both temporary and permanent effects to wildlife. Construction activities and increased human presence could result in temporary impacts to wildlife such as displacement, nest abandonment, decreased reproductive rates, or other behavioral or stress responses. Increased vehicle traffic could also result in increased collisions, causing mortality or injury to wildlife. Removal of vegetation around structures could result in temporary habitat destruction. Because the CIP location is generally in areas where farming, ranching, and other human activities occur regularly, it is not expected that population level impacts to wildlife populations or individual species will occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

Converting native grassland to crop field could permanently fragment or destroy potential habitat for various wildlife species. Other permanent impacts could include an increased drowning risk for wildlife, if canal escape designs are not incorporated during rehabilitation activities. The Proposed Action could have beneficial long-term impacts to wildlife by creating new water sources and improving the water quality of current water sources.

Pre-construction surveys, timing restrictions, and other conservation measures are included in the Proposed Action to minimize or avoid adverse impacts to wildlife species and their habitat areas (including nesting locations), as well as culturally important wildlife resources. Additionally, coordination and consultation with any appropriate wildlife agencies will occur, as necessary, during the site-specific IDT review process.

None of the impacts described above are expected to have population level impacts. No significant impacts to wildlife resources are expected as a result of this action.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species

Reclamation has determined that with the Proposed Action will have no effect on black-footed ferrets and will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of any ESA-listed or candidate species.

Air Quality

The Proposed Action will result in temporary, intermittent releases of emission from sources such as construction equipment exhaust and suspended dust generated from vehicle traffic. Conservation measures including road watering, implementing speed limits, and general equipment maintenance will be utilized as needed to control these emissions. Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to result in a measureable or significant impact to air quality.

Climate Change

Emissions of greenhouse gases will occur, primarily as a result of construction equipment operation and conversion of land to agricultural use. Emissions as a result of equipment operation are expected to be temporary and not significantly above ambient emissions within the project area. Emissions as a result of land-use changes are likely to be permanent, but are not expected to result in significant changes to statewide agricultural production emissions.

It is generally expected that the project area will experience warmer temperatures and increased precipitation during the 21st century. Temperature and precipitation variability could result in significant effects to future water supplies and the associated operation of the irrigation system. For example, warmer temperatures could lead to increased evapotranspiration rates, which could increase the water needed to meet agricultural demands. Precipitation changes could alter the amount of water available for irrigation, as well as the timing of water availability. A primary purpose of the proposed CIP is to increase water use efficiency throughout the existing irrigation system. Increasing the system's efficiency is likely to help offset the negative effects of changes in water availability due to climate variability.

While the Proposed Action will result in the release of emissions, these releases are expected to be minor and are not likely to occur at a level which will impact local or regional climate. No significant impacts to climate are expected as a result of the CIP. The Proposed Action is expected to provide greater ability to respond to future climate variability, such as changes in water availability.

Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources on the Reservation are treated as a trust asset due to their potential commercial value. Soil disturbing activities have potential to disturb paleontological materials; however, the project area has been classified as having "low fossil potential." The likelihood of

disturbing paleontological resources is low and no significant impacts are expected as a result of the Proposed Action.

Floodplains

Although the majority of the Reservation has not been zoned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, it is assumed that nearly all of the CIP area lies within the floodplain. The Proposed Action will not result in any changes to flood zone designations.

Increased irrigation system efficiency, as a result of the Proposed Action, could result in greater in-stream flows. Conversely, development of newly irrigated acres as a result of the Proposed Action could reduce in-stream flows.

The potential changes to in-stream flows are unlikely to be of a magnitude which will affect flooding occurrence. Additionally, flow alterations are likely to occur during mid- to late-summer, whereas most flooding events occur in the spring and early summer.

The anticipated increase in in-stream flows is not expected to affect flooding or floodplains.

Executive Orders

The Proposed Action is in compliance with Executive Orders (EO) 11593 (Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment), 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), 12898 (Environmental Justice), 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites), 13112 (Invasive Species Control), and 13186 (Protection of Migratory Birds).

No significant impacts are expected to the resources covered in each.

Cumulative Impacts

Chapter 3 (pg. 3-29) of the Final EA included analysis of cumulative effects or impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. It was concluded that the Proposed Action will not result in any adverse significant impacts to the environment, and therefore would not result in significant cumulative impacts.

Finding

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts and the effectiveness of the conservation measures in the Proposed Action, as described in the Final EA and in the preceding sections of this document, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action will not have significant or highly uncertain impacts on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1508.27).

Consequently, Reclamation has prepared this Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) and will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

Decision

Reclamation has selected the Proposed Action for implementation. Conservation measures contained in the Final EA (Section 2.3, pg. 2-19) are incorporated into this decision. The conservation measures are reasonable, appropriate, and based on recommendations commonly used for resource protection.

With the application of conservation measures, a FONSI has been made for the Proposed Action. Implementation of this Federal action may proceed following approval of this document. Project work included in Annual Funding Agreements can proceed through the site-specific review process, described below.

Implementation Instructions and Recommendations

1. The Tribe, Reclamation, and BIA shall establish a process for subsequent and detailed environmental reviews for site-specific plans for CIP activities.

Annual funding plans, draft construction plans, or other work proposals should be screened to identify any necessary subsequent reviews. The screening process should allow sufficient time for an appropriate level of review and preparation of environmental analysis and documentation, including any field surveys, if required.

2. Consistent with NEPA Section 102(a), Reclamation recommends that an IDT approach be used to screen and review CIP work activities, and to finalize application of site-specific environmental management practices and conservation measures. While the exact makeup and composition of the team can be tailored based on need, efficiency, and cost-savings, the core team should include representation from the following entities:
 - Reclamation project engineer
 - Reclamation environmental specialist
 - Reclamation archaeologist
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs representative(s), including environmental specialist and archaeologist
 - Tribal representative(s), including Water Resources Department Director
 - Subject matter experts, as needed.
3. Conservation measures identified in the Final EA will be applied based on need at the site-specific level, as determined by the IDT.


Differences among sites within the CIP area may have unique features that may not require the full complement of practices and measures.

Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Crow Irrigation Project

4. Over the course of project implementation, Reclamation, BIA, and the Tribe shall review the status of environmental reviews and record findings for compliance with NEPA. An annual or periodic monitoring report is recommended and shall be made part of the NEPA project record/administrative files.
5. Revisions to the Master Plan are anticipated and subject to environmental reviews, as noted above. Revisions may include updates to the conservation measures included as an Appendix to the Master Plan.

This concludes Reclamation's decision to implement the Proposed Action for the *Rehabilitation and Improvement of Crow Irrigation Project (CIP)*.

Responsible Official: _____


Michael J. Ryan
Regional Director, Great Plains Region,
Bureau of Reclamation

Date

6/19/15

Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Crow Irrigation Project, Montana

Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act (Section 405, P.L. 111-291)

Finding of No Significant Impact

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

For further information regarding this Finding of No Significant Impact, contact:

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The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is a cooperating agency for the preparation of the Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Crow Irrigation Project Environmental Assessment.

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts and the effectiveness of the conservation measures in the Proposed Action, as described in the Final EA and in the preceding sections of this document, BIA has determined that the Proposed Action will not have significant or highly uncertain impacts on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1508.27). Consequently, a Finding of No Significant Impact has been made for the Proposed Action and an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

This concludes BIA's decision to implement the Proposed Action for the *Rehabilitation and Improvement of Crow Irrigation Project (CIP)* and implementation of this Federal action may proceed.

Responsible Official: John J. Anowski July 24, 2015
Date
Water Resources/Irrigation, Rocky Mountain Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs