

St. Mary Siphon Briefing

November 2024 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 has removed all of the original pipe from the site. The new siphon pipe is being installed on the west side starting at the river and working towards the inlet.

Sletten Construction installed the bridge abutments and river piers. Will finish up the pier cap, pull the sheet pile, and prep the site for a winter shutdown. Work will start back up once all girders are on site and ready for placement (Feb-Mar)

The draft river restoration design has been submitted to the Corps and Blackfeet Environmental Office for permitting. Once permitted, the restoration will begin after sheet piles are pulled that are protecting the river piers.

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
- Upcoming Milestones
 - Girder Delivery: Feb 2025
 - Bridge Complete: May 2025
 - Inlet/Outlet Construction: June 2025
 - Project Completion: September 2025

Operations

2024 Water Supply

- Fresno releases reduced to 40 cfs on September 18
- Carryover projection of 21,000 Acre-Feet (AF) on Sept. 30
- Releases for municipal use will continue through the winter

2025 Water Supply

- Based on projected storage and median inflows irrigation would start in mid-May and peak at 800 cfs
- Irrigation releases would begin ramping down in mid-June to target 15,000 AF for municipal use
- Natural flow and Ft. Belknap Indian Irrigation Project storage right would be released until depleted.

Costs

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

Current available funding: \$24,300,000

- Reclamation: \$14,100,000
- Joint Board: \$10,300,000

Task based project budget summary is available on request:

- Total Baseline Project Estimate = \$70,000,000
- Total Project Spent = \$15,500,000
- % Spent = 22.1%