



MILK RIVER PROJECT

MILK RIVER PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 1903, the Secretary of Interior approved Construction of the Milk River Project.

This Project is one of the first five Bureau of Reclamation Projects to be authorized as a **Single Purpose** irrigation project.

The entirety of the St. Mary Unit lies within the bounds of the Blackfeet Reservation.



St. Mary's – Milk River Project

St. Mary's Diversion

Lake Sherburne

St. Mary Diversion Dam

Canal Head Gates

29 Miles of Canals

2 Steel Siphons

5 Hydraulic Drop Structures

Milk River Project

Nelson Storage Dam & Reservoir

Fresno Dam & Reservoir

Dodson Diversion Dam

Paradise Diversion Dam

Swift Current Diversion Dam

Vandalia Diversion Dam

Dodson Pumping Plant

200 Miles of Canals

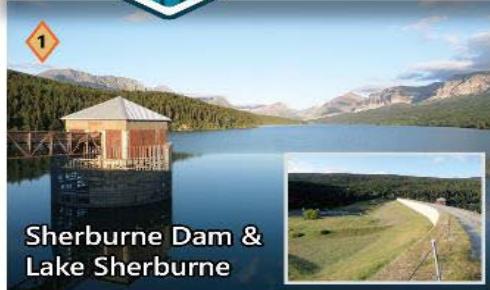
219 miles of Laterals

295 miles of Drains

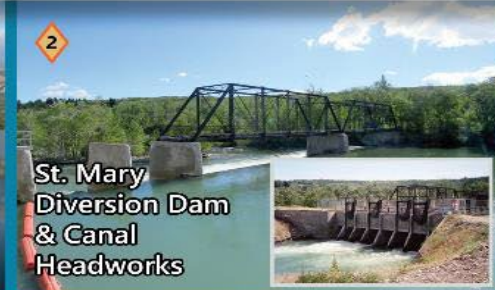


BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The St. Mary Supply System and the Greater Milk River Project



1 Sherburne Dam & Lake Sherburne



2 St. Mary Diversion Dam & Canal Headworks



3 St. Mary Canal - River Siphon

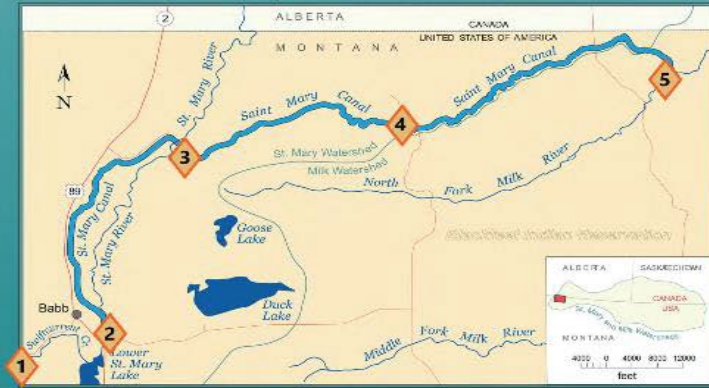


4 St. Mary Canal - Halls Coulee Siphon



5 St. Mary Canal Drop Structure

St. Mary Canal detail (U.S.)



Locate facilities and photos on the map by matching this symbol and number



6 Fresno Dam & Reservoir



7 Lohman Diversion Dam (private)



8 Paradise Valley Diversion Dam



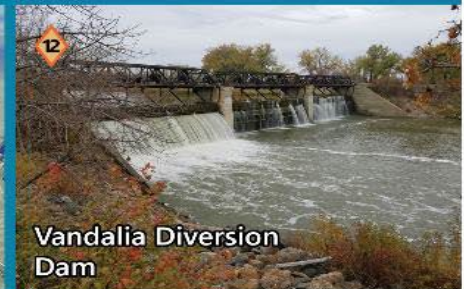
9 Harlem Pumping Plant (private)



10 Dodson Diversion Dam



11 Nelson Dikes & Reservoir



12 Vandalia Diversion Dam

COST ALLOCATION OF THE ST. MARY UNIT

Who are the Project Beneficiaries?

Municipalities & Industrial

(2% of the Project Beneficiary Share)

Havre, Chinook, Harlem, Hill County, GSA and others

Milk River Joint Board of Control

(91% of Project Beneficiaries Share)

Alfalfa Valley Irrigation District

Dodson Irrigation District

Fort Belknap Irrigation District

Glasgow Irrigation District

Harlem Irrigation District

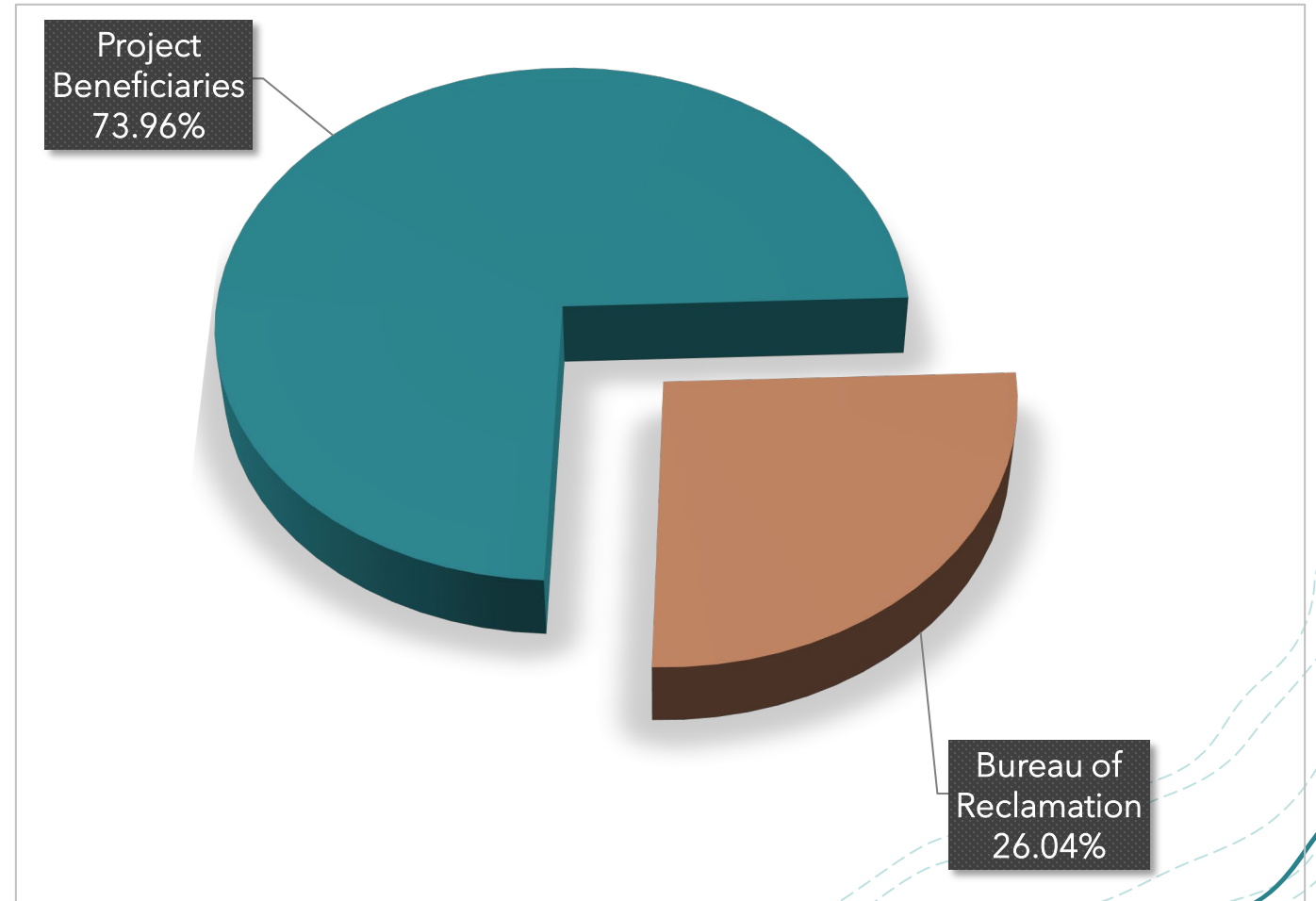
Malta Irrigation District

Paradise Valley Irrigation District

Zurich Irrigation District

Pump Contracts

(7% Project Beneficiaries Share)



UPCOMING PROJECTS

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	PROJECT BENEFICIARIES SHARE	PROJECT BENEFICIARIES TOTAL	US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SHARE	US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TOTAL
St. Mary Diversion Dam Engineering and Construction	\$99 Million	0%			\$99 Million
Fresno Safety of Dams*	\$77 Million	15%	\$11.55 Million	85%	\$65.45 Million
Fresno Concrete Replacement	\$2.5 Million	65.79%	\$1.64 Million	34.21%	\$855,250
St. Mary & Halls Coulee Siphon Replacement	\$70 Million	48.07%	\$33.65 Million	51.93%	\$36.35 Million
<i>Canal Restoration and Modernization</i>	<i>\$200 Million</i>	<i>73.96%</i>	<i>\$147.9 Million</i>	<i>26.04%</i>	<i>\$52.1 Million</i>



Diversion Dam

Construction of the new Diversion Dam will add fish-friendly features that comply with the Endangered Species Act.

- Includes:
 - Low head diversion dam and rock ramp for upstream passage
 - New headworks structure
 - Canal fish screen and check structure downstream of the fish screen
 - Fish bypass to return fish to the river
 - O&M, control buildings, and other auxiliary features.

Total *Estimated* Project Cost \$99 Million

Funded by Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)



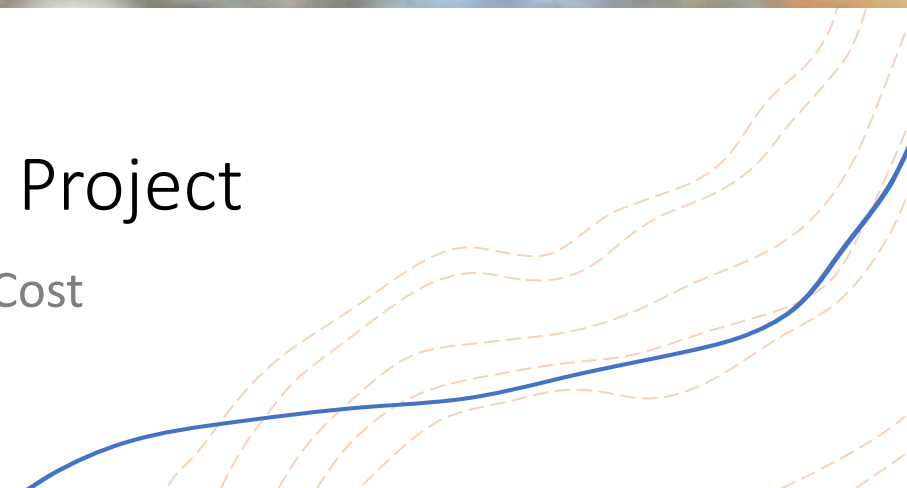
FRESNO SAFETY OF DAM

- 3-year Construction Project (23-25)
- No Operational Restrictions
- \$77 million Project – Cost to Project Beneficiaries \$11.5 million
- Additional Concrete Contract added for O&M (\$2.5 million)



Halls Coulee & St. Mary Siphon Project

Estimated at \$70 Million Total Project Cost



ST. MARY SIPHON FAILURE

6.17.2024







**Resulting in a Dry Milk
River (2024)**

A photograph of industrial water treatment equipment. The scene is dominated by large, grey cylindrical tanks and complex piping systems. Several red-handled valves are visible, providing a sharp contrast against the blue and grey tones. The background shows a network of blue pipes and structural supports. The overall lighting is bright, highlighting the metallic surfaces.

MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER

The Milk River Project Facilities provides municipal water to approximately 13,000-18,000 people in Havre, Chinook, Harlem & Fort Belknap

An aerial photograph of a wide, winding river flowing through a valley. The river is light-colored, possibly due to sediment, and meanders across the landscape. The surrounding terrain is a mix of green and brown, indicating different types of vegetation and soil. In the background, there are rolling hills and a clear sky. The overall scene is a natural, open landscape.

RECREATION FISH & WILDLIFE

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







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