

TRIBE: Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation

UPDATE: July 15, 2004

Members of the State, Tribal and Federal technical and legal working groups continue working to clarify their differences regarding the costs of proposed mitigation projects and cost share for federal legislation. No negotiating sessions have been held since the previous report.

TRIBE: Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Reservation

UPDATE: July 15, 2004

There have been no negotiating sessions since the last report. There have been several legal and technical meetings to evaluate components of the Tribal proposal for the settlement of water rights to Birch Creek, the southern boundary of the reservation. The Tribe has also been involved in the St. Mary's Working Group, which is exploring the rehabilitation of this major Bureau of Reclamation project. Settling the Tribe's water rights to the Milk and St. Mary Rivers will be an important component of this effort.

TRIBE: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

UPDATE: July 15, 2004

The parties continue their efforts to reach agreement on an interim plan for water management on the reservation, pending a final compact. There have been no recent negotiations on the long-term settlement. The parties continue to discuss the possible use of a mediator.

TRIBE: Crow Tribe

UPDATE: July 15, 2004

The Crow Tribal Chairman has expressed an interest in going forward to Congress with the Crow Compact; however, no recent negotiating sessions have been held.

TRIBE: Turtle Mountain Chippewa

UPDATE: July 15, 2004

No changes have taken place in the status of negotiations since the last report. The State and the Tribe have not yet received U.S. Department of the Interior approval for a federal negotiating team to begin work on a settlement, nor do the Tribe and Commission have a Memorandum of Agreement for procedural issues.

TECHNICAL: Commission staff will work to digitize land ownership information.