

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Natural Resources Conservation Service****Watkins Branch Watershed, Buchanan County, Virginia**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to deauthorize Federal Funding and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NRCS gives notice of the intent to deauthorize Federal funding for the Watkins Branch Watershed project, Buchanan County, Virginia.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments by May 20, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments on this notice. In your comments, include the volume, date, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit your comments by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*

*Website:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>

and search for docket ID NRCS-2019-0002. Follow the online instruction for submitting comments electronically.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Bricker, VA State Conservationist, 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229. Telephone: (804) 287-1691 or email: [Jack.Bricker@va.usda.gov](mailto:Jack.Bricker@va.usda.gov). Also, for specific questions regarding this notice, contact Wade Biddix, (804) 287-1675 or [Wade.Biddix@va.usda.gov](mailto:Wade.Biddix@va.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 83-566) and NRCS Guidelines (7 CFR part 622), a determination has been made by John Bricker, NRCS State Conservationist in Virginia, that the proposed works of improvement for the Watkins Branch Watershed project will not be installed. The sponsoring local organizations have concurred in this determination and agree that Federal funding should be deauthorized for the project. Information regarding this determination may be obtained from John Bricker, NRCS State Conservationist at the above contact information.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposed deauthorization will be taken until 60 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

**Federal Assistance Programs**

The title and number of the Federal assistance programs, as found in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance,

to which this NOFA applies is: 10.904 Watershed Protection and Flood.

**John A. Bricker,**

*VA State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-16-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Natural Resources Conservation Service**

[Docket No. NRCS-2019-0001]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow Creek Watershed, Glacier County, Montana, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The NRCS Montana State Office gives notice that an EIS is being prepared for the Willow Creek Watershed Project in the proximity of Browning, Montana on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. This notice announces our intent to prepare an EIS, provide information on the nature of the proposed action and possible alternatives, invite public participation in the EIS process, and identify cooperating agency contacts. The EIS process will evaluate alternatives recommended for detailed study because of previous planning-level studies completed by NRCS and additional (new) alternatives identified during scoping.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive by April 22, 2019. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent possible.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments on this NOI. In your comments, include the volume, date, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket ID NRCS-2019-0001. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail, Hand Delivery, Fax, or Courier:* Amy Darlinton P.E., Northern Engineering & Consulting, Inc., 200 N 34th Street, Billings, MT 59101, email: [amy.darlinton@neciusa.com](mailto:amy.darlinton@neciusa.com), fax: (406) 206-5248 or telephone: (406) 206-5248.

All written comments will be publicly available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom Watson, State Conservationist, NRCS, 10 E Babcock, Suite 443, Bozeman, MT 59715, telephone (406) 587-6811 or email [tom.watson@mt.usda.gov](mailto:tom.watson@mt.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NRCS Montana State Office gives notice that an EIS is being prepared for the Willow Creek Watershed Project in the proximity of Browning, Montana on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The EIS process will evaluate alternatives recommended for detailed study because of previous planning-level studies completed by NRCS and additional (new) alternatives identified during scoping. Preparing an EIS, providing information on the nature of the proposed action and possible alternatives, inviting public participation in the EIS process, and identifying cooperating agency contacts is being done as required by section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Guidelines (40 CFR part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regulations that implement NEPA in 7 CFR part 650. The initial agency scoping of this federally assisted action indicates that the project may cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. Tom Watson, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an EIS is needed for this project.

The objective of the EIS is to formulate and evaluate alternatives to prevent or reduce Willow Creek floodwater damage through Browning, Montana. A draft EIS will be prepared and circulated for review by agencies and the public. NRCS invites participation and consultation of agencies and individuals that have special expertise, legal jurisdiction, or interest in the preparation of the draft environmental impact statement.

Written comments on the scope of the draft EIS, including the project's need and purpose, the alternatives to be considered, types of issues that should be addressed, associated research that should be considered, and the methodologies to be used in impact evaluations should be sent to Northern Engineering & Consulting, Inc. (NECI), (see **ADDRESSES** section above for contact information).

Two scoping meetings were held to present the project and develop the scope of the draft EIS on Wednesday, January 24, 2019, at 629 All Chiefs Road, Browning Montana Blackfeet Tribal Council Chambers, Browning, Montana 59417. Comments received, including the names and addresses of