

Ag Impacts Mitigation Plan

Flowage Easement

- The easement provides the legal ability to inundate property as part of the operation of the Project.
- Value of a flowage easement on an individual property will follow Federal/USACE process and will be determined by appraisal. Factors that will be considered are depth, duration, and frequency of additional flooding, and the highest and best use of the property.
- USACE policy defines a flowage easement as a one-time payment made at the time that the easement is acquired, currently estimated in 2020.
- Appraiser may consider future impacts including delayed planting, yield loss, debris, and limitations to future land use, resulting from operation of the Project.
- Values of flowage easement will vary depending on the location of the property, magnitude of impacts, and future risks to the property.
- Flowage easements will allow for farming to continue on properties, however development will be limited.
- The Corps' Feasibility Study estimated Ag flowage easements at 25 percent of land costs – this is an average, the actual value will be adjusted to reflect current valuation of each property when easements are acquired.

Crop Insurance

- Federal crop insurance will apply if a crop can be planted before the established late planting dates.
- The Diversion Authority has contracted with experts to study and determine the risks from the Project to agriculture in the staging area.
- The study will guide policies for supplemental crop risk policies.
- The policy may provide supplemental income for producers when Project operations cause impacts and when federal crop insurance does not apply.
- The supplemental crop risk policy may provide equivalent coverage as growers have today and may cover the prevent plant scenarios where Project operation would prohibit planting.
- The supplemental risk policy may also cover damages caused by project operation to planted crops (summer impacts).
- The Diversion Authority will base its risk policy on federal crop insurance programs administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA)/USDA.
- RMA policies and procedures will be used to define coverage for damages caused by the Diversion Project.
- The Diversion Authority will explore self-coverage vs. coverage through a provider.
- The Diversion Authority will fund the supplemental crop risk program through its operations and maintenance program.