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Award of a \$30,934.75 construction contract for irrigation improvement work on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in southwestern Colorado was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The contract covers the erecting of a 40-inch diameter steel pipe siphon approximately 670 feet long across Dry Creek Wash, located in the vicinity of Ignacio, Colorado, as part of the Indian Bureau's Pine River Irrigation Project.

The Pine River Project has a total of over 10,000 acres to which water can be delivered, including about 4,000 acres of the Pine River Unit which will be served by the siphon. The estimated value of crops produced under the Dry Creek portion is estimated at \$100,000 annually. The structures to be built will dissipate the excess head that is created by the water coming off the nearby steep hillside.

The contract was awarded to American steel and Iron Works, Inc., of Denver. Eight other higher bids were also received.
