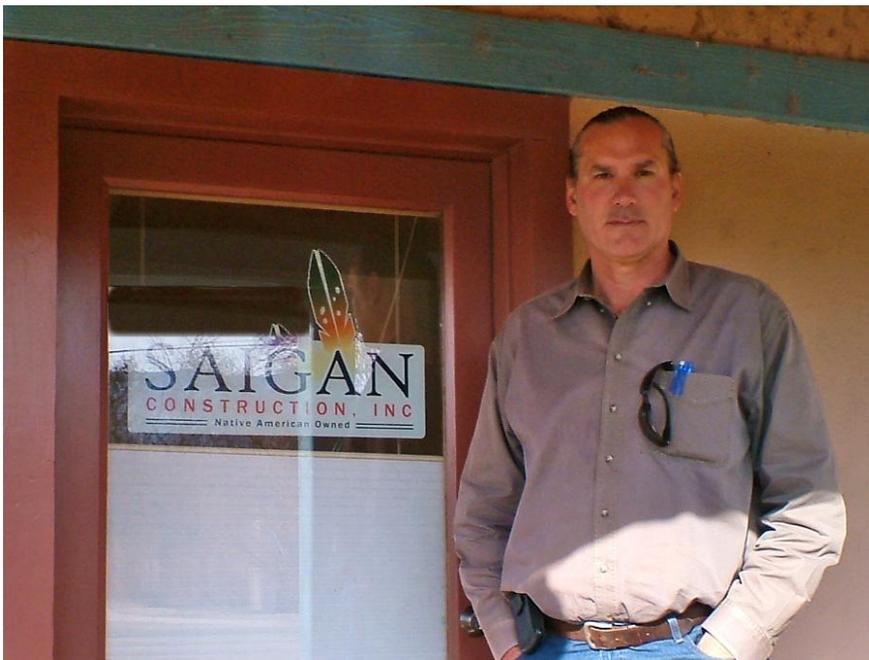


The Recovery Act creates New Mexico Jobs.

By Kelly K. Mensah

We recently got a chance to speak to Tim Fogarty, owner of Saigan Construction, an Industrial, Structural and Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction Company in Corrales, New Mexico. Saigan Construction was recently awarded two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Recovery Act Projects to improve the water transmission at Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center. We spoke to him about what it has meant to his business.



Tim Fogarty, Owner Saigan Construction

**U.S.F&WS:** Good Morning Tim, You've recently been awarded two Recovery Act projects (FFS#R2PG and FFS#R2PH) through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is that correct?

**Fogarty:** Yes, we were awarded the contracts in October and December last year.

How long have you been in business?

**Well, I've been in the construction business for 30 years and I've owned Saigan Construction since 2005.**

What's your background?

**I was born and raised in North Dakota, and I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation. After I got my degree in Industrial Technology from University of North Dakota. I was actually in a labor union for a while, and just worked my way up from laborer to project manager. I spent many years in heavy civil construction before I opened my own business.**

Was it hard going from being a laborer to a business owner?

**I asked somebody if they'd help me write a business plan, and he said that "well if you're not smart enough to write a business plan, you're not smart enough to be in business," (he says with a laugh) so I wrote my own plan, took out a \$150,000 SBA loan and got started; I paid the loan back in a year and a half.**



Pond Liner Dexter NFH&TC

Describe the projects you are working on for U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

**We were contracted to replace 47 pond valves and also to rebuild the pond liner at Dexter Fish Hatchery and Technology Center.**

What benefit did that bring to Dexter?

**Well, all of the valves that they had there were leaking so with the replacement, they will save water and be able to better control water flow to the endangered species. Another job is to replace a pond kettle which controls the water in and out of the ponds for the fish. The**

concrete had deteriorated so much that they couldn't put the stop plugs in to stop the water flow.



Deteriorated Valve, Dexter NFH&TC

When do you expect the Dexter projects to be completed?

**The pond liners should be complete the first week in March. The valve project was completed the first week in January.**

Have you done other Recovery Act projects?

**Right now we're doing a \$2,755 million dollar project for the Army Corps of Engineers at Canon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico; the project entails doing the infrastructure work for the water sewer, electrical and gas. We did another ARRA project for the Indian Health Service at the Pueblo of Nambe (New Mexico). We put in a wastewater treatment center for them worth about \$686,000.**

How has the Recovery Act affected Saigan?

**We had been doing about 3 million dollars a year for the last three-to-four years and we will double that in the next 6 months, it's been a great benefit to us. I've hired on about 10 people at this time but we're still going to hire more. We'll probably get up to about 25 employees.**



Workers on Dexter NFH&TC Crew

How long do you expect these jobs to last?

**Well, if I can keep em', I'll keep em' forever! (he says with a chuckle). ARRA has helped us grow really quickly and I'm hoping we can keep right on growing.**

What do you see for the future?

**Well, I see expanding a little bit more, but I don't want to be a big contractor, I think the Stimulus Package for me has been great. It sure put me in another level as far as the**

**company. Basically it was just me and the secretary and two other people. Now I have more office personnel, and I'm getting ready to hire another one.**

Do you think that the Recovery Act has been good for America?

**Actually I think it's a really good idea, it's created a lot of jobs and helped a lot of businesses.**

And how has it been working for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

**I think that they're good people providing a good service, I like working for them. My philosophy is you do good work, you build relationships and people will want you back.**