

**Clark Fork River
Operable Unit of the
Milltown Reservoir Clark
Fork River
Superfund Site**

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River Review

September 2013

Phase I Construction Update

The Clark Fork River Reach A, Phase 1 cleanup has been underway for just over 7 months, beginning on March 4, 2013. Hauling of tailings began on April 4th, and as of August 31, over **211,245** cubic yards of mine waste has been removed from the floodplain of the river and placed in the BP Waste Management Area. To date, approximately **79,462** cubic yards of both vegetative dirt and alluvium (rock) has been placed on the reconstructed floodplain. Crews have already completed work on several sections of the river. Activities have included dewatering in order to remove contamination, internal haul road construction and approximately **8,530** linear feet of streambank stabilization. Crews began adding microtopography (woody debris) to the finished floodplain areas to create roughness and niches for native seed to collect and start to establish. Construction is progressing according to schedule and should be completed by the end of 2013, with more vegetation planted in spring 2014.

Public safety is our number one concern on this project. Please be aware of traffic laws and remember that haul trucks cannot see you if you are following too closely. There will be increased patrols for traffic violations. DEQ apologizes for any delays and inconveniences that have been caused by this project and we appreciate your assistance and patience during hauling activities on public roads.



Left: Excavator operator buries woody debris collected onsite for microtopography.

Right: Finished area after microtopography has been placed. Planting in these areas will begin in early October.



Upcoming Meetings

Stakeholder and Landowner Meetings

DEQ will hold the next stakeholders meeting on September 18 at 1 pm. The landowner and public meeting will be held on the following Saturday, September 21 at 11 am. These meetings are an opportunity for the various agency officials and other stakeholders to get an on-site update and tour of the current construction work. Please meet at the Eagle Entrance to the Warm Spring Ponds wildlife management area, located off Morel Road. If you plan on attending or need more information, please RSVP to Katie Garcin at KGarcin@mt.gov or 841-5042 by September 16 at 5:00 PM. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes for the on-site tour. Meetings will continue on the 3rd Wednesday and Saturday of every month during construction.

Phase 5 & 6 Design Review Team Meeting

A design review team meeting will be held on September 26 at 1pm at the Racetrack Firehall in Racetrack, MT. This meeting will include a presentation on Phase 5 & 6 (Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch) by DEQ, Terragraphics, Geum Environmental and Applied Fluvial Geomorphology will be there to answer questions, solicit input and coordinate the design between the various agencies and stakeholders regarding the upcoming phase design for construction. Directions to Racetrack Fire Hall:
*Take the Racetrack Exit (195) off of I-5 (coming from Missoula turn right at the exit, from Butte, turn left)
*Turn right onto Racetrack Road
*Take the 1st right onto S. Frontage Road

Construction Photos

As the summer comes to an end, many new seedlings can be found across the site. These willow stands adjacent to the river were dead and decaying. They were trimmed to the top of the bank and preserved earlier in the year and now have growth up to 6 feet tall. Wildflowers and new willow seedlings have made appearances where contamination was removed. We look forward to seeing more of this next spring.



The Clark Fork River Operable Unit (CFR OU) is part of the Milltown Reservoir/Clark Fork River Superfund Site. The CFR OU includes the Clark Fork River from its headwaters near Warm Springs Creek to Milltown Reservoir, just east of Missoula. The heavy metals (Cadmium, Copper, Zinc, and Lead) and arsenic in the Clark Fork River are from historic mining, milling and smelting processes linked to the Anaconda Company operations in Butte and Anaconda. The majority of the cleanup will occur along a 47 mile stretch of the river from Warm Springs in Anaconda/Deer Lodge County downstream to Garrison in Powell County. This is known as Reach A. The primary sources of contamination are tailings mixed with soil in the stream-banks and historic floodplain. These sources threaten human health and animal and plant life. The 2004 Record of Decision (ROD) describes the cleanup approach, or Selected Remedy. In addition to the ROD, the Natural Resource Damage Program developed a restoration plan to expedite the recovery time for injured aquatic and terrestrial resources in and along the Clark Fork River.