

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

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River Review

October 2013

Phase I Construction Update- Plants are arriving!

The Clark Fork River Reach A, Phase 1 cleanup has been underway for just over 8 months, beginning on March 4, 2013. Hauling of tailings began on April 4th, and as of September 30, over **259,480** cubic yards (80% of the Phase 1 project total) of mine waste has been removed from the floodplain of the river and placed in the BP Waste Management Area. To date, approximately **120,202** cubic yards of both vegetative dirt and alluvium (rock) has been placed on the reconstructed floodplain. After the contamination was removed and backfill was put in place, crews began adding microtopography (woody debris) to the finished floodplain areas to create roughness and places for native seed to collect and start to grow. Construction is progressing according to schedule and should be completed by the end of 2013.

Revegetation has begun! A revegetation contract was awarded to Advanced Environmental Technologies, Inc. on August 30, 2013. Plants began arriving on-site October 3 and a total of 11,600 Birch, Aspens, Cottonwoods, Alders and Willows will be planted this fall, with another 118,400 to be planted in the spring of 2014. That is a total of 130,000 plants! Once planted, they will be protected from wildlife by fencing or browse protectors.

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: Various species of willows are delivered and unloaded at the Phase I construction site.

Right: Birch, Aspen, Cottonwoods and Alders are staged and organized to be planted in the floodplain.



Stakeholder and Landowner Meetings

DEQ will hold the next stakeholders meeting on October 16 at 1 pm. The landowner and public meeting will be held the following Saturday, October 19 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 **October 14 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.

Planting has begun!

As the summer comes to an end, many new seedlings can be found across the site. Wildflowers and new willows have made appearances where contamination was removed. Planting crews have been working hard over the past few weeks to get containerized plants in the ground. Between plants coming back naturally and additional planting and seeding this fall and upcoming spring, we are excited to see how things will look next year!



Trees have been planted along the streambanks and browse protectors have been put in place to protect them from wildlife.



Dogwoods, birch, and various species of willows planted in the floodplain.



Trees and shrubs are planted in the floodplain swales and features to create plant diversity.



Newly planted vegetation and floodplain micro topography.

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 streambanks 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.