

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

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River Review

December 2014



Happy Holidays from the Clark Fork River Cleanup Crew to you!



Phases 5 and 6– Construction Continues

Construction on Phases 5 and 6 of the Clark Fork River cleanup began in July 2014. These phases are located between Galen Road and Gemback Road, near Racetrack, Montana. The project area covers 4.5 river miles on two private ranches. To date, 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated material has been removed from the Clark Fork River floodplain and over 5,000 linear feet of stream banks have been built. In addition, internal haul roads have been completed and on-site borrow areas have been developed. This project will continue through the winter with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2015.

Please be aware that there may be heavy machinery working along Galen Road at various times. Please be aware of increased signage on these roads notifying motorists of hauling activities.



Removal of contaminated materials, development of on-site borrow areas, and construction of temporary haul roads in the Phase 6 and 6 project area.



Streambank re-construction using coir logs and coir fabric (made from coconut fibers) and native willow cuttings.

Updates

DEQ will provide weekly updates in the Silver State Post and the Anaconda Leader that will include updated construction information. Weekly ads will also run on River Radio (96.9 FM). Monthly fact-sheets with project updates will be distributed via the email list service. To sign up for these updates, please visit this webpage <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/ListServe/clarkforkRiverStep1.asp> or contact Jeni Garcin-Flatow at jgarcin2@mt.gov or 406-841-8016. Monthly tours for stakeholders and the public will be held on site. Dates and times will be included in future River Reviews.

Other Work on the River:

Phase I

Construction and planting is complete. A final planting occurred in October, completing the construction and re-vegetation for this area. The first growing season exceeded expectations, with successful growth from both the seeded and containerized plantings. We are excited to monitor this phase of the project over the next few years to watch it continue to grow and mature. Please note that this area is closed until September 2015 to allow the vegetation time to establish.



Willows trimmed during construction in 2013 show substantial regrowth along the streambanks.



Wetland plugs planted in spring 2014 can be seen in Phase I. There has been a high growth rate in these areas.

Upcoming Phases

- Additional sampling was conducted in Phase 7 (Racetrack Pond) to further understand the site. The design team is working on finalizing the Preliminary Design Plan.
- Phase 15 and 16 on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch continues to move forward with the goal of finalizing the Preliminary Design Plan in early 2015.
- Sampling and characterization of the Phases 3 and 4 project areas, located between Perkins Lane and Galen Road, began this fall.
- DEQ will perform additional revegetation activities on pasture areas located along Eastside Road, south of Deer Lodge. Equipment and materials will be showing up this winter and revegetation activities are scheduled to occur in early 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 43 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.

