



Updated website offers fact sheets, maps and more

Greetings from the Clark Fork River Team. We hope your 2018 is off to a happy and healthy start. We're looking forward to a productive year on the Clark Fork River.

We've started off the new year with updates to our website and the addition of new fact sheets, maps and monitoring reports. You'll find the latest information on weed spraying, vegetation recovery, water quality, sediment monitoring and more.

DEQ and the state Natural Resource Damage Program recently finalized a Qualitative Rapid Assessment (QRA), which provides a

(Continued on page 2)

Racetrack Pond

Habitat improvements and construction of a Fishing Access Site will begin this spring at the Racetrack Pond. See inside for details.



Repository Investigation Update

Since the November public meeting there has been a great deal of interest in the repository investigation now underway.

DEQ and the state Natural Resource Damage Program are evaluating potential sites for one or more new tailings repositories. To date, tailings have been hauled to the Opportunity Ponds Waste Management Area. By opening a new repository or repositories closer to future work sites, DEQ may reduce haul costs, saving settlement dollars for future work.

DEQ and NRDP are in the initial phase of evaluating suitable locations. The next step will be more in-depth assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis. Following an extensive public involvement process, DEQ and NRDP will decide whether to pursue construction of new repositories. Please don't hesitate to call a member of the Clark Fork Team if you have comments or questions. To keep you informed, DEQ has developed an FAQ.

(...updated website continued)

snapshot of how areas that have been remediated (cleaned up) since 2011 are faring. The report looks at factors such as how well plant life is re-establishing in areas that have been cleaned up.

DEQ will use the data to identify areas that need more work and to determine what cleanup strategies work best on the Clark Fork so they can be applied to future work. Other new documents on the website include the "2016 Sediment & Water Quality Monitoring Report" and the "2010-2017 Weed Control Summary Report." In addition, the website features new phase-by-phase fact sheets and a new project map. To access these documents, please follow the links on page 3.

Meanwhile, DEQ plans to break ground on a new project phase this year. We'll keep the community informed on project developments and construction activity with frequent updates throughout this spring and summer.

We were encouraged by the great attendance at the public meeting in Deer Lodge in November, and are committed to continuing strong community involvement. To that end, DEQ has finalized its 2017 Community Involvement Plan (CIP), now available on our website. The CIP identifies strategies to engage and inform the community and to identify and address community concerns. DEQ thanks the many private citizens, local government officials, business people and community organization leaders in Granite, Deer Lodge, Missoula, and Powell counties who provided valuable input. Among other things, the CIP details how DEQ will use public meetings, newsletters, local media outreach, social media, radio and TV ads, and other communication channels. In other community outreach news, DEQ is seeking opportunities to present to local service clubs and other community organizations on the Clark Fork River Cleanup. To schedule a presentation for your organization, contact Karen Ogden at 444-6360 or karen.ogden@mt.gov.

Racetrack Pond work to begin

Located near the Powell and Deer Lodge county line just east of Interstate 90, the Racetrack Pond was created in the 1960s and '70s as a source of road fill for construction of the Interstate. In 2016, DEQ developed a borrow source north of the pond for fill to be used in Phases 5 & 6 of the Clark Fork River Cleanup project.

Improvements to begin this spring will include deepening the pond to improve fish habitat, re-grading the pond's steep banks to a more gradual slope, revegetation work and construction of a handicapped-accessible Fishing Access Site.

The property is currently held by DEQ and is expected to be transferred to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to be managed as a Fishing Access Site when the improvements are complete. For more information, contact Tom Mostad at tmostad2@mt.gov or (406) 444-0227.

CFRTAC news

John DeArment will be taking over **Chris Brick's** roll as a technical advisor for the Clark Fork River Technical Assistance Committee.

John is science director at the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula. He has extensive experience in compliance monitoring for DEQ on the Clark Fork River and Silver Bow Creek. John serves as the hydrologist on the Montana Board of Environmental Review.

Joe Griffin also has joined the committee. Joe is a Butte native and hydrogeologist who retired from DEQ in 2015. He worked extensively on the Butte and Anaconda Superfund sites beginning in 1990. Thank you, Chris, for your years of service on the Committee and welcome John and Joe!

Clark Fork River Online Resources

DEQ's Clark Fork River webpage is a wealth of information, including new reports on water quality and sediment monitoring, weed spraying, community outreach and more.

deq.mt.gov/Land/fedsuperfund/cfr

(Document locations on our website are noted in parenthesis)

Community Involvement Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund Community Involvement Program advocates for and strengthens meaningful and ongoing community participation in environmental cleanups. (News & Information)

Clark Fork River Cleanup Fast Facts

Phase-by-phase summaries of project statistics including cost, river miles cleaned, contaminants removed and revegetation. (News & Information)

2017 Qualitative Rapid Assessment

The Qualitative Rapid Assessment looks at how well areas remediated between 2011 and 2016 are returning to a natural state. (Documents & Reports)

CFR Repository FAQ (News & Information)

Power Point from November 2017 Public Meeting

(Documents & Reports)

2010-2017 Weed Control Summary Report (Documents & Reports)

2016 Water & Sediment Monitoring Executive Summary

(Documents & Reports)

DEQ Clark Fork Team Presentation

Monday, March 12, 11 a.m.
Deer Lodge Woman's Club
800 Missouri Avenue

All are invited to join the DEQ Clark Fork Team for a half-hour presentation on the Clark Fork River Cleanup, including the repository investigation, monitoring and weed spraying.

To schedule a presentation for your organization, contact Karen Ogden at 406-444-6360 or karen.ogden@mt.gov.

Online

<http://deq.mt.gov/Land/fedsuperfund/cfr>

www.doj.mt.gov

www.cfrtac.org

Montana DEQ Remediation Division

P.O. Box 200901

Helena, MT 59620-0901

Contact Us

Autumn Coleman
CFR Project Lead
acoleman@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6555
Cell: 406-431-1597

Joel Chavez
CFR Project Lead
jchavez@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6407
Cell: 406-431-2251

Ben Quiñones
CFR Project Manager
bequinones@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6593
Cell: 406-461-7128

Katie Garcin-Forba
CFRTAC
katherine.garcin@WestonSolutions.com
Office: 406-502-1570

Tim Reilly
CFR Project Manager
tireilly@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6434
Cell: 406-431-2252

Devin Clary
CFR Project Manager
djclary@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6415
Cell: 406-422-8924

Karen Ogden
Community Involvement Coordinator
karen.ogden@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6360
Cell: 406-461-2503

Tom Mostad
NRD Project Manager
tmostad2@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-0227

