Mike Horse Messenger
Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex

2020 CONSTRUCTION SEASON STARTS THIS MONTH

The 2020 construction season is rapidly approaching again for the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex (UBMC). DEQ and the Natural Resource Damage Program anticipates starting Phase 4 and Phase 5 construction work at UBMC near Lincoln, Mont. in May. Last year, the season's work included the final removal of contaminated material from the banks and floodplain of the Blackfoot River and its tributaries. A new stream channel was constructed from the water treatment plant down to just upstream of the upper wetlands.

Phase 4 construction work for the 2020 season includes construction of a bridge at the water treatment plant and a very small amount of remediation work that is left in Additive Alternates A and B. Restoration of these areas is being completed in Phase 5 construction this year. The stretch of river from the Water Treatment Plant to just upstream of Shaue Gulch, is identified as "Additive Alternate A" (see map on reverse page). Additive Alternate B runs from just above Shaue Gulch down to the area just upstream of the upper wetlands area. By the time 2020 construction wraps up in late June/early July, the project will be complete for remediation and restoration of the Mike Horse Creek, Beartrap Creek and Blackfoot River floodplains.
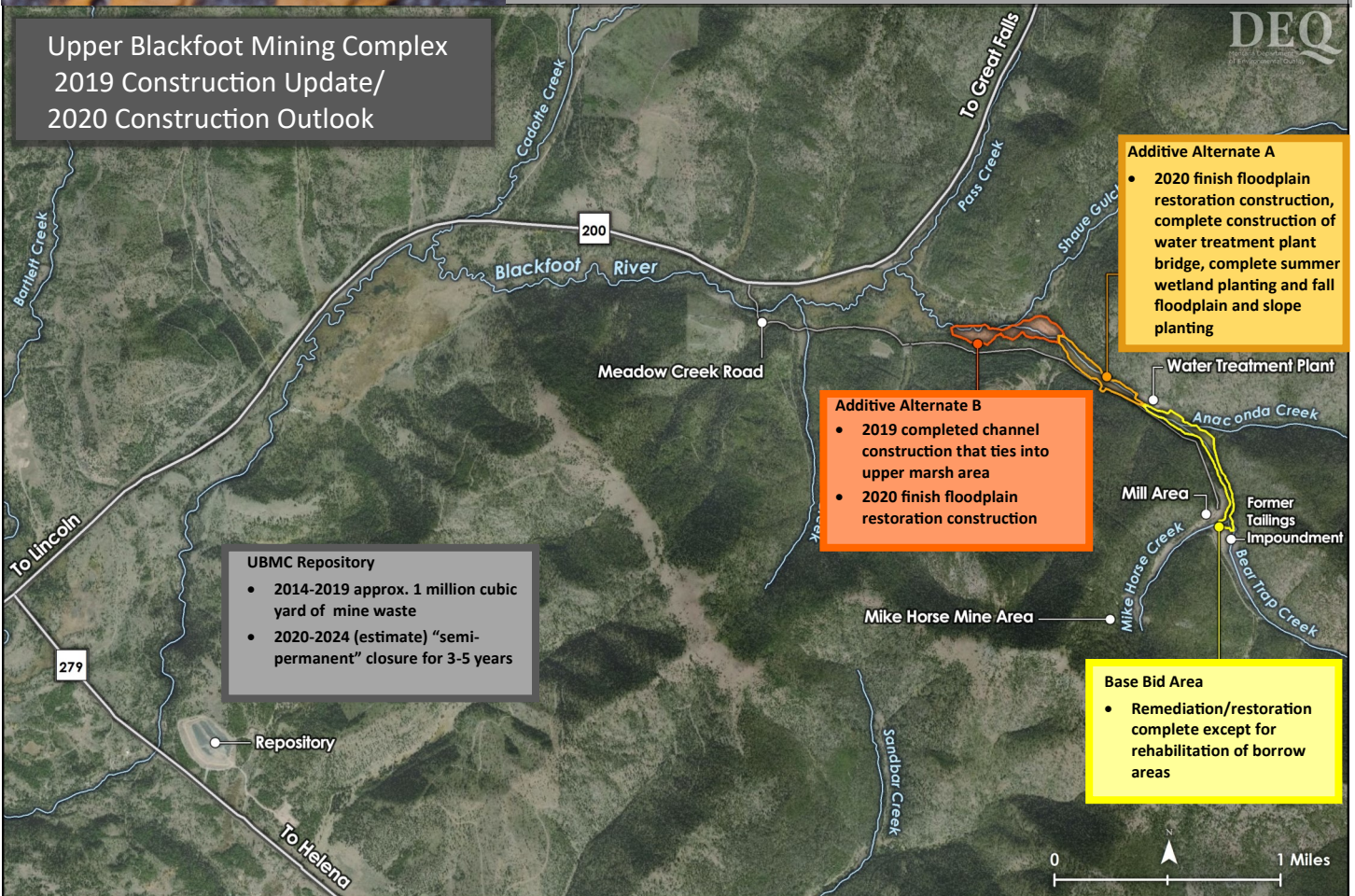

The UBMC repository will receive a "semi-permanent" interim closure in 2020. This closure will be maintained for three to five years while DEQ, the Natural Resource Damage Program and the U.S. Forest Service monitor and assess the upper wetland area and other areas of the site to determine if additional work is necessitated.

SAFETY FIRST

As in previous construction seasons, Meadow Creek and Mike Horse roads will be closed until work stops for the season. Please be alert to traffic entering and exiting Meadow Creek Road. Unlike in past years, the hauling of waste is complete and haul trucks will not be on Highway 200 this season. However, there will still be considerable traffic entering and leaving Meadow Creek Road, so use caution while driving through this area. DEQ, the Natural Resource Damage Program and the U.S. Forest Service are grateful for your continued patience as we work towards the finish line this season. Please don't hesitate to call a member of our project team with any questions or concerns. Happy Spring and construction season!

Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex
2019 Construction Update/
2020 Construction Outlook

Additive Alternate A
- 2020 finish floodplain restoration construction, complete construction of water treatment plant bridge, complete summer wetland planting and fall floodplain and slope planting

Additive Alternate B
- 2019 completed channel construction that ties into upper marsh area
- 2020 finish floodplain restoration construction

UBMC Repository
- 2014-2019 approx. 1 million cubic yard of mine waste
- 2020-2024 (estimate) "semi-permanent" closure for 3-5 years

Base Bid Area
- Remediation/restoration complete except for rehabilitation of borrow areas

Meadow Creek Road

Water Treatment Plant

Mill Area

Former Tailings Impoundment

Mike Horse Mine Area

Repository

To Lincoln

To Helena

To Great Falls

Blackfoot River

200

279

0   1 Miles

INFORMATION

DEQ
Dave Bowers
UBMC Project Manager
406-444-6335
dbowers@mt.gov

DEQ
Moira Davin
Public Relations Specialist
406-444-6360
moira.davin@mt.gov

USFS
Steve Opp
On-Scene Coordinator
406-495-3716
james.s.opp@usda.gov

NRDP
Beau Downing
Restoration Project Manager
406-444-0291
beaudowning@mt.gov