

Work to begin at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS this fall

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is pleased to announce that cleanup work will begin this fall on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.

We wish to thank community members for your patience during last season's construction delay, and we look forward to a productive season.

Approximately 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated material on the banks and floodplain of the Clark Fork River will be removed from 2.6 river miles on the ranch. The ranch is operated by the National Park Service to preserve Montana's frontier cattle-era heritage.

Excavated waste will be hauled to the Opportunity Waste Management Area via I-90. The excavated riverbanks and floodplain will be reconstructed with clean fill and soil from the Johnson Borrow Area north-east of Deer Lodge and the Beck Borrow Area southwest of town via I-90 (see haul route map on page 3).

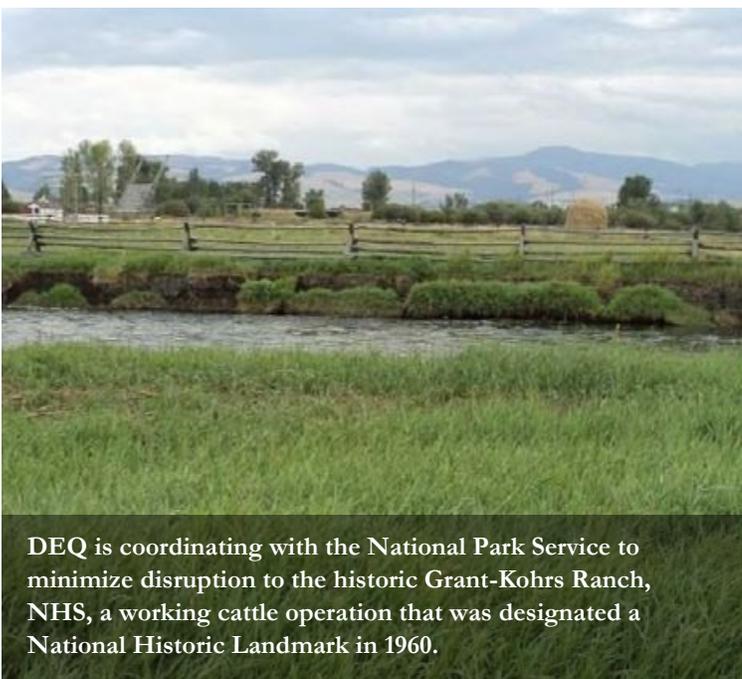
As in past years, DEQ will work to minimize disruption to the community. DEQ will open a staffed office in Deer Lodge late this summer where project team members will be available to respond to questions and comments. Watch for location, hours and other details to be announced.

Dust will be routinely managed by water trucks and magnesium chloride will be applied as needed.

Construction updates will be provided in the local media, on social media and on the Clark Fork website. **A public meeting is scheduled Thursday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m. at the Deer Lodge Elks Lodge at 230 Main St.** Project staff will give a presentation covering construction plans and details, followed by a question-and-answer session.

DEQ also is working closely with the National Park Service to minimize impacts on visitors enjoying the historic Grant-Kohrs Ranch and to pre-

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DEQ is coordinating with the National Park Service to minimize disruption to the historic Grant-Kohrs Ranch, NHS, a working cattle operation that was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960.

(... *Work to begin continued*)

vent any disruption to ranch operations. Grant-Kohrs Ranch staff will receive regular briefings on the cleanup project status and handouts will give visitors an overview of the site history as well as the cleanup and restoration underway.

We encourage community members to join us for a site tour Saturday, Aug. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Space is limited. RSVP by Aug. 1 to Joann Wiggins at jwiggins@mt.gov or 406-444-6795.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We thank you for the opportunity to work in your beautiful community, and look forward to a safe and productive summer.

Find news and information on the Clark Fork River Cleanup at bit.ly/deqclarkfork

Public Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 2, 6 p.m.
Deer Lodge Elks Lodge, 230 Main Street

Site Tour

Saturday, August 4, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
RSVP by Aug. 1 to Joann Wiggins, jwiggins@mt.gov or (406) 444-6795

Site history & work overview

The Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site was founded in 1862 by pioneer stockgrower John Grant. Grant was succeeded in 1866 by cattle baron Conrad Kohrs, and the ranch was operated and preserved by his grandson until 1972, when it was added to the National Park System.

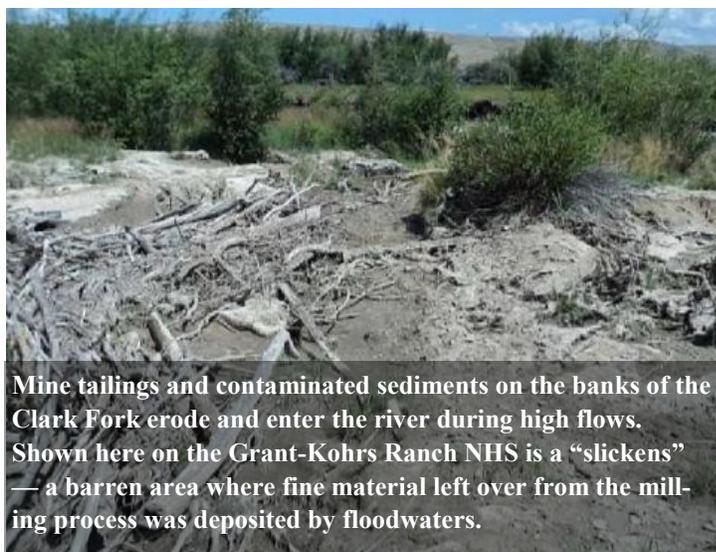
The ranch is located in the Clark Fork River Operable Unit of the Milltown Reservoir/Clark Fork River Superfund Site, which includes the uppermost 120 miles of the Clark Fork River between Warm Springs Ponds and Missoula, Montana.

Heavy metals from historic mining, milling and smelting processes accumulated on the stream banks and floodplain of the Clark Fork River for at least a century, posing a risk to human and aquatic health.

Beginning this fall, approximately 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated material will be removed from 2.6 river miles of stream channel and floodplain on the ranch. Excavated areas will be filled with clean gravel and soil.

The remediated (cleaned up) area will be lower, creating a more natural floodplain where water has room to spread out and support river-side plant communities. A wider river bed with shallower banks also enhances the wetland's ability to store water and reduces flood damage by slowing the river's flow.

Beginning in spring of 2019, revegetation of disturbed areas will begin and will continue throughout the project to help restore a healthy river habitat.



Mine tailings and contaminated sediments on the banks of the Clark Fork erode and enter the river during high flows. Shown here on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS is a "slickens"—a barren area where fine material left over from the milling process was deposited by floodwaters.

Phase 15 & 16 Haul Routes Clark Fork River Operable Unit



Detail Inset Map (I-90 to Project Staging Area)





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