

Cleanup Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

Issue #86

August 5, 2009

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Websites:

[http://www.epa.gov/
region8/superfund/sites/
mt/milltown](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltown)

<http://www.cfrtac.org>

To view on-going activities, please visit:

<http://www.clarkfork.org/>
and click on the webcam.



Status: The Milltown Project continues to go very well and is on schedule. Project personnel have worked 304,153 hours without time lost to injury.

REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION

- As of Monday, 2,786,891 tons (~ 2,143,762 cubic yards) of sediment have been excavated, loaded and hauled off-site. This portion of the project is **97% complete**. Removal, loading, and hauling of the contaminated sediments to the Anaconda Smelter Superfund Site should be complete in September.
- **Continuing to excavate sediments from under the former rail spur area.**
- **On August 5, remove additional 500 feet of rail to allow excavation from under this area as well.** The train will be shortened to sections of 15 rail cars each and will require switching trains mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Crews are doing their best to avoid switching out trains during the busy school arrival and departures times. Sediment hauling should be completed in mid-September so there should only be a short overlap with the school schedule.
- Work continues on the **Restoration Grading Plan**— excavation of materials, construction of river channel, wetlands and planting swales.
- **134,000 cubic yards of material have been moved to the Bypass Channel Stockpile.**
- Last week, Restoration completed the **upstream diversion of the Clark Fork River**. This will allow most of the construction of Restoration Reach CFR3B to occur in the "dry".
- **FWP "rescued" fish during the diversion, relocating thousands of fish**—rainbow, cut-throats, and brown trout, long-nosed dace, sculpin, northern pike minnow, large-scale and long-nose suckers, and hundreds of young-of-the-year mountain whitefish.



Water truck spraying haul roads to control dust on-site, 8/4/09.



Continuing sediment excavation from under former rail line area. Sediment excavation is 97% complete. Still "on track" to finish sediment hauling in mid-September.

These updates are intended to provide you with the latest information about remediation, restoration and redevelopment activities at the Milltown Reservoir Superfund Site.

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Upcoming Events

- **Monday, August 10 Milltown Bonner Community Council meeting** 7 pm in the Bonner School Library
- **August 11-13 Children's Environmental Health Summit: Greening our Schools and Child-cares**
Sponsored by the Montana Children's Environmental Health Network, EPA and DEQ. Location: Holiday Inn-Parkside in Missoula. Evening events on 8/11 and 8/12 are free; Registration for the Summit, 8/12-8/13 is required. Contact Diana Hammer for more information, 457-5040.
- **August 30 Community at the Confluence** (of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers) Celebration of arts and the environment around Milltown and Bonner. Details to come...
- **Monday, September 14 Bonner Community Council meeting** 7 pm Bonner School Library.
- **Tuesday, September 22 Milltown Redevelopment Working Group** regular monthly meeting 6:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Upcoming work:

- Continue sediment excavation, hauling, and disposal of contaminated sediments;
- Envirocon, USGS, U of M, and Missoula Co. continue surface and groundwater monitoring of Clark Fork River and wells;
- FWP continues fish monitoring (caged fish and radio-tagged fish) on sections of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers;
- USGS continues to monitor scour and flow conditions on the Blackfoot River;
- Restoration work continues excavating new river channel and stockpiling Buried A-horizon soils for later use;
- Continue restoration work in the very upper end of the reservoir (above former Duck Bridge) in SAA- IV and V; creating a new channel. Access will be off Rustic Road.
- Redevelopment/Park planning continues;
- September 2009: Complete removal and rail hauling of 2.2 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the former Milltown Reservoir area.

FISHERIES UPDATE

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continues to monitor the fish populations around the Milltown project area. David Schmetterling, FWP fish biologist, reported that they are monitoring caged fish upstream (on the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers) and downstream of the Milltown project area (Clark Fork River near East Missoula, and at Alberton) and in a spring creek in Clinton. Caged fish have shown no ill effects from the Milltown cleanup project this year. FWP also uses telemetry (radio-tagging) to monitor fish movement and survival. This year, there has been less movement *and* less mortality than was seen last year. This spring during high water, FWP completed its fish population estimates for the area as well, and data will be available soon. Overall, the lower volume of sediment transported, combined with lower water temperatures and good flows have been beneficial. With the dam removal creating fish passage, and the removal of the sediments (copper) that chronically stressed fish, we may be seeing the beginning of the recovery of the local fishery.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

2009 Sediment removal
Rail hauling sediment

Restoration
Redevelopment

2010 Restoration
Redevelopment

2011 Restoration
Redevelopment



Safety Reminder

DURING THE MILLTOWN CLEANUP, THE CLARK FORK AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS ARE CLOSED TO RIVER RECREATION ABOVE AND BELOW THE PROJECT AREA.

Clark Fork River users must exit the river at Turah Fishing Access; Blackfoot River users must exit at Weigh Station.



VIOLATORS and TRESPASSERS WILL BE FINED.

For more information, contact Montana FWP at 542-5500.



Approximate location of the Area IIIb sediments. Discussions progress regarding removal of these sediments (about 230,000 yd³). If an agreement is reached, these could be removed later this year.