

Cleanup Update

Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site

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<http://www.cfrtac.org>

Status: The Milltown Project continues to go well and is on schedule.

Remediation and Restoration

- **Regrading of the Clark Fork River Bypass Channel** is nearing completion. The buttress and reno mattresses were complete the last week of September. The bypass was put in place in 2007-2008 to divert the flows of the Clark Fork River away from the contaminated sediments in the Milltown Reservoir. Removal and regrading of the bypass channel to blend into the new Clark Fork River floodplain began earlier this year and should be complete in October 2011.
- **Work on the I-90 Bridges is complete**—erosion protection has been installed on the I-90 embankments and the left (east) bank has been integrated into the bypass channel corner. For the next several years, EPA will continue to work with USGS and the State of Montana (DEQ, MDT, FWP) to monitor the I-90 bridge area.
- The **US Geological Survey** will again be out measuring velocities and bathymetry on the Blackfoot River now that the flows have decreased. The plan is to continue this monitoring for the next few years to document changes in the river as it continues to adjust to free-flowing conditions and respond to spring flow events. This, especially when combined with the FWP fish population monitoring (also funded by EPA), will help us understand and document progress in the recovery of the local fishery.
- After this spring's 34-year event on the Clark Fork River, there is some **Restoration Work** to be done in the new Clark Fork River channel following the State's procedures for evaluating maintenance work— some regrading, re-routing, and re-planting along with some micro-topography work in the former reservoir area and further upstream. This portion of the restoration work should be done by mid-November.

These updates are intended to provide you with the latest information about Remediation Restoration and Redevelopment activities at the Milltown Reservoir Sediments Superfund Site.



September 29, 2011: Looking upstream on the Clark Fork River (from the Milltown Bluff). Note the wetlands in the lower right and the progress on regarding the bypass channel to integrate with the Clark Fork River floodplain. Workers will be re-routing the main river flow to the designed main channel.



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Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, October 18**
Milltown Design Review
Team Tour of Project
- **Sunday, October 23**
Energy Expo at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 7-9 pm -bring your energy bill and learn about ways to conserve energy for homes and businesses.
- **Tuesday, October 25**
Milltown Redevelopment Working Group meeting 6:30-8:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner.
- **Bonner-Milltown History Center** in the Bonner Post Office Bldg. Hours are 2:00 - 4:30 pm on Tues., Weds., Thurs.

Redevelopment News

- **Park Planning continues.** A public meeting was held on September 28 to discuss upcoming park plans. Development will focus on the "Milltown Gateway" (along the west side of the Blackfoot River) and the "Confluence" area.
- **Interpretive planning** is underway for the new park—funded by a Preserve America grant through the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.
- EPA has provided funding to **MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks** to develop a trail along the west bank of the Blackfoot River. This will connect the "Milltown Gateway" and Pedestrian bridge area to the newly restored "Confluence" area and become a key part of the planned Milltown State Park.

Upcoming for the 3Rs—Remediation, Restoration and Redevelopment:

- **Cleaning up work areas** in anticipation of demobilizing from the Site in November.
- Public release of the **First Milltown Five Year Review**—available in mid-October.
- Transfer of **Milltown Bluff Overlook** land from DEQ to FWP and its **Grand Opening**
- **End of Milltown Remediation construction work.** Site monitoring will continue.

PROJECT SCHEDULE



Safety Reminder

THE CLARK FORK AND BLACKFOOT RIVERS ARE **STILL 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.

View of the Clark Fork River from the bluff overlook. The fence in the foreground is a welcome sight—the Bluff Overlook Trail is nearly ready for visitors! This project has been a long-time coming and thanks to the efforts of many who donated land (Plum Creek, NorthWestern Energy, Burlington Northern, and the Jacobs Family) and time, the public will continue to enjoy this vantage point for points for generations to come. Stay tuned for information about when the area will be open to the public.

