

Trustees' Response to Public Comments on the

Draft Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Bridger Pipeline 2015 Yellowstone River Oil Spill

**Prepared by the Montana Natural Resource Damage
Program and United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

June 2023

On May 4, 2023, the State of Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) and U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), as represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), solicited public input on preparation of a draft Restoration Plan for the 2015 Bridger Yellowstone River Oil Spill. NRDP, on behalf of the Governor of Montana, and DOI (the Trustees) sought public comment on the draft restoration plan. Public comments were accepted from May 4, 2023, until 11:59 PM on June 11, 2023. NRDP posted a public comment announcement on the NRDP website, sent notices of this opportunity for public comment to approximately 70 individuals or entities on the NRDP mailing list via email, and placed legal notices in two newspapers: the Glendive Ranger Review (May 10, 24, and 27, 2023) and the Billings Gazette (May 10 and 31, 2023). NRDP and USFWS also held a public meeting at 6:00 PM on June 1, 2023, at the Glendive Public Library.

The Trustees did not receive any public comment during the public comment period.