



Symposium on Riparian Restoration in a Contaminated Environment:
Lessons Learned and Challenges in Moving Forward
April 2012

A two-day symposium sponsored by the Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) to be held at the Elk's Lodge in Deer Lodge, Montana on Thursday and Friday, April 19 and 20, 2012, with an optional field trip in the afternoon on Wednesday, April 18th.

This symposium offers the chance for stream restoration practitioners to share their knowledge on restoration techniques used in contaminated areas, with a focus on restoration work conducted in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin (UCFRB). Speakers who have designed and managed restoration projects in contaminated riparian areas of the Basin will highlight lessons learned and the challenges of such work. While the theme focuses on restoration in contaminated areas, the lessons learned apply to floodplain restoration in general.

Wednesday, April 18th: Check-in Begins at 11:30 am

Wednesday, April 18th optional PM field trip: Optional, pre-conference tour of portions of Silver Bow Creek (noon to 5:00). Note: No cars on field trips – Buses Provided

Thursday, April 19th AM session: Emphasis on lessons learned for restoration stream design in contaminated environment (30 minute speeches with 15 minutes for questions and answers).

7:30 – 8:00: Continental Breakfast, Check-in continues

8:00 – 8:30: Tom Mostad, NRDP Environmental Scientist and Carol Fox, NRDP Program Manager: Welcome, Introduction, & Logistics. This introductory session will include a short multi-media Google/GIS overview of the UCFRB.

8:30 – 9:15: Matt Daniels, Principal Engineer, River Design Group, Inc.: *“Milltown Restoration Observed Project Performance and Reflection on Initial Project Uncertainty.”* This presentation covers a synopsis of the post-project flood effects and an overview of lessons learned during 10 years of restoration planning, design, and implementation for the Milltown site.

9:15 – 10:00: Joel Gerhart, Principal Engineer, Pioneer Technical Services, Inc.: “*Silver Bow Creek Remediation and Restoration – Balancing Competing Priorities and Lessons Learned.*” This presentation discusses some of the competing interests and looks at the successes and failures in the effort to implement the combined Silver Bow Creek remedy/restoration project to date.

10:00 – 10:15: Break

10:15– 11:00: Tom Parker, Principal Ecologist, Geum Environmental Consulting, Inc.: “*Evolution of Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Design on Several Western Montana Rivers.*” This talk will focus on the different disturbance regimes and limiting factors encountered on western Montana streams and rivers, and provide examples of how these have been accommodated and addressed on specific projects, with an eye toward describing restoration treatments that both did and did not work as expected, and the lessons learned from those experiences.

11:00 – 11:45: Bryce Andrews and Will McDowell, Clark Fork Coalition: “*Rewater, Reconnect, Restore: A Strategy for Restoration on Working Lands in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin.*” This presentation discusses the CFC Ranch operations that are located within the Clark Fork River Superfund Operable Unit, the strategies they have used, as well as the lessons they have learned to make this working ranch a success.

11:45 – 12:45: Lunch

Thursday, April 19th PM Session: Clark Fork River Overview & Field Trip (1:00–5:30 pm)

12:45 – 1:30: Bill Bucher, Principal Engineer, CDM Smith, Inc.: “*Stream Restoration of Silver Bow Creek: Lessons from the Early Years.*” This presentation discusses the results of the initial remediation and restoration activities on Silver Bow Creek and how the lessons learned at this site are being applied to current design activities for the upper Clark Fork River, where a mixture of the tried and true approaches and newer ideas have been developed.

1:30 – 2:00: Brian Bartkowiak, Environmental Scientist, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Tom Mostad, Environmental Scientist, Montana NRDP, will provide an overview presentation of Clark Fork River Operable Unit remediation and restoration activities to be implemented over 46 miles from Warm Springs Ponds to Garrison.

2:15 – 5:30: Field trip on Clark Fork River to be led by Brian Bartkowiak, Environmental Scientist, DEQ and Tom Mostad, Environmental Scientist, NRDP. Note: No cars on field trips – Buses Provided

Dinner and Keynote Speech (6:00 – 9:00pm)

- 6:00: Social Time
- 6:30: Pre-Dinner Welcome by Cele Pohle, Powell County Commissioner
- Dinner and no host bar
- 7:30: Keynote Speaker: Richard Opper, DEQ Director: *“Re-Creation: The Developing Art of Restoring Landscapes”*

Friday, April 20th, AM Session (8:30am –12:30 pm)

- 7:30 – 8:30: Full Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:15: Download of Field Trip & Restoration Challenges for Clark Fork River
- 9:15 – 9:30: Steve Bullock, Montana Attorney General
- 9:30 – 10:15: Doug Martin, Environmental Scientist, NRDP: *“Milltown Restoration: Risk Management and Lessons Learned from the Project Management Prospective.”* This talk will discuss, from the project manager’s prospective, some of the risk management challenges associated with implementing a large scale floodplain restoration project within a contaminated floodplain and lessons learned from this experience.
- 10:15 – 10:30: Break
- 10:30 – 11:15: Karin Boyd, Principal Geomorphologist, Applied Geomorphology, Inc.: *“Bridging Remediation and Restoration – the Role Geomorphology in Project Design and Monitoring.”* This talk will focus on the role of geomorphology in contaminated floodplain project design. Geomorphic aspects of design can effectively transition project components from pure remedy to restoration while maintaining a cohesive approach to project implementation and monitoring.
- 11:15 – 12:00: Pat Saffel, Region 2 Fisheries Manager, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, *“Restoration of the Clark Fork River’s trout fishery: identifying the challenges and focusing on solutions.”* Tributary prioritization and aquatic resource monitoring in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin.
- 12:00 – 12:30: Bruce Farling Executive Director, Montana Trout Unlimited, to provide closing remarks to include connections between what has been covered in this symposium specific to UCFRB to the larger world of restoration in the state and nation.