

State of Montana

Natural Resource Damage Program

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Remediation and Restoration Advisory Council and Members of the Public

FROM: Doug Martin, NRDP

DATE: June 16, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023 UCFRB Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans Draft Revisions

The Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP), acting on behalf of the Governor as trustee, is seeking public comment on the 2023 Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans Draft Revisions and draft 2023 funding allocation. The public comment period will close at 11:59 pm on July 19, 2023.

The draft 2023 revisions are available on NRDP's website at <https://dojmt.gov/lands/nrdp-public-notices/notices-of-public-comment/>. In addition, copies of the draft 2023 revisions are available at NRDP's office (see address below). For information on the draft 2023 revision or to obtain a copy from our office, please call NRDP at (406) 444-0205.

Comments can be submitted via email to nrdp@mt.gov. **The subject line must contain, "2023 Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Restoration Plans Draft Revisions."**

Comments may also be submitted by mail at:

Montana Natural Resource Damage Program
1720 9th Ave.
P.O. Box 201425
Helena, MT 59620-1425

To be considered, comments **must be received by July 19, 2023, at 11:59 pm.**

The draft 2023 revisions and draft funding allocation will be presented at a meeting of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Advisory Council on July 11, 2023, at 1:00 pm in Deer Lodge at the Powell County Community Center, 214 Cottonwood Ave, Deer Lodge, Montana.

There will be an option to attend the meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams. Refer to the website for information about the virtual meeting.

To assist in the review of the revisions to the Restoration Plans, we are providing the Restoration Plans by individual sections in PDF format. All substantive draft revisions added are shown in red and all draft revisions to be removed are shown as strike through. Non-substantive revisions are not shown. Non-substantive edits include grammar, document formatting, web links, or other edits to update and make the document easier to read.

Draft revisions per section are listed below:

Sections 1 Introduction and 2 Background:

- Updates generally include administrative details of the 2023 revision process and available funding.

Section 3 Aquatics:

Section 3.2.1 Flow Restoration Plan:

- Project development process is substantively updated to provide guidance on the development and implementation of a wider range of flow projects. The current project development process focused mainly on water rights acquisition.

Section 3.2.2.1 Mainstem Restoration Actions:

- Funding for mainstem Clark Fork River diversion projects.
- Funding for the State to implement additional restoration work directly on Silver Bow Creek.

Section 3.2.2.2 Funding in Priority Tributary Watersheds:

- General updates included as necessary for each watershed.
- Funding allocations for watersheds: Browns Gulch, Silver Bow Creek, Warm Springs Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Rock Creek, Little Blackfoot.

Section 3.2.3 Aquatic Resource Monitoring and Maintenance Plan:

- General updates included, as necessary.
- Funding for the State to investigate declining fish population numbers in Silver Bow Creek and the Clark Fork River and implement restoration actions if appropriate.

Section 4 Terrestrial Restoration:

- General updates included, as necessary.

Section 5 Recreation/Education

- General updates included, as necessary.

- Matching fund requirement for recreation projects.
- Silver Bow Creek Greenway, Milltown State Park, and Multi-County Recreational Corridor funding allocation.
- Added Section 5.3 Education to this section for inclusion of funding to the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program since this program was previously funded through the UCFRB Final Process Plan.

Section 6 Restoration Plan Implementation

- General updates included as necessary.
- Added matching fund requirement for aquatic and terrestrial priority projects.
- Added matching fund requirement for recreational projects.
- Added maintenance requirement for recreational projects.
- Added guidance for matching funds.
- Updated section for timeline of next revision.

Table 6-1 Cost Summary of Proposed Actions:

- This table provides information on previous allocations (2012 and 2018), expenses to date for each restoration category, 2023 draft allocations from aquatic interest and Parrot Tailings reimbursement, and available funding after 2023 allocation.

Appendix A

- Appendix A Final Restoration Concept Summary Table. This table lists all the projects submitted for consideration since 2012. The project numbers referenced in the Restoration Plans are listed in this table.