



FINAL 2012 BUTTE AREA ONE RESTORATION PLAN SUMMARY

May 2014

In January 2013, Governor Schweitzer approved the *Final 2012 Butte Area One Restoration Plan*.¹ The following table indicates the funding allocations to various restoration project categories that were recommended by the Butte Natural Resource Damage Restoration Council (BNRC) and encompassed in the approved plan. Work underway or planned for each of the restoration categories as of May 2014 is further summarized in the bullets that follow the table.

BNRC Restoration Recommendation Cost Summary

<i>Project Category</i>	Category Allocation (\$)
<i>1) Restoration of the Upper Silver Bow Creek Corridor</i>	10,000,000
<i>2) Mine Waste Area Restoration/Revegetation</i>	6,000,000
<i>3) Stream Restoration</i>	4,000,000
<i>4) Municipal Water System Improvements</i>	10,000,000
<i>5) Storm Water</i>	0
<i>6) Recreation</i>	1,000,000
<i>7) Small/Miscellaneous projects</i>	1,000,000
Grand Total	32,000,000

1) \$10 million (M) is allocated for mine waste removal restorations actions in the upper Silver Bow Corridor that would improve injured surface and groundwater resources in Butte Area One. Areas targeted for removal are the Parrot Tailings, Diggings East, and Northside Tailings. Because the estimated cost for such removal is \$30M, contributions from other funding sources are being pursued through the ongoing Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit Consent Decree negotiations. Such work would be subject of a more definite restoration plan to be developed by the BNRC and Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) and subject of public review before an approval decision by the Governor. Funded work to date has focused on needed investigations of mine wastes and related surface/groundwater interactions.

¹ This plan is available from the NRDP website at: <https://doj.mt.gov/lands/lawsuit-history-and-settlements/>.

- 2) \$6M is allocated for revegetation of waste areas on the Butte Hill and in Butte Area One that will improve injured surface water resources. Funded projects to date include Butte-Silver Bow's tree planting project and MT Tech's forb and shrub planting project. Planning for other planting projects is underway.
- 3) \$4M is allocated for stream restoration and riparian habitat improvements in the Upper Silver Bow Creek corridor, in sections of Blacktail Creek, and its smaller tributaries and a related surface water beneficial use study. In summer 2013, a high resolution Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) aerial survey of Butte Area One and Blacktail Creek (from I-90 bridge over Santa Claus Lane to the Nine Mile) was conducted to gather topographical data that can be used for stream restoration projects.
- 4) \$10M is allocated for construction of the new Basin Water Treatment Plant. A contract for this work was executed in 2013, and construction design and planning work is underway. Construction of the plant is scheduled for completion in 2016.
- 5) \$1M is allocated for recreation projects in the Upper Silver Bow Creek corridor. Recreation project funding decisions are deferred until the restoration plan for the corridor is completed (see bullet #1).
- 6) The BNRC determined that storm water issues should be addressed by the actions associated with the Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit remedy that will be mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and implemented by BP/ARCO; therefore, no restoration dollars were dedicated to this category.
- 7) \$1M is allocated for small restoration projects of \$100,000 or less. The BNRC's proposed funding process involving annual solicitation of and funding decisions on project proposals is now undergoing public review. If approved by the Governor, the process would begin in fall 2014.

For more information about implementation of the *Final 2012 Butte Area One Restoration Plan*, contact *Pat Cunneen* of the *Butte Natural Resource Damage Program* at 533-6882 or pcunneen@mt.gov.