

Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee Members

Created in 1991 pursuant to 85-2-338.

In 1994 prepared the *Upper Clark Fork River Basin Water Management Plan (Plan)*, most of which was subsequently adopted as a chapter in the State Water Plan. The *Plan* is available at: http://dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_mgmt/montana_state_waterplan/pdfs/upper_clarkforkriverbasin_watermgmt_plan.pdf.

Members are appointed by the DNRC Director and the basin's six conservation districts and six counties. Current members include:

Name	Area or Organization Represented	Appointed Entity
Bob Benson	Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Coalition	DNRC Director
Stan Bradshaw	Trout Unlimited	DNRC Director
Bob Bushnell	Lincoln Area Rancher	Lewis & Clark Conservation District
Jim Dinsmore	Hall Rancher	Granite Conservation District
Holly Franz	PPL Montana	DNRC Director
Carol Fox	Natural Resource Damage Program	DNRC Director
Nate Hall	Avista Corporation	DNRC Director
Sen. Dave Lewis	Lewis & Clark County	Lewis & Clark County Commission
Jim C. Quigley	Little Blackfoot Rancher	DNRC Director
Pat Saffel	DFWP	DNRC Director
Rep. John Sesso	Butte/Silver Bow Planner	Butte/Silver Bow Commission
Marci Sheehan	ARCO	DNRC Director
Jim Struna	Granite County	Granite County Commission
Dan Ueland	Silverbow Rancher	Mile High Conservation District
Rep. Dan Villa	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	DNRC Director
Jules Waber	Powell County Superintendent of Schools	Powell County Commission

Important basin issue is the fate of former hydropower water rights at Milltown Dam which are about to be transferred to the State of Montana. The hydropower water rights have a flow of 2,000 cubic feet per second and a priority date of December 11, 1904. According to the DNRC water rights data base, 12,650 water rights located above Milltown Dam have priority dates junior to December 11, 1904. Almost 4,000 of these junior rights are for surface water uses. While owned by the utilities, the hydropower water rights were not enforced. When transferred to the state, these rights will presumably be for an instream flow use, probably for the Clark Fork River fishery. Should the state opt to enforce instream fishery rights by making call on upstream junior users, management of water in the upper basin would be significantly changed. In November 2007, the Steering Committee issued a policy paper that identified and explored alternatives regarding the purpose and ownership of the Milltown Dam water rights and explained why and how the ultimate disposition of those rights may be of crucial importance to upper Clark Fork basin water users.