



# Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

## Helena Area Resource Office

930 Custer Ave. West  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 495-3260

February 13, 2006

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are sending you this letter to inform you of some recent activities at Spring Meadow Lake State Park. In July of 2002 a Carroll College student was doing a research study and discovered elevated levels of heavy metals around Spring Meadow Lake. In response to this discovery, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) requested that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) investigate historic mining and ore processing activities in and around the Park.

DEQ found that the Montana Wildlife Center facility area hosted ore processing facilities from about 1910 through approximately 1920. These mineral processing activities left deposits of mill tailings around the historic Stedman Foundry buildings as well as in areas inside Spring Meadow Lake State Park. Subsequent gravel mining activities from 1927 through 1964 disturbed and redistributed these mill tailings.

DEQ's work included a history of activities that occurred in and around Spring Meadow Lake State Park and how these activities contributed to the elevated levels of heavy metals. This information was used to guide additional work by DEQ, which collected soil samples, excavated test pits, drilled two monitoring wells and tested ground and surface water to define the extent of contamination.

DEQ did a risk analysis based on the sample data and the use of the Park and Montana Wildlife Center. That analysis indicates that lead and arsenic in soils pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. Consequently, alternatives for cleaning up the site were developed and evaluated. The results of the site investigation information and the proposed cleanup alternatives are presented in an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis that is available for review at: [www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov). A copy of the document is also available at the Montana State Library, 1515 east 6<sup>th</sup>, Helena, MT.

FWP and the DEQ will host a public meeting to present information about the site and the proposed alternatives at 7:00 P.M., February 22, 2006 at the Lewis and Clark Public Library. The public meeting will open a 30-day public comment for the proposed actions at the site. For additional information please contact John Koerth with DEQ at 841-5026 email [jkoerth@mt.gov](mailto:jkoerth@mt.gov), or Craig Marr with MFWP at 495-3270 e-mail [cmarr@mt.gov](mailto:cmarr@mt.gov).

Sincerely:

Michael Korn  
Helena Area Coordinator

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FEB 15 2006

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POLICY OFFICE