

**FINAL NOTICE OF A POTENTIAL IMPACT TO A FLOOD HAZARD AREA**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks will be committing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiative – Special Projects funds, authorized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriation Act, 2010, to undertake a project known as Milltown State Park Development at the confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers. The specific elements of this proposed project include grading; paving of a parking lot; development of a riverfront trail; various visitor facilities; and development of a walk-in river access point. The proposed action, if implemented, would impact a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA); reference Panel #1485 effective August 16, 1988. The purposes of this notice are to: (1) inform the public of this commitment; (2) identify the reasons why the proposal must be located in the floodplain; (3) provide a list of the alternatives considered; and (4) discuss all mitigation measures to be undertaken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. Details concerning the proposed project are available for examination/copying at the Missoula Department of Grants and Community Programs, 127 West Spruce, Missoula, weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or by appointment. Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the proposed project to John Adams, Missoula Dept. of Grants and Community Programs, 200 West Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802. All comments must be received no later than December 23, 2013.

The identified 1988 FEMA map has not been revised subsequent to removal of the Milltown Dam. Preliminary hydraulic modeling by River Design Group estimates that the revised 100-year flood elevation at the park is approximately 20 feet lower than is represented on the 1988 map. This project will only intrude on the estimated floodplain for primitive spur trails and where the non-motorized put-in descends into the Clark Fork River.

This project must be located adjacent to the Clark Fork River and Blackfoot River because it is a functionally-dependent use: the purpose and need of the project is to provide river access and other park functions at this exact historic site. This project must permit some intrusion into the floodplain in order to provide hand-carry watercraft access to the rivers. The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks considered alternatives including the selected alternative; no provision of river access; and provision of motorized river access (i.e., a boat ramp). The selected alternative best meets the purpose and need of the project with minimal impact to resources. Staff at Milltown State Park will monitor the put in to identify and respond to excessive erosion or other resource impacts should they occur.

John Adams, Environmental Certifying Officer  
Missoula County

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