



Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

October 25, 2022

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to make access improvements to Milltown State Park. In 2020, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks accepted donation of the 33-acre Bonner Learning Park (BLP) along the north bank of the Clark Fork River to be incorporated into Milltown State Park. The acquisition was the first step toward providing legal public access to this northern portion of the Milltown State Park along the Clark Fork River floodplain upstream of its confluence with the Blackfoot River.

The property and a \$125,000 contribution for anticipated access improvements were donated by the Bonner Development Group. (The group disbanded in 2020). Access to the site passes through Burlington Northern Santa Fe/Montana Rail Link (BNSF/MRL) property. Public parking and walk-in access under the rail line are contingent on developing an access agreement between BNSF/MRL and FWP. Construction of an overhead catchment structure, fencing and potential modification or expansion of the existing parking area on BNSF/MRL property are part of access agreement conversations. This environmental assessment covers the implementation of these required improvements.

The EA may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5551; by emailing MilltownEA@mt.gov or by viewing FWP's website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News and Public Notices," then "Public Notices").

Comments may be made online on the EA's webpage or may be directed to Mike Kustudia at the mail or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than November 10, 2022.

As part of the decision-making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period.

Sincerely,

/s/ Randy Arnold

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr