

**Stream Protection Act (SPA 124) Permit**

Date: 08/08/2024

Applicant Name: Musselshell County

Address: 506 Main Street, Roundup, MT 59072

Permit #: CO-04-24

Project Name: Musselshell County Old Railroad Crossing Removal

**Project Description:**

Musselshell County proposes to remove an old railroad crossing bridge on the Musselshell River located immediately downstream of the Goffena Road Bridge, which the Musselshell County Road Department (MCRD) is currently in the process of replacing. The railroad crossing is comprised of the original wooden railroad ties and abutments, which have become severely degraded and may cause further floodplain encroachment if the old railroad crossing were to fail entirely. In its current state, the crossing creates a narrowed reach of river channel and causes significant flood damage during high water and ice jam events. Musselshell County expects work to begin November 2024 and take approximately two (2) months to complete.

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has reviewed the proposed project. The project is approved provided it is carried out in accordance with the information supplied in the application, all general conditions listed on page 3 of this permit, and any special conditions listed below.**

**Expiration:** This permit is valid for 1 year(s) from the date of issuance.

**Timing Restrictions:** ☒ No ☐ Yes If yes see below.

**Special Conditions:**

- Work will not occur outside of project scope outlined in plan.
- Work in the stream shall be minimized to avoid excess disturbance and turbidity; prioritize equipment to be operated from the bank rather than in the stream.
- Limit use of heavy machinery to immediate affected area.
- FWP reserves the right to revisit, modify, deny, issue an amendment or violation to a previously approved permit.

**318 Authorization Review**

**I have reviewed the above project on behalf of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to the Montana Water Quality Act Short-term Water Quality Standards for Turbidity 75-5-318 MCA:**

- ☐ This project **will not** increase turbidity if completed according to the conditions listed in the 310 or 124 permit. Therefore, application to DEQ for a 318 authorization **is not** required.
- ☐ Impacts to the physical and biological environment from turbidity generated as a result of this project are uncertain. Therefore, the applicant must contact the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 East Sixth Avenue, Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, (406 444-3080) to determine project specific narrative conditions required to meet short-term water quality standards and protect aquatic biota.
- ☒ Turbidity generated from this project is expected to be short-term and have only temporary and minor impacts on the physical and biological environment. Therefore, compliance with the conditions stated in the attached letter outlining ***DEQ's Short Term Water Quality Standard for Turbidity Related to Construction Activity***, as well as other conditions listed in 124 permit, are appropriate for this project.

Issuing Biologist: Demi Blythe

Signature:

**Stream Protection Act 124 Permit General Conditions**

1. Complete work affecting a streambed or stream bank in an expeditious manner to avoid unnecessary impacts to the stream.
2. Limit the clearing of vegetation to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the project. Take precautions to preserve existing riparian vegetation. Salvage and reuse native vegetation where possible.
3. Install and maintain erosion control measures where appropriate to protect aquatic resources. Do not clear and grub land adjacent to streams prior to installing proper erosion and sedimentation controls. Conduct all work in a manner that minimizes turbidity and other disturbances to aquatic resources.
4. Plan temporary construction facilities to:
  - a. Minimize disturbance to stream banks, stream bank vegetation, and the streambed by locating staging or storage facilities at least 50' horizontally from the highest anticipated water level during construction;
  - b. not restrict or impede fish passage in streams; and
  - c. not restrict any flow anticipated during use.
5. Provide sediment controls for drainage from topsoil stockpiles, staging areas, access roads, channel changes, and instream excavations.
6. Isolate work zones from flowing and standing waters to prevent turbid water and sediments from being discharged into streams or other drainages that flow directly into the stream. Divert flowing waters around the work zone.
7. Do not spill or dump material into streams. Store and handle petroleum products, chemicals, cement and other deleterious materials in a manner that will prevent their entering streams.
8. Do not permit wash water from cleaning concrete-related equipment or wet concrete to enter streams.
9. Do not operate mechanized equipment in any stream or flowing water unless special authorization is obtained. If special authorization is granted, the following conditions apply:
  - a. Power-wash all equipment allowed in a stream prior to entering the stream channel.
  - b. Clean and maintain all equipment so that petroleum-based products and hydraulic fluids do not leak or spill into the waterway.
10. Reclaim streambeds and stream banks as closely as possible to their pre-disturbed condition.
11. Restore disturbed stream banks to their natural or pre-disturbed configuration to match adjacent ground contours or as specified in the project plans. Stabilize, reseed, and re-vegetate disturbed areas. Install and maintain long-term biodegradable erosion-control measures to protect these areas until adequate vegetation has been established.
12. Restore temporary access routes and any temporarily disturbed areas to original conditions, including original contours and vegetation.
13. Dispose of any excess material generated from the project above the ordinary high-water mark and in an area not classified as a wetland.