



## Superfund Update Upper Clark Fork Operable Unit

Negotiations for an appropriate financial settlement (a Consent Decree) from ARCO are underway and settlement is imminent by December 31, 2007. Once the Consent Decree is signed, contracts for restoration planning may begin, construction specialists will be retained and the park will hire a Project Manager to oversee a three year combined process of remediation & restoration. Approximately 26-53 acres of riparian soils and vegetation will be removed and restored following verification by RiPES, an analytical process created to measure and evaluate the extent and distribution of contamination.

**The Record Of Decision (ROD) for the Clark Fork River Operable Unit** of the Superfund Site located in western Montana, was released May 4th, 2004 completing more than 10 years of work by NPS Superintendents, DOI solicitors, NPS Intermountain Region Leadership and park staff, to establish a path for clean up of the river system within the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.

The ROD describes impacts and suggests remediation measures that will be funded by the responsible party, Atlantic Richfield Company / British Petroleum ((ARCO/BP). The ROD sets up a 10-15 year process of river clean up and restoration. Language crafted for the ROD is precedent setting for the National Park Service because it uses the Organic Act and the park's establishing legislation to create the performance standards. The standards are intended to re-establish the ranch's historic landscape and remove hazardous metals. The hazardous substances include arsenic, copper cadmium, lead and zinc released from upstream mining and smelting activities in Butte and Anaconda. Material was deposited during a 300 year flood event in 1908.



"Slickens", in the park's riparian zone, will be removed, clean soil replaced and areas planted with native plant materials, according to ROD performance standards, affecting approximately 26-53 acres

A Health and Safety Plan (HaSP) was completed for the park June 2004 that indicates that toxicity through casual and brief exposure to soils and water is not as serious a threat as first suggested. The HaSP outlines a protocol for medical base monitoring which the park is following. Visitors, staff and livestock are using the park safely.

With recent EPA support for mercury research, and elevated levels in the Clark Fork River suspected, a 2005 PMIS statement for \$86,000 was prepared to begin critical research on this pollutant in the waters and soils of the ranch.

---

More Information: Laura Rotegard-Superintendent (406) 846-2070 x 221 [www.nps.gov/grko](http://www.nps.gov/grko).