

**Project Summary**  
**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Determination of Heavy Metals Contamination in Surface Soils

**Type of Project:** Research

**Funding Agency:** BLM

**Other Partners/Cooperators:**

**Effective Dates:** 7/3/2000 to 9/30/2001

**Funding Amount:** \$16,000.00

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

Agency: Peter Bierbach, BLM MT State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101;

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**Project Abstract:**

The BLM is preparing a claim for injuries to natural resources for parcels of public land managed by the BLM along the Clark Fork River in western Montana form CERCLA hazardous substances released form historic mining and smelting operations in Butte and Anaconda. The parcels are located in the Clark Fork Operable River Unit of the Milltown Reservoir Sediments NPL Site.

The Silver Bow Creek Consent Decree identified a schedule for settlement negotiations for this operable unit. This schedule allows for an assessment focusing on quantifying levels of heavy metals in the soils and sediments on the parcels; and the metals effects on the vegetation and small mammals to develop a claim based on quantified injuries to these resources and lost services provided by them.

The University of Montana (U of M) is conducting such an assessment for the National Park Service on the Gratnt-Kohrs National Historic Site during the summer of 2000. U f M will study three parcels of BLM land using similar study methods.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Final Report: 9/30/00

**Keywords:** heavy metals, Clark Fork River, Montana

**For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: