

Butte Area One Final Restoration Plan

2.3 Stream Restoration

A total of 11 ideas related to stream/water features restoration were received during the public solicitation process. Five additional ideas were generated by Butte-Silver Bow and by the BNRC. Below is a summary of those 16 proposed stream restoration ideas.

Idea #73 submitted by Butte-Silver Bow is a proposal to study the maximum feasible beneficial public use for surface and near-surface water bodies in and around Butte Area One. The study would involve evaluation of water bodies through a study of soil toxicity, ground and surface water toxicity, property ownership, zoning and growth policy status, and potential site improvements. Maximum beneficial uses for each water body may include stream restoration, revegetation, mine waste removal, recreation, water systems improvements, and storm water controls. Water bodies and riparian areas would be evaluated through soil and water sampling and analysis of potential engineered improvements. Specific improvement recommendations for each water body would be proposed at the end of the study.

3.2.3 Stream Restoration

The stream restoration component of the BNRC Restoration Recommendation calls for the implementation of a study, which is referred to as “Butte-Silver Bow beneficial use study” in Table 2, as proposed by Butte-Silver Bow to identify restoration needs and the “maximum beneficial use” for multiple water bodies within Area One. Up to \$300,000 would be allocated for this study that would involve the evaluation of soil toxicity, ground and surface water toxicity, property ownership and water rights, zoning and growth policy status, and potential site improvements. The maximum beneficial uses for each water body may include stream restoration, revegetation, mine waste removal, recreation, water systems improvements, and storm water controls. Specific improvement recommendations for each water body would be proposed at the end of the study. Public idea solicitation has identified a general need for restoration and riparian habitat improvements in the Upper Silver Bow Creek corridor, in sections of Blacktail Creek, and its smaller tributaries. The project would improve habitat in the reach of Silver Bow Creek within Butte Area One (and the tributaries which contribute to the water quality and quantity in Silver Bow Creek) by establishing woody vegetation where insufficient riparian habitat currently exists. Riparian habitat improvements would be coordinated with waste removal and other restoration activities in the Silver Bow Creek corridor.

The BNRC Restoration Recommendation would allocate \$4 million to stream restoration projects. The cost of the projects would be allocated as shown in Table 2. The funding levels shown in the table reflect the cost and technical effectiveness of the ideas and budgetary constraints.

Table 1 BNRC Restoration Recommendation Stream restoration projects funding summary

Idea	Proposed Funding (\$)	Proposed Years of Work
Surface Water Beneficial use study	300,000	2013
Upper Silver Bow Creek and tributaries restoration and Riparian habitat improvements	3,700,000	2013-2016
Total	4,000,000	