



Superfund Redevelopment Pilots

Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board, MT

EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) is a nationally coordinated effort to facilitate the return of Superfund sites to productive use by selecting response actions consistent with anticipated use. The SRI Pilots are intended to help local governments enhance their involvement in the Superfund decision-making process by assisting EPA in predicting future land uses for Superfund sites. Under the Pilot Program, EPA will provide up to \$100,000 in financial assistance and/or services to local governments for specified activities. Applicants are offered several types of program assistance, including funding through a cooperative agreement, access to facilitation services, and/or the availability of personnel under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA).

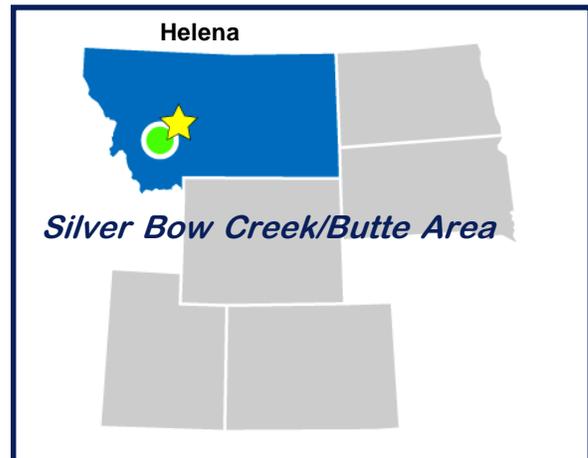
BACKGROUND

EPA selected the Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board in Montana for a Superfund Redevelopment Pilot. Silver Bow County is home to the Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area Superfund site. For the Pilot project, the county is focusing on the Butte portion of the site. Historically, Butte has been an important mining, milling, and smelting district. Gold was discovered near Butte in 1864. By 1884, there were hundreds of operating copper and silver mines, thousands of posted mining claims, and eight smelters in the area. During the many years of mining, over 500 mines and shafts were developed, and millions of cubic yards of contaminated tailings and waste rock were deposited in upland and flood plain areas. Subsidence—the sudden collapse of ground into a hollow space beneath it—is now a major problem in the area due to the 3,000 miles of underground tunnels and shafts that remain. The Silver Bow Creek site was added to EPA's list of hazardous waste sites needing cleanup in September 1983, and the site was modified to include the Butte Area in July 1987.

OBJECTIVES

The Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board will use Pilot funds to investigate and assess the potential subsidence obstacles to redevelopment. This abandoned neighborhood and its surrounding area has suffered decades of neglect. Today, redevelopment efforts are burdened by a persistent concern that the area may not be a safe place to build structures due to the number of underground mine shafts. The board hopes to produce a credible, definitive assessment of subsidence. Once that assessment has been made, the community will be able to promote future development in the area.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Applicant Name: Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board, MT

Site Name: Silver Bow Creek/Butte Area

Date of Selection: July 2000

Anticipated Award: Cooperative Agreement (\$100,000)

Profile: The planning board will conduct an assessment of the potential subsidence obstacles to redeveloping the site.

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