



[Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Provides Updated Timeline and Site Locations for Flood Debris Removal in Park, Stillwater, Carbon, and Yellowstone Counties](#)

Helena, Mont. – Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES) provided a status update on flood debris removal from state managed river sites affected by June’s severe flooding event. The debris removal project includes disposal of vegetative and construction/demolition debris that poses a risk to life, safety, health, or public infrastructure from the waterway.

Debris removal sites in Yellowstone, Park, Carbon, and Stillwater counties were selected through a joint effort among the local governments, State agencies, and FEMA. (See attached FEMA approved site map.) While there is a mechanism to add debris removal sites to the list, FEMA has the final say on eligibility. All FEMA eligible sites require supporting documentation such as location of the site and pictures, but new sites can be added.

According to Taylor, MT DES has been working with FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and local communities to obtain necessary approvals since the flood last June. “Due to the scope of this project, it does take a lot of work and it takes a lot of time, but we’re working diligently and we’re going as fast as we can,” Taylor stated. Debris removal and monitoring contractors have been selected, and they are presently working on developing site specific work plans for the permitting process. The contractors’ developed work plans are required for the joint permit application and will be submitted to permitting agencies for review.

No Delays Expected in Joint Permit Application Process

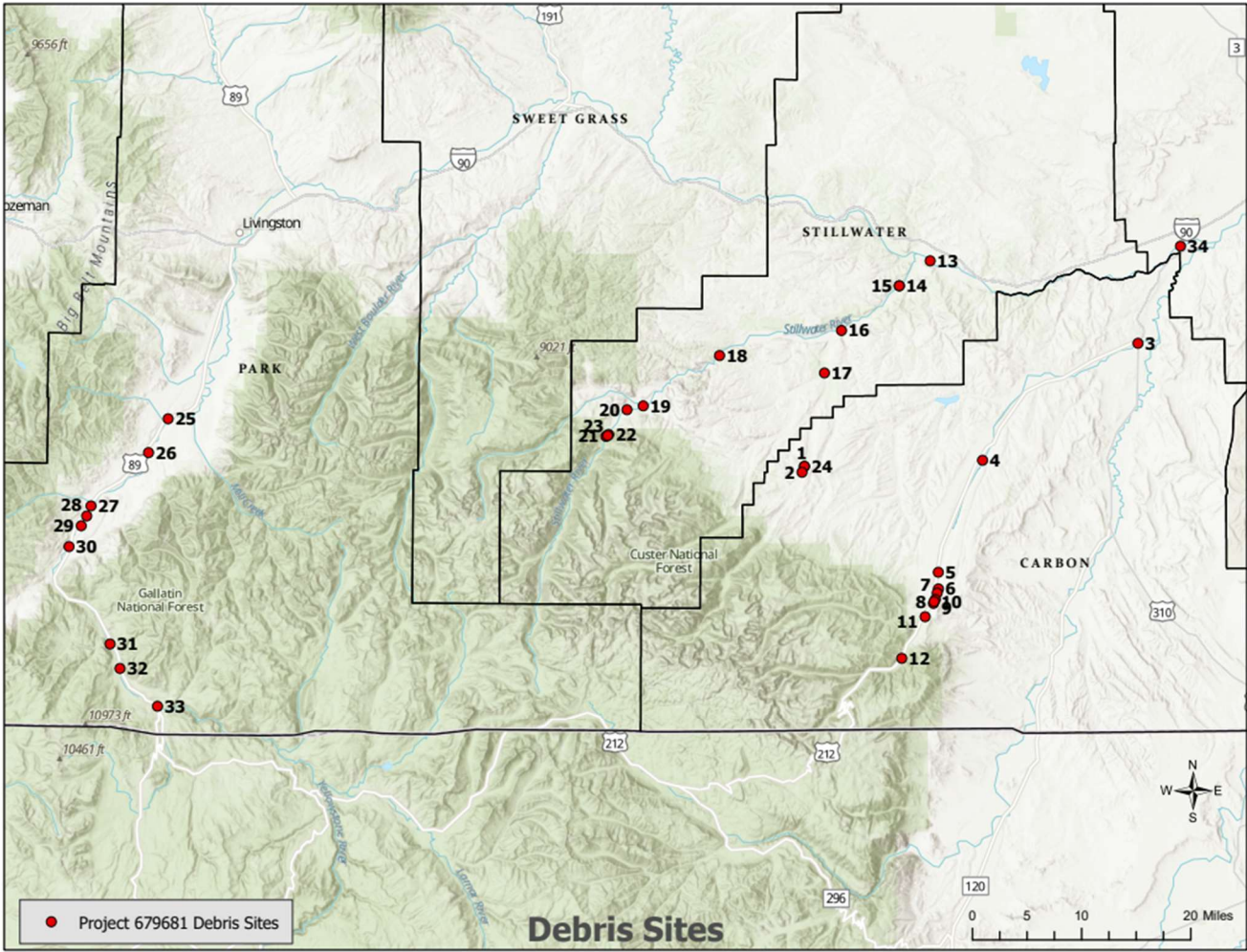
Taylor stated that there is an agreement with the local floodplain administrators that the debris qualifies as an emergency, ensuring that the floodplain permitting process will not slow the debris removal projects down. The Army Corps of Engineers, Fish Wildlife and Parks, and DEQ are also required to review the joint permit application; however, delays from this process are not expected.

Debris Removal Timeline

Taylor says that ideally vegetative and demolition debris removal would begin early April and finish by May, but the hard deadline for all debris removal is June 16, 2023.

The removal of rocks and sediment is a different FEMA process. Emergency managers are working toward collecting required river data from before and after the flood in order to receive funding for that type of removal.

Regulations require nearby landowners to be notified of planned work; however, the current debris cleanup under discussion is not happening on private property or waterways.



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