



April 2, 2025

Dear Resident:

InterBel Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (InterBel) is proposing to install new underground fiberoptic telecommunications facilities to extend their existing transport network. In two instances, Interbel will bury fiberoptic lines under the Stillwater River. There are no anticipated disruptions to traffic or public access from this project. These locations are:

*Section: 18 Township: 32N Range: 23W NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, next to Good Creek Bridge

*Section: 18 Township: 32N Range: 23W NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Martin Camp Rd. between Good Creek Rd. and Olney Loop Rd.

This scoping notice is a requirement of any proposed right-of-way project. You are being contacted as records indicate you are a private property owner or Montana DNRC lessee either accessed by, in the vicinity of, or adjacent to Montana DNRC Trust Land.

These crossings utilize horizontal directional boring. Per the requirements of the approved 310 permit from the Flathead Conservation District, there will be a minimum crossing depth of 5 feet under the riverbed with a minimum setback of 20 feet from the riverbanks. The crossing will take place with no disturbance to the riverbanks or riverbed and mitigates sediment discharge in the river. Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers were consulted for all Stillwater River crossings. They responded with a No Permit Required (NPR) letter based on the horizontal directional boring crossing methodology.

This proposed utility easement in no way obligates you to sign up for services through InterBel.

The Montana DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted. The Montana DNRC invites written comments or concerns relating to this proposal. Please respond by April 11, 2025, to:

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Stillwater Unit, Attn: Daniel Dobbin
P.O. Box 164, Olney MT 59927
daniel.dobbin@mt.gov 406-881-2666

