

EPA and its contractor, CDM Smith, will begin field work at the former Black Butte Mine in late October 2012. The first field investigations (Phase 1) will focus on an area adjacent to and including the former mine site (see map below). The primary objective for Phase 1 is to assess mercury movement from mercury sources at the former mine site into Garoutte Creek, which eventually becomes the Coast Fork Willamette River. Sampling will be conducted during storms (rainfall events). Initial evaluations include the following actions:

- The Upper Garoutte Creek, Lower Garoutte Creek, Furnace Creek, and Dennis Creek surface water sampling stations will be monitored during two storms to evaluate the significance of mercury that may be carried by stormwater runoff from the former mine site into the creeks.
- During the first storm, sediment samples will be collected from Dennis Creek, Furnace Creek, and Garoutte Creek surface water sampling stations to determine mercury concentrations in sediment from these creeks.
- To evaluate atmospheric and surface deposition of mercury to the mine site, rainfall will be collected and analyzed to determine background mercury concentrations.

Work will begin with the establishment of stream sampling stations and an on-site rainfall collection station that will allow for continuous monitoring of stream flow and surface water quality and allow for collection of rainfall samples, respectively. Future monitoring of stream flow, water quality, and rainfall will help in understanding the mercury levels moving to Garoutte Creek and the Coast Fork Willamette River from the former Black Butte Mine. It is anticipated that this field work will be completed within the next three months. For more information, contact EPA project manager, Rich Muza at 503-326-6554, muza.richard@epa.gov or Alanna Conley, community involvement coordinator at 503-326-6831, conley.alanna@epa.gov.

