



Black Butte Mine Superfund Project Update #5

July 2014

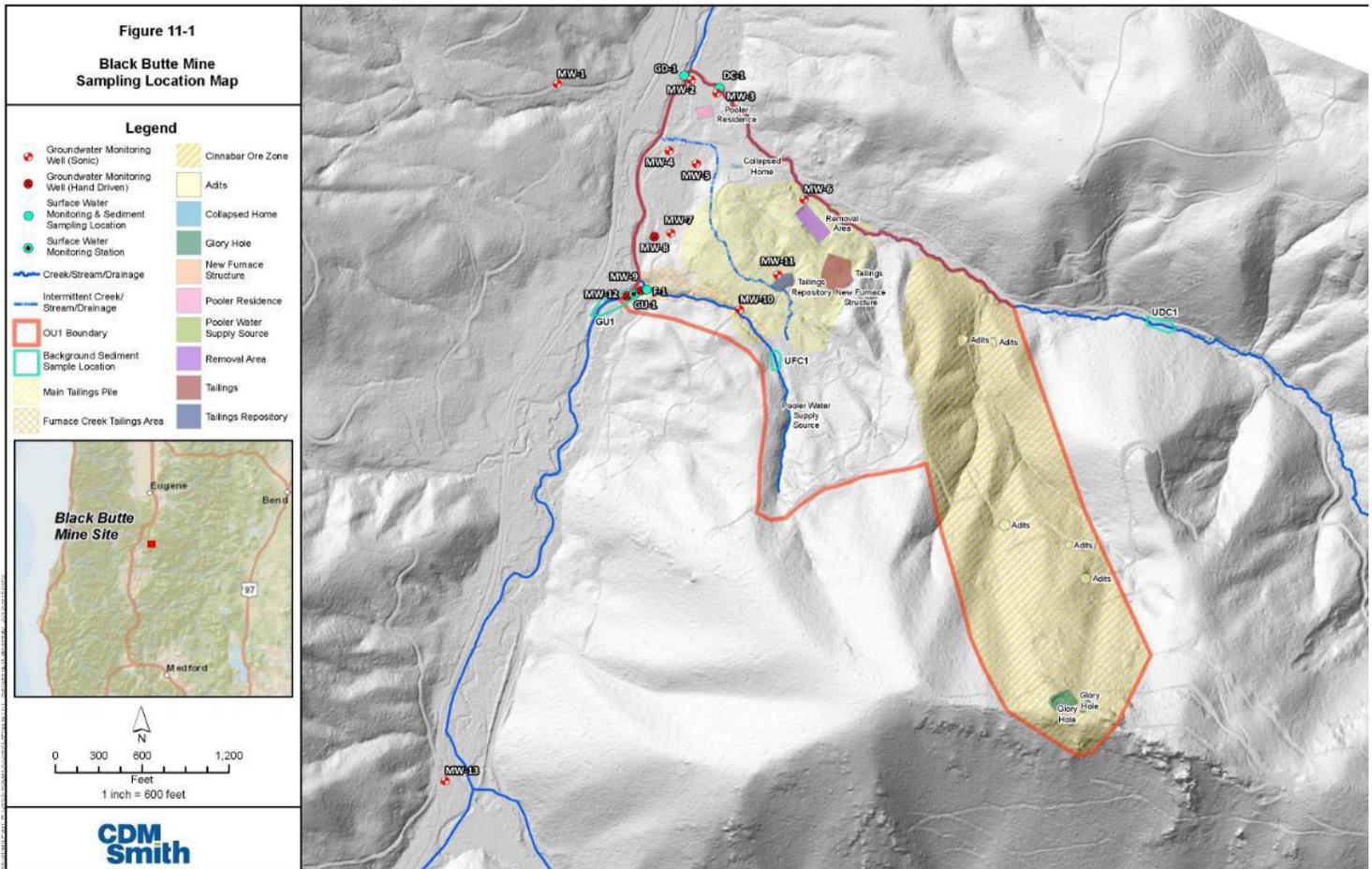
The Black Butte Mine Superfund Site is located near Cottage Grove, Oregon in Lane County. Mercury and other contamination from tailings piles at the abandoned mine site affect creeks that flow into Cottage Grove Lake and the Coast Fork Willamette River. The Black Butte Mine site was added to EPA's National Priorities List on March 4, 2010, making it eligible to receive federal funds for long-term cleanup. EPA began field work at the former Black Butte Mine in late October 2012. The boundary of the mine study site is shown on the map below outlined as Operable Unit 1 Boundary (Figure 11-1, OU1 Boundary).

Since the January 2014 Update, CDM Smith, contractor to EPA, began a demonstration of methods applicability (DMA) study at the mine site in February 2014. The purpose of the DMA study is to identify approaches that provide cost savings for future investigations at the former mine site and sampling equipment that could be used in the field to analyze mercury (and other metals) at the mine site. A final storm event sampling occurred late the same week of the DMA field work in February. Additional stream and ground water samples were collected from monitoring stations and wells in May.

For 2013-14 EPA has provided funding to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to continue river sampling work initiated through funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. USGS scientists have been sampling surface water from the Coast Fork Willamette River at London and downstream of Cottage Grove Lake and continued to do so during numerous storm events in 2013-14.

EPA and the Battelle National Laboratory continue their study of mercury in water and sediments in Cottage Grove Lake (see Project Update #4 on website listed below). The research team collected water and sediment samples from locations within Cottage Grove Lake (see Cottage Grove Lake map, page 2) in March and June of 2014.

EPA has established an Information Repository at the Cottage Grove Library at 700 Gibbs Avenue in Cottage Grove. We will routinely add materials, including Project Updates, to the repository and website <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/bbm> For more information, contact EPA project manager, Rich Muza at 503-326-6554, muza.richard@epa.gov or Alanna Conley, EPA community involvement coordinator, at 503-326-6831, conley.alanna@epa.gov.



Cottage Grove Lake / Reservoir

