

# BASIN BULLETIN

## Updates on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Cleanup

July 2015

### Protect Your Child's Health: Time for Testing!

Blood lead testing is an important way to protect your child's health. Panhandle Health District's Kellogg office is offering free blood-lead testing for children and expectant mothers **July 27–31** from 9 a.m.–6 p.m., and on **August 1** from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Services will be offered at the health district office located at 114 W. Riverside Avenue in Kellogg. No appointment is necessary. Testing is free. Watch for reminders through newspaper ads, mailers, radio and social media announcements. This year eligible kids between the ages of 6 months and 6 years of age, residing in the Basin portions of the Superfund Site, will get \$30 each for testing. Be aware of potential lead sources. Blood lead levels can be reduced.

CONTACT: Panhandle Health District, 208-783-0707.

### Free Blood Lead Testing

For Young Children, Expectant Moms

**July 27–31:** 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**August 1:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



**Public Health**

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Panhandle Health District

Panhandle Health District, Kellogg  
114 W. Riverside Ave.

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### Want Timely Updates? Visit us on Facebook!



One of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the cleanup work is to sign up for our Facebook page. Watch for two or three short posts a week. We invite you to check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>

CONTACT: **Andrea Lindsay**  
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206-553-1896

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## Road Work in Silver Valley

As you have probably noticed, there is a lot of road work going on in the Silver Valley. Except for the I-90 work and some road work for remedy protection, the paving and rehabilitation of the roads is being done as a “remedial action” by the cleanup’s Paved Roads Program. The goal is to re-establish solid road surfaces. The roads serve as barriers to base materials and soil contaminated with heavy metals.

Once each segment is completed, the responsible city or county must maintain the road. Major paving is complete in Wallace, Osburn and for the East Side Highway District (Kootenai County). Shoshone County, Smeltonville and Mullan roads and streets are under construction. Road construction has yet to begin in Kellogg and Pinehurst. The program should complete about 20 miles of road segments this season.

**CONTACT: Craig Cameron**  
EPA Roads Board Member  
509-376-8665, [cameron.craig@epa.gov](mailto:cameron.craig@epa.gov)



*A Smeltonville road gets prepped for paving.*



*Some local roads are getting repaved as part of the cleanup.*

## Jersey Barrier Re-use Benefits Local Communities

Kudos to IDEQ for keeping 5,000 Jersey barriers out of the landfill! Instead, those barriers are now being re-used locally, saving jurisdictions lots of money. It started when IDEQ worked with a contractor on the I-90 freeway project, and learned that the barriers were headed for disposal. IDEQ saw an opportunity for mutual benefit and connected the contractor with organizations who could put them to good use in local infrastructure or development projects. Recipients include the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation,



*Local use of Jersey barriers leads to mutual benefit.*

Shoshone and Benewah Counties, and the Cities of Wallace, Kellogg, Smeltonville and Pinehurst. Private developers, including a prospective co-generation plant in Government Gulch and the Bunker Mine, also took some barriers. During coordination, IDEQ secured about 1,500 Jersey barriers to use as access-restriction fences, saving the cleanup about \$525,000 on several remedial actions.

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208-783-5781  
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## Limited Use Repositories Take in Road Waste

The Limited Use Repository (LUR) in East Osburn has been operating for a few weeks now. The LUR has been receiving road waste from the Paved Roads Program work in Mullan, Wallace, Osburn and Shoshone County. It has also taken in remedy protection pavement and base materials from Silverton. The original 25,000 cubic yard capacity has been filled. Materials are now being placed in a new 7,000 cubic yard portion added through a change in the design. The LUR saves space in the regular repositories, such as Big Creek, so that more contaminated waste and ICP waste can go into those repositories. The LUR will be completed with a cap following the ICP rules and will support redevelopment.

The current Box LUR is located in Government Gulch. This LUR has received 705 truckloads to date, all from the Smeltonville paved roads project. The approximately 5,600 cubic yards of road waste represents about 6% of the 90,000 cubic yards design capacity. The LUR should receive waste from Kellogg and Pinehurst once their road work gets going later this season. The Government Gulch LUR will be operational next year, as well. Once filled, it, too, will be closed following the ICP rules and will support redevelopment. CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA, 509-376-8665, or email [cameron.craig@epa.gov](mailto:cameron.craig@epa.gov)



705 truckloads of Smeltonville road waste have come to the Government Gulch LUR.



The Limited Use Repository in Osburn takes in road waste.

## Local Flood Control Projects Under Way



Photo provided by Terry Harwood

Remedy protection projects help keep cleaned-up areas from getting re-contaminated.

Flood and drainage control projects to protect Superfund cleanup remedies in communities and rural areas continue this construction season. The CDA Trust has started construction of the Revenue Gulch Project in Silverton and should be starting the Mill Road Project in Mullan in July. Some small projects by the Trust on Nine Mile Road and South Second Street in Mullan should begin later this season as well. IDEQ has awarded the contract for the Jackass Creek Project in Kellogg, Silver Creek Project in Page, and Slaughterhouse Gulch in Wardner. These projects start in July, as well. IDEQ also completed the Little Pine Creek Project in Pinehurst this last spring. With the completion of the IDEQ projects, all flood and drainage remedy protection work in the Box will be finished by the end of this construction season. Work in the Basin by the Trust will continue for a number of years.

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208-783-2528  
[terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

## Cleanup Tour and Basin Commission Meeting: August 19

Mark your calendar for **August 19**. A short BEIPC quarterly meeting will start at **9 a.m.** at the **Idaho Department of Health and Welfare**, 35 Wildcat Way, Kellogg. At 10:55, a BEIPC tour of Box and Lower Basin projects will leave the parking lot. BEIPC is providing buses for the tour, and everyone is invited. Bring your own lunch and beverage.  
**CONTACT: Terry Harwood**, BEIPC Executive Director, 208-783-2528, [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)



*Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission*

## Protecting the Fish—Trout Transport!



*U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

*Crews move fish before the creek gets re-routed.*

US Fish and Wildlife Service and the CDA Trust relocated 64 cutthroat trout and brook trout from Eastfork Ninemile Creek in June. Crews used electrofishing equipment to move fish out of a contaminated streambed slated for cleanup. The fish were transported to a clean part of the creek, upstream of the cleanup work. Block nets will keep fish out of the construction zone while the creek is re-routed during removal activities. Once removal is complete and a new stream channel created, water and upstream fish will be re-directed to the newly-created clean habitat. Good work, everyone!  
**CONTACT: Tracy Chellis**, EPA, 206-553-6326 or 800-424-4372 ext. 6326, [chellis.tracy@epa.gov](mailto:chellis.tracy@epa.gov)

## Studying the River

In early July, the EPA conducted field work in the Lower Basin of the Coeur d'Alene River. Workers recovered water level data from data loggers. The data will help support computer modeling of river flows. The EPA also used divers to perform tests in selected riverbed locations to evaluate sediment erosion. The tests were performed to simulate river flow rates during flood conditions. This work will help the EPA make decisions about how to manage contaminated sediment and protect people and the environment in the Lower Basin.

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*Steve Demus*

*Divers collect river data*

## Prepare Firewood Now



*Save money; burn cleaner.*

Now is the time to store firewood so it's dry enough to burn efficiently during the colder months. Burning clean, dry, seasoned firewood to heat your home saves money, ignites easily, and lessens the impact on local air quality. Whether you get your firewood on your property, on public lands, or from an independent firewood seller, it needs to be seasoned. Seasoned wood has been split and air dried for at least six months. It tends to be dark in color, cracked on the ends, and lightweight, and its bark is easily broken. IDEQ offers these tips:

1. Plan up to 12 months for dry firewood.
2. Cut and split wood before stacking.
3. Stack wood in alternate directions.
4. Store firewood off the ground.
5. Cover the top of the wood pile, but leave the sides exposed.

For information on how to build a woodshed, insulating your home, wood burning, and air pollution, visit IDEQ's West Silver Valley Air Quality page at <http://go.usa.gov/3wApd>

## Outreach Reminds People to Play Clean

Community outreach in partnership with the Panhandle Health District and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality continues. New outreach materials focus on recreational exposure to lead and other heavy metals. Reminding people about playing clean is important. Contaminants are found along the lower CDA River, and the South Fork and Chain Lake shorelines where families boat, fish and play. Recently, working with the press, PHD explained that while recreating, there are simple measures to take which can reduce lead exposure. PHD also recently led development of displays showing ways to "play it safe" in the Silver Valley. IDEQ produced a radio public service announcement, provided health tips in visitor brochures and regional magazines, and added pages to the Riley's Family coloring and activity book. More projects are proposed in the coming year to encourage people to play clean while recreating in the CDA River Basin. Check out the radio announcement and Riley's Family Coloring Book at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean>

CONTACT: **Denna Grangaard**, IDEQ, 208-783-5781, [denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov)

We wash our trucks and toys off so we don't take the dirt with us



*Rene Gilbert*

## Exercising outdoors?

Check your air quality forecast to find the best time for a workout or run. Select Idaho from the drop-down, then click on Pinehurst, CDA, St. Maries or another city. Knowing your air quality can help avoid respiratory problems such as asthma.

Visit <http://www.airnow.gov>

## New IDEQ Director Named



A big welcome to **John Tippets**, recently appointed as the new director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. And a warm thank you and best wishes to former director Curt Fransen, who retired in May.

## Congratulations to Coloring Contest Stars



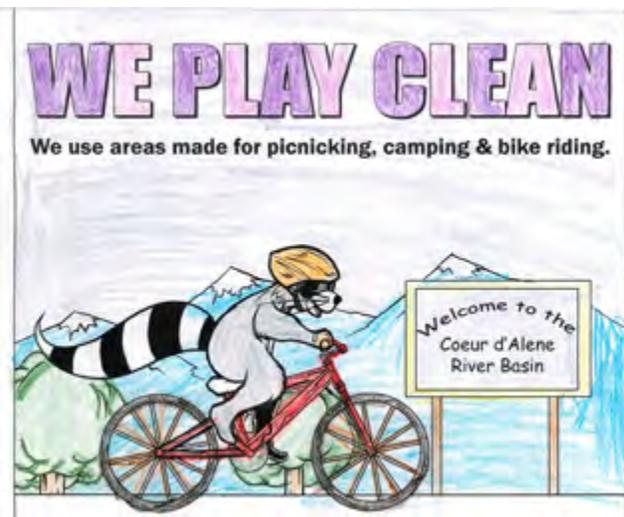
Daisy



Willow

Congratulations coloring contest winners, **Daisy, Willow, Liberty, and Rozilynn!** Riley Raccoon was impressed with your creative style and attention to detail! The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Kellogg Panhandle Health District are happy to support summer fun and playing clean. Families can read more about the contest at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/PlayClean>

CONTACT: **Denna Grangaard**, IDEQ, 208-783-5781, [denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov)



Liberty



Roz

## Documents

### North Idaho College Library

Molstead Library  
1000 Garden Avenue – Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-769-3355

### Wallace Public Library

415 River Street – Wallace, ID 83873  
208-752-4571

### Spokane Public Library

906 West Main Avenue – Spokane, WA 99201  
509-444-5336

### EPA Field Office

1910 Northwest Boulevard, Suite 208  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-664-4588

### EPA Seattle Office

Superfund Record Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue – Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

### St. Maries Library

822 W. College Avenue – St. Maries, ID 83861  
208-245-3732

### Kellogg Public Library

16 West Market Avenue – Kellogg, ID 83837  
208-786-7231

### Caution

### Fire Danger

Like you, our cleanup crews are aware of the very dry conditions out there. Please know that we modify our activities as needed to reduce any risk of sparks.

**Safety is priority.**

## Opportunities to Get Involved

### Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

**Terry Harwood**

208-783-2528

<http://www.basincommission.com>

### Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

CHAIR:

**Jerry Boyd**

509-220-1453

<http://www.basincommission.com/cc.asp>

The Basin Bulletin is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency three times a year. The Basin Bulletin offers updates on the Superfund cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For mailing list changes, to send comments on this newsletter, contact the editors, or submit articles for consideration, contact Andrea Lindsay as noted. Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

*Alternative formats are available.*

*For reasonable accommodation, please call*

 *Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896*

 *TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.*



## EPA Community Involvement Contact

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