

Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin Record of Decision Amendment Update



Coeur d'Alene Basin Commission Meeting

May 18, 2011

Agenda

- ROD Amendment Update
 - Proposed Plan Comments
 - Potential Adjustments to Cleanup Plan
 - Mine & Mill Site Focused Characterization Sampling
 - Aquatic Benchmarks
 - Schedule
- Asarco Trust Update



Proposed Plan Status

- Proposed Plan opened for comment on July 12, 2010
- Numerous outreach and educational events hosted by EPA and others during comment period
- Comment period extended 90 days in response to requests and closed Nov. 23, 2010
- More than 6700 comments received from ~1000 individuals

Proposed Plan Comments

Too big, too costly & too long

No longer a risk to public health

Focus should not be on fish

Don't trust adaptive management

**EPA has done enough –
time to leave Site**

Includes actions that are not needed

Will limit development/Superfund “stigma”

Prohibits or discourages active mining/future development

Will not prevent flooding/protect roads



Working with Basin Commission to address comments

- Upper Basin Project Focus Team meetings to discuss path forward
 - Dec. 7, 2010
 - Feb. 3, 2011
 - March 21, 2011 (conf call)
 - April 14, 2011
 - May 4, 2011 (conf call)
 - Upcoming on May 24, 2011, etc.
- Updates at Basin Commission, TLG and CCC meetings



Potential Adjustments to Cleanup Plan

- Eliminate stream liner - high cost difficult to construct – Interim rather than Final ROD
- Define where we will start and how we will continue cleanup
- Identify areas of strong consensus:
 - Key mine/mill sites in areas impacted most
 - Large sources to groundwater/surface water
 - Remedy protection projects
 - Sites that allow for drainage completion



Potential Adjustments (cont.)

- Identify contingent actions
 - Active facilities
 - Sites with some work performed
 - Sites with risk but in cleaner drainages
- Adjust site cleanup list based upon results of 2011 Upper Basin Focused characterization sampling
- Incorporate aquatic benchmarks

A photograph of a wooded area with a small, dark, rectangular structure, possibly a shed or a small building, partially visible through the trees. The trees have some autumn-colored leaves, suggesting a late summer or early fall setting.

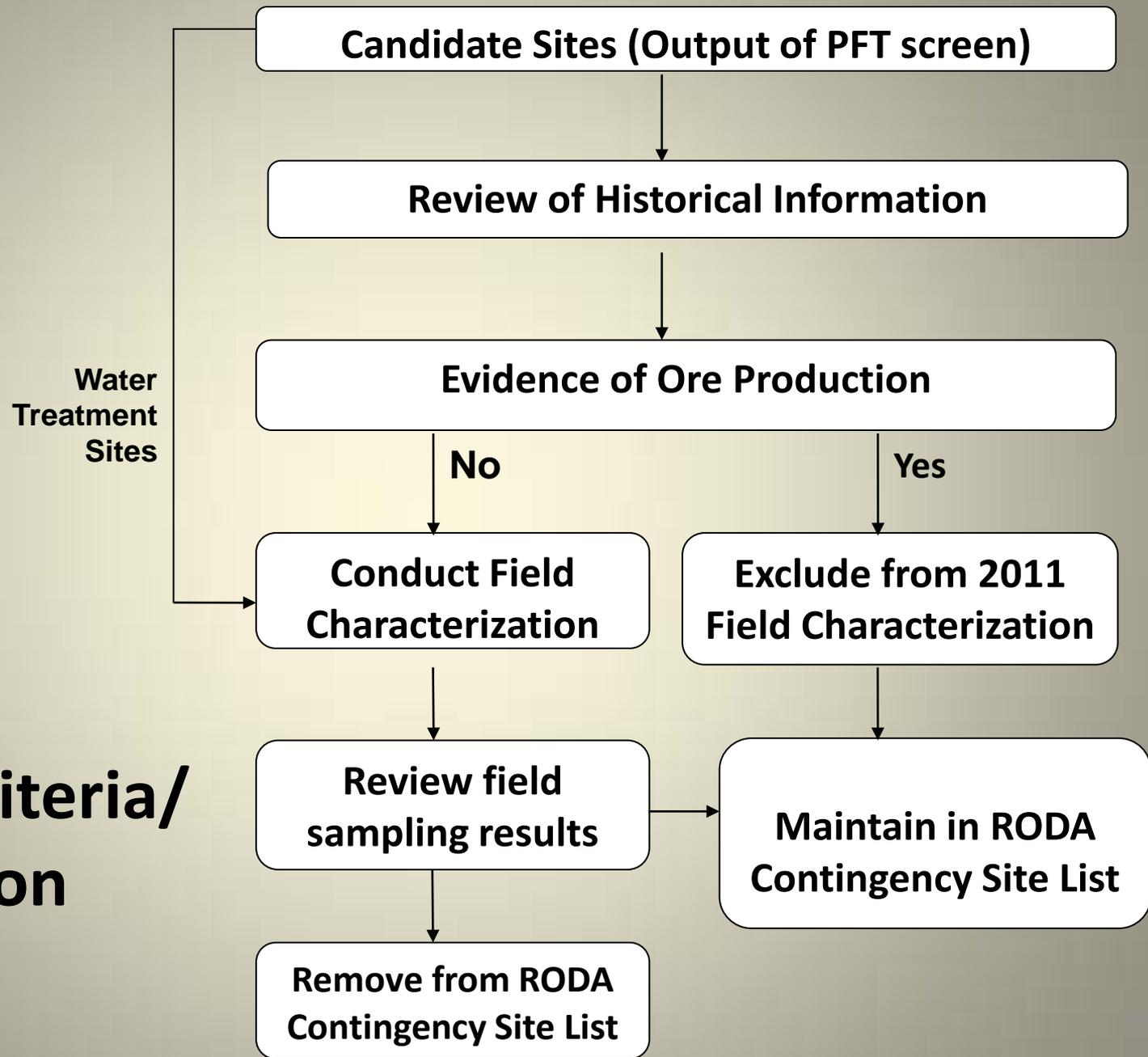
2011 Mine and Mill Site Focused Characterization Sampling

- Purpose and objectives of sampling
- Decision criteria/site selection
- Criteria for removing sites
- Review of historical information
- Field activities/logistics



Purpose and Objectives

- Inform responses to Proposed Plan comments
- Pilot scale effort to collect data to determine if no apparent risk or threat of release
- Data may support modification of the list of mine sites in cleanup plan
- Findings may necessitate a larger scale characterization effort
- Gather samples at flowing adits



Water Treatment Sites

Decision Criteria/ Site Selection



Criteria for Removal of Sites from Cleanup List

- No historical evidence of mineral discovery or ore production
- Physical inspection supports no evidence of mineral discovery or ore production
- Soil lead values less than 530 ppm and arsenic below 100 ppm



Candidate Sites

- A total of 95 candidate sites
 - 12 in the upper SFCDR watershed
 - 17 in the Canyon Creek watershed
 - 12 in the Ninemile Creek watershed
 - 24 in the mid-SFCDR watershed
 - 5 in the Big Creek watershed
 - 4 in the Moon Creek watershed
 - 21 in the Pine Creek watershed (8 in East Fork and 13 in West Fork)



Review of Historical Information

- “Desk-top” review
 - Initial screen by EPA/CH2M HILL
 - Review of refined list by Wallace Mining Museum/Trust
- Confirm site name/location
- Evidence of mineral discovery or ore production
 - Supporting documentation (e.g., mine patents, production records, etc.)



Field Activities

- Physical site inspection (evidence of mining?)
- Soil Sampling
- Surface water sampling at flowing adits



Physical Inspection

- Physical inspection checklist
 - Consistent with historical info
 - Evidence of ore and/or mining
 - Waste piles (quantity and type)
 - Adit and adit flow
 - Distance to surface water
 - Presence of vegetation
 - Recreational use
 - Proximity to residences or communities
 - Access
 - Erosion
- Document using GPS and a standardized field form



Field Sampling

- Soil sampling
 - Soil samples collected from waste piles
 - Multi-increment sampling - one composite sample per pile
- Surface water sampling of flowing adits
 - Collect grab samples
 - Total and dissolved metals
 - Discharge measurement
- EPA Contract Lab (CLP) to conduct analysis (no XRF)



Field Support

- Up to four field teams provided by:
 - CH2M HILL
 - BLM
 - IDEQ
 - Trust
- Sample management - IDEQ/TerraGraphics



Sampling Schedule

- Draft QAPP in late April – final late May
- Historical and access information gathering ongoing
- Field work anticipated for late June, but based on snowpack
- Data evaluation/reporting – late summer



Aquatic Benchmark Update

- Goal – identify measurable responses that can be used to evaluate and predict potential environmental improvements
 - Identify and compile existing data
 - Identify candidate biological response metrics
 - Analyze relationships between biological metrics and
 - Water quality
 - Sediment
 - Habitat
 - Include metrics in RODA and monitoring program



Next Steps / Schedule

- Continued discussions with Upper Basin PFT
- Upper Basin focused characterization sampling – summer 2011
- Aquatic benchmarks – summer 2011
- Respond to comments – ongoing
- Issue ROD Amendment – late 2011



Coeur d'Alene Work Trust Update

- EPA approved the Work Trust Work Plan for FY 2011 (October 2011 - October 2012) in February 2011 for the following projects:
 - Construction of the Remedy at the USBM site in Osburn.
 - Characterization of sites in the East Fork of Ninemile Creek.



Coeur d'Alene Work Trust Update - Continued

- Further characterization work near the Gem Site in Canyon Creek.
- Conduct a Compost Feasibility Study.
- Work with the Wallace Mining Museum to gather additional historical information on sites.
- 2012 Planning and Work Plan development.



Coeur d'Alene Work Trust Update - Continued

- Trust is in the process of preparing work plans, health and safety plans, QAPP/SAP/FSP for specific projects.
- Upon completion, the Trust will issue RFP's for hiring contractors to perform the work.
- The Trust will provide an update on progress at the August Commission Meeting.

A photograph of a streambed with a culvert opening in the background and overlaid text. The streambed is composed of numerous light-colored rocks and debris, with a small pool of water. A black tarp is partially visible among the rocks. The background shows a wooded area with green and yellow foliage. The text "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in the upper center, and "Thank you!" is overlaid in the center.

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!