



BASIN BULLETIN

The Periodic Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

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Next Basin Commission Meeting

May 23, 2007

www.basincommission.com

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Basin Commission Board Changes

Elin Miller, who joined EPA as the Regional Administrator last fall, will now serve as the Basin Commissioner representing federal agencies.

Ron Kreizenbeck, Deputy Regional Administrator, will return to serving as the alternate federal representative. Welcome, Ms. Miller.

Sherry Krulitz, Shoshone County Commissioner, recently stepped down from the board for health reasons. **Jon Cantamessa**, Shoshone County Commissioner, has been appointed to replace her on the board. Ms. Krulitz will serve as the alternate Shoshone County representative. Best wishes and thank you, Ms. Krulitz, for your years of service as the board chair. Welcome, Mr. Cantamessa.

At the Basin Commission's March 14 meeting, the board elected new officers. Shoshone County Representative Jon Cantamessa was elected as commission Chair. Kootenai County Representative Rick Currie was elected Vice Chair. The Secretary/Treasurer seat is to be filled by Toni Hardesty, representing the State of Idaho.

Basin Institutional Controls Program Going Into Effect

The Institutional Controls Program, or ICP, for the Basin will become effective this construction season. The ICP is designed to help make sure that protective barriers remain in place and that contaminated soil is excavated, handled and disposed of properly. The aim is to ensure protection of human health and the environment over the long term.

The Panhandle Health District completed its rulemaking process for the ICP when the District Board adopted the ICP rule last November. On January 30, 2007, the rule passed both State Senate and House Health and Welfare Committees and became effective when the legislature adjourned in March. On-the-ground implementation of the ICP rule is expected July 1. The requirements of the rule will be applied to activities within its administrative boundaries. Those boundaries cover the Coeur d'Alene River Basin from Harrison to the headwaters.

For more information, contact Jerry Cobb, Panhandle Health District, at 208-783-0707, or Bill Ryan, EPA, at 800-424-4372 x8561.

Basin Infrastructure Inventory, Maps Complete

The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission has completed the first phase of a Coeur d'Alene River Basin **Flood Control and Infrastructure Revitalization Plan**. This work included producing a series of maps. The maps show drainage and historical mining activities. The maps also show existing infrastructure with water and sewer systems, community transportation facilities, and natural gas systems.

The next phase of the Flood Control process is to evaluate the potential for flood damage to the

Superfund cleanup. The flood control process will also evaluate levee and drainage systems for upgrade and improvement. The next phase of the infrastructure process is to convene a workshop in mid-April to discuss the condition of systems and to set priorities for joint community actions. The BEIPC will announce the time and place for the workshop. Contact Terry Harwood, Executive Director, if you are interested in attending or reviewing the maps, at 208-783-2528 or terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov.

Basin Property Cleanups Resume in April

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and their contractors will be starting the 2007 remediation season in April. The Basin Property Remediation Program plans to clean up 350 properties this season. Included in that goal are about 120 high-risk properties. Contractors doing the 2007 yard remediation are Stewart Contracting, located in Pinehurst, and Ferguson Contracting of Kellogg.

Properties are chosen for cleanup based on criteria set by EPA. High-risk properties within the Coeur

d'Alene Basin—those inhabited by children under the age of seven and/or pregnant women and exceeding established cleanup levels—are the main focus. The program also emphasizes target areas in order to complete the cleanup as efficiently as possible. Cleanup activities in Mullan and other upper-basin communities will be emphasized in the 2007 construction season.



Spokane River Cleanups Focus on PCBs, Lead, Arsenic, Zinc, Cadmium

Several cleanup projects are taking place along the Spokane River in Washington. Washington Department of Ecology recently completed two projects, and a third was coordinated with EPA.

The **Upriver Dam** site involved placing a cap over contaminated sediments on the river bottom. The cap is made of coal, sand and gravel and is intended to isolate PCBs. At **Donkey Island**, which consists of wetlands and backwater channels on the river's north bank, PCB-contaminated soil was replaced with clean sand. Replanting in areas that were disturbed is planned for spring 2007. The **Starr Road** project led by EPA and coordinated with Ecology last year is now complete. Shoreline soils contaminated with lead, arsenic, zinc and cadmium from historic mining activities upstream were removed. Clean materials were then placed on shoreline and upland areas. Workers constructed a pull-out parking area and footpath to the clean shoreline area.

Two more projects are scheduled for 2007. As part of the **Murray Road** project along the river's north bank, a sand and gravel cap will be placed over lead, arsenic, zinc and cadmium contamination. A new footpath will be built leading to the newly cleaned area. Cleanup work at the **Island Complex** site, about 2.5 miles west of the Idaho border, focuses on the south and west banks of an island in the river. Work includes stabilizing and capping certain lead and arsenic-contaminated areas of the river bank. This work reduces erosion, limits human and wildlife exposure to contaminants, and restores portions of the river bank with natural vegetation.

For details, contact Site Manager Zach Hedgpeth, Ecology, at 509-329-3484 or visit Ecology's Spokane River Web Site at www.ecy.wa.gov then click on Spokane River. Or, contact Ravi Sanga, EPA Project Manager, at 206-553-4092.

Lake Plan Mediation Assessment Online

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution has now posted its report online. The document is called **Assessment Report on Prospects for Mediated Negotiation of a Lake Management Plan for Lake Coeur d'Alene**. The U.S. Institute and its contractor Harty Conflict Consulting & Mediation are working with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Idaho DEQ, EPA Region 10, and U.S. EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center. They have been working to assess past negotiation efforts and how future negotiations might be structured to produce an updated Lake Management Plan (LMP). The report and its recommendations are based on confidential interviews and discussions with individuals and institutions with an interest in the LMP, review of documents, and online research. See the report at http://ecr.gov/s_publications.htm.

Coeur d'Alene Lake Water Quality Monitoring — Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Idaho DEQ have developed a joint Coeur d'Alene Lake water quality monitoring plan with associated QAPP. Both documents have been submitted to EPA for review and approval, as EPA will be providing support for laboratory analysis. Monitoring activities are scheduled to begin in June 2007. The State will be monitoring the northern two-thirds of the lake and the Tribe the southern one-third.

Basin Commission 2006 Accomplishment Report Out

The **2006 Annual Report** outlining the accomplishments of the Basin Commission is now online. This 68-page report covers the Basin environmental cleanup and natural resource restoration program. You can learn about 2006 accomplishments, ongoing work, Coeur d'Alene Lake activities, overall program management, and more. Access it online at www.basincommission.com, under "About."

CCC Elections in Spring 2007

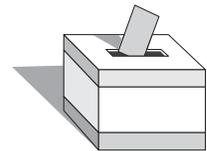
The Basin Commission's **Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)** will hold elections this spring for its Chair and Vice-Chair positions. The CCC Chair leads all CCC meetings and has a responsibility to communicate, in a fair, balanced, and inclusive way, the diversity of citizen perspectives and/or recommendations to the Commission Board. The Vice-Chair assumes these responsibilities in the Chair's absence. Both are two-year positions. People currently serving in these positions can be re-elected. John Snider is the current CCC Chair, and, until recently, Kathy Zanetti served as Vice-Chair.

The election process begins with nominations of candidates by regional sub-groups of the CCC. Once nominations are received, biographies are distributed to the full CCC membership. Members then vote by mail or email. The nominee receiving the most votes is declared the Chair. The nominee with the next highest votes is declared the Vice-Chair. All registered CCC members are eligible to vote. The CCC expects to complete this process by May 2007.

The CCC was established to convey citizen concerns, perspectives, and input to the Basin Commission Board and Executive Director. Established in 2002, the CCC meets

approximately quarterly to review and comment on BEIPC work plans and other documents. They also hear about and comment on work in the Basin, and discuss current issues of interest and concern to citizens. Some CCC members are active participants in the Technical Leadership group and various Project Focus Teams. All citizens in the Basin are invited to join the CCC.

Anyone who has questions about the election process or is interested in joining the CCC should contact John Snider at 208-664-9773 jasduke5@imbris.com or Tom Beierle of Ross & Associates at 206-447-1805 tom.beierle@ross-assoc.com.



Contaminant Management Team Looks at Lake/River Sediment Disposal

The **Contaminant Management Project Focus Team** is a sub-group of the Basin Commission's Technical Leadership Group. This team has been focusing on the disturbance and removal of contaminated sediments in Lake Coeur d'Alene and the Spokane River in Idaho. At its March meeting, the Basin Commission tasked the Project Focus Team with developing options to address concerns about upland disposal of contaminated sediments. Among other things, the team will report back to the Commission on regulatory authorities and programs that could address those concerns.

Basin Waste Repositories Update

EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently completed an evaluation of the short- and long-term needs for disposal of cleanup wastes for the Bunker Hill Box and the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The study is called the **Waste Management Strategy**. The focus of the study was to plot likely sources of waste needing disposal (including contaminated soil and sediment from the Superfund cleanup and ICP-related waste) with repository locations that would be located near the cleanup work. The study also balanced current and future needs for disposal capacity with the volume of material to be generated within various regions in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The results of the study found that in the near term (1-5 years) there is sufficient waste capacity in the two large repositories. It also confirmed the need for more capacity for disposing of contaminated waste in both the upper and lower Basin beyond five years.

The current waste repository in the upper Basin is the Big Creek repository, located at the mouth of Big Creek, east of Kellogg. That facility can continue to take in waste until about 2012 before it fills up. Once that happens, a new repository will be needed. In the lower Basin, a new repository at East Mission Flats will open for limited operation in 2007. It will serve the middle and lower Basin. In the Box, the Page repository has many years of capacity based on previous use rates. However, the agencies are looking into ways to expand this facility to provide long-term repository space for the local community.

For areas that are not near the existing repositories, satellite waste holding areas are being considered that could collect waste to be transferred to a local repository. For more information, contact John Lawson, IDEQ, at 208-373-0141 or Ed Moreen, EPA, at 208-664-4588.

Canyon Creek: Water Treatment Studies Under Way

Just upstream from Wallace, Idaho, Canyon Creek runs west and southwest through a narrow, steep canyon and enters the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. Historical mining and milling in the watershed resulted in metals contaminating water and sediments. Canyon Creek contributes more dissolved metals to the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River than any other tributary — an estimated 20 to 25 percent of the load in the South Fork where it meets the North Fork (EPA, 2002). Zinc is the main metal contaminant.

Treatment of Canyon Creek water is a priority for reducing dissolved metals in the South Fork above the Box. To reduce zinc loads, the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for treatment of surface water near the mouth of Canyon Creek. Much of the metals in the surface water come from contaminated groundwater. Water treatment technology assessments, groundwater modeling and monitoring are under way

for both surface and groundwater. That work focuses on developing the most cost-effective long-term solution to improving water quality from Canyon Creek that will meet the goals of the ROD. Current information shows it may be possible to meet the goals by capturing and treating groundwater in portions of Canyon Creek.

Other projects are under way to study ways to treat metal-contaminated groundwater in Canyon Creek. These include developing a design for using lime in a series of open lagoons and evaluating several media, such as fish bone apatite, to remove metals "passively."

This spring and summer, modeling, monitoring and the technology evaluations will be completed for Canyon Creek. Based on the findings and on community and PFT involvement, a design for the most favorable treatment approach will begin in fall 2007.



Mine and Mill Sites Work Continues

This spring and summer, work is planned for the Golconda site, and Rex Mine and Mill. Most of the work at the Golconda site was completed last fall. The only work remaining is to place a clay/soil cap over the combined waste materials and to hydroseed the site. The work at Rex involves grading and capping of the tailings and waste rock piles, and re-routing of water away from the tailings area. Depending on the action required and progress of the design, work at the US Bureau of Mines impoundment near Osburn may also occur this upcoming season.

Trail of Coeur d'Alenes Garners National Award

by Rebecca Stevens, Environmental Specialist, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Lake Management Department

Last November, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, State of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) received one of 11 EPA **Phoenix Awards**. Created in 1997, this award was designed to honor individuals and groups working to solve environmental challenges by transforming blighted areas, known as "brownfields," into productive new uses.

The project converted a 72-mile rail-line into a public recreation trail running across the north Idaho Panhandle: the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

That rail-line had a long history. In 1888, the Tribe, through Congress, granted a railroad right-of-way (ROW) within the boundary of the 1873 Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. During the next 100 years, that rail-line helped build Silver Valley, moving silver, zinc, lead ore and other materials with quick and reliable dispatch. Much of the rail bed was built with tailings from the mining operations.

In 1991, the Tribe and the United States alleged that the owners of the rail-line, UPRR, were liable under CERCLA law, for injuries to natural resources along the railroad ROW. This complaint led to an agreement between the Tribe, UPRR, Idaho, and EPA.

Within the current reservation boundaries (about 17 miles of trail), contaminated soil was removed and



Front: Phillip Cernera and Mike Cooper. Back: Gary Honeyman, Elin Miller, Bill Scudder, Robert Lawrence, and Gail Wurtzler.

replaced with clean fill, then topped with asphalt. The ROW within the State portion of the Trail was capped with asphalt, creating a 10-foot-wide path, one of the longest recreation trails on abandoned rail-line in the country.

Since 2000, the Tribe and State have worked on agreements to jointly manage the trail. The intent is to have the State own the portion of the trail ROW outside of the reservation boundary, and the Tribe own the trail ROW within the exterior boundaries of the reservation, south of Harrison to Plummer. The State and Tribe would have primary management for their owned portions, but would also coordinate in all aspects of trail management.

Hands-On Watershed Education Opportunity



Interested in "hands-on" watershed education? The Coeur d'Alene Tribe now offers an Enviroscape model that can do just that. Rebecca Stevens, with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Lake Management Department, is available to make presentations or to support you in developing your own education program. The model can help participants take an active responsibility for the waters within the Coeur d'Alene Reservation. The Tribe is pleased to share this model, which they won in a contest through the Conservation Technology Information Center in 2006. For details, call Rebecca at 208-667-5772.

Lake Map Available

A water-resistant map of Coeur d'Alene Lake produced by the Basin Commission is now available. The map shares information on how we can all help preserve and improve water quality. It is a high-quality map offering information for boaters, fisherman, lakeshore owners, and all lake users. Contact Terry Harwood to learn how to get a free map, at 208-783-2528 or terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov.

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Updated March 2007

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Opportunities to Get Involved

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

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www.basincommission.com

Next Meeting: May 23, 2007

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

Contact: **John Snider**, 208-664-9773

Visit the website for meeting information:

www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp



Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)

Contact: **Robin Stanley**, 208-744-1118

Groups meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Brooks Hotel, 500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID

Silver Valley Community Resource Center

For information on meetings or how to contribute funds,

Contact: **Barbara Miller**, 208-784-8891

PO Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Contact: **Lloyd Brewer**, 509-625-6968

Information Repositories

These locations offer collections of documents:

**North Idaho College
Molstead Library**
1000 W. Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library
415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

St. Maries Library
822 W. College Ave.
St. Maries, ID 83861
208-245-3732

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

EPA Field Office
1910 Northwest Blvd., Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office
Superfund Record Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-1128
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Community Involvement and Outreach
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

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Cleanup Newsletter
Coeur d'Alene Basin, ID
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Websites:



EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin

<http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda>

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

<http://www.basincommission.com>

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)

www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

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



*If you need information in an alternative format, please contact Andrea Lindsay
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