

# BASIN BULLETIN

 EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

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

April 2014

### Tell EPA Your Ideas for Involving the Community Sign Up to Talk with Us or Send Us a Letter

Your input is welcome! EPA is updating its Community Involvement Plan. The plan outlines ways to keep people involved in and informed about the Coeur d'Alene Basin cleanup. You can help shape this plan. We want to hear from you. What is the best way for you to get cleanup information? What is the best way to make sure you have a voice in cleanup activities?

There are lots of ways to give your input. You are invited to meet with outreach staff on **May 15 or 16, 2014**. We can meet with you or your group at your place. Or, you can choose to drop by:

- **May 15**, any time from 3 to 6 PM, Red Light Garage, 302 5th St, Wallace, ID 83873
- **May 16**, any time from 9 to 11 AM, the Rose Lake Community Center Hwy 3, Rose Lake, ID 83810

To set up a meeting or phone call, call **Rene Gilbert** at 208-659-5237. You can also share your views in writing. Send a note to **Rene Gilbert**, EPA Community Liaison

✉ c/o IDEQ, 1005 W. McKinley Ave  
Kellogg, ID 83837

✉ [gilbert.maureen@epa.gov](mailto:gilbert.maureen@epa.gov)



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**Learn More about the  
Coeur d'Alene Basin  
Cleanup on the Web**

[www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill)

## Lower Burke Repository Work this Summer

Construction starts this summer on the new Lower Burke Canyon Repository. The facility will be in Wallace, near Woodland Park. There will be work trucks in the area, just north of the residential area. Drivers will be required to follow safety practices, including safe speed limits, operation only during daylight, covering of loads, and dust and noise control.

You may see clearing and grading activities, culverts being laid, removal of pipes and equipment already on site, material deliveries, fencing to control access, and other construction activity. The workers will be preparing the area to receive waste from cleanup work up-canyon. Limited waste from the Institutional Controls Program in the basin could also be disposed of there in the future. Contact: **Bill Adams**, 800-424-4372 ext. 2806, 206-553-2806 or [adams.bill@epa.gov](mailto:adams.bill@epa.gov)  
Visit: <http://go.usa.gov/TffY>

**Coming Soon: Lower Burke Canyon Repository  
POSTED PRIVATE PROPERTY**






**Contaminated soils from  
the Superfund cleanup will be  
permanently placed at this location.**

*For updates and public comment opportunities:*  
[go.usa.gov/2eFP](http://go.usa.gov/2eFP)  
 DEQ Kellogg, (208) 783-5781

## Big Creek Repository Annex in the Works



The existing Big Creek Repository is getting full, and plans are in the works to build an add-on. The CDA Trust is now acquiring two properties just across the creek from the repository. The annex will be developed on about 9.5 acres, directly west of the existing decontamination station. This year, we expect to design the annex, construct a small bridge, and move some water lines and a pump house owned by a nearby golf course. The annex would increase the amount of space available for storing waste removed from cleanup areas. The facilities already in place at the repository — the wash-off area, the office, the entrance — would also serve the annex. The repository annex will, for the most part, not be visible from the golf course. Stay tuned for updates. Contact: **Bill Adams**, 800-424-4372 ext. 2806, 206-553-2806 or [adams.bill@epa.gov](mailto:adams.bill@epa.gov)

## Did You Notice our New Look?



Let us know what you think of the Basin Bulletin's new format. We've redesigned it so that it's quicker and easier to read. At the same time, we want to make sure you can get more details if you want them. That's why there is a contact or a website with each article. We'll be tweaking things over the next few issues to get it right. We welcome your feedback! **Contact:** Andrea Lindsay, 800-424-4372 ext. 1896, 206-553-1896, or [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov), **Past Issues:** <http://go.usa.gov/ZAjG>

## Good News for Healthy Habitat!

Early this spring, Tundra swans flocked to a healthy wetland habitat created in 2011 as part of EPA's CDA Basin cleanup. Nearly 400 acres of agricultural property near Medimont was converted to clean feeding habitat for swans, ducks, and other wetland birds. This project, the first of its kind in the Basin, is an important step in addressing serious ecological contamination. Contaminated wetlands, for example, can harm birds who feed there. In fact, each year over 100 swans die from ingesting lead-contaminated sediment. This clean habitat provides a healthier place to gather and feed. Plus, lessons from this project are helping to inform our decisions about future pilot projects in the Lower Basin. The project was initially a collaborative effort of the property owner, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and EPA. Later, the Restoration Partnership formed and helped coordinate the involvement of several additional agencies. The property is privately owned and not open to the public. Contact: **Ed Moreen**, 208-664-4588, [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov) Visit <http://go.usa.gov/kDQH>



Photo: USFWS

## Swans, Herons, Mergansers, and More...Tracking our Winged Friends



Photo: USFWS

A survey of waterfowl in the Coeur d'Alene Basin is under way by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Each February through April, the surveys occur as part of EPA's Basin Environmental Monitoring Plan. These surveys help determine waterfowl use in specific wetlands to help prioritize areas for potential cleanup. EPA's Facebook page has been tracking the spring waterfowl migration and other observed critters. Check it out!

Contact: **Tracy Chellis**, 800-424-4372 ext. 6326, 206-553-6326 or [chellis.tracy@epa.gov](mailto:chellis.tracy@epa.gov)

Visit [www.facebook.com/cdabasin](http://www.facebook.com/cdabasin)

## Learning from the Flood

During floods, heavy metals like lead from historical mining activities can be washed downstream, churned up from the river bed, and even left on the floodplain after waters recede. The March flood did leave sediment on some recreation areas in the CDA Basin. In recent years those sediments have been shown to be contaminated and should be treated as such. The parking lots and boat ramps at those sites are being washed off. The flood also presented an important chance for EPA to gather data. Scientists measured flow rates and collected samples to learn more about the way flood waters move contaminants. The data will be used to help the agency make future cleanup decisions.

Contact: **Ed Moreen**, 208-664-4588 or [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov)



## River Bank and Beach Project to Get Started



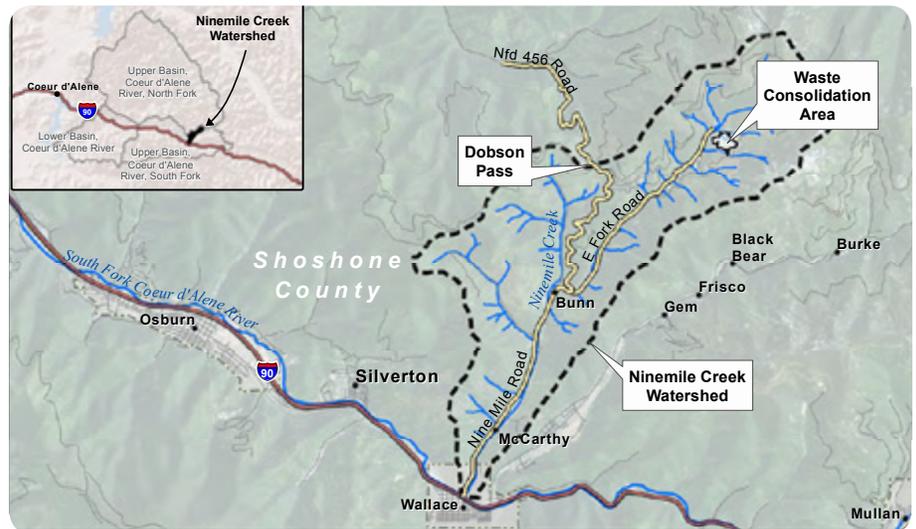
The EPA has completed the design for a river bank and beach remediation pilot project at the Kahnderosa RV park. The local community helped the EPA select this project. Construction is set to start in the fall of 2014. The project will reduce human and wildlife exposure by isolating and stabilizing the eroding river bank. The EPA will use native plants to stabilize the shoreline, which will provide fish and wildlife habitat and other ecosystem services. River footpaths will reduce future damage to the protected bank. These types of projects have been successful throughout the northwest in Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Contact: **Kim Prestbo**, 800-424-4372 ext. 0239, 206-553-0239, or [prestbo.kim@epa.gov](mailto:prestbo.kim@epa.gov)

## Ninemile Canyon Work Resumes this Summer

Once the snowfall melts up there, more work at the new “waste consolidation area” will get underway. The WCA will be ready to receive waste from the Interstate Callahan Mine rock dumps cleanup later this summer. Workers will finish up work started last year to get the area ready for future years of waste disposal. The remote 20-acre site is located up near the East Fork of Ninemile Creek. The work will help control sources of heavy metals, including lead and zinc, which present a risk to people and the environment as they move downstream.

Contact: **Tracy Chellis**, 206-553-6326 or

800-424-4372 or email [chellis.tracy@epa.gov](mailto:chellis.tracy@epa.gov) Visit: <http://go.usa.gov/kDUG>



## Collecting Groundwater and Upgrading the Treatment Plant



The EPA continues to work on designs for a groundwater collection system near Kellogg. The system will be installed between the north side of the Central Impoundment Area and the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

It will collect contaminated groundwater then pipe it to the treatment plant. The treatment plant will get some upgrades so it can handle this groundwater in addition to the mine water it already treats. The EPA is designing the collection system and the treatment plant upgrade at the same time. That way, the EPA can ensure that treatment of

both groundwater and mine water can be cost effective and protect the water in the South Fork.

Contact: **Kim Prestbo**, 800-424-4372 ext. 0239, 206-553-0239 or [prestbo.kim@epa.gov](mailto:prestbo.kim@epa.gov)

## Keeping Cleaned Up Areas Clean

### Protecting Cleanup in Shields Gulch

Crews have restarted work in Shields Gulch to help protect past cleanup work in that area. Workers will build a new creek channel behind Silver Hills Elementary next to I-90 and replace culverts under some roads. The work will help keep Shields Creek within its banks during floods. The goal is to help prevent sediments from washing onto clean properties and causing re-contamination. Crews will also remediate the old tennis court in back of the school. Cleanup of the tennis court area will take place when school is not in session. The project got started last year with installation of a fence, some excavation for the new channel, a bridge cleanout and more. The Coeur d'Alene Trust, DEQ, and EPA coordinate this and other Remedy Protection projects with local jurisdictions and property owners. This project is funded by settlement money. Contact: **Anne McCauley**, 800-424-4372 ext. 4689, 206-553-4689 or [mccauley.anne@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.anne@epa.gov)



### Meyer Creek Remedy Protection Project Coming

Construction to protect completed cleanup work in Osburn will begin in May or June. The project is designed to reroute Meyer Creek in an underground pipe system located in the public right-of-way through the city. The new system has a larger capacity than the existing pipe to help prevent recontamination of cleaned up properties. Workers will install 3,200 lineal feet of piping, eleven manholes and two new inlet structures. They will also modify existing utility lines (i.e., water, sanitary sewer, gas, etc). Work should be complete before winter. Contact: **Anne McCauley**, 800-424-4372 ext. 4689, 206-553-4689 or [mccauley.anne@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.anne@epa.gov)

### Planning for Work on Kellogg's Portland Road

DEQ is completing pre-design work to determine how to address 'overland flow' along upper Portland Road and nearby steep hillsides in Kellogg. When water flows over the land here, it can leave contaminated sediments behind. The agency is designing the work to reduce the potential for people to be exposed to contaminants in the long term. Contact: **Terry Harwood**, 208-783-2528 or [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

### Little Pine Creek to Get Upgrades

DEQ is working on design of upgrades to Little Pine Creek in Pinehurst. Work would affect the creek along D Street, a short distance into the south end of Pinehurst Golf Course, and through the Shoshone County Park. The project will reduce overtopping of the banks during high water and the risk of recontamination. Some channel excavation will occur. Culverts and bridges that are too small will be reconfigured and replaced. Also, portions of the channel in the residential areas through which the channel is very confined will be armored. Contact: **Terry Harwood**, 208-783-2528 or [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

## Yard Cleanups Continue



In 2014, DEQ will focus its Yard Program (Basin Property Remediation Program) on about 125 residential and commercial properties in some side gulches and neighborhoods that are nearly finished. This work will require coordination with landowners, neighbors and local governments. The Kellogg DEQ office is working hard to provide excellent customer service and answer questions. In addition to protecting people's health, the Yards Program provides good paying jobs and improved property values in the Silver Valley.

Contact: **Bruce Schuld**, 208-783-5781  
or [bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov)

## Paved Roads Program Laying Down Miles

DEQ and the EPA will continue to work with local road jurisdictions to repair road surfaces that serve as barriers to contamination in the underlying roadbed. Jurisdictions planned, contracted, and completed about eight miles of paved road remediation in 2013. Jurisdictions are planning to resurface about 17.4 miles of public roads in 2014. The roads work is designed to protect public health.

Contact: **Bruce Schuld**, 208-783-2528 or  
[bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov)



Photo: DEQ

## Unpaved Road Program—Two Segments Left!



Photo: DEQ

Of the 24 identified unpaved contaminated public roads, only two road segments are left to be cleaned up. In 2013, DEQ's contractors cleaned up over 2.5 miles of lead and arsenic contaminated roadway by replacing the top 6 inches with a clean gravel barrier. Roadways track mud and dirt from property to property. Clean surfaces on gravel roads lower health risks and help reduce the dispersion of contamination. This program will be completed after this year.

Contact: **Terry Harwood**, 208-783-2528  
or [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

## Free Lead Screening for Children Provided

Blood lead testing is an important way to protect your child's health. The Panhandle Health District will offer blood lead screening for children in the Box and Basin starting in July. Watch for newspaper ads, mailers, and radio announcements for details to get in on this free public health service. This year the incentive is \$30 per eligible child to encourage participation. Be aware of potential lead sources. Blood lead levels can be reduced.

Contact: **Panhandle Health District**, 208-783-0707. Visit: <http://go.usa.gov/kDPC>



## Community Fill Plan Released



Photo: DEQ

In February, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality released a final Community Fill Plan, sometimes called the "Fill the Holes" plan. The plan outlines criteria for fill projects using metals-contaminated soil and gravel within the Superfund Site's Institutional Controls Boundary. The Panhandle Health District administers the program. For a quick read, see the Fact Sheet posted on DEQ's website at <http://go.usa.gov/kDPR>

Contact DEQ: **Rob Hanson**, 208-373-0290  
or [rob.hanson@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:rob.hanson@deq.idaho.gov)

Contact PHD: **Jerry Cobb**, 208-783-0707  
Visit: <http://go.usa.gov/kDPR>

## Citizens Discuss Cleanup

The Citizens Coordinating Council hosted a community discussion on April 16, 2014. People met at the Medimont Grange to discuss upcoming cleanup work in the Lower Basin. The CCC is part of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission. All meeting notes and meeting announcements are posted to the website. Please join us next time, in July. Contact: **Jerry Boyd**, 509-455-6000, [jerry.boyd@painehamblen.com](mailto:jerry.boyd@painehamblen.com). Visit: [www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)



## Wallace Yard Cleanup Complete



Environmental cleanup of the Wallace Yard rail yard and spur lines is now certified complete. Cleanup included excavation and capping. For over a century, the Union Pacific Railroad and Northern Pacific Railway serviced the local mining industry. The competing rail lines connected nearby mines and mills to smelters in Idaho, Montana, and Washington. The photo shows a gravel-capped spur line. Contact: **Ed Moreen**, 208-664-4588 or [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov)

## International Students Get Site Tour

Here's a shout out to the international exchange students who joined EPA in January for a personal site tour. Students from around the world were escorted by our Project Manager Ed Moreen (shown here) and EPA Community Liaison Rene Gilbert. They toured important landmarks to learn about the environmental cleanup and the transformation of the landscape over time. Sites included the former lead smelter, the Central Impoundment Area, Government Gulch and more. Thanks for coming!

Contact: **Ed Moreen**, 208-664-4588 or [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov)



## Science in the Classroom

Eighth and ninth grade students in Kellogg recently tried their hands at scientific modeling. With the help of Clay Larkins (TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering) and Denna Grangaard (Idaho DEQ), the students learned about the relationship between outdoor dirt, house dust, and lead exposure. Then, using a scientific model, students predicted lead exposure and found ways to reduce the risk. Way to go, future scientists!

Contact: **Denna Grangaard**, 208-659-1383 or [denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov)



## Riley Raccoon Says:

Hey kids! Try my activity book to find out how we play safe around lead and other elements in the soil. It's easy to stay healthy when you know how!

Visit: <http://go.usa.gov/kDPF>



## 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!

Contact: **Andrea Lindsay**, 800-424-4372 ext. 1896, 206-553-1896 or [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/CDAbasin](http://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin)

## Save the Date



The next meeting of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission is set for **May 14**. Stay tuned for more information.  
Contact: **Terry Harwood**, 208-783-2528 or [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

## 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

## Opportunities to Get Involved

### Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

**Executive Director:**  
**Terry Harwood**, 208-783-2528  
[www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

### Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

**Contact:**  
**Jerry Boyd**, 509-455-6000  
[www.basincommission.com/cc.asp](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, call 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

**Andrea Lindsay**  
[Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov)  
1-800-424-4372 ext. 1896





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