



BASIN BULLETIN

A Quarterly Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

Issue No. 14 Summer 2006

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Next Basin Commission Meeting
—Basin Field Trip and Tour—
August 16, 2006
See article page 2.
www.basincommission.com

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(see back page for website)

Basin Institutional Controls Program Recommended for Rule Making

Work has been under way to develop an Institutional Controls Program, or ICP, for the Basin. The ICP is intended to help make sure that areas that have been cleaned up don't become recontaminated from excavation, soil movement, or other activities. It is designed to complement existing land use regulations and permitting processes. The aim is to ensure that human health and the environment are protected over the long term, while providing for economic development.



A Project Focus Team has been working since December to develop an ICP for the Basin, which is modeled on the ICP that is currently in place in the Box. The Box ICP has been up and running for over a decade and is managed by the Panhandle Health District (PHD).

At the June 21 Basin Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to recommend that the Panhandle Health District move forward with rulemaking for the Basin ICP. The ICP would cover the Coeur d'Alene River corridor from Harrison to the headwaters. Similar to the Box ICP, the Basin ICP would be adopted by the state legislature as a state rule. The goal is to have PHD complete the rule-making process by this fall so that it could be adopted in the next legislative session (early 2007). Once adopted, the requirements of the rule would be applied to activities within its administrative boundaries.

Contacts:

Terry Harwood, Basin Comm. Executive Director, 208-783-2528
Jerry Cobb, Panhandle Health District, 208-783-0707

Basin Commission Hits the Road August 16

The next Basin Commission meeting will be a day on the road. August 16th will feature a field trip of the Basin to showcase the on-the-ground work under way. Site stops will include waste repositories, mine/mill site cleanups, Rose Lake, Rainy Hill and Medimont recreation areas, Canyon Creek, yard cleanups, and more. The public is invited to tag along independently.

Carpooling is encouraged and registration may be required. A full agenda and more information will be posted on the Basin Commission website at www.basincommission.com. Or, call **Terry Harwood**, Executive Director, at 208-783-2528.



Basin Commission Reps: Changes



Michael Bogert recently resigned as the Regional Administrator for EPA Region 10. Michael has accepted a position as Counselor to the Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Deputy Regional Administrator **Ron Kreizenbeck** will again serve as Acting Regional Administrator—and Basin Commissioner representing federal agencies—until a replacement is appointed. Thank you for moving the project forward, Michael, and welcome back on board, Ron.

Chief Allen will serve as the Coeur d'Alene Tribal representative on the Basin Commission. **Phil Cerner** will serve as his alternate.

EPA's Ron Kreizenbeck returns to his role as Basin Commissioner.

Basin Properties Getting Cleaned Up

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Basin Property Remediation Program for the 2006 season is well under way. Since April, DEQ contractors have cleaned up over 120 properties in the Basin. Plans for this season are to clean up 400 to 500 properties.

Properties are chosen for cleanup based on contaminant levels measured in soils and private drinking water sources. Properties exceeding cleanup levels, where there are children under the age of seven or pregnant women, are considered high priority properties and are generally cleaned up first. DEQ estimates that at least 100 high priority properties will be cleaned up by the end of the

season. The program also focuses cleanups in target areas in order to get the work done efficiently. This season's target areas are Mullan, Wallace, Osburn, and Kingston.

Three contractors are now on the project: Stewart Contracting of Pinehurst; NASCO Contracting of Smelterville; and Ferguson Contracting of Kellogg. Providing local employment is important to DEQ. DEQ encourages its contractors to hire Silver Valley residents whenever possible. The program contributes about \$6 million annually to the local economy.

Box Property Cleanups Continue

The remaining handful of large outlying properties (LOPs) in the Box are being cleaned up this summer. Once the LOPs are finished, certification of remaining “segregable” areas will begin. The areas include South Kellogg, Pinehurst, Wardner, Elizabeth Park, Montgomery Gulch, and Page. Certification means that cleanup activities within an area are complete. In 1998, Smelterville was the first community to be certified. In 2004, North Kellogg became the second certified community.

For more information, contact **Jan Olsen**, IDEQ, at 208-783-5781 or e-mail Jan.Olsen@deq.idaho.gov or **Anne McCauley**, EPA, at 206-553-4689, 800-424-4372 x4689 or e-mail mccauley.anne@epa.gov.

Cleanup Getting Started at Starr Road Rec Area

Beginning in early August, the Starr Road Recreation Area will be closed for an environmental cleanup. The Starr Road Recreation Area runs along the Spokane River in Washington, near the Idaho border. EPA is cleaning up lead and arsenic contamination from historic mining activities to protect public health and the environment. The work is part of the Coeur d’Alene Basin cleanup.



Workers will be taking out contaminated materials, bringing in clean materials, building a new path, and constructing a parking pull-out area. The cleanup is happening now because low water levels are needed to do the job. EPA is doing the cleanup with the help of the Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Starr Road Recreation Area will be open next summer. For details, contact **Ravi Sanga**, EPA, at 800-424-4372 x 4092 or e-mail sanga.ravi@epa.gov, or **Zach Hedgpeth**, Ecology, at 509-329-3484 or e-mail zahe461@ecy.wa.gov. Visit the website at <http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda>. In the left column under Projects, click on Spokane River.

Conservation Community Meets with Agencies, Tribe on NAS Followup

This July, Idaho and Washington conservation groups met with EPA, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Idaho DEQ, Idaho Department of Lands, Washington Department of Ecology, and the US Forest Service. The meeting focused on land management activities in the upper Coeur d’Alene Basin in light of the 2005 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) study.

The NAS study indicated that there was a need for a better understanding of the relationship between forest canopy



removal and road building activities in the upper basin, and its potential impact on the hydrology in the lower basin and possible recontamination of the lower Coeur d’Alene River and Coeur d’Alene Lake. The discussion centered on current and planned activities in the North Fork and South Fork Coeur d’Alene River basin. Participants also discussed how future work could better address the NAS findings.

The conservation community requested this meeting earlier this year. They, the agencies, and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe reported that they were pleased with the discussions and wish to have future sessions. Discussions are expected to take place every three months. For more information, contact **Don Martin**, 208-665-0458, martin.don@epa.gov.

\$1 Million Available for Conservation

A new agreement will make the cost of installing conservation projects easier to swallow for North Idaho farmers and ranchers.



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) signed the agreement earlier this month. The partnership agreed to pool resources and offer \$1 million in conservation funding over the next three years.



As part of the agreement, eligible agricultural producers can receive cost share up to 90 percent on agricultural practices that address water quality and related issues.

Eligible counties are Bonner, Benewah, Boundary, Shoshone and Kootenai.

“This is a great partnership builder between federal and state agencies, and local landowners,” says Mark Hogen, ISCC water quality resource conservationist. “This is an excellent opportunity for the landowner to address resource issues, which up to this point, have not been affordable for them to implement.”

With the help of NRCS, four local Soil Conservation Districts will take applications, develop the contracts and administer the funds. Conservation practices could include planting cover crops to reduce soil erosion or enhancing riparian vegetation to improve stream habitat.

“This is an excellent opportunity for the agricultural community to protect their natural resources,” says Mark Addy, NRCS district conservationist. “At the same time, producers who implement more conservation will be more likely to qualify for the new Conservation Security Program when a sign-up is offered.”



These funds can be used in the Coeur d’Alene Basin Superfund Site. For details, producers can contact their local Soil Conservation District or Mark Addy, NRCS, at 208-762-4939 ext. 106.

Comings and Goings

Robbin Simmons of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality recently moved on to another position with the state, this time in their Coeur d’Alene office. Robbin served as outreach coordinator at the Kellogg office. Thanks for your contributions, Robbin!

Calendar of Events

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Executive Director: **Terry Harwood**, 208-783-2528

www.basincommission.com

Next Meeting: August 16, 2006, Site Field Trip

Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

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

Visit the website for meeting information:

www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp



Coeur d'Alene Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CBCAC)

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

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

Harrison City Hall
100 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 73
Harrison, ID 83833
208-689-3212

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

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

Basin Bulletin
Quarterly Newsletter
Coeur d'Alene Basin, Idaho
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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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