

BASIN BULLETIN

Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

Summer

2013

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Lower Burke Canyon Repository Coming in 2014

A new waste repository is coming in 2014 to the Lower Burke Canyon. The public comment period on early designs ran from May 30 to June 28, 2013. Local residents and others attended a public Open House on June 4 to learn more about plans. People had a chance to view displays, talk with project staff, and get questions answered. EPA and the CDA Work Trust are now carefully considering the public's comments.

The repository will be located in Wallace, near Woodland Park on a closed tailings impoundment. Local residents helped select this site for a repository. The repository will securely contain contaminated mine waste from cleanup activities. Cleanup waste from higher up in the watershed will be trucked in via Highway 4. There will be a separate area for waste from the Institutional Controls Program.

Article continued on next page ⇨



View from Woodland Park of the repository when completed - artist's conception. The repository will be vegetated.

EPA Community Involvement Contacts

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⇒ CONTINUED **Lower Burke Canyon Repository Coming in 2014**



Local residents learn about the repository at an open house.

To limit impacts to the local community, cleanup trucks will enter the repository near the north end. Access gates and fencing will be installed around the repository. The surface will have native grasses and shrubs to blend into the landscape. Learn more at: <http://go.usa.gov/Tvzd>

Thank you to the BEIPC's Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) for sponsoring the open house.

Contact: Bill Adams, EPA Project Manager, adams.bill@epa.gov

800-424-4372, ext. 2806 or 206-553-2806

Ninemile Creek Watershed: Cleanup and Source Control Begin

Environmental cleanup is about to get started high up in the remote area of the Ninemile Creek watershed. The CDA Work Trust will begin building a "waste consolidation area" or WCA there, doing clearing and road development work. The work will prepare for next year's cleanup of the Interstate-Callahan Mine rock dumps site.

Contaminated materials from that cleanup will be put in the WCA. In future years, waste from cleanups of other nearby mine sites will also go into the WCA. The Trust expects work to begin in June or July. It will continue until winter weather sets in.

This work represents a milestone in the overall Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup Project: the start of major "source control" efforts. This work will help control chief sources of heavy metals, including

lead and zinc, which present a risk to people and the environment. Contaminated material like soil and mine tailings will be taken from the historical mining sites that occupy a wide area and will be placed in the WCA, a much smaller, isolated location.

Since the work is taking place in an unpopulated area, it is not expected to be disruptive to the community. At times roads in remote areas will be closed, except for emergency access. During the cleanup, some roads will not be accessible. Recreationalists will not be able to access the construction area. For a visual of where the work will be done, visit <http://go.usa.gov/bsZe>

Contact: Dan Meyer, CDA Work Trust
208-783-0222

Community Helps Shape Small Cleanups in Lower Basin

With lots of help from the local community, EPA is nearly ready to make decisions about some cleanup work in the Lower Basin. On July 1, after considering public input, EPA will announce which pilot project/s will go forward. Community members and others sent in over 40 proposals and ideas. Pilot projects are smaller-scale cleanup "tests" to help evaluate more complete cleanup actions that may be taken in the future.

"It's great to work with so many interested people this early in the process," said EPA Project Manager Ed Moreen.

"People had a lot of thoughtful ideas that are helping us factor local knowledge into our decisions."

EPA is studying options to reduce risks to people and wildlife from heavy metals that have washed downstream for decades. EPA plans to carry out at least one project in the Lower Basin in 2014. At the time of the announcement, EPA will also share a summary of the ideas submitted.

Contact: Ed Moreen, EPA Project Manager
moreen.ed@epa.gov or 208-664-4588

Learn about Water Sampling at East Mission Flats Repository

A brochure about the East Mission Flats Repository is now available. This 4-page document discusses the repository's monitoring program, sampling results, and protective features.

Sampling shows the repository is functioning as designed. Seasonal flood waters flow around the waste soil, not through it. Flood waters have not washed away any waste placed there. Because metals settle out naturally as flood water slows, the flood water is generally cleaner as it flows back to the river. Data show that the amount of contaminants in groundwater is either stable or going down.

The East Mission Flats Repository is located west of Cataldo. It takes in contaminated soil that has been removed from community areas and cleanup sites. The repository, like others in the area, is designed to protect people's health and the environment. Monitoring of the repository will continue into the future. EPA is providing this brochure in response to requests from the community. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/bsK4>

Contact: Craig Cameron, EPA Project Manager
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509-376-8665

Job Training Program Visits Silver Valley Once Again



Super JTI graduates completed a rigorous training program.

On April 18, tryouts kicked off for the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Job Training Initiative. Forty-two applicants showed up ready to work hard through the day's sessions to get admitted into the training. The applicants went through a range of exercises designed to establish their eligibility.

Community members, EPA representatives, and others were represented on the panel of evaluators. By the end of the day, 17 people were selected to participate in the program. The two-and-a-half-week training began on April 22 and ended May 7.

SJTI is a job readiness program that provides free technical training for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites. The program helps make more local people eligible to apply for cleanup-related jobs. The 2013 program marked the second time EPA offered SJTI in the Silver Valley.

The rigorous program included pre-employment training, 40-hour HAZWOPER, CPR/First Aid, Sampling, Field Reporting, and Flagging. Program graduation for 14 students took place May 7. Congratulations to the graduates!

Remedy Protection Projects Update

DEQ and EPA continue to plan, design and construct projects that will protect completed cleanup work, keep cleaned up areas clean, and reduce the potential for residents to be exposed to contamination in the long term. The projects also help to protect private and public property from flooding and storm water runoff damage.

The projects range from large to small and are in various stages of development, from initial planning to active construction. The work includes stream channel enlargement, upgrades to culverts, bridges, curbs, gutters and storm water drainage structures. Projects will take place on private property, on public right of way, and in stream channels.

Project coordinators have been working closely with local jurisdictions and other property owners as the projects progress. Local jurisdictions are especially involved with planning and public outreach while technical contractors support the engineering portion of the projects.

While project designs and schedules could change, here is an outline of projected work with estimated start times:

Projects in the Bunker Hill Box

- Work to prevent excess water draining down Sierra Nevada Road from depositing contaminated soil on Wardner's Main Street – July.
- Widening and deepening portions of Grouse Creek and replacing the Old Highway 10 culvert in Smelterville to reduce flooding – this fall.

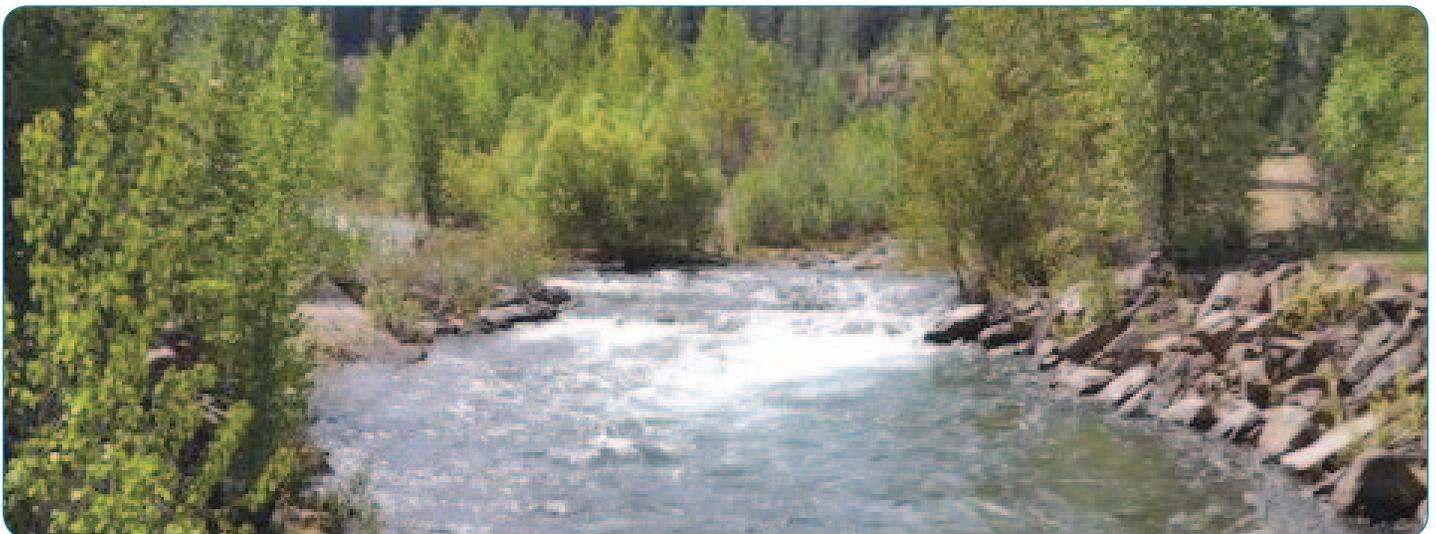
- Widening and deepening of Little Pine Creek in Pinehurst and numerous culverts and bridges upgraded to reduce flooding – fall of 2014.

For questions about these projects, please contact Terry Harwood, BEIPC, at 208-783-2528.

Projects in the CDA Basin

- Upgrading roadside ditches and culverts and repaving Third, Oregon, California, and Montana Streets in Mullan to reduce scouring of clean barriers – July.
- Upgrading roadside ditches and culverts along Lower Dewey and Dewey Streets, upgrading the storm water pipe along Hunter, Dewey, and Upper Dewey Streets in Mullan, and repaving road surfaces to reduce scouring of clean barriers – July.
- A small project on Unnamed Creek in Silverton, west of Sather Field to replace the culvert under Anderson Way to reduce flooding – this fall.
- Rerouting Shields Gulch Creek in Osburn behind the Silver Hills School and upgrading several culverts to reduce flooding – this fall.
- Install a new underground pipe system to supplement the existing underground pipe that carries Meyer Creek through Osburn – 2014.

For **questions** about these projects, please **contact**:
Anne McCauley, EPA
mccauley.anne@epa.gov
800-424-4372, ext. 4689 or 206-553-4689



Page Repository Expansion and Wetlands Update



Last year, workers created wetland habitat near Page Repository.

The first phase of the Page Repository expansion, designed to provide a place for ICP waste in the long term, is nearing completion. Construction work continues into this summer with the laying of foundation and walls for the first expansion area. The expansion area should be ready to accept Institutional Controls Program waste as early as this fall.

DEQ continues to monitor the growth of young plants in the wetlands constructed last year next to Page Repository and along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

This new wetland area is easily seen from the Trail between Smelterville and Pinehurst. This summer is the first full growing season for the new wetland plants. For questions about the Page Repository Expansion, please **contact**:

Anne McCauley, EPA
mccauley.anne@epa.gov
 800-424-4372, ext. 4689 or 206-553-468
 or Bruce Schuld
Bruce.Schuld@deq.idaho.gov
 208-783-5781

Roads Program Update

Idaho DEQ and EPA continue to coordinate with local road jurisdictions to address community health and reduce lead exposure in dirt and dust generated by traffic on county and local public roads. Two programs are underway to address unpaved and paved roads.

The Unpaved Roads Program is lead by Idaho DEQ. This program addresses contaminated gravel roads by ensuring proper drainage and placement of cover material. Projects have been completed on Doyle Road near Rose Lake, Patterson Road (lower portion) in Osburn, Nine-Mile Cemetery approach in Wallace, and Beacon Light Road above Mullan near Shoshone Park. DEQ is planning construction later this year in Woodland Park in Burke Canyon.

The Paved Public Road Strategy addresses contamination issues related to paved surfaces where they act as barriers to underlying contamination. This work is planned and contracted through the local road jurisdictions and overseen by DEQ, EPA cleanup project managers, and a Kellogg-DEQ road development specialist. Contracts are advertised under a Public Works Contract and appear in local newspapers.

The unpaved and paved roads programs are funded separately. For questions about the **unpaved road program**, please **contact** Terry Harwood, BEIPC at 208-783-2528. For questions about the **paved road strategy**, please **contact** Bruce Schuld, DEQ at 208-783-5781.

Property Remediation Program Update

DEQ and property owners continue to work together on soil sampling and property cleanup. Over 6,000 properties have been tested and cleaned up since 1983.

In the 2013 construction season, DEQ plans to clean up an additional 120 properties – approximately 1.5 million square feet of soils high in lead and/or arsenic. DEQ has contracted Stewart Contracting, a subsidiary of United Mine Services, for this work. Crews will work on properties between Mullan and Kingston and down to the Harrison area. The CDA Trust will clean up two large commercial properties — approximately 490,000 square feet this year.

Soil testing and cleanup on private property is conducted with the consent of the property owners. A Property Representative coordinates directly with property owners during the process.

DEQ is working with property owners to make sure that as many yards as possible that meet criteria are cleaned up, including properties where consent had not previously been given.

For questions about the Property Remediation Program, please **contact**:
Bruce Schuld, Bruce.Schuld@deq.idaho.gov
208-783-5781

Opportunities to Get Involved

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

Executive Director:

Terry Harwood, 208-783-2528

www.basincommission.com

Next meeting: August 14

(times, location to be announced)

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

Contact: Jerry Boyd, 509-455-6000

www.basincommission.com/ccc.asp

Thursday, July 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

at the Medimont Grange

31146 S. Hwy. 3 (next to Valley Mart)

Medimont, ID.



Comings and Goings

Staff changes

We would like to wish a fond farewell to **Tina Elayer**, who has taken on a new project for DEQ in the Boise office. Thank you, Tina, for all of your hard work both on the technical side and with the community involvement team. Riley Raccoon and family would never have found their way into the limelight without your dedication to keeping families in the Silver Valley healthy!



A warm welcome to **Dana Swift**. Dana is the newest member of our cleanup team. Working out of DEQ's Boise office, Dana will be focusing on several technical aspects of the project. She can be reached at 208-373-0296.



To submit information for this column, contact:

Andrea Lindsay or Caryn Sengupta as noted on the [front cover](#)

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 and ask for Andrea at the number above.

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

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 or Caryn Sengupta — contact information is listed on [page 1](#). Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.



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Look Inside for

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- *Ninemile Creek Watershed: Cleanup and Source Control Begin*
- *Remedy Protection Projects Update*

Learn More on the Web

EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin

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

Ninemile Creek Watershed: Cleanup and Source Control Underway

www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/bunker_hill/ninemile_creek_fs_2013.pdf

Water Sampling at East Mission Flats Repository

www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/bunker_hill/waste-repositories/EMFR_water_sampling_brochure_may2013.pdf

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

www.basincommission.com