

# Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin ROD Amendment Update

February 2010

## Overview:

- New effort is underway to prioritize cleanup work in the Upper Basin and develop actions to protect remedy from tributary flooding/heavy precipitation
- Developing a comprehensive cleanup plan for the Upper Basin that reflects improved knowledge of the Box and Upper Basin
- Approach is consistent with the National Academy of Sciences' recommendations
- More cleanup work → more time (decades) → increased cost (\$100 millions)

## ROD Amendment will include:

- Additional source areas such as mine/mill sites and contaminated floodplain tailings not in the current OU3 Interim ROD
- OU2 Phase II actions to address groundwater and surface water contamination
- Emphasis on treatment of water from Upper Basin and Box at the CTP
- Actions to protect remedies from tributary flooding and heavy precipitation

## Benefits:

- Comprehensive includes all actions that may need to be taken to meet water quality standards
- ROD development process also includes a separate Implementation Plan that will identify a process to select those actions which will provide the greatest level of cleanup per dollar spent and help meet the water quality standards the soonest
- Surface water – final remedy - in combination with natural recovery, will meet surface water quality criteria
- Groundwater – reduce contribution of contaminated groundwater to surface water and reduce metals levels in groundwater
- Reduce particulate lead and recontamination potential in Lower Basin and thus allow cleanup in the Lower Basin to proceed
- Reduce risk to humans and wildlife from mine waste contamination
- Protect clean areas and barriers/caps from recontamination and scour

## Community Involvement & Path-forward:

- Technical meetings with the Basin Commission's Upper Basin Project Focus Team
- Working with Natural Resource Trustees
- Updates at Basin Commission and Citizen Coordinating Council meetings
- Also meeting with other Basin community groups to share information about ROD amendment (e.g., Upper Basin local elected officials and other community leaders, SNRC, KEA, Chamber of Commerce, Audubon Society, etc.)
- ROD Amendment focused web page established - all meeting materials, fact sheets, final tech memos, etc.

(over)

**Schedule:**

- Draft Focused FS for Upper Basin Project Focus Team review – Feb. 1 -19, 2010
- Internal EPA NRRB meeting – last week in April 2010 (exact date tbd, in Seattle)
- Proposed plan (45 day comment period planned) – Summer 2010
- Implementation Plan – Summer 2010
- ROD Amendment – Fall 2010

**Key Take Home Messages:**

- Upper Basin ROD Amendment is required in order to:
  - Provide a comprehensive list of all actions that may be needed to meet the surface water quality standards
  - Provide actions in local communities to protect the human health remedies from tributary flooding and heavy precipitation
- A separate Implementation Plan will outline the process to identify and select the most important and cost effective actions first in order to achieve the water quality standards the soonest
- ROD Amendment and Implementation Plan development occurring within Basin Commission framework (Upper Basin PFT) and with additional community involvement opportunities

**More information:**

Find technical memos, meeting presentations, and community involvement documents at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/bh+rod+amendment>