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PROPOSAL FORM: Lower Basin Pilot Projects

Due Date: April 19, 2013

EPA seeks your input on several levels. First, we'd like to learn of any other projects you'd like to suggest. Second, we'd like to know which of the projects being considered by EPA you support and why. Third, we're interested in specific details such as possible locations or properties, timing, or projects you'd like to suggest. Please note that EPA is not providing grant money for preparing or implementing the projects.

Electronic Instructions for filling out Proposal Form

1. Click the **SAVE** button to downoad the form to your computer.
2. Exit your web browser (Internet Explorer, etc.) **Don't** try to fill the form out on the Internet.
3. Open the saved PDF in Adobe Reader.
4. Fill it out. Prepare one form per project idea. Feel free to submit multiple ideas.
5. Click **SAVE** when done. Attach it to an email and send it to **moreen.ed@epa.gov**.
6. **Or** print it out and mail it to: Lower Basin Pilot Project, EPA Region 10, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 1910 Northwest Blvd, Suite 208, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

Contact Information (so that we can reach you should clarification be needed)

Name and Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Project Description

_____

_____

_____

Primary Benefits

_____

_____

_____

Primary Challenges, and How They Might be Addressed

Which Projects being Considered by EPA do you Favor and Why?

Possible Locations, Examples or Timing

What's important to you in the Lower Basin cleanup?
What do you value and encourage EPA to consider when selecting pilot projects?

For more information, see the next two pages, and thank you for your participation!

Pilot Project Proposal Form for the Lower Basin

Filling out a proposal form? Please consider the following information.

Background

EPA is planning pilot projects for the cleanup of contaminated sediment in the Lower Basin of the Coeur d'Alene River. The agency is seeking suggestions, new ideas and feedback from stakeholder agencies and the public. EPA plans to begin implementation of pilot projects in 2014.

These projects will help reduce risks to people and wildlife caused by lead and other heavy metals washed downstream from past mining practices in the Upper Basin. Most of the lakes, wetlands and floodplain in the Lower Basin are contaminated. The bed of the Coeur d'Alene River contains the largest volume, most highly contaminated, and mobile sediment. This material is eroded and carried throughout the Lower Basin by floodwaters, creating continued or new risks with each flood cycle.

While EPA is conducting work such as sampling and modeling to identify long-term solutions, pilot projects offer a way to test elements of some promising remedies that can help reduce risks sooner, optimize designs and limit costs.

The 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) identified several possible (and generally large) pilot projects for the Lower Basin. The results of ongoing studies by EPA have helped to focus our efforts on specific approaches to cleanup. EPA's goals for current pilot projects are to save time and money while reducing risks and improving the effectiveness of future remedies. Pilot projects may be done in phases, and other projects may be started in the future after further evaluation.

How Will Project Proposals be Evaluated?

EPA is evaluating possible pilot projects using these criteria. Will they:

- Help achieve EPA's Cleanup Goals – does the action help meet EPA cleanup objectives for the Basin?
- Reduce exposure pathways and/or control sources – does the action help reduce risks to people or wildlife in the near-term?
- Be cost effective and fit within budget constraints – can the project be performed within EPA's available resources, and is the expected benefit significant relative to the investment?
- Not exceed repository capacity – can excavated material be accommodated in the existing Basin Repositories?
- Be measurable – can the benefit of the action be measured in a reasonable time frame?
- Be implementable – can landowner access and other logistics be accomplished within a reasonable timeframe?
- Able to expand to full-scale application – can a small project be implemented on a variety of locations and scales through the Lower Basin?
- Avoid negative impacts – if unsuccessful, would the action make conditions worse, and could the action be easily reversed if needed?
- Inform the modeling or knowledge base – does the action provide information that increases EPA site understanding or informs the numerical model(s)?

Types of Pilot Projects Being Considered by EPA

EPA is considering several pilot-scale actions. The agency intends to select one or more of these types of projects, and/or other project ideas, for further planning and implementation. Comments on these or other candidate projects are welcome. The types of projects that EPA is evaluating include:

- **Beach and bank replacement/treatment to reduce risks to people** – Selected recreational site(s) would be subject to removal/modification/replacement to reduce people's exposure to contaminated deposits in beach and bank material.
- **Engineering controls to limit floodwaters and contaminated sediment from entering lakes and wetlands** – Floodwater coming into a selected area would be reduced using one or more hydraulic control techniques; this approach could reduce the amount of sediment laden water from the mainstem coming in, and possibly allow remediation actions to be performed in protected areas.
- **Engineering controls to limit migration of contaminated sediment along the river bed** – River bed erosion would be reduced by the placement of submerged weirs (which would function similarly to snow fences).
- **Controls to keep waterfowl away from the most contaminated areas and encourage them to feed at less contaminated areas** – Trials would evaluate methods to discourage waterfowl away from areas of high risk, and encourage their use of cleaner areas.

Share Your Ideas and Input: Submit a Proposal Form!

EPA encourages you to submit your ideas for pilot projects. Please note that EPA is not providing grant money for preparing or implementing the projects. EPA will evaluate and may select pilot projects from the ideas and proposals that are submitted. While we cannot respond to each idea and proposal we receive, we will post a summary on our website* listing the types of proposals we received and those we select for design and implementation. There will not be formal comment periods on selection, design or implementation of the pilot projects.

How to Stay Informed

Project updates will be provided at Lower Basin Project Focus Team (PFT) meetings and will be posted on EPA's and the Basin Commission's websites, and on the Coeur d'Alene Basin Facebook Page.

* **http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh**
www.basincommission.com
www.facebook.com/CDAbasin

Schedule

Pilot Project Forums – **March 20**

Pilot Project Proposals due to EPA – **April 19**

EPA selects Pilot Projects, and begins pre-design data collection and other activities - **July 1**

Implementation – tentatively set to begin **summer 2014**

Questions? Email: **prestbo.kim@epa.gov** or **moreen.ed@epa.gov**

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