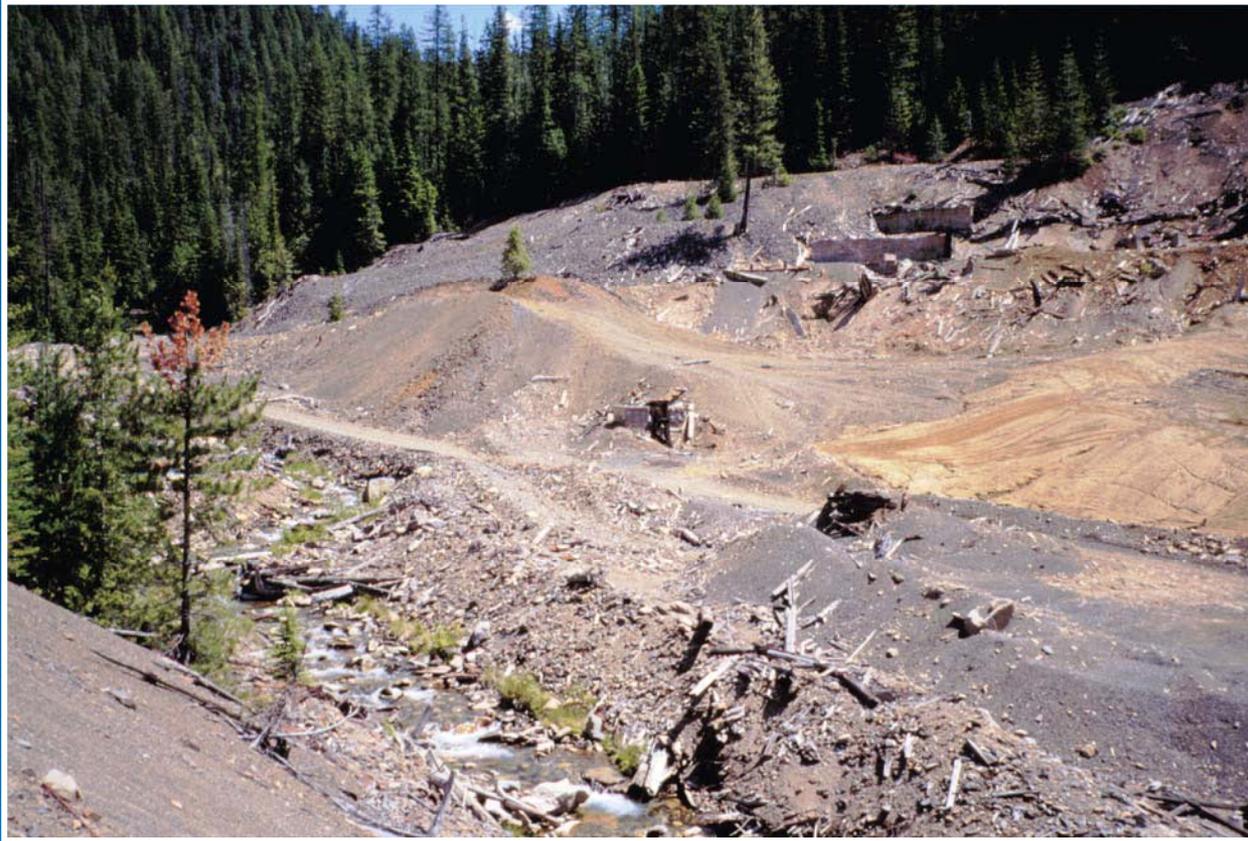


# *Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin Proposed Plan*



***Open House / Public Meeting  
August 4, 2010***

# *The Evening at a Glance*

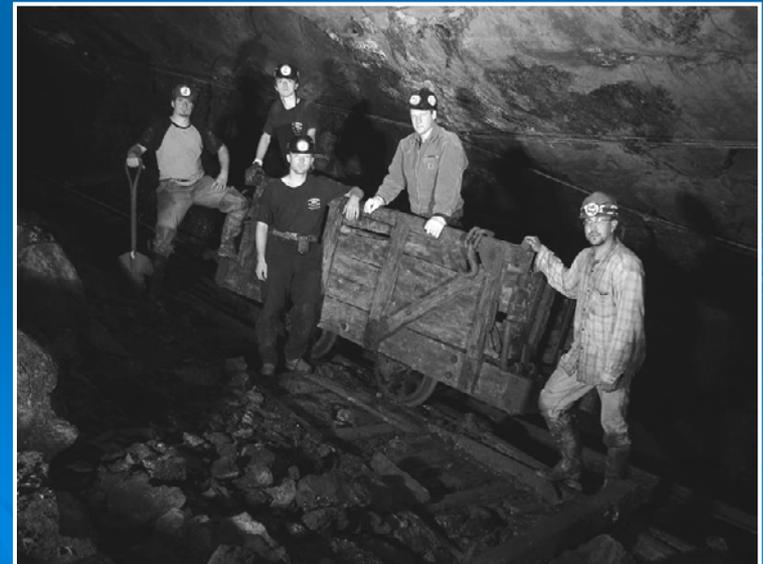
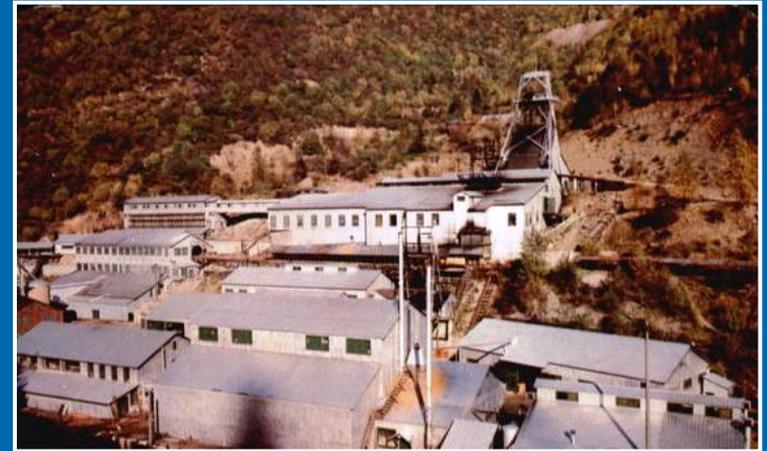
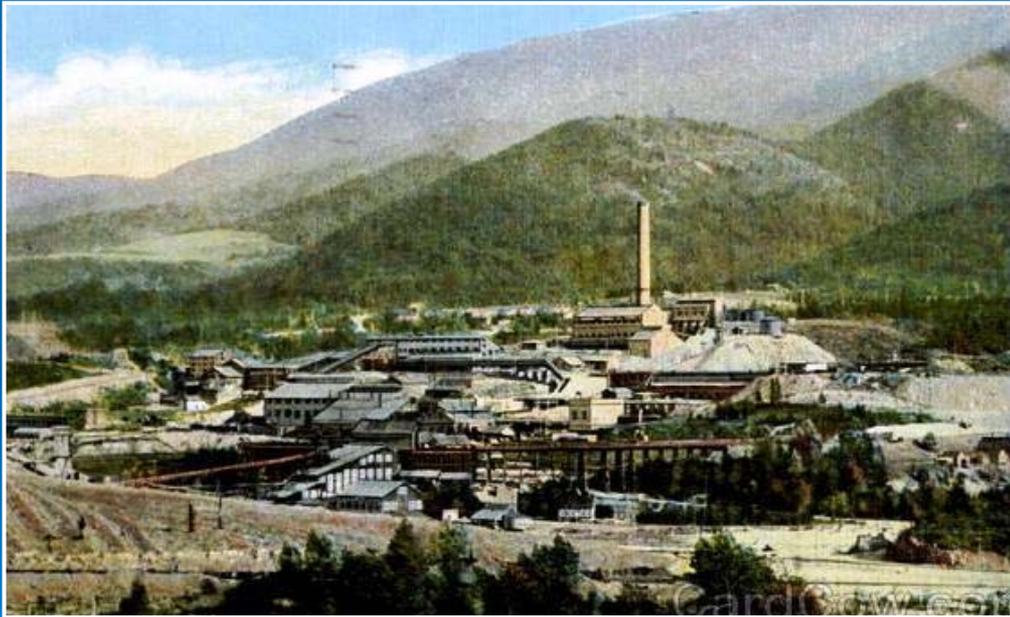
- **The Upper Basin Cleanup – where we've been and why and what's ahead**
- **Your comments tonight and into the future – how you can influence the cleanup decisions**

# *The Upper Basin Cleanup*

- **Background**
- **Review benefits of cleanup actions to date**
- **Present actions included in the Proposed Plan**
- **Define key benefits of the Proposed Plan**
- **Present the approach to conduct cleanup and schedule**

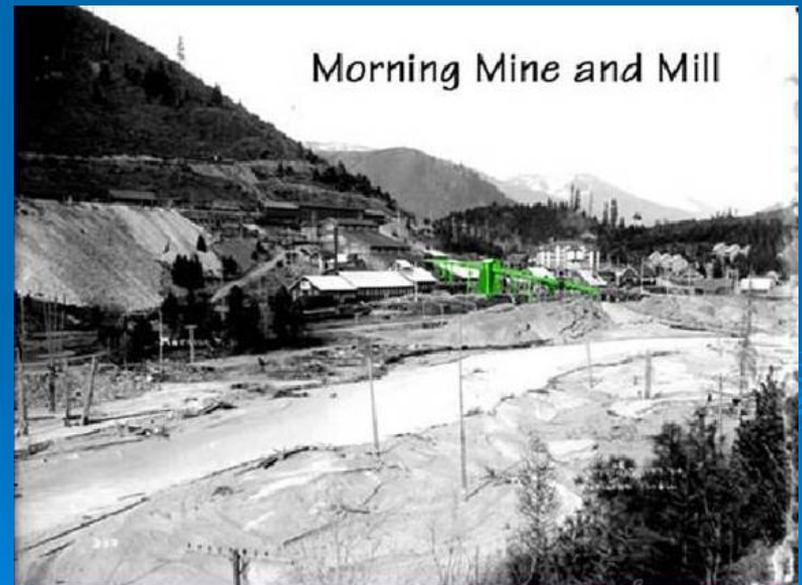
# *Mining has contributed to the region's economy and will do so in the future*

- Mining supported our nation's growth by extracting and processing silver, zinc and lead

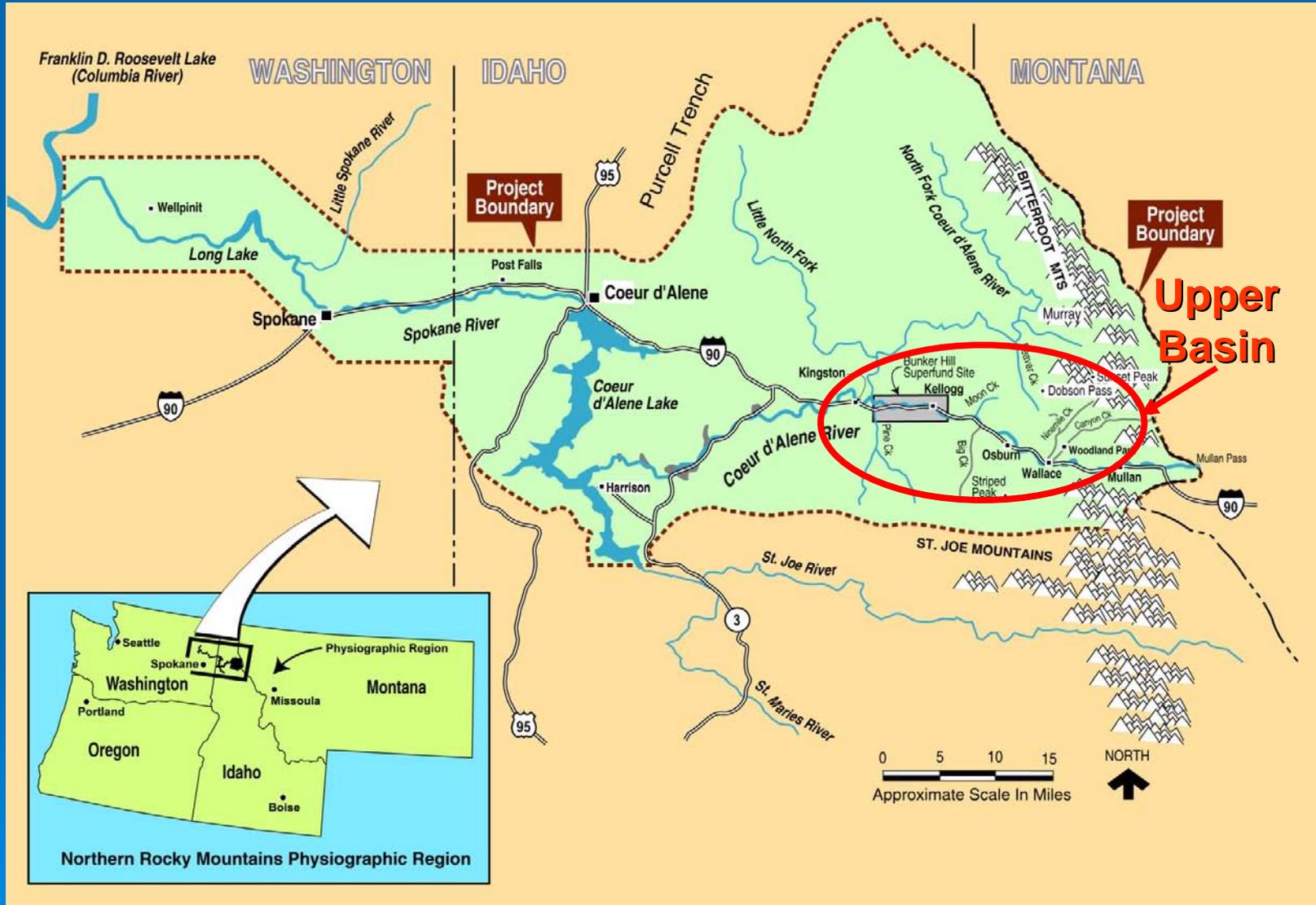


# *Widespread Historical Contamination Significantly Impacts People and the Environment*

Tailings Dam at Osburn (circa 1920).

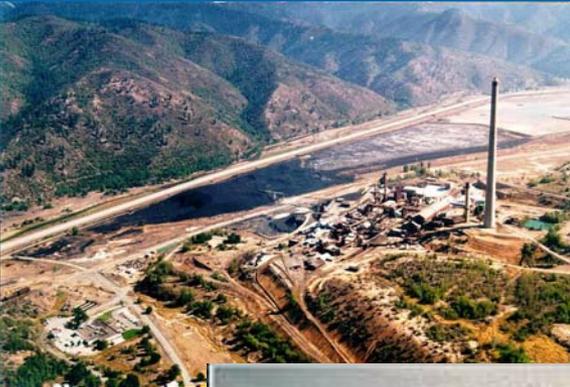


# Coeur d'Alene Basin Project Boundary



# *Cleanup of Historic Mining Wastes began in the 1980s and Continues Today*

- **Initial Focus in the Box**
- **Continuing the Upper Basin cleanup**



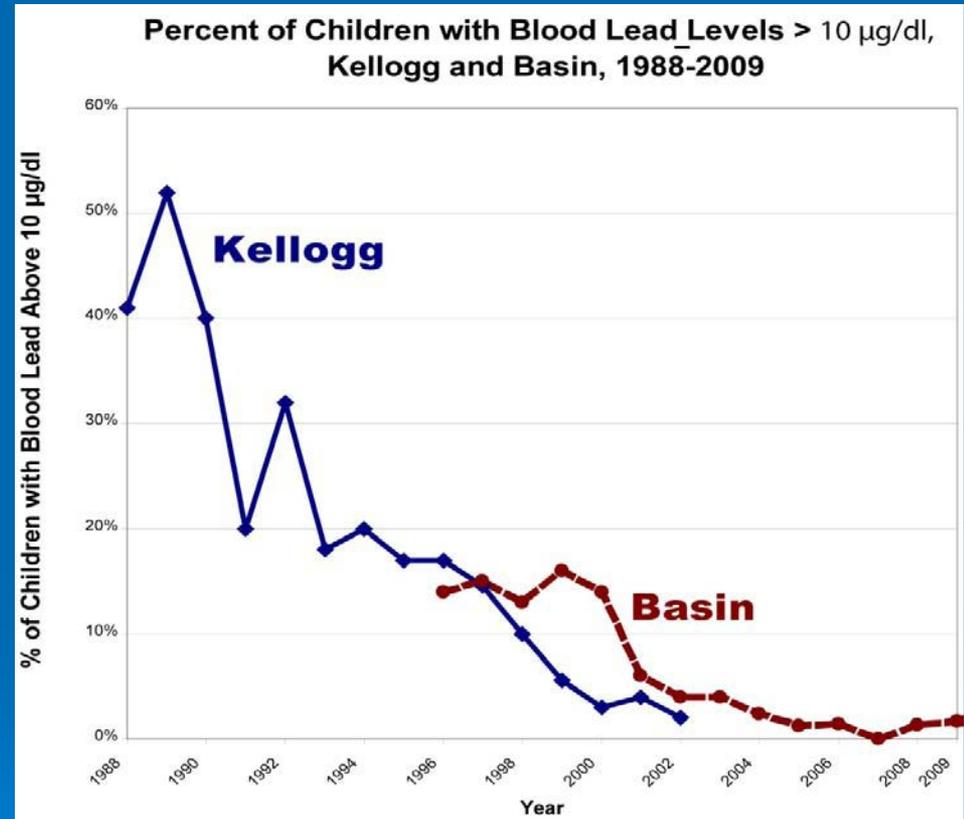
# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date – Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ **Removed contamination from more than 5,000 residential yards and community areas**



# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date - Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ Elevated blood lead levels reduced to near national averages in community areas
- ✓ Significant human health risks still remain along the rivers and at mine and mill sites
- ✓ Lead can cause neurological damage

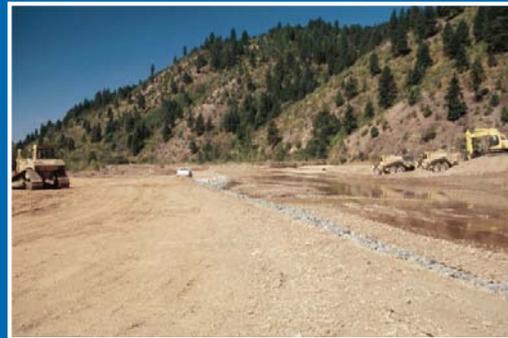


# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date – Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ **More than 2 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediments removed and capped on-site**



**Smelterville Flats Cleanup.**



# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date – Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ Revegetated more than 2,000 acres of barren hillsides

1997



2003



2010



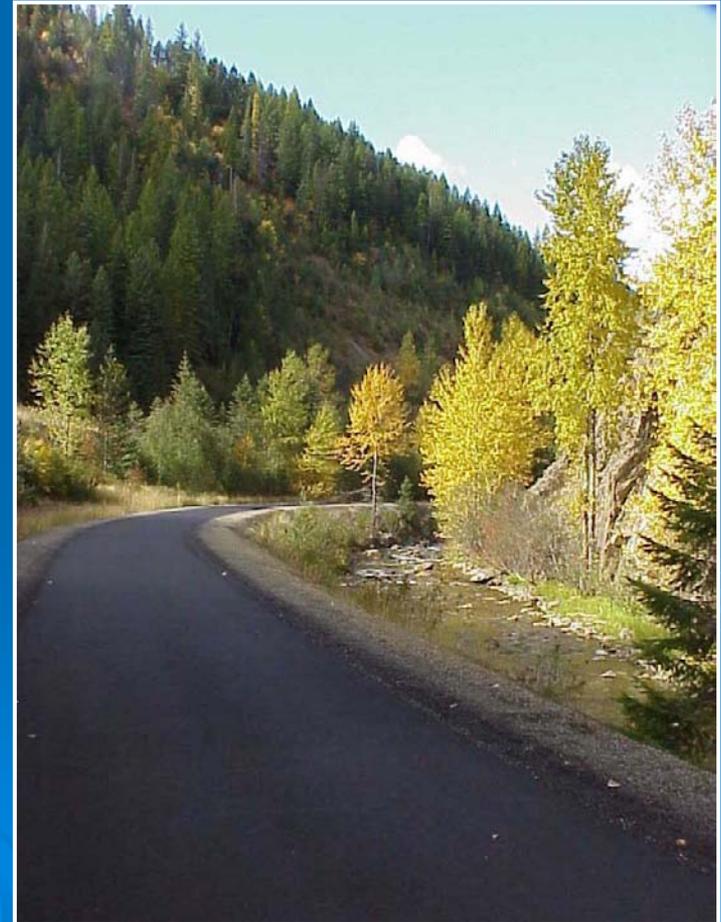
# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date – Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ **Almost 2,000 acres of property transferred to the State for redevelopment**



# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date – Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ Created a 72-mile scenic bike trail



# *Cleanup Progress and Benefits to Date – Late 1980s to 2010*

- ✓ **Cleaned up mine / mill sites with high human health risk**



**Silver Crescent Mill  
and Tailings Site**



**1999**



**Summer 2009**

# *Why a Revised Cleanup Plan Now?*

- **Interim Plan was never intended to be a complete set of actions to protect human health and the environment. A revised Cleanup Plan is needed to:**
  - Incorporate improved knowledge of the Box and Upper Basin
  - Address National Academy of Science recommendations from independent experts
  - Complete the Box cleanup by moving forward to address surface water and groundwater issues
  - Add community drainage projects to the Plan to further protect human health

# *The Next Phase of Cleanup – the Upper Basin Proposed Plan*

## **Two Key Components:**

- **Improve and protect public health**
- **Improve water quality**

# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan*

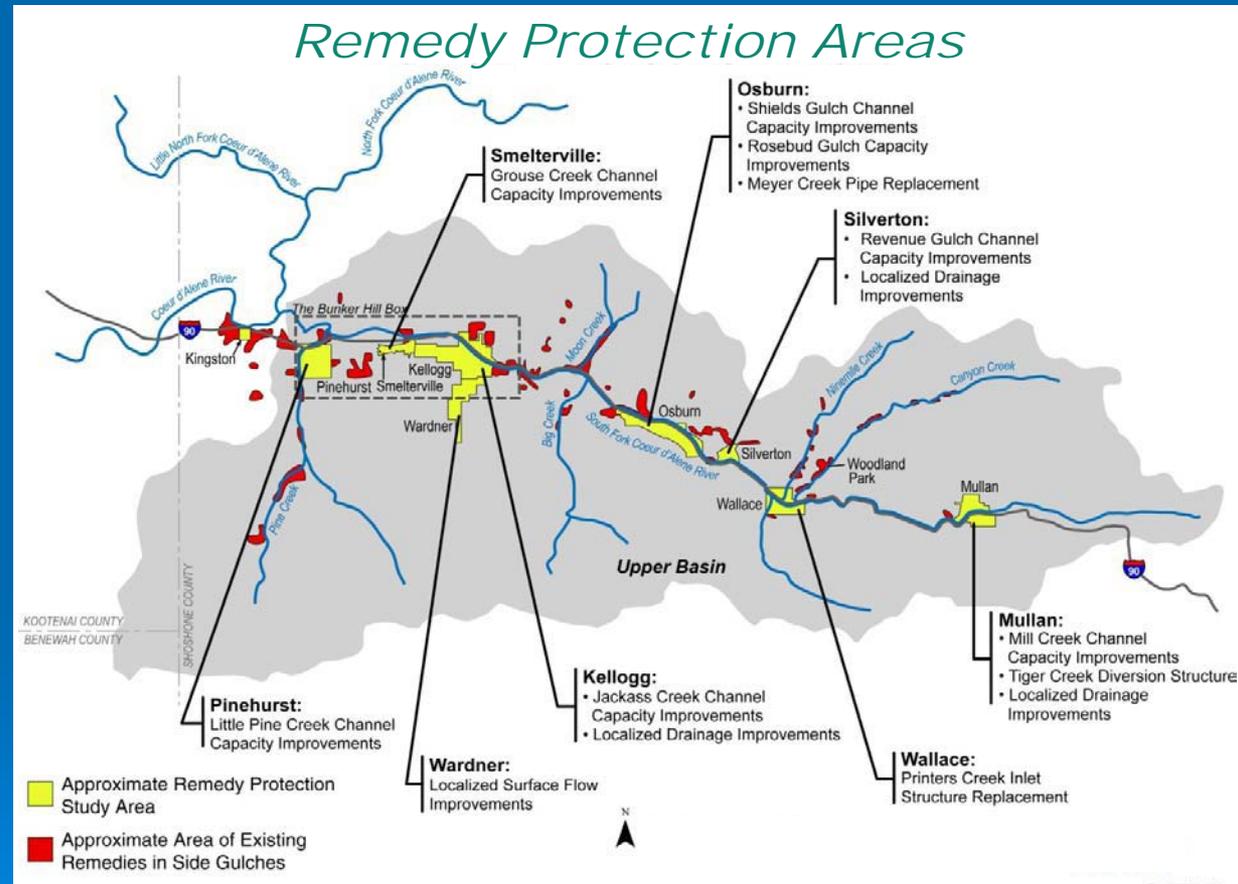
## *Improving and Protecting Human Health*



# The Proposed Cleanup Plan

## Improving and Protecting Human Health

- 14 community drainage projects to protect the existing remedy from tributary flooding and heavy precipitation
- Similar side drainage projects as needed



# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)*

## ***Improving and Protecting Human Health***

- **14 community drainage projects to protect the existing remedy from tributary flooding and heavy precipitation**
- **Similar side drainage projects as needed**
- **Tailings removal actions along creeks and rivers to provide safe recreation opportunities**



# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)*

## ***Improving and Protecting Human Health***

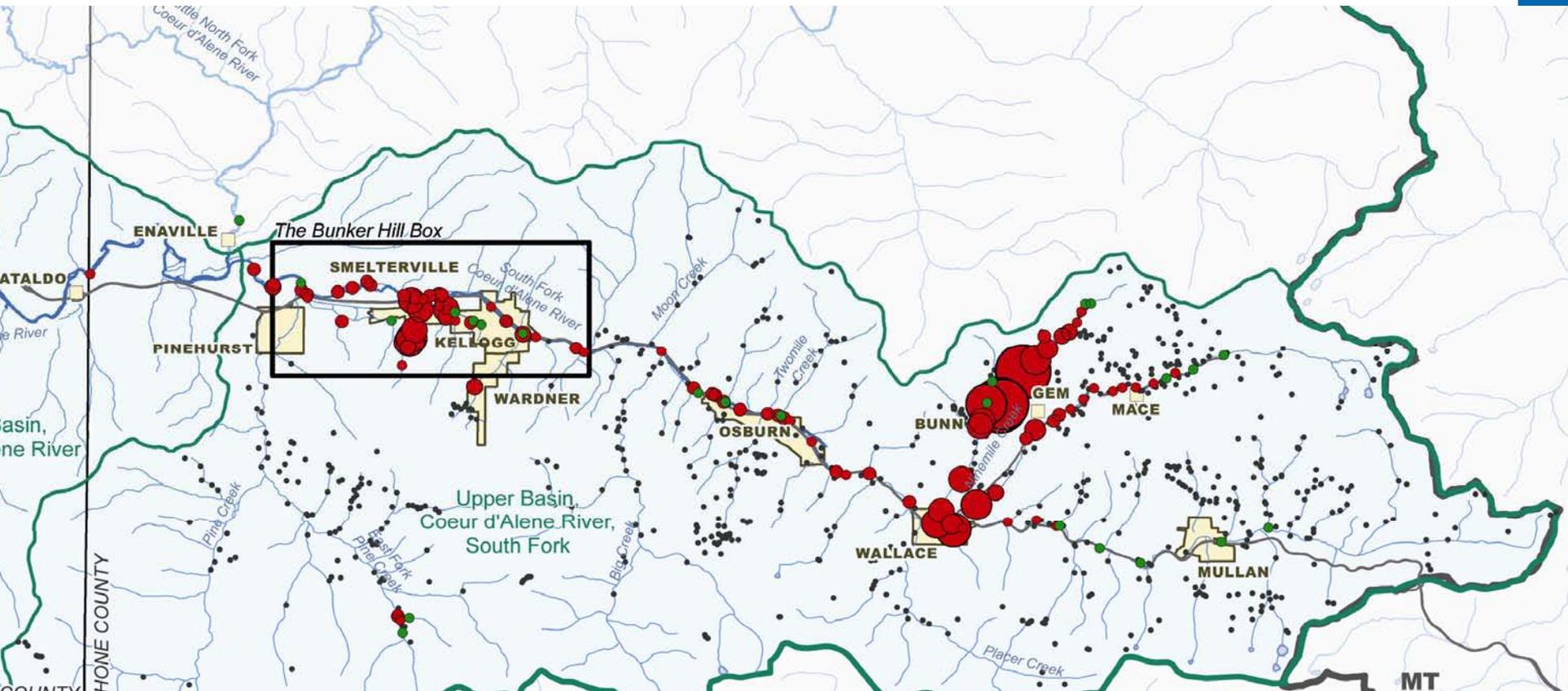
- **14 community drainage projects to protect the existing remedy from tributary flooding and heavy precipitation**
- **Similar side drainage projects as needed**
- **Tailings removal actions along creeks and rivers to provide safe recreation opportunities**
- **Excavation and capping of mine and mill sites that pose a risk to the community**



# The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)

## Improving Water Quality

### Elevated Zinc Levels in Streams



# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)*

## ***Improving Water Quality***

### ➤ **Source removal actions**

- 6.1 million cubic yards consolidated on-site or in repositories
- actions at 345 mine and mill sites
- ~47 miles of stream and riparian cleanups



# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)*

## *Improving Water Quality*

- **Source removal actions**
- **Stream Liners - keeps clean water clean**
- **Groundwater Collection**



# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)*

## ***Improving Water Quality***

### ➤ **Source removal actions**

### ➤ **Stream Liners – keeps clean surface water clean**

### ➤ **Groundwater Collection**

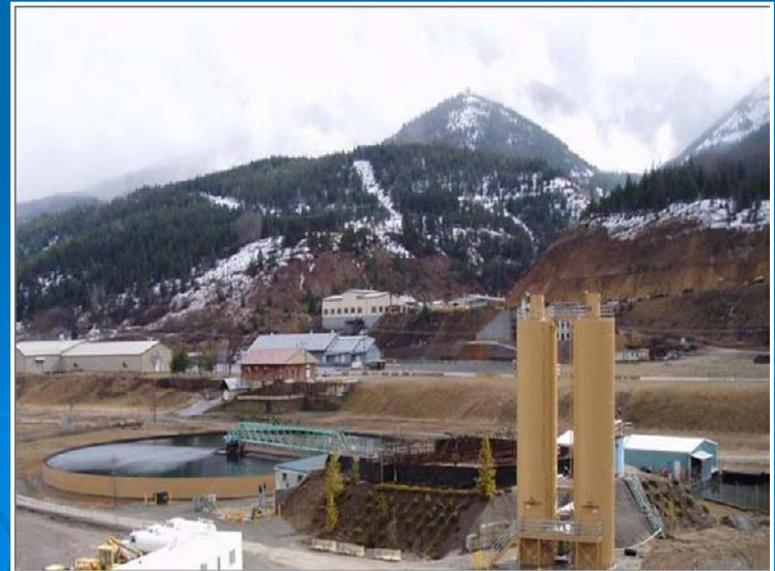
- Proven technologies result in immediate improvements – contaminated groundwater removed from the system
- 3 primary collection locations
- Groundwater collection **will not** dry up creeks/rivers



# *The Proposed Cleanup Plan (cont'd)*

## ***Improving Water Quality***

- **Source removal actions**
- **Stream Liners – keeps clean surface water clean**
- **Groundwater Collection**
- **Groundwater Treatment**
  - Highly cost-effective using the existing Central Treatment Plant (CTP) in Kellogg
  - CTP expanded in phases
  - Clean water returned to the South Fork



*The Cleanup offers benefits for you, your family and neighbors.*



*Cleanup protects the economy, people, and the environment – it's an investment in your future.*

- **Provides jobs and diversifies the local economy**
- **Reduces long-term health impacts**
- **Creates safe recreation and healthy fisheries by removing contamination from creeks and rivers**
- **Further protects you and your children by constructing drainage projects in your communities**
- **Promotes development following cleanup**

# *Long-term cleanup plan is a sound investment*

## ➤ **Facilitates more efficient and flexible implementation**

- Coordinates cleanup with development and other infrastructure improvement opportunities

## ➤ **Incorporates new information and experience**

## ➤ **Includes frequent opportunities for public involvement and input**

# *Cleanup and Mining Can Coexist*

- Cleanup will not change mining regulations
- Mining operations can continue both now and into the future
- Provides more certainty to the mining companies for future planning

# *\$1.3 Billion is a lot of money*

- **The cost of the cleanup is proportionate to the magnitude of the risk and the number of areas requiring cleanup**

# *50 – 90 Years is a Long Time*

- **Several factors affect duration of cleanup**
  - Efficient management of existing funds
  - Work force availability
  - Construction and community impacts
  - Length of construction season

*We look forward to your thoughts tonight.  
Here's some of the things we've heard.*

<b>What We've Heard</b>	<b>EPA Comments</b>
The cleanup plan threatens mining jobs.	Cleanup does not change mining regulations and does create jobs. Cleanup will be coordinated with land owners and mining activities.
Water collection will dry up rivers and creeks.	Less than 7% of flow would be removed from Canyon Creek and the South Fork – under lowest flow conditions.
The cleanup is a massive expansion by EPA.	In 2001, a cleanup of this magnitude was identified and planned. The 2002 Interim Record of Decision only included a portion of the needed actions.
The cleanup protects fish, not humans.	The plan protects both – with a priority for human health. The plan includes community drainage projects, removes sources of lead contamination, and improves surface water quality.

*Your input is important tonight,  
tomorrow, and into the future.*

- ✓ Provide written or verbal comments tonight
- ✓ Use the Community Involvement “Tool Box”
- ✓ Comment on Implementation Plans for the phased cleanup actions / progress reports
- ✓ Comment through the Basin Commission and Citizens Coordinating Council

***We welcome your other suggestions  
for increased public involvement!***

***EPA is committed to an open  
and transparent process!***

# *Schedule*

## ➤ *Fall 2010 –*

- Evaluate and consider public comments
- Develop Responsiveness Summary
- Continue development of Implementation Plan

## ➤ *Late Fall / Early Winter –* **Issue Record of Decision Amendment**



**Thank you!**