



BASIN BULLETIN

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

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Subscriptions & Submissions

The Basin Bulletin can be sent to your email address as a pdf and/or Microsoft Word file. To request addition or corrections to the mailing list, or to make a submission to the Basin Bulletin, please contact:

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EPA Provides New Funding For Box and Basin Cleanup

EPA recently provided \$17.7 million for cleanup activities in the Bunker Hill Box and Basin. These sites are two of only 11 new projects nationwide to receive funding for this year, indicating their high priority with EPA. Of that amount, \$10.2 million will be focused on human health cleanups in the Basin. That work will include cleanup of residential yards, community areas, and recreation sites along the Coeur d'Alene River. The State of Idaho is taking the lead for yard cleanups. EPA will take the lead on recreational area cleanups. In the Box, \$4.8 million will be used to continue yard cleanups, while \$2.7 million will be used to operate the Central Treatment Plant and maintain remediation in non-populated areas.

About 70 local employees have been hired to support "Box" yards cleanups. These positions are mostly full-time through the 4-month field season.

Most materials and services used on the Box yards projects are purchased locally, supporting many more local jobs.

Additional funding from EPA will allow the pace of cleanups in the Box to remain steady this year, despite limited participation from the Upstream Mining Group (UMG). The UMG is expected to clean up between 40 and 50 residential yards this year. EPA, in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers, will clean up 84 residential yards, 68 commercial properties, two street right-of-ways in South Kellogg, 33 street right-of-ways in Pinehurst, and the Kellogg Middle School and Teeter's Field.

The new funding for cleanup work in the Basin will be available once EPA and the State of Idaho sign a State Superfund Contract. Funds for work in the Box will be available immediately. If you are interested in contracting opportunities for the EPA cleanup work, please go to <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>. Contractors may also contact the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Kellogg office for more information at 208-783-5781.

Cleanup Process Started For Lower Basin Recreation Areas

Planning work has begun for two Lower Basin recreational areas, as approved under the Basin Commission's (Commission) one-year workplan. The objective is to establish clean, low-maintenance recreational sites for public use. Included in this one-year remediation plan are:

- East of Rose Lake Boat Launch
- Hwy 3/Union Pacific Railroad trail access point
- RM 135 Long Beach/Springston.

Cleanup is not being planned for the RM 135 site due to site changes associated with recent installation of the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes.

A Commission Project Focus Team (PFT) visited the East of Rose Lake and Hwy 3 sites this spring. The team's input was used to develop EPA's preliminary design (called the 30% design) that was then presented to the PFT/CCC group for review. A community meeting was held in late May to share information and gather feedback on the proposed projects. The PFT/CCC group provided comments on EPA's final draft design plan (called the 95% design plan) in late July.

Draft plans for the East of Rose Lake Boat Launch site include paving the dusty dirt parking lot (which has high metals concentrations), improving the boat launch, and stabilizing the eroding contaminated riverbank. EPA is preparing to put a clean cap of pavement and grass over the contaminated soil next to the parking lot. Picnic tables will be placed on the clean cap.

Construction activities to clean up the East of Rose Lake Boat Launch and Hwy 3/UPRR access point could begin in fall 2003 or spring 2004. Schedules depend on resolution of various issues including signing of the State Superfund Contract.

One issue involves completion of the Historical Preservation Act review for the Rose Lake

Pioneer Schoolhouse, located on the property. Superfund cleanup monies cannot be spent on the building, and the Rose Lake Historical Society does not have the resources to take an active role in the school's future. Current plans are to place a fence around the building. There will also be an Endangered Species Act review of the project due to the presence of bull trout in the Coeur d'Alene River.

The PFT/CCC group has been developing recommendations for the Commission's five-year workplan. After reviewing available information on candidate sites, the group held a boat-based field trip on July 8 to evaluate the sites. A follow-up meeting was held on July 9 to develop a proposal for the five-year plan.



April 2003 Basin Commission Recreation Areas Project Focus Team field trip to discuss one-year design plans.

The Recreational Area PFT/CCC group is proposing that several Lower Basin recreational sites be cleaned up and informative signs be posted at several other sites where active remediation is not technically feasible or practical. The group also recommends that the Commission support establishment of a collaborative Lower Basin Recreational Management Plan.

Yard Sampling 2003

The High Risk Program will continue throughout the Basin this summer. This voluntary program samples soil around homes of young children (0-6 years in age) and expectant mothers in order to set remediation priorities for each year.

EPA and IDEQ are using several tools to raise public awareness about the program. IDEQ provides questionnaires to homeowners during neighborhood soil sampling to determine if young children or expectant mothers live in the home. EPA has funded announcements on KWAL radio and sent postcard announcements to more than 1,500 homeowners in the Basin.

For more information on the High Risk Program, please contact Jana McCurdy at IDEQ (208-783-5781) or Angela Chung at EPA (206-553-6511).

Basin Cleanup Coalition Supports Community Participation

The Basin Cleanup Coalition (BCC) will be hiring an independent technical advisor to help the community understand the Record of Decision. For more information on how you can join the BCC, contact Susan Scott at 208-664-3194, x160.

Comings and Goings

Please welcome **Ed Moreen**, formerly with the US Army Corps of Engineers, as the new EPA representative in the Coeur d'Alene Basin.

Ed is the local EPA point of contact and he is working with the Basin

Environmental Improvement Project Commission on cleanup projects in the Basin. A professional civil engineer, Ed had been engaged in the Corp's Bunker Hill cleanup efforts. The Union Pacific Railroad cleanup was his focus in recent years.

Fish Consumption Advisory Issued For Coeur d'Alene Lake

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe have issued a Fish Consumption Advisory for Coeur d'Alene Lake. For complete information go to:

http://www2.state.id.us/dhw/BEHS/fish_advisory_program/cda_lake.htm

or contact Aaron Scheff at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Bureau of Environmental Health and Safety, 208-334-0606 or 1-866-240-3553 (toll-free).

Ed is a native of Montana, has lived in Coeur d'Alene since 1995 and graduated from Washington State University. He enjoys skiing and fishing with his family in the Coeur d'Alene area. Ed can be reached at 208-664-4588.

Jana McCurdy of Kingston, Idaho is the new Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Community Liaison for the Basin. She will communicate with public officials, agencies, and local residents about remediation projects in the Basin and will work with the Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) and the Technical Leadership Group of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission.

Jana joined the CCC in December 2002 and is committed to fostering an open-minded and productive working-group that represents all views within the Basin. She earned her master's degree in Human Factors Psychology from the University of Idaho and has done research in emergency management, group planning techniques, subjective risk assessment, and problem solving.

Jana can be contacted at mjmccurdy@imbris.com or Superfund Project Office, 1005 McKinley Avenue, Kellogg, Idaho 83837, 208-783-5781.

Information Repositories

North Idaho College Library
1000 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 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

Websites

EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin
[http://
Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/
CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda](http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda)

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

[http://
www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

Technical Leadership Group (TLG)

[www.basincommission.com/
TLG.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp)

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

[http://
www.basincommission.com/
CCC.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp)

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Q . What is the status of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study?

A . The NAS is currently forming the Review Committee to review the “scientific and technical practices” behind the remedy selected in the Coeur d’Alene Basin Record of Decision (ROD), at the request of the Idaho Congressional delegation. The Review Committee will visit the Coeur d’Alene Basin at a date to be determined and will hold a public meeting. The NAS expects to issue a report on its findings in June 2005. For more information on the NAS study, visit their website at www.nationalacademies.org and choose “Current Projects.”

New Look For EPA’s “Box” And “Basin” Websites

The EPA Bunker Hill "Box" and "Basin" websites have changed! Beth Kunz, Region 10's Superfund Webmaster, has made them more user-friendly and attractive. Less scrolling and more flexibility is the result. Check out the "breadcrumbs" at the top of each page. They allow you to identify where you are in the EPA website and how you got there. These new sites comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 508, which requires improved accessibility by those with vision impairments.

To view the website, please go to:

www.epa.gov/r10earth/bh.htm

and choose “Bunker Hill Box” or “Coeur d’Alene Basin” in the left blue bar. If you had bookmarked

the old website, you'll need to update your bookmark with the new address. Beth and the rest of the Coeur d'Alene team welcome your feedback on the new site. Please use the "Contact Us" link that appears toward the bottom of the left blue bar.

Calendar of Events

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (Commission)

Contact: Luke Russell, 208-783-5781

Basin Commission Board

August 27, 2003 – 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Health & Welfare Bldg., Wildcat Way, Kellogg

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

Date, Time and Place To Be Announced

Please see the Basin Commission’s website at:

www.basincommission.com

Other Citizen Group Meetings

Coeur d’Alene Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CBCAC)

Contact: John Snider, 208-664-9773

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)

August 12 & 26; September 9 & 23, 2003

Contact: Connie Fudge, 208-753-6022

Group meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Brooks Hotel – 500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID

Silver Valley People’s Action Coalition (SVPAC)

Contact: Barbara Miller, 208-784-8891
PO Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Contact: Lloyd Brewer, 509-625-6968

Board of Directors Meeting

August 11; September 8, 2003

Board meets 2nd Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Spokane County Water Works Bldg. – 914 E. North Foothills Drive, Spokane

General Membership Meeting

Date, Time and Place To Be Announced

Contribute to the Basin Commission Online Forum

The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission’s (BEIPC) Online Forum is up and running and ready for your input. Go to:

www.basincommission.com

and click on “Forum.”

Basin Commission Contacts

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (Commission) – Sherry Krulitz, Chairperson

Commission Members

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(*Core BEIPC Staff)

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Water Treatment – Richard Costa			



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Bunker Hill and Upper Basin
Quarterly Newsletter
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho