



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN

News Briefs

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Issue No. 23

Environmental Protection Agency Highlights

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Feasibility Study Human Health Alternatives - Sean Sheldrake - (206) 553-1220

Feasibility Study Ecological Health Alternatives - Mary Jane Nearman - (206) 553-6642 or Anne Dailey - (206) 553-2110

Removals - Bill Longston - (206) 553-1679 or Carl Kitz - (206) 553-1671

Community Outreach - Dick Martindale - (208) 664-4588 or Marianne Depman - (206) 553-1237

Preview of the Proposed Plan

As mentioned in the June 2001 edition of the News Brief, the release of the Proposed Plan for official public comment is now scheduled for early Fall. This provides an opportunity for the governments to gather more public input on the preferred cleanup alternative, which is now planned as a series of community workshops in mid-August (please refer to the Calendar of Events section for details). The format for the workshops will consist of presentations and an "open house", so that interested citizens can learn more about the overall project as well as the particular issues associated with their geographic area.

Technical Assistance Grant available to Citizens Groups interested in the Mine Waste Cleanup in Coeur d'Alene River Basin

EPA encourages any citizen groups interested in using a technical advisor to understand and comment on the Coeur d'Alene mine waste cleanup to notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of your interest. Through the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program, EPA awards up to \$50,000 to an eligible community group so it can hire independent technical advisors to help citizens understand and comment on Superfund site cleanups. If your group is interested, you must send a "Letter of Intent" to EPA, postmarked no later than Friday, August 24, 2001. The letter should include a name, telephone number and address of a contact person. We have already received a letter of intent from the Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce.

EPA can only award one TAG per Superfund site. To ensure that the group that receives the grant represents the diversity of community views in the Basin, EPA encourages any interested citizen group to consolidate with the Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce and submit a joint application.

After the letter of intent is submitted, a separate grant application must be submitted. The grant application is due by October 5, 2001. This deadline can be extended if necessary. Groups who do not consolidate with other organizations can submit independent applications. If more than one group applies for the grant, EPA will award the grant to the group who most successfully meets the grant award criteria. Letters of

intent and questions should be directed to:

Jeanne O'Dell, Technical Assistance Grants Coordinator
EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, M/S-ECO 081
Seattle, WA 98101
Phone 206-553-6919 or 1-800-424-4372 x6919

For more information about TAG grants, check EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/tag/index.htm>

Documents/Information recently added to the information repositories:

Final Human Health Risk Assessment

Other Agency/Entity Contacts and Highlights

Bureau of Land Management - Contact: David Fortier - (208)769-5022

Coeur d'Alene Tribe - Contact: Phillip Cerner - (208)667-4119

Panhandle Health District- Contact: Jerry Cobb - (208) 783-0707

Panhandle Health District in conjunction with the State of Idaho Bureau of Environmental Health and Safety is offering free blood lead screening to all children six months through six years of age, and pregnant women who live in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin near the Coeur d'Alene River from Cave Lake to Mullan. Testing will be done on a capillary (fingerstick) blood sample. Blood samples will be analyzed while you wait so you can have the results immediately. Please allow 15-20 minutes per child. If a large number of children come at the same time, parents will be given the opportunity to schedule an appointment to avoid a long wait. Children with blood lead results of 8 micrograms per deciliter or greater will also need to have a venous blood sample drawn. These will be open clinics, conducted on a first come, first serve basis. Each child will receive \$20.00 for completing a brief lead exposure questionnaire and participating in the screening.

Clinic locations and times are as follows:

Canyon Elementary School near Rose Lake Junction
E. 27405 School House Loop, Cataldo, ID
August 1st and 2nd, 2001
9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

And

Osburn Seventh-Day Adventist Church
206 N. 5th, Osburn, ID (Behind Active Communications)
August 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2001
9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Private Land Owners/Managers - Contact Frank Frutchey - (208) 682-2077

Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees - Contact: Marti Calabretta - (208) 786-2471

State of Idaho - Contact: Rob Hanson (208) 373-0290 or Kathy Johnson (208) 660-4460

The State of Idaho in coordination with the Coeur d'Alene Basin Commission has initiated several projects. These projects are funded by a one-time appropriation obtained by Senator Craig of \$750,000 and also by the money that has been appropriated by the State Legislature.

The following projects are being managed by Geoff Harvey in the CDA Regional Office.

1. Bank Stabilization. This is a project that will test different approaches to stabilizing riverbanks along the lower river.
2. River Modeling. DEQ has contracted with the University of Idaho to model river dynamics to better understand areas of deposition and scouring. This information will help guide decisions about what type and where work should be done in the river.
3. Soil Treatment Pilot Evaluation. Local landowners have been applying amendments to their soils for many years to help produce better plant growth. DEQ has contracted with the University of Idaho to evaluate the chemistry of these amended soils. This project is being done with the cooperation of the landowners. The objective is to learn the long impacts of these amendment practices and determine the potential to use them in future remedial actions.

The following projects are being managed by Nick Zilka from the Kellogg Project Office.

1. Morning Mine. The objective of this project is to stabilize the Morning Mine dump. This project will also be used as a demonstration site for different growth media materials. The objective of the growth media test is to identify alternatives to topsoil to be used in remediation.
2. Pilot Waterfowl Feeding Study. The objective of this project is to test different soil amendments to see their effects on bioavailability to water fowl. The amendments have been applied to the test site. Soils samples collected from the site will be used in a waterfowl feeding study performed in a Fish and Wildlife Service Laboratory.

State of Washington Department of Ecology - Contact: John Roland - (509) 625-5182

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Contact: Dan Audet - (509) 893-8001

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Health Laboratory recently documented lead poisoning as the cause of death in a common merganser found on the shore of the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. This is the first reported case of lead poisoning (unassociated with lead shot or sinkers) in a fish-eating bird from the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Contact Dan Audet at the Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office for more details.

United States Forest Service - Contact: John Specht or Jeff Johnson - (208) 664-2318

United States Geological Survey - Contact: Paul Woods - (208) 387-1353

Calendar of Events

August 8th, 9 a.m. to Noon

Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission. Associated Logging Contractors Building, Highway 95. Final recommendations on the E. Fork Eagle Creek Metals TMDL, Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan discussion, Bunker Hill Site Work Phase II, CAC RI/FS Task Force report, sub-Committee Report

August 14th and 28th, 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition. Brooks Hotel (500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID) Contact Connie Fudge, 208-753-6022 (group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month)

August 14th, 6 to 9 p.m.

Preview of the Proposed Plan. Wallace Inn (100 Front Street, Wallace, ID). Overview and Informational Displays previewing the Proposed Plan. Community opportunity to provide input on the preferred cleanup alternative.

August 15th, 6 to 9 p.m.

Preview of the Proposed Plan. Medicine Mountain Grange Hall (Near mile marker 105 on Highway 3, in Medimont, ID. Next door to the Valley Mart.) Overview and Informational Displays previewing the Proposed Plan. Community opportunity to provide input on the preferred cleanup alternative.

August 16th, 6 to 9 p.m.

Preview of the Proposed Plan. Coeur d'Alene Inn (414 W. Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, ID). Overview and Informational Displays previewing the Proposed Plan. Community opportunity to provide input on the preferred cleanup alternative.

August 21st, 6 to 9 p.m.

Preview of the Proposed Plan. (Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook Street, Spokane, WA). Overview and Informational Displays previewing the Proposed Plan. Community opportunity to provide input on the preferred cleanup alternative.

September 5th, 7 to 9 p.m.

Citizens Advisory Committee. Rose Lake Historical Society Building (Rose Lake). Membership issues, Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan, and treatment pilot projects.