



COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs

October 30, 1999

Issue No. 2

Environmental Protection Agency Highlights

Human Health Risk Assessment - Contact: Sean Sheldrake - 206-553-1220

- 18 common use areas along the Spokane river were sampled recently to provide more information for the Human Health Risk Assessment. Results pending.
- Schools and day cares were sampled in the upper basin this past spring and summer. Results pending.
- Rights-of-Way and residences were sampled from Harrison to Mullan. Results pending.

Ecological Risk Assessment - Contact: Anne Dailey - 206-553-2110

- Concentrations of metals and nutrients were evaluated at 25 locations throughout the basin. Results pending.
- USGS just completed a study to evaluate how metals from the bottom of Lake Coeur d'Alene may move into the water column. Results pending.
- USGS collected stream flow and water quality data at 42 stations within the Coeur d'Alene River Basin during a major snowmelt-runoff event this past spring. During this sampling event, data was collected simultaneously at the stations to provide a comprehensive understanding of river conditions during the event.
- The USGS is studying the interaction between groundwater and surface water (rivers and lakes) in the Basin and how metals may be transported via groundwater.

Cleanup Actions/Removals - Contact: Earl Liverman - 208-664-4858

- Removed and replaced soil at 26 residential properties in Wallace, Mullan and Osburn
- Provided 10 homes with safe drinking water
- Removed and replaced contaminated soil at Wallace City Park and Wallace High School

- Removed and replaced contaminated soil at Osburn Elementary and Middle Schools
- Removed contaminated soil, ripped and started to pave portions of the Idaho Fish and Game sites near Anderson and Thompson Lakes
- Informational signs for many areas along the lower Coeur d'Alene River are currently being constructed and are expected to be installed in mid-November. Eight sites have been selected for signs that can be seen from the River

Other Agency/Entity Highlights

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

Performing mine tailings removals at the Liberal King Mill site and in the Highland Creek flood plain, in the Pine Creek drainage. Work will include flood plain restoration and will continue through the fall and possibly next spring.

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

Continuing settlement negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad. Providing technical support for the EPA's Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessments. Participating in global settlement negotiations.

Panhandle Health District- Contact: Jerry Cobb - 208-753-0707

Follow-up work has been completed for children whose blood lead levels measured at or above 10 micrograms per deciliter during the 1999 Blood Lead Screening.

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

With the completion last weekend of river work at Big Creek on the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River, the Trustees have high hopes for a quick restoration response on a mile of river floodplain on the flats near Osburn and Big Creek. All rock work and re-vegetation on the flats contribute to new channel and wetland development. Over 136,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils were removed and variation in the side channels considered. No new soils are brought into these areas where it is expected they will erode out the following spring. Now we wait for mother nature to take charge. Any person wanting to add plants and trees in the flats area can contact Marti Calabretta at the number above.

State of Idaho - Contact: Rob Hanson - 208-373-0290

The Cooperative Agreement has been formally submitted to EPA. The Cooperative Agreement provides funding for DEQ to develop a consensus plan that could lead to overall settlement of issues in the Cd'A Basin. Funding will also be used by DEQ to provide the State's perspective into EPA's RI/FS process.

State of Washington - Department of Ecology - Contact: John Roland,
Technical Advisor - 509-625-5182

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Contact: Dan Audet or Julie Campbell - 509-891-6839

Participating in the technical aspects of the Ecological Risk Assessment and the restoration alternatives for the development of the Feasibility Study.

United States Forest Service - Contact: John Specht - 208-752-1221 or Jeff Johnson 208-769-3034
Removal activities have started at the Medimont and Rainy Hill boat launch/picnic areas. Removal action at the Silver Crescent Mill in the east fork of Moon Gulch is nearing completion and expected to be complete in early 2000.

University of Idaho - Contact: Barbara Williams - 208-885-9436
The final draft of "Demonstration of in-situ metals fixation technologies on the Coeur d'Alene River, Idaho," is available from the Idaho Water Resources Research institute. A final report for the ground-water study at the Cataldo Flats area is in progress.

Calendar of Events

November 3rd, 7 - 9 p.m. -

CAC RI/FS Task Force. Rose Lake Historical Society Building (Highway 3, Rose Lake, ID)

November 9th, 11:30 a.m. - 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 Tuesday of each month)

November 10th, 9:00 am - Noon -

Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group. Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game Meeting Room
(2750 Kathleen Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID)

November 16th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. -

Washington CAC. Washington Department of Ecology, First Floor Conference Room (4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA) – contact Michele Nanni , 509 838-4912 for details.