

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

## Formosa Mine Superfund Site

Douglas County, Oregon  
May 2009

This is EPA's plan for involving community members in the investigation and cleanup of the Formosa Mine Superfund Site. During the past 18 months, EPA has talked with residents, community groups, Douglas County and City of Riddle officials, Cow Creek Band tribal representatives, DEQ and BLM staff and other interested people to find out how they wanted to be informed and involved. We welcome your input and ideas for improving our community outreach at any time.

EPA is doing an environmental investigation at the Formosa Mine Superfund Site, located in the headwaters of Middle Creek, approximately 10 miles south of Riddle, Oregon. Studying the nature and extent of contamination and evaluating cleanup alternatives with a feasibility study will take several years. EPA will build on extensive work already completed by Oregon DEQ and BLM.

Community involvement will play an important role as we complete the investigation and cleanup of acid mine drainage and other contamination at Formosa Mine. Understanding community priorities, issues and concerns can help the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) make informed decisions to create a cleanup plan that meets the needs of the community.

### In this Plan:

- EPA Contacts
- Community Involvement Goals
- What We Have Heard So Far
- How We Will Keep You Informed
- Community Involvement Activities 2007-08
- Action Plan for 2009
- Community Involvement Activities 2010-2014
- Partnership With Other Agencies
- About the Site
- Contact List

### EPA Project Contacts:

To learn more about the site, visit <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/formosa>

**Judy Smith**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
[Smith.judy@epa.gov](mailto:Smith.judy@epa.gov)  
503-326-6994

**Denise Baker-Kircher**  
Project Manager  
[Baker-Kircher.Denise@epa.gov](mailto:Baker-Kircher.Denise@epa.gov)  
206-553-4303

## Community Involvement Goals

- Provide useful and timely information on site activities and progress
- Provide opportunities for public participation and comment
- Establish open communication, responding to questions and concerns as they arise
- Evaluate how well community involvement activities work and make changes as needed

## What We Heard So Far

A strong local economy with opportunities for development and a safe and healthy environment are very important to the people of Douglas County. The following quotes from community interviews express the range of concerns we heard:

*“This is a problem that needs to be fixed at the federal and possibly state level, instead of being an economic impact on county and local government.”*

*“Our organization has a high interest in seeing the site cleaned up.”*

*“I would like to learn more about the Superfund process.”*

*“People in our community will be interested in the mine cleanup, but it will be low key compared to interest in topics like BLM resource management plan development.”*

*“Cleanup should happen soon in order to protect existing habitat improvement projects in tributaries to Middle Creek.”*

*“As long as there is rain in Oregon, there will be an acid mine drainage problem here until the site is cleaned up.”*

*“There is still a lot of unmined copper, zinc and gold ore in the mine and it would be interesting to explore whether mining could fund some of the cleanup. The problems started because the mining process was not finished, but was interrupted after Oregon changed the rules and laws concerning the chemical reduction process.”*

*“I want to know whether it will take three years or thirty years to clean up the mine.”*

*“We are concerned about downstream water users.”*

*“EPA should check out streams coming off other parts off of Silver Butte such as Russell Creek to make sure that AMD isn’t coming out other fissures too.”*

*“Signs should be posted at undeveloped campsites along the South Fork of Middle Creek. People camp along the creek and use the water and during the summer when flow is low, you would never know there is a problem. You must come take a look at how much polluted water comes out of the mine during spring runoff.”*

*“I hope EPA will use previous studies completed by ODEQ.”*

*“Please present accurate information about risk from the site. There is a lot of mis-information that exaggerates the threats posed to water quality downstream at Riddle.”*

*“The solution is simple. Keep water from reaching the dirty ore.”*

*“Mining is a part of the Riddle town culture and a part of our history. People want EPA to understand our community values instead of overreacting as outsiders.”*

*“This could be a good opportunity to teach local kids lessons about protecting water quality.”*

## **How We Will Keep You Informed**

EPA will use many tools to keep you informed and involved on work on the Formosa Mine Superfund Site. These may include:

E-mail and Telephone Contacts: You can find contact information for EPA on the first page of this plan. EPA will send brief updates to the project e-mail list every three to four months or when new information is available. We will respond promptly to incoming phone calls and e-mail messages. Contact the Community Involvement Coordinator to be added to or removed from the e-mail list.

Website: Project Information, including fact sheets, documents and meeting notices can be found at: [www.yosemite.epa.gov/cleanup.nsf/sites/formosa](http://www.yosemite.epa.gov/cleanup.nsf/sites/formosa)

Information Repository: The repository provides a local site for copies of selected site information. EPA will place technical documents and reports, as well as the Administrative Record for the site (when it is available), at two Douglas County Libraries. The Riddle Branch is located at 637 First Street, Riddle, and the Roseburg Branch is located at 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg.

Fact Sheets: Fact sheets summarizing key information will be developed as needed and updated annually. Fact sheets will be distributed by e-mail, surface mail and posting to the Formosa Mine web page. One fact sheet from August 2008 is currently available.

Public Meetings: EPA may hold community meetings to provide new or updated information about the Formosa Mine site and gather feedback. Public meetings will be announced by e-mail and news releases sent to the local newspaper, radio and television outlets. EPA and our agency partners are also available to meet, or make presentations to community groups by request.

Public Comment Opportunities: Formal public comment opportunities will be scheduled when the proposed cleanup plan is released. Meetings and personal contacts will provide informal feedback prior to that time. Draft documents will be available for public viewing during the remedial investigation and feasibility study.

Technical Assistance Grant: One Technical Assistance Grant of \$50,000 is available for an eligible organization to hire a technical advisor who can help explain, evaluate and share scientific information about the Formosa Mine investigation with the community. Grant availability was advertised in December 2008, and the Partnership for Umpqua Watersheds submitted an application for the grant.

Sharing preliminary documents: EPA will post electronic copies of draft documents on the EPA project web site so that they are available for public review. CD copies will be mailed out by request. Paper and/or CD copies of key documents will be placed in the information repository at the Riddle and Roseburg Libraries.

Environmental Education Partnership: EPA will work with other agencies, organizations and educators to identify learning opportunities for students in communities near the Formosa Mine site over the next several years. EPA will explore ways to share information about how a sound foundation of science is used to evaluate and clean up contaminated sites and make sure they will not pose a risk to people and wildlife. EPA talked with Riddle School District teachers and administrators in fall 2008 and will be actively pursuing environmental education activities in 2009.

### Community Involvement Activities in 2007-2008

Action	Date	Who
Establish EPA website	January 2008	CIC
Develop a draft community involvement plan	January 2008	CIC
Develop draft e-mail list	June 2008	CIC
Write fact sheet describing site and Superfund process	August 2008	CIC
Advertise availability of Technical Assistance Grant	December 2008	
Explore environmental education opportunities with educators	August 2008	
Talk with neighbors - individuals and small groups	September 2007	
Provide update to county commissioners and city officials	September 2007	RPM
Post documents to EPA web site	As needed	
Update state and county agencies	As needed	

### Action Plan for 2009

Action	Date	Who
Finalize the community involvement plan	May 2009	CIC
Update EPA website	Sept 2009	CIC
Establish information repository at Riddle library	Spring 2009	CIC
Expand and update e-mail list	Sept 2009	CIC
Write fact sheet describing 2009 activities for the site	Oct 2009	CIC
Award Technical Assistance Grant	Summer 2009	GPO
Provide update to Douglas County Commissioners	Summer 2009	RPM
Provide update to City of Riddle officials	April 2009	RPM
Inform and involve partner state, federal and tribal agencies	As needed	RPM
Introductory Environmental Education presentation to students in the Riddle School District	April 2009	CIC
Meet with community groups by invitation	ongoing	CIC
Talk with neighbors - individuals and small groups	ongoing	
Host community meeting to share cleanup information	Fall 2009	
Post documents to EPA web site	As needed	

CIC – Community Involvement Coordinator; RPM – Remedial Project Manager; GPO – Grant Project Officer

### Community Involvement Actions 2010-2014

As work on the site continues, we will continue to use activities described on page 3 to stay engaged with you. We will also meet the requirements established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act for public involvement at the Formosa Mine Superfund Site. For more information on the Superfund process or required outreach activities at Superfund sites, visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm)

## Partnership with Other Agencies

EPA is working in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Human Services Environmental Health Assessment Program and others during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. Here is information on who to contact at other agencies:

### ODEQ

Greg Aitken, Project Manager, 541- 687-7361, [aitken.greg@deq.state.or.us](mailto:aitken.greg@deq.state.or.us)  
Jennifer Boudin, Public Information Officer, (541) 687-7343, [boudin.jennifer@deq.state.or.us](mailto:boudin.jennifer@deq.state.or.us)  
Paul Heberling, Water Quality Program, [heberling.paul@deq.state.or.us](mailto:heberling.paul@deq.state.or.us)

### ODHS (EHAP)

Dave Farrer, Toxicologist, (971) 673-1153, [david.g.farrer@state.or.us](mailto:david.g.farrer@state.or.us)  
Julie Early-Alberts, 971-673-1210, [julie.early-alberts@state.or.us](mailto:julie.early-alberts@state.or.us)  
Karen Bishop, Public Health Educator, 971-673-1219, [karen.bishop@state.or.us](mailto:karen.bishop@state.or.us)

#### **About the Site**

The Formosa Mine Superfund Site is located on Silver Butte in Douglas County, southwest Oregon, about 25 miles south of Roseburg, near the town of Riddle. The site was originally mined for copper, silver, and gold from approximately 1926 to 1937. The mine was reopened in 1990 by Formosa Exploration, Inc. and its parent company Formosa Resources Corporation.

As mining operations ceased in 1993, the mine underground workings were filled with mill tailings, crushed ore, concrete, and limestone. Approximately 20 tons of spilled sulfide-rich tailings were cleaned out of the upper headwaters of Middle Creek. Acid mine drainage that flowed from the mine adits was collected and diverted into a drain field away from Middle Creek. An additional 17,000 tons of low grade ore from the mine was placed into a lined cell and capped. After some additional surface reclamation work was done, Formosa Exploration Inc. left the area in 1996.

In the winter of 1995/1996, the acid mine drainage control system failed and toxic drainage was released into Middle Creek. Eighteen miles of fish habitat downstream from the mine was destroyed. After a few years of repairs and maintenance to the acid mine drainage control system, the Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) began an investigation of the site. In 2000, ODEQ installed a new water diversion system designed to reduce the amount of contamination flowing into Middle Creek.

In 2005, citizens petitioned the EPA to consider adding the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) of the most contaminated sites in the nation. Because of the continuing release of contaminants, the site was proposed for listing in 2006 and was added to the NPL in 2007.

## Key Contacts

### News Media

#### Television

KEZI Channel 9 -	541-673-7598	<a href="mailto:brian@bciradio.com">brian@bciradio.com</a> , Brian Prowitz, News Dir
KMTX Channel 16	541-747-3429	<a href="mailto:newsdesk@KMTR.com">newsdesk@KMTR.com</a> , Rod McMichaels, News Dir
KPIC Channel 4	541-672-4482	<a href="mailto:nwnews@kpic.com">nwnews@kpic.com</a> , Dan Bain, News Dir.

#### Newspaper

The News Review	541-672-3321	<a href="mailto:apearson@newsreview.com">apearson@newsreview.com</a> , Adam Pearson, Reporter
Roseburg Beacon	541-459-0283	<a href="mailto:ivey@roseburgbeacon.com">ivey@roseburgbeacon.com</a> Jean Ivey, Editor
Douglas County Mail	541-863-5234	<a href="mailto:dcmil@pioneer-net.com">dcmil@pioneer-net.com</a>
Eugene Register Guard	541-683-7631	<a href="mailto:chris.frisella@registerguard.com">chris.frisella@registerguard.com</a> , News Editor
Eugene Register Guard	541-683-7631	<a href="mailto:diane.dietz@registerguard.com">diane.dietz@registerguard.com</a> , Diane Dietz, Reporter
Oregonian	503-221-8100	<a href="mailto:newsroom@new.oregonian.com">newsroom@new.oregonian.com</a> , News Desk
AP	541-476-1722	<a href="mailto:jbarnard@ap.org">jbarnard@ap.org</a> , Jeff Barnard, Reporter

#### Radio

KGRV 700	541-679-6456	<a href="mailto:info@kgrv700.net">info@kgrv700.net</a>
KLCC Public Radio		<a href="mailto:gwriters@frontiernet.net">gwriters@frontiernet.net</a>

\*Cool FM, KAJV, KISS, KKMx, KQEN, KRNR, and KR SB  
Brian Prowitz is News Director (contact info listed above)

### Federal legislators

#### Senator Jeff Merkley

10 S. Bartlett St. #201, Medford, OR 97501, 541-608-9102  
405 E 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2020, Eugene, OR 97401 (541) 465-6750

#### Senator Ron Wyden

Federal Courthouse, 310 West 6th St, Room 118, Medford, OR 97501, (541) 858-5122  
405 E 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2020, Eugene, OR 97401 (541) 431-0229

#### Representative Peter DeFazio

612 SE Jackson Street, Room 9, Roseburg, OR 97470, Phone (541) 440-3523

State Legislators: contacts will be made in collaboration with Oregon DEQ

Tribal Contacts: Steve Rondeau, Natural Resource Director

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, 541-677-5166, [srondeau@cowcreek.com](mailto:srondeau@cowcreek.com)

Douglas County Commissioners: Susan Morgan, Doug Robertson and Joe Laurance

(541) 440-4201, Courthouse Room 217 1036 SE Douglas Street: Roseburg, Oregon 97470

City of Riddle: Eric Quinn, Public Works Director, Bill Duckett, Mayor

(541) 874.2905, PO Box 143, Riddle, Oregon, 97469