

# BASIN BULLETIN

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

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(see back page for website)

## NAS Report Released: EPA Reviewing Findings

On July 14, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released the pre-publication version of its long-awaited report. The report shares findings from an independent study of EPA's scientific and technical practices related to the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Site. Areas of the cleanup examined include: site characterization, human and ecological assessment, remedial planning, and decision-making. EPA has extended its thanks to the NAS staff and panel members for their efforts and scientific scrutiny.

EPA is now carefully reviewing the report. We expect that the recommendations will aid our commitment to using the best available science to protect the environment, human health and the local communities. EPA, working with others invested in the issues, will consider the NAS recommendations and, where appropriate, translate those findings into action. The final report is expected in mid-October. View the report online at <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11359.html> or through EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth). You may also view the report at the information repositories listed on page 6.



## Making Progress on Property Cleanups in 2005

**Basin:** The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Residential Property Remediation Program is well under way. Since April, DEQ contractors have cleaned up about 100 properties in the Basin. Plans for this season are to clean up 300 to 400 properties in residential and community areas. The goal of the DEQ and its contractors is to ensure that cleanup activities are conducted safely and with an emphasis on good community relations.



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**Progress on Property Cleanups in 2005** *continued*

Properties are chosen for cleanup based on contaminant levels measured in soils and private drinking water sources. Properties exceeding cleanup levels where there are children under the age of seven or pregnant women are considered a high priority for cleanup. DEQ estimates that at least 100 of these high priority properties will be cleaned up by the end of the season. The program also focuses cleanups in target areas in order to get the work done efficiently. This season’s target areas are Mullan and parts of Osburn.

Three contractors are now on the project: Stewart Contracting of Pinehurst, Idaho; Wilder Construction of Everett, Washington; and NASCO

Contracting of Smelterville, Idaho. Providing local employment is important to DEQ. DEQ encourages its contractors to hire Silver Valley residents whenever possible. The program contributes about \$6 million annually to the local economy.

**Box:** This season, the Upstream Mining Group is expected to finish cleaning up the remaining properties in the populated areas of the Bunker Hill Box. To date, more than 3,000 properties have been cleaned up. Properties include residential yards, commercial properties, and street rights-of-way.

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**Sister’s Mine Cleanup Now in Progress**

Cleanup of the Sister’s Mine Site has begun. The Sister’s site is located near Wallace, Idaho, near the Woodland Park area in the Canyon Creek watershed. This project will take about two or three months. DEQ is funding the cleanup, which is being done under a remedial design developed by EPA’s contractor Parametrix. For questions or comments, contact **Robbin Simmons** at 208-783-5781 or by e-mail at [rsimmons@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:rsimmons@deq.idaho.gov). Cleanup at Constitution and Golconda mines is expected to start later this summer.

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**Public Helps Guide Lower Basin Recreational Area Projects**



One goal of the Record of Decision is to protect human health in the Lower Basin by cleaning up contaminated recreational areas. On May 16th, Idaho Parks and Recreation, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), IDEQ, and EPA hosted a community meeting at Rose Lake. The meeting provided a chance to get local input on the possible development of Idaho-owned properties at Rose Lake and Bull Run Lake, as part of the cleanup.

The agencies found no support for developing a campground at Rose Lake or a bike path connection to Bull Run. The agencies are no longer considering these actions.

The proposal to reduce contaminant exposure and improve recreational facilities at Bull Run Lake raised few concerns and a modest amount of support. The agencies will keep this proposal on the table for the time being. The agencies will draft a design, involve the Coeur d’Alene Basin Commission, and hold a second community meeting to discuss the proposal. Local input will be used to determine if the work moves forward.

Significant concern was expressed about removal of the Watson Road Boat Launch and operation of the Sportsman Launch. In response, IDFG is

*continued*

## Public Helps Rec Area Projects *continued*

exploring funding options to replace the Watson Road facility. As requested at the public meeting, IDFG installed new signs at the Sportsman Launch. The signs address swimming in the boat launch lane and parking problems in the trailer turn-around area.

The May 16th meeting clearly showed the public's interest in the development and operation of these recreational facilities and the need to involve the public when making decisions. The Basin Commission's Five-Year Work Plan calls for development of a comprehensive Basin recreation plan, which includes a strong public involvement component. We will keep you advised of progress.



## Community Involvement Plan In Development

EPA has been working on a new Community Involvement Plan for the Box and Basin. In March, EPA met with about 30 residents to listen to their ideas, concerns, and suggestions. We also received 10 letters and e-mails. It was helpful to hear from so many engaged and thoughtful citizens. The information they shared is helping us to bring our community involvement program in line with current needs at the site. The last Basin Bulletin summarized some of the main themes we heard.

Over the past many weeks, we have been compiling all of the comments, responding directly to specific issues, and preparing a written plan. Recently, EPA shared comments related to the Basin Commission, as well as its Technical Leadership Group and Citizens' Coordinating Council, with the leadership of those groups, for their consideration. We expect the EPA Community Involvement Plan to come out later this year. For information, contact **Andrea Lindsay**, EPA, at 206-553-1896 or 800-424-4372.



### Search for Waste Repository Site Continues

A new site for disposing of cleanup waste in the Basin will be needed in two to three years. That's because the current Big Creek Repository is filling up. In July, EPA held an open house in Cataldo. The open house was a chance to talk with local citizens about possibly opening a repository in an area called East Mission Flats. The new repository would sit north of I-90 across from the Cataldo Mission. Citizens were able to learn more about the possible use of this area for permanent storage of soil materials excavated during cleanup activities. The site is a privately owned parcel where mine tailing materials have been deposited over many decades. EPA is now considering the public comments received at the meeting.

Working through the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, the DEQ and EPA are evaluating many possible repository sites in the Basin. Public comments will be an important part of the evaluation of each location. More information is available on the website: <http://www.basincommission.com>.

## Final Five-Year Review Report Expected by October

EPA is now preparing the final version of the Bunker Hill Superfund Site **Five-Year Review Report**. The report is about EPA's review of the cleanup for the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Superfund Site (Box and Basin). The report discusses the effectiveness of completed remedies and progress on remedies underway. EPA originally offered a 30-day public comment period on the document. But, in response to public requests, EPA extended the deadline by another 30 days to July 29. During the comment period, EPA hosted five open houses throughout the Basin and Box. The open houses gave citizens a chance to learn more about the report and talk to project representatives.

EPA is now reviewing comments and making changes to the report. To see the draft, visit the website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup/nsf/sites/bh>. The final report is expected to be out in October.



## Lake Education Resources Available

**Presentation:** An educational presentation about Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Coeur d'Alene Basin called **Our Gem** is available for any public or school group within Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah Counties. Staff from the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District and Coeur d'Alene Tribe are taking the presentation on the road. Any organization or group wanting to learn more about state, federal, and tribal efforts to improve the water quality of Coeur d'Alene Lake—or to learn what they can do to be involved—can contact **Rebecca Stevens** at 208-762-4929 ext. 101 or [ksswcd@icehouse.net](mailto:ksswcd@icehouse.net).

**Map:** A new Coeur d'Alene Lake educational map will soon be made available to the public free of charge. Maps will be located at public boating recreation sites around the lake, as well as at marinas and resorts. The map was produced by the Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District and Coeur d'Alene Tribe.



## Calendar of Events

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

**Contact: Terry Harwood, 208-783-2528**

**Next Basin Commission meeting: August 10, 2005, 9:30 a.m.**

**Gonzaga University Law School, Barbieri Moot Court Room**

**721 North Cincinnati Street, Spokane, WA**

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



Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

**Chair: John Snider, 208-664-9773**

**Visit the CCC website for meeting information:**

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

### Other Citizen Group Meetings

Coeur d'Alene Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CBCAC)

**Contact: John Snider, 208-664-9773**

Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition (SNRC)

**Contact: Robin Stanley, 208-744-1118**

**Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Brooks Hotel**

**500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID**

**Silver Valley Community Resource Center**

**Contact: Barbara Miller, 208-784-8891**

**P.O. Box 362, Kellogg, ID 83837**

Washington Citizens Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Board of Directors Meeting

**Contact: Lloyd Brewer, 509-625-6968**

**Board meets first Wednesday of each month at Spokane City Water Dept. Conference Room**

**914 E. North Foothills Drive, Spokane, WA**

### 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 Blvd., Suite 208  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208-664-4588

#### EPA Seattle Office

Superfund Record Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128  
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372





U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Community Involvement and Outreach  
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Seattle, WA 98101-1128

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**Summer 2005**

Submissions: To make a submission to **Basin Bulletin**, please contact Andrea Lindsay (see contact info on the front page).

Subscriptions: The **Basin Bulletin** is published quarterly. The Bulletin can be e-mailed to you as a pdf. For additions or corrections to the mailing list, contact Andrea Lindsay at:

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or at the phone and e-mail information on the front page of the Bulletin.

#### Websites:



EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin  
<http://Yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda>

Basin Environmental Improvement  
Project Commission  
<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>



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Andrea Lindsay at 800-424-4372. TTY users, call 800-877-8339.