

EPA Invites Your Proposals for 'Pilot Projects' in Lower Basin

Public Forums: March 20, 2013 **Proposal Due Date: April 19, 2013**

Site Update

Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup Project

March 2013

You are invited to submit a proposal for a “pilot project” in the Lower Basin of the Coeur d’Alene River. Pilot projects are smaller-scale cleanup “tests” — cleanup actions that help evaluate the effectiveness of more complete, larger-scale cleanup actions that may be taken in the future.

EPA is starting to consider project options, and is seeking suggestions from the public and stakeholder agencies. Your suggestions may include recommendations on details of projects, such as the locations, methods, timing, or partnerships. Suggestions could also include recommendations for a specific project or specific type of project.

EPA plans to carry out at least one project beginning in 2014. Submit your project suggestions and proposals to EPA by **April 19, 2013**. Proposal forms will be available soon. Learn more at a **March 20** public forum. Two sessions will be held with the same information. At the forums, you will have the chance to learn more about this pilot project effort, get details to help you submit a proposal, and have your questions answered.

Public Forums

Wednesday, March 20

⌚ 2 – 4 p.m. ⌚

**Rose Lake Community Center
Highway 3**

Rose Lake, ID 83810

Hosted by the Lower Basin Project Focus Team

OR

⌚ 6 – 8 p.m. ⌚

**Medimont Grange (next to Valley Mart)
31146 S. Highway 3
Medimont, ID 83842**

Hosted by the Citizens Coordinating Council

Background

EPA is studying options to reduce risks to people and wildlife. The risks are caused by lead and other heavy metals washed downstream from past mining practices in the Upper Basin. Long-term cleanup in the Upper Basin is already under way.

Most of the lakes, wetlands and floodplain in the Lower Basin are contaminated. The bed of the Coeur d’Alene River contains the largest volume, and most highly contaminated and mobile sediment.

This material is eroded and then carried throughout the Lower Basin by floodwaters every year. The cost and complexity of cleanup is high. No single solution is likely to achieve cleanup goals.

EPA’s Cleanup Goals

Selected pilot projects and larger efforts must help achieve EPA’s cleanup goals for the Lower Basin. Goals are to:

- Reduce exposure of people, especially young children, to heavy metal contaminants.
- Return rivers to conditions that fully support healthy fish and other aquatic life, with an emphasis on native species, including sensitive native fish such as the westslope cutthroat trout and the threatened species bull trout.
- Return the wetland, lake, riparian, riverine, and upland areas to conditions that protect waterfowl, migratory birds, and other plants and animals that live in these areas.

Preliminary List of Pilot Projects Being Considered by EPA

Pilot projects are a way to try promising solutions so that larger efforts can be more successful. EPA is trying to achieve several objectives with pilot projects.

These include short-term and long-term benefits, cost-effectiveness and the ability to produce measurable change.

EPA's 2002 Record of Decision identified several pilot-scale actions for the Lower Basin. Ongoing studies have identified new or revised options, as well.

Examples of possible pilot projects for the Lower Basin are listed to the right ➔

- Beach replacement to reduce direct contact by people at select areas.
- Controls to keep waterfowl away from the most contaminated areas and encourage them to feed at the least contaminated areas.
- Engineering controls to limit floodwaters and contaminated sediment entering lakes and wetlands.
- Engineering controls to limit migration of contaminated sediment along the river bed.
- River bank stabilization to reduce direct contact and releases of contamination into the river.

Pilot Project ideas will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Must reduce exposure to or control source of contaminated sediments.
- Must be cost effective and within budget constraints.
- Must not exceed the capabilities of existing Basin disposal facilities to accommodate any waste soils.
- Must show measurable performance results within about 5 years or less.
- Must be implementable (i.e., will the land owner grant access, can it be done within 2 years, etc.)
- Lend itself well to potential for application of actions to larger areas.
- Avoid negative impacts to environment/site if test is unsuccessful.
- Have potential for partnership with other agencies and private landowners.
- Have low risk of recontamination unless that is a driver for informing.
- Be informed by and/or inform data collection and modeling.
- Can be implemented with the existing decision document for the Basin.

Your Ideas and Input are Requested

Your ideas, suggestions and recommendations are encouraged, to allow EPA to consider the broadest range of possible projects that meet the project criteria and objectives. We welcome ideas for new projects, or suggestions for improvements to EPA's preliminary list of projects.

Please use a proposal form to submit your input. Proposal forms with instructions will be online soon : [yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda](https://www.yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda) Proposal forms will also be available at the March 20 forums. Proposal forms are due by **April 19**.

EPA will consider all suggestions relative to overall project objectives.

Final pilot project selections will be determined by EPA. On July 1, EPA will release a summary of the pilot project ideas submitted and those that were selected.

No detailed response to pilot project submittals will be prepared. Designs of selected projects will be made available for information purposes but comments will not be sought from the public.

Project implementation updates will be provided at Lower Basin Project Focus Team meetings, in EPA's Basin Bulletin, on EPA's and the Basin Commission's websites, and on the Coeur d'Alene Basin Facebook Page.

For More Information...

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🌐 yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda



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Documents:

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Molstead Library
1000 Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Wallace Public Library

415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

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**

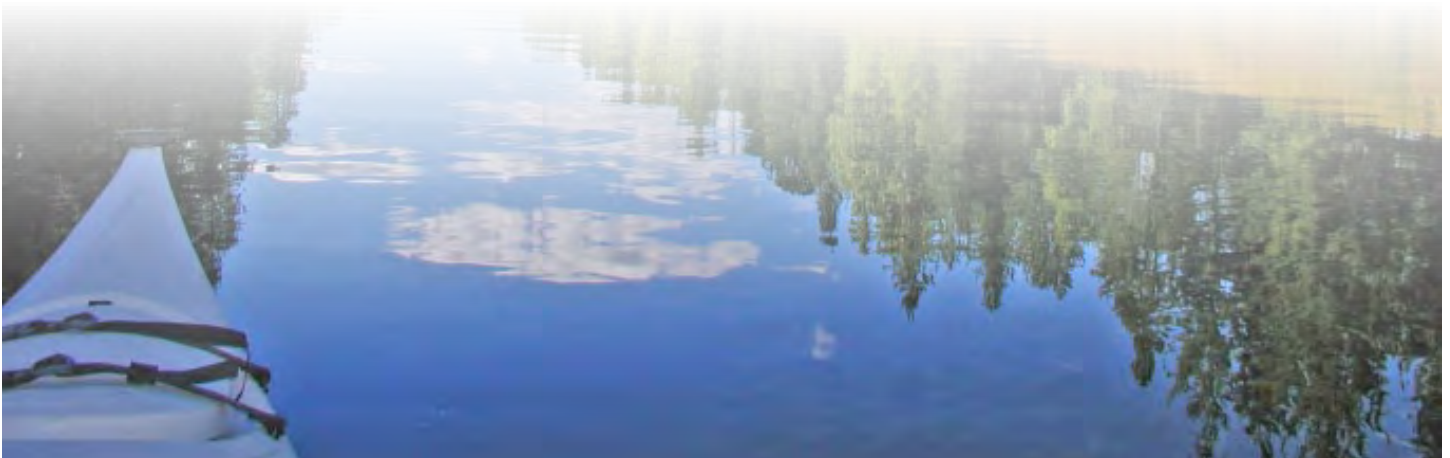
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

St. Maries Library

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St. Maries, ID 83861
208-245-3732

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📠 TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8839 and give the operator Andrea's phone number.



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March 2013

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Read inside for details



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Details Inside



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