

# BASIN BULLETIN



## Updates on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Cleanup

March 2015

### **New Limited Use Repositories: Managing Road Cleanup Waste Government Gulch Location Selected**

So much cleanup waste is being produced by the Paved Roads Program that a new disposal option is needed. The waste is taking up valuable repository space with less contaminated materials. The EPA, IDEQ and Panhandle Health District have developed a new disposal option for roads waste: Limited Use Repositories. This concept evolved from the existing Community Fill Plan. That plan spells out requirements for using waste as fill to create developable land. (See article, page 9.)

*In 2014, local repositories took in lots of waste from cleanup work. At the Page Repository, about 4,000 dump truck loads were received from Remedy Protection and Paved Roads Programs. Of this total, 88 percent of the waste came from roads. The Big Creek Repository took in about 7,000 dump truck loads of waste from all cleanup actions. Of this amount 40 percent came from the Paved Roads Program.*

Typically, road waste has much lower levels of lead contamination than other cleanup materials. It's mostly inert asphalt. Limited Use Repositories will have strict design and operational controls, and criteria appropriate for this less contaminated waste stream. Limited Use Repositories will be closed and capped within a relatively short time, less than 3 years. They will be much smaller scale than regular repositories. Once closed, the sites will be available for development by the property owner. Environmental covenants will help protect people's health and the environment.

The first Limited Use Repository is planned for Government Gulch. It will be located on remediated property owned by the State of Idaho.



#### **Inside this Issue**

- EPA Updates Cleanup Projections for CDA Basin ..... 2
- Report Documents Spokane River Beach Cleanups ..... 3
- Treatment Plant Upgrade, Groundwater Collection: Update ..... 3
- What about those Billboards? ..... 4
- The Cleanup Area: Getting Oriented ..... 4
- Basin Property Cleanup Work Moving to Coeur d'Alene Trust ..... 5
- Special Feature: Lower Basin, Busy Place for Cleanup ..... 6
- Basin Commission Reports on Accomplishments ..... 7
- Helpful Tips about Open Burning ..... 8
- Remedy Protection and Drainage Control Continues in 2015 ..... 8
- Got a Low Spot? Learn about Community Fill Plan ..... 9

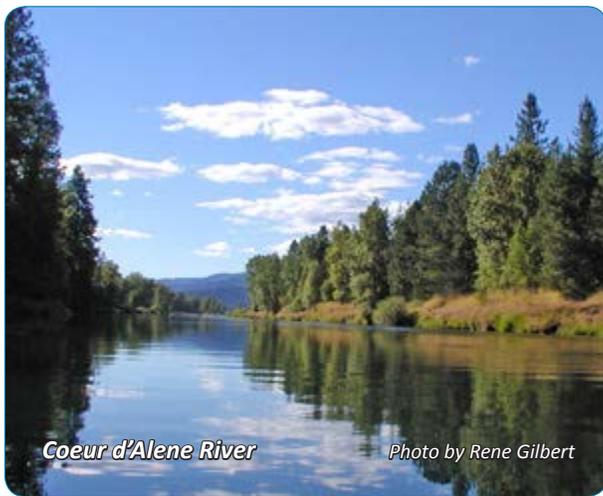
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**New Limited Use Repositories: Government Gulch Selected**

Work will start this year. This location meets the citing criteria in the Limited Use Repository policy and should handle all of the Box Paved Roads waste. Once it's closed, it could be redeveloped. Locations for Limited Use Repositories in the Basin are being evaluated. A Basin Limited Use Repository could be in operation in 2015 and may take paved road waste from cleanup actions in the upper Basin. We will keep you posted!

**CONTACTS:****Bruce Schuld**, IDEQ, 208-783-5781[bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov)**Craig Cameron**, EPA, 509-376-8665[cameron.craig@epa.gov](mailto:cameron.craig@epa.gov)**Acronyms and Organizations**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Stands for:</b>
<b>EPA</b>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>IDEQ</b>	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
<b>BEIPC</b>	Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, or Basin Commission
<b>PHD</b>	Panhandle Health District in Kellogg
<b>CDA Trust</b>	The Asarco Successor Coeur d'Alene Custodial and Work Trust, or Coeur d'Alene Work Trust

**EPA Updates Cleanup Projections for CDA Basin***Coeur d'Alene River**Photo by Rene Gilbert*

The EPA has updated its projections for cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The mix and priority of projects is mostly the same as outlined in the 2012 "Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan." Some changes have been made. They include schedule changes, repository updates, and a new sludge cell on the Central Impoundment Area. The EPA updates the plan each year. Find the documents on the webpages noted below or in select local libraries.

See the changes summarized in a 4-page table:

<http://go.usa.gov/3aKpC>

Look at the one-page timeline of cleanup work

<http://go.usa.gov/3aKdm>Find the **2012 Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan**, 122 pages: <http://go.usa.gov/3aKf4>See the **Basin Commission 2015 work plan**, which includes all of EPA's planned work for 2015:[http://basincommission.com/BEIPC\\_Workplans.asp](http://basincommission.com/BEIPC_Workplans.asp)CONTACT: **Bill Adams**, EPA, 206-553-2806, 800-424-4372 ext. 2806, [adams.bill@epa.gov](mailto:adams.bill@epa.gov)

## Report Documents Spokane River Beach Cleanups

A new report documenting the cleanup of 11 locations along the Spokane River is available. *Final Remedial Action Reports: Spokane River Beach Cleanup Sites* summarizes work done from 2006-2012. The work was designed to isolate and stabilize metals-impacted beach sediments at recreational areas along the river. Washington State Department of Ecology and the EPA completed the cleanup actions as part of the EPA Record of Decision (ROD) for the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The goal was to reduce human health and ecological exposures. Cleanup included capping, removals, and performance monitoring. Find the 118-page report at <http://go.usa.gov/3aKAB> or at select local libraries.



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## Treatment Plant Upgrade, Groundwater Collection: Update



Last November, the EPA solicited proposals from interested contractors for construction of the Central Treatment Plant Upgrades and groundwater collection system. The groundwater collection system will be installed between the north side of the CIA (Central Impoundment Area) and the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

The plant currently treats acid mine drainage from the Bunker Hill Mine. Upgrades are needed to treat the additional contaminated

groundwater flow, improve operations, and meet the discharge limits for the South Fork. Prospective contracting teams submitted proposals to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in late December 2014.

The USACE will select a qualified contracting pool in April 2015. This short list of bidders will receive a more detailed solicitation. The USACE expects to award the contract this summer. The contract will be awarded as an ODBO (operate-design-build-operate) contract and will be administered by the USACE. Initial site preparation and construction actions could occur as early as fall of 2015, and the bulk of the construction will start in 2016.

CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA, 206-553-0239, 800-424-4372 ext. 0239, [prestbo.kim@epa.gov](mailto:prestbo.kim@epa.gov)

## What about those Billboards?



There have been questions regarding the billboards north of the CIA next to Interstate 90 in Kellogg. The billboards are located in an area where construction will occur for the groundwater collection system. The EPA is working with local representatives in case the billboards need to be removed to make way for the construction work. The EPA will make sure there is plenty of notice, and will direct contractors to allow at least 90 days after submitting the locations and schedules of billboards proposed for removal. The earliest that billboards could be removed will be late 2015. The billboards wouldn't be replaced in this location following construction.

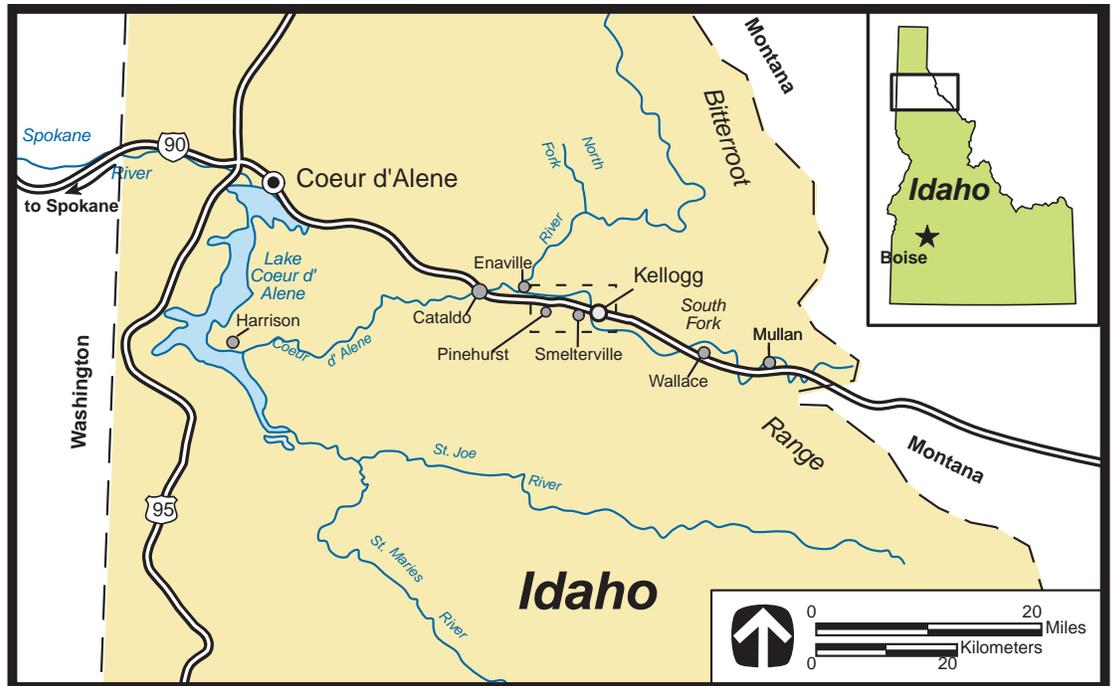
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## The Cleanup Area: Getting Oriented

**Upper Basin:** The Upper Basin includes all areas along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries downstream to where they combine with the North Fork. It also includes the town of Kingston and the "Box" (see below).

**Box:** The Bunker Hill "Box" is the 21-square mile area surrounding the smelter in Kellogg, the first area designated for EPA cleanup in the 1980s.

**Lower Basin:** The Lower Basin includes the river channel and flood plain areas downstream from Enaville, all the way to the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River at Harrison.



## Basin Property Cleanup Work Moving to Coeur d'Alene Trust

The Basin Property Remediation Program, or BPRP, has been managed successfully by IDEQ since it started over a decade ago. Property cleanup in the Box is essentially done. More recent cleanup efforts are focusing on residential and commercial properties in the Basin. Since the Coeur d'Alene Trust money must be spent on cleanup in the Basin, and because money for remaining cleanup work in the Box is limited, it makes sense for the Trust to fund and manage the BPRP. The EPA, IDEQ and the Trust are now transitioning this important program from IDEQ to the Trust.

The Trust has managed similar property cleanup actions for a number of years and recently hired **Alan Davis** as the BPRP manager. For 2015, IDEQ will still manage property sampling. IDEQ will also continue to track and oversee cleanup designs for individual properties in order to ensure they are consistent with the previous cleanups and meet the ICP requirements. The Trust will add management of sampling activities to their cleanup and warranty responsibilities in 2016.

A big thank you to IDEQ and their contractors for their tireless efforts to engage property owners, provide cost effective cleanup, and to warranty their work in the cause of protecting the health of children. The EPA expects no less from the Trust and its contractors and believes that a degree of involvement by IDEQ will help maintain consistency in the program. CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA, 509-376-8665, [cameron.craig@epa.gov](mailto:cameron.craig@epa.gov)



Photo by Rene Gilbert

### Welcome, Alan Davis!



Welcome, Alan Davis, the newest member of the Coeur d'Alene Trust team! The CDA Trust administers funds under the direction of EPA, conducting Superfund cleanup work in areas contaminated by historical mining practices in the Basin. Alan will be the Assistant Program Manager overseeing the Basin Property Remediation Program in the Silver Valley. He is a Civil Engineer with 10 years of experience in construction oversight and management. Alan graduated from Eastern Washington University with Bachelor's degrees in Construction Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

CONTACT: **Alan Davis**, Coeur d'Alene Trust  
208-783-0222

## Special Feature: Lower Basin, Busy Place for Cleanup

The Lower Basin has been a busy place for the cleanup! A mix of activities is under way. The work is aimed at both protecting the health of people and the environment, and learning more about the complex systems that affect contamination in the area. Here are a couple reports from the Lower Basin.

### Where is the Lower Basin?

The Lower Basin includes the river channel and flood plain areas downstream from Enaville, all the way to the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River at Harrison.

### Learning about the River System through Scientific Modeling



The EPA expects to complete the calibration of a two-dimensional hydraulic model soon. The model will be used to imitate flows in the channel and flood plain of the Lower Basin. The model will help improve our understanding of flow dynamics. It will also help predict flows and water elevations in both the channel and the floodplain during flooding events.

The second step in refining the understanding of contaminant movement in the Lower Basin is the development of a sediment transport model. Work on this model will begin in the spring and use river bed coring information collected in 2013. Once

calibrated and validated, the model along with data already collected from the field will greatly improve our understanding of how contaminated sediment moves through the Lower Basin. Ultimately, these studies will help us develop and evaluate cleanup options to address mining waste contamination issues in the Lower Basin.

### Spring Brings High Water

In 2015, much like 2014, high water levels in the Lower Basin resulted from snow melt, warm temperatures, and rain. A great deal of metals-contaminated sediment washes out of the Lower Basin into Lake Coeur d'Alene during these high flows. All this water inundated most of the lakes and wetlands in the Lower Basin. One happy result of this outcome is that hundreds of waterfowl, including Tundra swans, opted to visit a local restoration area---a place that was formerly farmlands and converted to clean wetland habitat. The swans were observed eating in this safe feeding area and making use of the newly constructed loafing islands there.



⇒ Continued

**Special Feature: Lower Basin, Busy Place for Cleanup****Protecting People and Wildlife**

A special environmental project reached completion at Kahnderosa campground in late 2014. This collaborative project was suggested by the community, led by EPA, designed by CH2M Hill with assistance from the Forest Service, and constructed by the CDA Work Trust. A 300-foot section of river bank that gets high use from nightly campers during summer months had lead concentrations as high as 10,000 ppm. The work included the construction of bristly soil-burrito layers laid on willow mattresses and affixed to the water's edge, to help stabilize the bank. This project was performed along with a property remediation. The remediation included hardening the camping pads and roads at this site so that they can be easily cleaned of sediments. The work reduces risks to people and wildlife.

The EPA expects to start more small pilot projects in the Lower Basin during the next couple of years. These projects will be coordinated with The Restoration Partnership and associated agencies. Additional health and recreation education is also slated for the Lower Basin this year. Stay tuned for news.

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**Basin Commission Reports on Accomplishments**

The 2014 Annual Report of the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission is now available. In 2014, the BEIPC monitored and coordinated efforts by many agencies involved in cleanup and natural resources restoration in the Basin. The report summarizes the year's accomplishments. Find it online at [www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

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**What is the Basin Commission?**

*"The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission is responsible for overseeing environmental cleanup to address heavy metal contamination, natural resource restoration and water quality in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The BEIPC also participates in guiding and coordinating infrastructure upgrades and improvements to protect the environmental cleanup remedy and enhance living conditions in the communities of the Basin. The Basin is defined as the watersheds of the Coeur d'Alene River, Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River within the Idaho Counties of Shoshone, Kootenai, and Benewah, as well as the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Reservation within Idaho."*

## Helpful Tips about Open Burning



Burning yard waste and logging slash is a standard activity for many people. Many of us grew up with backyard burn barrels, and some of us may still use them. However, open burning can harm our environment and our health. Many respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis have been linked to wood smoke. The problem is of special concern to children, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems.

Smoke impacts from open burning must be considered at any time of the year. In certain weather conditions when it's hard for the smoke to clear, it's even more important to limit open burning and its harmful emissions.

### Alternatives to open burning:

- **Mulch or compost:** Add yard trimmings and other vegetation to your compost bin to improve soil quality.
- **Chip:** Save money on mulch by chipping brush, prunings, and wood waste on your property.
- **Reduce:** Avoid purchasing disposable items. Buy products in bulk or economy sizes instead of in individually wrapped or in single serving sizes. Buy products that can be reused or refilled.

### Helpful guidelines to minimize smoke impacts from open burning:

- Burn only dry material. Green limbs and other garden waste smolder and make lots of smoke.
- Keep the burn pile small. Large piles develop more ash, robbing the pile of oxygen and causing smoke.
- Burn during the middle of the day when solar heating and ventilation is at its maximum. To prevent smoke from lingering near the ground, don't start a burn in the evening or during early morning hours. Complete burning before dusk.
- Do not burn green slash piles.

Many open burning rules ban burning of most processed or manufactured materials such as garbage, plastics, demolition debris, tires, asphalt materials, treated lumber and animal waste. For more information, contact your local Fire Protection District or IDEQ at 208-769-1422.

## Remedy Protection and Drainage Control Continue in 2015

Work designed to keep cleaned up areas clean and protect property from flooding will continue in 2015. IDEQ will manage drainage work, including a project in Jackass Creek near Kellogg High School and the Shoshone Medical Center. This project is being funded by EPA, IDEQ and Shoshone Medical Center.

EPA and the CDA Trust will construct street stormwater drainage and flood control projects in Silverton along Revenue Gulch, on Mill Street in Mullan, and in the Ninemile drainage. Projects will require some lane restrictions with flaggers to help traffic flow. Project activities are being coordinated with Shoshone County, Kellogg and Mullan. Next, IDEQ and the CDA Trust will prepare designs and contract packages for work planned in the Basin for 2016.



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## Got a Low Spot? Learn about Community Fill Plan

People wanting to fill low spots on contaminated properties with contaminated material may participate in the Community Fill Program, or CFP. A clean barrier of soil, gravel, or asphalt would be needed according to the Institutional Controls Program. Landowners with a fill area of 500 cubic yards (13,500 cubic feet) or less would do so under the guidance and oversight of the Panhandle Health District in Kellogg. An area of 500 cubic yards would fill a typical backyard (50 x 100 feet) with over 2 ½ feet of fill. Holes 50 x 50 feet and just over 5-feet deep would also equal about 500 cubic yards. Is a portion of your property already contaminated? Could it utilize construction fill? Contact PHD about how your property can be evaluated. Larger areas may be eligible for fill with additional evaluation.

CFP AND FACT SHEET:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/bunkerhillsuperfundsite>

CONTACTS:

**Bruce Schuld**, IDEQ, 208-783-5781

[bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov)

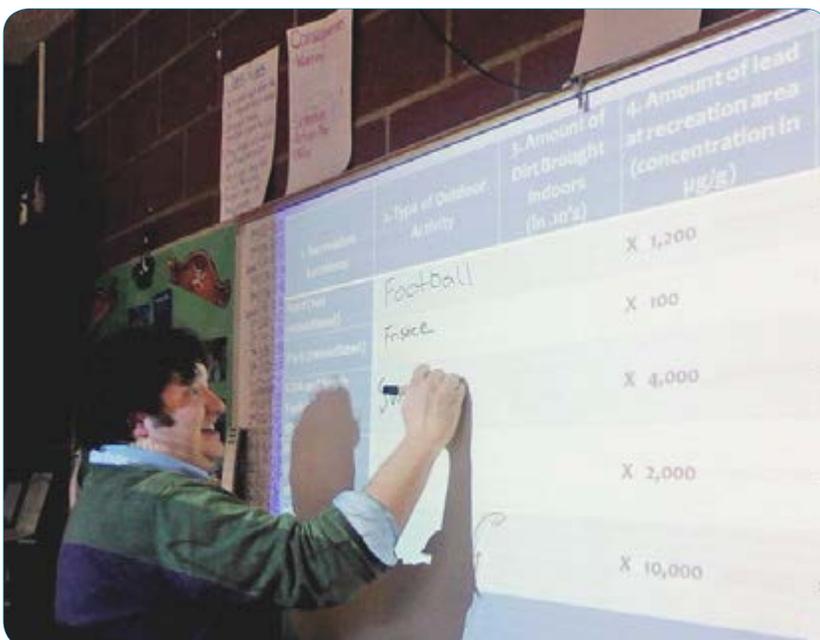
**Andy Helkey**, PHD, 208-783-0707

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Photo by Jan Olsen, IDEQ

## Learning about Soil, Lead in Classroom



Wallace and Kellogg Middle Schools hosted IDEQ and TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering Inc. to deliver science concepts in the classroom. Students correlated outdoor soil, house dust and childhood lead exposure by working with a simplified predictive model. Students used the model to calculate potential blood lead levels and then determine which factors, if changed, could best reduce blood lead levels. The session demonstrated the importance of using health practices indoors and outdoors.

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## Tins to Play Clean with Your Family



Papa Raccoon

Many families in the area want to know how to keep their children safe and healthy while recreating. IDEQ offers the Riley Raccoon Activity Book and other webpage resources for children and families. New activity book pages are being added this year! Using data about local recreation areas and health messages developed with the Panhandle Health District, the materials offer relevant, helpful tips. Play Clean, and stay tuned! Visit: [www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean)

CONTACT: **Denna Grangaard**, IDEQ  
208-783-5781  
[denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov)

## Partnering for Recreation Education

The EPA, IDEQ, and Panhandle Health District work together on education in the Basin to protect community health. A great deal of cleanup has been done in yards, parks and school yards. Blood lead levels are now near the national average. At the same time, river shorelines and historic mine and mill sites in the basin continue to be a source for lead exposure. This spring, the agencies will increase efforts to raise awareness. Efforts will be designed to help people identify these areas as potential sources, and empower them to take measures to protect themselves while recreating. Look for more information coming soon.

### Remember:

- Know the history of your recreation areas.
- Know how to reduce lead exposure. Play safe!
- Have your children tested.

CONTACT: **Andy Helkey**,  
Panhandle Health District  
208-783-0707, [ahelkey@phd1.idaho.gov](mailto:ahelkey@phd1.idaho.gov)

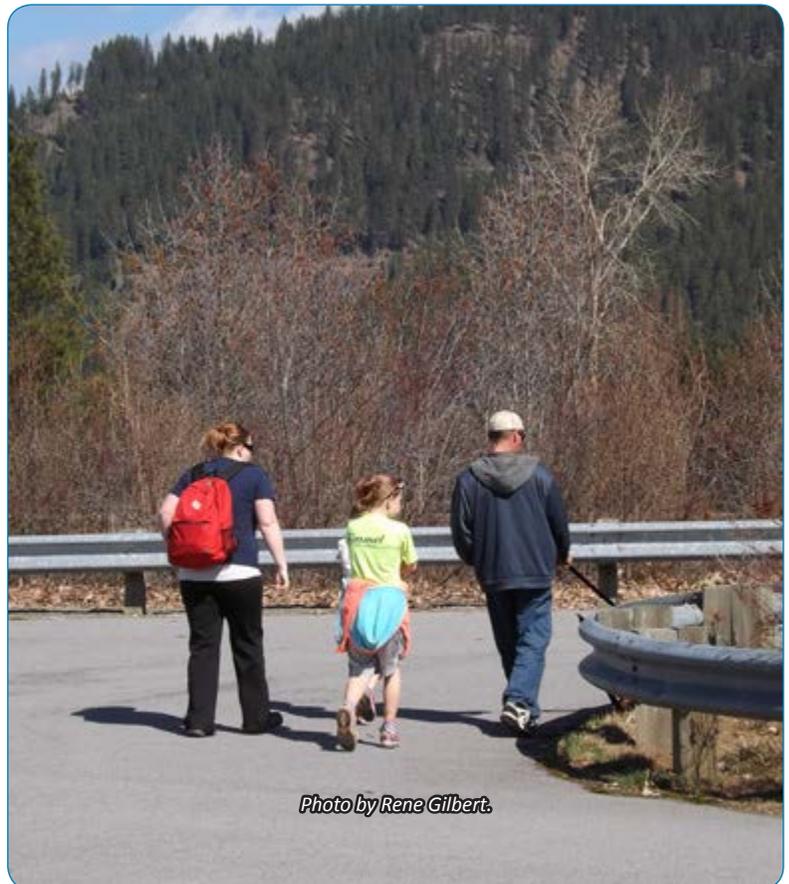


Photo by Rene Gilbert.

## Want Timely Updates? Visit us on Facebook!



One of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the cleanup work is to sign up for our Facebook page. Watch for two or three short posts a week. We invite you to check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>

CONTACT: **Andrea Lindsay**

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206-553-1896 or [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov)

## Documents

### North Idaho College Library

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

822 W. College Avenue – St. Maries, ID 83861  
208-245-3732

### Kellogg Public Library

16 West Market Avenue – Kellogg, ID 83837  
208-786-7231

## Opportunities to Get Involved

### Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

**Terry Harwood**

208-783-2528

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

### Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

CHAIR:

**Jerry Boyd**

509-220-1453

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

*The Basin Bulletin is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency three times a year. The Basin Bulletin offers updates on the Superfund cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For mailing list changes, to send comments on this newsletter, contact the editor, or submit articles for consideration, contact Andrea Lindsay at 206-553-1896 or [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov). Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.*

*Alternative formats are available.*

*For reasonable accommodation, please call*

**Andrea Lindsay** at 206-553-1896

 *TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.*



## EPA Community Involvement Contact

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***Inside...***

*New Limited Use Repository: Government Gulch*

*CDA Trust Taking on Property Cleanups*

*Lower Basin – Busy Place for Cleanup*

*Tips on Open Burning*

*Much More!*



**Learn More About the  
Coeur d'Alene Basin  
Cleanup on the Web**

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill>



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