

BASIN BULLETIN



Updates on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Cleanup

March 2016

Lead Contamination: Efforts to Protect Public Health in CDA Basin Healthy Living in the Silver Valley

The Silver Valley is a great place to live, work, and play. Knowing the facts about the area will help keep you and your family safe and healthy. Since the late 1800s, the Silver Valley has been a major mining area. Past mining practices left behind metals like lead in the environment. Cleanup has been going on since the 1980s. Nearly 7,000 residential yards, schools and public areas have been cleaned up. Even so, lead remains in areas like river shorelines, floodplains, hillsides, old mine sites, and other recreational areas. Lead is harmful to health, especially for children. Children play on the ground and on the floor, and often put their hands in their mouths. Ingesting even small quantities of soil containing lead can cause health problems for young children. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agree that there is no known safe level of lead in a child's blood.

⇒ Continued



Play clean in the Silver Valley.

Local Landowners: Have Property Soils Tested Now, Before Program Downsizes

Notice to Landowners: Have your property tested for soil contamination before the Basin Property Remediation Program is downsized. If you wait, you may have significant delays in getting your property sampled.

Sampling and any cleanup is done at no cost to you. The Basin Property Remediation Program will be fully staffed only through 2018. The EPA is setting aside a limited budget each year for this program due to the decreasing number of eligible properties. First priority will be given to properties where pregnant women or young children live.

After receiving consent, the Coeur d'Alene Trust, working on behalf of the EPA, will contact you to develop a sampling plan. Once results are in, you will receive a copy. Results may show that no cleanup action is needed. If remediation is needed, a representative will explain the remediation process with you.

Remediation often enhances a property's appearance and will reduce exposure to heavy metals. Sampling or remediation documents may assist you with future real estate transactions. Without these records, loans, sale, or transfer of title may be delayed. Most importantly, completing this work helps protect the health of your family and your community.

Contact: Call the DEQ Kellogg office at 208-783-5781 to discuss eligibility, request consent forms, and receive program information.

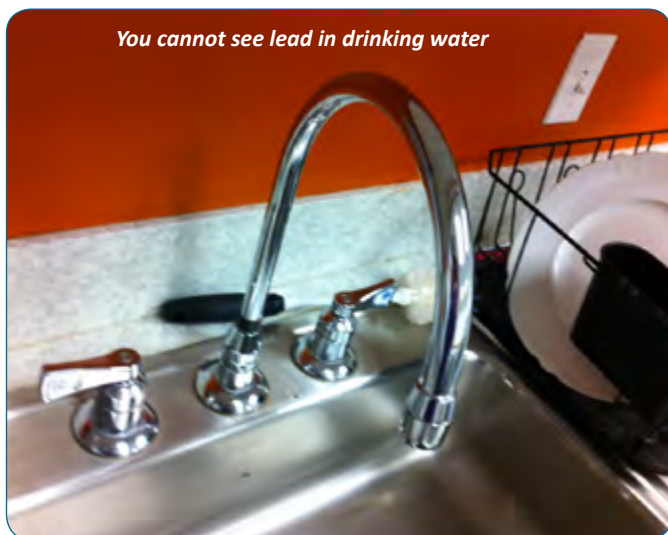
Lead Contamination: Efforts to Protect Public Health in CDA Basin

⇒ Continued

What You Can Do:

- ✓ Get your child tested. Every child ingests some amount of dirt and dust. Testing is the only way of determining lead levels. For testing and information, call Panhandle Health District at 783-0707.
- ✓ Take steps to reduce exposure, especially for young children: remove household dust, keep dirt out of your home, eat on a clean surface, wash hands and face before eating, don't drink river water, reduce direct contact with bare dirt.
- ✓ Get your yard tested if you haven't already: call 783-5781.
- ✓ Use the Healthy Living brochure: Download it at <http://go.usa.gov/cGxkP>
- ✓ Learn what to do if you have lead-based paint in your home: Go to <http://go.usa.gov/cGxNG>
- ✓ Learn how to play clean at recreation areas: Go to <http://go.usa.gov/PvPh>

Lead in Drinking Water



Lead and cadmium in drinking water cannot be seen, tasted, or detected by smell. Testing is the only sure way of knowing what is in your drinking water. Run tap water and drinking fountains for at least 60 seconds before drinking. Always use safe sources of water.

Boiling water does not remove metal content.

Public water suppliers are required to meet safe drinking water standards and send yearly Consumer Confidence Reports. Reports include information about the water served to your property.

However, the plumbing from the property line into the home is owned and maintained by the landowner and in some cases may include lead pipes or fittings. If you are connected to a public water supply and would like to know if your own plumbing is adding lead to your drinking water, you may get your tap water tested by consulting the yellow pages for the nearest analytical laboratory. There are several facilities in the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene.

Homes served with private well water are not tested by others. Homeowners using private drinking water sources and who have completed the Basin property sampling program already know if their water tested high in lead or cadmium. When levels are unsafe, the cleanup program helps residents find a clean water supply or installs tap water filtration. If you have not enrolled in the Basin Property Remediation Program, call IDEQ at 783-5781.

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What's the Big Deal about Lead?



Riley Raccoon

Even low levels of lead in the blood of children can cause:

- Behavior and learning problems
- Lower IQ and hyperactivity
- Slowed growth
- Hearing problems
- Anemia

In extreme cases, ingesting lead can cause seizures, coma and even death. During pregnancy, lead can cause reduced growth of the fetus and premature birth. Lead is also harmful to adults. Adults exposed to lead can suffer from:

- Cardiovascular effects, increased blood pressure
- Decreased kidney function
- Reproductive problems (in both men and women)

If there is ongoing exposure, lead can build up in the body. Have your child tested. If levels are high, the Panhandle Health District offers free, confidential help to reduce potential lead sources.

Jet Boat Races: Reducing Risks

One leg of the proposed 2016 USA World Champion Jet Boat Races is slated for the Coeur d'Alene River in May. About 35 boats operating at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour will run between Cataldo and Harrison. The Coeur d'Alene River is a beautiful place for recreation. Even so, lead and other heavy metals can pose a risk in the area. Both the EPA and the Panhandle Health District are communicating with the Kootenai County Sheriff, to help reduce the risks.

Boat wakes can cause bank erosion and metals release. The jet boats themselves are expected to produce only small wakes compared to recreational boats. But wakes from the support boats could be of concern where the river banks are not armored. And, intense boat traffic can lift contaminated riverbed sediments into the water. Asking the support boats to limit their speed at certain times or locations is a possibility.

Plans are in the works to make sure that racers, spectators, and landowners receive health and safety information. The information will be aimed at reducing people's exposure to lead and other heavy metals.

Contact: Bill Adams, EPA, 800-424-4372 ext. 2806 • 206-553-2806 • adams.bill@epa.gov.



Limit exposure while watching from shore.

Going to Jet Boat Races?

Important Tips to Limit Exposure

Will you be watching the May jet boat races from the shores of the Coeur d'Alene River? Be sure to "play clean!" High levels of lead and other metals can be in the river and its banks. Keep your family safe and healthy. Reduce the amount of dirt and dust swallowed and breathed in:

- Avoid direct contact with bare dirt.
- Wash hands before eating.
- Eat on clean surfaces.
- Don't track dirt and dust home. Stop by the car wash. Leave your shoes at the door. Place clothes directly into the washer.
- Remember: Play clean while you enjoy this beautiful environment.

For more information, go to: <http://go.usa.gov/PvPh>.

What Are We Doing about the Lead in Our Area?

The EPA, along with many partners, has been cleaning up the area since the 1980s. The project is called the CDA Basin Cleanup. Protecting people's health is the cleanup's top priority. Great progress has been made. For example, with the help of IDEQ, over 7,000 yards, commercial properties, and public areas have been cleaned up. We have cleaned up several mine sites and some recreation areas. We are repairing roads to maintain barriers to exposure to contamination beneath the pavement.



Protecting people's health is the cleanup's top priority.

The Panhandle Health District runs a Lead Health Intervention Program for local families. They offer blood lead screening for local young children every summer. They also provide health and hygiene information to families as well as a free loaner HEPA vacuum cleaners. The health district also manages the Institutional Controls Program to maintain barriers to exposure.

Protecting people's health is the cleanup's top priority.

These are just a few examples of the many cleanup projects that have taken place through the years in the Basin. And there is much more work to be done. You can learn more in this issue of *Basin Bulletin*.

2016: Another Big Year for Cleanup



Clean up protects communities and the environment.

Expect another very big cleanup year! Cleanup expenditures could top \$30 million.

Addressing risks to people in community areas remains a top priority. Continued projects include remedy protection, Basin property remediation, and repair and replacement of roads that serve as barriers. This work brings us even closer to finishing most work in communities by 2020.

Work to address water quality and surface contamination will continue in Ninemile Creek. Cleanup at the Success Mine starts this year. Initial construction work at the Central Treatment Plant and groundwater collection system in Kellogg will begin, too. These efforts are expected to result in very big water quality improvements in the Upper Basin.

This will also be a big year for setting priorities and planning for the Lower Basin cleanup as the Upper Basin projects begin to be completed. We at the EPA are looking forward to working with the communities, our partners, and local jurisdictions during 2016.

CONTACT: **Bill Adams**, EPA, 206-553-2806 • 800-424-4372 ext. 2806 • adams.bill@epa.gov

Riverbank Studies: What We're Learning



The EPA has been studying and performing cleanups on the main stem of the CDA River and its floodplains for over two decades. The river transports heavy metal contamination from upstream historic mining operations. EPA studies show that the riverbed between Cataldo and Harrison is a major source of lead and other heavy metals to Lake Coeur d'Alene and to the river's floodplains. Monitoring tells us that, on average, over 300 tons of lead per year are transported to Lake Coeur d'Alene. About 80% of the lead load at Harrison comes from the riverbed. Studies also reveal that the same metals are bound up in the riverbanks and distributed in the floodplain.

As the riverbanks erode, lead is released into the water. Coeur d'Alene River banks that have not been stabilized may erode on average up to 3 inches per year, contributing about 10% of the lead suspended in water at Harrison. Sediments deposited in the floodplain after flooding contain heavy metal contamination. Lead in the sediments typically ranges from 3000 to 5000 parts per million. The amount of sediment deposited varies with each flood and with the location in the floodplain.

CONTACT: **Ed Moreen**, EPA • 208-664-4588 • moreen.ed@epa.gov

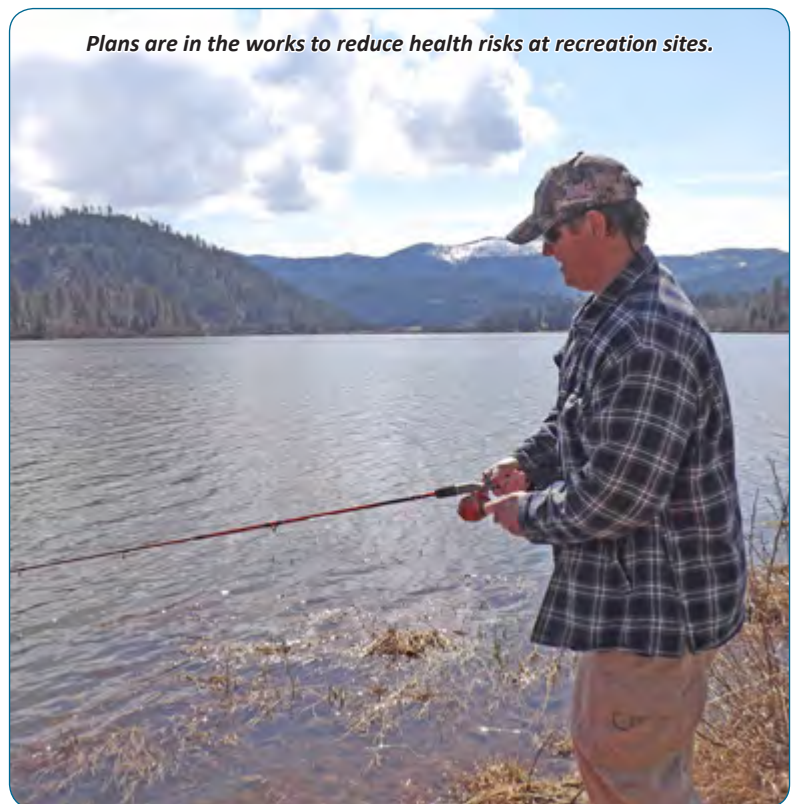
Protecting Public Health in Local Recreation Areas

Community collaboration soon may help shape a plan for recreation areas. The EPA, DEQ, and PHD are drawing up strategies to reduce people's health risks while they are recreating. Once preliminary scoping is done, the agencies will invite input from the community. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to help!

Soil testing shows that shorelines, river floodplains, and historic mine and mill sites are high in lead and other metals. Outdoor summertime activities in these areas can raise blood lead levels, particularly for children. Due to the potential for recontamination from annual floods, typical property remediation approaches would not be permanent at most recreation sites. Other approaches are being considered.

The Recreation Plan may:

- Inventory recreation sites.
- Summarize specific risks and exposures that are unique to recreation.
- Identify conditions unique to recreation sites.
- Identify projects that may influence a change toward healthy behaviors.



CONTACTS: **Craig Cameron**, EPA • 509-376-8665 •

cameron.craig@epa.gov or

Dana Swift, Idaho DEQ, Boise • 208-373-0296 •
dana.swift@deq.idaho.gov

Finding the Right Solutions for Lower Basin

The EPA will ask communities to help make cleanup plans in the Lower Basin.



The EPA is beginning work on a plan to identify and prioritize ongoing and future cleanup work in the Lower Basin. The Lower Basin is a complex system of river bed and bank, wetlands and upland areas. People and wildlife use the resources of the Lower Basin in countless ways. The EPA is developing a computer model that will show how water, sediment and contamination move through the system. This effort will help EPA test cleanup options for this complex system. The EPA is continuing to collect and analyze a range of data that will also help to evaluate and prioritize cleanup options. As part of this effort the EPA is getting input from partners and the public. There will be a number of opportunities for the community and interested citizens to be involved in this planning process over the next year.

CONTACT: **Tracy Chellis**, EPA • 206-553-6326 • 800-424-4372 ext. 6326 • chellis.tracy@epa.gov

Introducing Wendy Green Lowe, Facilitator

Have you met Wendy? Wendy Green Lowe is the new facilitator available to the Basin Commission's Citizens Coordinating Council, or CCC. She will also support the Basin Commission by conducting an assessment of its public involvement efforts and then making recommendations. Additionally, Wendy will work with the EPA. She will help identify Lower Basin stakeholders and help us integrate community values into our planning process for the Lower Basin. Wendy is working under a contract funded by the EPA. Welcome, Wendy!

CONTACT: **Wendy Green Lowe** • 208-520-5338

Wendy Green Lowe ⇨



Lane Marsh: Project to Evaluate Benefit to Water Birds



Lane Marsh: Finding ways to protect birds from lead.

The CDA Basin team kicked off its field season by installing test plots at Lane Marsh. The test plots will help evaluate a project that applies thin layers of clean soil over contaminated wetland sediments. Placing this "cap" could help protect water birds from lead. You might notice the test plot stakes just off State Highway 3.

During the spring migration, thousands of birds flock to Lane Marsh and other contaminated wetlands in the area. Here, the surface lead concentrations are often toxic to Tundra Swans and other waterfowl. The focus of the pilot project is to evaluate the methods, costs, and effectiveness of placing several thin layers of clean sediment over time to reduce waterfowl exposure. If proven to be successful it could be applied at a larger scale in the Lower Basin. The project will also look at whether this method would resist recontamination from large floods. We will monitor the plots through next fall to observe how the vegetation recovers. We will also study the stability, migration and potential recontamination of the new clean sediment. The EPA is evaluating this technique as part of an overall strategy to increase the amount of healthy, usable habitat while decreasing the amount of habitat that may be attractive but toxic to waterfowl. CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA, 206-553-0239 • 800-424-4372 ext. 0239 • prestbo.kim@epa.gov

Working Together to Create Habitat: Robinson Creek Wetlands

A 47-acre piece of former pasture land in the Lower Basin continues to get some TLC. Robinson Creek wetlands is the focus of a collaborative effort to restore habitat. The restored wetlands will provide safe feeding and nesting sites for water birds. Idaho Department of Fish and Game plans to plant wetland vegetation, install a parking lot, and control weeds. Vegetation will include culturally significant plants for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The project has many partners including, IDEQ, EPA, The Restoration Partnership, and other stakeholders. Work is under way now. It will be completed this year and open to the public. The wetlands are located on Hwy 3 about nine miles south of the I-90 Rose Lake exit.

CONTACT: **Bruce Schuld**, IDEQ • 208-783-5781 • bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov



Wetlands habitat work is going on now at Robinson Creek

Trust Project Aims to Reduce Diesel Emissions, Protect Health



Reducing diesel emissions can reduce health risks.

This year, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust on behalf of EPA will initiate a project focused on reducing diesel emissions from contractor vehicles. The goal is to improve air quality and protect people, such as local families and workers, from breathing in air that could put their health at risk. Vulnerable populations, like the young, the elderly, and people with asthma and other respiratory issues are most at risk from diesel emissions. The Trust conducted a survey of local contractor vehicles and has made recommendations for reducing emissions based on the age and type of equipment available. Recommendations include offering a financial incentive to contractors proposing effective equipment upgrades.

"On this cleanup project, we have focused on reducing health risks posed by ingesting and inhaling lead in the soil which remains top priority. However each year, hundreds of trucks haul waste from property cleanups and other projects to waste repositories. We feel it is important to address the health risks posed by diesel emissions, too," says Bill Adams, Coeur d'Alene Team Leader. Similar efforts are under way at other Superfund sites and many other state and local agencies across the country. The project is expected to roll out over the calendar year. CONTACT: **Dan Meyer**, CDA Trust • 208-783-0222 • dmeyer@cda-trust.com

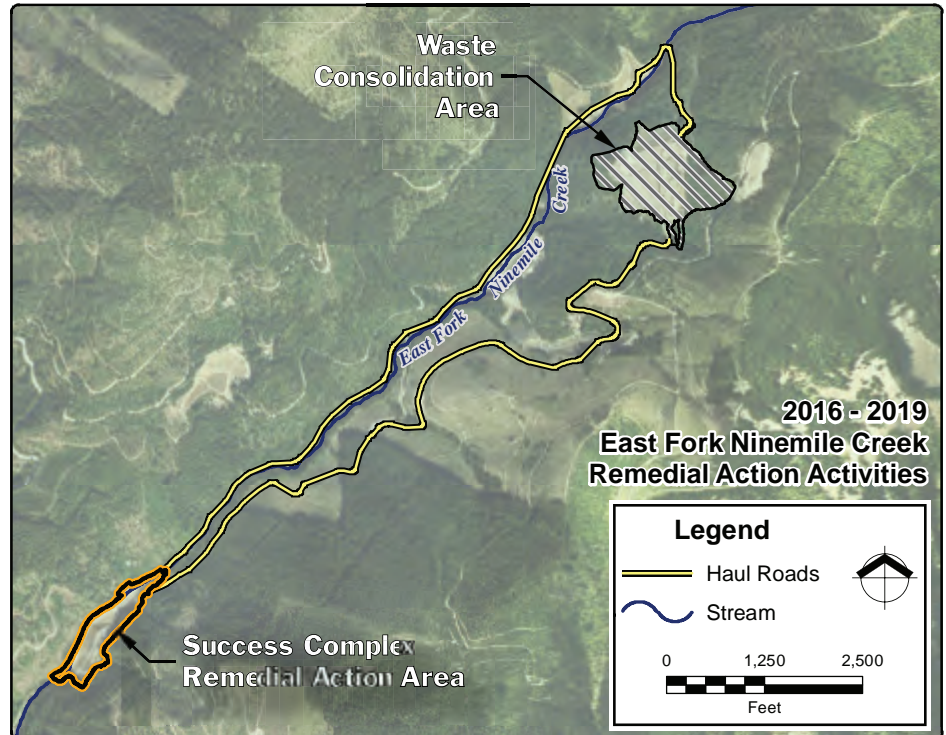


Learn More About the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup on the Web

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>

Cleanup at Success Mine to Get Started

Cleanup work at the old Success Mine is set to begin this spring. The complex is located up in the East Fork Ninemile area. The CDA Work Trust expects the cleanup to take 4 years. Regular local roads will remain open. Once the work gets started, the access roads highlighted on the map, between the Success Complex and the Waste Consolidation Area, are anticipated to be closed to public access from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those roads will be open to public access after 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and all day on Saturday and Sunday. Trucks will haul contaminated waste from Success to the Waste Consolidation Area up canyon. The project will help control sources of heavy metals like lead, protecting the local ecology and people downstream.



CONTACT: Tracy Chellis, EPA • 206-553-6326 • 800-424-4372 ext. 6326 • chellis.tracy@epa.gov

Drainage Improvements Coming to Mullan



Culverts on Boulder Creek at School Street will be replaced.

Construction will take place at two Mullan 'Remedy Protection' projects this summer. The work is designed to reduce erosion and recontamination from runoff. It will help protect people's health by keeping already-cleaned-up areas clean.

- The size of Mill Creek between Hunter and Court Streets will be increased to carry more water. Work will include deepening the channel and installing creek bank concrete block walls. Workers will also replace the pedestrian and vehicle bridges. Work will begin in mid-summer. Construction on Mill Creek north of about Hunter Street will take place in 2017.
- A system of subsurface storm water pipes, roadside drainage ditches and regraded streets will be constructed in the Copper Street neighborhood in southeast Mullan. Boulder Creek culverts at School Street will be replaced. Work is expected to begin in June.

CONTACT: Anne McCauley, EPA, 206-553-4689 • 800-424-4372 ext. 4689 • mccauley.anne@epa.gov

Paved Road Remediation: Going the Extra Mile to Protect People's Health



New pavement serves as a barrier to contamination underneath.

The Paved Roadway Surface Remediation program continues in full swing this construction season. So far, 48 miles of roads have been addressed. Many of the fixes have included full rebuilds. The large volumes of contaminated base materials and asphalt led the program to develop Limited Use Repositories to accommodate the materials. When these LURs are closed and capped, they will be flat spaces ready for redevelopment by businesses.

In addition to the Paved Roads program, the Remedy Protection program repaired streets after providing drainage features such as culverts. That program took care of 27 road and street segments adding up to almost 3 miles of work.

Up to 90 street segments will be remediated this season throughout the Silver Valley, amounting to a maximum of 22 miles of roadway. Most of that work includes full rebuilds of segments in the worst condition. Some of the segments are 'contingencies' and will be done this year only if the priority work comes in under budget. Much of the work in Kellogg has been coordinated with sewer/water system work to stretch the resources available to the EPA and the City of Kellogg even further. Kellogg's Paved Roads program has been limited until this season because of the City's efforts to coordinate the roads work with infrastructure work funded by a USDA Rural Improvement Grant. Kellogg will be rebuilding about 68 street segments and over 11 miles in 2016.

If you have questions about which roads are being remediated and the schedule, please contact your local city or county roads officials. Also once construction starts, watch for the weekly road updates published in your local paper by IDEQ and on the Web at <https://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin>.

If you have general program questions, call **Bruce Schuld** of IDEQ's Kellogg office at 208-783-5781.

Local Committee Focuses on West Silver Valley Clean Air

By Carol Young, Resident

The West Silver Valley Clean Air Advisory Committee is an active group of volunteers. The group offers local resident support to regain clean air attainment in the west Silver Valley area. The committee serves as a forum to identify and understand local air quality issues. It gives residents a way to participate in establishing emission reduction techniques necessary for the development of a successful State Implementation Plan. Everyone is invited to attend. Meetings take place the third Thursday of the each month at 6:00 p.m. Meetings alternate between Panhandle Health District in Kellogg and the Pinehurst City Hall.

Accomplishments this past year include reaching out to the community via press releases and public service announcements, maintaining a Facebook page, developing a logo, and creating brochures. The committee has also hosted public meetings, supported burning ordinance adoption, distributed “No Idling” signs, worked cooperatively with IDEQ, hosted guest speakers, and provided material at community functions. These efforts will continue, as well as hosting an open house and assisting in launching a wood stove change-out program.



A volunteer group is working for clean air in the Silver Valley

Learn more on the web at <https://www.facebook.com/WestSilverValleyCleanAir>.

Limited Use Repositories: Osburn, Kellogg

The agencies are looking into a couple possible locations for new Limited Use Repositories. LURs are locations that only accept wastes from roads work, which typically have lower levels of contamination. LURs are operated for a fairly short time and then are closed and capped following the Institutional Controls Program requirements.

Sites are intended to become more desirable for development by the property owners. The possible new locations include a commercial property in Osburn that needs remediation and a vacant area near the transfer station outside Kellogg. Having another safe alternative for disposal reduces hauling distance, limits wear and tear on roads, reduces emissions, and lowers costs of development. Stay tuned for more information as these projects develop.

CONTACT: **Craig Cameron**, EPA, 509-376-8665 • cameron.craig@epa.gov

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>

Opportunities to Get Involved

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Terry Harwood

208-783-2528

<http://www.basincommission.com>

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

CHAIR:

Jerry Boyd

509-220-1453

<http://www.basincommission.com/ccc.asp>

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

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 editors, or submit articles for consideration, contact Andrea Lindsay as noted. 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

Andrea Lindsay

 Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov  1-800-424-4372 ext. 1896



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

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>

