



Play Safe: Recreating in a Superfund Cleanup Area



Every year, the trees and foliage within the Bunker Hill Superfund Site cover more and more of the once barren hillsides around Kellogg. Abandoned mine sites dotting the landscape are starting to look more like potential camp sites and are often visited by history and nature buffs alike. As the scarred hillsides and valleys heal and develop into lush landscape, Panhandle Health District and the Department of Environmental Quality want to remind you to protect yourself and your family from the risks associated with these areas. Most abandoned mine sites are not fenced off and do not have signs warning people of potential hazards. Beware of hard-to-see open shafts - hundreds of feet deep - and mine dumps that contain dangerous heavy metals. When disturbed, these metals can easily be breathed in or swallowed. Lead, arsenic and other harmful elements are nearly impossible to see with the naked eye. To prevent exposure, always wash your hands before eating, clean mud off your vehicle, leave dirty shoes and clothes outside your home and avoid activities in the soil that create dust. For more ways you can avoid exposure to lead and other toxic substances while enjoying the outdoors, please visit <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean> or call **Panhandle Health District • 208-783-0707**.

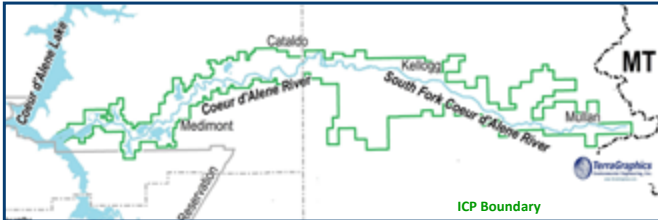
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**Learn more about the
Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup
on the Web**
<http://go.usa.gov/caz4h>

Free Kids' Blood Lead Screening in August

Panhandle Health District is offering a free blood lead screening in Kellogg, Idaho, August 7 – 12. Join us at the Shoshone Medical Center. Children ages 6 months to 6 years, who live within the Institutional Controls Program boundary (see map), will receive blood lead testing at no cost, plus a \$30 incentive. The testing is 'first come, first served' and requires a simple finger prick and a short lead exposure questionnaire. Everyone is encouraged to come in, learn more and get tested. Testing typically takes 15-20 minutes per person. Results are available right away. If the result shows over 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or greater, drawing from the vein is



Institutional Controls Program Map

necessary to confirm, and can be performed immediately, on-site. If venous results are consistent with the finger prick, it is recommended the child's physician is notified. Panhandle Health District will make an appointment for a home visit in efforts to identify the source of exposure. Blood lead monitoring in the Silver Valley began in the early 1970's. At that time, 99 percent of the children

tested had blood lead levels over $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, with a high of $164 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. In the past, if a doctor had suspicion of lead poisoning, tests were conducted, but blood lead levels are not always included in a child's regular physical. Panhandle Health District's efforts today to identify levels above $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ will allow families, doctors, and communities to act earlier to limit further lead exposure. For more information, call **Panhandle Health District** at 208-783-0707.

Public Weighs in on SVNRT Repository Rebuild

Thank you to the many people who commented on the rebuild design of the old SVNRT repository in the Canyon Creek area. EPA plans to reconstruct the repository because it is leaking contaminants into Canyon Creek. Mine waste from the old SVNRT and future high priority Canyon Creek mine and mill site cleanups will be moved into the new repository.

The new repository will be called the *Canyon Complex Repository*. The comment period ran from March 22 to April 21. The Citizens Coordinating Council hosted an Open House on April 5. EPA received a range of comments from the public.

Project managers are carefully considering those comments now, and expect to respond by the end of July. Find a fact sheet and the 30 Percent Design document at the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Superfund website (go.usa.gov/caz4h)



The SVNRT site is located in the Canyon Creek area, near Wallace, ID

CONTACT: **Bonnie Arthur**, EPA • 206-553-4072 • 800-424-4372 ext. 4072 • arthur.bonnie@epa.gov

Basin House Dust Sampling: Opportunity to Participate

House dust can contain lead, from contaminated soils carried in from outside, or from deterioration of lead-based paint in pre-1978 homes, before such paint was banned. Lead in house dust can pose a risk to your family's health. During July 2017, samplers will visit homes in the Basin and ask residents if they are willing to participate. Participation will include placing a carpeted mat inside your home for about one month. When samplers return, they will collect the mat, collect a dust sample from an indoor vacuum cleaner, and ask a series of questions.



Questions will include topics such as the residents' recreational activities and hobbies, and the age of the home and renovations. We are seeking to collect samples from up to 360 homes throughout the Basin this summer. Property owners will be mailed sample results. Consultations about healthy living are available from the Panhandle Health District, 208-783-0707.

If you are willing to participate, please contact: **Alan Davis**, Coeur d'Alene Work Trust • 208-783-0222 • or **Anne McCauley**, EPA • 206-553-4689 • 800-424-4372, ext. 4689 • mccauley.anne@epa.gov

Basin Yards Cleanup in Full Swing



In 2017, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust continues Basin Property Remediation Program cleanups. They'll be working on Upper and Lower Basin residential and commercial properties and road shoulders. These property cleanups protect people's health. Generally, the top 6-12 inches of contaminated soil is removed, and replaced by clean soil. To date, over 7,000 properties have already been cleaned up Basin-wide. If you believe your property may be eligible and you'd like to have it sampled for mining-related metals, please contact **IDEQ** • 208-783-5781 • or **Alan Davis**, Coeur d'Alene Trust, • 208-783-0222.

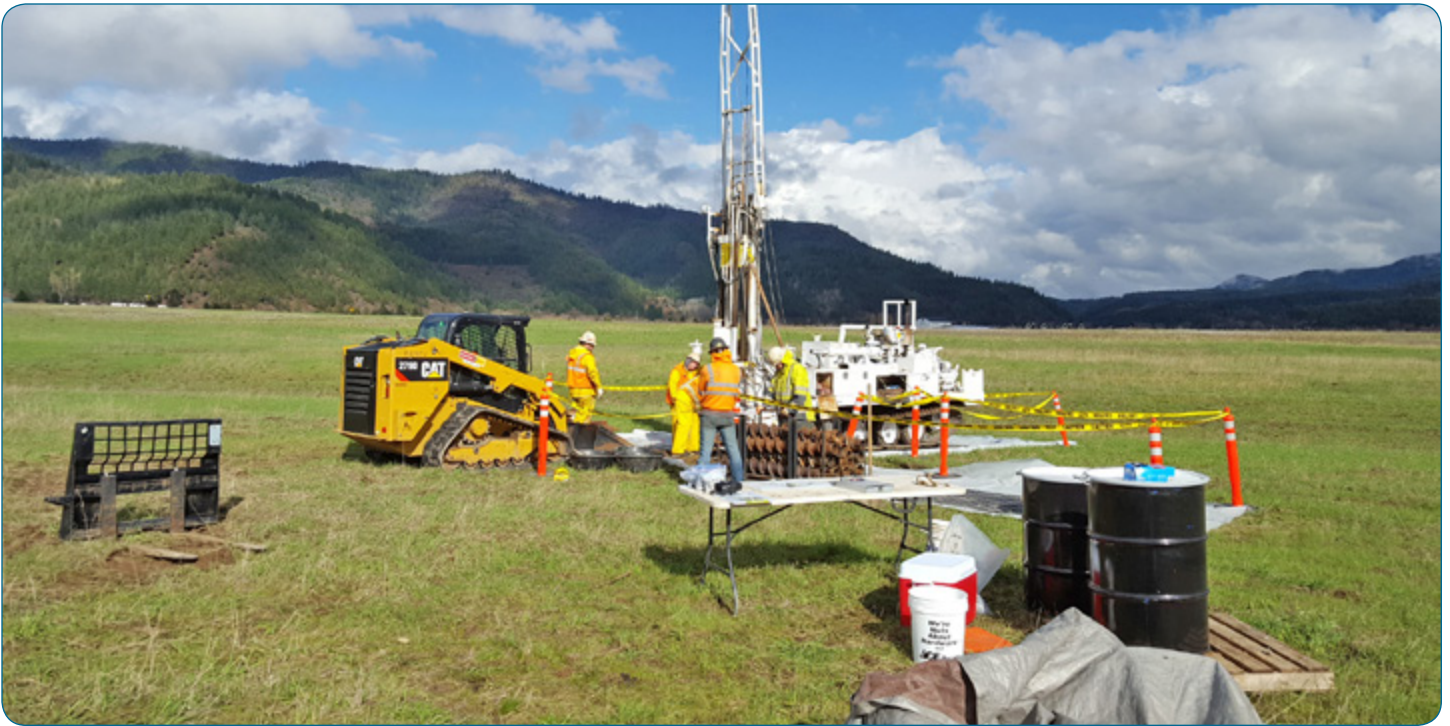
Partnering for Healthy Communities

Thank you to all who attended the "Partnering for Healthy Communities Workshop" in April, in Idaho's Silver Valley. Forty-five people with a public health role in the area began a facilitated conversation around human health and metals exposure. Participants shared information about community health concerns, activities, and resources. They heard a range of perspectives on the cleanup and explored opportunities to collaborate in small group sessions. To see a [PDF summary](#), visit <https://go.usa.gov/xNe2a>

CONTACT: **Andy Helkey**, Panhandle Health District • 208-783-0707 • ahelkey@phd1.idaho.gov



Work Full Steam Ahead on Central Treatment Plant and Groundwater Collection System



Workers drill soil borings on top of the Central Impoundment Area to collect geotechnical data.

Since its February 2017 Notice to Proceed, Amec Foster Wheeler has been in full throttle preparing for improvements to the Bunker Hill Central Treatment Plant. The firm officially took on plant operations on May 3, 2017, with operations largely being led by local contractor, Ferguson Contracting, Inc. The early spring was also spent collecting additional survey, geotechnical, and groundwater data to support design. The team contracted with local firms Silver Valley Engineering, Silver Valley Laboratory, Environmental West Exploration, and Geotek to support site investigation.

Work is well under way on design of the treatment plant, slurry wall, groundwater collection system, and the sludge impoundment area. Amec Foster Wheeler expects to complete minor sitework construction activities this summer and fall. The groundwater collection system will make a significant reduction in zinc pollution going into the South Fork of the Coeur d' Alene River. A 2-page document answering questions about it is now available. Find it online at <https://go.usa.gov/xNtkM>

Work in September and October 2017 will include installing 24 control wells, and preparing the site for installation of a temporary treatment system. Most site construction activities will start in April 2018, when the design of the entire facility is complete. Amec Foster Wheeler is committed to providing opportunities to local businesses, and expects to have bid packages for construction ready for competitive bids in November 2017. The firm is planning to hold an open house in October 2017 to provide information for subcontracting opportunities.

“Amec Foster Wheeler is pleased to have been awarded the Bunker Hill CTP project and is looking forward to working with the community, local businesses, IDEQ, USACE, and EPA in the completion of this important project,” said Scott Anderson, Senior Vice President of Amec Foster Wheeler’s Environment and Infrastructure business.

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

Local Foot Trail Will Close Due to Groundwater Study in Fall 2017

This fall, Amec Foster Wheeler plans to install 24 groundwater monitoring wells (control wells) along the north side of the Central Impoundment Area. This will require closing the portion of the trail between the CIA and I-90 from early September to mid-November. Within the next month, you will see signs at the east and west entrances to the trail notifying trail users that it will be closed during that time period.

Looking ahead, Amec Foster Wheeler will start to remove billboards along the CIA around March or April of 2018, and will begin drilling groundwater extraction wells in May. The trail will be closed during these field activities, which will continue until late fall 2018, with the onset of winter weather.

CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA • 206-553-0239 • 800-424-4372 ext. 0239 • prestbo.kim@epa.gov



This trail will be closed from September to November

Rare Black Terns Discovered in Lower Basin



A rare black tern nesting colony was recently discovered near Medimont in the Lower Basin. The birds were found on the Schlepp property, a 400-acre farmland-to-wetland conservation easement. EPA collaborated with many partners to convert the area to clean feeding habitat for waterfowl. It was completed in 2011. Black tern colonies are scarce in Idaho; the Idaho Department of Fish and Game considers them a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need.” Welcome, tern family! Check out [this video](#) to see the adult birds protecting the nest: <https://youtu.be/3XUTh8rsnW4>.

For more information on the [habitat conversion project](#), see <https://go.usa.gov/xN7ZG>.

CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA, 206-553-0239 • 800-424-4372, ext. 0239 • prestbo.kim@epa.gov, or

Chris Bonsignore, Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited • 509-893-2834 • cbonsignore@ducks.org



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

A Productive Season for Road Paving



The Paved Roads remediation program continues to speed along in both the Box and Basin. This season, over 4.5 miles are to be paved in the Box, and 6 miles in the Basin. One of the major efforts is taking place in Kellogg, where paving is being coordinated with sewer work funded by city grants. About 3.5 miles of the remaining 7 miles will be paved in Kellogg this construction season.

Paving has been completed on Lower Page Road by Shoshone County, carry-over work from 2016. Paving on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd streets in Silverton has been completed. This is carry-over work from 2016 County Basin projects. Most of the base preparation work is complete in Mullan, and paving is taking place on School Street.

This work includes 2016 carry-over as well as 2017 work. All sub-grade, and base work is complete in Osburn, and paving has started on Yellowstone Avenue. No paved roads work is currently taking place in Wallace, Kellogg, or Pinehurst.

Before this season, road paving was completed in Wardner, Smelterville, and the East Side Highway District of Kootenai County. Shoshone County's scope in the Box and Basin should be substantially complete after this season.

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



Paving 2nd Street in Mullan

Limited Use Repositories Take In Truckloads of Waste

Limited Use Repositories accept waste only from replacement of local paved roads under the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup. These locations are engineered to securely hold contaminated materials, reducing impacts to people and the environment. So far, about 500 truckloads of road waste have gone to the Limited Use Repository in Government Gulch, and about 700 truckloads of Institutional Controls Program waste from the infrastructure work have gone to the Community Fill Plan facility next to the LUR. Each truck contains about 10 loose cubic yards.

In the Basin, road waste has been streaming into the two active LURs, with the Zanetti Yard LUR in Osburn receiving about 650 truckloads, and the LUR near the Shoshone County Transfer Station receiving at least 600 truckloads of asphalt and slightly contaminated base materials. Basin infrastructure waste (about 70 truckloads so far) is mainly going to the Lower Burke Canyon Repository under the ICP program. Once the LURs and CFP are closed they will provide new level ground to support redevelopment. The East Osburn LUR is already closed and capped, and is available for redevelopment or use by the property owner.



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

Keeping Cleaned Up Areas Clean: Remedy Protection



Remedy protection work will continue this summer within the upper half of Mill Creek in Mullan, and along Valley View Road near Kingston. In addition, paving in the Copper Street neighborhood will be completed after utility upgrades are complete, and wing walls on the new Remedy Protection Boulder Creek culvert are installed. Completed Remedy Protection projects throughout the Box and Basin continued to perform well, and as designed, during this year's heavy spring runoff season.

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

Interstate-Callahan Cleanup Reducing Metals in Creek



Cleanup of the Interstate-Callahan Rock Dumps in the East Fork Ninemile Creek Basin was completed in fall 2015. About 216,000 cubic yards of contaminated waste rock were dug up and placed in the East Fork Ninemile waste consolidation area. Workers reconstructed about 1,700 feet of East Fork Ninemile Creek, as well as two tributary channels that divide the area. The Coeur d'Alene Trust has monitored surface water in the creek above and below the site. The Trust has observed reduced metal concentrations and loading since the cleanup was completed. Lead and zinc were the most prevalent metals at the rock dumps. Annual loading estimates between 2014 and 2016 show a reduction of about 45% lead and 68% zinc, a year after the cleanup.

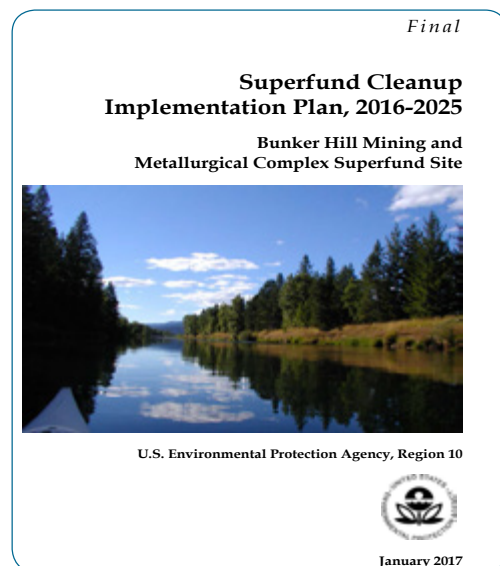
CONTACT: **Tracy Chellis**, EPA • 206-553-6326 • 800-424-4372 ext. 6326 • chellis.tracy@epa.gov

Implementation Plan to be Updated Every 5 Years

Updates of the Superfund Cleanup Implementation Plan, or SCIP, will now take place every five years. In the past, updates were made annually. The SCIP is a technical document which spells out the general approach to cleanup work in the Basin over the next decade. EPA has found that few changes were occurring year to year. Plus, there was limited public interest despite wide publicity about the updates.

The Basin Commission's annual work planning process, which invites public input, will continue. To see the [most recent SCIP](http://go.usa.gov/xXa6x), visit <http://go.usa.gov/xXa6x>

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



Busy Season for Lower Basin Testing

2016 and 2017 have been busy years for collecting and analyzing data from the Lower Basin to guide future cleanup actions. Two important reports were finalized as part of the Enhanced Conceptual Site Model for the Lower Basin Coeur d'Alene River:

1. Technical Memorandum Addendum D-3 – Processes of Sediment and Lead Transport, Erosion, and Deposition (August 2016) and
2. Technical Memorandum Addendum E-6 – Riverbed Characterization (June 2017).

Soon, these will be available on [EPA's website \(http://go.usa.gov/caz4h\)](http://go.usa.gov/caz4h). Floodwaters were sampled in March 2017, during the high runoff event, to help determine where sediments with high concentrations of metals are getting eroded from the river bed and carried downstream. EPA also collected and evaluated data from several important floodplain areas next to the river. Data were collected in areas that are frequently flooded during storm events. Results will help us estimate deposition rates and the potential for recontamination from the river. Areas with a lower potential for recontamination would be a higher priority for cleanup. Other areas were sampled to test existing soils and evaluate options for cleaning up and restoring these sensitive wetlands.

You may see scientists collecting samples and installing monitoring equipment in Lane Marsh this summer and fall. This project is part of ongoing studies to test methods for protecting waterfowl by laying down very thin layers of clean native material that reduce exposure to lead but do not harm the wetlands. EPA scientists are also studying the chemistry of lead and other metals in these complex wetland environments, to determine how to "bind" the lead so that it's less available and toxic to waterfowl and other wildlife. EPA's ultimate goal is to reduce the available lead, through cleanup or other techniques, in order to reduce exposure to the public, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

CONTACT: **Kim Prestbo**, EPA • 206-553-0239 • 800-424-4372 ext. 0239 • prestbo.kim@epa.gov

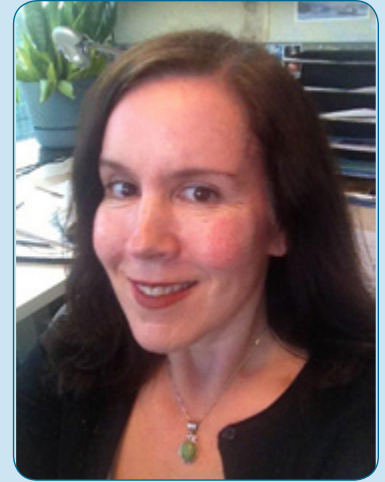


Comings and Goings

Many Thanks to Andrea, Welcome Back Debra!



This summer, Andrea Lindsay, EPA Community Involvement Team lead, will step back from the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup to work on the Bristol Bay project in Alaska. Andrea has been making contributions to the Basin effort since 2004. She says, "It has been gratifying to serve the local communities, who care so much about this area. I've had the chance to work with many wonderful people." During Andrea's absence, EPA's Debra Sherbina will become the community involvement lead. Debra has been serving as a community involvement coordinator on the project over past years, and is excited to take on this new role.



During this time, we will all miss the leadership and dedication that Andrea has brought to the project and community. However, we know Debra will do a great job in supporting the Bunker Hill team, coordinating with Rene Gilbert in the Silver Valley, consulting with Andrea as necessary, and serving the community as the cleanup continues.

Welcome, Dan McCracken!

IDEQ's cleanup team in Kellogg recently welcomed Dan McCracken as their Coeur d'Alene Basin Project Manager. He will be stepping in behind Bruce Schuld. Dan is a professional engineer and has worked on the Bunker Hill cleanup since 2007. Among his many important contributions to protect health locally, he led planning for the cleanup of over 1,500 local properties while working with TerraGraphics. He is active in his community, and looks forward to building more strong working relationships in his new role. Dan enjoys fishing and vintage stuff, like his 1958 Dorsett Monterey boat. You can reach Dan at 208-783-5781, or dan.mccracken@deq.idaho.gov



Come See Us !

- ✓ **Free Annual Cleanup Tour**, sponsored by the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, on **August 16**
- ✓ Stop by our exhibit at the **North Idaho Fair, August 23 --27**
- ✓ Visit our booth at the Shoshone Medical Center **Children's Health Fair** on **September 16**

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>

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

<http://www.basincommission.com>

Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

CHAIR:

Jerry Boyd

509-220-1453


<http://www.basincommission.com/ccc.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 editors, or submit articles for consideration, contact Debra Sherbina 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



 *Debra Sherbina at 206-553-0247.*

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



EPA Community Involvement Contact

Debra Sherbina

 sherbina.debra@epa.gov  1-800-424-4372 ext. 0247



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