

# Community Involvement Plan



## Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup Project

October 2014

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[www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill)

This plan lays out how the EPA will provide information and work with communities on the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup. Ideas from residents, local groups, and community organizations helped shape this plan. Your suggestions for improving this plan and our involvement with the community are welcome at any time.

The EPA and its partners have made significant progress in cleaning up the area to make it a healthier place for people to live, work, play, and raise their families. However, heavy metals from historical mining and smelting still present risks to the environment and people, especially children. The Superfund cleanup program is helping to reduce this risk. The cleanup will take a long time, perhaps decades. The EPA plans to work as efficiently as possible, and leave the area a cleaner, safer place.

The EPA is committed to working in a positive way with local communities and residents. Most community involvement activities are carried out in partnership with others, such as the State of Idaho, Panhandle Health District, and the Basin Commission. Many people tell us that they appreciate the cleanup. They say the cleanup has brought many benefits to the area. Community members also tell us that the EPA is now doing a better job working with the public.

Not everyone supports the cleanup. Some people remain frustrated about previous EPA decisions and actions. We acknowledge these concerns. We recognize that the cleanup has been controversial and disruptive. We are working to fulfill our mandate to protect the health of people and the environment. The cleanup is a big job. The EPA could not do it without its many partners. The EPA will continue to work with other organizations and agencies.

### The EPA Invites Your Input

If you have suggestions or would like more information about the cleanup, contact:

**Andrea Lindsay,**  
Community Involvement Coordinator, Seattle,  
✉ [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov)  
☎ 1-800-424-4372 or 206-553-1896

**Rene Gilbert**  
Community Liaison, Kellogg,  
✉ [gilbert.maureen@epa.gov](mailto:gilbert.maureen@epa.gov)  
☎ 208-659-5237



## Community Involvement Goals

The EPA's project staff is committed to a meaningful community involvement program. Listening to input from local stakeholders has helped us update our communication goals.

Our goals are to:

- Make available timely, relevant information about site activities and their benefits.
- Present information in a clear, understandable way.
- Continue coordinating at the local level.
- Foster open communication, responding to questions and concerns as they arise.
- Be clear about where the public can influence cleanup decisions.
- Give residents the chance to engage on localized projects that may affect them.
- Offer formal public comment opportunities on major EPA decision documents.
- Listen to and consider local input.

## Local Voices Helped Shape this Plan

This plan is designed to align with the needs of the community. To tailor the plan, we asked local people about their views of the cleanup and how they want to be informed and involved. In May 2014, community involvement coordinators met with and interviewed more than 20 people.

We heard from local citizens, elected officials, a tribal member, economic representatives, health care representatives, a realtor, an educator, local business owners, and many others. The EPA also invited comments and suggestions using mail, email, Facebook, and newspaper ads. To date, we have not received any comments or suggestions in response to those invitations. We thank everyone who took the time to meet with us and share their ideas. Although we met with a small percentage of the population, it represents a wide spectrum of views.

Here is a summary:

### Local values:

- People have a strong sense of community and care deeply about the area.
- People are proud of their rich cultural history and mining heritage.
- People treasure the “minerals beneath our feet.”
- People want a robust local economy with well-paying jobs and opportunities for development.
- People value the natural resources for services they provide and as living beings, and believe we should take only what we can use.
- People want good fishing, recreation, and tourism; they want to attract people to the area.
- People value environmentally safe and healthy families and neighborhoods.
- People want citizen input to be valued and respected.
- People expect some level of local control over cleanup decisions.



*Local people participate in the cleanup process*

## People's thoughts on the cleanup generally:

- The community notices and appreciates the visible improvements in the Valley brought by the cleanup. Several people linked the cleanup with local economic benefit.
- One person said, "A lot of good work is going on."
- A couple people mentioned that the cleanup doesn't seem to hinder people from coming here and it might even help draw them in.
- People now have more confidence that money is not being wasted and that projects are working. Now people are focused on just getting it done.
- One person stated, "We are all in this together" and said that the EPA's coordination at the local level is better now. Another person noted that local jurisdictions now feel more a part of the team.
- Several people noted that there will always be those who oppose the cleanup and the EPA's presence. General mistrust and resentment of the government and the EPA in particular are part of the area's culture.
- People are excited about the roads program and believe it is a good example of local coordination that benefits everyone.
- The EPA was encouraged to take a Basin-wide approach and emphasize that the Basin is a system and includes Coeur d'Alene Lake.
- One person mentioned that the fact that average blood lead levels are just under the national average is evidence that the cleanup program has worked.
- Three people expressed the view that the ICP (Institutional Controls Program) is a good, workable program.
- One person commented that there must be a balance between industry and the environment, noting there appears to be an anti-mining sentiment among the agencies. Another person noted that "environmental health equals economic health." A third person stated that, "All cleanup considerations must support and help economic stability within our community."
- One individual thought the signs near the river might not be effective and expressed concern about seeing people play in the contaminated sediment.
- Some people mistakenly think the cleanup is winding down and that jobs may "dry up."
- One person noted that the community fill program has helped make development possible.
- Two people said some residents are not maintaining their remediated yards.
- A couple people mentioned the importance of making the money last and retaining some funds for cleanup in the Lower Basin.
- The EPA was encouraged to expedite the Lower Basin cleanup, as "contaminants there are the responsibility of the EPA...and they are pouring into the Lake."
- One person said, "I hope that the EPA is able to work to get the whole thing cleaned up."



### **Topics Outside of the EPA's Authority**

- A couple of people referred to the change in the CDC's blood lead number, with one calling it a "moving goal post."
- A couple of people expressed concern about the FEMA flood map.
- One individual noted a desire for more help in attracting businesses.

## People's thoughts on the community involvement program:

- Many people reported that their relationships with the EPA have improved in recent years.
- One person stated, "In the distant past, people weren't given a voice; they have a voice now."
- Several people stated that lines of communication are open and working and that outreach efforts are effective. "The tone is changing," said one individual.
- It was noted that people who want information can get it.
- Several people said that most people get their information from the rumor mill, and it's often inaccurate.
- Several individuals noted that many people are no longer interested in the cleanup, unless they are directly, immediately affected. One person said there is still a responsibility for transparency, however.
- Many people voiced appreciation for the local outreach work of Rene Gilbert (EPA community liaison) and Denna Grangaard (DEQ public outreach analyst).
- Several people commented that they like the new format of the cleanup's Basin Bulletin newsletter.
- One person said they like the cleanup's Facebook page.



*Many people shared ideas for community involvement.*

## Suggestions to EPA staff for working with local communities:



*The EPA invites people be informed and involved.*

- Approach the local residents as neighbors.
- Take the time to build personal relationships.
- Keep inviting people to participate.
- Follow up with answers to questions to help build trust.
- Keep local public officials informed. Keep the Basin Commission in the loop.
- Hold open houses instead of more formal events.
- Continue bringing information door-to-door.
- Keep a targeted focus on outreach where people will be affected in small localities.
- More outreach work in the schools would be good.
- Make sure people know you really do care.
- Reach people who are buying houses and have children.
- Remember that people are interested in swans, recreation areas, Lake Coeur d'Alene, and land use.
- Be careful how you interpret low attendance at meetings. It could mean many things. People with an issue will show up.
- Honor citizen input; don't diminish or trivialize any stakeholder.
- Resolve citizen concerns before decisions are made.



## EPA's Action Plan – Informing and Involving the Community

The EPA will continue to use many tools to inform and involve people. Generally, people are not asking for a wider variety of public involvement opportunities. Rather, they want information about activities that may affect them. They want a voice in matters that impact their communities. They also want avenues for getting their issues resolved.

In response, the EPA will focus on the following activities.:

### Local Liaisons

**Rene Gilbert** serves as the EPA's community liaison for the cleanup. A resident of the community, she is based in Kellogg, Idaho. She can help you get your questions answered and your issues addressed.

Rene can be reached by **phone** at 208-659-5237 or by **email** at [gilbert.maureen@epa.gov](mailto:gilbert.maureen@epa.gov)

**Ed Moreen** is also based in Idaho, in the EPA's Coeur d'Alene Field Office. Ed, an EPA Project Manager, can also serve as a local resource. *(Photo on Page 4)*

To reach Ed, **call** 208-664-4588 or **email** [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov)

**Denna Grangaard**, Public Outreach Analyst, has a long family history in the community and works in Kellogg for the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. She provides outreach and education about the cleanup.

**Phone** Denna at 208-783-5781 or **email** her at [denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov).



Rene Gilbert



Denna Grangaard



EPA will continue to publish the Basin Bulletin three times a year. The newsletter provides updates about cleanup activities. It also features ways to get involved and to find more information. In keeping with feedback, we will work to keep the information readable and short.

- Find it **online**: <http://go.usa.gov/VNUx>
- Sign up to get it by **email**: <http://go.usa.gov/VHhG>
- Request to get on the hard copy mailing list: contact **Andrea Lindsay** at 800-424-4372, ext. 1896 206-553-1896, or [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov).

### Website



The EPA maintains a website about the cleanup at [epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill](http://epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill). Here people can find site activity information, technical and legal documents, community resources, and much more.

### Facebook

To get quick and timely news about cleanup activities, visit or like our Facebook page.

We post up to four times per week. [www.facebook.com/CDAbasin](http://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin)



## EPA's Action Plan – Informing and Involving the Community

### Site Updates, Fliers, Brochures and More

The EPA staff produces a few outreach documents per year about the cleanup, sometimes in collaboration with our partners. These might be site updates, brochures, meeting notices, or other items. We send these materials to people on our mailing lists, post them online, announce them on Facebook and put them in select local libraries. We also make them available through [Rene Gilbert](#).

### Email Announcements

Several times per year, we send out information about cleanup activities to our electronic mailing list. To get on the list, visit <http://go.usa.gov/VHhG>

### Open Houses

When there is an issue of significant community interest, the EPA, DEQ, and/or Basin Commission offer open houses or other community meetings. People receive notice of the events in local papers, on Facebook, in other community meetings, by email, and/or by mail. When the open houses are intended for small neighborhoods, the EPA or its partners may use door hangers to get the information directly to local residents.

### Locally Hosted Meetings and Events

EPA and DEQ staff attend local meetings hosted by others, when possible and appropriate. These meetings are a chance for attendees to discuss issues, get cleanup updates, or ask questions. To invite a project representative to one of your meetings, contact an individual listed on Page 16.

Watch for project staff at local events, too. These might include health fairs, community festivals, or other opportunities. These events will give community members another way to get information or ask questions. Occasionally, project representatives will provide site tours and give presentations.



### Door to Door Information

EPA and DEQ community involvement staff will continue to do door-to-door communication. This happens most often when we have information for residents who are directly affected by cleanup work in a neighborhood. We leave information for the resident and respond to concerns and questions.

### Informal Communication

Project managers and community involvement staff are available to talk with you about the site at any time. Feel free to contact us to share information, discuss concerns, or ask questions. Contact information is listed on page 16.

### Working with the Media

The EPA announces meetings and review opportunities in local newspapers. Display ads will appear in the Spokesman Review, St. Maries Gazette, Coeur d'Alene Press and Shoshone News-Press. In response to a citizen suggestion, we also plan to use the Nickel's Worth for advertising and announcing some events.

The EPA will continue its efforts to share news with the media. We issue press releases to local media whenever there is important news to share. We also offer press availability sessions and work to maintain relationships with local reporters. We do recognize, however, that the agency doesn't have control over what the media reports.

**Keeping Cleaned Up Areas Clean: Remedy Protection Work Continues in Local Communities**  
Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup Update August 2014

Crews are busy this summer doing work designed to protect earlier cleanups around the Silver Valley.

- **Remedy protection** is about protecting cleaned up areas in the community from recontamination.
- **A Remedy** is the action taken to protect human and environmental health.

The upgrades to local infrastructure help protect private and public property from flooding and stormwater runoff damage. Local jurisdictions will maintain the installed structures so they continue to provide flood protection in the future. Local jurisdictions are also especially involved with planning and public outreach.

The overall effort is collaborative. A big **thank you** to the local jurisdictions, mayors, work crews, property owners, impacted businesses, and so many others. We know the work sometimes causes inconvenience for residents; it can be noisy, dusty, and disruptive. Thank you for your cooperation and your patience.

**Shields Gulch**  
Crews worked last year to help protect past cleanup work in this area and are almost finished. Workers built a new creek channel behind Silver Hill Elementary next to 190. They also replaced culverts under some roads. The work will help keep Shields Creek within its banks during floods. The goal is to help prevent sediments from washing onto clean properties and causing re-contamination. Crews also remediated the old tennis court in back of the school. Work on school grounds took place when school was not in session. Last year workers installed a fence, did some excavation for the new channel, completed a bridge cleanup and more. The Coeur d'Alene Trust, Department of Environmental Quality and EPA coordinate this and other remedy protection projects with local jurisdictions and property owners. This project is funded by settlement money.  
Contact: Anne McCauley, 200-424-4372 ext. 4689 or 206-553-4689 <sup>TM</sup> [mccauley.anna@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.anna@epa.gov)

**Meyer Creek**  
Construction to protect completed cleanup work in Odium began this summer. The project is designed to remove Meyer Creek in an underground pipe system located in the public right-of-way through the city. The new system has a larger capacity than the existing pipe to help prevent recontamination of cleaned up properties. Workers will install 3,200 linear feet of piping, eleven manholes, and two new inlet structures. They are also modifying existing utility lines (i.e., water, sanitary sewer, gas, etc). Work should be complete before winter.  
Contact: Anne McCauley, 200-424-4372 ext. 4689 or 206-553-4689 <sup>TM</sup> [mccauley.anna@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.anna@epa.gov)

## Document Collections

The EPA keeps collections of documents at select locations for the public to view. Each location may have a slightly different set of materials. If there is a document you cannot find, contact Andrea Lindsay as noted on the front page of this plan.

### 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

### St. Maries Library

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

### Kellogg Public Library

16 West Market Avenue  
Kellogg, ID 83827  
208-786-7231

### 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 Region 10 Office

Record Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-553-4494 or 800-424-4372

## Public Input on Documents

Community participation is a cornerstone of the decision-making process for this cleanup. In fact, the agency goes beyond its public involvement requirements here as a matter of course. The agency often offers public review opportunities on documents, even when it's not required. Here is the general approach.

- The EPA holds formal public comment periods on major decision documents, usually with a 30-day review time. No major decision documents are currently expected over the next couple years.
- The EPA seeks early input on cleanup planning through the Basin Commission. The public is welcome to participate. The EPA provides updates and solicits discussion at meetings of the Commission, the Citizens Coordinating Council, the Technical Leadership Group, and other groups. Occasionally, these groups will help review and formulate agency documents.
- The EPA updates its Implementation Plan yearly. The document forecasts cleanup work for the next decade. It will remain posted at [www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill). In the past, very limited input has been received on the annual update. The EPA will continue to use the Basin Commission process to ensure the public has an opportunity to weigh in on the Implementation Plan and annual updates. Generally, the EPA will present the plan to the public at the fall meeting of the Basin Commission. All public input received during the Basin Commission process will be considered for each update of the plan. Please note that the public is invited to provide input on cleanup plans at any time by contacting Bill Adams (see page 16).
- The agencies work with residents affected by projects in their neighborhoods. We encourage the residents to talk with project representatives, ask questions, and share concerns and comments. Outreach is tailored to the needs of the particular project. Directly affected local residents will sometimes have the chance to informally preview early designs and other materials related to upcoming projects. Some door-to-door visits and outreach may take place.
- Many documents are available on the site's webpage and/or at select local libraries. People can view these materials at their convenience.

### Examples of documents typically not presented to the general public:

- Sampling results which have not yet been through a quality assurance process
- Engineering designs where there is little opportunity for people to have influence due to technical or engineering limitations
- Technical documents that relate to a small area, such as a single neighborhood (documentation may be shared with neighborhood residents but perhaps not formally announced to the wider community)

Regardless of the timing of any review opportunities, we encourage people to ask questions and share suggestions and concerns at any time.



## Partnerships

### Working with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

The EPA works in close partnership with the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality. For years, DEQ has run several aspects of the EPA Superfund cleanup. DEQ receives EPA funding in order to do this work. DEQ also invests in the cleanup by providing state funds, project staff, and public outreach. Their involvement will continue into the future.

Denna Grangaard, DEQ's Public Outreach Analyst, regularly works with the public and is a key member of the cleanup's outreach team. She provides classroom presentations, supports lead health education efforts, and conducts outreach related to DEQ-led projects. She also can refer you to technical staff to get your questions answered. Contact Denna at 208-783-5781 or [denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:denna.grangaard@deq.idaho.gov).



### Working with the CDA Work Trust

The Coeur d'Alene Work Trust was established as part of a court settlement. The Trust administers settlement funds and conducts work at the EPA's direction and pursuant to the EPA's decision documents. The Trust hires local engineering and construction firms. The Trust is now taking on a bigger part of the EPA's cleanup work. The EPA oversees the work and leads community involvement efforts for the work.

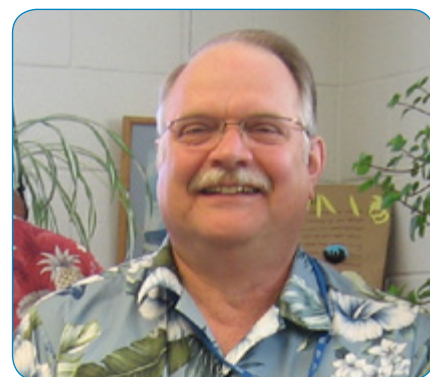
### Working with the Basin Commission



The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission was created by the Idaho legislature in 2001. The Commission coordinates environmental remediation, natural resource restoration, and related measures to address water quality and heavy metal contamination in the Basin. Leaders from local, state, tribal, and federal governments participate on the Commission's seven member board.

The EPA maintains overall authority for the Superfund cleanup. EPA's Regional Administrator serves as a commissioner representing federal agencies. The EPA also provides a core staff person.

The Commission provides an important way for people to participate in decision-making for the cleanup. The public is invited to attend the quarterly meetings. Each session includes an opportunity for public comment. Each session also features updates and discussions about cleanup projects. To learn more about the BEIPC, contact **Terry Harwood**, Executive Director, at 208-783-2528 or [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov). The two main sub-groups of the Commission are the **Technical Leadership Group** and the **Citizens Coordinating Council**.



Terry Harwood

## Working with the Basin Commission

### Citizens Coordinating Council



*Local people discuss Cleanup issues at CCC meetings*

The CCC is a group of citizens providing local input to the Basin Commission board. Meetings are open to everyone. The meetings are an opportunity to learn and provide input to the Basin Commission about the cleanup. In response to feedback and light attendance, the CCC recently started to change its meetings. The meetings are now less formal, cover topics of interest to local people, have more discussion, and are publicized well in advance. So far, the changes have been well-received.

The CCC sometimes hosts public meetings or workshops on cleanup topics, in coordination with the EPA and DEQ.

The EPA remains committed to the CCC. The agency provides funding for its coordination. The EPA's staff regularly participates in the meetings. To learn more about the CCC, visit [www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/CCC.asp) or contact Jerry Boyd, Chair, at 509-455-6000 or email [jerry.boyd@painehamblen.com](mailto:jerry.boyd@painehamblen.com)

### Technical Leadership Group

The TLG advises the Commission on technical matters. It consists of federal, tribal, state, and local representatives. The TLG considers citizen input provided through public hearings, meetings, workshops, comment periods, or the Board. Citizens can attend meetings of the TLG but do not vote on action items. EPA remains committed to the TLG. EPA staff regularly participate in meetings and often rely on the membership for input on documents and decisions. Learn more about the TLG at [www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/TLG.asp) or contact Sandra Raskell, Chair, at 208-667-5772 or [sraskell@cdatribe-nsn.gov](mailto:sraskell@cdatribe-nsn.gov)

### Comments about the Basin Commission:

People shared comments about the Basin Commission, including the CCC, during community interviews. Commenters shared concerns that the public may not be adequately represented through the Basin Commission process and that citizen input may not be given full consideration. Commenters also pointed to low CCC participation rates. Suggestions included:

- Remind people about health issues.
- Follow up with answers to questions.
- Schedule meetings when people can come.
- Pass on all public comments in full, without censorship or editing.
- Honor citizen input.
- Make meetings feel safe and comfortable.
- Present at the level of the listener.

The complete comments have been provided to the Commission's Executive Director and the CCC Chair for their consideration.

## Working with the Panhandle Health District

The Panhandle Health District runs important programs related to the cleanup.

The Institutional Controls Program, or ICP, is a locally-enforced set of rules adopted to ensure that barriers placed over contaminants are maintained throughout the site. The ICP permits activities involving excavation, grading, construction, building demolition, and interior projects involving certain remodeling. The ICP also provides education, sampling assistance, clean soils for small projects, pick-up of soil removed from small projects and disposal sites for contaminated soils from the site. The purpose of the ICP is to protect public health and assist local land transactions within the Superfund site.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Panhandle Health District



The Panhandle Health District also manages the Lead Health Intervention and Blood Lead Screening programs within the Superfund site. The District offers free blood lead screening for children and pregnant women. They hold a blood lead screening every summer when the risk for exposure is highest. They offer a monetary incentive to select children when they have their blood lead levels checked.

Testing is voluntary and results are kept confidential. PHD sends out mailers, runs newspaper and radio ads, and uses social media to promote the screening program. The District also provides lead health education in schools and in the community. Keep a lookout for mascots Riley Raccoon and family. They are helping to spread the message:



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

**Keep Clean,  
Eat Clean,  
Play Clean!**



## Working with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe

The EPA maintains a government to government relationship with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. The EPA consults with the Tribe when EPA actions and decisions may affect Tribal interests. Part of the Coeur d'Alene Lake is within the Tribe's Reservation boundary and is owned by the Tribe. Coeur d'Alene Lake and other areas within the reservation are a part of the Superfund site. The Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan, written by the Tribe and IDEQ, was finalized in 2009. Since then, the Tribe and DEQ have been implementing the LMP.

## Others

Special thanks to all the groups, organizations, and agencies that are involved in so many ways with the cleanup. There are simply too many to mention here. The EPA recognizes that this project is large and complicated, and that it is a team effort. We remain committed to working collaboratively.

## The Cleanup Forecast: Things to Know

Coming up, there will be less cleanup work in community areas. More cleanup will happen in remote areas. Remote cleanup work will mostly focus on removing contamination sources. The remote areas are less populated so there will be less disruption to residents and communities.

There will be some remaining work *in community areas*:



- “Remedy Protection Projects” help to keep cleaned up areas clean. Usually, the construction work is small scale and takes place in localized neighborhoods.
- Yard cleanups will continue at a much reduced pace. After cleanup of thousands of properties, the yards program is winding down. The emphasis is on high risk homes with young children and pregnant women.
- Waste repositories will continue operating, including at Big Creek, East Mission Flats, Page, and (soon) Lower Burke Canyon.

- The cleanup will continue addressing roads that may have been damaged by cleanup activities, so that those roads can continue to serve as barriers to underlying contamination.
- The EPA will upgrade the treatment plant that cleans groundwater from the Box and Bunker Hill mine.
- Workers will construct a groundwater extraction system to intercept contaminated groundwater near the Central Impoundment Area.
- The EPA will begin work in Canyon Creek to collect water for treatment at the CTP (Central Treatment Plant) and to control sources of contamination.
- Small-scale cleanup projects in the Lower Basin will increase understanding of the area and methods to address risks that may lead to future cleanup work.



The cleanup will be less visible than it has in the past. Still, this is a long-term, complicated project that will likely take decades.

The cleanup will continue to generate jobs for local workers for years.

The ICP (Institutional Controls Program) and blood-lead screening program run by the Panhandle Health District will continue for the long term.

## About the Community

The cleanup covers a huge geographic area. It ranges from the Montana border to the shorelines of the Spokane River in Washington State. Thousands of people in many communities are directly affected by the cleanup.

### Coeur d'Alene Basin Community Profile

The Coeur d'Alene Basin can be viewed as having three rather distinct population areas. The City of Coeur d'Alene with a population density of just under 3,000 people per square mile and areas around Lake Coeur d'Alene with population densities of over 100 per square mile can be considered urban. Coeur d'Alene Lake has become a resort destination and a considerable portion of the population has come to the area to live or to retire there for this reason. Others are employed in service industries that support the resort areas. The population has more first-time and move-in residents as opposed to longtime residents who were born and raised in the area.



This contrasts sharply with the rural and remote rural areas throughout the rest of the Basin with population densities ranging from less than five to approximately twelve per square mile. These areas were small mining communities historically and have remained as a string of small towns along the I-90 corridor. Residents are more likely to have been born and raised in the area and have deeper family roots there. Cleanup activities are concentrated in these rural areas.

Additionally the southern end of Lake Coeur d'Alene falls within the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation which also has a very low population density of again, approximately 12 per square mile, as well as other unique features as a Native American community.

While all areas are heavily and predominately white (about 95 percent), the more urban areas have slightly more diversity – the city of Coeur d'Alene has a 4.3 percent Hispanic population (3.1 percent for Benewah County). A large portion of the Hispanic population is employed in the service industry such as jobs associated with the resorts.



Benewah County also includes the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation and this is reflected in Benewah County's 8.7 percent American Indian population as compared to less than 2 percent for other areas of the Basin.

These figures are also consistent with the numbers who speak a language other than English at home:

- City of Coeur d'Alene – 3.4 percent
- Kootenai County - 3.3 percent
- Benewah County – 3.7 percent
- Shoshone County – 2.4 percent

## About the Community

Other contrasts between the areas also exist – people in the rural areas generally make less money.

|                 | Per capita income | Percent below poverty level | Median household income |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kootenai County | \$24,789          | 12.8%                       | \$49,151                |
| Benewah County  | \$19,549          | 14.5%                       | \$38,536                |
| Shoshone County | \$20,342          | 17.2%                       | \$38,273                |
| Coeur d'Alene   | \$23,151          | 15.4%                       | \$41,064                |

Table 1- Per Capita Income

While home ownership rates are high for all, homes in the rural areas have considerably less comparative value, about half, and are often much older.

| Home Ownership  | Home Ownership rate: | Median Value |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Kootenai County | 70.2%                | \$201,400    |
| Benewah County  | 75.7%                | \$124,000    |
| Shoshone County | 68.7%                | \$138,800    |
| Coeur d'Alene   | 56%                  | \$186,600    |

Table 2- Home Ownership

While all areas have a high percentage of high school graduates, a sharp distinction emerges between those who have a college degree and those who do not. Some of the difference may be related to the types of occupations in the rural areas but may also be reflective of the lack of opportunity to go to college or the lack of funds to pay for higher education.

| Education       | High school or = (age 25 or over) | BA or + |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Kootenai County | 92.2%                             | 23.8%   |
| Benewah County  | 87.6%                             | 13.2%   |
| Shoshone County | 84.9%                             | 13.7%   |
| Coeur d'Alene   | 90.2%                             | 25.4%   |

Table 3- Education

The rural areas are marked by having both a high percentage of those 65 or older and a high percentage of those 75 or older. What emerges for the rural areas is an older population, with less income and therefore more likely to be living below the poverty level and living in older homes. The urban areas are more diverse in terms of occupation and income. Low incomes are more likely associated with those working in the service industries. The population distribution is more evenly spread among the age groups, with relatively more children. The older population is more likely to be retirees with more financial and social resources. With some exceptions, people have more education, resources, and social opportunities.

| Age:            | 5 or under | under 18 | 65 or older | 75 or older      |
|-----------------|------------|----------|-------------|------------------|
| Kootenai County | 6.1%       | 23.7%    | 16.4%       | 6.6%             |
| Benewah County  | 5.7%       | 22.2%    | 20.7%       | 7.6%             |
| Shoshone County | 4.8%       | 19.8%    | 20.9%       | 8.9%             |
| Coeur d'Alene   | 6.7%       | 22.9%    | 14.6%       | data unavailable |

Table 4- By Age

## Environmental Justice Considerations



The EPA's goal is to provide an environment where all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to maintain a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

This site includes geographic areas which may have the potential for environmental justice concerns. Those concerns may be related to a number of factors, including high percentages of low incomes in the rural areas, combined with older housing and a high percentage of people aged 65 years or older.

One particularly vulnerable population in the area is very young children. Young children are more susceptible to health impacts from lead contamination, one of the primary contaminants at this site. The property cleanup program focuses its efforts on the highest priority properties — those where pregnant women and young children live. Also, many other cleanup efforts are designed, in part, to reduce exposure and to reduce the amount of lead flowing downstream into communities. The Panhandle Health District's lead health program, which includes blood lead screening, intervention, and education, is designed to address this population in particular.

## Technical Assistance Needs Assessment 2012

In 2012, the Technical Assistance Services for Communities Program conducted a *Technical Assistance Needs Assessment*, or TANA, for the Coeur d'Alene Basin community. The TANA gave the EPA important information about the community.

It looked at people's needs for technical and educational help related to the cleanup. Scores of community members provided input. The report's top recommendations to the EPA included providing a ROD Amendment summary, risk management education, and Superfund jobs training. Each of those actions is now complete.

Most second tier recommendations are also complete. For more information visit [www.community-plan.net/tasc\\_bunkerhill](http://www.community-plan.net/tasc_bunkerhill)



## For More Information

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### Alternative formats are available

For reasonable accommodation, please call  
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☎ TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service  
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### Websites

EPA's CDA Basin Website (also called the Bunker Hill  
Website) [www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill)

EPA's Facebook Page for the Cleanup  
[www.facebook.com/CDAbasin](http://www.facebook.com/CDAbasin)

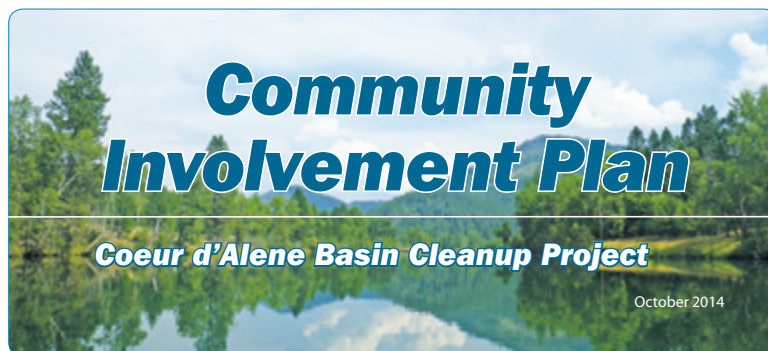
Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission  
[www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)

DEQ's Cleanup Website  
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/coeur-dalene/bunker-hill-superfund-site.aspx>

Play Clean Webpage, DEQ  
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/coeur-dalene/bunker-hill-superfund-site/play-clean.aspx>

Panhandle Health District, Institutional Controls  
Program and link to lead health webpage  
[www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/institutionalindex.cfm](http://www.phd1.idaho.gov/institutional/institutionalindex.cfm)

Healthy Living in the Silver Valley and  
Coeur d'Alene Basin  
<http://go.usa.gov/24CB>



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

[www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/bunkerhill)