



EPA's Proposed Cleanup: Understanding the Plan

You may have questions or concerns about EPA's Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin. EPA wants you to have the facts. In coming weeks, EPA will publish topics to answer many of your questions.

Topic Number 3:

Goals of the Cleanup Plan

The proposed cleanup would be an investment in the future of the Upper Basin. It would:

- Protect people, wildlife and the environment by reducing hazardous materials in the area.
- Help the local economy by employing local workers to do the cleanup.
- Create more safe recreation areas by removing contamination in and around streams.
- Improve the health of fisheries by reducing contamination and improving habitat.
- Protect cleaned up areas by constructing drainage projects where neighborhood or tributary flooding could cause recontamination.

The proposed cleanup plan gives us all a "road map" to long-term improvements in the Upper Basin. The proposed cleanup plan focuses on cleaning up waste from

past mining practices, while still allowing mines to operate and expand.

This road map gives some clarity about which sources of contamination would be considered for cleanup. Sources range from mine dumps in tributaries to contaminated floodplains and tailings piles along the South Fork.

The draft plan identifies sources of contamination and technical approaches for cleanup. For example, waste removal, capping, and groundwater collection and treatment are actions proposed for Woodland Park near Wallace. Check the Proposed Plan to learn about possible cleanups near your area.

Past cleanup in Kellogg, Wardner, Smeltonville and Pinehurst has brought dramatic improvements: hillsides where trees and plants grow again; highly contaminated mine water successfully treated; and contaminated soil removed so it's away from residents and recreational places. Local economic development has included the golf course, trail, and water park. These developments were due in part to the cleanup. This proposed plan would provide a cleaner environment in the Upper Basin that could help attract businesses and recreation opportunities appropriate to this area.

For more information on the cleanup attend an Open House on October 5th or 6th and/or sign up for a public tour of proposed cleanup locations in the Upper Basin on October 6th. See EPA's website (listed below) for details.

Public comments on the Proposed Plan are due November 23, 2010.

Send comments to cdabasin@epa.gov or to Coeur d'Alene Basin Team, EPA, 1200 6th Ave., Ste. 900, ECL-113, Seattle, WA 98101.

We want to hear from you. Your comments are important to help design the Proposed Plan and guide the cleanup.

See other Topics at

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/bh+rod+amendment> or <http://go.usa.gov/igD>

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