

BASIN BULLETIN



Updates on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Cleanup

July 2018

Protect Your Family: Free Blood-Lead Screening for Kids

Panhandle Health District is offering free blood-lead screening in Kellogg, Idaho, **August 13 – 18**. Join us at the Shoshone Medical Center and take this important opportunity to protect your family. Everyone is encouraged to come in, learn more, and get tested. Children ages 6 months to 6 years, living within the Institutional Controls Program boundary (see map, next page), will receive blood-lead testing at no cost, plus a \$30 incentive. The testing is 'first come, first serve.' It requires a simple finger prick, along with participation in a short lead exposure questionnaire.

Testing typically takes 15-20 minutes per person and results are available immediately. If the result shows over 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter or greater, drawing from a vein is necessary to confirm, and can be performed immediately, on-site. If results are consistent with the finger prick, PHD recommends the child's physician be notified. PHD will also make an appointment for a home visit to test for and attempt to identify the source(s) of the lead.



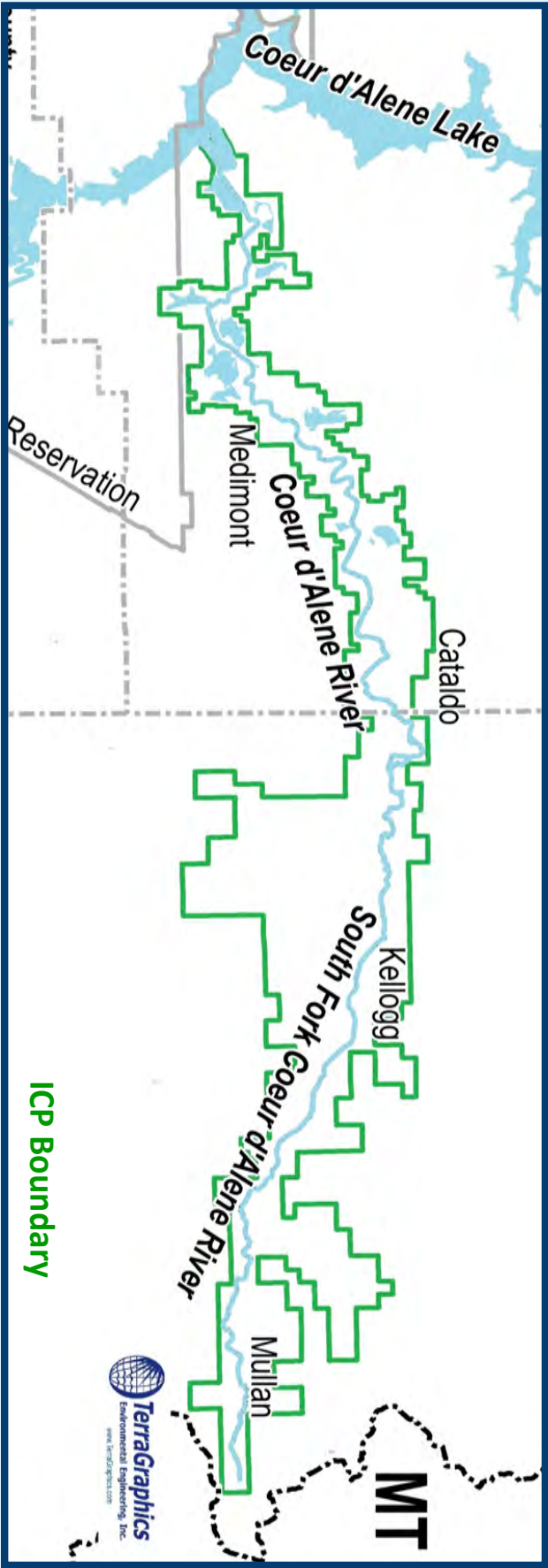
Inside

- Community Members Share Views on Lower Basin Cleanup 3
- You're Invited: SoilSHOP at the SMC's Kids Health and Safety Fair September 15..... 4
- New Signs: Playing Clean in Local Recreation Areas 4
- House Dust Sampling: Opportunity to Participate 6
- You're Invited: Tour of Upper Basin Cleanup Projects August 15 10

Blood-lead monitoring in the Silver Valley began in the early 1970s. At that time, 99% of the children tested had blood-lead levels over 40 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$), with a high of 164 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. In the past, if a doctor suspected lead poisoning, tests were done, but blood-lead levels are not always included in a child's regular physical. Today, Panhandle Health District's efforts to identify levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter will allow families, doctors, and communities to act earlier to reduce and eliminate further lead exposure.

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

Institutional Controls Program map



Community Members Share Views on Lower Basin Cleanup

More than 30 people attended a community meeting June 13 in Medimont. The meeting focused on EPA's planning process for doing cleanup in the Lower Basin. The Lower Basin is the area along the CDA River valley, stretching from Enaville to Harrison. Lead and other heavy metals are of concern in the area. EPA expects to ramp up cleanup projects in the Lower Basin over the next few years.

During a working session, community members shared ideas about important things for EPA to consider when choosing projects. Human health continues to be a high priority for people, along with protecting waterfowl, preventing recontamination, and controlling sources from the river. Participants also talked about areas to focus on. We received comments that supported capping, bank stabilization, creating clean waterfowl habitat, creating additional recreational opportunities on the river, remediating contaminated beaches along the river, and slowing the transport of contaminated sediment to Lake Coeur d'Alene. EPA Project Manager Kim Prestbo said, "We really appreciate hearing from local residents. We got some valuable insights that will inform our planning, and help us make better decisions here."

As project selection moves forward, we will provide updates in the Basin Bulletin, on our site web page, and at Basin Commission and Citizens Coordinating Council meetings. We expect to select 2-3 projects this fall. These projects may be designed and implemented over the next several years, based on the cost, complexity, and information needs of the project. Thank you to the Basin Commission's Citizens Coordinating Council for hosting the meeting. And thank you to everyone who came and provided input.

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



You're Invited: SoilSHOP at the SMC's Kids Health and Safety Fair September 15

Gardens and outdoor play areas may have harmful substances, including lead, in the soil. The **Silver Valley Community Resource Center** and **community members** are partnering with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, PHD, Idaho Health and Welfare, IDEQ, and EPA to bring you an outreach event called a soilSHOP. The purpose of this event is to **increase your awareness about the hazards of lead in soil**, and provide information on how to avoid exposures to lead while gardening or playing in your yard.

Gardeners and residents are encouraged to collect up to three samples of soil from their home or neighborhood and bring it to the soilSHOP to be screened (measured) for lead and other metals. If your property is already remediated, do not dig below the remedial barrier. To find out if your property has been remediated, call PHD at 208-783-0707. Participants will have an opportunity to talk with community leaders, health, and environmental partners about:

- Your screening results
- Best practices to avoid lead exposures
- Tips to garden safely
- Resources for blood-lead level testing
- Healthy eating and exercise
- How to get additional soil testing done
- How to get 1 yard of clean topsoil annually
- How to dispose of contaminated soil

Join us on Saturday, **September 15** at the Shoshone Medical Center's Kids Health and Safety Fair, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the SMC Health & Wellness Track, 858 Commerce Drive, Smelterville, ID 83868.

CONTACTS: **Rhonda Kaetzel**, ATSDR • 800-424-4372, ext. 0530 • rkaetzel@cdc.gov, or **Barbara Miller**, SVCRC • 208-784-8891.

To learn more about soilSHOP, visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/faq.html>



New Signs: Playing Clean in Local Recreation Areas

Watch soon for new signs at local recreation spots. The signs give tips for reducing exposure to lead and other harmful metals while you are enjoying the outdoors. Signs will be placed in areas of known contamination: along the South Fork and Lower Coeur d'Alene River, the Chain Lakes and nearby floodplain, and historical mine sites.

CONTACT: **Panhandle Health District** • 208-783-0707 •

www.deq.idaho.gov/playclean

Play Safe. Protect Your Health.

The discovery of silver in the 1880s led the "Silver Valley" to become one of the most productive mining areas in the United States. Common historical industry practices and natural processes like flooding caused lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals to be spread throughout the area. Although environmental cleanup continues to protect human health and provide ecological restoration, high levels of lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals remain in sediments and soils along shorelines and floodplains. *Young children and pregnant women are at greatest risk from exposure.* It is easy to reduce exposure and enjoy your time recreating in the Coeur d'Alene Basin by following the safety tips below.

Keep Clean



Wash your hands and face with clean water or wipes before eating or drinking.



Wash toys, bottles, and pacifiers if they come in contact with soil, sand, or dust.



Remove dirt from clothes, toys, pets, cars, boats, and camping equipment before you leave. Wash all items when you return home.



Play Clean



Play in grassy areas and avoid loose soil, sand, dust, and muddy areas.



Eat Clean



Drink, cook, and wash with bottled water or water from home. Do not use river water.



Eat at a table or on a clean blanket, not bare ground.



Follow fish consumption advisories, especially for pregnant women and children. Find current advisories at: fishadvisory.dhw.idaho.gov

Play Safe

Protect Your Health

High levels of lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals from past mining activities are found in the soil, sediments, and water at this location.

Pack in your water.

Don't use river water for drinking, cooking, or washing, even if it is filtered.

Wash before you eat.

Wash your hands with clean water or wipes before eating or drinking.

Eat on a clean surface.

Use a table or blanket, not bare ground.

Avoid dusty areas.

Dusty activities can increase your exposure risk.

Clean before you leave.

Remove dirt from clothes, toys, pets, cars, and equipment. Dirt tracked home may result in future lead exposure.

Follow fish advisories.

Follow fish consumption advisories, especially for pregnant women and children.



**Panhandle
Health District**

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Contact PHD at:

(208) 783-0707

or visit: deq.idaho.gov/playclean

Protect Your Health: Sign Up for Property Testing



Since 2002, the Basin Property Remediation Program has been busy cleaning up commercial and residential properties across the Basin. To date, over 7,000 Bunker Hill Box and Upper and Lower Basin properties have been cleaned up! Property cleanups protect people's health by reducing exposure to lead and other harmful metals. *You have the opportunity to have your property tested.* If you believe your Basin 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 Work Trust • 208-783-0222.

House Dust Sampling: Opportunity to Participate

The house dust sampling program is an important part of the cleanup, throughout the Bunker Hill Box and Basin. House dust that contains lead poses a risk to your family's health. Lead in house dust can come from tracking contaminated soils into your home from outside, or from deterioration of lead-based paint in pre-1978 homes.

During July 2018, samplers will visit homes in the Box and Lower Basin to ask residents if they are willing to participate. Sampling includes placing a carpeted mat inside your home for about one month. When samplers return, they will vacuum and remove 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, the age of the home, and any home renovations. We are seeking to collect samples from about 170 homes in the Box and about 160 homes in the Lower Basin this summer. Property owners will be mailed sample results. If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Alan Davis, Coeur d'Alene Work Trust • 208-783-0222, or the **IDEQ Kellogg office** • 208-783-5781.



New Handwashing Stations Will Help Reduce Metals Exposure



This summer, temporary wash stations are planned for a few popular recreation spots to monitor usage and determine the need to install permanent ones. One of the best ways to reduce your family's exposure to lead and other metals is by washing your hands with clean water after recreating and before eating. The first station was installed at the Cataldo Boat Ramp. Additional temporary wash stations may be installed at other boat ramps and trail heads. For tips on additional ways to limit exposure to lead and other metals and safely enjoy the beautiful local environment, check out our Guide to Healthy Living in the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene Basin at

<https://go.usa.gov/xUkks>

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

Rosebud Creek Project Will Keep Cleaned-Up Areas Clean

The Rosebud Creek Remedy Protection Project in Osburn began May 23 and will be completed in July. The project includes cleaning out an existing culvert, installing a concrete box culvert and a corrugated metal culvert, replacing foot bridges, building a concrete block wall, and constructing soil berms to improve the channel capacity. The work will help protect people and the environment by reducing erosion and recontamination from storm water runoff, tributary flooding, and heavy rain and snowfall. All work is taking place upgradient of Gene Day Pond. We want to thank the local community and Gene Day Park users for your patience while we complete this project! It will help protect completed Superfund work, keeping cleaned-up areas clean.

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



Summer Hauling to Lower Burke Canyon Repository



Mine waste hauling to Lower Burke Canyon Repository started up in April, with trucks moving loads of waste from the Wallace utilities projects. Throughout the summer, mine waste will be coming from the Wallace and other Institutional Controls Program projects, property cleanups, remedy protection projects, and mine and mill site cleanups.

EPA, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust, IDEQ, and Panhandle Health District remain committed to limiting impacts to the local community. We understand that repositories can have negative impacts on the neighborhoods around them, like

increased truck traffic. We want to do what we can to address these impacts.

Trucks hauling waste to repositories are required to comply with traffic rules, cover their loads, and follow designated routes, among other requirements. Repositories help reduce risks posed by metals like lead and arsenic. It is a priority to provide cities and counties with well-managed facilities that will take in heavy metals-contaminated waste year-round. Moving waste from several sites into smaller, managed locations helps control sources of contamination.

Thank you for reaching out to us with your questions and concerns. For more information, see our April 2018 fact sheet: <http://go.usa.gov/xQWVh>.

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

Paved Roads and Limited Use Repositories Update

The paved roads program is forging ahead in the Silver Valley! Paving streets and roads serves as a barrier to contamination. It helps prevent recontamination of properties that have already been cleaned up. Kellogg is continuing to upgrade underground piping for much-needed infrastructure improvements. After those improvements are done, paving will be completed under the roads program. Institutional Controls Program waste sent to the Government Gulch Community Fill Plan location totals about 1,130 truckloads, much from the Kellogg projects. About 1,320 loads have come to the Government Gulch Limited Use Repository from the Kellogg paved roads program. Limited Use Repositories accept waste only from replacement of local paved roads under the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup.



Paved roads work is complete in Osburn. Around 500 truckloads of waste from the Osburn work has gone to the nearby Zanetti Yard Limited Use Repository. Shoshone County is also addressing its planned road segments in the Box and Basin this year. Work on Big Creek Road is scheduled for late June or early July. Waste will go to both Zanetti Yard and Shoshone County Transfer Station LURs. Silver Valley Road in Kingston is also a county roads project planned for 2018.

Pinehurst will complete its paved roads program this season. Wallace is working on its planned roads, with waste going to the Lower Burke Canyon Repository. In Mullan, some paving is being done as part of the Tiger Creek Remedy Protection project.

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

Construction of Groundwater Collection System and Treatment Plant Upgrades Under Way



At the Central Impoundment Area next to I-90, installation of the groundwater collection system is moving forward. Design is complete on most features, and construction activities have begun. The work on a test section of the groundwater containment wall will begin in July. To prepare for construction, billboards and larger vegetation along the I-90 corridor have been removed. As part of the Central Treatment Plant upgrades, workers have started to build a new sludge disposal area on top of the CIA. We expect construction on both projects to be complete by 2020. The groundwater collection system and upgraded

treatment plant will improve water quality downstream by significantly reducing metals pollution going into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

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

Cleanup Work Progressing in Upper Basin



Year 3 of the Success Mine cleanup will get under way soon. The cleanup site is located in the East Fork area of Ninemile Creek. Crews expect to remove about 60,000 cubic yards of waste during the construction season. The waste will be placed in the nearby “Waste Consolidation Area,” where it will have a much smaller footprint. We expect to have the cleanup done next year. The Success site is the single biggest source of lead and other heavy metals to the creek. Cleaning it up protects the local ecology and people downstream.

Three investigations to scope future Upper Basin work will start this season: two investigations in Ninemile and one in Canyon Creek around the old Hecla complex. Crews will be out in the area taking samples, drilling monitoring wells, and digging test pits. You may see some heavy equipment. This advance work will inform plans for cleanups in coming years.

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



Spokane Riverkeeper Tours Site, Learns About Cleanup



On June 8, the environmental group Spokane Riverkeeper toured the site. About 30 people attended. Tour leaders Ed Moreen and Rene Gilbert of EPA, Andy Helkey of PHD, and Dan McCracken of IDEQ introduced the group to a number of important Bunker Hill Superfund Site locations. Participants learned about ongoing activities for the massive, decades-long Superfund cleanup, and major milestones achieved. The tour covered hillsides reforestation, property cleanups, waste disposal and management at repositories, a successful redevelopment project, treatment of mine water, the groundwater collection system, roads remediation, and upgrades under way at the Central Treatment Plant.

Thank you Ed, Rene, Dan, and Andy!

You're Invited: Tour of Upper Basin Cleanup Projects August 15

The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission invites you to its annual cleanup tour. Set for August 15, the free tour will visit active cleanup projects from Kellogg to Mullan. Buses will depart from Wallace, Idaho, about noon and return to Wallace later in the afternoon. You will have a chance to hear from project staff, learn about the environmental cleanup, and see local projects first-hand. Rest stops along the way and water will be provided. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. Before the tour, during the morning hours, the Commission will conduct its quarterly meeting and elect new officers. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and/or the tour. Watch for firm times and specific locations in the local papers, or check www.basincommission.com.

CONTACT: **Terry Harwood**, BEIPC Executive Director • 208-783-2528 • terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov

Kid's Health Fair September 15 Come See Us!

Going to the Kid's Health Fair **Saturday, Sept. 15**? It's from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SMC Health & Wellness Center, 858 Commerce Drive in Smelterville.

Stop by our booth! EPA, IDEQ, and Panhandle Health will be ready to say hello and answer any questions you have about lead.

Learn about the local environmental cleanup. Find out ways to reduce your family's exposure to lead. This annual event is hosted by the Shoshone Medical Center.

Visit Us at North Idaho Fair!

Visit us at the North Idaho Fair **August 22-26**. Our interagency exhibit will help you learn about water quality and the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup. We'd love to see you!



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



Inside...

- Free Blood-Lead Screening for Kids
- Get Involved: Upcoming Tours, Fairs, Events
- Play Clean: New Signs and Handwash Stations
- Construction Updates
- *Much More!*



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

www.epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill

