

Superfund Job Training Initiative

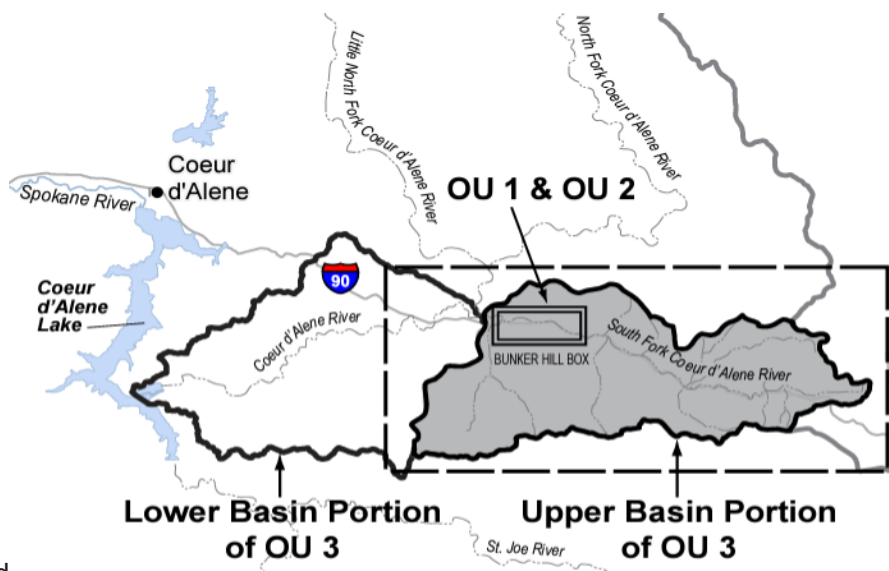
MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE COEUR D'ALENE BASIN SUPERFUND SITE

Introduction

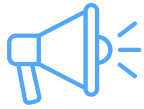
The Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) Cycle III is an environmental remediation job readiness program that provided career development opportunities for 12 trainees living near the Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund site in Kellogg, Idaho.

Through a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), local community liaison Maureen "Rene" Gilbert, and site cleanup contractor McGillivray Environmental, Coeur d'Alene Basin SuperJTI Cycle III provided local job seekers with new skills, certifications and hands-on training linked to construction and cleanup. This is the third SuperJTI program provided by EPA for the Coeur d'Alene Basin community.

EPA's goal is to help identify employment opportunities available for affected communities during the cleanup and redevelopment process, and to provide workforce development skills needed to take advantage of those opportunities.



Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund site is in Idaho's Silver Valley, one of the largest historical mining districts in the world.



Outreach and Screening: March - April 2024

Coeur d'Alene Basin Cycle III SuperJTI and EPA Region 10 reached out to the community through local and regional stakeholders, unemployment offices and non-profits, and by advertising on area radio stations, local newspapers and social media. Local community liaison Rene Gilbert helped publicize the program to attract interested candidates. SuperJTI staff and Rene Gilbert hosted information sessions about the program in Kellogg, Idaho. In April 2024, over 20 people attended the program's 15 information sessions. After these sessions, 12 people returned, submitted required documents and were welcomed into the program. The first day of training featured a program kickoff event that included leadership, team building and role-playing activities, and a physical fitness component facilitated by a team of evaluators from the program's partners. All 12 of the trainees went on to complete the program.



Training and Job Placement: May 2024

The 2-week Coeur d'Alene Basin SuperJTI training program was held at McGillivray Environmental in Osburn, Idaho. EPA contractor Skeo provided the Work Readiness training. McGillivray Environmental provided the 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), First Aid/CPR, and Construction and Traffic Flagger Awareness. Courses consisted of:

Work Readiness Training: Trainees learned and honed skills in interpersonal communication, interview preparation, resume building, finance management and effective work habits.

40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER): Trainees earned their HAZWOPER certification and learned about cleanup and safety topics such as environmental legislation and standards, toxicology, hazardous material site/spill control and containment, decontamination and isolation. Trainees participated in hands-on training scenarios using actual equipment and protective gear.

CPR/First Aid: Trainees earned their CPR/First Aid certification and learned about topics such as soft tissue injuries, burns, shock, rescue breaths, methods to stop bleeding, bloodborne pathogens, poisoning, CPR, and injuries to muscles, bones and joints.

Construction and Traffic Flagger Awareness: Trainees earned their Traffic Flagger Awareness certification and learned about topics such as safety requirements, traffic control basics, traffic



Site Background

The Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund site (also known as the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex) is in northern Idaho's Coeur d'Alene River Basin. EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 1983. The Coeur d'Alene Basin is one of the largest former mining areas in the world. Beginning in the late 1880s, mining activities in the basin contributed an estimated 100 million tons of mine waste to the river system. Many area communities were built on mine wastes. Until as late as 1968, tailings were deposited directly into the river. Over time, these wastes have spread throughout more than 160 miles of the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane rivers as well as area lakes and floodplains.

Contaminants from mining operations in the Silver Valley spread harmful heavy metals down the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and across its floodplains. Working with community members, local, state, tribal and federal agencies, and local organizations, EPA developed a plan to clean up residential and recreational areas. Cleanup is now underway. Project goals include reducing heavy metals, improving fisheries, reducing downstream migration of contaminated sediments and providing safe feeding habitat for waterfowl.

To learn more about the site, please visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cdabasin.

control plans, equipment used in traffic control, elements of the traffic control zone and record keeping.

After completion of the program, SuperJTI provided the graduates' information to site cleanup contractor McGillivray Environmental to assist with job placement efforts. Through SuperJTI, trainees are provided with the marketable skills needed to begin a successful career in environmental remediation, helping empower communities affected by Superfund sites.

GRADUATE PROFILES



Brian Kress

Brian Kress was working at an agriculture supply store and looking for new opportunities when one of his friends gave him a SuperJTI flyer. He attended one of the information sessions and thought it would be a good fit. Following the initial steps of the SuperJTI process, Brian was welcomed as one of the program's trainees. During the training, Brian found the topics discussed during the work readiness course to be invaluable. The course made him "change the way I think and go about things," he recalled. Brian also enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the HAZWOPER training, noting "I came out of it with new knowledge." After graduation, Brian accepted a position with site cleanup contractor McGillivray Environmental, where he works as a laborer in charge of routine maintenance, landscaping and paving. Reflecting on his time in the program, Brian said, "I think it is a really great program for anyone looking for a change, to learn about what Superfund really is, and make a difference in your community."



Mandy Kirking

Mandy had been struggling to find a job and attended a job fair where she met SuperJTI staff who encouraged her to give the program a try. After attending an information session, she realized she could benefit from participating in the program. After completing the screening and recruitment process, Mandy was welcomed as one of the program's trainees. "I loved how interactive it was, there was never a boring moment," Mandy reflected of her time in the program. Mandy felt "there was a lot of teamwork, and very different people, who came together and made it a wonderful experience." At the end of the program Mandy felt prepared and accomplished, saying "it helped me build my confidence in successfully acquiring a job" and "the program helped me come out of my shell." Since graduating, Mandy accepted a position as a flagger for Traffic Management Inc. Regarding SuperJTI, Mandy said "it makes you believe that there is a career out there for everyone, even if you need a little help. It helped and gave me a new perspective in life."



Elizabeth Maciel

Having recently moved from Washington, Elizabeth was having a hard time finding a job in Idaho that would lead to financial security when she saw a flyer for SuperJTI online. Interested in learning more, Elizabeth attended an information session and came out excited, saying she "looked forward to a career and learning about environmental protection." After attending an information session and submitting the required documents, Elizabeth was welcomed as one of the program's trainees. Reflecting on her time in the program, Elizabeth said "I made great relationships; instead of just a group of people, we built friendships." At the completion of the program Elizabeth felt great accomplishment and opportunity, saying "that is something that I have needed for a long time and SuperJTI provided that." After completing the program, Elizabeth accepted a position as a construction flagger. Of SuperJTI, Elizabeth said "I felt more than just a participant; it felt like family, accomplishment, and support."



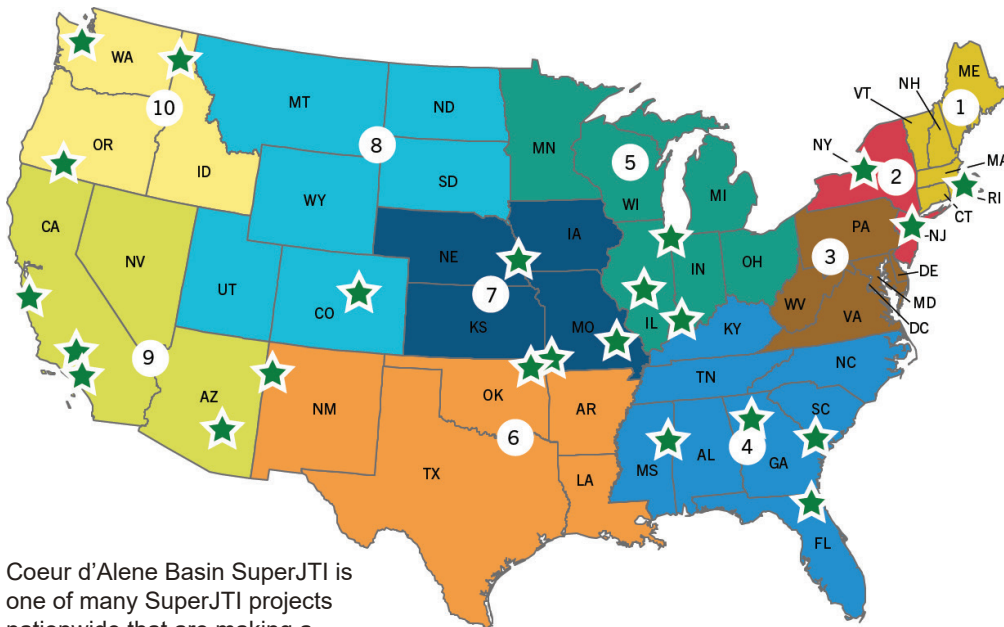
Graduation for the program's 12 trainees took place at the Kellogg Elks Lodge in May 2024. EPA Region 10 Superfund and Emergency Management Division Director Calvin J. Terada attended and spoke at the ceremony. EPA Headquarters SuperJTI National Program Manager Devon Martin handed out certificates to the graduates. The ceremony included remarks from program partners as well as the graduates.

COEUR D'ALENE BASIN SUPERJTI TRAINEES:

Live on or near the Coeur d'Alene Basin site: 67% of the trainees (8 people) live in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. 33% of the trainees (4 people) live in neighboring areas.

Include a wide range of ages: Trainees ranged from people in their early 20s to people in their 60s.

What is the SuperJTI Program?



The Superfund Job Training Initiative, or SuperJTI, supports job readiness programs in communities affected by nearby Superfund sites and encourages the employment of trainees at local site cleanups. The SuperJTI program combines extensive classroom instruction with hands-on exercises for each participant. Upon completion of the program, each participant possesses the marketable skills required to become a valuable member of the community's workforce. EPA offers SuperJTI training at no cost to training participants.

Coeur d'Alene Basin SuperJTI is one of many SuperJTI projects nationwide that are making a difference for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative

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