

BASIN BULLETIN



July 2019

Updates on the Coeur d'Alene River Basin Cleanup

Community Weighs in on Site Reuse

by Dan McCracken, Kellogg Remediation Program Manager, IDEQ

In April, IDEQ, EPA, and PHD teamed up to host community workshops on Superfund Redevelopment at the Bunker Hill site. EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative contractor Skeo Solutions facilitated the event. Interest in redevelopment of remediated properties was spurred by the Bunker Hill Site being included on EPA's Redevelopment Focus List in 2018. The list is intended to direct interested developers and potential owners to Superfund sites with redevelopment potential. The list featured sites ready to become catalysts for economic growth and revitalization.

Local workshops were held April 24 and included focus groups for local government, local business owners, and recreation and tourism. Skeo also facilitated a public community forum on the evening of April 25 to discuss ideas and receive additional input. Over 30 interested citizens attended. During the focus group meetings and community forum, participants expressed interest in redevelopment opportunities that supported economic development, recreation and tourism, and housing. Several IDEQ-owned parcels were discussed, including

areas in Government Gulch, the area along McKinley Avenue between Kellogg and Smelterville, and the land surrounding the Shoshone County Airport at Smelterville Flats. The public sessions were opportunities to consider how the different uses could be configured throughout the area to meet community goals.

Skeo will be preparing a report that includes a summary of the workshops, considerations, suitability, options, and next steps. The report is expected to be complete by late summer and will be made available to the public. The goal of this effort is to develop a framework to support coordinated, area-wide community revitalization. For more information about tools and resources to support the redevelopment of Superfund sites, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund-redevelopment-initiative>.

CONTACT: Kira Lynch, EPA, 206-553-2144, 800-424-4372, ext. 2144, lynch.kira@epa.gov

For information about the state-owned properties, including purchase options, please contact: Dan McCracken, IDEQ, 208-783-5781, dan.mccracken@deq.idaho.gov



Free blood-lead screening for kids! See Page 2



Protect Your Family: Free Blood-Lead Screening for Kids

Panhandle Health District is offering its annual free lead screening in Kellogg, Idaho, August 12 – 17, 2019. The screenings will be held at the Shoshone Medical Center and are an 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 on Page 5), will receive lead screening at no cost, plus a \$30 incentive. The testing is 'first come, first serve.' The screening is done by a simple finger-prick, along with participation in a short lead exposure questionnaire.

Screening typically takes 15-20 minutes per person with results available immediately. If the result shows over 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter or greater, a blood draw 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.

Lead exposure can cause severe health problems, especially for young children and pregnant women. Heavy metals-contaminated soils are being cleaned up, but people can still come into contact with lead. Lead screenings are not always included in a child's regular physical. PHD'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

Paved Roads Program Under Way for 2019

The Paved Roadway Surface Remediation Program began restoring roadways in 2013. Paving serves as a barrier to heavy metals contamination, and prevents recontamination of nearby cleaned-up properties. 2019 projects currently under construction are:

- In the Box - McKinley Avenue in Kellogg, Pine Creek Road south of Pinehurst.
- In the Basin - Silver Valley Road near Big Creek, Frontage Road between Wallace and Silverton, Mine Street, Woodland Drive, and Pole Line in Woodland Park.

Two paving projects are planned for later this summer: Nuchols Gulch Road, north of Osburn and Nine Mile Road, north of Wallace.

The Paved Roads Program will be completed at the end of the 2020 construction season, when Kellogg and Shoshone County finish up their individual efforts. This unique approach to controlling contamination in the roadbeds has been a success for the residents of the Silver Valley through partnerships with the cities and the county. Funding for the roadway surface remediation comes from the Superfund special account in the Box, and from the CDA Work Trust in the Basin. In many cases, these funds were also used to secure additional funding to improve local infrastructure such as sewer, water, and electrical. It was anticipated that the \$54 million originally allocated for the program would only pave and protect around half of the road segments which met certain criteria. However, with efficiencies, the program will have completed most road segments that are potentially eligible.

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



Keeping Cleaned-Up Areas Clean

Later this summer, four remedy protection projects will be constructed by the CDA Work Trust: two in the Canyon Creek drainage, one in the Ninemile drainage, and one in the town of Mullan. These projects will protect previously-installed human health barriers. Improvements will help protect people and the environment by reducing erosion and contamination from storm water runoff, tributary flooding, and heavy rain and snowfall.

Star Parking Area: Crews will build a new storm drain system near the old Hecla Star site. The project will help prevent contamination from running off the site. It is located in the area Shoshone County uses to store snow, and at the parking area across Burke Road, used as a school bus turn-around.

Gem Area: The Trust will upgrade an existing inlet for a drainage, about 3.5 miles up Burke Road from Interstate 90. Crews will install a pipe under Burke Road to reach Canyon Creek.

Blackcloud Creek: An undersized culvert will be replaced on Blackcloud Creek, under Ninemile Creek Road.

Tiger Creek: In Mullan, the Trust will continue installing a subsurface storm water pipe beneath 8th and Fir Streets, a new Tiger Creek inlet above Fir Street, as well as new storm drains, curbs, and paving along 8th Street. The portion of the project along River Street and lower 8th Street was completed in 2018. The rest of the project will be completed this year.

CONTACTS: Anne McCauley, EPA, 206-553-4689, 800-424-4372, ext. 4689, mccauley.anne@epa.gov or Jim Finlay, Coeur d'Alene Work Trust, 208-783-0222.



Star Parking Area June 2019



Central Treatment Plant Project Makes Rapid Progress

Significant progress has been made on the Bunker Hill Central Treatment Plant and Groundwater Collection System since our update in November 2018. The 55-foot by 156-foot steel filter building, 105-foot diameter sludge thickener tank, and 32-foot-tall reactor have been constructed and the team is starting to install piping and electrical systems. At the Central Impoundment Area next to I-90, the extraction wells have been installed. Piping installation began in June. After the piping is installed and the Central Treatment Plant is ready to receive groundwater, the containment wall will be completed. This will complete construction work along I-90. We expect the project will be finished by 2020. The Groundwater Collection System, along with the upgraded Central Treatment Plant, will improve water quality downstream by significantly reducing metals pollution going into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

CONTACTS: Ed Moreen, EPA, 208-664-4588, moreen.ed@epa.gov or Kim Prestbo, EPA, 206-553-0239, 800-424-4372, ext. 0239, prestbo.kim@epa.gov

What is the Institutional Controls Program?

The Panhandle Health District manages and enforces the Institutional Controls Program. The ICP was created to ensure barriers (such as clean soil or gravel) covering metals-contaminated soil continue to protect the health of residents. The ICP makes it possible for residents to get up to a cubic yard of clean soil or gravel each year, to keep their barriers in good shape. If a resident is doing a small excavation project, the ICP will provide containers or facilitate soil pickup and disposal. Be aware that permits are needed for many types of indoor and outdoor construction activities. Permits and consultations are free. Before you dig on your property or start an interior project, make sure you are following the ICP rules. Find the ICP boundaries map on page 5. If you have questions or need more information, contact PHD at 208-783-0707.

Innovative Use of Shredded Wood

Silt fencing is a common, and some might say ugly, sight at many construction locations. The fencing is designed to keep sediments and soil out of creeks and rivers, so they remain healthy. At the Lower Burke Canyon Repository, you may not see as many silt fences as you'd expect. They've been replaced with something a little different... shredded wood. The repository receives a lot of wood, which is ground down into a much more manageable size. The engineers who designed the repository found ways to use the discarded wood to meet many goals. Placing shredded wood in rows along the edges of a repository prevents sediment from moving into the creek. Benefits include: the shredded wood is practically free, it is much more environmentally sustainable, and it looks far better than silt fencing.

CONTACT: Patrick Hickey, EPA, 206-553-6295, 800-424-4372, ext. 6295, hickey.patrick@epa.gov



Placing shredded wood around waste repositories keeps soil and sediment out of local waterways.

Repositories Help Reduce Metals Exposure

The 2019 work season is off and running! Mine waste hauling to Lower Burke Canyon, Big Creek, and East Mission Flats Repositories started up in early May. Wastes are from various projects at Canyon Creek and in Shoshone County, as well as from Institutional Controls Program wastes. Contaminated waste hauling will continue through the summer and into the fall. EPA, the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust, IDEQ, and Panhandle Health District remain committed to limiting impacts to the local community.

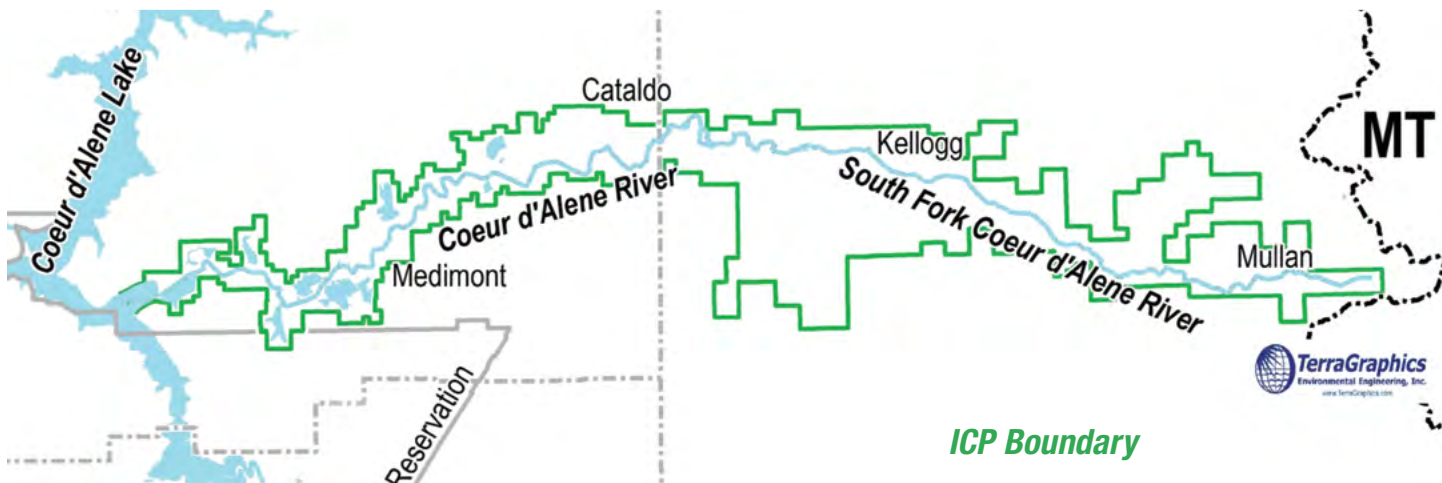
Repositories reduce health risks posed by metals like lead and arsenic. It is vital to provide cities and counties with engineered, well-managed facilities that take heavy metals-contaminated wastes year-round. Moving wastes from varied locations within Kootenai and Shoshone counties to condensed, managed locations helps control sources of contamination.

We understand that repositories can have negative effects on the neighborhoods around them, like increased truck traffic. We want to reduce these impacts. Trucks hauling waste to repositories are required to comply with traffic rules, cover their loads, and follow designated routes, among other requirements. Lower Burke Canyon Repository is open 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, except for the ICP area, which can be accessed 24/7. All other repository ICP areas are accessible 24/7. All the rest of the repositories are open as needed, as long as personnel are present to conduct washdown/decontamination activities as needed.

CONTACT: Patrick Hickey, EPA, 206-553-6295, 800-424-4372, ext. 6295, hickey.patrick@epa.gov



Lower Burke Canyon Repository



2019 Field Season in Full Swing

Upper Basin Cleanup Activities

Another busy and impactful field season is under way in the Upper CDA River Basin. Activities include moving tons of waste into secure Waste Consolidation Areas and repositories, studies at old mine sites to find out the extent of contamination and building a new WCA. Cleanups protect the local environment and people downstream. Moving metals-contaminated waste from many old mine and mill sites to properly designed and managed WCAs and repositories reduces the footprint and helps prevent exposure.

Ninemile Basin

The fourth and final year of cleanup at the *Success Mine*, in the East Fork Ninemile area, began in June. The Success site is the biggest source of lead and other metals to East Fork Ninemile Creek. Waste from Success is going to the East Fork Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area, up the canyon. By the end of this field season, the Success cleanup will be complete, with over 360,000 total cubic yards of waste hauled to the WCA.

Crews are working on a 500,000-cubic-yard expansion of the *East Fork Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area* footprint. This season, the WCA will take in about 80,000 cubic yards of waste rock and tailings from the Success and Interstate Mill Site cleanups. At the end of the season, a final cover will be placed over the lower portion of the WCA.

The CDA Work Trust continues to study impacts from historical mine areas along the *Lower East Fork Ninemile Creek*, and at *Dayrock Mine*. Work includes sampling of soils, sediments, groundwater, and surface water. Crews will drill monitoring wells. These investigations will inform future cleanup plans.

The *Tamarack Complex* is made up of six sites in the East Fork Ninemile area. Tamarack is a major source of lead loading to the East Fork Ninemile Creek, posing a risk to people’s health and the environment. In 2018, the Trust completed a study on the options for cleaning up Tamarack and determined that the best course of action was full removal of the mine waste. Later this year, the Trust will finish a final 100% design package for cleaning up Tamarack.

(continued on Page 6)



East Fork Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area



Tamarack Complex



Ninemile Fishing Pond

(continued from Page 5)

In June, the second phase of cleanup at Ninemile Fishing Pond was completed. Crews dug up lead-contaminated soil down to one foot around areas of the pond, and replaced it with clean soil or gravel. The cleanup will make the pond area safer for families.

Canyon Creek Basin

In late June/early July, crews started building the new Canyon Complex Repository/Waste Consolidation Area, in the Canyon Creek area. In response to community comments, we are expanding the site to the north. This design allows haul trucks to bypass the Woodland Park community, and adds capacity for eight more acres. This season’s work will wrap up at the end of August.



Canyon Complex Repository Site



Hecla Star Complex

Site Investigations

We’re doing studies at Tamarack Mine #7 and at the old Hecla Star Complex, near the town of Burke. Work includes sampling adits and soils, and digging new groundwater wells. These investigations will help answer questions about the extent of contamination at the sites, and inform cleanup design.

CONTACTS: Bonnie Arthur, EPA, 206-553-4072, 800-424-4372, ext. 4072, arthur.bonnie@epa.gov or Tamara Langton, EPA, 206-553-2709, 800-424-4372, ext. 2709, langton.tamara@epa.gov

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! The Coeur d’Alene Work Trust plans to clean up 30 more properties in the Basin this year. 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.



Restoration Partnership Announces New Projects

The Restoration Partnership is composed of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees. The Trustees are made up of representatives of agencies/governments who have management and stewardship responsibilities for fish, wildlife, and other natural resources in the Basin. They are the U.S. Department of Agriculture, represented by the U.S. Forest Service; the U.S. Department of the Interior, represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management; the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; and the State of Idaho, represented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

In 2019-2020 the Partnership will be implementing the following projects:

1. Schlepp Agriculture to Wetland Conversion Project - develop final operations and maintenance plan,
2. Robinson Creek Wetlands Restoration monitoring,
3. Conservation of Agriculture to Wetlands Conversion Properties in the Lower Basin,
4. Black Lake Ranch Agricultural to Wetlands Collaborative Remediation/Restoration Implementation,
5. Cougar Bay Wetlands Enhancement Project,
6. Hepton Lake Wetland Restoration Project,
7. Native Willow Nursery for Support of Restoration Actions throughout the Restoration Partnership Project Area,
8. Culturally Significant Plant Restoration,
9. Cultural Harvest Opportunities within the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, and
10. Coeur d'Alene Lake Education/Outreach, modeling and monitoring.



In spring 2019, the Trustees solicited project ideas from Coeur d'Alene Basin stakeholders. They received a total of 44 ideas. After in-depth review of those ideas, the Trustees requested that 16 be advanced to full applications during the summer of 2019. In fall 2019, the Trustees will be working with the project proponents to further develop the full applications for the Trustees' consideration.

The Partnership continues to coordinate with EPA on remedy and restoration activities and participation in BEIPC and associated groups and committees. For more information on the projects, visit: www.restorationpartnership.org.

Hand Washing Stations Now at Select Boat Launches

Watch for new hand washing stations at select boat launch areas. Starting in July, boat launches at Cataldo, Rainy Hill, Rose lake, and Medimont will feature these temporary setups. These locations were selected because many people use them for recreation and because they don't have running water. EPA and the Recreation Sites Team started providing these stations last year to help protect public health. Hand washing is an important way to reduce your exposure to lead and other heavy metals present in the area. Remember to also wash your hands and face with clean water before eating or drinking. Wash toys, bottles, and pacifiers if they touch soil, sand, or dust. Do not use river water. Play clean!

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



Update: BEIPC Public Participation Assessment

by Terry Harwood, Executive Director, BEIPC

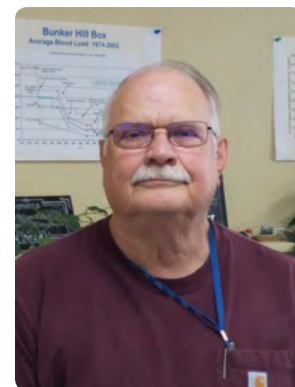
The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission uses an “adaptive management” approach to coordinating the cleanup. This involves reviewing activities and making changes as we proceed along in the process. To assist the BEIPC in adapting to changing approaches and issues, EPA contracted with a consultant to evaluate public participation in the Commission’s process. The evaluation resulted in a Public Participation Assessment in November 2016 (<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/10/100035028.pdf>).

Back in 2017, the BEIPC Citizens Coordinating Council sponsored a workshop to evaluate and rank the assessment report’s recommendations. The BEIPC Executive Director, staff, and some commissioners also evaluated the report and made additional recommendations.

The first major question was the role of the BEIPC. That question was addressed at two BEIPC meetings, and the Board reaffirmed and clarified the commission’s role as the coordinating entity for Basin cleanup. The Board also adopted action items at the December 2017 meeting. A brief status report of follow-up activities is below.

The BEIPC continues to evaluate its approach to public participation as we move along in the cleanup and restoration process.

CONTACT: Terry Harwood at terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov or 208-783-2528.



ACTIONS	STATUS
Update and modernize the BEIPC web page	Complete
Have agency communications experts explore social media tools and report back	Complete
Executive Director and Community Involvement Coordinators report out at CCC and BEIPC meetings on outreach activities conducted during each quarter	Implemented, continuing
Seek greater engagement by the Board at CCC meetings	Some board members have attended CCC meetings
Invite county representatives to be included in BEIPC staff activities	Done (County representatives are now included in all BEIPC staff activities)
Identify how input from previous meetings has been followed up on	Executive Director gives an update on input and items from the previous meeting at each meeting and invites the public to raise new or continuing issues
Electronic presentations at BEIPC and CCC meetings are to be posted on the web site	Done, continuing
The CCC will sponsor special meetings to discuss and inform the public of pending activities in the Basin	This activity will continue to occur
After much discussion it was decided that evening CCC meetings are best to ensure as much participation as possible	CCC meetings are scheduled in the evening hours



New Signs Help People Play Clean

New signs continue to pop up in local recreation areas. The signs remind people to take steps to reduce exposure to lead and other harmful metals while enjoying the outdoors. Some signs also include local history. Already, EPA, Panhandle Health and the Recreation Sites Team have posted more than two dozen signs, with more on the way. If you have suggestions for locations to place these health education signs, contact Bonnie Arthur or Andy Helkey as noted below.

CONTACTS: Bonnie Arthur, EPA, 206-553-4072 or 800-424-4372, ext. 4072, arthur.bonnie@epa.gov or Andy Helkey, Panhandle Health, 208-783-0707.

Out in the Community



You're Invited: Tour of Upper Basin Cleanup Projects, August 21

The Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission invites you to its annual cleanup tour. Set for August 21, the free tour will visit active cleanup projects from Ninemile Canyon to Kellogg. 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. 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 21, Come See Us!

Going to the Kid's Health Fair on Saturday, September 21? If so, 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 21-25. Stop by our interagency exhibit to learn about the Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup. We'd love to see you!

A Warm Farewell to Rene Gilbert!

Many thanks to Rene Gilbert, EPA's local Community Liaison, for nearly a decade of contributions to the cleanup. Rene made invaluable connections between the agency and the local communities, and demonstrated a daily commitment to meeting the needs of local residents during cleanup activities. Her involvement helped EPA better understand local perspectives and strengthened our cleanup decisions. We will benefit from her efforts for a long time. We wish her the best of luck!



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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/cc>

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

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