We Welcome Your Input by September 30, 2020: Siting New Waste Consolidation Areas in the Lower Basin

The Coeur d'Alene Trust is starting to look for new places to site *Waste Consolidation Areas*, under EPA's direction. Your input is welcome. Please send your input on the community criteria below to **Debra Sherbina**, sherbina.debra@epa.gov, by **September 30, 2020**.

New Waste Consolidation Areas Will Protect Health and Environment

More cleanup projects are coming to the Lower Basin. The cleanup projects will help protect people's health by removing soil and sediment contaminated with heavy metals like lead and arsenic. We are still evaluating cleanup approaches. Waste volumes from cleanup actions will depend upon the approach selected for each project. Several WCAs are needed to safely store the contaminated materials. EPA's goal is to have one or more Lower Basin locations ready to accept waste by 2024.

Instead of larger waste repositories, these smaller WCAs will be used. The WCAs will be placed close to cleanup projects, to reduce cost and roadway congestion. Each will be designed to take in waste from one or more cleanup projects in a specific area. This will allow the WCA to be tailored to the cleanup approach selected for each project. Unlike larger waste repositories, WCAs do not accept waste from Institutional Controls Program activities.

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What is a Waste Consolidation Area?

Waste Consolidation Areas are called WCAs, for short. WCAs are places where contaminated waste material – mostly soil and sediment – is stored. The waste material mostly comes from scraping up contaminated soils and sediments from nearby cleanup sites. The material is then secured in this smaller, managed place. When the WCAs are full, they are capped over with clean material. WCAs are necessary and they make sense for a cleanup as large as the Coeur d'Alene Basin. WCAs are engineered and managed to contain the contamination safely over time. This reduces exposure and helps protect people and wildlife.

Where is the Lower Basin?

The Lower Basin refers to the downstream end of the Lower Coeur d'Alene River Basin. It is the area along the Coeur d'Alene River valley, stretching from Enaville to Harrison. The Lower Basin includes about 37 Coeur d'Alene River miles, and nearby wetlands, marshes, and lakes. Cleanups of metals contamination will take place in select areas here over the next many years.

Community Priorities for Siting WCAs: What Do You Think?

In 2009, EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality worked with local communities to develop criteria for selecting waste repository locations. The criteria are like a checklist of important things to consider when choosing locations.

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New Waste Consolidation Areas – Community Priorities

The Community criteria are below.

- Impacts to wetlands
- Impacts to surface water, fish, and wildlife
- Impacts on floodplain
- Proximity to faults and landslide areas
- Impacts to people living or working nearby (residences and schools along truck haul routes)
- Impacts to businesses along truck haul routes
- Trucking costs
- Potential for economic redevelopment once repository construction is complete
- Storage capacity

We want to check in with you to make sure this is still the right list. What do you think? Are these considerations still relevant? Are there other issues to consider when looking for places to put WCAs? Please send your input on these community criteria to Debra Sherbina, sherbina.debra@epa.gov, by **September 30, 2020**. We will provide an update on any input we receive, and any changes we make to the criteria based on that input. We will also keep the community informed as we make progress on our WCA siting effort.

Draft Technical Criteria for Siting Waste Consolidation Areas

Siting WCAs can be a complicated task. In addition to looking at what is important to the community, there is also much to consider from a technical standpoint. EPA will give full consideration to community criteria when siting these WCAs. However, it may not be possible to meet all community criteria due to technical criteria, property availability, and other limitations.

The Coeur d' Alene Trust has developed its own draft criteria for siting WCAs in the Lower Basin. These are technical considerations based on the criteria set up in 2008/2009 for siting repositories. The Coeur d'Alene Trust recently modified the technical criteria and assumptions to apply to these new smaller WCAs. Many of these technical criteria line up with the community criteria.

Key Assumptions

- The WCAs will be sited in the Lower Basin of the Coeur d'Alene River.
- The WCAs will be designed and sited for specific remedial action(s).
- Using standard engineering practices, the WCAs will be designed to minimize potential for metals leaching to groundwater and surface water.
- During operations and after closure, the WCAs must be able to be secured and maintained to prevent off-site migration of contaminated solids.
- WCAs will only be sited within the 100-year floodplain if the contaminant release assumption stated above is met.
- The sites must be reasonably flat.
- The sites must be accessible from existing roads or the river.

Draft Technical Criteria for WCA Siting:

EPA and the Coeur d' Alene Trust will evaluate the following criteria for each proposed WCA site:

- Minimize potential for impact to wetlands and related wildlife
- Minimize potential for impact to surface waters and fish and wildlife
- Minimize potential for impact to groundwater
- Minimize potential for impact to base flood elevation

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New Waste Consolidation Areas – Draft Technical Criteria

- Site is not near a mapped fault or likely to be affected by a landslide
- Site not likely to result in impacts to persons living or working near the repository (residences, schools, urban areas)
- Truck route along State Highway 3 to the WCAs not likely to affect existing persons or businesses
- Minimize trucking costs by locating WCAs close to cleanup areas
- Development of WCAs generates clean soil or rock for remedial action construction and caps
- Capacity of WCAs is sufficient for the planned remedial actions in the vicinity of the WCAs

For More Information, Contact

Patrick Hickey, EPA, hickey.patrick@epa.gov • 206-553-6295 • 800-424-4372, ext. 6295.
Debra Sherbina, EPA, sherbina.debra@epa.gov • 206-553-0247 • 800-424-4372, ext. 0247.

Cancelled:

Panhandle Health District's annual blood lead screening event will not take place this year.
For more information please call 208-783-0707.

Updates to CDA Basin Fish Consumption Advisory

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, in coordination with the Idaho Fish Consumption Advisory Program, updated the fish consumption advisory for water bodies in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The advisory was updated because recent testing showed high levels of mercury in some species of fish. Mercury levels were similar to other advisories issued in Idaho. Consuming high levels of mercury can harm the brain and nervous system, especially in children. The IDHW and CDA Tribe recognize the health benefits of eating fish and are providing this advisory to encourage its safe consumption.

Fish sampling was completed in 2016. This effort updates and expands the 2003 fish consumption advisory for Coeur d'Alene Lake into additional areas of the Coeur d'Alene River, Chain Lakes, and the Spokane River above the Post Falls dam. The Chain Lakes advisory includes Thompson Lake, Anderson Lake, Blue Lake, Black Lake, Swan Lake, Cave Lake, Medicine Lake, Killarney Lake, and Bull Run Lake. Species collected included bass, panfish, bullhead, northern pike, kokanee, and trout.

IDHW analyzed concentrations of mercury, lead, arsenic, and cadmium in fish tissue to determine the number of meals per month that are safe to eat. Levels of cadmium, arsenic, and lead found in the fish tissue are not expected to harm people's health when following meal recommendations. Lead exposure from eating fish is not expected to be harmful for children. Preventing exposure to lead contaminated soils would reduce potential health risks more than avoiding eating fish. Bass had the highest concentrations of mercury across all of the waterbodies, and the updated advisory is generally consistent with the statewide bass advisory and other Idaho consumption advisories.

This updated advisory provides location and fish-specific recommendations for adults, pregnant women (including women planning to become pregnant and nursing mothers), and children under the age of 6. IDHW recommends that fish consumers, especially those from sensitive populations, follow recommended meal limits to reduce potential health risks from exposure to mercury.

To review the "2020 Updated Fish Consumption Advisory for the Coeur d'Alene Basin" and the "Coeur d'Alene Basin Fish Tissue Analysis and Consumption Advisory Full Report," please visit: http://fishadvisory.dhw.idaho.gov. View the documents by expanding the information under the question: What is the Fish Consumption Advisory for Idaho? For questions, please call 1-866-240-3553.

Basin Property Cleanup Protects Health

The Basin Property Remediation Program has been busy cleaning up commercial and residential properties across the Basin since 2002. Work has already begun for 2020. This year the Coeur d'Alene Work Trust plans to clean up 10 more properties within the Basin. To date, over 7,100 Bunker Hill Box, Upper Basin, and Lower Basin properties have been cleaned up. These include residential and commercial properties, rights-of-way, and private drinking water sources. During a property remediation, generally the top 6-12 inches of contaminated soil is removed and replaced with clean soil. This protects people's health by reducing exposure to lead and other harmful materials. If you believe your property may be eligible and you'd like to have it sampled for mining-related metals, please contact IDEQ • 208-783-5781, or **Kyle Richards**, Coeur d'Alene Work Trust • 208-783-0222.

Investigation at Gray's Meadow Needed for Wetland Conversion Project

People hiking and cycling the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes this summer may notice heavy equipment pumping water and drilling soil samples in Gray's Meadow. These activities are part of a joint cleanup and restoration project to address contaminated soils, and convert this former agricultural site into an ecologically functional wetland. The completed project will provide healthy habitat for waterfowl and recreational opportunities for people.

If you're in the area, you may see machines pumping large volumes of water out of the meadow. The soil needs to be temporarily drained so workers can drill soil samples and collect information to help engineers design and construct the new wetland. Water levels will return to normal once workers finish collecting soil samples.

The EPA and Restoration Partnership are collaborating to restore this property owned by Idaho Fish and Game. When completed, the project will:

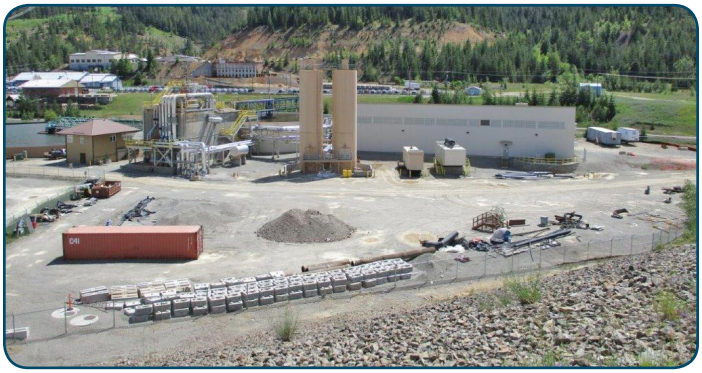
- Reduce lead contamination in the soil to safe levels for waterfowl.
- Convert 700 acres of agricultural crop lands to wetland and riparian habitat with native vegetation and cleaner water.
- Create islands that provide habitat and nesting sites for waterfowl.
- Reduce pumping by passively maintaining water levels beneficial for the wetland plants and animals.

Project partners expect to begin soil cleanup in late 2021 and complete wetland construction in 2023.

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

Central Treatment Plant Upgrades and Groundwater Collection System Project

The upgrades to the Central Treatment Plant and Groundwater Collection System will improve treatment of acid mine drainage coming from the Bunker Mine and surrounding groundwater. The project will improve water quality by significantly reducing metals contamination going into the South Fork of the CDA River.



EPA and our partners have reached new project milestones. Several key accomplishments took place this year at the CTP. In February, treated water was successfully carried from the filter building through a new buried effluent pipeline, and discharged through the submerged diffuser in the South Fork CDA River. In April, the upgraded CTP met testing criteria, and treatment of mine water shifted from the temporary treatment system to the upgraded plant. The temporary system was thoroughly cleaned (decontaminated) and taken offline in early May.

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Central Treatment Plant Upgrades

The extraction wells and pumping systems for groundwater collection are in place and operational. We continue to test the integrated groundwater collection system.

Completion of the containment wall was delayed by one month, as EPA and the State of Idaho adjusted to the evolving COVID-19 situation. Crews were finally able to mobilize in June. We will complete construction by July. Then, we will begin a series of aquifer tests for the rest of the summer. We will test and optimize the system into 2021.

Many thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers, our contractors Wood and Jacobs, and IDEQ for their important contributions to this massive project!

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

Paved Roads Program – Nearing Destination in 2020

The Paved Roadway Surface Remediation Program (Roads Program) has kicked off what is very likely to be its last season. Paving acts as a barrier to underlying contamination, preventing remediated properties from being recontaminated. Shoshone County has begun removing old pavement, and is repaving the road segments in the Basin. The county will pave a total of 36 road segments in the Basin. One segment in the Bunker Hill Box will be repaved for Shoshone County by the City of Kellogg: Hill Street from the Kellogg City limits to its end. It will complete the county's segments in the Box.

Two additional segments, part of Bunker Avenue near the middle school and Wildcat Way, will be finished this year to close out Kellogg's program. If the county completes all 36 segments this season, they will use up their remaining funding. This will close out the overall Roads Program.

2013 marked the first construction season for the program. At the time, we believed that only about half of all eligible road segments would be addressed. However, effective and efficient use of funds has led to most eligible segments being completed (approximately 580 segments). Several were paved under the remedy protection effort, freeing up more resources to finish segments under the Roads Program.

The county began work on roads in May, and the city will begin in July. The county will pave segments of road near Kingston, Pinehurst, Osburn and Wallace, along with some work in Silverton. A photo of work the county has already started is included with this article. The construction season will run through summer and wrap up this fall.

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

Upper Basin Cleanup Activities: Full Speed Ahead

The 2020 field season is underway in the Upper CDA River Basin! The CDA Work Trust is performing the work, under EPA's direction. In ***Canyon Creek Basin***, cleanup investigations are taking place at Tamarack Mine No. 7 and Black Bear Fraction/Flynn Mine. In August, a cleanup investigation will start at the Hecla Star Complex. These investigations will help guide the remedial design process so that sources of heavy metals from historical mine and mill sites can be removed. Crews will drill borings and monitoring wells, dig test pits, and collect samples. Work will wrap up by the end of August.

DETAILS: Canyon Creek Basin Summer 2020 Field Work: https://go.usa.gov/xw8AC.
[PDF] You may need a PDF reader to view this file. See EPA's About PDF page to learn more.

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

Jennifer Crawford, EPA • crawford.jennifer@epa.gov • 206-553-6261
or 800-424-4372 ext. 6261.

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Upper Basin Cleanup Activities

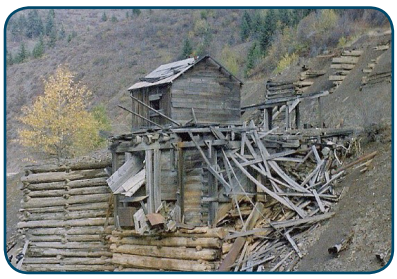
In ***Ninemile Basin***, crews have started preparing the Interstate Millsite for cleanup. Crews are also preparing the ***East Fork Ninemile Waste Consolidation Area*** to receive about 100,000 cubic yards of waste rock and tailings from Interstate Millsite. The existing EFNM contaminated creek channel below the old millsite will be removed, realigned, and replaced with clean materials. This will be the second and final year of cleanup at the millsite. EPA expects this summer's work will wrap up in mid to late October, weather permitting. Removing waste from old mine and mill sites like this one reduces health risks from metals like lead and arsenic.

Throughout the summer, at ***Dayrock Mine*** and along the ***Lower East Fork Ninemile Creek***, work crews are out collecting groundwater and creek level measurements. This work will help the Trust study impacts from historical mine areas and develop a cleanup design. This is the third year of investigations for both projects.

We know this work poses an inconvenience to residents. Thank you for your patience while we complete these projects. Please contact us if you have concerns.

DETAILS: Ninemile Basin 2020 Field Work • https://go.usa.gov/xvMg6 [PDF]

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



An old outbuilding once stood at the Douglas site.

Sampling Underway at Douglas Site

Since June, crews have been on site at the old Douglas Mine and Mill. They are collecting data, an effort that started last year. Most work will wrap up by the end of July. The data will inform a cleanup design that will protect people's health and the environment. Construction is slated for 2022. The Douglas Mine and Mill Site is located along the East Fork of Pine Creek, south of Pinehurst. The site was discovered in 1898, with ore production beginning in 1916. During its life, the site produced more than 100,000 tons of ore, mainly lead, zinc, and silver. Most recently, visitors have used the Douglas site for motorcycle and ATV riding, camping, and target shooting. These activities pose health risks, because metals in the dust and soil can be breathed in or swallowed. Metals-contaminated materials along the creek can dissolve, and harm water quality. Late last year, the CDA Work Trust, under EPA's direction, started sampling and testing at the site to help find out how much contamination exists. DETAILS: https://go.usa.gov/xwjAj [PDF].

CONTACT: **Patrick Hickey** • EPA, hickey.patrick@epa.gov • 206-553-6295 • 1-800 -424-4372 ext. 6295.

Seasonal Work Underway at Canyon Complex Repository

Crews have started construction again out at the new Canyon Complex Repository/Waste Consolidation Area (CCR/WCA), in Canyon Creek. This area is right next to the old "SVNRT repository." Workers will build the new repository foundation in 2020. As part of this work, crews will remove and stockpile soils that can be used for future capping of the new repository. Mine waste from SVNRT will be moved to the expanded footprint of the new repository in 2021. The facility will be ready to take in mine waste from other cleanup sites in the Canyon Creek area in 2023. When finished, the new WCA will be able to hold about 1.8 million cubic yards. Repositories and waste consolidation areas like this one reduce health risks from metals like lead and arsenic.

Photo taken by Jaxon Dean (CDM Smith). Photo used by permission

As part of construction of CCR, the CDA Work Trust purchased a 23-acre parcel that will be used as a source of uncontaminated rock and gravel to use as clean fill materials. This property is located 2.7 miles east of CCR. It will supply clean construction materials, including different sized gravel and road surfacing materials to CCR, as well as to other Canyon Creek remedial action projects. Work will take place 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. No state highway closures will be necessary. EPA expects this summer's work will wrap up in early November.

DETAILS: https://go.usa.gov/xfbA4 [PDF].

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

Health and Safety are Priorities

As we continue to adjust to the evolving COVID-19 situation, EPA is taking the necessary steps to ensure that decisions about ongoing cleanup activities at Superfund sites are made with the health and safety of communities, EPA staff, partners, and contractors as the priority. Therefore, decisions about continuing on-site activities will be made on a case-by-case basis. We are working closely with our partners to evaluate options for continuing site work or securing sites, especially in areas where local health declarations are in effect due to COVID-19.

Trucks Hauling Waste to Lower Burke Canyon

Trucks have resumed hauling waste to the Lower Burke Canyon Repository, in the Upper CDA River Basin. The repository is operated by the CDA Work Trust under EPA's direction. Repositories are designed to reduce risks posed by metals like lead and arsenic in the waste. We estimate about 1,750 truckloads of contaminated material will be hauled to LBCR this season. Waste will come from work on roads, Panhandle Health District's Institutional Controls Program, and possible other Basin projects. We are committed to limiting impacts to the local community, and will continue to work with the Trust to monitor the haulers coming into the repository.

DETAILS: https://go.usa.gov/xfbAE [PDF].

CONTACT: **Patrick Hickey,** EPA • hickey.patrick@epa.gov • 206-553-6295 • 1-800 -424-4372 ext. 6295

Comings and Goings

Welcome to the Team, Jennifer Crawford!

EPA's Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup team is pleased to welcome our newest Remedial Project Manager, Jennifer Crawford. Jenn will be working on *Remedy Protection* projects, yard cleanups under the Basin Property Remediation Program, and select mine site cleanups. Jenn has been with EPA since 2004. She works out of the Seattle office. She said, "I'm excited to be joining the project and working on this important cleanup!" Jenn can be reached at 206-553-6261 or crawford.jennifer@epa.gov.

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.

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

www.epa.gov/superfund/bunker-hill

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!

www.facebook.com/CDAbasin

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

EPA Community Involvement Contact

Debra Sherbina

sherbina.debra@epa.gov

1-800-424-4372 ext. 0247

Alternative formats are available.

For reasonable accommodation, please call Debra Sherbina • 206-553-0247.

TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

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