

Stibnite Mine

Community Involvement Plan

November 2021

This Community Involvement Plan lays out how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will inform and engage with the local community while working on the **Stibnite Mining Area**. Input from residents, local governments, and community organizations helped shape this plan. We consider it a “living document.” Your suggestions for improving our public involvement program are always welcome.

This plan is designed to align with the needs of the community. To tailor the plan, we asked local people how they want to be informed and involved. In September 2021, community involvement coordinators connected with seven people representing a diversity of views, from McCall, Cascade, and Yellow Pine. Thank you to everyone who took the time to talk with us and share ideas. Although we talked with a small percentage of the population, it represents a spectrum. If you would like to share your ideas, please contact Andrea Lindsay at any time.



*East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River
flowing into the Yellow Pine Pit*

Community Engagement Goals

EPA's project staff is committed to a meaningful community involvement program. Our goals are to:

- Make available timely, relevant information about site activities.
- Present information in a clear, understandable way.
- Foster open communication, responding to questions and concerns as they arise.
- Listen to and consider local input.

The Community Involvement Action Plan

EPA uses many tools to inform and involve people. To best serve the people of this community, EPA will provide information in a variety of ways. EPA will focus on the methods and activities listed below.

Fact Sheets

When we have important information to share about the site, we issue Fact Sheets. The Fact Sheets provide cleanup updates, meeting notices, or other news. We send them to people on our hard copy and electronic mailing lists, post them online, announce them on Facebook, and put them in the McCall Library. We may also share our materials with other organizations so they can share the information through their own channels.

Helpful Resources

EPA has created materials to outline activities at the site.

- Stibnite Mine Site profile on EPA's website: www.epa.gov/superfund/stibnite-yellow-pine
- Stibnite Mine Fact Sheet, July 2021: <https://go.usa.gov/xMMsR>

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The Community Involvement Action Plan

Email Announcements

On occasion, we send out information about cleanup activities to our electronic mailing list. To get on the list, contact lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

Informal Communication

Project managers and community involvement staff are available to talk with you about the site at any time. Feel free to contact us to share information, discuss concerns, or ask questions. Contacts are listed on page 6.

Community Forums

EPA will host community forums if a need arises. EPA project managers will also attend local meetings hosted by others, when possible and appropriate. These forums or meetings may take place remotely or in-person, depending on the circumstances. If any EPA meetings take place in Yellow Pine, the community hall is the likely location.

Formal Public Comment Periods

During key decision points in its process, EPA announces and opens public comment periods. Comment periods usually run 30 days. EPA carefully considers all public comments. Most recently, EPA offered a comment period on its administrative record for upcoming Stibnite Mining Area cleanup actions. This administrative record includes documents which support an Action Memorandum for removal actions to address some of the contamination at several discrete areas of the site. That comment period started July 26 and closed August 25, 2021. EPA does not expect more comment periods to occur in the near term.

Working with the Media

EPA will make any important notifications using display ads in the McCall Star News. Announcements may also appear in the Yellow Pine Times. We issue press releases to local media whenever there is important news to share. We also offer press availability sessions and are available for interviews with local reporters. We do recognize, however, that the agency doesn't have control over what the media reports.

Document Collections: Public Information Repositories

EPA provides space for the public to view records related to Superfund work at the site. You can review materials for this site at:

- **EPA Stibnite Documents:** www.epa.gov/superfund/stibnite-yellow-pine, click on *Site Documents & Data*
- **Administrative Record:** [Stibnite Mine Time Critical Removal Action \(35 documents\)](#)
- **McCall Public Library**
218 Park Street
McCall, ID 83638
208-634-5522

Website

EPA maintains a website about the cleanup. Here people can find site activity information, background details, technical and legal documents, and much more: www.epa.gov/superfund/stibnite-yellow-pine

Language Access

EPA will provide language translation and interpretation services as needed, to ensure that any non-English speaking individuals can have equal access to EPA materials and activities. To date, these services have not been requested and a need has not been identified. To make a request, contact lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

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The Community Involvement Action Plan



Facebook

Sometimes EPA posts site updates on its regional Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/eparegion10

Mailing List

EPA maintains both hard copy and email mailing lists of people who may be interested in the cleanup.

To get on our mailing list, or to be removed, contact lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

Background

The Stibnite Mining District sits along the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River. It is 14 miles southeast of Yellow Pine, Idaho, in the Payette National Forest. The 3,000-acre site is on both private and public National Forest Service lands. The Nez Perce Tribe and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have treaty-reserved rights to resources within the site.

The mine produced gold, antimony, and tungsten from the 1900s to 1990s. Mining, milling, and mineral processing left behind a complicated situation. There are underground mine workings, open pits, rock dumps, tailings deposits, heap leach pads (areas where minerals were extracted), spent heap leach ore piles, a ruptured water dam, an abandoned water diversion tunnel, a mill and smelter site, and so on. Metals contaminate the area, including the river and its tributaries.

EPA and the U.S. Forest Service have overseen past environmental cleanups near Meadow Creek, the Spent Ore Disposal Area/Bradley Tailings pile, and the NW Bradley Dumps. Remaining contamination still presents a risk to people's health and the environment.

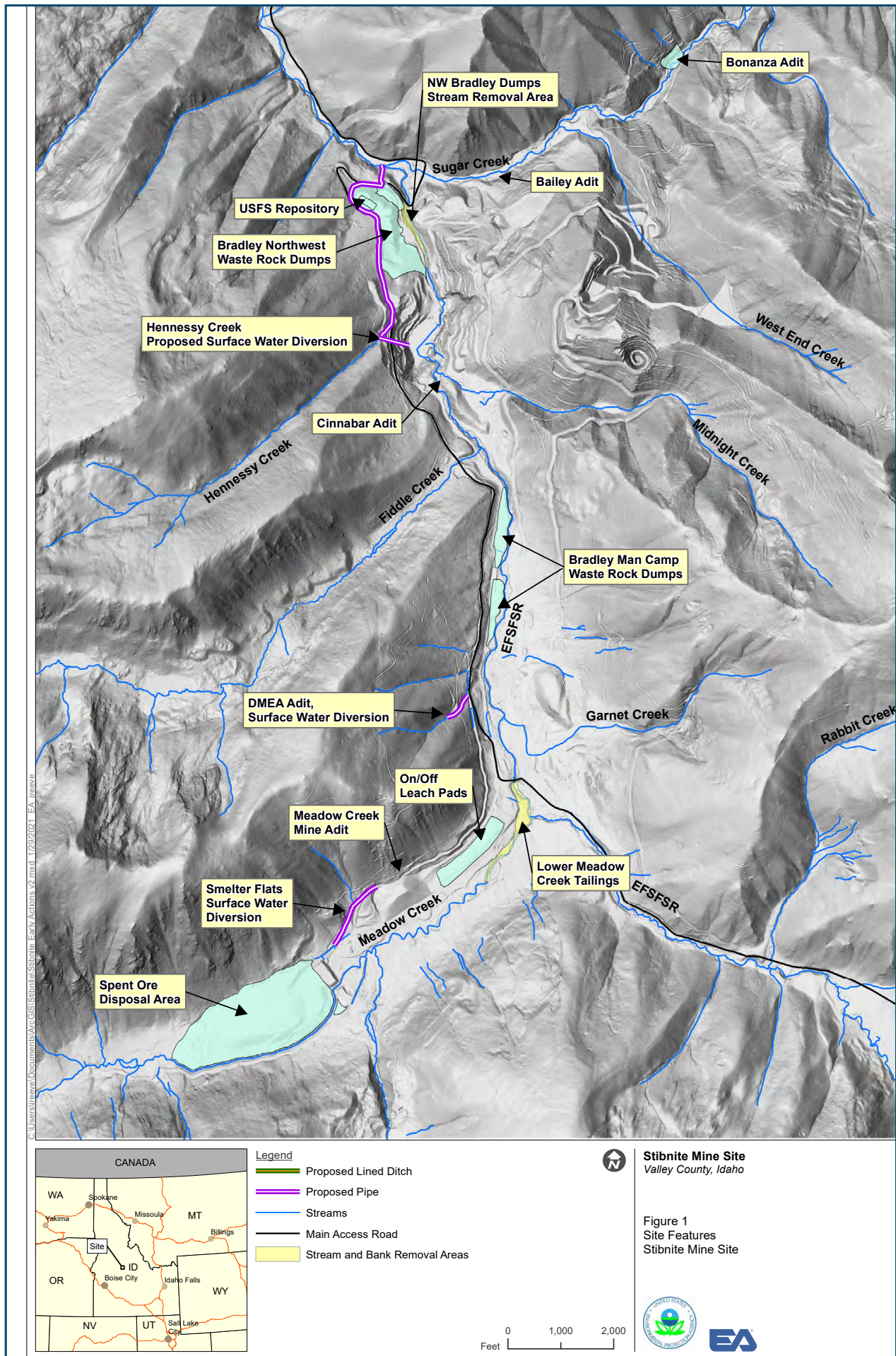
What is Superfund?

Superfund is a federal law authorizing EPA to clean up contaminated sites. Its official name is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA. Because it is not listed on the National Priorities List, Stibnite Mine cannot receive federal funds to support cleanup activities. However, EPA is overseeing cleanup of the site by Perpetua Resources under the Superfund law.

Upcoming Cleanup Actions

Cleanup actions are expected to take place over the next several years. The actions, called removals, will address discrete areas of contamination. These cleanup actions will address a small portion (less than 5%) of the overall contamination at the site. The work will be done by the potentially responsible party, Perpetua Resources (formerly Midas Gold), under a settlement agreement with EPA and U.S. Forest Service. The agencies will oversee the work. Onsite activities will include:

- Conduct a one-year baseline study of water flow and chemistry seeping from mine adits to help inform future actions.
- Reroute Hennessey Creek and two other streams around mine features to avoid contaminants.
- Remove 200,000 tons of mine waste from streambanks and floodplains at the Bradley Man Camp Dumps.
- Remove 100,000 tons of mine waste from the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River next to the NW Bradley Dumps. Stabilize a portion of the stream banks to prevent future erosion.
- Remove 25,000 tons of mine tailings from lower Meadow Creek. Mine waste from lower Meadow Creek and Bradley Man Camps will be placed at the existing On/Off Pads repository.



About the Community

The Stibnite Mine site affects areas in Valley County, Idaho. To gain a better understanding of the surrounding area, EPA looked at census data, EPA's [EJSCREEN tool](#), and local websites. We also talked with community members, as noted in the next section.

The Stibnite Mining Area is located 14 miles southeast of Yellow Pine. Yellow Pine is a census designated place surrounded by Payette National Forest and largely an inholder community. An inholder is someone who owns private land within federal property. The town was originally founded for gold mining, and generations of miners have lived in Yellow Pine. Yellow Pine is known for its many festivals throughout the year and is a recreation destination. As such, the population of Yellow Pine is in flux throughout the year, with fewer residents in winter. While the population can be as high as about 250 during certain times of the year, the year-round population ranges from about 23 to 32.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA Region 10 works to make sure underserved, low income, and tribal communities facing disproportionate environmental risks have opportunities for meaningful participation in environmental decision-making. Many EPA environmental justice resources can be found at www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice. EPA's EJSCREEN tool found no demographic or environmental indicators for environmental justice concerns in these communities. EJSCREEN is available at www.epa.gov/ejscreen.

Another affected area is the City of McCall, the largest city within Valley County, ID. Its population is 3,696 per the 2020 census. McCall is largely a tourist town, with most of its jobs coming from the hospitality sector. The second largest job market is in healthcare. McCall lies near the center of Payette National Forest.

A third area looked at is Cascade, ID. The city was originally established as a logging community, but in 2001 began an effort to move toward outdoor tourism. The area is now well known for its year-round recreation opportunities. Cascade sits near water, as the North Fork of the Payette River flows through the city, feeding into Lake Cascade along its west border. The city's population is about 2,800, per the 2020 census. The major industries include ranching and lodging, as well as government careers with the city and Forest Service.

Demographics

	Yellow Pine	McCall	Cascade
Population	32	3,686	2,812
Median Age	50	49	59
Low Income Population	0%	13%	9%

A large proportion of the population in these areas is White. According to the census, in Yellow Pine, one resident identifies as non-White (Hispanic or Latino). In McCall, 3,250 residents identify as White, 27 as American Indian/Alaska Native, 34 as Asian, 8 as Black or African American, 297 as Latino, 189 as some other race, and 178 as two or more races. In Cascade, 2,540 residents identify as White, 20 as American Indian/Alaska Native, 12 as Asian, 2 as Black or African American, 104 as Latino, 3 as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 39 as some other race, and 196 as two or more races.

All areas have a large percentage of the population as 65 or over – with Yellow Pine at 34%, McCall at 25%, and Cascade at 35%.

Community Interviews

During recent interviews, EPA learned about ways community members get information, as well as general perspectives about Stibnite Mine. While a small number of people participated in the interviews, their input provides a snapshot that spans a spectrum of interests. We welcome more input at any time.

- There are a variety of opinions about activities at the mine, ranging from opposition to support. It has been a high profile, controversial issue. Different regions of the county tend to hold different views.
- Many people in the area mistrust the federal government, including EPA. Many people probably know little about EPA.

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Community Interviews

- A couple of people indicated it would be helpful to have a consistent, familiar contact person at EPA who can build trust with the community.
- Locally, people have been very engaged in Stibnite issues over time, with high turnout at community meetings and thousands of people commenting during a Forest Service comment period. Not everyone is tracking the complex details, but interest remains high.
- Several people mentioned that a unique thing about this area is its variable population. A notable portion of the population is seasonal, with many people having second homes in the area. Also, not all homes have mailboxes; PO Boxes are common.
- Even though some of the communities are more remote, people do have Internet access and many use email, social media, and virtual meeting platforms.
- Community members appreciate updates and information. People commonly get their news from the McCall Star News, which is widely read. The Yellow Pine Times is a direct way to reach people in Yellow Pine. Also, many people get their news by word of mouth.

Our Partners

EPA is committed to coordination with other agencies and organizations during its cleanup work. A notable partner is the U.S. Forest Service, which has a long history of involvement with the Stibnite Mine, including activities under the National Environmental Policy Act.

- USFS Environmental Impact Statement: <https://go.usa.gov/xFckj>
- Other USFS documents related to the NEPA Process Stibnite Environmental Impact: <https://go.usa.gov/xFckW>

Site Contacts

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If you need materials in an alternative format, please contact Andrea Lindsay at 800-424-4372, ext.1896.



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