

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



*Stibnite and Cinnabar Mines, Yellow Pine, Valley County, Idaho*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

August 2004

## CLEANUP OF ARSENIC “HOT SPOTS” AT STIBNITE MINE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a small hazardous waste cleanup at the Stibnite Mine, located about 14 miles east of Yellow Pine in Valley County, Idaho. EPA and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have performed a number of cleanup activities at the Stibnite Mine over the years.

During the summer of 2003, the USFS and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) found mine wastes containing very high levels of arsenic at the Stibnite Mine. These arsenic “hot spots” are located in the NW Bradley Waste dump. Since the site is not secured and public access is not restricted, these “hot spots” could pose a health risk to people visiting the area.

EPA will remove this public health risk by excavating and safely disposing of the contaminated waste. The excavated areas will then be graded and have soil placed on top. In the fall, it will be seeded with native plants and covered with straw. The waste will be placed in the on-site USFS “repository cell,” an area designed to safely store the waste and prevent exposure to the public. EPA intends to

start the cleanup around August 16 and finish by August 30. EPA’s contractor for this work is Environmental Quality Management (EQM).

### CINNABAR MINE ACTIONS

The USFS conducted cleanup work at Cinnabar in 1992, and EPA did work there in 1996 and 1998. There is still a need to provide plant cover on the tailings impoundment at the mine. As at Stibnite, EPA will grade these areas, add soil, and prepare the area for reseeded this fall. The work will be completed this month.

Both Stibnite and Cinnabar Mines are a mixture of privately owned land and federally owned, USFS-managed land.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or comments about this work, please contact:

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For a copy of EPA’s decision document for the cleanups, the Action Memorandum, please contact:

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*Yellow Pine, Valley County, Idaho*  
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