

# BASIN BULLETIN

## Review of Cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

### *Inside This Issue*

- Changes Coming to Cleanup Plan for Upper Basin..... 1
- Refresher: How comments are being handled ..... 2
- Agencies work together to reopen State Highway 3..... 3
- Big Creek Repository to Expand on North Side 4
- Planning Under Way for Osburn Repository ..... 4
- Waste Soil Repository Update ..... 4
- High Metals Levels Found in Winter Flood Sediments..... 5
- Opportunities to Get Involved..... 5
- Long-Term 'Box' ICP Repository Location Proposed, Documents Available ..... 6
- 2011 Basin Property Cleanups Make Steady Progress ..... 7
- Basin Information Repositories ..... 7
- Lower Basin Collaborative: Having a Say in What Happens ..... 8
- New Basin Outreach Employee Hired..... 8
- Lake Management Plan — Needs Assessment Findings..... 9
- People Learn, Give Input at Lower Basin Modeling Workshops..... 10
- Comings and Goings..... 11
- Contacts List..... 12

### **Changes Coming to Cleanup Plan for Upper Basin**

EPA is now reviewing and preparing responses to nearly 7,000 comments from about 1,000 commenters on the draft cleanup plan (Proposed Plan) for the Upper Basin. Comments came from people who are in support of the plan, are against the plan, and from those who would like to see changes to various parts of the plan. We are now considering revisions to the plan based on these comments.

As EPA continues to have conversations with stakeholders about the Proposed Plan, it is clear that the Final Plan will have a reduced scope. While a decision on the final details has not yet been made, EPA's current thinking is to re-focus groundwater collection along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, and eliminate a costly river liner that would be difficult to implement. Not installing the liner reduces cleanup costs by about \$300 million.

“The river liner posed some serious technical challenges. Many of the public comments criticized the high cost of the overall cleanup plan and specifically the work associated with the liner system. Removing the liner from the cleanup plan is one good way to address the cost issue without sacrificing environmental protection. We see other parts of the plan as more critical to protecting people and wildlife, and therefore a higher priority,” says EPA Project Manager Bill Adams. The remedy will include an implementation plan with specific annual opportunities for ongoing community engagement.

*Continued Next Page*

### **EPA Community Involvement Contacts**

**Debra Sherbina**  
[sherbina.debra@epa.gov](mailto:sherbina.debra@epa.gov)  
(800) 424-4372, ext. 0247

**Caryn Sengupta**  
[sengupta.caryn@epa.gov](mailto:sengupta.caryn@epa.gov)  
(800) 424-4372, ext. 1275

## Changes Coming to Cleanup Plan for Upper Basin

Continued from Previous Page

In regards to other potential changes in the cleanup plan, the Upper Basin Project Focus Team (UBPFT), a Basin Commission subgroup, continues to look closely at modifications that could be made to the plan.

### Refresher: How comments are being handled

All individual comments have been entered into an electronic database and grouped into categories based on the content of the comment. This helps EPA account for and respond to each comment. The agency is currently preparing a "Response to Comments" document. This document will include both a response to each individual comment and a summary response to each issue. The Response to Comments will be issued at the same time as the ROD (Record of Decision) Amendment, later this year. The ROD is the final decision document and will describe the selected cleanup alternative. Once they are finalized, copies of the documents will be available on EPA's ROD Amendment web site at <http://go.usa.gov/igD> or by request to EPA.

The subgroup includes members from the community, state and federal agencies, tribes, and environmental groups. On March 9, the team met in Wallace to work with EPA on ideas about how to change the cleanup plan, and how the changes would affect the planning and rollout of on the ground work.

This group is also working on a field effort for 2011 to evaluate a number of sites for potential removal from the cleanup plan prior to the Record of Decision (ROD). This evaluation process would keep going after the ROD to continue to identify sites or areas where no further action is required. EPA will be scheduling more UBPFPT meetings to work out the details on how the plan will change. EPA anticipates more adjustments will be made before the cleanup plan is finalized later in 2011. We will continue to provide updates for the community on our progress.

For more information, contact

✉ Bill Adams at [adams.bill@epa.gov](mailto:adams.bill@epa.gov) or

✉ Anne Dailey at [dailey.anne@epa.gov](mailto:dailey.anne@epa.gov)

☎ Or reach us toll-free at (1-800) 424-4372.

Find out more about the Proposed Plan and ROD Amendment at <http://go.usa.gov/igD>

## Citizens Coordinating Council Survey Available

By Jeri DeLange, Communications PFT Chair

This year, the Basin Commission's Communications PFT continues to work on finding new ways for citizens to engage in the Superfund process in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The Communications PFT is working with the Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) to help boost new membership in the CCC within the Basin communities. It's a great way for local people to learn about the cleanup, meet others with similar interests, give input on the cleanup and Basin Commission process, and stay informed about the many projects going on in the Basin.

To this end, the Communications PFT recently finished a CCC survey questionnaire. The survey will gather feedback from CCC members and the

public about how to improve communications with people relating to citizen involvement in the Basin Commission process.

The survey is available on [www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com),

where you will be able to fill it out electronically and email it back. Send hard copies of the survey to BEIPC, Attn: CCC Survey, 1005 W. McKinley, Kellogg, ID 83837. All information will be kept confidential. Results will be used to help increase public participation in the Basin Commission process and help design training sessions or communications pieces.

For more information contact Jeri DeLange, Chair, Communications PFT at [jeri.delange@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:jeri.delange@deq.idaho.gov) or (208) 783-2548.

## Agencies work together to reopen State Highway 3

By Terry Harwood, Executive Director

Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

South of Rose Lake, State Highway 3 runs along the top of a levee that protects the area northwest of the Coeur d'Alene River from flooding. A number of culverts through the levee drain water from uplands into the river. The culvert draining Rose Creek under the levee was installed in the 1930s, as well as a control gate on the outlet of the culvert to prevent backwashing of the Coeur d'Alene River through the culvert during high water and flooding. The gate was installed to mitigate raising Post Falls Dam and its effect on potential flooding of areas along the river.

At the end of last December, the culvert failed from a combination of rust-through and some high water. Part of the highway collapsed, resulting in a lengthy and time consuming traffic detour. Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) officials requested assistance on New Year's Day because the site is within the Institutional Controls Boundary for the Superfund site.

All excavated material from the site needed to be disposed of at an approved waste repository. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) opened the East Mission Flats Repository and worked with the Panhandle Health District to accommodate ITD's needs. They hauled over 2,300 cubic yards of material to the repository. Contamination levels ran from about 2,000 to 7,000 parts per million (ppm) lead.

ITD installed a new 72-inch diameter culvert with riprap inlet and clean fill material, and reopened the highway. They were unable to connect the culvert to the old smaller existing control gate, which was removed. The old gate had been closed during high flows in the river to prevent flooding of the community. During high runoff in January, the river rose over 10 feet at the site. The river backwashed through the new culvert, flooding the community area and undeveloped properties with sediment-laden river water. ITD attempted to control the back flow. While samples were not collected at the culvert, samples of river sediment taken elsewhere showed lead levels ranging from 1,000 ppm at Cataldo to 6,000 ppm at Harrison. Based on this, it's reasonable to assume the water washed into the Rose Lake area deposited contaminated sediments.

All parties involved are designing a new gate, preparing a proposal to install it, locating funding for the work, and establishing an operation and maintenance program. The local community will operate and maintain the gate. This project shows how all the governmental parties can work together in an emergency to keep the transportation system open and manage the contaminated sediments in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Agencies include the Basin Commission, Panhandle Health District, ITD, DEQ, EPA, and the Forest Service. For more information, contact Terry Harwood, Basin Commission Executive Director, at (208) 783-2528 or [terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov)

The **Basin Bulletin** is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency three times a year. The Basin Bulletin offers updates about activities related to Superfund cleanup in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. For mailing list changes, to send comments about this newsletter, contact the editors, or submit articles for consideration, call Debra Sherbina or Caryn Sengupta at the phone numbers listed on the bottom of the front page.

Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying, official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

## Waste Soil Repository Update

### Big Creek Repository to Expand on North Side

The design for expansion on the north side of Big Creek Repository is complete. The plan is to extend the disposal area northward on ground already owned by the State of Idaho. The expansion will add about 116,000 cubic yards of capacity to Big Creek, extending its active life by two to three years. After the expansion, the repository will have a total capacity of about 621,000 cubic yards. Big Creek serves the cleanup in the Upper Basin.

While planning this work, DEQ heard from the public that the repository expansion should consider local activities. Specific issues include: (1) use of the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes during construction; (2) truck traffic impacts on Big Creek Road; and (3) the view of the repository from the trail.

The new construction will take place entirely on the existing repository property using the current truck access route. There will be no changes to the bike trail traffic or Big Creek vehicle traffic as a result of the expansion. In response to public input about protecting the view from the bike trail, a 50- to 75-foot-wide buffer strip will be retained along the trail. No trees will be removed within that buffer strip. The repository expansion will cover the two existing groundwater monitoring wells on the north side of the current repository. DEQ will extend the length of the well pipes sticking out of the ground and protect them from damage or compromise. This way, we can continue to use the existing groundwater monitoring wells and not need to drill new ones.

DEQ plans to clear the ground at the expansion area this spring, and to begin using the area for waste disposal this summer. Waste placement will not impact the bike trail, Big Creek Road, or Highway Road users. Trucks will continue

to use Big Creek Road and the access gate already in place to get to and from the repository.

### Planning Under Way for Osburn Repository

A new Upper Basin repository is being planned at the existing tailings impoundment complex east of Osburn, on the north side of I-90. This location was selected as the result of a public repository siting process, begun in November 2008. The repository will be located on the easternmost impoundment. This impoundment has been taken out of service and revegetated by the mining company that currently owns it. Last fall, field crews finished surveys for cultural resources, wetlands, flooding, groundwater, slope stability, and other background information. Findings from these surveys will be included in and used to create the 30% Design Report. The report will contain a summary of the background information and a first look at the major features of the repository -- such as the new repository footprint, access roads, operational areas, fill plans, and other technical requirements. A draft of the 30% Design Report will be completed this fall. The report will be available to the public for review and comment. In addition to the public comment period, the agencies will work with the Basin Commission to host an Open House. At the Open House, people will be able to view the design, talk face-to-face with project managers, and ask questions. The final 30% Design Report will take into consideration the oral and written comments received from the public. For more information, contact Andy Mork, DEQ, at [andy.mork@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:andy.mork@deq.idaho.gov) or (208) 373-0141.

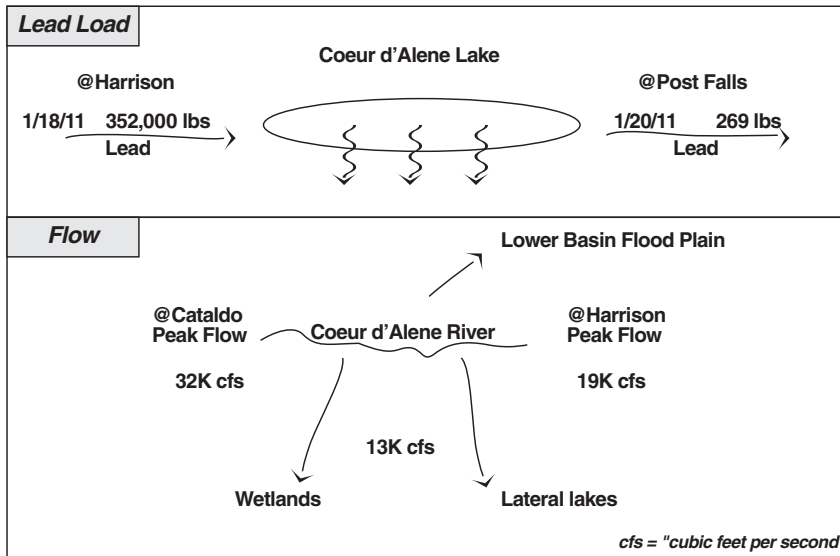
## High Metals Levels Found in Winter Flood Sediments

During the January floods, the United States Geologic Service took suspended sediment samples from the Coeur d'Alene River near Harrison (the inlet to Lake Coeur d'Alene). "Suspended" means the sediments were traveling in the water, not resting on the river bottom. This sediment contained the second highest concentration of total lead USGS has ever measured in this part of the river – 3,480 micrograms per liter (ug/L). Only in 1996 was a higher lead level found at this sampling point. Cadmium and zinc levels also measured at record highs – 12.9 ug/L and 1,660 ug/L respectively. Duplicate samples and other sampling efforts by EPA confirmed these high levels. EPA has been studying the main stem of the Coeur d'Alene River over the past two years.

We have found that contaminated sediments are getting eroded from the river bed and banks before being carried downstream during high flow events, like the one in May 2008 and recently in January 2011. These contaminated sediments are redeposited in the flood plain, on the river bed, or carried into Lake Coeur d'Alene. Based on these measurements, the estimated lead load that moved into Lake Coeur d'Alene on one day (January 18) alone was about 352,000 pounds.

As a comparison, the average annual lead load between 1998 and 2008 was about 534,000 pounds per year. During this storm, the flows at the Coeur d'Alene River were the largest measured since 2008. At Cataldo, the Coeur d'Alene River peaked at 32,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). At Harrison, the peak flow measured was only 19,000 cfs,

The average annual lead load between 1998 and 2008 was about 534,000 pounds per year



indicating that quite a bit of water and sediment contaminated with heavy metals flowed into the network of lateral lakes, wetlands, and some of the floodplain in the Lower Basin. Animals and fish in the river, wetlands, and lateral lakes are being exposed to the contaminants during these events. People are exposed to the contaminants afterwards, when they visit river beaches and flood plains.

On January 20, two days after the high lead levels were found at the inlet to Lake Coeur d'Alene, the total lead concentration at the lake outlet was only 2 ug/L, though the flow out of the lake was a fairly rapid 25,000 cfs. The estimated lead load leaving the lake was only 269 pounds on January 20. Given that the lead concentration at the lake inlet measured 3,480 ug/L on January 18, this tells us that most of the lead likely settled to the lake bottom over two days.

For more information, contact Ed Moreen at [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov) or (208) 664-4588.

## Opportunities to Get Involved

### Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission

Executive Director: Terry Harwood,  
(208) 783-2528 [www.basincommission.com](http://www.basincommission.com)  
Next Meeting: May 18, 2011

### Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC)

Contact: Jerry Boyd, (509) 455-6000  
[www.basincommission.com/ccp.asp](http://www.basincommission.com/ccp.asp)  
Next Meeting: April 20, 2011

## Long-Term 'Box' ICP Repository Location Proposed, Documents Available

Plans to locate a long-term Box Institutional Controls Program (ICP) Repository have been under way for several years. Page, the current ICP repository west of Smelterville, has been in use for about 20 years. It is filling up quickly. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been working with local representatives and the Bunker Hill Box Task Force to develop and evaluate a comprehensive list of possible Box repository locations. This work has resulted in a two-part preferred alternative. It includes revisions to how the ICP waste stream would be managed, and expansions into both the West and East Page Swamps.

DEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) preferred alternative will enlarge the existing Page Repository footprint by about 15 acres in the West Page Swamp and 21 acres in the East Page Swamp. The expansion will take place over the next 100 years, 3 to 5 acres at a time. This work does not create a new repository; it just adds about 1.4 million cubic yards of capacity to an existing one. Revisions to ICP waste stream management may include reuse of "coarse durable waste" (mainly concrete and asphalt) and doing community fill projects. A community fill project is when soil is added to an already contaminated area to level it out for development.

Page is on an old tailings pond, and was first used to contain waste removed from Box residential yards. The Box yards cleanup is now complete. Repository expansion and changes to waste stream management strategies are needed so that local residents, businesses, governments and contractors will have a place to dispose of contaminated soils from excavation. This work is done under the local Institutional Controls Program, managed by the Panhandle Health District. Proper disposal of contaminated soils is an important way to protect people's health.

The proposed expansion would fill contaminated wetlands that developed on the old mill tailings area. Filling in wetlands is normally not what the EPA and DEQ would prefer.

### Page Repository Open House coming this spring

This spring, DEQ, the Bunker Hill Task Force, and EPA will hold a **Community Open House**. It will be an opportunity for people to talk one-on-one with project managers about the repository siting process and the proposed expansion plans, get questions answered, see displays, and learn what changes are proposed for the repository. There will be no presentations. We will let you know the date and location of the Open House.

However, expanding the repository and making substantial technological changes to how the ICP waste stream is managed provides the local communities, EPA and DEQ with a long-term (100-year) strategy to manage Box contaminated soils.

Even though the wetlands are highly contaminated, a Draft Clean Water Act 404 analysis has been developed. This is because the agencies are legally required to do mitigation, or re-create wetland values that are lost because of the proposed repository expansion.

To meet requirements, the agencies have proposed to develop wetlands in the 15-acre "West End Infiltration Area" across the bike trail from the West Page Swamp, and at Blue Creek near Lake Coeur d'Alene. Both proposed mitigation areas are within the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. Mitigation at the West End Infiltration Area will create wetlands in a clean area that is currently poorly vegetated. This area is also very near the wetlands that would be affected by the proposed repository expansion.

Find project documents like these on the DEQ web site:

- Draft Clean Water Act Section 404 Analysis – Page Repository Expansion
- Wetland Mitigation Plan WENI Area, Smelterville, Idaho
- Wetland Mitigation Plan Blue Creek, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

*Continued Next Page*

## 2011 Basin Property Cleanups Make Steady Progress

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be cleaning up properties between Mullan and Rose Lake again this year. Before the close of the 2011 construction season, DEQ plans to clean up about 350 properties, which will include an estimated 2.5 million square feet of land. In addition to remediation activities, DEQ plans to sample about 225 residential, commercial, and rights-of-way properties. A large number of properties to be sampled will be in the general vicinity of the Coeur d'Alene River, between Cataldo and Harrison. The sampling data collected during the 2011 construction season will be used to help plan property cleanup work for 2011 and beyond. Funding for the sampling and cleanup work will come from a cooperative agreement between EPA and DEQ.

DEQ places the highest priority on cleanups at identified high risk properties within the CDA Basin. A high risk property is a property

with lead or arsenic levels in soils that are above cleanup levels, where children under seven years of age or pregnant women live, or is a licensed Day Care facility. A home where the most recent blood lead testing shows that young children in the household have blood lead levels equal to or greater than 10 parts per million, and the Panhandle Health District has determined the yard soil is a significant exposure pathway is also considered a high risk property. The construction contractors for 2011 will once again be Ferguson Contracting and Stewart Contracting. Terragraphics Environmental Engineering, Inc. will be doing the sampling and preparatory work for the property cleanups. Goodson Productions will be filming the work for DEQ again this season.

For more information, contact Scott Peterson, DEQ, at [scott.peterson@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:scott.peterson@deq.idaho.gov) or (208) 783-5781, or Bill Ryan, EPA, at [ryan.william@epa.gov](mailto:ryan.william@epa.gov) or (800) 424-4372 X 8561.

### Long-Term 'Box' Repository Documents Available

*Continued*

- Box ICP Repository Location Analysis memo
  - Archaeological and Historic Survey Report
  - Endangered Species Act compliance memo
- View select project documents at the Kellogg Public Library, 16 W. Market Ave., Kellogg, ID 83837, (208) 786-7231, or the EPA Records Center, 1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 553-4494.

Online, visit: Page Repository:  
[www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog\\_issues/mining/page\\_repository.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/prog_issues/mining/page_repository.cfm)

EPA Cleanup:  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>

For more information, contact Bruce Schuld, DEQ, at [bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:bruce.schuld@deq.idaho.gov) or (208) 373-0554 or Anne McCauley, EPA, at [mccauley.anne@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.anne@epa.gov) or (800) 424-4372 X 4689.

### Basin Information Repositories

#### 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 Ave.  
St. Maries, ID 83861  
(208) 245-3732

## Lower Basin Collaborative: Having a Say in What Happens

If you ask folks in Cataldo about the siting and opening of East Mission Flats Repository (EMF), they'll tell you their concerns and suggestions were largely unheard. I live next to EMF. Feeling excluded from decision-making, I promised myself I would find a way in the future for citizens and businesses to participate in the cleanup of the Lower Basin.

A small group has been meeting since May 2010 to come up with a way for citizens, stakeholders, and agencies to work together. We've created the Lower Basin Collaborative. This collaborative model, used for forest management in Shoshone County and other areas of the state, is producing effective results.

### Why a Collaborative?

These collaboratives are achieving broad citizen, stakeholder, and agency satisfaction for several reasons. Everyone is invited to the table early in the process. Instead of suppressing differing views, conflicting interests are sought out and seen as desirable. Competing interests are working out consensus-based solutions together. Participants work

for outcomes that meet or exceed federal and state regulations, and agencies shift their focus to connect with, rather than direct, the collaborative effort. If stakeholders work together and we're a part of the Basin Commission, cleanup decisions will be made with everyone's interests considered. We will work towards outcomes that everyone feels they can live with.

### Reaching Out

We're ready to launch the collaborative and invite your participation. We want to spread the word, providing public informational events throughout the Lower Basin in late spring and early summer. The cleanup issues in the Lower Basin are

complex. One of the goals of the collaborative is to make sure you have the information you need. If this process piques your interest, and you want to know more or be involved at any level, let us hear from you.

Write us at [LowerBasinCollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:LowerBasinCollaborative@gmail.com). This cleanup will affect your life—the place you live, the health of your family, and growth in your community. Getting involved gives you a say in the direction we take.



By Susan Mitchell

## New Basin Outreach Employee Hired

Please join us in welcoming **Carol Young** to the Coeur d'Alene Basin community involvement team! Carol was hired as a Community Information Specialist, a position funded through an EPA grant. The goal is to improve communications about the Superfund cleanup.

We are excited to have Carol on the team! Carol's office will be located in the Upper Basin, but she will spend her time reaching out to the entire Basin. She will work closely with the EPA/DEQ Community Involvement Team. Before holding interviews, EPA asked some local stakeholders for input on what qualities they would like to see in the person hired. We heard that having a local person in the job, someone who has built credibility and established relationships with the community, was essential.



We are confident Carol fits this description and will be successful in the position. A 20-year Kingston resident, she brings a strong, diverse background in communication and customer service. Carol is active in many community events and activities, and a member of numerous local groups. Over the years, she has built and nurtured lasting connections with a variety of people and organizations in the Silver Valley.

Carol states, "I am looking forward to assisting the Coeur d'Alene Basin community of professionals and serving our residents with a positive approach." The EPA/DEQ interview panel would also like to thank all of the people who applied for and interviewed for the position. We are happy to have had so many strong candidates and enjoyed meeting all of you.



## Lake Management Plan — Needs Assessment Findings



*View of Coeur d'Alene Lake from Mullan Pass*

*Photo courtesy Coeur d'Alene Tribe*

*By: Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe  
Lake Management Plan Coordinator  
and*

*Glen Rothrock, DEQ- Lake Management Plan Coordinator*

In 2009, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) finalized the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (LMP). The Tribe and DEQ worked diligently to complete this joint document. A mediator from the U.S. Institute of Conflict Resolution helped keep the process on track. The Tribe and DEQ are now carrying out the actions identified in the document. The goal of the LMP is “to protect and improve lake water quality by limiting basin-nutrient inputs that impair lake water quality conditions, which in turn influence the solubility of mining-related metals contamination contained in lake sediments.”

“Increase public awareness” is one of the five early objectives in the “core LMP program.”

To assess it, the Tribe and DEQ decided to do an Education/Outreach Needs Assessment or “polling survey.” In 2010, DEQ and the Tribe contracted with Robinson Research and Dunau Associates out of Spokane to do a Needs Assessment.

The consultants met with the LMP Coordinators from the Tribe and DEQ to list 25 Community Opinion Leaders, to get their current perception on water quality in Coeur d'Alene Lake. Focus Group sessions were held in Plummer, Harrison, and Coeur d'Alene. Small groups of citizens came to these sessions.

They were asked what they thought the current status of water quality is, and who would be the best government or entity to manage water quality. A self-administered internet survey and a telephone survey were also used. The Tribe and DEQ are now reviewing Needs Assessment results.

*Continued Next Page*

## Lake Management Plan — Needs Assessment Findings

*Continued from previous page*

A few highlights from the Needs Assessment study:

- Most Focus Group respondents felt that the best way to deal with heavy metal pollution in the lake is to allow for the natural sedimentary process to cap them.
- There was some awareness of mining. However, a number of respondents felt that mining wastes no longer enter the lake from the Coeur d'Alene River. [Fact: Recent data from the United States Geologic Survey found that in January 2010, water quality samples collected at Harrison showed the second highest measured levels of lead entering the lake. The highest levels ever measured were in 1996.]
- Some respondents felt development and growth were the biggest threats to water quality. Others felt the invasive aquatic plant *Eurasian Watermilfoil* posed the biggest threat.
- Overall, the public felt that the Coeur d'Alene Tribe was doing the best at protecting water quality and thought the Tribe should stay at

the forefront of water quality protection. DEQ and EPA ranked second in the public's eyes as having some jurisdiction over water quality protection.

- The majority of the public felt that governments and agencies need to coordinate more and meet with the public face-to-face.

The last item is exactly what the Tribe and DEQ intend to do over the next few years. Other key ongoing parts of the LMP include: water quality monitoring in the Lake and St. Joe /St. Maries Rivers watershed; aquatic weed (native and invasive) and riverbank erosion surveys; debris removal; coordination with other entities that have land use management authorities; and searching for supplemental funds to assist in future LMP activities. To learn more, or find out how to get involved in lake protection activities, contact Rebecca Stevens, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, at [rstevens@cda-nsn.gov](mailto:rstevens@cda-nsn.gov) or (208) 667-5772, or Glen Rothrock, DEQ, at [glen.rothrock@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:glen.rothrock@deq.idaho.gov) or (208) 666-4623. Online, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3cqehyp>

## People Learn, Give Input at Lower Basin Modeling Workshops

The Lower Basin Project Focus Team (LBPFT) is hosting a series of modeling workshops related to the development of sediment transport modeling in the Lower Basin. For the purposes of sediment transport, the Lower Basin is defined as the bed, banks and floodplains of the Coeur d'Alene River between Enaville and the mouth of the river at Harrison.

The sediment transport model will actually consist of several models working together. Modeling Workshop #1/Information Update was held on February 23. This workshop focused on the hydrologic model and gave results from recent Lower Basin data collection efforts. Modeling Workshop #1b/Information Update will take place on April 20 at the Idaho Transportation Department offices in Coeur d'Alene. Modeling Workshop #1b will continue to focus on the hydrologic model and how it will fit into the overall sediment transport model, and will provide

the results of recent sampling events. These workshops provide opportunities for interested people and agency representatives to understand how the models work, what assumptions are made, data used to calibrate the models, limitations, and how the models will be used. Everyone is welcome to attend the workshops, but please note that those offered through the LBPFT will be more technical in nature, and more appropriate for an audience with a general understanding of how models work.

For people who don't have a technical background but are interested in the modeling, a second series of user-friendly workshops will be offered during the summer. Stay tuned -- watch for announcements through the LBPFT and the Citizens Coordinating Council about upcoming Modeling Workshops/Information Updates. For more information contact Ed Moreen at [moreen.ed@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.ed@epa.gov) or (208) 664-4588.

## Comings and Goings

### **New Team Leader Starts Work**

**Shawn Blocker** has been selected as the Acting Bunker Hill/CDA Team Leader for EPA Region 10. Shawn will act as Team Leader for the next four months. During that time, EPA will advertise for a permanent Team Leader. Shawn comes from the RCRA side, where he was an enforcement officer and a Corrective Action Site Manager and State Coordinator since joining EPA in 2001.

Shawn has worked on several sites, including Boeing Plant 2 on the Duwamish Waterway in Washington and the Alaska Railroad Facility in downtown Anchorage. Prior to joining the EPA, Shawn was an Environmental Geologist and consultant in the private sector. Outside of EPA, Shawn has a long tenure as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces; first as an active U.S. Marine (1985-1994) and since 1999 as a member of the U. S. Navy Reserve. In 2008, Shawn was recalled to active duty for roughly a year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. You can reach Shawn at [blocker.shawn@epa.gov](mailto:blocker.shawn@epa.gov) or (800)424-4372 X 4166.

Thank you and goodbye to **Angela Chung**, EPA's Coeur d'Alene Basin Team leader since 2005 and a member of the team since 2001. Angela accepted a job with EPA Region 10's Office of Compliance and Enforcement as the Regional Enforcement Coordinator. Angela, your commitment to and contributions to the CDA cleanup project will be missed. Best of luck in the future.

Thank you and best wishes to **Andrea Lindsay**, who has served as one of the site's Community Involvement Coordinators since 2004. Andrea has accepted a temporary assignment with the Puget Sound Partnership through December.

Welcome **Caryn Sengupta** to EPA's Coeur d'Alene Basin project team! Caryn is now serving as one of two EPA Community Involvement Coordinators for the site, along with long-time staffer Debra Sherbina. Caryn has been with EPA for nearly seven years, and has a background in risk communications and public outreach.

Goodbye and good luck to **Vera Williams!** Vera has stepped down as the Vice-Chair of the Citizens Coordinating Council. We thank Vera for her many contributions to the CCC and other work groups related to the Basin cleanup.

Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair, says, "Vera stepped up and became an active and knowledgeable Vice-Chair of the CCC when we needed her. She was always willing to assist in any and every way possible to make it easier for the public to participate in the Coeur d'Alene Basin cleanup process. I want to express my appreciation for her work and wish her well. I will certainly miss having her advice and ideas on CCC activities to help the community participate in the development of the Basin cleanup work plans and decisions."

### **To submit information for this column, contact**

Debra Sherbina or Caryn Shengupta as noted on the front cover.

#### **Submissions:**

To make a submission to the *Basin Bulletin*, please contact Debra Sherbina or Caryn Sengupta (see contact info on the front page)

#### **Subscriptions:**

The Basin Bulletin can be e-mailed to you as a PDF. For additions or corrections to the mailing list, contact Debra Sherbina or Caryn Sengupta at U.S. EPA, ETPA-081, Suite 900  
1200 Sixth Avenue,  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128  
or at their phone and e-mail, as noted on the front page of the Bulletin.

## Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission– Jon Cantamessa, Chair

Allan, Chief; Coeur d'Alene Tribe	☎ 208-686-5803	FAX: 208-686-8813	chief@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Buell, Jack; Benewah County Commissioner	☎ 208-245-3274	FAX: 208-245-4364	jreynolds@benewahcounty.org
Cantamessa, Jon; Shoshone County Commissioner	☎ 208-752-3331	FAX: 208-753-2711	boccc@co.shoshone.id.us
Green, Dan; Kootenai County Commissioner	☎ 208-446-1605	FAX: 208-446-1609	dgreen@kcgov.us
Hardesty, Toni; State of Idaho	☎ 208-373-0240	FAX: 208-373-0417	toni.hardesty@deq.idaho.gov
Harwood, Terry; BEIPC Executive Director	☎ 208-783-2528	FAX: 208-783-4561	terry.harwood@deq.idaho.gov
Pfeifer, Grant; State of Washington	☎ 509-329-3516	FAX: 509-329-3529	gpfe461@ecy.wa.gov
McLerran., Dennis; EPA Region 10 Administrator	☎ 206-553-1234	FAX: 206-553-1809	mclerran.dennis@epa.gov

### BEIPC Staff

DeLange, Jeri; BEIPC	☎ 208-783-2548	FAX: 208-783-4561	jeri.delange@deq.idaho.gov
George, Dave; WA Dept. of Ecology	☎ 509-329-3520	FAX: 509-329-3572	cgeo461@ecy.wa.gov
Hanson, Rob; IDEQ	☎ 208-373-0290	FAX: 208-373-0154	rob.hanson@deq.idaho.gov
Moreen, Ed; EPA Coeur d'Alene Basin Rep.	☎ 208-664-4588	FAX: 208-664-5829	moreen.ed@epa.gov
Stevens, Rebecca; Coeur d'Alene Tribe	☎ 208-667-5772	FAX: 208-667-0919	rstevens@cdatribe-nsn.gov

### Technical Leadership Group (TLG) – Rebecca Stevens, Chair

Adams, Bill; EPA Region 10	☎ 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124	adams.bill@epa.gov
Addy, Mark; NRCS	☎ 208-762-4939	FAX: 208-762-9859	mark.addy@usda.gov
Brewer, Lloyd; City of Spokane	☎ 509-625-6968	FAX: 509-625-6537	lbrewer@spokanecity.org
Box, Steve; U.S. Geological Survey	☎ 509-368-3106	FAX: 509-368-3199	sbox@usgs.gov
Burgan, Michael; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	☎ 208-765-8139		michael.a.burgan@usace.army.mil
Clark, Greg; U.S. Geological Survey	☎ 208-387-1324	FAX: 208-387-1372	gmclark@usgs.gov
Connolly, Randy; Spokane Tribe	☎ 509-626-4425	FAX: 509-626-9600	connolly@spokanetribe.com
Dailey, Anne; EPA Region 10	☎ 206-553-2110	FAX: 206-553-0124	dailey.anne@epa.gov
Davidson, Toni; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	☎ 509-893-8034	FAX: 509-891-6748	toni_davidson@fws.gov
Flagor, Bob; NRCS.	☎ 208-762-4939	FAX: 208-762-9859	robert.flagor@usda.gov
Gentry, Dean; Benewah County	☎ 208-245-2477		dgg@smgazette.com
George, Dave; WA Dept. of Ecology	☎ 509-329-3520	FAX: 509-329-3572	cgeo461@ecy.wa.gov
Hardy, Rogers; Benewah County	☎ 208-691-3095		rogershardy@aol.com
Hicks, Kenny; Shoshone County	☎ 208-512-2356	FAX: 208-556-0135	kehicks@suddenlink.net
Johnson, Jeff; U.S. Forest Service	☎ 208-765-7442	FAX: 208-765-7307	jkjohnson@fs.fed.us
Kirkpatrick, Bob; U.S. Forest Service	☎ 406-329-3307	FAX: 406-329-3198	bkirkpatrick@fs.fed.us
Kirschner, Fred; Spokane Tribe	☎ 509-924-0184		fredk@aeseinc.com
Leptich, David; ID Dept. of Fish & Game	☎ 208-769-1414	FAX: 208-769-1418	david.leptich@idfg.idaho.gov
Lindsay, Robert; Spokane County Utilities Office	☎ 509-477-7259	FAX: 509-477-4715	rlindsay@spokanecounty.org
Olsen, Jan; IDEQ	☎ 208-783-5781	FAX: 208-783-4561	jan.olsen@ideq.idaho.gov
Perfect, John; Idaho Transportation Dept.	☎ 208-772-1224	FAX: 208-772-1203	john.perfect@itd.idaho.gov
Raskell, Sandra; Coeur d'Alene Tribe	☎ 208-667-5772	FAX: 208-667-0919	sraskell@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Rothrock, Glen; IDEQ	☎ 208-666-4623	FAX: 208-769-1404	glen.rothrock@deq.idaho.gov
Rust, Bill; Shoshone County	☎ 208-556-8020		wcrust@icebridge.net
Sheppard, Clyde; Kootenai County	☎ 208-773-9116	FAX: 208-773-0162	rustyshep@roadrunner.com
Spears, Brian; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	☎ 509-893-8032	FAX: 509-891-6748	brian_spears@fws.gov
Stevens, Rebecca; Coeur d'Alene Tribe	☎ 208-667-5772	FAX: 208-667-0919	rstevens@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Stevenson, Mike; Bureau of Land Management	☎ 208-769-5024	FAX: 208-769-5050	mike_stevenson@blm.gov
Taylor, Greg; ID Dept. of Water Resources	☎ 208-762-2805	FAX: 208-762-2819	greg.taylor@idwr.idaho.gov
Werner, Terry; City of Post Falls	☎ 208-773-1438	FAX: 208-773-0311	twerner@postfallsidaho.org
Zion, Rod; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	☎ 208-667-7025	FAX: 208-765-6140	rodneyc.e.zion@usace.army.mil

### TLG Project Focus Team (PFT) Leads

Communications – Jeri DeLange	☎ 208-783-2548	FAX: 208-783-4561	jeri.delange@deq.idaho.gov
Human Health/Residential – Rob Hanson	☎ 208-373-0290	FAX: 208-373-0417	rhanson@deq.idaho.gov
Lower Basin – Rebecca Stevens	☎ 208-667-5772	FAX: 208-667-0919	rstevens@cdatribe-nsn.gov
Repository – Andy Mork, lead	☎ 208-373-0141	FAX: 208-373-0154	andy.mork@deq.idaho.gov
Repository – Ed Moreen, vice lead	☎ 208-664-4588	FAX: 208-664-5829	moreen.ed@epa.gov
Upper Basin – Bill Adams	☎ 206-553-2806	FAX: 206-553-0124	adams.bill@epa.gov

### Citizens Coordinating Council – Jerry Boyd, Chair

Jerry Boyd	☎ 509-455-6000		jerry.boyd@painehamblen.com
------------	----------------	--	-----------------------------



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Debra Sherbina at (800) 424-4372, ext. 0247. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.