

Coeur d'Alene Basin Five-year (2011-2015) Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

This plan for calendar years 2011-2015 covers environmental cleanup and improvement activities in the Coeur d'Alene Basin planned by the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission (BEIPC) and cooperating agencies and governments in accordance with responsibilities as stated in the Memorandum of Agreement establishing the BEIPC. This plan has been prepared by the Technical Leadership Group (TLG) and the Executive Director with review by the Citizen Coordinating Council (CCC), and is based on their recommendations for activities and work to be performed in CY 2011-2015. Annual work plans will address specific actions from this five-year plan. This proposed five-year work plan is organized as follows:

Part 1 – Environmental cleanup work performed through the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) by the EPA and State of Idaho or work performed by responsible parties.

Part 2 - Other BEIPC Activities and Responsibilities

Part 1 includes work to implement the Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit 3 (OU-3) and the Upper Basin ROD amendment for OU-2 and 3 when approved.

Part 2 includes work and responsibilities the BEIPC has assumed based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Study and requests from the citizens and communities of the Basin.

PART 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP WORK

Funds made available through EPA's CERCLA program are available for environmental remediation on privately owned lands and state, county and local government owned properties. EPA's CERCLA funds cannot be used for cleanup of sites on public (Federal) land. Work proposed on public lands is the responsibility of the federal land management agencies. The State of Idaho is supplying funding through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) for environmental cleanup activities.

For Part 1, the scope of the proposed five-year work plan corresponds generally to the level of federal and state funding and the funding sources anticipated and work expected to be performed by the Successor Coeur d'Alene Custodial and Work Trust (SCCWT) and other responsible parties over the five-year period, 2011-2015. The 2011-2015 Work Plan proposes a cleanup approach and a listing of priority activities for the 5-year planning period. The proposal includes the following work:

- Repository Development and Management
- Residential and Community Property Remediation Including Private Drinking Water Supply; Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP).

- Blood Lead Screening in Children
- Recreational Use Areas
- Remedial actions in the Upper Basin
- Remedial actions in the Lower Basin
- Basin Environmental Monitoring

Table 1-1 Summary of Remedial Activities Proposed for Implementation for 2011-2015

Proposed Activity	Scope	Objective	Lead Agency #
<p>Repository Development and Management</p>	<p>Repository activities center on three objectives: (1) operations at Big Creek Repository (BCR) and East Mission Flats Repository (EMF); (2) the development of a new repository site in the Upper Basin; and (3) revision of the Waste Management Strategy (WMS).</p>	<p>Evaluate and implement, if approved, repository expansion at BCR. Continue to utilize BCR for Upper Basin remediation and Institutional Controls Program (ICP) until it reaches capacity and close. Continue operations at EMF for remediation and ICP. Complete development of the new Upper Basin repository at the Osburn Tailings Impoundment area. Complete revision of the WMS. Develop alternatives for disposal of metals-contaminated soil originating within the Area of Contamination. Evaluate repository cover performance through monitoring.</p>	<p>IDEQ EPA PHD</p>

Proposed Activity	Scope	Objective	Lead Agency #
<p>Blood Lead Screening in Children</p>	<p>Screening of children for elevated blood lead levels has been occurring annually in the CDA Basin since 1996 as a public health service. The purpose of the screening is to identify children with elevated blood lead levels and provide follow-up from a public health professional to identify ways to reduce lead exposures. The screening program also provides data to inform the Basin cleanup efforts. The cleanup action decisions are not based on annual blood lead testing results. Rather, the goal is to prevent lead exposures that could result in elevated blood lead levels.</p>	<p>The blood lead screening program will continue in the same manner as it has in previous years. However, in 2010 a community workshop was held to explore ways to increase participation. EPA and IDEQ engaged local residents and partner agencies to specifically discuss ways to increase participation in blood lead testing in the Basin. In the future, the agencies also will solicit input on public outreach activities that could be conducted in addition to the Basin Commission process to increase participation in the Bunker Hill annual blood lead testing program. The program may be modified from previous years based on the evaluation of ideas generated at the community workshop.</p>	<p>IDEQ PHD</p>

Proposed Activity	Scope	Objective	Lead Agency #
Recreational Use Areas	Develop a Basin Recreational Management Strategy and Guidelines Document. Remediate identified recreation areas or develop substitute clean areas along the South Fork and Main Stem CDA River.	Further update the comprehensive inventory of contaminated recreation use areas. Review operational plans for each recreation agency to identify commonalities that could be incorporated into an area wide recreation management guideline or strategy. Work with the Communications PFT to identify what else can be done to make recreation users aware of human health risks along the river corridor and to further educate people on how to minimize any risks.	EPA with state and federal agencies and CDA Tribe
Upper Basin Remedies	Respond to comments on the Proposed Cleanup Plan and make necessary adjustments in the Focused Feasibility Study prior to development of the Upper Basin ROD Amendment. Begin implementation of the prioritized human health and ecological cleanup projects identified in it along with any accompanying natural resource restoration actions.	The ROD amendment will provide a comprehensive list of actions in the Upper Basin. A separate Implementation Plan will provide a priority list of cleanup actions in the Upper Basin including completing OU-2 remedies in the box and remedy protection projects that will be completed as funds become available. Those cleanup actions will be coordinated with natural resource restoration actions. The Implementation Plan and inherent adaptive management process will help ensure that the most effective actions are taken first. Goal is to issue the Upper Basin ROD amendment for OU-2 and OU-3 in 2011.	EPA and IDEQ w/ supporting agencies and CDA Tribe.

Proposed Activity	Scope	Objective	Lead Agency #
<p>Lower Basin Remedies</p>	<p>Evaluate and prioritize potential remedies noted in the OU-3 ROD comparing RI/FS data with data from CWA projects and other sources. Implement, as appropriate, remedies that are captured in decision documents and that have a low potential for recontamination and/or that may inform future remedy decisions. Capture any such actions in annual work plans. Ensure that remedies are coordinated with natural resource restoration activities.</p>	<p>Utilize information and recommendations from the Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM) for the Lower Basin. The ECSM serves to refine the current understanding of the Lower Basin with respect to river flows and sediment transport. Detailed planning for future remedial action in the Lower Basin requires more comprehensive knowledge of the complex mechanisms by which lead in sediment is mobilized, transported, and deposited. EPA is working with the Lower Basin PFT to help determine the type and amount of data necessary to measure and model sediment transport and river system dynamics in the Lower Basin. These data and other information will be used to examine Lower Basin remedies previously selected in the 2002 OU 3 ROD and determine whether the selected actions should be modified or supplemented. The Lower Basin work will likely include review of select remedial actions identified in the 2001 Feasibility Study Report.</p>	<p>EPA, IDEQ, USFWS and CDA Tribe</p>

Proposed Activity	Scope	Objective	Lead Agency #
Basin Environmental Monitoring	Continue to implement long-term monitoring and make results available via the new WQX data management system. The site environmental monitoring data will be accessible at www.bunkerhilldata.org . The biological monitoring data and annual monitoring reports are also accessible at EPA’s web page under Technical Documents at http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/cda Implement remedial action effectiveness monitoring as appropriate.	Finalize the consolidated CDA Basin environmental monitoring plan (BEMP). During the previous year a process was utilized to evaluate & optimize the current program. The major goal of the current and revised BEMP is to monitor and evaluate the progress of the remedy in terms of improving ecosystem conditions and make adjustments in the monitoring program that inform ongoing and upcoming near term cleanup actions. Information from this program will also help guide the Implementation Plan process.	EPA working with other agencies including IDEQ, USFWS, and USGS and the CDA Tribe.

Note with planning and implementation of remedial activities, lead agencies will coordinate with federal, state, tribal and local agencies as appropriate.

PART 2 – OTHER BEIPC ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For Part 2, the scope of the five-year work plan includes a number of work items that the BEIPC has elected to become involved in and items of work needed to accommodate some of the recommendations of the NAS study. The plan includes the following work:

- Lake Management Activities
- Funding for the Environmental Cleanup, Flood Control, and Infrastructure Revitalization
- Communications and Public Involvement
- Natural Resource Damage Restoration

2.1 LAKE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The OU-3 Interim ROD did not include CDA Lake in the Selected Remedy nor is there a remedy identified in the proposed Upper Basin ROD amendment that is scheduled to be finalized by 2011. The OU-3 Interim ROD anticipated that the State, Tribe, federal agencies, and local governments would implement a Lake Management Plan (LMP) outside the CERCLA (Superfund) process using separate regulatory authorities.

The updated LMP was approved in 2009 and implementation has been underway. Implementation of the LMP will be an adaptive management process and any potential adjustments may be necessary as monitoring and other data are obtained and analyzed.

As referenced in Subsection 4.5.1 of the 2009 LMP, many of the agencies, governments, and other stakeholders that address water quality in CDA Lake are represented on the BEIPC, TLG or CCC. As such these various BEIPC forums represent unique opportunities for LMP coordination and implementation which IDEQ and the Tribe intend to fully utilize.

Examples of activities envisioned for implementation of the LMP throughout the 5 Year period include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The Tribe and IDEQ will continue to implement the 3 Year Nutrient Source Inventory (as identified in Section 3.3, Objective 3 of the LMP) in the St. Maries River and St. Joe River watersheds.
2. Continue joint water quality monitoring throughout Coeur d'Alene Lake for metals, nutrients, physical parameters, and biological communities. The Tribe and IDEQ will continue to learn and utilize the ELCOM-CAEDYM and LOADEST models. These models are utilizing real-time data that is collected from Coeur d'Alene Lake including the establishment of four meteorological stations.
3. Present draft annual monitoring reports for TLG review and comment.
4. Participate in Coeur d'Alene Basin Watershed Advisory Groups in order to re-assess Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and develop Implementation Plans.
5. Participate in joint educational outreach events such as the North Idaho Fair.
6. Develop and implement an LMP Education/Outreach Program.
7. The Tribe will continue to implement the Aquatic Plant Survey and Treatment Program within their current jurisdiction. IDEQ will initiate a long-term program of aquatic plant surveys within northern pool bays.
8. Implement riverbank stabilization projects in collaboration with Avista, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Counties, and local landowners.
9. The LMP Coordinators will continue to be involved in the Lower Basin PFT in the potential implementation of projects identified in the 2002 OU-3 Interim ROD.
10. Present LMP activity updates to various groups throughout the year such as the North Idaho/Washington Lakes Conference, Homeowners Associations, Spokane River Forum, Environmental Organizations, and Chambers of Commerce.

11. Provide an annual overview of LMP implementation activities to the CCC and solicit their input.

12. Continue to participate on an Advisory Committee to support the University of Idaho Extension Master Water Steward Program (IDAH20).

This level of coordination with BEIPC forums will maximize opportunities for information exchange and advice working under the BEIPC MOA and work plans. Future coordination with the BEIPC recognizes that IDEQ and the Tribe retain their respective decision making authorities under CERCLA and the Clean Water Act (CWA).

2.2 FUNDING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP, FLOOD CONTROL AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVITALIZATION

Funding for the Basin Property Remediation Program (BPRP) in 2011 will be provided by the EPA and the State of Idaho on private, state, county and local government lands. The Federal Land Management agencies will continue providing funding for human health and ecological system cleanup actions on federally managed lands. For the 5 year planning period, funding for implementation of additional human health and ecological remedies in OU-3 will be provided through the SCCWT Settlement Trust. Developing a Flood Control program including levee evaluation and required upgrade plus seeking a funding source for the work was assigned to the BEIPC Executive Director in November 2009. Funding for the infrastructure revitalization activities will continue to be addressed in the Drainage Control Infrastructure Revitalization Plan (DCIRP) process.

During the 5 year planning period, the BEIPC will continue to seek funding for a flood zone analysis and any needed development of flood control structures including an updated and certified levee system in the South Fork CDA River and Lower Pine Creek. The Executive Director will work with the Idaho Silver Jackets organization including the COE, FEMA, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the U.S. Weather Service to develop an approach to dealing with potential flooding problems and levee management in the Upper Basin including coordination with the EPA for implementation of selected in-stream CERCLA remedies included in the Upper Basin ROD Amendment. The BEIPC will continue to assist Upper Basin communities and utilities in pursuing funding to implement the DCIRP.

2.3 COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

During the 5 year planning period, the Communications PFT will continue to address issues concerning public involvement and education in BEIPC activities and communication between the Basin community and the BEIPC and CERCLA cleanup and natural resource restoration implementing agencies. The CCC will continue to be the focus organization to assist in implementing this process.

2.4 NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE RESTORATION

CERCLA natural resource trustees in the Coeur d'Alene Basin are the United States, represented by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the State of Idaho. In 2007, the federal and tribal trustees, who comprise the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees), selected the preferred alternative for the final interim restoration plan and environmental assessment. The State of Idaho adopted the Trustee's preferred alternative. The projects under the selected alternative of the Trustees' interim restoration plan will be implemented using funds that the Trustees have recovered through CERCLA natural resource damage settlements with potentially responsible parties, or other funding as available for the purpose of natural resource restoration. The Trustees continue to coordinate with the BEIPC, particularly through Project Focus Teams and the Trustees will provide updates to the BEIPC on basin restoration projects.

Throughout the 2011-2015 time period, the NRDA Trustees will continue implementing restoration activities as outlined in their Interim Restoration Plan. In an effort to continue planning restoration beyond the Interim Restoration Plan, watershed-wide planning will be conducted in coordination with EPA's remedial actions and the Trustees will seek input from the public and BEIPC throughout the process.