

# Gold Knob Prospects a.k.a. Saddle Rock Natural Area



Gold Knob Prospects a.k.a. Saddle Rock Natural Area with hikers on a trail

## Comments accepted:

April 19 – May 19, 2023

## Submit comments:

### Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=BUgx2>

### Or by mail to:

Frank Winslow, Site Manager  
 1250 W. Alder Street  
 Union Gap, WA 98903-0009  
 509-424-0543  
[Frank.Winslow@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Frank.Winslow@ecy.wa.gov)

## Site info:

Facility Site ID: 22496  
 Site Cleanup ID: 11610

## Document review:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupssearch/site/11610>

Wenatchee Public Library  
 310 Douglas Street  
 Wenatchee, WA 98801

## Phase 2 Interim Remedial Action Completion Report Available for Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing as opportunity for the public to comment on the Phase 2 Interim Remedial Action (IRA) Completion Report for the Gold Knob Prospects site, also known as Saddle Rock Natural Area, located at 1200 Circle Street in Wenatchee.

The Phase 2 IRA Completion Report was prepared for the City of Wenatchee's by an engineering consultant and is available for review and comment. Ecology is asking for your comments.

You are invited to:

- Review the "Phase 2 Interim Remedial Action Completion Report – Saddle Rock Natural Area, Wenatchee, Washington," dated December 12, 2022
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration

Comments will be accepted April 19, 2023 through May 19, 2023

## Site Background

In the late 1800s until 1989, several areas of the Saddle Rock Natural Area were prospected for gold. Prospecting exploration resulted in the creation of waste rock piles. These waste rock piles had high concentrations of arsenic and heavy metals such as mercury, selenium, and silver. The site includes hiking trails to Saddle Rock summit above Wenatchee and are popular among recreational hikers and horseback riders.

## What Has Been Done?

In 2019, five waste rock piles were removed from the lower part of the Saddle Rock Natural Area. The waste rock material was disposed of at the Greater Wenatchee Regional Landfill. That cleanup work was referred to as the Phase 1 IRA.

In 2022, a sixth waste rock pile was removed from the upper part of the Saddle Rock Natural Area. The trail to the Saddle Rock summit was improved to allow this cleanup work. The Phase 2 IRA resulted in the removal of the remaining waste rock material. The cleanup work was completed in November 2022. The Phase 2 IRA Completion Report documents the cleanup work.

## Why This Matters?

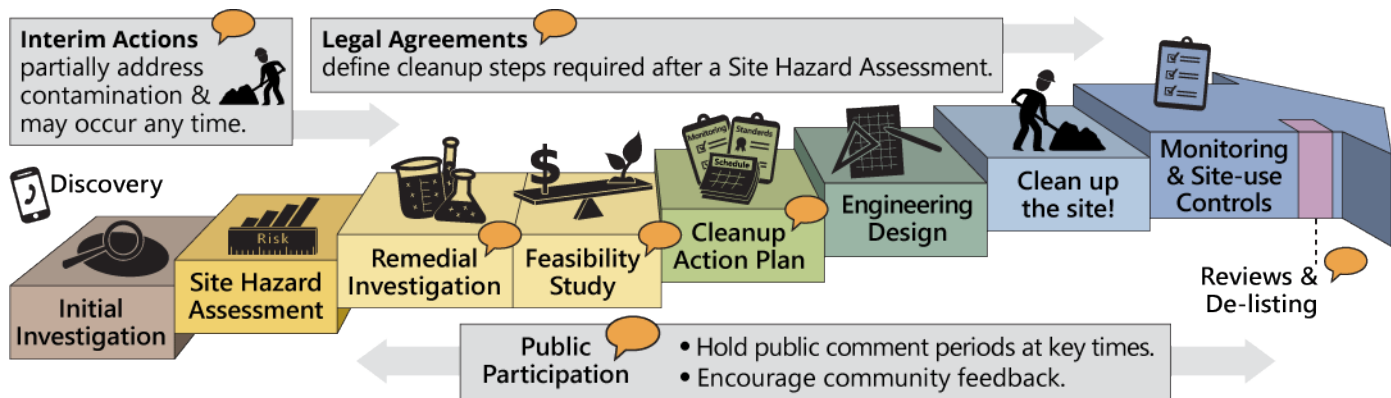
Mine prospecting occurred in the area due to the presence of naturally mineralized rock. Portions of the Saddle Rock Natural Area still have native soil with high concentrations of arsenic and other metals. Signs are being posted on the trails in the area to prevent contact with the soil.

## What Happens Next?

Ecology will respond to comments received by May 19, 2023. An online public meeting will be held if 10 or more people request one. After we consider public comments received, the site will be issued a No Further Action determination from Ecology, since all human-caused contamination has been removed.

## The Cleanup Process

Gold Knob Prospects a.k.a. Saddle Rock Park followed Washington’s cleanup process.



Public involvement opportunities, such as meetings, hearings, open houses, and workshops, can be found on Ecology’s Public Involvement Calendar at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 509-406-6931 or email at Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.