



Twin Bridges Removal Action Draft Interim Action Plan

**Monte Cristo Mining Area
Silverton, WA**

For the
Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

October 2026

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- Clean-up site ID: 4550
- Facility site ID: 2251399

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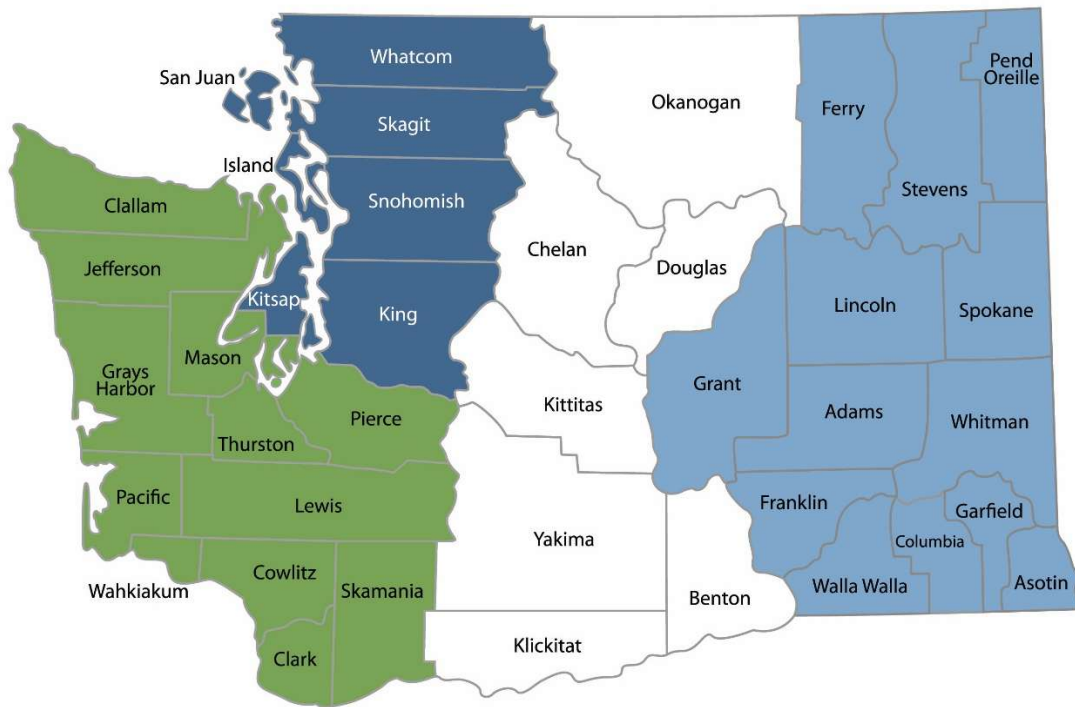
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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region
360-407-6300

Northwest Region
206-594-0000

Central Region
509-575-2490

Eastern Region
509-329-3400

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	P.O. Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	P.O. Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 West Alder Street Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 North Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Statewide	P.O. Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Introduction

This document presents the Interim Action Plan (IAP) for the Twin Bridges Removal Project, within the Monte Cristo Mining Area (Site), Facility Site Identification Number 2251399. The Twin Bridges are on the Monte Cristo Road, about 1 mile from Barlow Pass on the Mountain Loop Highway in Snohomish County, Washington, as shown on Figure 1.

This IAP is required as part of the site cleanup process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70A.305 Revised Code of Washington (RCW), implemented by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

This IAP outlines the following:

- General description of proposed action and summary of rationale;
- Applicable state and federal laws; and
- Schedule for implementation.

Ecology has selected this interim remedy because it will reduce a threat to human health and the environment, will correct a problem that will cost substantially more to address if remedial action is delayed, and is consistent with cleanup actions completed at the Site.

The documents used to make the decisions discussed in this interim action plan are on file in the administrative record for the Site. Results from applicable studies and reports are summarized to provide background information pertinent to the IAP. These studies and reports include:

- Cascade Earth Sciences. Non-Time-Critical Removal Action Report: Monte Cristo Mining Area, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snohomish County, Washington. Prepared for U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region 8, December 2016.
- Rice, Justin. "Field Visit: Monte Cristo Mining Area, FSID 2251399, CSID 4550." Technical Memorandum, Washington State Department of Ecology, Abandoned Mine Lands Program, June 2024.
- Rice, Justin. "Field Visit: Monte Cristo Mining Area, FSID 2251399, CSID 4550." Technical Memorandum, Washington State Department of Ecology, Abandoned Mine Lands Program, August 2024.
- Washington State Department of Ecology. "Focus on: Treated Wood Exclusion." *Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program*, Publication 03-04-038, revised March 2024.

Under MTCA, an "interim action" is an action that only partially addresses the cleanup of a site. For instance, an interim action might provide for a partial cleanup that does not achieve cleanup standards but reduces a threat or corrects a problem that may become substantially worse or cost substantially more to address if the remedial action is delayed. See WAC 173-340-430.

The intention of the interim action described in this IAP is to correct a problem that may become substantially worse if delayed. Remedial action under the MTCA process requires the preparation of specific documents. These procedural tasks and resulting documents for the interim action are listed below:

- Interim Action Plan – WAC 173.340-430(7)

The IAP describes the interim action and how it will meet the criteria for an interim action. The IAP includes a description of existing site conditions and a summary of all available data.

- Engineering Design Report, Construction Plans and Specifications – WAC 173-340-400

The report outlines details of the selected remedial action, including any engineered systems and design components from the IAP. These may include construction plans and specifications with technical drawings.

- As Built Reports – WAC 173-340-400

At the completion of implementation of the interim action, as built drawings and a report that provides details on the cleanup activities along with documentation of adherence to or variance from the IAP will be prepared.

Site Background

Site History

The Monte Cristo Mining Area was an active mining site for silver, gold and lead extraction between 1889 and 1907. The district was developed to mine complex sulfide ores, which were transported via the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway to the smelter in Everett. Following the collapse of mining in the district, numerous attempts were made to turn Monte Cristo into a recreational destination. In the early 1930s, Snohomish County acquired the former railway right-of-way and constructed the public county road.

The railway and subsequent Monte Cristo roadway from Barlow Pass suffered frequent destruction due to the region's high annual precipitation, resulting in washouts, landslides, and debris flows. In 1980, Snohomish County abandoned vehicular maintenance of the Monte Cristo roadway due to the prohibitive cost of repeated repairs. The Twin Bridges, on the Monte Cristo roadway, were ultimately destroyed by a series of flooding events in the early 2000s.

Previous site characterization and cleanup actions

Beginning in 2002, multiple environmental investigations have been conducted in the Monte Cristo Mining Area. In 2016, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) completed a non-time-critical Removal Action (RA) for the Monte Cristo Mining Area. Cleanup included excavating and consolidating contaminated waste and soils into an onsite repository. The RA was performed for the Forest Service under the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup authority. Work conducted on private inholdings was completed under MTCA.

Environmental Conditions

Cleanup activities were not conducted at the Twin Bridges; however, the Twin Bridges include creosote treated wood that is releasing contaminants into surface water in the South Fork Sauk River.

Creosote treated wood

Creosote, a by-product of the high-temperature treatment of coal to make natural gas or other fuels, has been used as a wood preservative to help prevent the decay of wood for over a century. Creosote treated wood has been observed in material that comprises the Twin Bridges. Observations include the presence of black or brown liquid or semisolid seeping from the bridge decking wood and piles, and strong hydrocarbon-like odors noted at the site.

Description of Interim Action

The following interim action is proposed to address the ongoing release of creosote into the South Fork Sauk River.

Twin Bridges decommissioning and debris removal

Bridge decommissioning and creosote pile removal are the focus of this project. There are two bridge structures present at the site, identified as the North Bridge and South Bridge as shown on Figure 2. The South Bridge remains intact and is currently used by recreational trail users to cross the main channel of the South Fork Sauk River. Removal of South Bridge is not part of this interim action.

Bridge Decking

The Twin Bridges consist of two steel girder bridges that are supported on piles. Each structure includes two steel girders with timber decking between them. Supplemental steel members outside the girders provide lateral anchorage to the supporting piles. Based on field observations, the girders are estimated to be about W36x150 sections with spans of roughly 50 feet. The timber decking, floor beams, and piles appear to include creosote treated wood.

This interim action includes the removal and off-sight disposal of the North Bridge, including the steel girders and timber elements. Creosote-treated material will be disposed of at an approved Subtitle D Landfill.

Bridge Piling

The bridge girders are supported by timber piles with an approximate diameter of 16 inches and unknown embedment depths. Visible pile tops range from about 1 to 4 feet above ground surface.

This interim action includes the removal and off-sight disposal of the North Bridge pilings. Creosote-treated material will be disposed of at an approved Subtitle D Landfill.

Revegetation and site restoration

Extensive revegetation or restoration of the streambank is not anticipated following decommissioning and removal activities.

Anticipated Permits and Substantive Requirements for Interim Action

The following federal approvals might be required:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- U.S. Forest Service Authorization/Special Use Permit

Because the work will be completed under a MTCA Interim Action, the project activities are exempt from the procedural requirements of most state and local permits (RCW 70A.305.090). However, MTCA requires that clean up actions comply with the substantive requirements of otherwise applicable state and local regulatory authorizations. The substantive requirements of the following approvals will be addressed during design.

- Hydraulic Project Approval
- Shoreline Substantial Development/Conditional Use Permit
- State Water Pollution Control Standards
- Solid & Hazardous Waste Management
- Local Snohomish County Permits

Compliance Monitoring

MTCA requires compliance monitoring for all cleanup actions, including Interim Actions, as described in WAC 173-340-410. Compliance monitoring is required for the following three purposes:

- Protection monitoring: Confirm that human health and the environment are adequately protected during construction and the operation and maintenance period of an interim action or cleanup action as described in the health and safety plan;
- Performance monitoring: Confirm that the interim action or cleanup action has attained cleanup standards and any other performance standards.

- Confirmation monitoring: Confirm the long-term effectiveness of the interim action or cleanup action once cleanup standards and other performance standards have been attained.

As described in WAC 173-340-410, protection monitoring will be addressed as part of the Health and Safety Plan to be developed by the Contractor. Performance monitoring and confirmation monitoring will consist primarily of construction quality assurance monitoring to confirm conformance with the Interim Action design drawings and specifications.

Schedule

The decommissioning and removal activities are anticipated to occur in the summer of 2028.

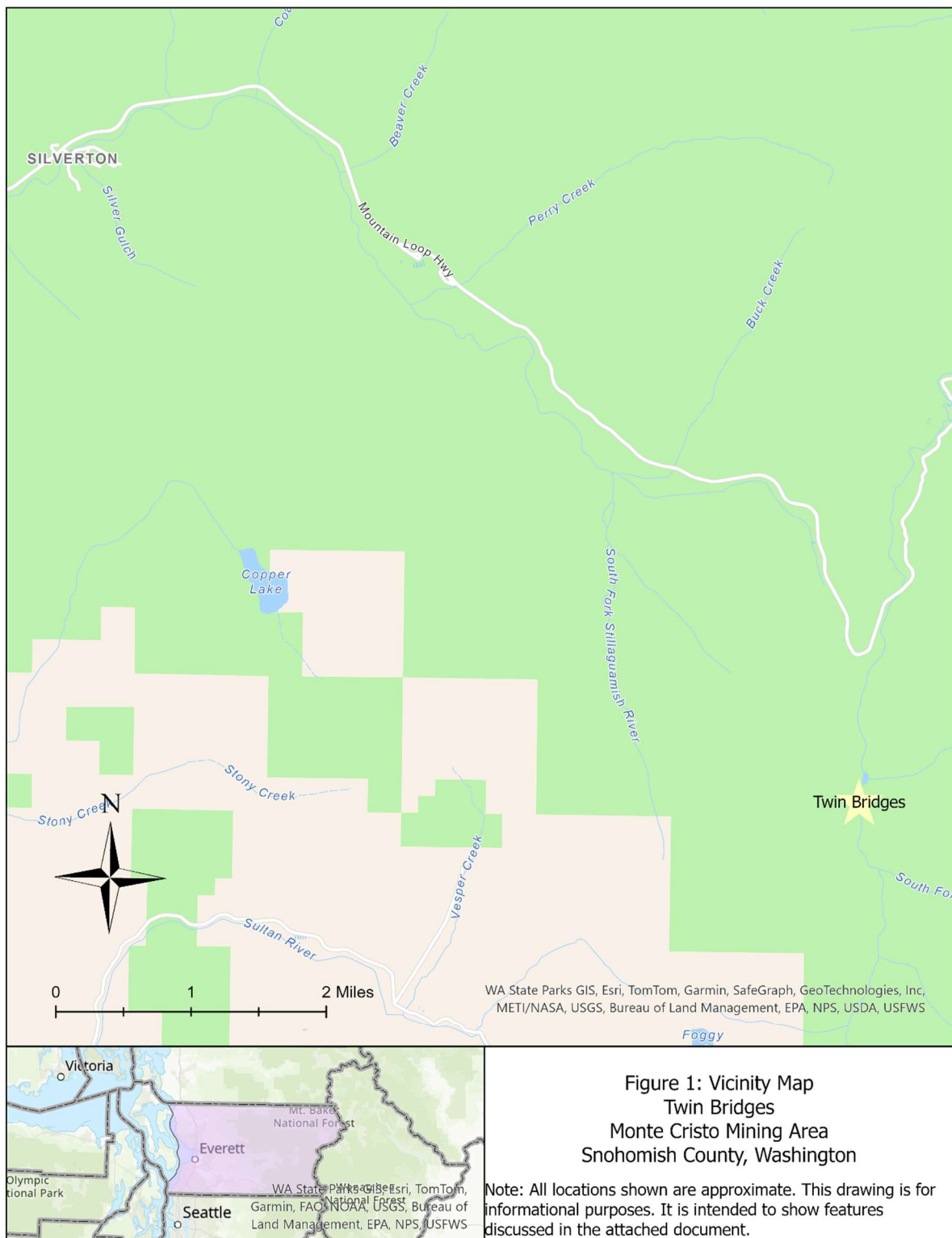


Figure 1: Vicinity Map



Figure 2: Site Plan