

Planned Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study and SEPA Early Scoping Notice

The Washington State Department of Ecology plans to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in the Monte Cristo Mining Area (MCMA) Site. The MCMA is located 4 miles SE of Barlow Pass off the Mountain Loop Highway near Silverton in Snohomish County, Washington.

Site Background

The MCMA is located within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Snohomish County, Washington, near the west-center margin of the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area. The area is situated in the extremely rugged terrain of the Cascade Mountains. Prospecting in the MCMA began in the spring of 1889. A railroad to the Townsite was completed in 1893, and a 300-tons-per-day concentrator was constructed on site. Mining was strong until flooding destroyed the rail access in 1897. Standard underground mining practices were used for all mines in the MCMA. Ore from the mines was sent to the Ore Collector for coarse crushing. It was then trammed along the haulage way to the concentrator by horse. At the concentrator, ore went through a series of jigs for concentrating. An unknown volume of tailings were discharged to the surrounding land and Glacier Creek. The MCMA is now a popular hiking, mountain climbing, and rock collecting destination for many tourists each year.

More information is available at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website under CERCLA projects.

Public Comment Invited

As part of the early scoping for the planned Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Ecology is asking for your comments on the SEPA checklist and Determination of Non-Significance. You are invited to:

- **Review** the SEPA checklist and Determination of Non-Significance; Phase 1 Spatial Analysis Summary Report; Remedial Investigation Phase 1 Data Report; and the Sampling and Analysis Plan
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted *August 24, 2011 through September 26, 2011*.

See the box at the right for details about where to review documents and submit comments.

Comments Accepted

August 24, 2011 through
September 26, 2011

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Jason Shira - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
Phone: (509) 454-7834
E-mail: Jason.Shira@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Darrington Public Library

1005 Cascade Street
Darrington WA 98241
Phone: (360) 436-1600
Hours:

Monday:	11 am - 8 pm
Tuesday:	11 am - 5 pm
Wednesday:	11 am - 8 pm
Thursday-Saturday:	11 am - 5 pm
Sunday:	closed

WA Department of Ecology

Central Regional Office
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902

By appointment only:

Contact Roger Johnson,
rjoh461@ecy.wa.gov or
(509) 454-7658

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4550>

Facility Site ID #: 2251399

What Happens Next?

Ecology will conduct a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study at the Site. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to gather data to determine the extent of metals contamination from historical mining practices. The contaminants of concern are arsenic, antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, zinc, and potentially other metals in soils, surface water, and sediments. The Feasibility Study will identify and evaluate cleanup options. Ecology expects to complete the RI/FS by the end of 2014. The draft report will be available for review and comment.

Determination of Non-Significance

After reviewing a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist, Ecology has made a decision that the RI/FS process will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. The checklist and Determination of Non-Significance are part of the documents available for public comment.

Why This Cleanup Matters

The Monte Cristo Mining Area is a popular recreational destination for many people each year. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service has identified areas that pose a threat to human health and the environment, and are the subject of planned remediation activities. Additional investigations will assess old mines that were not part of previous investigations, sediment quality, and surface water quality. These are important steps in assessing the amount of contamination from historical mining activities, and potential impacts on people, plants, and wildlife.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement such as meetings, hearings, open houses and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/publiccalendar/calendar.asp>

While you are at the calendar page, you may click on the link *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting* and learn more about the public comment process.

What can you do?

1. Read about the cleanup in this handout.
2. To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in this document.
3. Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address provided in this document.

We appreciate your comments and concerns. Thank you.

Help with other languages and formats?
Para asistencia en Espanol: 509-454-4174
Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните: 509-477-3881

If you need this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Toxics Cleanup Program at 509-454-7841. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

