



## Van Stone Mine Site Update July 2012

The site is located 24 miles northeast of the city of Colville off Van Stone Road in Stevens County, Washington

### Work Plan Being Prepared to Address Breach at Van Stone Mine Site

A breach occurred at the Upper Tailings Pile during the high rainy season this spring. Water that accumulated on the tailings pile washed tailings into a tributary to Onion Creek and the limited surrounding area. Ecology's contractor for the site is developing a Work Plan to assess options for interim actions that may be needed now to address these impacts prior to development of a full cleanup action plan. This Work Plan will be made available for public comment late summer or early fall. At this time, the breach does not pose a significant threat to human health and the environment.

### Site Background

The site is made up of four areas: the location of the former milling facility (now dismantled) and offices; waste rock piles and the mine workings area, including what are now pit lakes; the Upper Tailings Pile; and the Lower Tailings Pile. The WA Department of Ecology is conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study of metals contamination at the site. Contamination is a result of past mining operations.

The Remedial Investigation will provide information about the extent of contamination at the site and the Feasibility Study will evaluate cleanup options. The RI/FS Report, which will include sampling results, is expected to be available early in 2013. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the report before it becomes final.

### Sampling Conducted in June 2012

Workers began sampling again at the site in June. Samples were taken along the Lotze Creek Road from the Onion Creek School to the Lower Tailings Pile. Additional road sampling was conducted from the Lower Tailings Pile to the Mill area along the Van Stone Mine Road.

The purpose of the sampling was to gather additional information about the nature and extent of site-related contamination. This information will be used as part of the site analysis in addition to data collected in the fall of 2011. Ecology will continue to update the public as new information becomes available.

For additional site information please see Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=461>

**Questions:** Questions about the site or the proposed sampling may be directed to the site manager, Brendan Dowling at Ecology 509/329-3611 or e-mail [Brendan.dowling@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Brendan.dowling@ecy.wa.gov)

**Health related questions may be directed to:** Northeast Tri-County Health District: Matt Schanz in Colville 509/684-2262.

For **ADA accommodations** or documents in an alternate format, call Carol Bergin 509/329-3546 (voice), 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).