



Spokane River Metals

Flora Road Site

Comments Sought on Construction, SEPA, and Substantive Requirements Documents

Placing Cap on Contamination Provides Public Protection

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to place a cap of clean gravel over contaminated sediments at the Flora Road site. The cap will prevent direct contact with contamination along the river bank in this area. The site is located about 5 miles west of the Idaho border along the southern bank of the Spokane River at Flora Road in the Spokane Valley, Washington (Figure 1). The site is accessed from the Centennial Trail by a narrow path that has trees and brush on both sides.



Flora Road Site

Signs will be posted on the Centennial Trail and a flagger will be present during construction to let people know the access is closed. It is anticipated construction will be completed by the end of September 2009.

Why Cleanup is Necessary

Contaminants known as heavy metals washed downstream from the Idaho Coeur d'Alene Basin. These heavy metals are a result of historic mining practices in Idaho and include

lead, arsenic, zinc and cadmium. These contaminants settled in soil and sediments at certain shoreline areas along the Spokane River.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a study of mining contaminants in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. As part of the study, and additional testing by the Washington State Department of Ecology, nine shoreline areas in Washington state were identified for cleanup (Figure 2). Ecology and EPA cleaned up Starr Road in 2006. Ecology completed cleanup at Island Complex and Murray Road in 2007, and the Harvard Road North site in 2008.

The Flora Road project is being conducted for the following reasons:

- Contamination levels exceed state standards.
- The protective gravel cap prevents contact with contaminated sediments along the river banks.

Ecology Invites Your Comments

You may review and comment on documents associated with the Flora Road project August 5, 2009

Fact Sheet August 2009 Toxics Cleanup Program

Comments Accepted
August 5 through Sept. 4, 2009

Para asistencia en Español:
Gretchen Newman (360) 407-6097

Если вам нужно помочь по русский, звоните:
Tatyana Bistrevesky 509/928-7617

Document Review Locations
WA Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205
Kari Johnson 509/329-3415

Argonne County Library
4322 N. Argonne, Spokane, WA 99206
509/893-8260

Spokane Valley Library
12004 E. Main,
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
509/893-8400

Spokane Public Library
906 W. Main, Spokane, WA 99201
509/444-5300

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup
Website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/flora/floraRd_hp.html

Comments and Technical Questions

Mr. Dave George
Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205
509/329-3520
E-mail: cgeo461@ecy.wa.gov

Community Outreach Questions
Ms. Carol Bergin
Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program
509/329-3546
E-mail: cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

Facility Site ID No. 615198
Publication No. 0909028

through September 5, 2009. The box on page one provides locations for reviewing documents and submitting comments.

Documents available for review include:

- Draft Construction Specifications and Design Drawings.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).
- Substantive Permit Requirements.

The State Environmental Policy Act, known as SEPA, requires government agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of a project before beginning the cleanup. A Determination of Non-Significance indicates the proposed actions will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

- After review of an environmental checklist and other site-specific information, Ecology determined that placing a protective cap of gravel material over the contaminated sediments will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.
- This action will benefit the environment by reducing exposure pathways.
- Therefore, Ecology has issued a Determination of Non-Significance.

Proposed Construction

A small staging area will be created to house equipment and materials to be used in the construction. Large boulders will temporarily be moved so that a one foot cap of gravel material may be placed over contaminated sediments along the river bank. After the cap is placed, the boulders will then be put back in their original positions. Precautions will be taken during all work to minimize damage to existing vegetation.

A portion of the access path from the Centennial Trail to the beach also will be enhanced with gravel material. This will help reduce erosion and improve public access to the beach.

What Happens Next

Ecology will respond to questions or comments submitted by the public, and may modify the proposed work, if appropriate. Construction will be completed by the end of September 2009.

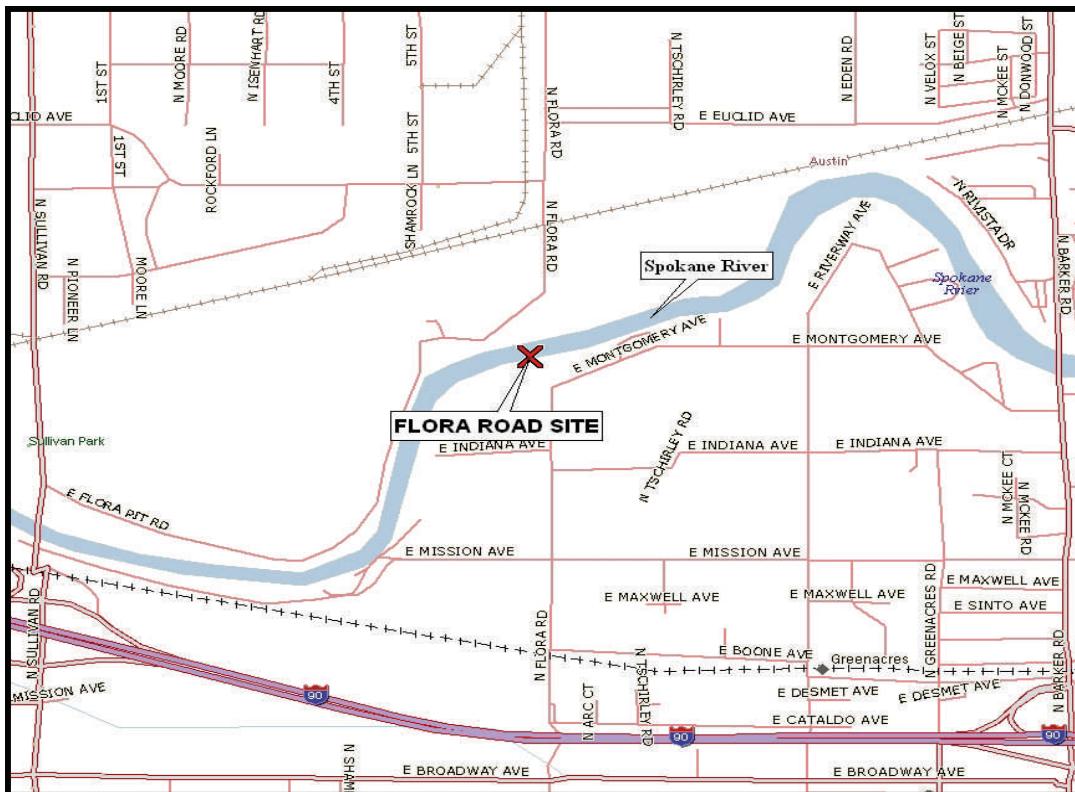


Figure 1

Spokane River Metals Sites

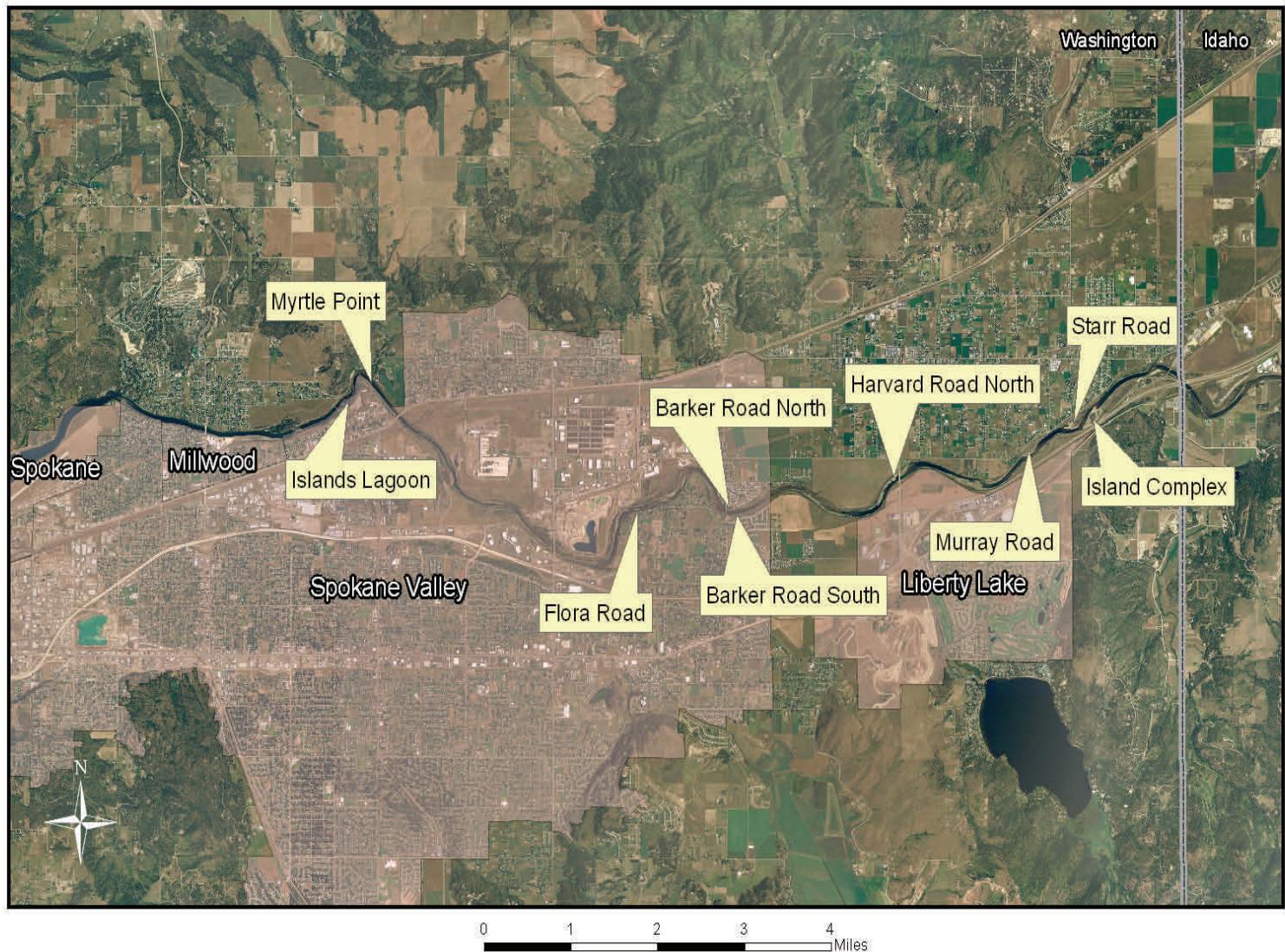


Figure 2

Spokane River Metals Sites

Work Completed

- 2006 Starr Road (WA Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- 2007 Murray Road (WA Department of Ecology)
- 2007 Island Complex (WA Department of Ecology)
- 2008 Harvard Road North (WA Department of Ecology)

Work Pending

- 2009 Barker Road South (WA Department of Ecology)
- 2009 Flora Road (WA Department of Ecology)
- Barker Road North
- Myrtle Point
- Islands Lagoon