Spokane River Metals Sites
Four Beaches Proposed for Cleanup

Comments Sought on Construction, SEPA, and Substantive Requirement Documents

River Recreation and Access Areas Closed During Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology proposes to address lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium at four Spokane River beaches. The Barker Road North beach lies on the north side of the Spokane River east of the Barker Road Bridge. The other three beaches are Islands Lagoon, Myrtle Point, and Flora Road which are all on the South side of the Spokane River (see Figures 1 and 2). Flora Road is included in the work because spring run-off in 2011 damaged portions of the protective cover or cap previously placed there in 2009. The new cap will be engineered to prevent future erosion.

Beach work will begin when river levels are low in the summer and will be completed fall 2012. These beach areas will be temporarily closed to the public during construction. The Centennial Trail also will be impacted during portions of the construction. Flaggers and signs will be posted to let people know these access areas are closed. Construction details are provided in the design documents available for review.

Ecology Invites Your Comments

The beach cleanup documents are available for review May 17 through June 15, 2012. The box at the right indicates where to submit comments and review the following documents:

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

Why Cleanup is Necessary

Historic mining practices in the Coeur d'Alene basin resulted in contaminants known as heavy metals washing downstream from Idaho. The metals contamination includes lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium. These heavy metals 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 that study, and additional testing by Ecology, nine shoreline areas in Washington state were identified for cleanup (Figure 1).

Ecology and EPA cleaned up the Starr Road beach in 2006. Ecology completed cleanup at Island Complex and Murray Road beaches in 2007. Ecology completed work at Harvard Road North in 2008 and Flora Road in 2009. Barker Road South was postponed based on public feedback.

Fact Sheet May 2012

Comments Accepted
May 17 through June 15 2012

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

Para asistencia en Español
Richelle Perez 360/407-7528

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

Document Review Locations
WA Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205
Call Kari Johnson for appointment
509/329-3415 or kari.johnson@ecy.wa.gov

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

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=442

Department of Ecology Contacts
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Submit Comments/Questions
Dave George, Site Manager
509/329-3520 Dave.george@ecy.wa.gov

Community Outreach
Carol Bergin 509/329-3546 or
cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

Facility Site ID No. 615198
Cleanup Site ID No.
Publication No. 12-09-027

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

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 the cleanup of lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium in sediments will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.
- The actions at these four beaches will benefit the environment by reducing the release of toxic chemicals from the site and reducing exposure pathways.
- Therefore, Ecology has issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).

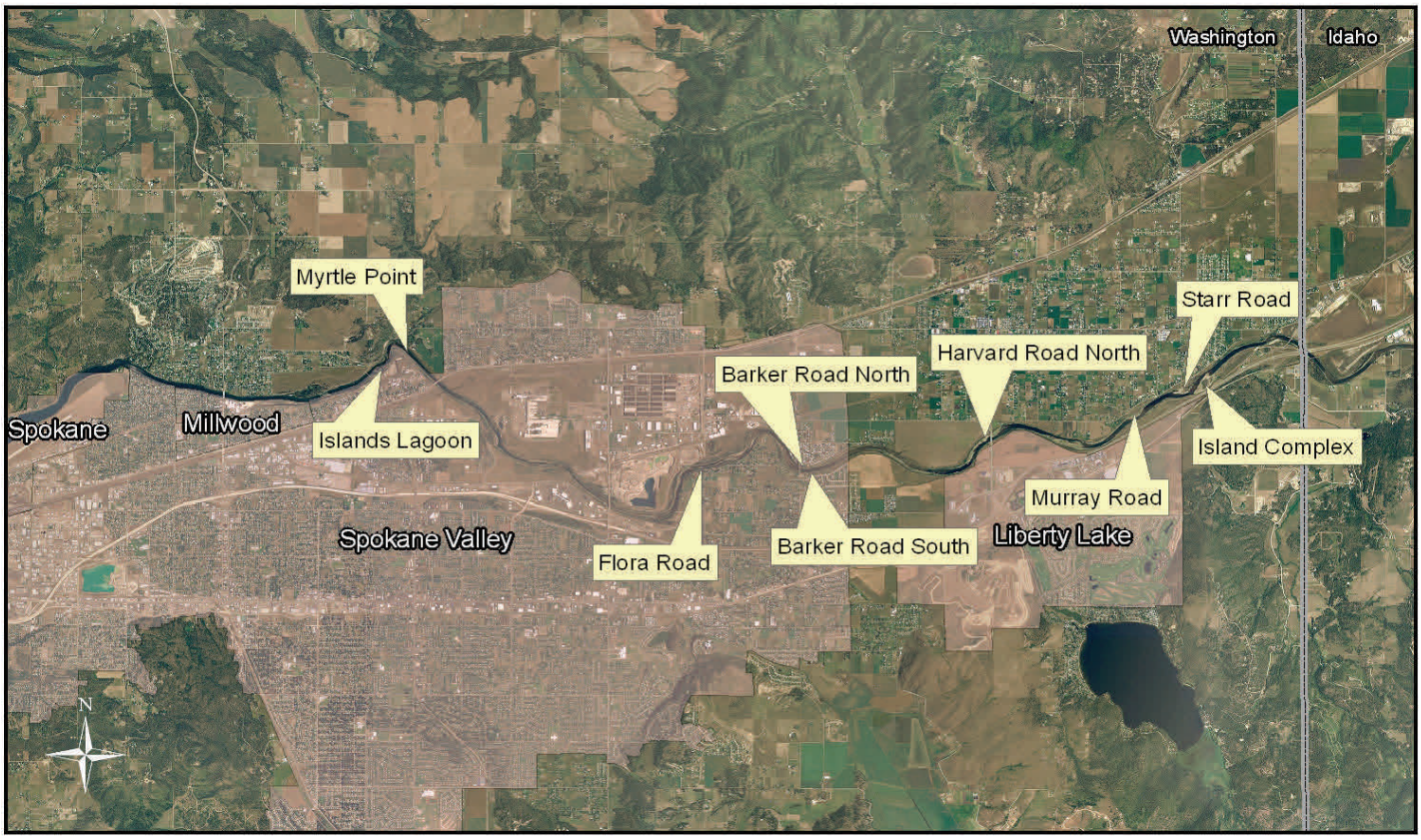
What Happens Next

Ecology will respond to questions or comments submitted by the public June 15, 2012. Ecology may modify the proposed work, if appropriate. Construction will begin in the Summer 2012 and be completed by Fall 2012.

Proposed Restoration at Four Beaches

- Contaminated sediments along the river banks at three of the beaches will be removed, and all areas will be backfilled and capped with clean material. Contaminated sediments will be disposed of at an approved landfill.
- A protective cap designed to prevent erosion will be placed in each of the cleanup areas.
- The cap will consist of a layer of smaller rock material, covered with coarser sized rock. Boulders will be used at Islands Lagoon as part of the cap to stabilize the banks.
- The cap will eliminate the exposure pathway for humans and wildlife.
- Native vegetation will be planted where appropriate by Ecology, local river groups, and stakeholders.
- Staging areas will be created at each site where materials will be placed during construction. Details about the staging areas are found in the design documents.
- Precautions will be taken during all work to minimize dust and damage to existing vegetation.

Spokane River Metals Sites



Adapted from map by
Geo Engineers

Figure 2

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

4601 North Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Spokane River Metals
4 Beach Sites Scheduled for Cleanup

June 2012

Public Comment Wanted