

Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees



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Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Available For Public Review and Comment

Coeur d'Alene, IDAHO – The Restoration Partnership is seeking public comment on the Draft Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The Restoration Partnership is a collaborative effort of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees, which are the U.S. Department of the Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management; the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, represented by the Forest Service; and the State of Idaho, represented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

The Restoration Partnership is working toward restoring natural resources injured by historic releases of hazardous substances deposited directly into the waterways in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. This will be accomplished using settlement funds obtained from mining companies and others. Sharing the draft restoration plan and DEIS with the public and gathering input is the next step in this particular restoration effort, which is one of the largest ever in Idaho.

“The Draft Restoration Plan and EIS are the result of a considerable effort, by a group of talented people bringing loads of expertise and experience working with the Coeur d'Alene Basin’s natural resources,” said Chip Corsi, IDFG regional supervisor and State of Idaho representative for the Restoration Partnership. “Public input on the front end played a huge role in developing the draft plan and preferred alternative in the DEIS, and now the public has the opportunity to see the outcome and provide us with constructive feedback.”

The draft restoration plan covers a planning area of more than 4,000 square miles in and around the Coeur d'Alene Basin and identifies goals and priorities to guide future project implementation. The

restoration work is separate from, but complementary to, cleanup work being led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the basin.

“The Tribe has been looking forward to this for a long time,” said Phillip Cernera, who represents the Coeur d’Alene Tribe in the Restoration Partnership. “For thousands of years the Tribe has flourished in this area in its pristine state. It’s only been over the past 130 years that Tribal members have had to limit their interactions with the environment and we’re anxious to get the Basin on track toward restoration.”

The Restoration Partnership will be hosting three public open house events where the public can learn about the draft restoration plan and DEIS, ask questions, and provide comments. These open houses are to be held as follows:

St. Maries

December 6, 2016, 5–7 p.m.
St. Maries Fire Department
308 W. Jefferson

Coeur d’Alene

December 7, 2016, 5–7 p.m.
Coeur d’Alene Public Library
702 E. Front St.

Osburn

December 8, 2016, 5–7 p.m.
Osburn V.F.W.
318 E. Mullan Ave.

The public may view the draft restoration plan and DEIS, and make comments at www.restorationpartnership.org. Comments can also be mailed to the Jo Christensen, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, 3815 N. Schreiber Way, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815 or emailed to comments@restorationpartnership.org. Comments are being accepted through January 13, 2017.

Visit the Restoration Partnership website at www.restorationpartnership.org or email info@restorationpartnership.org to learn more about this effort or the Restoration Partnership.