



EPA Fact Sheet

Blackbird Mine Site

Cobalt, Idaho

April 1999

Investigations performed in 1998 found concentrations of arsenic and other metals in some soil deposits along the banks of Panther Creek. Sampling was performed at certain locations from the Cobalt Townsite down to Salmon River to determine if there is a potential risk. The results of the sampling can be found in the 1998 Remedial Investigation Data Summary Report, Blackbird Mine Site, Lemhi County, Idaho, prepared by Golder Associates, February 11, 1999.

Background

Blackbird Mine is an inactive mine approximately 20 miles west of Salmon, Idaho in the Salmon National Forest in east central Idaho, Lemhi County. Cobalt, gold, silver, and copper ore were extracted from underground and open pit mining operations from the late 1800's until 1982. The mining operations left an open pit (Blacktail Pit), several miles of underground workings, waste rock piles and a tailings disposal impoundment. Initial cleanup at the mine site began in August 1995 to control the release of contaminants from the mine, primarily copper, cobalt, and arsenic into Meadow, Blackbird, Big Deer and Panther Creeks.

Elevated concentrations of arsenic that posed a potential risk to humans were found in soil at the Panther Creek Inn (PCI) property, a small commercial operation and campground located approximately 10 miles east of the mine site where Blackbird Creek and Panther Creek meet. In the fall/winter of 1998, the contaminated soil was removed to a minimum of one foot in depth and replaced with clean material and seeded.

PUBLIC MEETING

**The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Invites You to a Public Information Meeting
May 6, 1999
USDA Forest Service, Cobalt Ranger District
Office
on Panther Creek
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

At the public meeting, EPA will provide the following information:

- ✓ Where sampling was performed and the results of the investigation;
- ✓ The results of the initial evaluation;
- ✓ What evaluations still need to be performed;
- ✓ The schedule for completing the evaluation and making decisions for cleanup.

Representatives from public health agencies will be available to answer health related questions during and after the public meeting.

If you need directions to the Cobalt Ranger District Office, please contact Gary Jackson at the Salmon/Challis Forest Office, 208/756-5170 or Fran Allans at 208/378-5775.

For More Information - Information Repositories

Reports that support the cleanup actions at the Blackbird Mine site are available at the following locations:

Salmon Public Library
204 Main Street
Salmon, ID

U.S. EPA
Idaho Operations
Office
1435 N. Orchard
Boise, ID

U.S. EPA
1200 Sixth Avenue
7th Floor Records Center
Seattle, WA

Panther Creek Inn
Cobalt, ID

(This repository contains some general information reports, as well as reports that support the cleanup decision at the Panther Creek Inn. Reports for future cleanup decisions at the Blackbird Mine will be placed in this repository.)

For Questions please contact:

Fran Allans, EPA Project Manager (208) 378-5775 or leave a message at 1-800-424-4372 and Fran will call you back.

If you are not currently receiving EPA's fact sheets and would like to be on our mail list, please call **Jeanne O'Dell**, Community Involvement Coordinator (206) 553-6919 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372.

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with speech or hearing disabilities by contacting one of the numbers listed above.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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