



# Sites in Continued Use

## Whitewood Creek Superfund Site

18-Mile Part of Stream, Whitewood, South Dakota 57793



*A view of Whitewood Creek.*



*Residential area at the site.*



*Ranch at the site.*

**Supported Site Uses:** The site provides habitat for local wildlife. Portions of the site continue to support residential, recreational and agricultural use.

**Restricted Use:** Institutional controls prohibit construction of new residential or commercial structures on the Tailings Deposits, restrict future development in Tailings Impacted Areas<sup>1</sup> and prohibit removal and use of tailings outside these areas. A state well ban prohibits groundwater wells in the 100-year floodplain of Whitewood Creek.



### Setting:

- The 2,500-acre site includes Whitewood Creek, its floodplain and surrounding areas. The site is on the northern perimeter of the Black Hills, northwest of Rapid City.
- The site's 18-mile portion of Whitewood Creek stretches from the City of Whitewood north to where the creek flows into the Belle Fourche River.
- Gold mining in the Black Hills began in the 1870s. Until 1977, tailings generated during mining were released into the creek.
- Local residents use the creek for irrigation, watering livestock and recreation.
- Land surrounding the site includes rural residences, ranches and cropland for growing animal feed.
- Surrounding population: 0.5 mile, 1,219 people; 2.5 miles, 4,135 people; 4 miles, 4,676 people.

<sup>1</sup> Areas in the Creek's floodplain that contain contamination from former mining activities are known as Tailings Deposits. Adjacent areas where wind deposited tailings in soil are referred to as Tailings Impacted Areas.

*Disclaimer:* EPA does not warrant that the property is suitable for any particular use. Any prospective purchaser must contact the property owner for sale potential.

### Remedial Status:

- Cleanup activities were conducted between 1991 and 1994, including institutional control implementation.
- By 1994, parties had removed and disposed of 4,500 cubic yards of soil contaminated with heavy metals from 16 residential properties.
- Butte, Meade and Lawrence Counties adopted ordinances for the institutional controls in late 1993 and early 1994.
- EPA removed the site from the National Priorities List in 1996.
- In areas that have been cleaned up, EPA requires residential sampling and inspections every five years. EPA reviews site building activity annually.
- Surface water and disposal area monitoring and maintenance activities are ongoing.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Fran Costanzi**  
Superfund Redevelopment  
Coordinator  
(303) 312-6571  
[costanzi.frances@epa.gov](mailto:costanzi.frances@epa.gov)

**Kerri Fiedler**  
Site Project Manager  
(303) 312-6493  
[fiedler.kerri@epa.gov](mailto:fiedler.kerri@epa.gov)

Site Summary:  
<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/whitewood-creek>