

For More Information, contact:
Caj Matheson
Communications Specialist
Restoration Partnership
PHONE: (208) 582-4080
EMAIL: caj@restorationpartnership.org

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Restoration Partnership Engages in One of the Largest Restoration Efforts in Idaho History

Coeur d’Alene, IDAHO – Local residents can help shape natural resource restoration in the Coeur d’Alene Basin by providing comments and suggestions to the Restoration Partnership. The Partnership is developing a strategic plan to return natural resources harmed by past releases of mine waste contamination to a healthy condition.

The Restoration Partnership was formed through a collaborative effort led by the Coeur d’Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees which are the U.S. Department of Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management; the Coeur d’Alene Tribe (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. Developing a restoration plan is the next step in this restoration effort, which is one of the largest ever in Idaho.

“This is an important time for all of us,” said Phillip Cerner, who represents the Tribe in the Restoration Partnership. “We are beginning the planning process and we need input from the public to help us identify priority areas where we may be able to improve conditions for fish, wildlife, plants, wetlands, waterfowl, and other natural resources here in the Coeur d’Alene Basin.”

The Restoration Partnership is working toward natural resource restoration with settlement funds from parties responsible for natural resource degradation.

“Not only do we have a remarkable opportunity to do great things for fish, wildlife, and other natural resources—as well as the people that enjoy them—but the potential economic impact natural resource restoration could have in our region is substantial,” said Chip Corsi, IDFG Regional Supervisor and State of Idaho representative in the Restoration Partnership. “We know that natural resource restoration can provide jobs to our local communities through project development.”

There are numerous ways restoration can occur, and so the Restoration Partnership is seeking input from the public as it develops the Restoration Plan and prepares an Environmental Impact Statement. The Partnership will collect input over a 60-day

scoping phase slated to run through August 12, 2013. During this time citizens and organizations can provide input to the Restoration Partnership online at www.restorationpartnership.org, by mail at Restoration Partnership, 424 Sherman Ave., Suite 306, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814, and in person at four public open house meetings to be held as follows:

Kellogg

June 18, 2013, 5-30-7:30 p.m.

Silver Mountain Resort

Noah's Loft Conference Center

Harrison

June 20, 2013, 5-30-7:30 p.m.

Harrison Elementary School

Multi-purpose Room

Coeur d'Alene

June 25, 2013, 5-30-7:30 p.m.

Best Western-Coeur d'Alene Inn

Worley

June 27, 2013, 5-30-7:30 p.m.

Rose Creek Longhouse

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

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