

Skykomish Scoop | September 2010

Welcome to the Skykomish Scoop!



BNSF Railway (BNSF) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are currently conducting a multi-year environmental cleanup in Skykomish. This newsletter provides a way for you to stay informed about cleanup and construction activities. Content for this edition of the newsletter is provided by BNSF and Ecology.

2010 cleanup accomplishments

This year of cleanup included many major accomplishments. A big thank you to Skykomish residents for their patience and cooperation! Further detail about these pieces of work and future work is included on the following pages.



Looking west along Railroad Avenue during restoration activities in August.

2010 cleanup milestones

- More than 55,000 gallons of oil recovered from cleanup zones.
- 5th Street Bridge closure, abutment cleanup and bridge reopening completed in less than one week.
- Town Maintenance building, Ward building, and Community Center temporarily relocated, excavation and backfilling completed, buildings returned to original locations.
- Cascadia restaurant building demolished, excavation completed and construction of new restaurant underway. The Cascadia Inn is open for business.
- Former Maloney Creek East Wetland excavation completed; stormwater pipe installation underway.
- Former Maloney Creek West Wetland excavation completed; backfilling underway.
- Excavation and backfilling on Skykomish Library property completed.
- Completed excavation and backfilling at the east end of the hydraulic control and containment (HCC) system.
- Restoration of Maloney's General Store and Wheatley house underway.

5th Street bridge work completed; in-water work postponed

A major component of 2010 cleanup was removing contaminated material around the 5th Street Bridge abutment. BNSF, Ecology, the Town of Skykomish and the Washington State Department of Transportation met frequently to determine how this work would occur with minimal impacts to the bridge and access into Skykomish. Fortunately, the cleanup team was able to safely design excavation and restoration efforts to require only closing the 5th Street Bridge for seven days. Detour routes via East Old Cascade Highway were provided during the closure. Crews completed the bridge closure, excavated the upland areas around the 5th Street Bridge and reopened the bridge to both vehicles and pedestrians within one week.

In-water excavation near the 5th Street Bridge has been postponed until after an in-water permit is issued; this work will not be completed this summer. The permits required for work to occur in the Skykomish River were not granted in time

to conduct the work during the fish window, the period of time when impacts to fish in the river are lowest. The bridge surface will be temporarily restored with asphalt this fall. Later, during the fish window, crews will excavate in the Skykomish River and build a cofferdam to prevent silt and/or oil from entering the main channel of the river. This work will be coordinated with other in-water work at the west levee area located to the northwest of the school yard.



View of bridge abutment during 5th Street Bridge closure and excavation.



5th Street Bridge open to traffic.

Former Maloney Creek East and West Wetlands cleanup

Cleanup in the Former Maloney Creek (FMC) East and West Wetlands is underway and moving toward completion. FMC East Wetland excavation has been completed and it will be restored as an “upland.” Backfilling and grading is underway on BNSF and private properties in the FMC East Wetland, and crews are installing the underground stormwater pipe that will carry water to the FMC West Wetland.

Restoration will be completed by BNSF or by private property owners. The FMC West Wetland excavation is completed and backfilling is underway. Work in the FMC West Wetland will be completed in mid-September.

Northwest Developed Zone cleanup

Cleanup and restoration in the Northwest Developed Zone (NWDZ) included temporarily relocating the Town Maintenance building, Ward building, and Community Center for excavation and oil recovery. Restoration work underway includes the return of those three buildings, as well as the Maloney’s General Store and Wheatley house that were originally relocated in 2009. The completion of work at the three buildings relocated this year allowed the contractor to return the Maloney’s General Store and Wheatley house to their original sites and begin restoration.

Town restoration

BNSF is working with the Town of Skykomish to determine how to restore streets and sidewalks this year. At a minimum, cleanup crews will be installing temporary street surfaces and sidewalks in all the work areas affected during 2010. These temporary installations will include asphalt paving that will last throughout the winter months. Once further cleanup activities are completed, crews will install permanent roadways, sidewalks and other features as designed by the Town of Skykomish.



Clearing and grubbing prior to FMC West Wetland excavation.



Excavation and oil recovery in the NWDZ.



Bracing on Maloney's General Store helped protect the building during relocation.

Additional questions?

Cleanup staff will be available to answer questions at upcoming meetings in Skykomish.

Skykomish Town Council

September 13, 2010 and October 11, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Town Hall, 119 4th Street N.



Who do I contact for questions about...?

Cleanup construction:

Skykomish Cleanup Call Line:

1-800-228-1849

E-mail: info@skykomishcleanup.com

Web site: www.skykomishcleanup.com

Cleanup approach:

Ecology: 425-649-4486

Web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf_sky/bnsf_sky.html

Community wastewater system construction:

Town of Skykomish: 360-677-2388