



Skykomish Scoop | May 2009

Welcome to the Skykomish Scoop!



This newsletter keeps you informed about cleanup and construction activities in Skykomish. BNSF Railway (BNSF) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are busy preparing for cleanup work this summer. See inside for more details about cleanup plans for 2009 and beyond. Content for this edition of the newsletter is provided by BNSF and Ecology.

Ecology accepts revisions to the Cleanup Action Plan

In January 2009, BNSF proposed changes to the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) to build greater flexibility into the Skykomish cleanup schedule and make cleanup work more efficient. The CAP guides cleanup in Skykomish and is part of the consent decree.

After considering comments submitted at a public meeting on March 25 and during a 30-day public comment period, Ecology accepted the following changes to the CAP:

- Along with thermal treatment technologies, the CAP now allows for the consideration of excavation at the Skykomish School as a cleanup alternative.
- Cleanup work in the Northwest Developed Zone (areas near 5th Street) and at the 5th Street Bridge will now take place starting in 2009. Some of this work was previously scheduled for 2010.
- Cleanup work in the South Developed Zone along Old Cascade Highway and Former Maloney Creek

East Wetland is deferred until 2010. This work was previously scheduled for 2009.

- Work in 2011 will include any cleanup activities not completed in prior years, including completing cleanup at the Skykomish School and dismantling active cleanup operations. Final restoration activities will occur in 2011, including the installation of permanent sidewalks and historic-looking streetlights consistent with the Town of Skykomish "Vision Statement."

You can review Ecology's responses to comments on the CAP at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf_sky/bnsf_sky.html and at the information repository at the Skykomish Library (100 Fifth Street, Skykomish).



Newly installed historic-looking streetlights by the Whistling Post Tavern.

Preparing for cleanup in 2009 and beyond

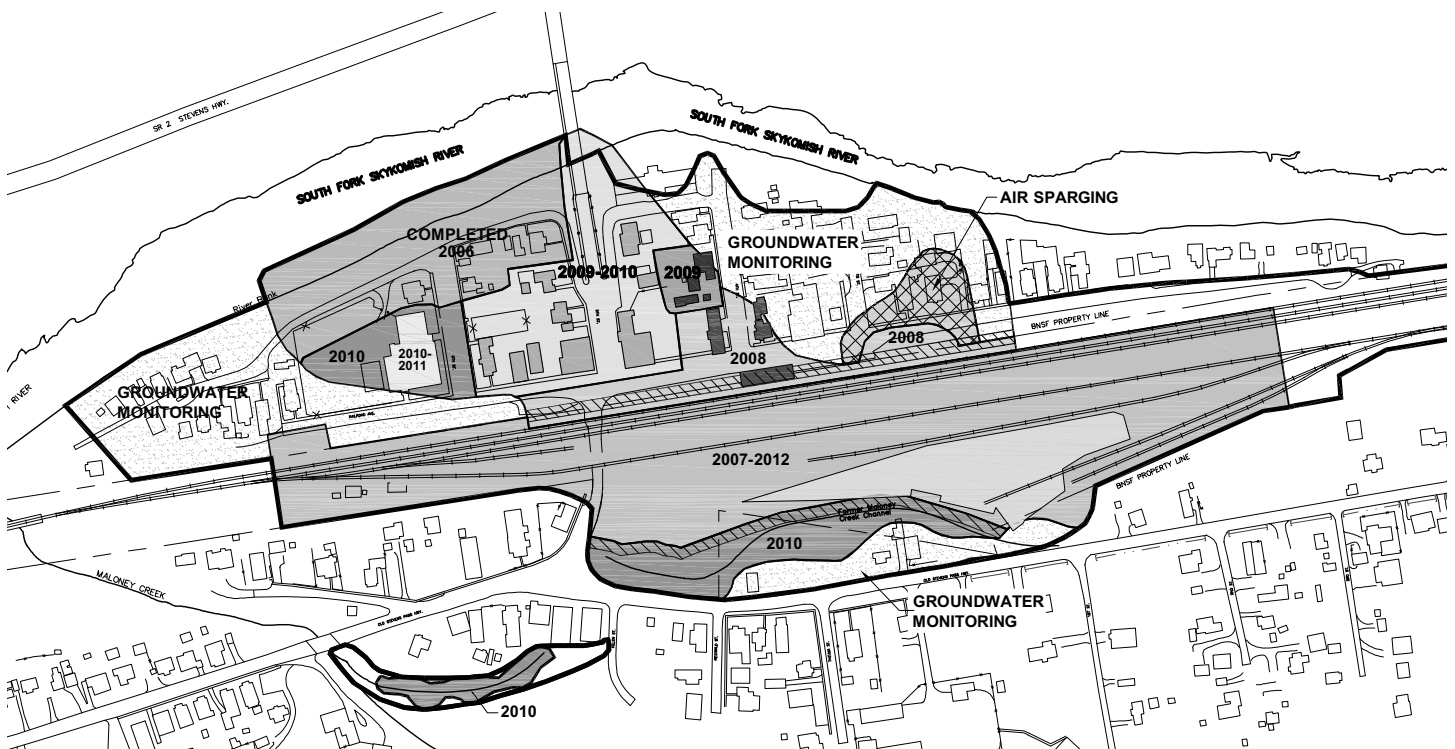
BNSF and Ecology have been working on detailed plans for cleanup in 2009 and 2010. In May, BNSF provided notice to award the general construction contract to Strider Construction. Contracting efforts are now underway. Strider was the prime contractor in 2008 and will be contracted with BNSF through 2011.

Major cleanup events planned for 2009 include:

- Temporarily relocating Maloney's General Store, the Skykomish Hotel, Wheatley rental and Sarno and Martin houses.
- Demolishing the SkyRiver Inn, SkyRiver Inn office and post office; permanently relocating the BNSF house.
- Relocating post office operations near the intersection of Old Cascade Highway and Thelma Street (at the former U.S. Forest Service compound) for at least two years.
- Excavating contaminated soils on BNSF, Town, SkyRiver Inn, Skykomish Hotel, Whistling Post

(north and west of the building), Wheatley, Sarno and Martin properties; excavating additional areas along the south edge of the Mitchell property, along the eastern edge of the Moore property and the southwest corner of the Skykomish Community Church property.

- Rerouting traffic to allow excavation of 5th Street, including possible temporary closures of the 5th Street Bridge while traffic reroutes are put in place.
- Returning Sarno and Martin houses and restoring those properties in 2009, as well as restoring the Mitchell, Moore and Church properties.
- Returning other buildings to their original locations and restoring properties in 2009 and/or 2010.
- Coordinating cleanup work with the construction of the Town's community wastewater treatment system; continuing work on conversions to underground utilities.



Map of phased cleanup in Skykomish.

Cleanup work planned for 2010 includes:

- Temporarily relocating the Opera House, Community Center and Town Maintenance Building to allow excavation of contaminated soils.
- Excavating and/or treating contamination under the Skykomish School.
- Rerouting traffic to allow excavation of the 5th Street Bridge abutment and remaining portions of 5th Street; includes possible temporary closures of the 5th Street Bridge while cleanup work at the bridge abutment is performed.
- Excavating contaminated soils in the Former Maloney Creek East and West Wetlands.
- Excavating parts of 6th Street and Railroad Avenue.
- Returning buildings to their original locations and restoring properties in 2010 and/or 2011.
- Beginning final Town restoration in 2010 and completing in 2011.
- Coordinating cleanup work with the construction of the Town's community wastewater treatment system; continuing work on conversions to underground utilities.

Join BNSF and Ecology for a community construction meeting on Thursday, May 28. The project team will review detailed cleanup and construction phasing plans. Visit www.skykomishcleanup.com for more information.



Landscape restoration at the Cascadia Inn and Cafe.



In 2008, crews drilled and took samples from under the Skykomish School that will help inform cleanup remedy decisions. A cleanup action for the school will be selected in 2009 and cleanup activities will begin in 2010.

Skykomish Centennial celebration (June 5 – 7)



A weekend event to celebrate the Skykomish Centennial is planned for June 5, 6 and 7.

The festivities will kick off on Friday evening at the new Skykomish levee, followed by catching up with old friends and new visitors at the Skykomish Museum. An entire day of activities is planned for Saturday, including a breakfast at the Masonic Hall, a parade complete with period costumes, games, and food and craft vendors. BNSF and Ecology have been working with the Town's Centennial Committee and the Skykomish Historical Society to provide interim restoration measures, such as new street surfacing, to ensure the cleanup does not substantively interfere with the celebration.

Visit the Skykomish Historical Society website to learn more about the Skykomish Centennial: <http://www.cisackson.com/SkykomishHistoricalSociety.org/>.

Community construction meeting: Thursday, May 28

Maloney's General Store
104 Railroad Avenue, Skykomish
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Come learn more about detailed construction plans for 2009. The project team will review:

- Construction phasing
- Traffic impacts
- Where to find construction information

Questions?

Call the Skykomish Cleanup Call Line at 1-800-228-1849.

Visit www.skykomishcleanup.com.

Email info@skykomishcleanup.com.

BNSF selects Strider Construction to complete cleanup activities in Skykomish. In May, BNSF provided notice to award the general construction contract to Strider Construction. Contracting efforts are now underway. Strider was the prime contractor in 2008 and will be contracted through 2011 to complete cleanup and restoration work in Skykomish.

Visit www.skykomishcleanup.com to keep informed as construction in 2009 gets underway.

The Skykomish post office is moving. Skykomish post office operations are moving to a location near the corner of Old Cascade Highway and Thelma Street, at the former U.S. Forest Service compound. The post office will be relocated at the end of May or early June. The existing post office building will be demolished and the owner plans to rebuild after cleanup is complete.

Community Meeting
Thursday May 28
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Maloney's General Store
104 Railroad Ave, Skykomish