Skykomish Scoop | October 06

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Skykomish Scoop! This newsletter shares information about cleanup activities with the Skykomish community and other members of the public. Content for the Skykomish Scoop is provided by BNSF and Ecology. This month's newsletter includes articles about Skykomish river restoration, recontamination prevention, oil recycling, and more.

Shoring wall construction.

Cleanup Progress Report

All work in the Skykomish river was completed September 15, including excavation, backfilling, and removal of the cofferdam. This was an important deadline to meet, as it ensured that cleanup work in the river would not interfere with spawning salmon populations. Following the river work, cleanup moved to the residential areas behind the levee. Excavation began near the school and moved east toward the bridge, and most areas near the school were backfilled before classes began on September 18.

Backfilling began in the other upland areas in early October, including the house locations. Backfilling, grading and compacting will continue in preparation for building foundations and returning homes to their original locations. Homeowners are working with the contractors to refine landscaping plans and other details as they look toward returning home.

The Skykomish levee has been rebuilt to its final height and one foot of topsoil will be added during landscaping restoration. The Town of Skykomish is working closely with the contractor during landscaping planning and levee wall construction, as well as during the restoration of water and utilities connections.

Construction began on an underground shoring wall in early October, starting near the bridge and moving west toward the school. This wall will prevent recontamination of clean areas by using a plastic liner to retain any moving oil. Groundwater will flow freely beneath the wall as it moves toward the river. NRC Environmental is still actively controlling and removing oil during backfilling activities, preventing contamination of clean soil during construction. Trace amounts of oil present during backfilling activities are not enough to cause concern for recontamination of clean areas.

Ecology and BNSF continue to work with the community on a daily basis to address concerns or schedule changes that arise, so cleanup work can move ahead quickly and safely.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

BNSF RAILWAY

What's the schedule?

The dates given are the best estimates for when activities will take place, but are still subject to change. For the most updated schedule of cleanup events, visit the Skykomish Cleanup website at **www.skykomishcleanup.com.**

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 13, 2006
House pad upland area backfilling complete

October 16, 2006
Begin house foundation work

October 27, 2006
Shoring wall complete

November 30, 2006
Foundations rebuilt and houses returned to their original locations

June 30, 2007
All work complete, including restoring landscaping and other seasonal activities

Stockpiled excavated material.

Contaminated material stockpiles

Material excavated from the cleanup site is stored on the rail yard in Skykomish, awaiting transport by rail or truck to Rabanco's Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Klickitat County, WA. The contractor estimates that approximately half of all excavated material has been hauled out of town by rail car and truck. While the contaminated soils and rock are stored, cleanup crews are working hard to ensure rainwater run-off is contained and treated before being released. Granular lime is being added to the stockpiles to aid in the drying process.

Rabanco's Roosevelt facility is an ideal location for a landfill due to the area's natural clay soil. The 340 feet of low permeability clay creates a natural barrier separating the landfill from any regional aquifer. The clay's permeability is so low that it would take 15,000 years for water to move through the soil. In addition to this natural resource, the site also includes man-made landfill liners and an onsite power plant that converts collected methane gas into electricity.

Oil recycling

The oil recovered from the ground in Skykomish has a new purpose – as shipping fuel. NRC Environmental, specialists in hazardous waste management, is collecting and removing the oil in Skykomish for future recycling. Near the end of September, around 30,000 gallons of oil were recycled into usable fuel for the shipping industry. Recovered oil from the site will continue to be recycled whenever possible.

Oil recovery in the shoring wall trench.

Skykomish River restoration

Excavation in the Skykomish River is complete, and rebuilding fish habitat was a high priority in the restoration. The excavated river bottom was recreated to match nearby river bottom conditions, and the shoreline was restored to provide improved habitat for juvenile salmon. Large riprap, boulders, and woody debris were used to create a varied shoreline, while features like root balls will help create areas of slow-moving water that provide protection for juvenile salmon.

Plantings on the levee will also create new fish habitat. The vegetation will provide shade and cover for young fish, and create foraging opportunities for migrating juvenile salmon.

Rebuilding the levee.

Levee progress as of October 3.

Questions or Concerns?
You can reach BNSF or Ecology staff in a number of ways.

- **Talk with the on-site public involvement person.**
- **Send an email to info@skykomishcleanup.com.**
- **Call the Skykomish Call Line at 800-228-1849.**
- **Visit the Skykomish Cleanup website at www.skykomishcleanup.com.**

Skykomish Scoop
101 Stewart Street, Suite 1101
Seattle, WA 98101