



# Skykomish Scoop | July 06



Welcome to the second edition of the Skykomish Scoop! This newsletter will continue to share information about cleanup activities with the Skykomish community, as well as interested members of the public. Content for the newsletter is provided by BNSF, Ecology, and the Town of Skykomish.

## Cleanup Progress Report

Work has begun on the cleanup of the Levee Zone. Houses have been relocated adjacent to the rail yard and excavation activities are underway. Daily activities in the construction area include installing cofferdams in the river, excavating contaminated soil, and loading rail cars for transportation of excavated materials.



Construction activities are now taking place between 7 am and 7 pm, Monday through Saturday. The water treatment facility is treating over one million gallons of water per day, and is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Ecology and BNSF are continuing to work with the community on a daily basis to address any concerns or schedule changes that arise, so cleanup work can be completed quickly and safely.

## What's the schedule?

Cleanup work is now focused on excavation in the Skykomish River. The dates given are the best estimates for when activities will take place, but are still subject to change. The best place to find the most updated schedule is the Skykomish Cleanup website, at [www.skykomishcleanup.com](http://www.skykomishcleanup.com).



## SCHEDULE

### July 28, 2006

Cofferdam complete

### August 30, 2006

Complete work in the Skykomish River; continue excavation of the upland area

### 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



## What has been built in the Skykomish River?

To protect the river from contamination during the excavation process, a diversion dam, silt curtain, and two cofferdams have been installed in the river.

The diversion dam is constructed of large, gray blocks stacked out into the river, perpendicular to the shore, and just west of the 5th Street Bridge. The diversion dam is designed to divert the force of the river's current around the silt curtain and cofferdams. The silt curtain is the black woven plastic fabric attached to the end of the diversion dam and is used to confine sediment and prevent contamination of the river.

The cofferdams are the two curved walls made from "flexible intermediate bulk containers" (FIBCs) filled with rocks and gravel. The cofferdams are lined with plastic to prevent leakage of contaminated materials into the river during construction.

## Wastewater, Cleanup, and the Future of Skykomish

Clint Stanovsky, Community Technical Coordinator, Town of Skykomish

Cleanup of the former Railroad Fueling and Maintenance Facility is leading to a solution for one of the most pressing problems facing the Town of Skykomish. Currently, property owners must maintain septic drainfields on their own properties. But in some areas, the cleanup requires excavation of drainfields – and under modern regulations, they can't be permanently replaced. As a consequence, a new system to manage the Town's wastewater needs to be built soon.

To find a solution for the whole Town, Ecology and BNSF supported a citizens' "Septic Summit" process, which began in 2004. The effort identified an area near the Skykomish airfield as the best potential site for a community drainfield.

Now, with support from the Department of Ecology, the Town is preparing a General Sewer and Wastewater Facilities Plan. The engineering firm Gray and Osborne is working with Clint Stanovsky (the Town's technical coordinator) to develop a plan that will 1) confirm the feasibility of a community drainfield near the airfield, 2) consider alternatives, and 3) identify the most cost-effective wastewater collection, treatment and disposal options for the Town.

A draft of the plan will be ready this fall. Construction of wastewater facilities could begin as early as 2008.

## Houses on the Move

Five houses in Skykomish needed to be relocated so the cleanup could take place. The Mackner house and garage, and Mitchell houses were moved on July 11. The Teacherage and Moore houses were moved on July 25.



The houses were loaded onto trucks and rolled down Railroad Avenue. Houses are stored along the east end of Railroad Avenue until construction is completed. We extend many thanks to the families whose houses were relocated for their patience and good humor.



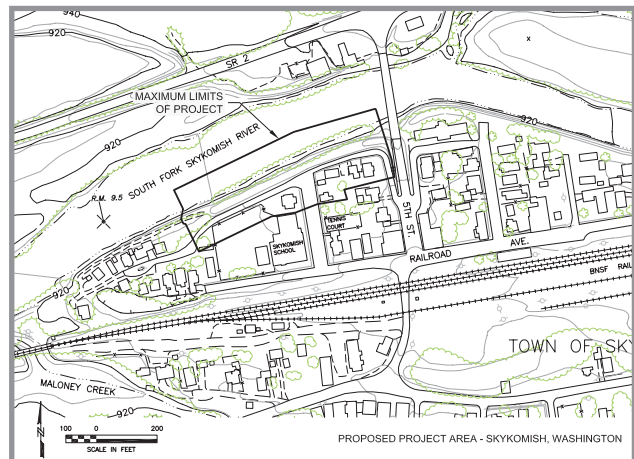
## Skykomish Businesses Open During Cleanup

Businesses in Skykomish are open during cleanup!

- Cascadia Inn and Restaurant
- Homestead Vintage Stove Company
- SkyRiver Inn
- Whistling Post Tavern
- Skykomish Deli & Liquor

The food service businesses are doing better than usual. The Skykomish Deli has increased its hours, and is open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The Cascadia Inn Café is now open every day of the week and opens for lunch at 11:00 a.m. The Whistling Post Tavern is keeping its normal hours, and serves the best fried chicken in Town.

Lodging and retail businesses report that they are not doing as well as in previous summers. Visitors who have come to the SkyRiver Inn in past years for a relaxed and quiet time by the river find the added traffic and noise distracting. The Homestead Vintage Stove Company requests on its website that people call ahead to make sure the store is open.



Environmental Cleanup in Skykomish

### Safety During Excavation

During in-river excavation, contaminated soil and rock will be unearthed. It is essential for people to stay out of the construction zone to avoid exposure to contaminated material. Please pay attention to fencing and signs, as well as pedestrian crosswalks and arrows along the sidewalks.

**Safety is a project priority!**



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](mailto:info@skykomishcleanup.com).**
- **Call the Skykomish Call Line at 800-228-1849.**
- **Visit the Skykomish Cleanup website at [www.skykomishcleanup.com](http://www.skykomishcleanup.com) where you can view the weekly progress reports and project updates.**

## Children's Bicycle Helmets Still Available!

On July 17th, free bicycle helmets and a helmet-fitting event took place at Masonic Hall. We distributed more than twenty helmets, provided by The RETEC Group. If you missed this event, there are still helmets available. Please visit Masonic Hall, or call the Skykomish Cleanup Call Line (1-800-228-1849) to find out where to pick one up for your child.