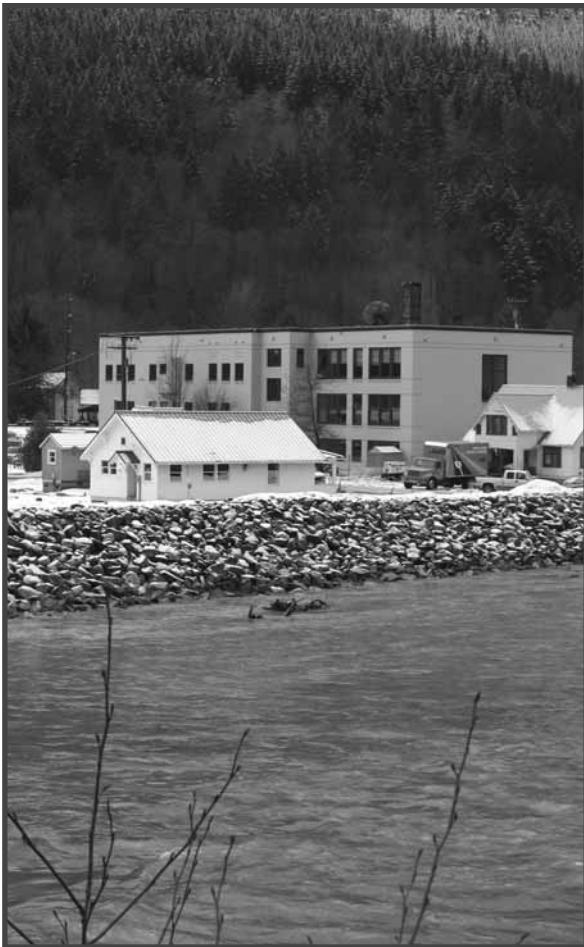




# Skykomish Scoop | January 07



## Welcome to another edition of the Skykomish Scoop!

This newsletter continues to share updated information about cleanup planning and activities with the Skykomish community and other interested members of the public. This will be the final newsletter for the 2006 levee restoration work, but future editions of the newsletter will include construction activity information during the next phase of work. Content for the newsletter is provided by BNSF and Ecology.

## Cleanup Progress Report

In the last few months, restoration activities have been taking place on the cleanup site, including relocating homes moved for the summer cleanup and preparing the homes for occupancy. The construction team continues to work hard to complete restoration activities, despite delays caused by weather conditions. In this newsletter you'll find some descriptions of the restoration work underway or already completed, as well as some key accomplishments of cleanup work during the past summer and fall.

In addition to restoration work, planning is underway for future cleanup activities in Skykomish. In February 2007, Ecology will release a Draft Cleanup Action Plan and a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Developed in conjunction with BNSF and the Town of Skykomish, this Cleanup Action Plan outlines the planned stages of future cleanup. All interested members of the public will have the opportunity to hear about plans for future phases of cleanup at the upcoming public meetings. Please refer to the back page of this newsletter for meeting details.



## What's the Schedule?

The following are upcoming events and milestones for the current phase of the cleanup.

### SCHEDULE

**January 18th – 20th**

Community meetings regarding future cleanup activities will be held in Skykomish and Bellevue

**January 31**

Houses restored and ready for occupancy

**February 16th – March 19th**

Official public comment period and public hearings for the Draft Cleanup Action Plan and related documents

**June 30th**

All work related to the Levee Interim Action complete, including restoring landscaping and other seasonal activities

## 2006 Cleanup Milestones

A large team of hardworking people contributed to making the cleanup work of this summer and fall possible. Below are some major accomplishments of the Levee Interim Action.

### *Excavation of Contaminated Material*

More than 70,000 cubic feet of contaminated soil were removed from the cleanup site during this phase of the cleanup. Contaminated soil was transported to Rabanco's Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Klickitat County, WA.

### *Oil Removal and Recycling*

More than 31,000 gallons of oil from the cleanup site have been taken off site for recycling. The majority of the oil will be recycled into ship fuel.

### *House Moving*

Thanks to the cooperation of homeowners and the work of the construction team, five homes in Skykomish were relocated to allow cleanup to proceed on their properties. Houses were stored along Railroad Avenue in Skykomish during the summer and fall. On November 13th, the houses were loaded onto specialized trucks and returned to their former locations near the Skykomish levee. New house foundations were constructed and homes will be ready for the return of residents in January.

### *River Excavation and Restoration*

The cleaning and restoration of the Skykomish river bottom in town was a major accomplishment of the summer cleanup effort. Contaminated soils in the river were excavated and were replaced with clean material. In addition, the shoreline along the levee was restored to provide habitat for juvenile salmon.



*View of the completed levee in October 2006.*



*Garage and driveway preparations.*

## Weather Complications

Weather extremes, such as the November flood and December windstorm, resulted in some construction delays this fall and winter. Flooding of the Skykomish River on November 6th and 7th was severe and U.S. Highway 2 was closed near Skykomish due to a mudslide east of the town and high water to the west. Wilder Construction, part of the Skykomish Cleanup project team, assisted the Washington State Department of Transportation with clearing the highway and placed additional ecology blocks along the levee near the Skykomish School.

The levee performed well during the flooding even without topsoil and established vegetation. Most of the root balls used on the levee remained in place despite the strong currents. Due to the record high river levels, some homes to the west of the levee were flooded and flooding of the cleanup site caused delays.

Following the floods, high winds on December 14th and 15th caused power outages in much of western Washington, including Skykomish. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) worked hard over the next weeks to restore power to existing customers around the region, and was unable to provide technical crews to reconnect power to the recently relocated houses on schedule. PSE anticipates being able to complete those connections in January.



*Skykomish River above flood stage on November 6th.*

## Skykomish River at Skykomish



*Skykomish River November flooding information provided by Snohomish County.*

## Questions or Concerns?

Though most of the levee cleanup work is completed for now, questions and concerns about this cleanup effort will continue to be addressed. Community involvement personnel will still be available for your questions or concerns.

You can reach BNSF and Ecology staff in a number of ways:

- Call the Skykomish Call Line: 800-228-1849
- Visit the Skykomish Cleanup Web site: [www.skykomishcleanup.com](http://www.skykomishcleanup.com).
- Send an E-mail to [info@skykomishcleanup.com](mailto:info@skykomishcleanup.com).

**Project Announcement:  
Upcoming Public Meetings**

The Department of Ecology invites the Skykomish community and the interested public to attend community meetings in January to hear about plans for future cleanup activities in Skykomish. The Department of Ecology will present plans for future cleanup and seek

thoughts on how the 2006 cleanup went and the potential impacts of future cleanup activities. You can provide your comments at public hearings and by writing to Ecology during the official public comment period February 16th – March 19th, 2007.

## You're Invited!

Please attend any of the following Department of Ecology public meetings:

**Thursday, January 18**

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
208 Railroad Avenue,  
Skykomish, WA 98288

*Share your thoughts on the 2006 cleanup activities and learn about future cleanup plans.*

**Friday, January 19**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Department of Ecology  
NW Regional Office  
3190 160th Ave. SE, Room 1 A-B  
Bellevue, WA 98008

*Learn about future cleanup activities and share what you think potential impacts may be.*

**Saturday, January 20**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
208 Railroad Avenue,  
Skykomish, WA 98288

*Learn about future cleanup activities and share what you think potential impacts may be.*