



Welcome to the third 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 newsletter is provided by BNSF, Ecology, the Town of Skykomish, and the Skykomish School District. This month's newsletter includes articles about oil containment and recovery measures, levee design plans, and more.



Cleanup Progress Report

Cleanup of the levee zone continued this month in and around the Skykomish River. Daily construction activities included excavation of contaminated soil, oil recovery and containment, and loading rail cars for transportation of excavated materials. The inner cofferdam was removed, in-river excavation is complete, and backfilling excavated areas with clean material is underway.

Construction activities are taking place between 7am and 7pm, Monday through Saturday, and may last until 9pm if needed. Oil recovery and management in the Skykomish River is continuing 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The water treatment facility continues to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week as well.



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.

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.

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE



September 9, 2006
Levee area excavation east of the School scheduled to begin.

September 13, 2006
Cofferdam removal scheduled to begin.

September 15, 2006
School upland area scheduled for completion.

September 16, 2006
In-river work scheduled for completion.

September 21, 2006
House pad upland area excavation scheduled to begin.

Building the Vision

By Clint Stanovsky, Skykomish Community Technical Coordinator

Following this year's cleanup along West River Road, Skykomish will have its first opportunity to realize the Vision for Skykomish it adopted last summer. Design elements used on the Levee-Walk will set a pattern for the Town's historic commercial district, and other areas that will be cleaned or redeveloped in coming years. These elements include sidewalks, street lights and poles, handrails, and landscaping appropriate to an historic rail town in the North Cascades.

Schedule

Parts of the levee park will appear this year, as the cleanup contractor completes excavation and rebuilds the levee. If weather permits, the wall, ramps, stairs, railing and lights will go in this fall. Plantings and concrete features will probably wait until spring.

Designs for the Pedestrian Park

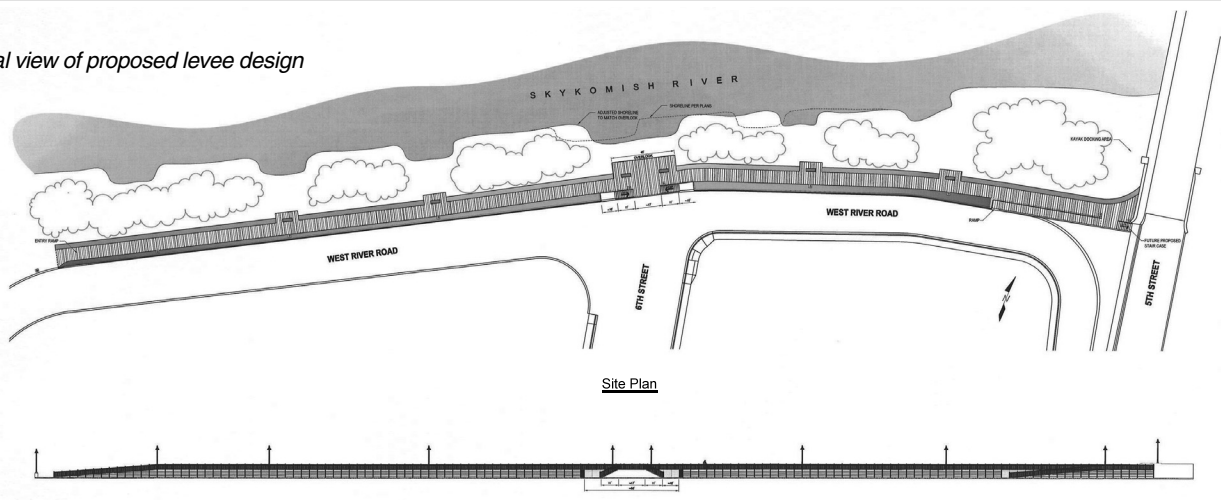
The Town's design for a new Levee-Walk pedestrian park is still taking shape. Here's what we expect:

- The new levee will rise about five feet above the north side of West River Road, separated from the street by a masonry wall topped with a bronze-colored aluminum handrail. The wall will allow a wider street with curbs, and a walkway on the south side of the street.
- On top, a fifteen-foot wide pedestrian park will provide an ample concrete walk, scored to suggest the Town's historic boardwalks. Plantings on both sides of the path will allow visitors to view both the Town and the river. Seating areas will allow a place to rest and watch.

- Ramps at either end of the levee will give access to the Levee-Walk, and to a kayak launch at each end of the levee. Stairs will provide access to the 5th Street bridge.
- A central viewing platform aligned with 6th Street will provide views of the river and its restored shoreline and riverbank habitat. The Town hopes to include a staircase entrance to the platform from 6th Street.
- Historic light fixtures will provide both traffic safety and pedestrian comfort along the levee park. Colored, traditional-style concrete poles will support pendant light fixtures that send light down to the path and street, without lighting the sky.

The levee park should become a congenial "front yard" for the town, welcoming to both visitors and residents. The park will tie the natural setting of the river to our historic, small-town business district and rail yard.

Aerial view of proposed levee design





Cross section of proposed levee design

Oil Containment and Recovery

During excavation in the Skykomish River, contaminated soils and oil pockets resulted in an oil layer on the water inside the cofferdam. The project team contracted specialists in hazardous waste management, NRC Environmental Services, to remove this oil. They were mobilized to the cleanup site on August 2nd and used a variety of methods to control and remove oil, including mop skimmers and absorbent booms. Collecting and removing oil, whether contained in excavated soils or in the water enclosed in the cofferdam, fulfills the goals of this cleanup project. NRC Environmental will continue to manage oil in the upland excavation area as long as necessary.

NRC Environmental has also helped address other oil-related concerns, including protecting local wildlife. They are employing a variety of methods to keep birds away from the contaminated water, including Mylar bird deterrents, light plants, and predator decoys. The Mylar deterrent

consists of a perimeter of posts connected by a line and placed along the top of the cofferdam, with Mylar tape tied to the line at regular increments. The Mylar tape is reflective and provides both a visual and sound deterrent for birds.



Excavation highlights the oil layer contained inside the cofferdam

The Skykomish Cleanup & Environmental Education

By Mansour Naraghi

These days, every informed citizen thinks about changes in our environment. Some people, like students at the Skykomish School, have noticed the importance of clean water and how complicated it is to clean up the oil in the Skykomish River. At the Skykomish School District, with the support of Ecology, we plan to become more involved in our environment. Science courses will contain sections about the cleanup of Skykomish to improve the understanding of students both here and in other countries.

In the 21st century, cleanup of our rivers, lakes and oceans is crucial in the United States as well as developing nations. We must find solutions that allow people on all parts of our planet to live in clean, healthy environments and have the resources they need for a good life. We can begin by teaching our children here in Skykomish.

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**

Mansour Naraghi, of Redmond, Washington, was recently hired by the Skykomish School District to develop and teach curriculum based on the oil cleanup in required science classes. The Department of Ecology provided funding for this teaching position.