

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



*Upper Columbia River, Northeast Washington*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

June 2006

## Risk screening looks at recreation on beaches

EPA has completed a “risk screening” for recreational use at fifteen popular beaches along Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia River (see map on page 3). The results show that twelve of the fifteen beaches are safely below health-based risk standards for all the contaminants we tested for, including arsenic, lead, pesticides, and PCBs. At three beaches we found levels of arsenic and/or lead that were slightly above our screening levels, but those beaches remain safe for seasonal recreation as well.

*This screening was for limited recreational use only, such as a family that uses a beach for camping for up to two weeks per year during summer vacation. The screening did not include more intensive uses of the beaches, such as year-round food gathering or camping for extended periods of several months or more.*

The beach screening is a first step in evaluating potential risks from contamination. We will be using all of the sediment and fish tissue data we collected last year to conduct an in-depth risk assessment for people living in the area and using the beaches year-round. That risk assessment may take several years to complete.

The highest levels of arsenic in beach sediments were found at the three most northern beaches we sampled (Black Sand, Northport, and Dalles). Arsenic levels at these beaches were still very low, but slightly higher than our screening level. Lead was also slightly higher than our screening level at Northport only. Since these three locations did not pass our screening, we will re-evaluate them for recreational use during the full risk assessment. However, because the risks are low, these beaches are still safe for visitors to use.

### What's next?

This beach screening was conducted to provide risk information for people who use the beaches on a limited recreational basis each year, such as National Park visitors. We will be further evaluating the beaches for the following risks during a more in-depth risk assessment:

- risks to aquatic life
- eating fish
- food gathering
- cultural practices
- extended beach use
- wind-blown dust

EPA will issue its final report on the beach risk screening later this summer.

*See Upcoming Public Meetings on page 2*

## Upcoming public meetings

You are invited to join staff from EPA and the Washington Department of Health to talk about the results from the recreational beach risk screening. For your convenience, meetings will be held at three locations along the project area:

**Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Spokane Tribal Longhouse  
Wellpinit, WA**

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Directions: From Wellpinit, go south on Highway 27 (Wellpinit-Little Falls Road). Turn left on Highway 18 (Sherwood Loop Road). The Longhouse is on the left side of the road.

**Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Northport Grange Hall**

221 Summit Avenue

Northport, WA

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Colville Center, Community Colleges of Spokane**

(Dominion/Monumental Room)

985 South Elm Street

Colville, WA

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## Questions?

Feel free to contact us if you have questions or would like more information.

**Jeanne O'Dell**, Community Involvement Coordinator –  
(206) 553-6919; [odell.jeanne@epa.gov](mailto:odell.jeanne@epa.gov)

**Sally Thomas**, Project Manager – (206) 553-2102;  
[thomas.sally@epa.gov](mailto:thomas.sally@epa.gov)

**Marc Stifelman**, Risk Assessor – (206) 553-6979;  
[stifelman.marc@epa.gov](mailto:stifelman.marc@epa.gov)

Or call toll-free at 1-800-424-4372.

**For health-related questions**, you may also contact **Lenford O'Garro** at the Washington Department of Health – (360) 236-3376;  
[lenford.o'garro@doh.wa.gov](mailto:lenford.o'garro@doh.wa.gov).

## On the Web

Visit the project website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/UpperC>

## Information Repositories

Visit one of these Information Repositories for more information about EPA's work on the Upper Columbia River, including copies of technical documents. Be sure to call ahead for business hours.

**Northport:** Northport Town Hall, 315 Summit St., (509) 732-4450

**Colville:** Colville Public Library, 195 S. Oak St., (509) 684-6620

**Inchelium:** Inchelium Tribal Resource Center, 12 Community Loop, (509) 634-2791

**Nespelem:** Office of Environmental Trust, Colville Confederated Tribes, 1 Colville, (509) 634-2425

**Grand Coulee:** Grand Coulee Library, 225 Federal St., (509) 633-0972

**Wellpinit:** Spokane Tribe Dept. of Natural Resources, 6290 B Ford-Wellpinit Road, (509) 258-9042

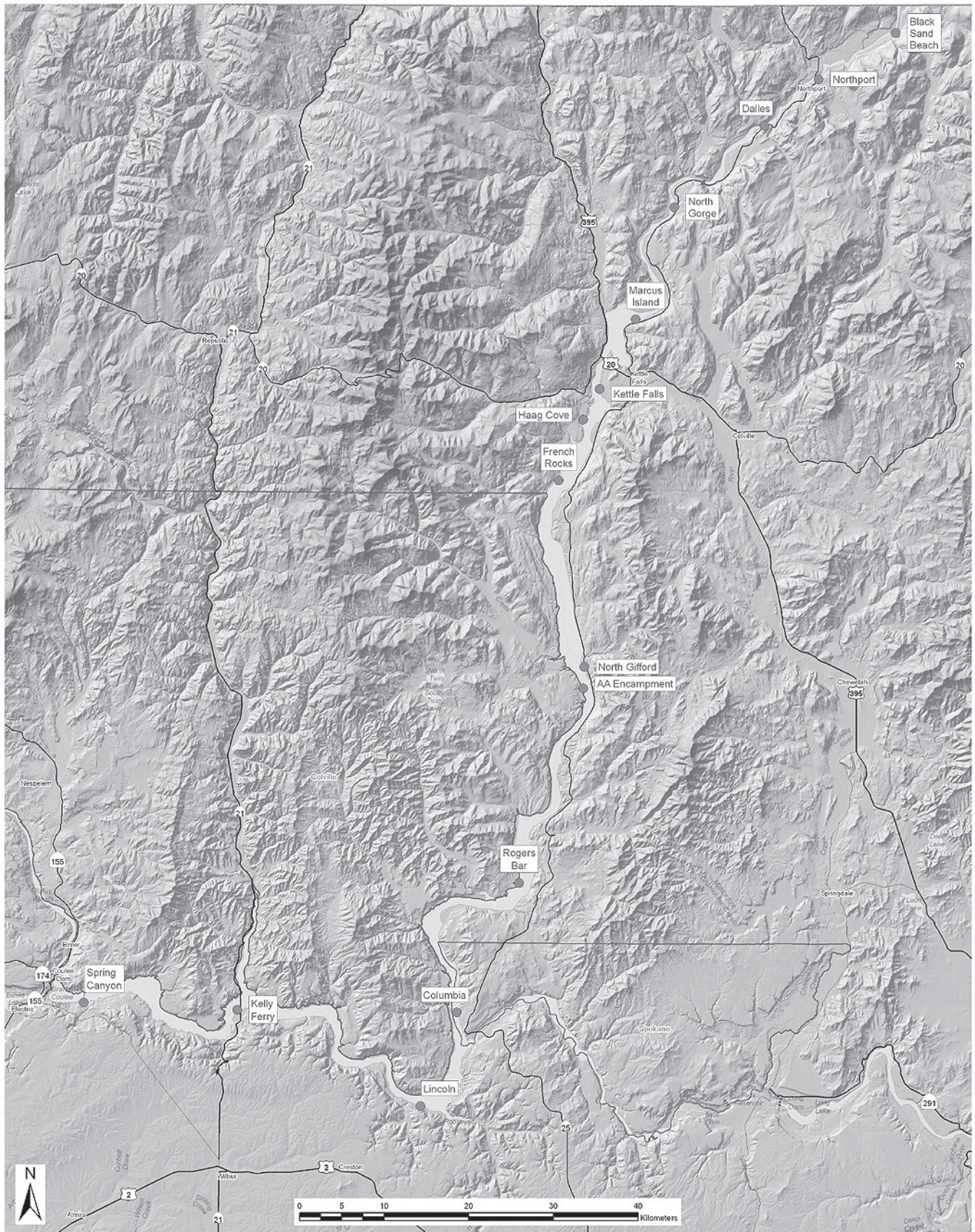
**Davenport:** Davenport Library, 411 Morgan St., (509) 725-4355

**Spokane:** Spokane Library, 906 W. Main, (509) 444-5334



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Jeanne O'Dell. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.





*EPA collected sediment samples from these fifteen beaches.*





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*Public Meetings June 12, 13, 14*  
*Upper Columbia River*  
*Northeast Washington*  
*June 2006*