



# News Release

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## **Forest Service Plans Cleanup and Reclamation Kelly Camp Mine**

October 13, clean-up activities will begin at Kelly Camp Mine on the Republic Ranger District. The abandoned mine site is 11 miles north of Republic, Washington on lands managed by the Colville National Forest.

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was completed in 2009 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980. The EE/CA recommended minimizing human and ecological exposure to metals-bearing waste rock and soils at the site. Contaminated waste rock will be consolidated, covered with clean cover and soil material, and revegetated. Hazardous mine adits and shafts will be backfilled or closed using bat-friendly gates.

“For public safety the Kelly Camp mine and vicinity will be closed for approximately two weeks or until the work is completed,” said Rod Lentz, On-Scene Coordinator.

State records indicate that the Site was first discovered in 1894 and prospected for copper. The Site was then relocated in 1914 and the claims held by assessment work by various owners into the 1990's, before being abandoned. While initially worked for copper, tungsten and molybdenum were sought at the Site in the later years. Actual production from the mine is thought to amount to less than several hundred tons of ore. ASARCO, which leased and operated the mine in 1943, is a Potential Responsible Party (PRP) under CERCLA. Clean-up costs will be paid by the ASARCO Environmental Trust.

This cleanup is part of an ongoing program in the Forest Service to address impacts associated with abandoned and inactive mine sites on National Forest System lands. Inventory work in Washington State identified about 2,200 abandoned and inactive sites within the National Forest Service

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boundaries. Some 250 of these may involve hazardous wastes. Initial cleanup efforts have focused on the worst sites and those in key fisheries watersheds.

More information about the clean-up activities and site inspection is available at the Republic District Office of the Colville National Forest at Republic, Washington. The EE/CA and other documents are also available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/projects/cercla/>. For additional information about the Kelly Camp Mine Site clean-up project, please contact Rod Lentz at the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's Okanogan Valley Office (509) 826-3274.

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