Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Members of the community, stewards of the river

5/23/2013 srrttf.org
Who We Are
History of Spokane River Protection
The Current Issue

- The Spokane River fails to meet water quality standards for toxics, including PCBs
  - Federal
  - State
  - Tribal
Our Vision

We will work collaboratively to characterize the sources of toxics in the Spokane River and identify and implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards for the State of Washington, State of Idaho, and The Spokane Tribe of Indians.
What Are PCBs?

Structure of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Molecule
Where PCBs are Found Today
How Do PCBs Enter the River?
How Do PCBs Enter the River?

- **Unknown (57%)**
- **CSO/Stormwater (19%)**
- **Idaho at state line (13%)**
- **WA Treatment Plants (8%)**
- **Little Spokane River (3%)**

Reference: Ecology Spokane River PCB Source Assessment, April 2011
What Are PCB Limits?

- WA: 0.00000017 ppm
- EPA: 0.000000064 ppm
- Spokane Tribe: 0.0000000034 ppm
What is allowed in products?
Health & Environmental Impacts of PCBs
Welcome to The Spokane River
Let’s Protect, Preserve and Enjoy It

- Spokane steel trout, they have an acute adipose fin
- No boat, use only single point banana hooks
-Check Washington Department of Wildlife regulations
- Report poaching: 800-227-1460

Help Protect Native Redband Trout

Preserve Stream Flows
- The river and aquifer are one, water flows from one to the other
- Consumes water in the aquifer area to generate in Lower Bankhead Park, Pullman and excavation

Health & Environmental Impacts of PCBs

Protect Our Shoreline and Water Quality
- Block in, prohibit out
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave habitat the way you found it
- Remove litter

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe
- Follow the fish consumption advisory
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device
- Know your abilities on the river
- Know river flows and conditions
- Observe warning signs and never boat immediately above or below a dam
- Use proper clothing and equipment
- Carry a first aid kit

Fish Consumption Advisory
- From the Makah Indians in Olympic Dam
- Direct eat only fish, not and release only
- From Barren Peaks in a U.S. Army Camp
- Direct eat, buy local in river
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Spokane River Facts
- The river flows 111 miles from Fort Libby Dam in Idaho to Lake Roosevelt (the Upper Columbia River) in Washington
- The river basin encompasses over 6,500 square miles in Washington and Idaho
- There are two major tributaries, Latah (Icicle Creek) and the Little Spokane River
- There are seven dams generating hydroelectricity
- There are seven municipal and industrial discharges with permits to put wastewater into the Spokane River
Decline of 50% Over 20 Years

PCBs History from Sediment Record
Lower Lake Spokane

Total PCBs in Age Dated Sediment Core (2003)
- Steep declines from 1960s through mid-1980s
- Approximately 50% decline in 20 years (1980-2000)
Task Force Approach
Task Force Goals

• Bring the Spokane River into compliance with water quality standards
• Better understand how PCBs enter and move through river
• Identify data obtained and needed to address data gaps
Task Force Accomplishments (to-date)

- Formation of Task Force
- Technical evaluation in progress
- Drafting 5-year work plan
- Community education underway
Looking Ahead

2012: Task Force

2013-2015: Technical analysis, source ID, collaboration with cities and businesses

2016: Refine and revise cleanup plan and actions

On-going PCB reductions of known sources: catch basin cleaning, street sweeping, treatment facility upgrades, community education, etc.
Why should you care?
What Can I Do?

• Properly dispose household waste.
• Be careful what you put down the drain.
• Only rain down the storm drain.
• Get involved!
Summary
Questions?

Toxics Task Force

www.srrttf.org