



# Contaminated Sites

## PROGRAM PURPOSE

- To return NPS contaminated sites to unimpaired conditions.

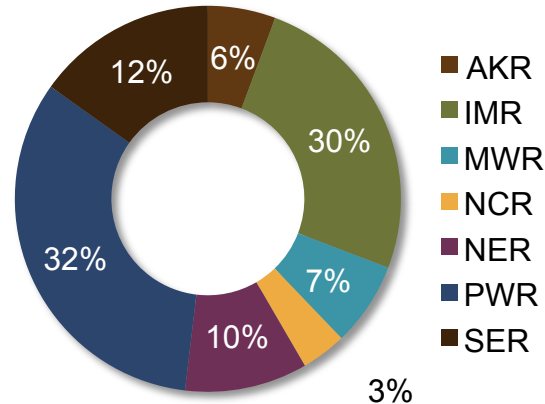
## BENEFITS

- CSP continues to be at the forefront of advancing contaminated sites cleanups across the NPS in a strategic, efficient, and cost-effective manner.
- Optimizes site cleanup through a standard framework, guidance, and systems.
- Increases cleanup funds available, in tandem with the Office of the Solicitor and the Department of Justice, through third-party enforcement efforts.

## FY17 Highlights

- To address the ubiquity of contaminated sites, the Contaminated Sites Program (CSP) developed an online training module and doubled the number of personnel receiving this training.
- To foster consistency and efficiency, CSP teamed with the Pacific West Region (PWR), which has the highest percent of sites in NPS, to develop a model Regional Directive on Contaminated Sites Cleanup.
- The full inventory of contaminated sites is unknown. CSP instituted an online Site ID process so NPS may begin to efficiently develop a complete site inventory.

Percentage of Contaminated Sites in each NPS Region\*



*There are approximately 1,000 contaminated sites: 500 known sites and locations of concern, plus estimates of sites being discovered, inventoried, and acquired total an additional 500 potential sites.*

\*Data source: NPS Contaminated Sites Database, CSPortal (2017)



# Contaminated Sites

## RECONNECTING WITH THE PARKS

CSP works collaboratively with parks and regions to return contaminated lands to unimpaired conditions, with the ultimate goal of increasing visitor access to our parks.

Examples include:

AKR: Kennecott Mine

IMR: Palo Alto Cattle Dip Tank

MWR: Pullman Historic Industrial

NCR: Anacostia River

NER: Valley Forge Asbestos Release

PWR: Curry Landfill

SER: Multiple Firing Ranges



## Program Impacts

- Establish a preeminent cleanup practice in the NPS that results in the elimination of contaminated sites and the timely identification of contaminants in land acquisition.
- Ensure adequate funds exist to address the contaminated sites backlog. To date, NPS has recovered or avoided roughly \$200 million, costs that would otherwise be borne by the American public.
- Develop long-term IT solutions to decrease burden on the field and promote greater efficiency in site cleanup efforts.

## Valley Forge Asbestos Release Site



*Buried asbestos waste removed.*



*Replaced by flourishing native flora.*



# Contaminated Sites Initiative

Cross-Bureau Collaboration to Advance Cleanup Practice and Resource Condition

DOI's Contaminated Sites Initiative (CSI), a six bureau collaboration to advance cleanup practice for the betterment of natural resources, is one of DOI's top priorities for 2018.

**CSP's role in the CSI is to continue to pilot innovations that can be used by the Department, including:**

- 1. Strategic Prioritization of Contaminated Sites:** A new prioritization approach for cleanup funding to promote service-wide objectives.
- 2. Cleanup Discipline:** The first classified Position Description specific to cleanup practitioners, currently being used in three NPS regions.
- 3. IT Solutions:** The NPS contaminated sites online resource, *CSPortal*, including training, cleanup team collaboration, site cleanup monitoring, tool repository, site inventory, and more.

**The Kennecott Mine Site  
Wrangell Saint-Elias National Park and Preserve**



*The Kennecott Mine Site is one of thousands of abandoned mine and mill sites located in NPS. As part of the comprehensive approach to addressing contamination, NPS is developing a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection, the first phase of the cleanup process.*



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## BENEFITS

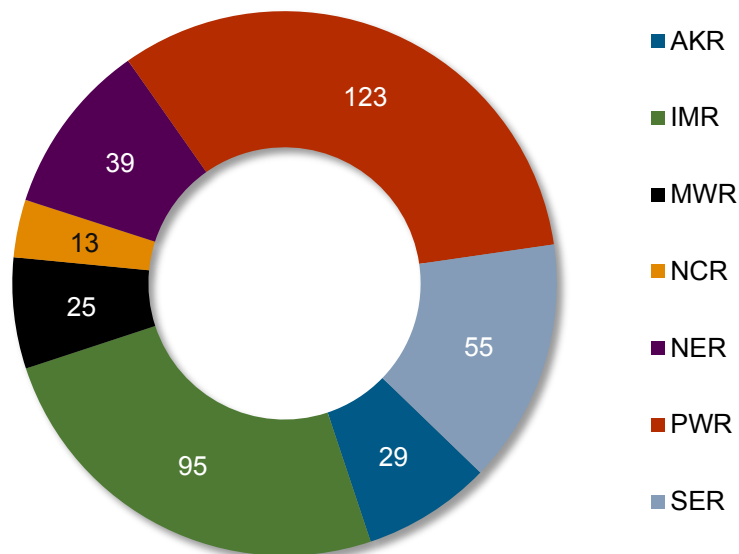
- Aligns site cleanup with NPS's strategic goals for lasting impact.
- Optimizes site cleanup through a standard framework, guidance, and systems.
- Increases cleanup funds available, in tandem with the Office of the Solicitor and the Department of Justice, through third-party enforcement efforts.

*Every Park Superintendent, at some point in her/his career, will face critical contaminated sites challenges. CSP advances the Agency's capability to meet these challenges.*

## FY16 HIGHLIGHTS

- In response to the Department's Contaminated Sites Initiative (CSI), the Contaminated Sites Program (CSP) worked collaboratively with five DOI bureaus to develop recommendations that will optimize the cleanup of contaminated sites.
- CSP advanced NPS personnel engaged in contaminated sites cleanup through interactive and collaborative forums, supported by online tools and resources (CSPortal).
- CSP expanded the capability of the CSPortal through the development of a centralized records management repository, to be launched in FY17.

Number of Contaminated Sites by NPS Region\*



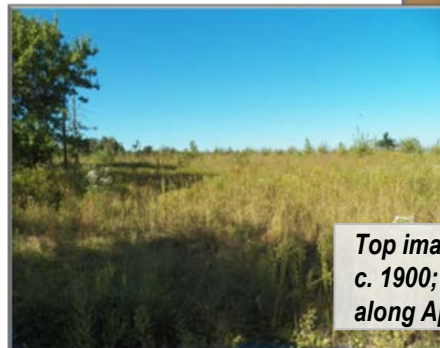
\*As reported in the Environmental and Disposal Liabilities (EDL) Database



# Contaminated Sites

## CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL - LOOKING BACK AT SUSTAINABILITY

Contaminated sites are the result of the past 100 years' land use practices. Looking forward to the next century, CSP envisions the eradication of contamination on lands under NPS stewardship.



*Top image: New Jersey Zinc West Plant, c. 1900; Bottom image: Remediated Area along Appalachian Trail*

## PROGRAM IMPACTS

- Two decades since its inception, CSP championed a cross-bureau strategic effort that resulted in the DOI's CSI. This effort brought together six bureaus with senior leaders to produce recommended actions that will advance this practice over the next two decades.
- CSP has instituted a range of training, workshop and networking forums that attract and support a growing cohort of practitioners working on Contaminated Site Teams (CSTs) all across NPS.
- CSP has recovered or avoided \$175 million, leveraging nearly twice DOI's total Congressional appropriation.
- Since 2010, more than 100 sites have been removed from the EDL database and significant progress has been made on the agency's 24 most challenging sites, including the Palmerton Zinc Pile site (see below).



### **Palmerton Zinc Pile, Appalachian National Scenic Trail**

Former zinc smelters cover ~800 acres of NPS-managed lands along Blue Mountain, with zinc, cadmium, and lead contamination. This important scenic landscape on the Appalachian Trail is now returning to its historical condition of Eastern hardwood forest, including the introduction of blight-resistant American Chestnut.



# Contaminated Sites Initiative

*Re-envisioning our approach to contaminated lands to ensure an unimpaired condition.*

In 2016, the Deputy Secretary launched a strategic initiative to optimize the Department's approach to contaminated sites. Recommended action items that support NPS cleanup practice will be implemented in 2017.

The CSI is a collaborative effort to advance cleanup practice across six bureaus through a set of recommended actions under five key areas:

- Strategic Prioritization of Comprehensive Inventory
- Prevention Thresholds
- Business Practices
- Cleanup Discipline
- Deployment of Cleanup Teams

NPS played a key role in developing these recommendations and is working to implement them for the following results: a Comprehensive Site Inventory; Site Prioritization; Funding Alignment; Seasoned Practitioners; IT Solutions; and ultimately the elimination of contaminated sites on NPS lands.

The Gold King/Animas River release caused public outcry, public resource loss, intense Congressional scrutiny, and extensive litigation. The Animas spill is indicative of the kinds of impacts caused by contamination; given NPS' diverse inventory of contaminated sites, the risk of resource impacts of this scale is significant.



*Animas River with Gold King Mine Impacts, Summer 2015*



# Contaminated Sites Program

## Program Purpose:

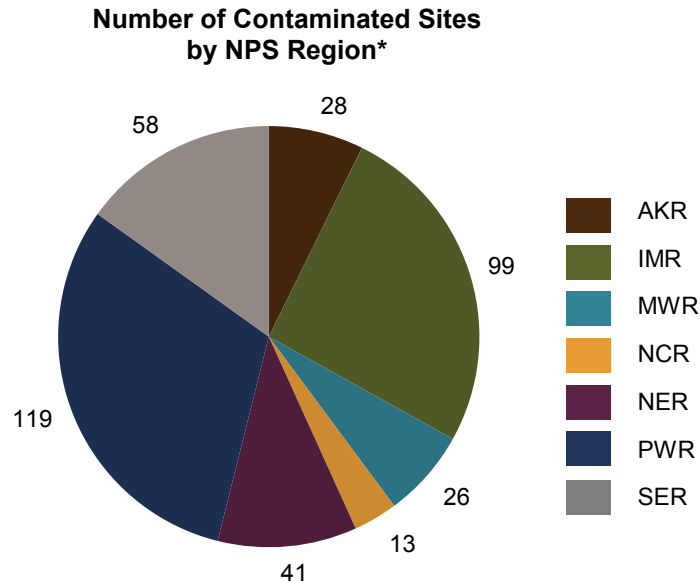
- To return NPS contaminated sites to unimpaired conditions.

## Benefits:

- Provides the strategic vision to ensure site cleanup advances the best interests of the NPS.
- Optimizes site cleanup through a standard framework, guidance and systems.
- Increases cleanup funds, in tandem with the Office of the Solicitor and the Department of Justice, through third-party enforcement efforts.

## FY15 Highlights:

- Spearheaded the development of the Department's Contaminated Sites (CS) Initiative to transform CS practice in alignment with industry standards.
- Convened NPS personnel working on CS cleanup to build capability and to identify innovations.
- Deployed the *CSPortal*, an intranet site for accessing NPS best practices and collaborative site management platforms.

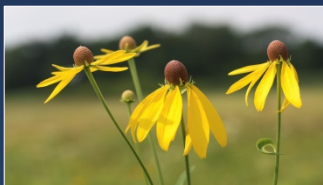


\*As reported in the Environmental and Disposal Liabilities Database

**Every Park Superintendent, at some point in her/his career, will face critical contaminated sites challenges. The Contaminated Sites Program (CSP) advances the Agency's capability to meet these challenges.**



# Contaminated Sites Program



## Looking Ahead:

- The long-term objective of CSP is to eradicate contamination on lands under NPS stewardship.

## Program Impacts:

- 20 years of the agency's Cost Recovery/Avoidance practice, launched by CSP in 1995.
- Since its inception, CSP has added \$150M to DOI's Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF), representing an additional 75% of the overall Congressional appropriation.
- Since 2010, 56 sites have been removed from the Environmental and Disposal Liability Database and significant progress has been made on the agency's 22 most challenging sites, including the Washington Gas site (see below).
- In 2015, CSP better equipped NPS personnel to optimize cleanups and the associated resources for the benefit of the American people.
- These efforts are laying the foundation for NPS to become an industry leader in this critical area of federal land management.



## Before and After Washington Gas Site, National Capital Parks-East

*Washington Gas and Light operated adjacent to NPS land, manufacturing gas on its own property from 1888 until the mid-1980s. Manufactured gas by-products such as metals, oil, tar, and coal, were placed on the NPS property as fill material or were transported via groundwater movement through the site. NPS worked in tandem with the District of Columbia to return this highly-populated river bank to its intended recreational use.*





# CSPortal: NPS's "One Stop Shop" for All Things Contaminated Sites

The *CSPortal* is the agency's platform for accessing contaminated sites information and cleanup practice knowledge. This intranet site supports leadership and project management teams throughout the phases of the cleanup process. Visit: <https://connect.doi.gov/nps/csportal/Pages/Home.aspx>



## Body of best practices developed over two decades.

NPS personnel access more than 100 tools to support the standard activities of CS cleanup. The results of access to this body of knowledge are: faster cleanups, consistent methodology, and resource efficiency.

## Virtual platform for collaborative site management.

The CS Workspace is a customized interactive platform where project management teams collaborate on documents, action items, events and milestones, and stay abreast of project progress.

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*The CSPortal is enhancing NPS capability to protect the resources under its stewardship and ensure the preservation of those resources for future generations.*