

The former Priest River city dump was operated from the early 1900s to mid 1970s. No historical manifests documenting materials placed in dump exist.



Once or twice a year a controlled burn of the dump was undertaken. Wastes that did not burn were pushed over the slope and covered with dirt. In 1973, the city dump site was closed.



Since 2005, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Brownfields Program has worked with the community of Priest River to cleanup the old city dump.



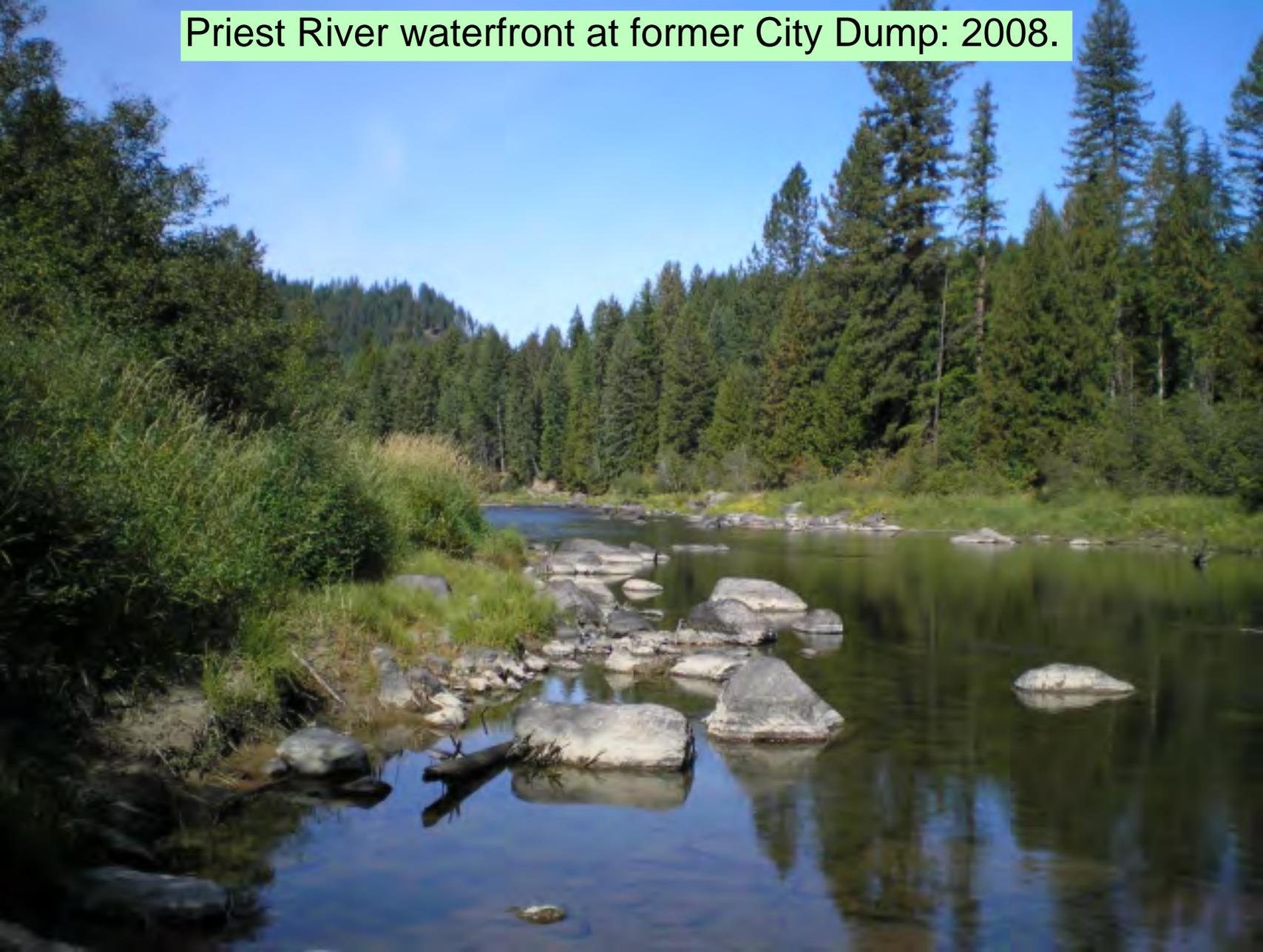
IDEQ completed environmental site assessments, site characterizations, risk analysis, and waste volume estimates on the old city dump.



# Priest River Old City Dump Phase II EISA Site Characterization: October 2006



Priest River waterfront at former City Dump: 2008.



Steve Gill, IDEQ Brownfields Specialist had heard of Horizons Idaho, a University of Idaho (UI) extension program to assist small, rural communities with alleviating poverty & achieving sustainable prosperity.



In May 2009, Gill approached UI's Building Sustainable Communities Initiative (BSCI) group, who agreed to take on Priest River's master plan





In 2008, the Priest River Urban Renewal Agency submitted a Brownfields Clean-up Grant to EPA for the former city dump; however, the site was not selected for funding.



In 2010, the City of Priest River completed a fee-simple transfer of the former city dump property to the Priest Community Forest Connection (PCFC), a local 501(c)3 experienced in federal grants, in order to qualify for cleanup funding.



In 2010, PCFC entered into IDEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) and was awarded a subgrant for \$400,000 from the Reuse Idaho Brownfields Coalition, comprised of Idaho's six economic development districts and DEQ, via the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act to cleanup the old city dump site.



Priest River Old City Dump. Cleanup Stage I: November 2010.



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On July 6, 2011, the first machines pulled into the old city dump and Waldo Construction of Post Falls began the clean-up.



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Overall, 11 employees were on the ground, half of which were from the immediate area. All of the contractors used local accommodations and purchased supplies from local companies.



Priest River Old City Dump VCP Clean-up Oversight Crew: Steve Gill, IDEQ, Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, PCFC, and Kelly Kincella, TerraGraphics.



During the final walk through on August 12, 2011,  
the project was determined complete.



PCFC is in the process of collaborating with the City on the next phase of the site with the vision of gaining Priest River waterfront access through a nature park.



PCFC will be submitting a VCP Workplan Completion report to IDEQ which, upon acceptance, will allow PCFC to apply for the Certificate of Completion & Covenant Not To Sue.



This quick paced project inspired teamwork among those involved and energized an entire community.









