

BC Crown Contaminated Sites Program Site Summary



Whitewater

Location: 50° 02' 12" N, 117° 08' 15" W

Status: Site Investigation and Risk Assessment

The Whitewater Mine mill and tailings area is a historical mine site located approximately 13 km north and 18 km west of Kaslo, BC. It consists of three main source material areas: the upper workings, mill area, and tailings area. The Whitewater claim was originally staked in 1892, and further development occurred periodically until 1980, when on-site operations ceased. Most of the mining operations occurred in the late 1920's, late 1940's, and early 1950's, with the main commodities being silver, lead, zinc, gold, cadmium and copper. Significant minerals in the ore deposit included sphalerite, galena, tetrahedryte, pyrite and chalcopyrite. The total amount of ore extracted from the Whitewater mine (1892-1980) was reported at 471,063 metric tonnes.

CCSP initiated site investigation activities in 2011/12, which identified areas of potential environmental concern related to the former mining operations. Primary contaminants of concern in source material included arsenic, cadmium, lead and zinc. Detailed site investigation and geotechnical work is currently underway at the exposed tailings area, wetland area, upper tailings area, mill area and rail loading area to determine the full extent of impacts and to better understand the risks at the site. Signage was also installed at the perimeter of the site in the fall of 2019.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the Crown Contaminated Sites Program by emailing contaminated.sites@gov.bc.ca or visit our website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-remediation/contaminated-sites/crown-contaminated-sites-program>.