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Public Open House on Black Butte Mine set for July 11

For immediate release, please contact:

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The Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division in collaboration with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council is inviting the public to learn more about the Black Butte Mine. The former mercury mine is located about 11 miles south of Cottage Grove. The Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) recently published a report, which is open for public comment until July 23rd. The US Environmental Protection Agency is beginning efforts to clean up the mine site, which was designated as a superfund site in March 2010.

On Wednesday July 11 at 6:30pm at the Cottage Grove Community Center (700 E. Gibbs), several agency representatives will be available to answer questions about water quality issues, mercury contamination in the watershed, fish consumption from the Cottage Grove Reservoir and the next steps in the Black Butte Mine clean-up effort. Please join us in an informal, open-house style meeting. Participating agencies include:

- Oregon Health Authority
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council

When and where:

Wednesday, July 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 East Gibbs Ave
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

The public health assessment report is available at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/healthyenvironments/trackingassessment/environmentalhealthassessment/pages/bbmsite.aspx>.

Public comments can be sent to EHAP at ehap.info@state.or.us.