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**** ATTENTION GILMORE LANDOWNERS ****

SAVE THE DATES: GILMORE COMMUNITY SURVEY AND OPEN HOUSES

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a **survey between March 24 and April 17, 2023**, of individuals who own, use, or have interest in Gilmore, Idaho. This voluntary survey is about metals contamination in soils at the historic Gilmore townsite and its surrounding lands.

Gilmore area **landowners will receive a mailing from Alta Science & Engineering, Inc.**, DEQ’s contractor, the week of March 20, 2023, along with a printed questionnaire, a pre-stamped return envelope and information on how to complete the questionnaire online or over the phone if preferred. The survey closes April 17, 2023.

Survey participants will help DEQ and partnering agencies understand the communities’ interest and concerns about lead and arsenic health risks, current and future land uses, and potential cleanup activities.

DEQ will host **open houses in Salmon, Leadore, and Idaho Falls, to provide information** about Gilmore history, metals contamination and health risks. You are welcome to stop by anytime during the open house hours to talk one-on-one with staff from DEQ and other partner agencies.

GILMORE INFORMATION OPEN HOUSES

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Salmon	Monday March 27, 2023	5:00 – 9:00 PM	Idaho Department of Fish and Game Salmon Regional Office 99 US-93, Salmon, ID 83467
Leadore	Tuesday March 28, 2023	5:00 – 9:00 PM	Leadore Community Center 206 S Railroad St., Leadore, ID 83464
Idaho Falls	Wednesday March 29, 2023	5:00 – 9:00 PM	Idaho DEQ Idaho Falls Regional Office 900 N Skyline Dr # B, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

For additional information regarding metals contamination at Gilmore and the upcoming survey and open houses, visit www.deq.idaho.gov/gilmore or contact or:

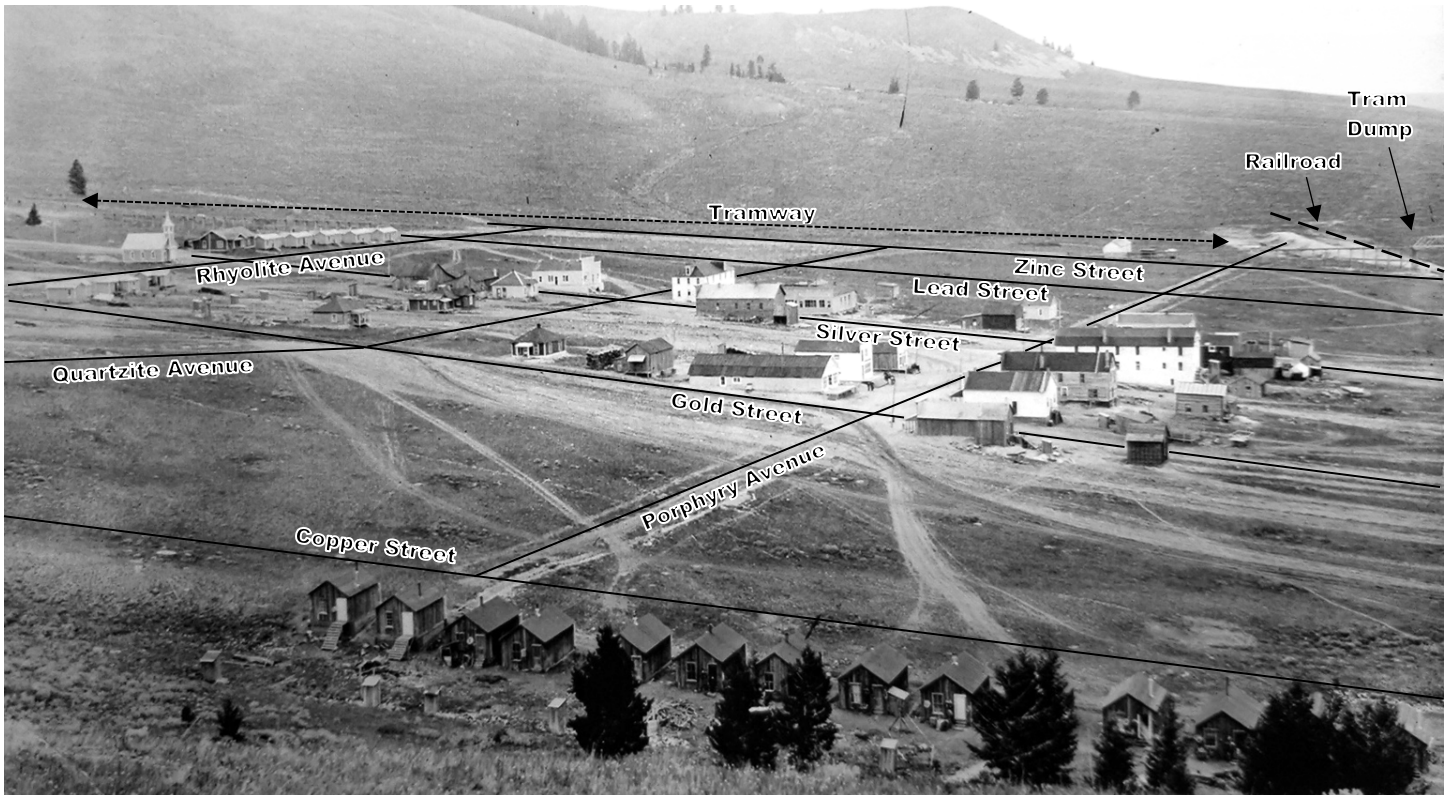
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LEAD CONTAMINATION AT GILMORE

Lead and other metals contamination at Gilmore is the result of historic large-scale hard rock mining operations and wind and water erosion of mine waste. The mines on the hillsides above Gilmore operated in the early 1900s and primarily produced lead and silver ore. During the early years, processed ore was hauled over 80 miles via wagons pulled by horses or a steam-powered tractor. Later, ore was transported off the hillside by a half-mile long tramway that travelled through the townsite before emptying into waiting railroad cars.

High concentrations of lead in the soil at the Gilmore townsite were found during DEQ sampling events in 2016 and 2017. At some locations, lead soil levels are more than 50 times greater than what is considered safe for residential areas.



View looking northwest across the Gilmore townsite, circa 1910. Road names and historic tramway and railroad locations added for reference. The Gilmore townsite was not officially platted until 1922. Photo courtesy of the Lemhi County Historical Society—Bolton Collection.

UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CONCERNS OF LEAD

Lead is toxic. It can be harmful to anyone, but it is most dangerous for young children, pregnant women, and women of childbearing age. Lead exposure can negatively affect a child's brain development, and its effects may be permanent. In adults, elevated lead exposures can damage the body's internal organs or increase blood pressure. Lead poisoning can occur with no obvious signs or symptoms. There is no safe blood lead level – if you reside or recreate frequently at Gilmore, talk with your health care provider about getting a blood lead test.

For additional information regarding health risks associated with lead and other metals, contact:

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