



Fact Sheet

Former Croman Mill Environmental Cleanup and Redevelopment

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is reviewing the former Croman Mill property for proposed redevelopment, which would allow for a mix of land uses, including residential development. The former lumber mill's operations contaminated surface soil at different places on the property. DEQ has approved a cleanup plan for environmental contractors to remove and dispose the contaminated soil. The former Croman Mill property covers about 60 acres and is near the southern end of Ashland, between Siskiyou Boulevard and Interstate 5.

Sampling results

During spring 2023, the property owner conducted a DEQ-approved sampling across the site. At a few locations, the sampling found dioxins and furans in shallow soils above residential and occupational use levels allowed by DEQ. Dioxins and furans are a class of toxic chemicals produced by industrial and natural sources that can increase the risk of cancer and pose other health effects. The highest dioxin and furan concentration of 152.5 parts per trillion was found at a former wood burner location. That level of dioxin and furans is greater than DEQ's health-based screening criteria for residences and places of work.

DEQ will oversee the soil removal work to address the contamination, which may start in late 2023 or early 2024. As the soil is removed, the property owner will further sample soil to confirm there isn't more contamination. Based on the sampling results there may be additional assessment. Heavy equipment will excavate the soil and load it into dump trucks, which will haul the excavated soil from the site to a privately owned quarry in Eagle Point for disposal. Some of the soil will be taken for disposal to Dry Creek Landfill, also in Eagle Point.

Mill background

Croman Mill operated at the site from 1934 to 1995. Mill activities included general sawmill and planing operations. Additionally, wood treating, wood waste burning and landfilling of wood waste and other solid waste occurred on the site. In 1987, DEQ identified wood treating chemicals, pentachlorophenol (PCP) and trichlorophenol (TCP) in shallow soil on the site. During 1989, DEQ oversaw the removal of four underground storage tanks that once held gasoline, diesel, and waste oil and the removal of nearly 12,000 cubic yards of

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contaminated soil. The mill closed in 1996 and demolition of mill buildings started in 2011. Prior to mill use, the property, and surrounding area, had been used for agricultural purposes.

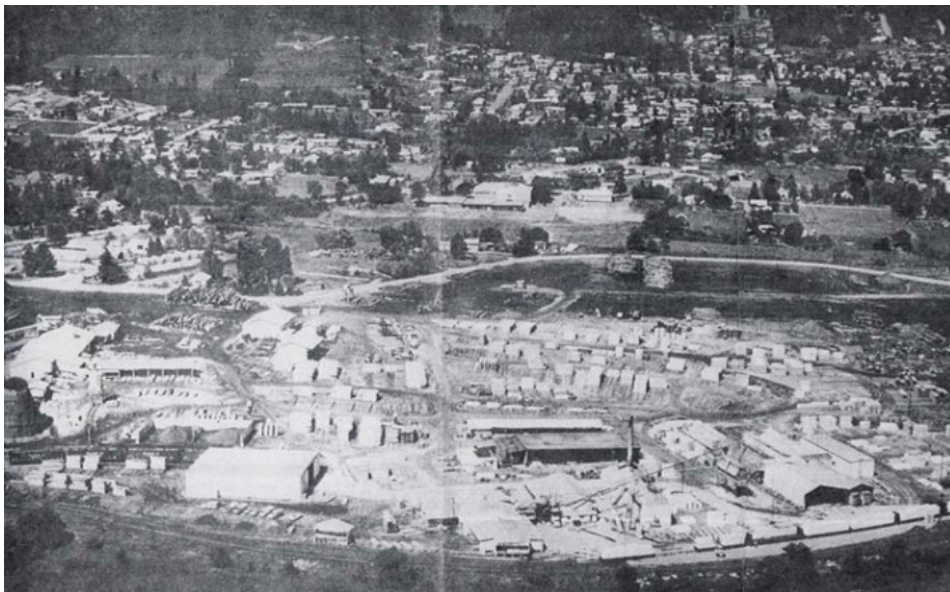
For more information go to DEQ's [Environmental Cleanup Site Information database for the Croman Mill project](#).

The City of Ashland has web pages for the [Croman Mill District Plan](#) and [Croman Mill District Updates](#).

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Aerial view of Croman Mill in operation in 1962, when it was known as McGrew Sawmill. Photo courtesy Southern Oregon Historical Society

Non-discrimination statement

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