

1. Mycoremediation of PCBs. Interest groups and local governments in the Spokane area created the Spokane River Regional Task Force (SRRTF) in 2006 to find solutions to the problem of PCB's and dioxins entering the Spokane River. Stormwater, manufacturing plants along the river, and unknown sources contribute to this pollution. One of the Task Force members, The Land Council, a non-profit organization in Spokane, has been studying fungi for its potential to degrade PCBs. Their research project (*Use of Fungi to Degrade Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBS)*) a/k/a "The Mushroom Project" found that

- A larger sample size than the 30 samples in their pilot study is required to "observe distinctive enough patterns to make very strong conclusions about degradation in jars"
- The sample with the largest reduction in total PCB concentration had a total reduction of 55.18%
- The sample with the greatest increase in total PCB concentration was 25% which could be "explained by degradation of higher molecular weight PCB congeners into several smaller molecular weight congeners, thus increasing the total PCB concentration."

More research on Mycoremediation may result in sustainable methods to reduce PCB's in our environment.



*Pleurotus sp*