

# Bonita Peak Mining District Update

July/August 2016



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



## Update of Recent Activities

- In response to a number of questions about resources available for communities. Sisay Ashenafi, TAG/TASC coordinator for EPA Region 8, presented information about community advisory groups (CAGs), Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) and the Technical Assistance Services for Communities program (TASC) at the June 23 meeting of the Animas River Community Forum.
- EPA successfully completed high-flow sampling in the BPMD the week of June 27. A crew of approximately 12 samplers from Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, EPA, and its contractors, sampled surface water from the headwaters in Cement Creek, Mineral Creek and the Upper Animas River at locations that had been inaccessible due to snow earlier in the spring. The investigation of high-flow conditions is focused on the 48 source areas of the proposed site, including major confluences and sentinel locations, such as existing gauging stations. Low-flow sampling will take place in late August and into September.



*Susan Griffin, EPA toxicologist, collects water samples in the Bonita Peak Mining District.*

## Planned Activities

- Soil and waste rock sampling in the BPMD is planned for late July. Data from these samples will be used for both the Ecological Risk Assessment and the Human Health Risk Assessment that are part of the Superfund Remedial Investigation at the site.
- The BPMD Biological Technical Advisory Group (BTAG) will have its kick-off meeting the week of July 25. The BTAG is a group of scientists from various organizations formed to advise and assist with ecological studies produced as part of the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study and/or Removal Actions in the BPMD.
- A series of public meeting/open houses are planned for the week of November 14, 2016, in Silverton, Durango, Ignacio and Farmington. A recap of activities undertaken at the BPMD over the last year will be provided along with an opportunity to talk one-on-one about work being done at the site. Please note: Due to these meetings, the BPMD site team will not conduct its regularly scheduled site visit the week of October 24, 2016.

## Upcoming Public Events

- **July 28, 2016 – Animas River Stakeholders Group, in Silverton (6:30 pm).** Note: this meeting will be held on Thursday evening.
- **August 3 to 5, 2016 – San Juan Mining Conference, in Durango and Silverton.** The theme of this year's conference is "Developing Innovative Partnerships and Solutions." EPA will provide a short presentation on planned activities in the Bonita Peak Mining District.
- **August 5 & 6, 2016 – SuperFUNDays.** EPA and CDPHE will have a booth in Silverton to share information about our work in the Bonita Peak Mining District.

## Gold King Mine News

EPA mobilized contractors to complete work started last fall at the Gold King Mine. This work involves the continued stabilization of the mine adit, as well as, additional stabilization of the mine waste pile located in front of the adit. EPA's contractor began work on July 9, and will continue work through October. For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-stabilization-work-resuming-gold-king-mine>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released two peer review documents related to the agency's draft "Gold King Mine Analysis of Fate and Transport in the Animas and San Juan Rivers." The analysis is now undergoing stakeholder review and is slated for release later this year. For more information visit: <https://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine/peer-review-comments-epas-fate-and-transport-study>.

## New on the Web

- *Bonita Peak Mining District Presentation: Community Advisory Groups, Technical Assistance Grants, and Technical Assistance Services for Communities*  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/08/1772030.pdf>

## For More Information

Visit the Bonita Peak Mining District website <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak>