

Eyes on the Animas River

Animas River monitoring and information sources

Environmental Protection Agency (Epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak): On Sept. 9, 2016, the Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) was added to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites. Through Superfund, the US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigates and cleans up the most complex, uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites to protect public health and the environment. The sampling data collected by the EPA at the BPMD is investigative, in that it is collected to determine the nature and extent of contamination from the 48 BPMD sites. More information about the BPMD, including sampling data is available on the website.

La Plata County Animas River Alerts (www.co.laplata.co.us): After the Gold King Mine spill, local and state emergency management and river stakeholders worked to implement a real time alert system for the Animas River. You can sign up for Animas River alerts at www.co.laplata.co.us. Follow the emergency notification link on the home page, add your phone and be sure to check Animas Alerts at the bottom.

Mountain Studies Institute (<http://www.MountainStudies.org/animasriver>): In partnership with the City of Durango, MSI is continuing a water quality monitoring program at Rotary Park in Durango, CO that began during the 2015 Gold King Mine release. MSI is currently collecting samples weekly and expediting laboratory analysis so that results can be communicated to the public as quickly as possible. Look for updates every Friday on MSI's website and social media. MSI released a summary of the results from their 2016 water quality monitoring program that is available from their website.

NM Environment Department (<https://www.env.nm.gov/river-water-safety/>): In partnership with the Long-Term Impact Team are gathering and publishing data monitoring the river in 5 areas: water, wildlife, agriculture, sediment, and health. The website includes reports from respective agencies and organizations collaborating on the multi-agency/multi-stakeholder effort. In addition to monitoring data, the website includes river resources and updates, such as: the spring runoff preparedness plan, risk-dashboard, river safety and agricultural use update and more.

San Juan Basin Public Health (<http://sjbpublichealth.org/water-quality>): San Juan Basin Public Health samples river water and sediment once per week in Silverton, at Bakers Bridge, and in Durango, and operates continuous monitoring technology at five locations that report on river conditions 24 hours a day.

US Geological Survey (<https://co.water.usgs.gov/infodata/Animas/index.html>): The USGS collects water-quality samples and operates and maintains several continuous water-quality monitors, pumping samplers, and stream gages from the headwaters of the Animas River basin to Bluff, UT. The monitors continuously measure specific conductance, water temperature, pH, and turbidity. The USGS also provides a free customizable alert system which will notify users of changing river conditions via email or text message (<https://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/wateralert/>).