



# Interim Record of Decision

## Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site

### Fact Sheet

May 2019



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has signed the Interim Record of Decision for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site (IROD) that identifies the selected remedy to be used for interim remedial actions (IRAs) at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site (the Site). The IROD and its associated documents can be found at EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak).

Under the IROD, EPA will begin work this summer on IRAs at 23 source areas at the Site, with full completion of all IRAs expected over the next three to five years. The IROD is intended to document the IRAs that will be completed while EPA conducts an ongoing site investigation. The completion of the IRAs will inform the development of a full cleanup plan, or a final Record of Decision, for larger and more complex sources of contamination at the Site.

Taking these early actions is consistent with the Adaptive Management Framework recommendation in the 2017 Superfund Task Force Report to accelerate cleanups. This framework is a structured and continuous planning, implementation and assessment process to target management and resource decisions. The goal is to incrementally reduce site uncertainties while supporting continued site progress.

The IRAs included in the IROD address EPA's goal of minimizing human and ecological risks in the Bonita Peak Mining District by stabilizing mine source areas.

## Public Comment

EPA's Proposed Plan for IRAs was released for public review on June 14, 2018. The public was given the opportunity to read and comment on EPA's proposed cleanup plan and supporting materials. EPA presented the proposed plan at a public meeting on June 21, 2018, at the Town Hall in Silverton, Colorado, and made it available on the Site website. By request, EPA extended the comment period from 30 to 60 days. Comments were received by email, regular mail, and by transcript of oral comments during the public meeting.

Input was received from 24 commenters between June 14 and August 15, 2018. Most submissions had multiple comments (299 in all) and all comments were read, categorized, tracked, and entered into the administrative record for the Site. The most commonly received comments were:

- **Selection of Mining-Related Sources.** Includes comments on sitewide cleanup strategy, selection criteria, and contaminant migration.

- **Effectiveness of IRAs.** Includes comments on lack of quantitative information, uncertainty of effectiveness, and performance monitoring.
- **Adequacy of Focused Feasibility study (FFS)/Proposed Plan.** Includes comments on plan details, alternative components, and the proposed plan.
- **Risk Assessment Approach.** Includes comments on background, ecological risk, data evaluation, trespasser-related risk, and cleanup levels.
- **Cost Effectiveness.** Includes comments on whether the IRAs are the best use of the dollars being spent.

EPA reviewed all comments submitted during the comment period. No significant changes to the remedy, as originally identified in the proposed plan, were necessary. The Responsiveness Summary (Part 3 of the IROD) describes the process in detail and presents the comments received and EPA's responses.

Many comments received were on topics outside the scope of the Proposed Plan and IROD. However, these comments are still important and valuable to EPA. They will be taken into account, based on the substance of the comment, at the time the future actions are being considered by the agency.

## The IRAs

The IRAs authorized by the IROD are:

- **Mine Portal Mining-Influenced Water Discharges.** Diversion and isolation components will route mining-influenced water discharge from mine portals around contaminated mine waste to reduce the potential for interaction and co-mingling.
- **Mining-Related Source/Stormwater Interactions.** Diversion and isolation components will route stormwater around mine portals and/or contaminated mine waste to reduce the potential for interaction and co-mingling.
- **Mine Portal Pond Sediments.** Sediment will be excavated, and berms repaired within ponds to allow continued pond function. Excavated wastes will be managed locally at the source on an interim basis.
- **In-stream Mine Wastes.** Wastes that impede flow or are susceptible to erosion or leaching of contaminants will be removed and managed locally at the source on an interim basis.
- **Mining-impacted Recreation Staging Areas.** Wastes within these areas will be contained and/or isolated using covers to reduce disturbances of mine wastes and migration of contaminants. The covers will eliminate surface exposure to mine waste or contaminated soil.

The names and locations where these actions would be taken are provided in the IROD. The number of mining-related sources identified for IRAs was reduced from 26 to 23 because cleanup on three of mining-related sources will be completed under other legal authority in future actions. These include the Boston, London and Ben Franklin mines.

## Questions?

If you have questions or need additional information on the IROD, please contact Rob Parker, EPA project manager, at 800-227-8917, ext. 312-6664 or [parker.robert@epa.gov](mailto:parker.robert@epa.gov).

