Bonita Peak Mining District Update

August 2019

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

COLORADO Department of Public Health & Environment

http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bonita-peak

Bonita Peak Site Team Changes

- Christina Progess has been selected as the new senior remedial project manager for EPA Region 8 and the team lead for the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site. Christina has over 15 years of experience working as a remedial project manager in Region 8. The great majority of her experience has been at mining sites in the Rocky Mountains. Those in Colorado include Standard Mine in Crested Butte, Captain Jack near Ward, Clear Creek near Idaho Springs, and now the Bonita Peak Mining District. She also spent a number of years in Libby, Montana, at the Libby Asbestos site.

Christina Progess

Katherine Jenkins

- Katherine Jenkins will be taking over as the new EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for Cynthia Peterson, who is retiring at the end of August. When working with communities, Katherine enjoys fostering relationships with stakeholders and strategic planning. She has specialized in emergency response communications and serves as a public information officer for the region. Prior to EPA, Katherine worked as a press officer for the National Institutes of Health. She is excited to join the team and bring her varied communications experience to the Bonita Peak Mining District Site. Outside of work Katherine enjoys summer hikes with her dog, baking treats, and attempting to grow a garden.

- Laura Dixon will be joining the Bonita Peak Team as the Community Involvement and Communications Manager for Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Laura manages multiple projects throughout the state and acts as the liaison between CDPHE and the communities they are working with. She has ten years of experience in public and private sectors executing and managing communication plans and stakeholder involvement. Laura has a BS from the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) and a MS from the University of Colorado Denver. When not working, she and her husband enjoy traveling the world and exploring Colorado's mountains with their dog.

Laura Dixon

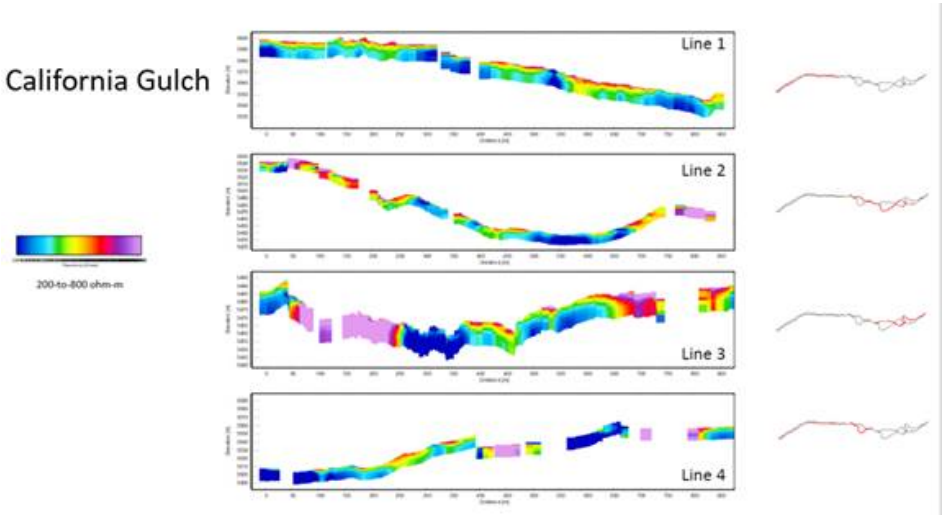
- Paniz Miesen from CDM Smith will be providing community involvement support to the BPMD team. Paniz has over 10 years of experience in water quality and watershed management, spanning permitting and compliance, hazard mitigation, aquatic toxicology, isotope geochemistry, statistical analysis, evaluation of surface-groundwater interactions, pollution source identification, TMDL, and low impact development. She also has extensive experience with public outreach and education and stakeholder coordination related to water quality improvement and watershed protection efforts.

Paniz Miesen

Recent Activities

- On August 17, 2019, EPA successfully completed the drilling of its monitoring well into the American Tunnel. Physical and analytical data from the well will help EPA better understand water levels in the tunnel and the potential connections with other mine workings, including the Red and Bonita Mine. This will inform future decisions about how to manage the Bonita Peak Groundwater System to control and/or treat discharges from affected mines.
- During the week of August 5-9, 2019, EPA personnel conducted site reconnaissance of areas planned for deployment of fiber optic distributed temperature sensing (FO-DTS) in September. Electromagnetic survey lines and forward-looking infrared technologies were used to collect data along 2-3 kilometer stretches of Upper Cement Creek and the West Fork of the Animas River. Results provide indications of potential stream contributions from surface and subsurface features, such as seeps and springs.

During field deployment in September, EPA and U.S. Geological Survey will install fiber optic cable along these same stretches to conduct FO-DTS logging. FO-DTS provides continuous measurement of temperature over kilometers (up to 30 km) with spatial resolution of approximately 1-meter, thermal resolution of 0.01 °C, and temporal resolution of seconds to hours. During the FO-DTS event, EPA will also be installing a series of temperature, conductivity, and pH loggers at key draining adits and surface features through the BPMD watershed to increase spatial and temporal resolution of these key parameters.



Example of electromagnetic data - blue shows highly conductive zones where subsurface water may be in connection with or close to the stream.

New on the Web

- Bonita Peak Mining District Update, July 2019 – Spanish (PDF) (2 pg, 1.61 MB)
  (Novedades del distrito minero Bonita Peak, Julio de 2019)
  https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/08/100006716