

Bonita Peak Mining District Update

February 2022



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



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

Site Announcements

- The Bonita Peak team wishes you a wonderful New Year!
- On January 20, 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Interior, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture lodged a Consent Decree with the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. The Consent Decree details a settlement agreement between the United States, the State of Colorado, Sunnyside Gold Corporation and Kinross Gold Corporation concerning the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site. This settlement agreement provides the framework for the continued cleanup of mining-related contamination, informs the development of future cleanup remedies, and will protect public health and the environment. The public can review and comment on the proposed agreement during a formal public comment period, which runs through February 28, 2022. Information on the Consent Decree and public comment process can be accessed at the link below.
- EPA, CDPHE, USFS, and BLM presented a 2021 Year in Review to the CAG and Silverton Planning Group in late January. This presentation detailed what each agency accomplished in 2021. You can find a link to this presentation below.

Site Updates

Cement Creek Discolored Water

- On February 3, 2022, an EPA contractor observed orange water in Cement Creek near Yukon Tunnel approximately 2.6 miles north of Silverton. EPA confirmed the source of orange water was an ice dam release in Cement Creek approximately 900 feet upstream of the Yukon Mine site. This ice dam caused a temporary increase in surface water flow, which mobilized sediments and resulted in the localized discoloration observed downstream into Silverton. This condition was not related to any work being conducted by EPA or EPA's contractors at the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site. Cement Creek at the Yukon Mine was observed at normal flow and color by 5:00pm on February 3, 2022. EPA conducted limited sampling and will notify the community when results are available online.

Sitewide Repository

- EPA continues to design a sitewide mine waste repository at Mayflower Impoundment #4 that balances safety, capacity, and operational feasibility. The final repository design is expected in Spring 2022.

New on the Web

- DOJ Consent Decree
 - [Review and comment on the Consent Decree](#)
 - [DOJ Press Release](#)
- [Red and Bonita Mine Bulkhead Test Report](#)
- [2021 Year In Review Presentation](#)