

## Bonita Peak Mining District

### Summer Newsletter

June 2025



*Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site*

## Upcoming Summer Activities

This summer EPA, BLM, USFS and State agencies will be working on several important cleanup and monitoring projects across the Bonita Peak Site. Here's what's happening:

### Mine Cleanup Projects:

- Anglo Saxon Mine – Stabilizing the hillside and waste rock pile where the old crib wall collapsed and was removed.
- Bandora Mine – Installing a monitoring well into the Bandora Mine to sample and monitor the mine pool fluctuations over time.

- After the drilling and well installation is complete, reestablish drainage channels and remove settling ponds that were used during the drilling.
- Brooklyn Mine – Removing two nuisance ponds and replacing with a more natural channel.
- Columbus Mine – Redirecting mine impacted water flow to protect native plants.
- Terry Tunnel – Planting grass and other native plants to revegetate the covered waste pile – preventing erosion.
- Tom Moore Mine – Replacing a degraded portal shed to prevent debris from backing up mine impacted water in the portal area.
- Forest Queen Mine – The Bureau of Land Management drained the mine adit and will be reconstructing the piping system at the portal area to mitigate the risk of an unplanned release. This allows BLM to access pipes for long-term site maintenance.
- Gold King Mine Road – Road improvements are planned to stabilize the access road and portions of the pile and ensure long-term access for water collection for treatment.
- Red and Bonita Mine – A portal shed will be added to improve avalanche safety and support winter access.
- Koehler Mine – Assessment of the concrete bulkhead to determine if additional reinforcement is needed to increase the longevity of the structure.

### **Testing Innovative Technologies:**

- EPA scientists in the Office of Research and Development are testing a new protective coating that may help reduce mine waste pollution from mine waste piles.
  - Field test: July 2025 near Bandora Mine



*The Forest Queen Mine Cleanup Project - Photo captured on June 11, 2025*

### **Repository Update**

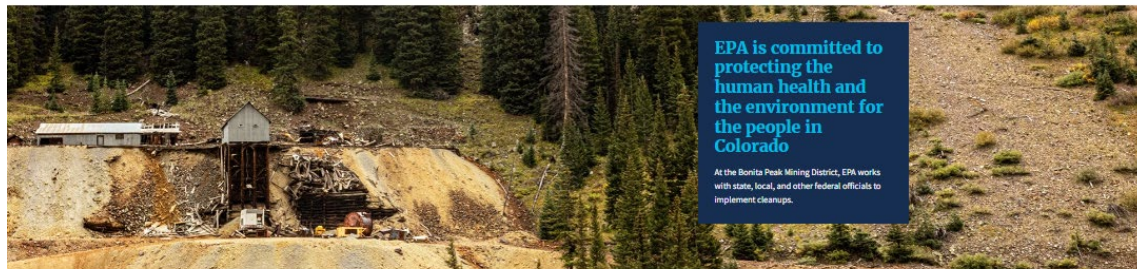
We expect to finish construction work at the repository this summer. Clean fill and other supplies are expected to be imported in quantities similar to previous years. If the fall and early winter weather allows, we plan to begin some transportation of sludge from Gladstone to the repository. Construction work will move forward once a contract is awarded. Stay tuned, more updates will be shared as the project progresses.

### **New Webpage**

The Bonita Peak webpage has a fresh new look! Explore the updated format by clicking the link below. If you have any feedback or need help finding information, feel free to reach out to Ashlin Brooks at [brooks.ashlin@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.ashlin@epa.gov).



## Bonita Peak Mining District



### Announcements

Get the latest updates on upcoming work, public notices, and other news about EPA's cleanup.



### Stay Connected →

Sign up for the latest news and updates via govdelivery

### Health & Safety

Find out about any health advisories, contamination levels, and safety precautions related to the mining district.

[Read the latest news](#)

### Site History

Historic mining operations have contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with heavy metals.

[Learn about site history](#)

### Site Documents & Data

Many site documents are available online, including technical reports, legal documents, and fact sheets.

[Search for site documents](#)



### Storymap Collection

Through the storymap experience, you will get a look at the site through maps and photos.

[View the collection](#)



### Current Activities

The site team is continuing cleanup work at the site.

[Read about current activities](#)



### Community Involvement

The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups.

[Get involved!](#)

## Open House - in Silverton, CO

The Silverton Community is organizing an Open House – Availability Session to bring together federal agencies, state partners, and residents on Thursday, June 26 at 4:00 P.M. at the Kendall Mountain Recreation Center. This event is designed to give the public a chance to engage directly with agency representatives, ask questions, and learn more about planned activities at the Bonita Peak Mining District Site this summer. It's a valuable opportunity to understand upcoming site work and connect with those involved. Participating agencies include EPA, BLM, CDPHE, DRMS, USFS, and more. For additional details contact San Juan County at [bpmd@sanjuancolorado.us](mailto:bpmd@sanjuancolorado.us).

## Brownfields

EPA's Brownfields Program offers grants and technical support to help communities, states, tribes and others to assess, clean up, and safely reuse contaminated properties. In San Juan County, several Brownfields projects are

underway; these efforts are separate from the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site (BPMD) activities.

One key Brownfields projects is the Lackawanna Mill Site, which sits outside the BPMD site boundary but overlooks the Town of Silverton. A conceptual design was produced to reflect community feedback and ideas, including future uses such as a recreation hub, event space, and public gathering area. Assessment of the mill site was completed in January of 2025 through an EPA Brownfields grant awarded to the Town of Silverton. A structural analysis of the mill building is planned for summer of 2025. The results will help guide cleanup strategies and determine how the site may be reused in the future



*Rendering of possible redevelopment for the Lackawanna Mill Site - Brownfields project.*

### **Additional Information**

For more information about the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund Site, please contact the site's Community Involvement Coordinator, Ashlin Brooks, at [brooks.ashlin@epa.gov](mailto:brooks.ashlin@epa.gov).