

1. Site Name	2. Operational Period	Incident Briefing
Camp Bird Mine (A8H9)	October 9-22, 2017	

### 3. Site Description

The Camp Bird Mine (Site) is located 6 miles south of Ouray in Ouray County, Colorado. The Site contains three large tailings piles that are being actively eroded by three different streams (Sneffels and Imogene Creeks enter the Site and combine in the middle of the tailings to form Canyon Creek). All three tailings piles are also susceptible to flood events, increased runoff and failure of the existing slopes.

The two tailings piles on the south side of Canyon Creek are associated with historic milling activities that date back to the early 1900s. A third modern tailings pile is located on the north side of Canyon Creek and was last used for disposal in the late 1990s. The modern pile is regulated through an active mining permit issued by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS).

In August 2017, Caldera Mineral Resources purchased the property out of bankruptcy and signed an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA and the State of Colorado to control erosion on-site and prevent the downstream migration of contaminated soil. This work will be accomplished in two phases:

- Phase 1 will address the two historic tailings piles and all efforts in the creeks as an EPA Time-Critical Removal Action under the direction of a Federal On Scene Coordinator.
- Phase 2 will address stabilization of the modern tailing pile through modification of the existing DRMS mining permit.

[Web Map](#)

[Story Map](#)

### 4. Current Situation

EPA's Time-Critical Removal Action (Phase 1) started in August 2017 and is scheduled to be completed in October 2018. On-site operations will pause for the winter season as conditions warrant.

The southeast historic tailings pile that is furthest downstream has been pulled back away from Canyon Creek and re-graded. The entire pile has been capped with topsoil.

Reconstruction of the furthest upstream segment of Imogene Creek is complete and obstructions have been removed from Canyon Creek.

Restoration materials consisting of segregated rock and topsoil have been gathered on-site and improvements to County Road 361 to bring such materials in from other locations are no longer being considered.

Controlled explosives were used to excavate a drainage channel around the lower historic pile, remove obstructions in Canyon Creek and improve existing roads on-site.

Stakeholders and the public should expect the occasional release of greyish sediments throughout this project as heavy machinery is being used in the creeks to pull contaminated material back away from the streams, sculpt the channels to account for a variety of flow regimes, armor the lower banks and construct flow control structures directly in the stream channels.

Stakeholders, local officials and the public have been invited to tour the site on October 20, 2017 at 9am.

## 5. Response Operations

### PHASE 1 (EPA Time-Critical Removal Action)

#### 1. Stabilize the downstream historic tailings pile.

- a. Construct a drainage channel along the uphill perimeter of the pile to divert runoff around the tailings (ongoing).
- b. Excavate the edges of the pile and place this material into the center of the pile (completed).
- c. Re-grade the slopes of the pile (completed).
- d. Cover the surface of the pile with topsoil (completed).
- e. Establish vegetation on the surface of the pile (anticipated).
- f. Install erosion control features across the surface of the pile (anticipated).

#### 2. Stabilize the upstream historic tailings pile.

- a. Re-grade the slopes of the tailings pile and construct erosion control features (planned).
- b. Cover the surface of the pile with topsoil and establish vegetation (planned).

#### 3. Stabilize the stream channels.

- a. Widen and reconstruct Imogene Creek from the pipe bridge downstream to the river crossing (completed).
- b. Remove rock obstructions from Canyon Creek and thin trees on the south bank (completed).
- c. Reconstruct the river crossing in Imogene Creek (anticipated).
- d. Widen and reconstruct Imogene Creek from the river crossing to the confluence (planned).
- e. Widen and reconstruct the confluence of Imogene and Sneffels creeks (planned).
- f. Widen and reconstruct Sneffels Creek from the CR361 bridge to the confluence (planned).
- g. Widen and reconstruct Canyon Creek from the confluence to a point downstream of the historic tailings (planned).
- h. Armor stream banks, construct erosion control features and establish vegetation in the constructed floodplain (planned).