



TELLURIDE VALLEY FLOOR/BOOMERANG RD. REMOVAL ACTION |



Upcoming Work in Your Community

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will initiate a removal action at the Telluride Valley Floor/Boomerang Rd. site this month in Telluride, Colorado. This action involves the cleanup and disposal of lead and arsenic-contaminated soil and mine tailings along the San Miguel River on federal land and private land.

Work is expected to begin in late-July and continue through October 2021, with river restoration work to potentially continue into 2022. Work plans include removal and disposal of tailings and soils found in and near the riverbank; as well as river restoration to re-establish aquatic habitat and mitigate erosion.

Clearing of trees and vegetation will be necessary. Removed trees and vegetation will be used for stream restoration or habitat enhancement, as appropriate, while some may be chipped for use in revegetation.

Stormwater and erosion control management plans will be implemented to mitigate the impacts of the tree and vegetation removal. Work will be done in the river so there

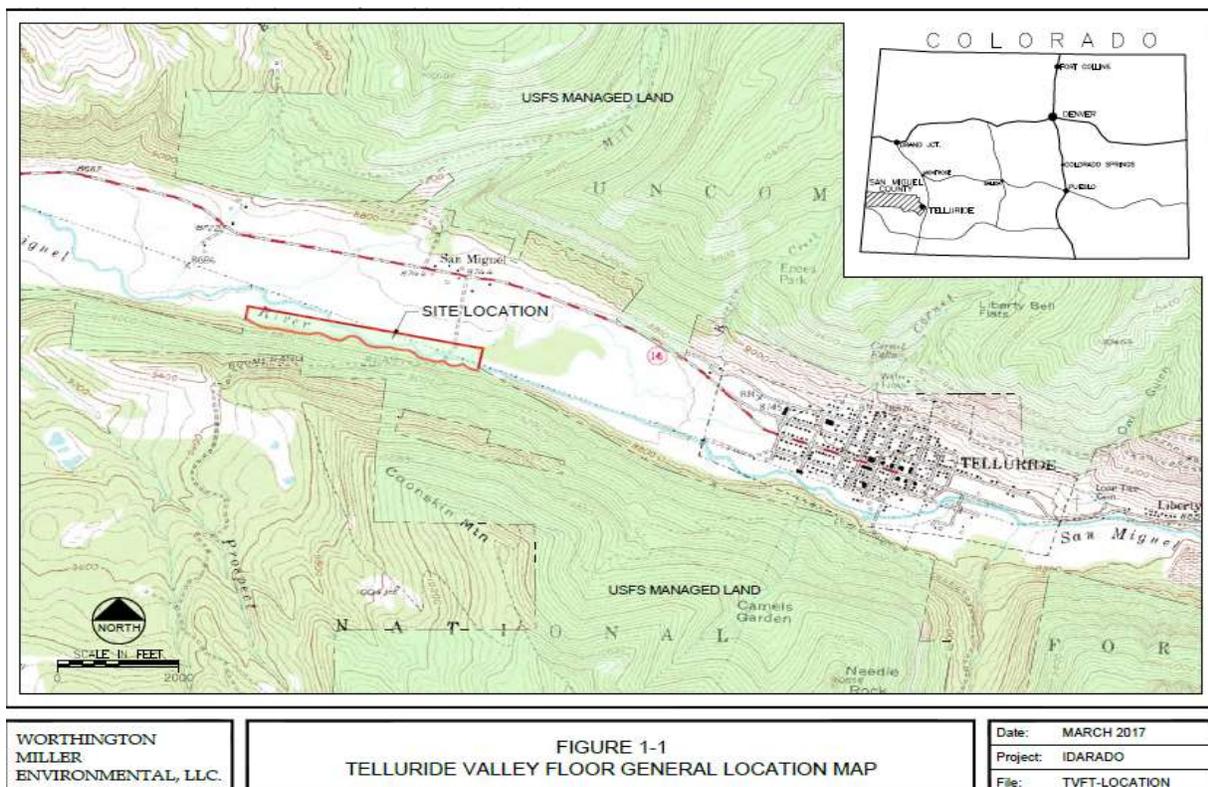
may be slight discoloration of the water due to heavy equipment. EPA will ensure precautions are taken to limit any disruption of the water for downstream users.

Signs to inform the public about the removal action, and discourage access to reclaimed areas, will also be installed. In addition, hiking and biking trails will be re-routed during the removal action and safety measures will be in place to protect workers and the community.

About the Site

This 34-acre site is located along the San Miguel River South of the Valley Floor Open Space, on lands primarily under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the USFS. A small portion, approximately, five acres, is owned by the Town of Telluride. It is within the boundaries of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests and accessed along Boomerang Road south from west Colorado Avenue (Highway 145 spur).

The Town of Telluride Valley Floor property, which is being preserved as open space by a conservation easement, adjoins the site to the east, north, and west.



2020 Emergency Response

The site was referred to the EPA by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in the fall of 2020, after sampling conducted by the USFS and the responsible party, found mine tailings within the site contained high levels of lead and arsenic.

Actions completed as part of the emergency response include:

- Installation of erosion controls to mitigate runoff from the excavation and stockpile operations.
- Removed up to 3,000 cubic yards of tailing and stabilized/armored bank area.
- Installed a low water crossing for moving equipment and material.
- Stabilized hike/bike area by placing a thin cap of gravel over the tailings.
- Placed barriers around contaminated areas, until mitigated or cleaned up.
- Hauled excavated contaminated material to state-designated, responsible party-owned on-site repository.



Completed North Riverbank Lining and Arm



Installed Drainage Controls

Contaminants of Concern

Metals concentrations associated with the tailings deposits are a potential source of harmful exposure to human health and the environment.

Lead and Arsenic are considered contaminants of concern (COC) at the Telluride Valley Floor/Boomerang Rd. COCs are chemicals that need to be addressed by a cleanup action because they are a potential threat to human health or the environment.

Arsenic

Arsenic is a common heavy metal found in mine tailings. The planned cleanup action will address the arsenic because it is a potential threat to human health and the environment. The exposure pathways can be from ingestion and inhalation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) also has a series of contaminant-specific fact sheets, called ToxFAQs. You can find a ToxFAQ on arsenic at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs.

Lead

Lead is a common heavy metal found in mine tailings and can be harmful to humans, especially children, if people come in contact with it. A person can come in contact with lead through ingesting (eating or drinking) something with lead in it or through inhaling (breathing) in lead dust.

For more information about lead, please visit www.epa.gov/lead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) also **has a series of summaries about contaminants**, called ToxFAQs. You can find ToxFAQs on lead at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs.

EPA Contact Information

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