



Colorado Mine Impacted Stream Task Force



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Western States Water Council April 13, 2017

Mine Impacts to Streams

- Gold Rush in Colorado 1850s
- Most mining prior to modern environmental regulations
- 1800 stream miles impaired
- Estimates of 23,000 Abandoned Mines



Mining Impacted Streams Task Force

- Water Quality Control Division
- Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety
- Colorado Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division



Abandoned Mine Initiatives

- Colorado Abandoned Mine Inventory
- Statewide Draining Mines Water Quality Study
- Animas River Long-term Monitoring



Abandoned Mine Inventory

Development by Colorado Geologic Survey

Multi-agency Steering Committee

- Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety
- Colorado Water Quality Control Division
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Park Service
- United States Forest Service
- U.S Fish and Wildlife

50,000 Mine features/site presented

<https://beta.erams.com/aml>

Draining Mines Study

1. Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety / Water Quality Control Division
2. Field surveys and samples collected
 - 175 Mines visit, 146 sampled
3. Study championed by Governor Hickenlooper in 2016 State of State address
4. Data released Spring 2017



Animas River Long-term Monitoring Plan

Goal: Assess risks to public health and the environment

Partners:

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- San Juan Basin Public Health
- San Juan County Public Health

Timeline: May 2016- February 2018

Year in Review: Gold King Mine Spill:

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/WQ_GKM-Year-in-Review_08-01-16.pdf

Questions?