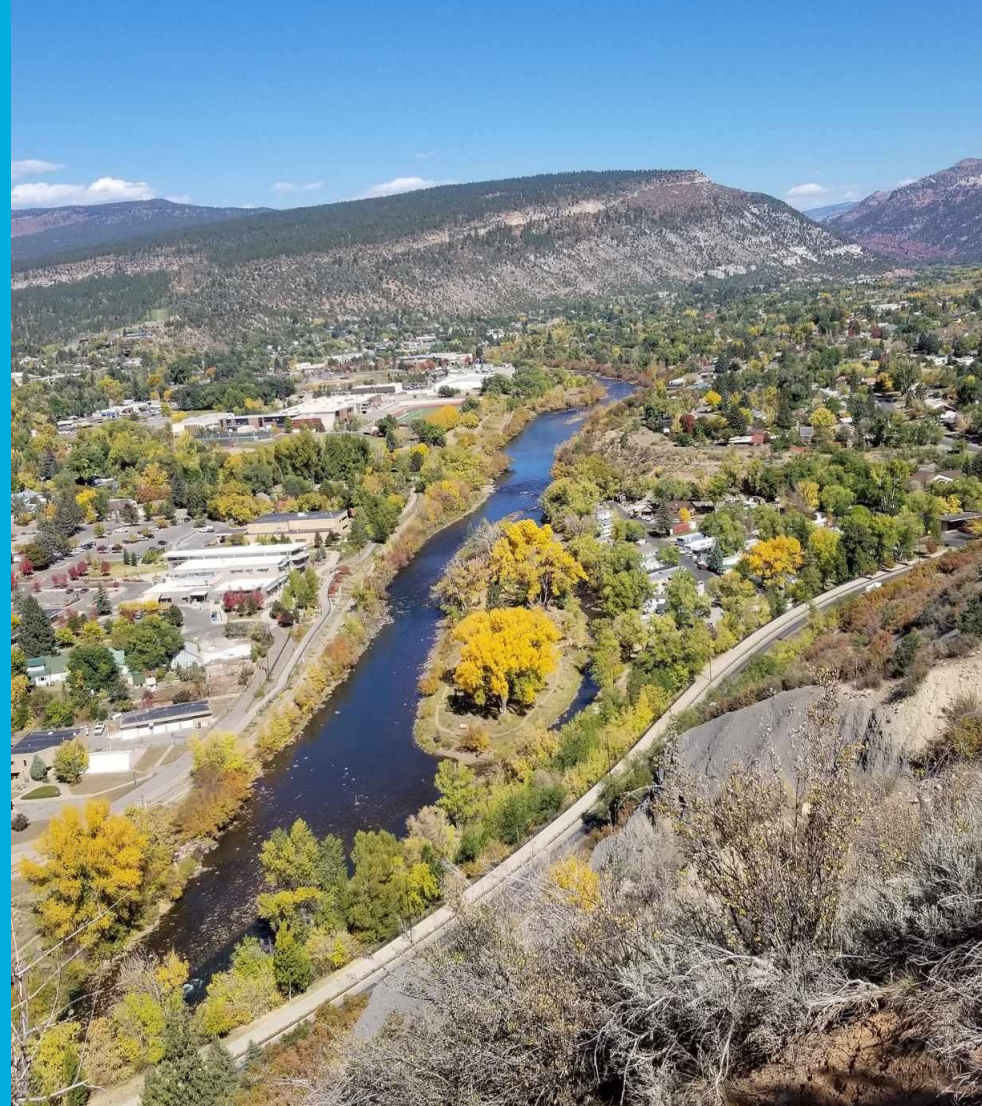
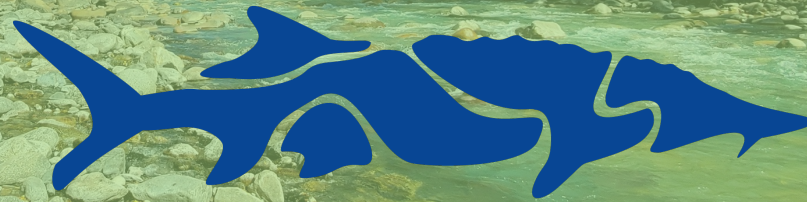


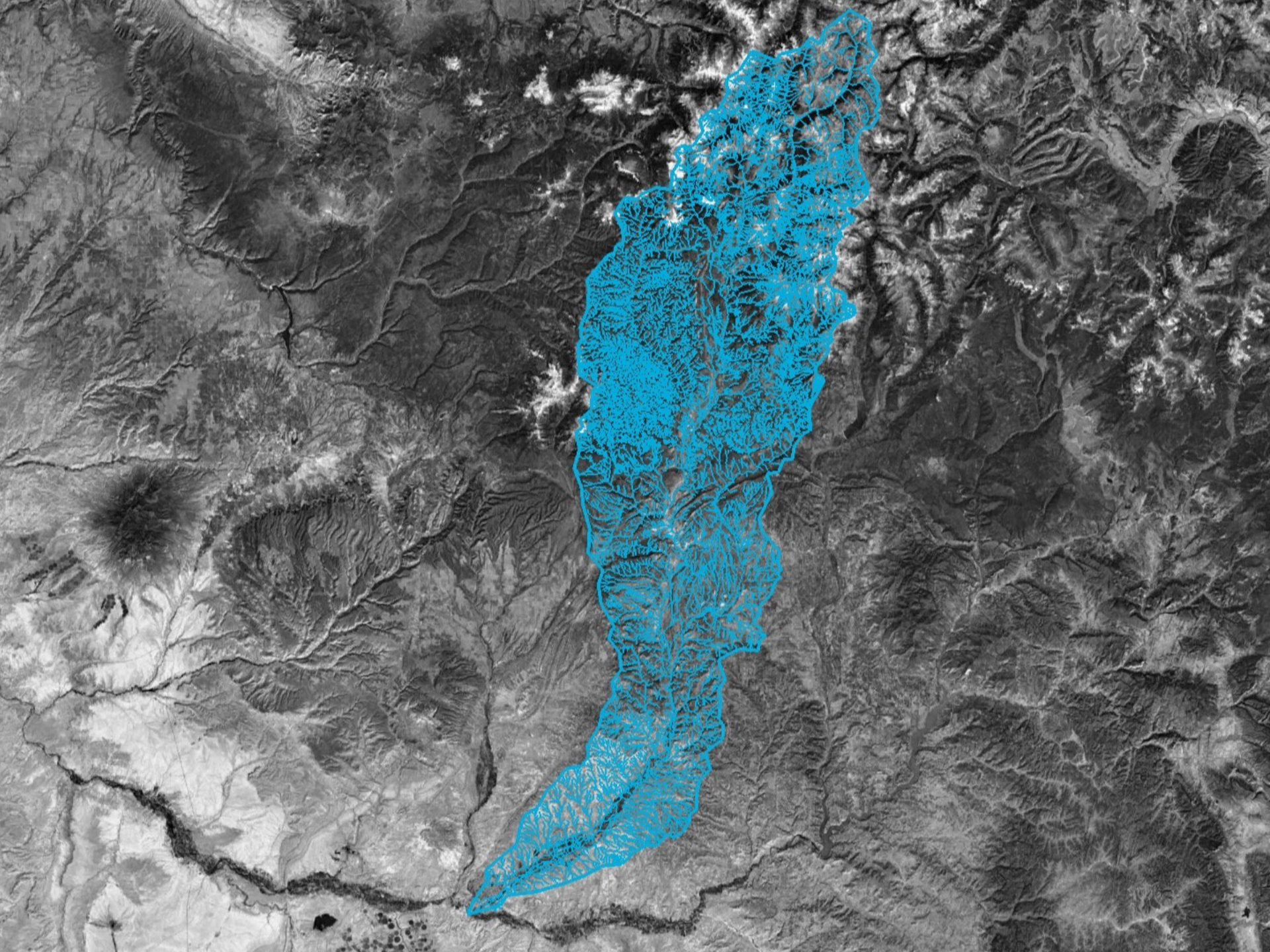
**SJCA
APRIL
SCOOP**

WELCOME!!

**Marcel
Gaztambide
Animas River
April 22, 2021**







Animas Riverkeeper Program

Water Quality / River Health

Water Management / Policy

River Access / Recreation



LET'S DISCUSS



- **Water quality and watershed health**
 - Bonita Peak Superfund Site
 - Outstanding Waters
- **Water management and policy**
 - Mining law reform rulemaking
- **River access and recreation**
 - Cedar Hill boat ramp

Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) Superfund Site

- Designated a Superfund site in 2016.
- So far...
 - Environmental Investigations + Risk Assessments
 - Prioritization and generic goal setting
 - Small scale projects
- \$75 - 100 million already spent at the Bonita Peak Superfund Site with plans to spend at least another \$60 million in the next few years.
- Recently released a task list for 2021 and a draft 5 year plan.

Bonita Peak Mining District (BPMD) Superfund Site

- Direct engagement with the BPMD site team and the Superfund process.
- Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group (CAG)
 - Community platform
 - 15 members, important experience and perspectives
 - CAG data collection
 - Meets monthly – including tonight!
- Recently provided feedback on the site task list and draft 5 year plan
- Follow along, via bonitapeakCAG.org

Animas Riverkeeper Map

☒ Animas River Watershed


 Animas


☒ Animas River

 Animas River

☒ Water Quality



 Gold King Mine Spill

 Colorado 303(d) Impaired Waters

 303(d) Impairments - Colorado


 303(d) Impairment - Colorado

... 30 more

☐ Projects / Partnerships / Events

☒ Superfund - Bonita Peak Mining Distri...



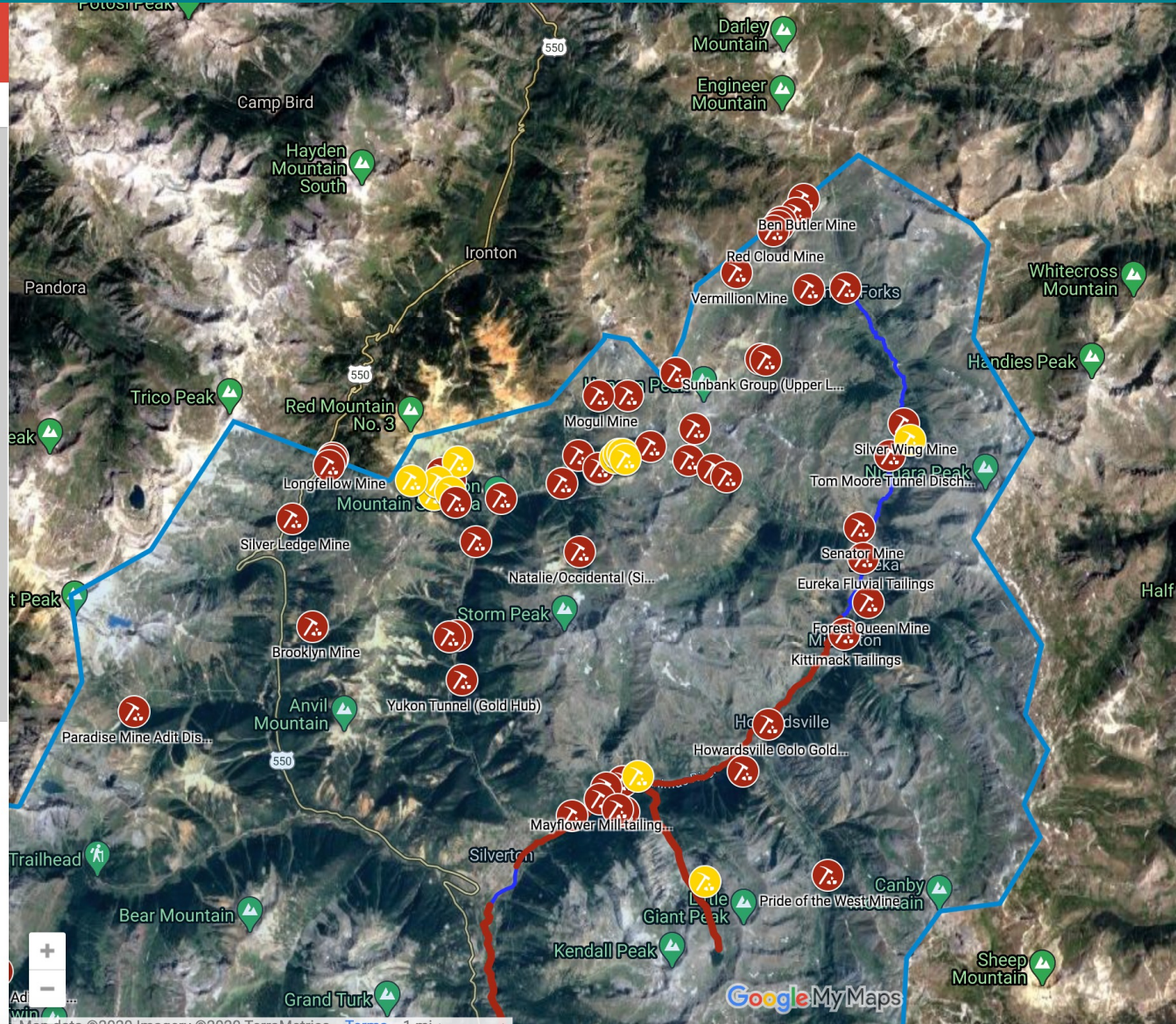
 Ben Butler Mine

 London Mine

 Dewitt Mine

 Boston Mine

... 61 more



sanjuancitizens.org/animas-river

← Gold King Mine, #7 Level



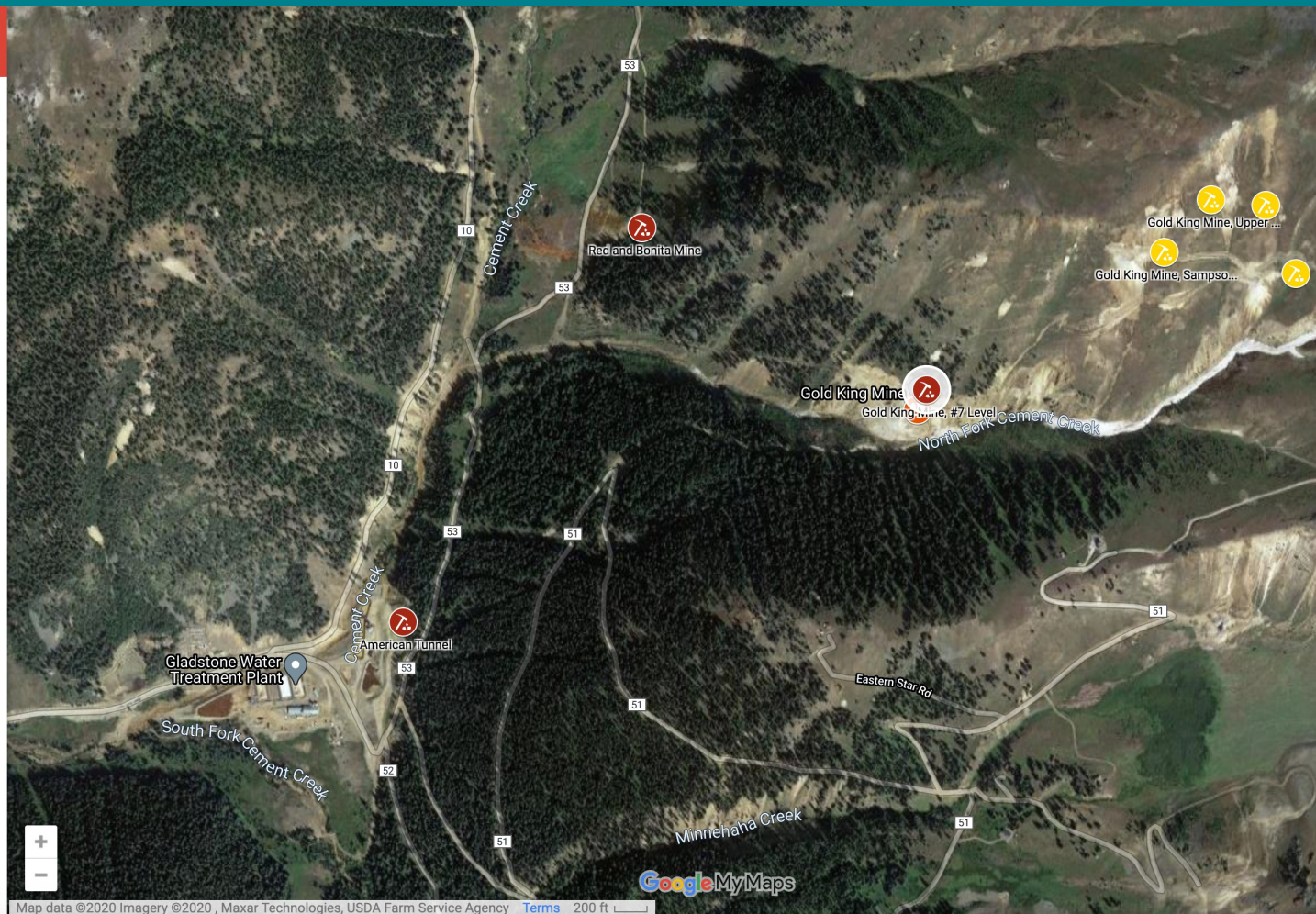
name

Gold King Mine, #7 Level

description

EPA Records:

The Gold King Mine adit is located at the top of the mine waste rock pile on the north side of North Fork (Ref., 48). The adit discharge is directed into a segmented plastic culvert that flows to the east across the top of the pile to a point near the eastern edge of the waste rock. At this point, the discharge exits the culvert and cascades down the waste rock at the eastern edge of the pile, and into the North Fork of Cement Creek which flows to the west near the base of the pile (Ref. 12, p.2). The adit coordinates are latitude 37.894592285, longitude -107.63902282715 (Ref. 6e). The adit discharge flows east for approximately 94 ft, south for approximately 123 ft and west for approximately 790 ft before flowing into Cement Creek (Ref. 55, p.10).



Outstanding Waters

- **What are they?**
 - The Clean Water Act delegates authority to states to designate different levels of water quality protection.
 - In Colorado, the highest level of protection is called an “Outstanding Water” designation.
- **What are we doing?**
 - Identifying candidate streams, collecting data, doing outreach.
 - Animas streams include
 - Cascade Creek
 - Lime Creek
 - Grasshopper Creek
 - Boulder Creek
 - Bear Creek

Colorado Mining Law Reform

- **HB 19-1113 – signed into law April 2019**
 - Explicitly includes water quality protection into the calculation for the amount of bonds required for hard rock mines
 - Operators are required to include an end date in the development of plans for water quality treatment to avoid creating more chronically polluting mines
 - Prohibits corporate “self-bonding” in Colorado, aligning our laws with neighboring states and federal land management agencies

Colorado Mining Law Reform

- **Rulemaking process to implement new state law**
 - 6 meetings with partners and staff from the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety beginning in 2020 to discuss draft regulations.
 - Submission of technical comments to ensure reforms are implemented as intended by the legislation.
 - SJCA members submitted over 200 comments!
 - Currently awaiting a redline version of the regulations (expected late April – early May)
 - Final rulemaking scheduled for June or July 2021

An emerging threat to clean water...

BEFORE THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION, STATE OF COLORADO

MOTION FOR LATE PARTY STATUS AND PARTY STATUS REQUEST

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BASIC STANDARDS AND METHODOLOGIES FOR SURFACE WATER (REGULATION NO. 31)

American Rivers, American Whitewater, Audubon Rockies, Conservation Colorado, San Juan Citizen Alliance, Trout Unlimited and Western Resource Advocates request late party status in the above-referenced rulemaking hearing, which is currently set for the Commission's June 2021 meeting. Pursuant to Commission Procedural Rule 21.4(D)(1), the proposed Joint Parties believe good cause exists for the Commission to grant their request for late party status.

Party Status Request Information Required by Rule 21.3(D)(2)

Please stay tuned for next steps. Public comments will be due **June 7-11**. Hearing scheduled for **June 14th**. We'll need members to engage!











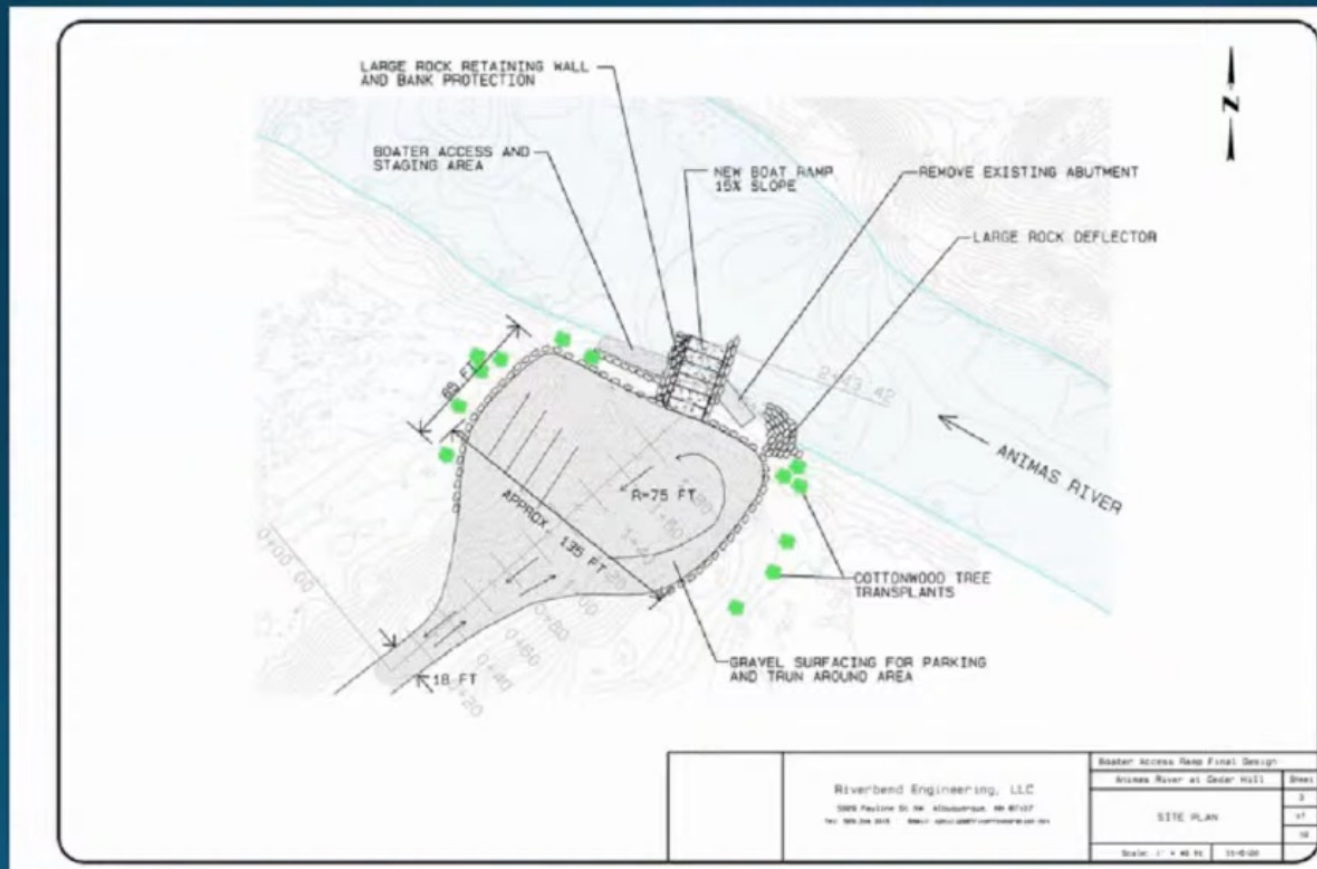

PUBLIC LANDS
LEAVING





New Cedar Hill Boat Ramp!

Boat Ramp Detail





Key Features



- Key project features include:
 - New gravel access road along old D&RGW right of way
 - Solar powered dusk to dawn security gate (hours can be manipulated by season)
 - Gravel parking for vehicles and trailers
 - Stone stabilized boat ramp, riverbank stabilization and diversion weir
 - Cottonwood transplants and native plantings



Project Schedule



- March 2021 - Project Kick-Off Following Receipt of 401/404 Permits
- March – April - Site Clearing, Demolition and Access Road Construction by San Juan County Public Works
- May – June 2021 – Award of Construction Contract for Parking and Boat Ramp. Coincides with Animas Spring Runoff Period
- July – August 2021 – Construction by Contractor
- September 2021 – Grand Opening



Questions and Discussion

A woman is kayaking on a river, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and a light blue jacket. The river has white water rapids, and the background features a rocky cliff and some greenery under a blue sky with clouds.

Marcel Gaztambide, Animas Riverkeeper
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Work: 970-259-3583 ext. 6 ; Mobile: 801-631-7421



THANK YOU!

**We can't do our work without our
members.**

Donate at sanjuancitizens.org