Mine ARD Remediation and Old Hundred Gold Mine Tour

Date – Sunday, August 11, 2024
Time – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is leading efforts to remediate Acid Rock Drainage from the Bonita Peak Mining District north of Silverton, CO. The Bonita Peak Mining District consists of 48 historic mines or mining-related sources where ongoing releases of metal-laden water and sediments are occurring within the Mineral Creek, Cement Creek and Upper Animas River drainages in San Juan County, Colorado. Historic mining operations have contaminated soil, groundwater and surface water with heavy metals. A remedial investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination is underway. EPA continues to treat mine-impacted water from the Gold King Mine at the Interim Water Treatment Plant (IWTP) at Gladstone. EPA established an interim sludge management location at the Kittimac Tailings area near Silverton. At this location, 14,000 cubic yards of sludge from the IWTP were mixed with 20,000 cubic yards of tailings.

This field trip will include a tour of the EPA’s treatment facilities at Gladstone near the Gold King Mine and the American Tunnel. In addition, we will visit the sludge management facility at the Kittimac Tailings. Following the field visit to Gladstone and Kittimac, we will tour the Old Hundred Mine – an underground mine that has been converted to a tourist and education center allowing visitors to observe a former underground mine operation.

The field trip will include short hikes and participants should be prepared for variable weather as rain storms are common in the afternoon in the San Juan Mountains.