## Mine Reclamation in the East Mancos River / Thunder Mine

Kirstin Brown, Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety in cooperation with Scott Roberts, Mountain Studies Institute, and Win Wright, Southwest Hydrologic



### COLORADO

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

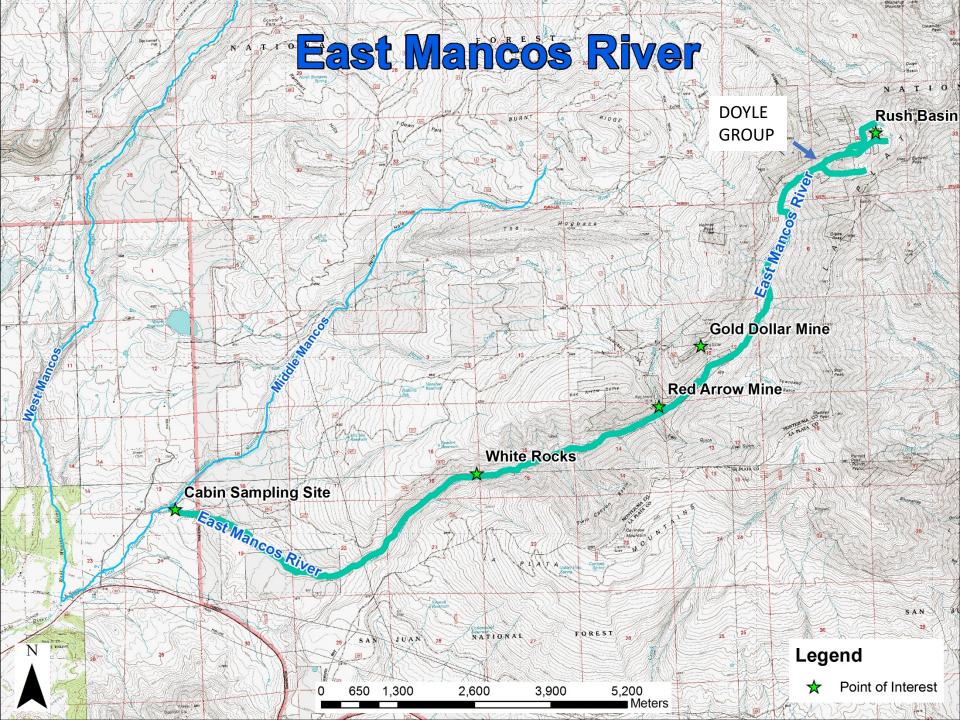
Department of Natural Resources





East Mancos River Location Map

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



### East Mancos Timeline

- 1750 Spanish Exploration, possibly small scale mining.
- 1888-1920 Doyle Group in Rush Basin is developed.
- 1933 1942 Historic Red Arrow Mine Production
- 1950's Possible re-mining of Doyle Group

### East Mancos Timeline Continued

- August 20, 1969 USFS finds 12" long trout in East Mancos, near the White Rocks. The population is small. USFS considers enhancing habitat to improve the fishery.
- 1975 CDOW conducts fish surveys and finds that the entire East Mancos is "dead".
- 1977 CDOW conducts fish surveys and finds that the entire East Mancos is "dead".

### East Mancos Timeline Continued

- 1977 Mining Laws enacted in the U.S.
- 1981 Red Arrow Mining Permit is issued by CDRMS.
- 1986 Gold Dollar mine pool is breached while trying to reopen the portal. Unknown amount of poor water quality rushes from the Gold Dollar Mine workings. Anecdotal reports of large scale fish kill.

### East Mancos Timeline Continued

- 1988 USFS conducts fish study in East Mancos. Finds the habitat near White Rocks is unsuitable for fish survival. Possibly due to turquoise colored silt suspended in the water?
- 1990 CDOW conducts fish surveys and finds that the entire East Mancos is "dead".

# East Mancos Previous Studies and Timeline

- 1993 Wendy Meyer Thesis Completed Natural Geochemical Processes of Acid Rock Drainage
- 2000 Colorado Geological Survey Naturally Degraded Surface Waters Associated with Hydrothermally Altered Terrain in Colorado.
- 2000 Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology Inspection Report – Gillis
- 2005 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment – Hazardous Materials Report

## East Mancos Studies, Work, and Timeline

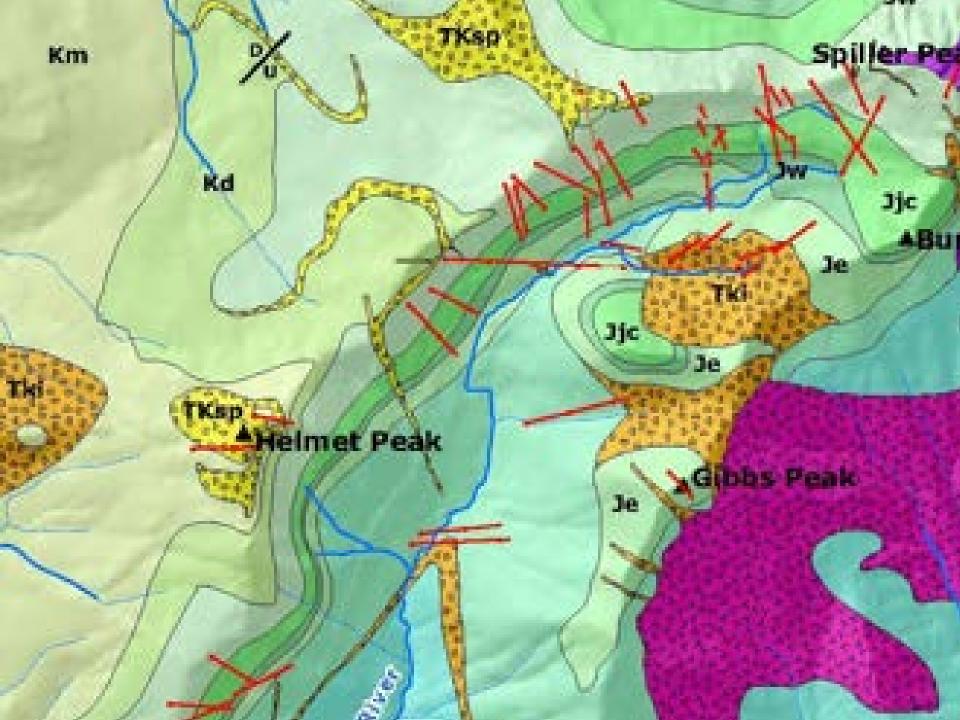
- 2009 DRMS Watershed Study (Gold Dollar Area)
- 2012 CDPHE East Mancos TMDL
- 2018/2019 East Mancos River Watershed – Aqueous Metal Sources, Concentrations, Mass Loading and Aquatic Impacts (Including Mine Characterizations)





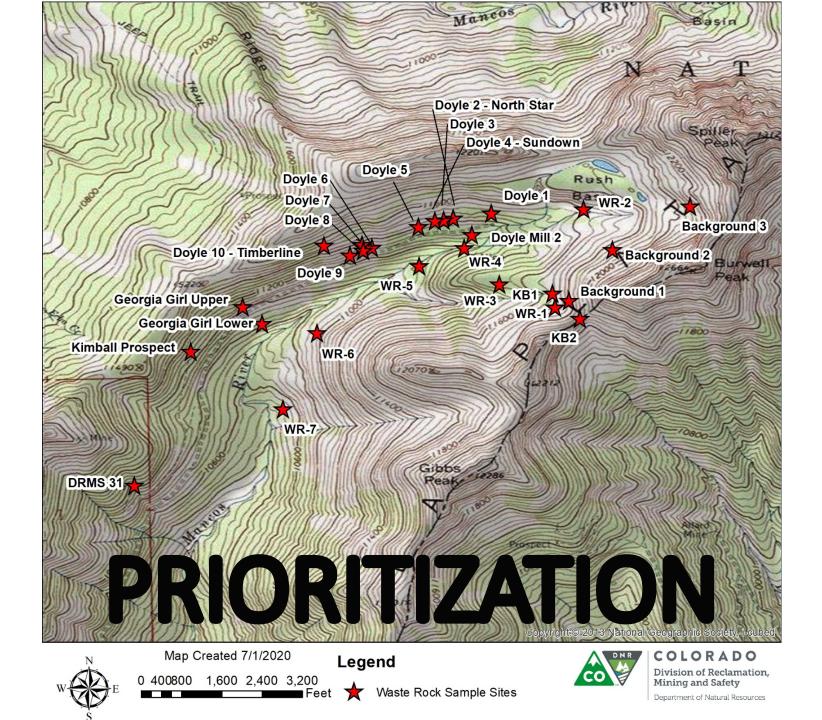


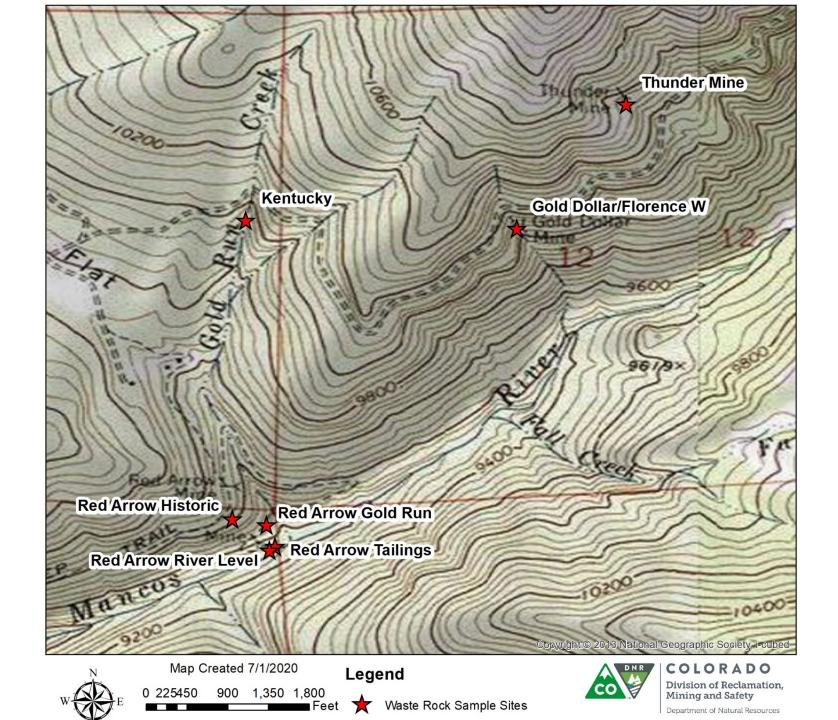












Site	Copper, dissolved, lb/d	I Conner Load Rank	
Thunder Mine	0.10536	1	
Doyle 2 (North Star Mine)	0.06133	2	
WR-1 (Morning Star Claim Mine)	0.04196	3	
Doyle 10 (Timberline Mine)	0.02084	4	
Doyle 8 Repeat (Pike Lode Claim			
Mine Repeat)	0.01397	5	
Doyle 3 (North Star and Sundown			
Tunnel Shared Portal)	0.01243	6	
Doyle 8 (Pike Lode Claim Mine)	0.00969	7	
WR-4	0.00604	8	
Doyle 6 (Out of Sight Lode Mine)	0.00509	9	
KB2 (Great Divide Claim Mine)	0.00425	10	
WR-6	0.00260	11	
Red Arrow Tailings	0.00189	12	
Doyle 9 (Linnie B Lode Mine)	0.00181	13	
Red Arrow Gold Run	0.00173	14	
Doyle 5 (Tenderfoot Claim Mine)*	0.00113	15	
KB1 (Morning Star Claim Mine)	0.00085	16	
WR-3	0.00083	17	
WR-5 (Tenderfoot No. 2 Mill			
Tailings)	0.00053	18	
Outwest Historic (Red Arrow			
Historic)	0.00041	19	
Red Arrow River Level	0.00040 20		
Doyle 1 (Daylight Claim Mine)	0.00039 21		
Doyle 4 (Sundown Tunnel)	0.00038	22	
Kentucky Lower	0.00036 23		
Georgia Girl Lower	0.00031	24	
Georgia Girl Upper	0.00027	25	
Doyle Mill 2	0.00027	26	
Gold Dollar/Florence W	0.00022	27	
WR-2 (Narrow Gauge Claim Mine)	0.00021	28	
Kimball Prospect	0.00019	29	

#### Waste Rock Pile Copper Loading Ranked

- 1. Thunder
- 2. North Star Mine
- 3. Morning Star Claim Mine
- 4. Timberline Mine
- 5. Pike Lode Claim Mine
- North Star and Sundown Shared Portal Mine Waste
- 7. WR-4 Unknown Mine
- 8. Out of Sight Lode Mine
- 9. Great Divide Claim Mine
- 10.WR-6 Unknown Mine

### Reclamation

- Waste rock reclamation is more feasible.
- Majority of the <u>known</u> mining concerns in the East Mancos River basin are waste rock related, but there are a few draining mines.
- Route Acid Mine Drainage off of waste rock piles.
- Active water treatment is not currently viable – liability and cost concerns.

#### East Mancos Mine Reclamation Summary

Site	Reclamation	Waste Rock Copper		
	Recommended	Load Rank		
Thunder Mine			Consolidation and capping of waste rock and route	
	YES	1	mine drainage	
Doyle 2 (North Star Mine)	YES	2	Consolidation and capping of waste rock	
WR-1 (Morning Star Claim Mine)	Potentially	3	Potential capping of waste rock by hand labor	
Doyle 10 (Timberline Mine)	NO	4	Access too difficult	
Doyle 8 Repeat (Pike Lode Claim Mine Repeat)		5		
Doyle 3 (North Star and Sundown Tunnel Shared Portal)	YES	6	Consolidation and capping of waste rock	
Doyle 8 (Pike Lode Claim Mine)	Potentially	7	Capping of waste rock	
WR-4	Potentially	8	Revegetation	
Doyle 6 (Out of Sight Lode Mine)	YES	9	Capping of waste rock	
KB2 (Great Divide Claim Mine)	Potentially	10		
WR-6	NO	11		
Red Arrow Tailings	YES	12	Amend and revegetate	
Doyle 9 (Linnie B Lode Mine)	YES	13	Route mine drainage	
Red Arrow Gold Run	YES	14	Revegetation and remove building and trash	
Doyle 5 (Tenderfoot Claim Mine)	Potentially	15	Route mine drainage	
KB1 (Morning Star Claim Mine)	NO	16		
WR-3	NO (except for closure of			
	adit)	17		
WR-5 (Tenderfoot No. 2 Mill Tailings)	Potentially	18	Revegetation	
Outwest Historic (Red Arrow Historic)	NO	19		
Red Arrow River Level	YES	20	Revegetation, clean up trash and oil, and maintain sediment pond	
Doyle 1 (Daylight Claim Mine)	NO	21		
Doyle 4 (Sundown Tunnel)	NO	22		
Kentucky Lower	NO	23		
Georgia Girl Lower	NO	24		
Georgia Girl Upper	NO	25		
Doyle Mill 2	NO	26		
Gold Dollar/Florence W	YES	27	Close road to the site	
WR-2 (Narrow Gauge Claim Mine)	NO	28		
Kimball Prospect	NO	29		
DRMS 31	NO	30		
WR-7	NO	31		
Dovle 7 (Pike Lode Claim Mine)	NO	32		

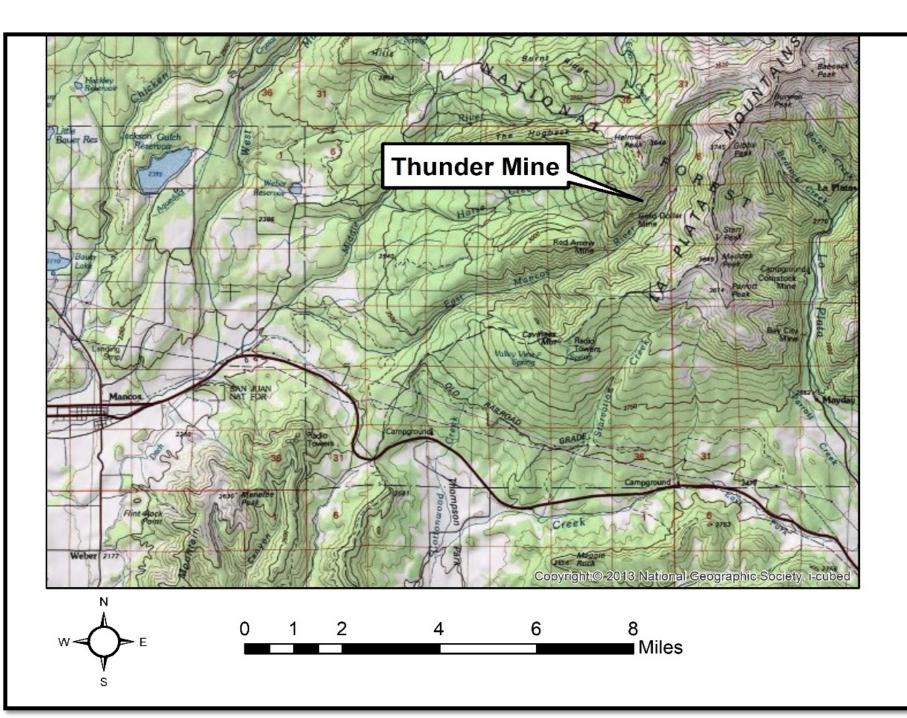
## Thunder Mine – Top Priority

- Highest Copper, Arsenic, and Lead load calculated for the entire basin from waste rock pile only. 2<sup>nd</sup> highest load for Zinc.
- The waste rock sits in an ephemeral drainage swale
- The mine drainage flows over and seeps into the waste rock pile
- Longest kill zone 2,000 feet long
- The waste rock contains arsenopyrite, and fine-grained galena.
  - Arsenic
  - Lead



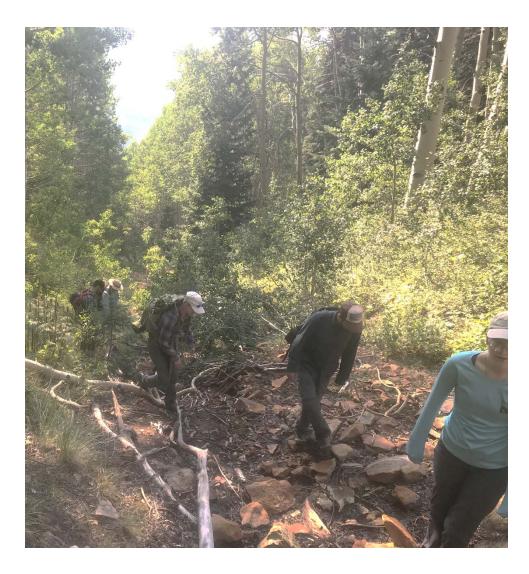












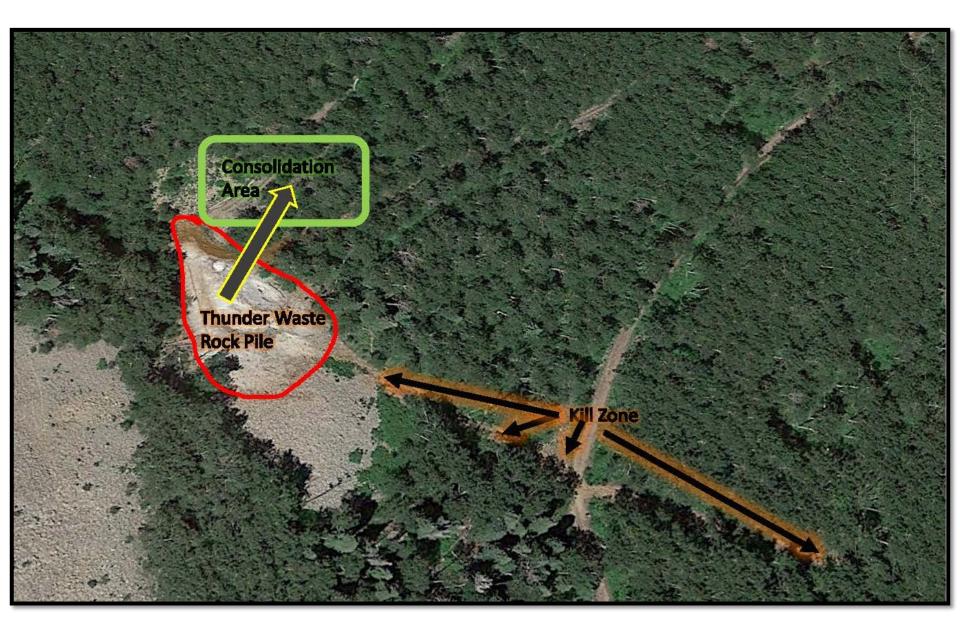






### Thunder Reclamation Options

- Route mine drainage off of the waste rock
- Consolidate the waste rock on site, out of the drainage swale and cap.



### Future Work

- Investigate a handful of additional mines and add to the report for the East Mancos.
- Investigate the South Fork of the West Mancos River (Owen Basin), including mine sites.
- Collect data and report out on the East and South Fork of the West Mancos mine sites for unplanned release characteristics.