Clear Creek / North Clear Creek Overview

- Highlight Past Improvements
- Discuss Feasibility Study & Record of Decision North Clear Creek
- Metals of Concern
 - Zinc, Copper, Manganese
 - Cadmium, Aluminum, Iron



The Upper Clear Creek Watershed and Superfund Study Area









Completed Remediation Efforts on Main Stem of Clear Creek

1994 - Present
 Mine Waste Pile
 Cleanups

 1998 - Argo Water Treatment Plant





Argo Tunnel







Downsteam Idaho Springs, Dis-Zn











Seasonal Hardness

Segment	High Flow May 1 Through August 31	Low Flow September 1 through April 30
North Clear Creek Segment 13b	80	184
Clear Creek Segment 11	53	103

Clear Creek Below Idaho Springs and at Golden Dissolved Zinc



Summary of Remedial Action Objectives

- North Clear Creek to Improve North Clear Creek
 - North Clear Creek is significantly impaired. Improvement of surface water quality to a point that is protective of aquatic life (i.e., <u>survival of a brown trout population</u>) is a goal of the OU4 remedy.
- North Clear Creek to Improve Clear Creek.
- Do not degrade drinking water supplies obtained from Clear Creek.
- Reduce the toxicity to aquatic insects by reducing metal in sediments.
- Control or reduce runoff from tailings/waste rock piles to reduce sediment loading of streams and ground water.
 - Sediment loading from the piles continues to degrade water quality and habitat in receiving streams, and may continue to limit habitat for aquatic life.

Low Flow













Priority Waste Piles

Pile	Remedial Action
Old Jordan	Remove (to Druid)
Niagra	Remove
Mattie May	Cap with Rock
Baltimore	Cap with Rock
Centennial	Remove
Pittsburgh	Cap with Rock
Upper Nevada Gulch Piles	Soil Cap and Revegetate (northern aspect)
Upper Nevada Gulch Piles	Cap with Rock (southern aspect)
Gregory Gulch No. 3	Remove
Argo	Cap with Rock
Druid	Soil Cap and Revegetate
Iroquois	Cap with Rock
Anchor	Soil Cap and Revegetate
Hazeltine	Soil Cap and Revegetate



Figure 54. Dissolved Zinc Concentration for Remedial Scenarios- Low Flow.



Figure 56. Dissolved Copper Concentration for Remedial Scenarios- Low Flow.



Figure 66. Dissolved Zinc Concentration for Remedial Scenarios- High Flow.

North Clear Creek Removal Needed Low Flow

Concentration/Mass Flux	Zinc (dissolved)	Copper (dissolved)	Cadmium (dissolved)	Manganese (dissolved)	Iron (total recoverable)	
	Current Low-Flow Conditions					
Concentration (µg/L)	1,657	15.5	6.0	3,579	7,856	
	Low-Flow Goals					
Concentration (µg/L)	675	15.1	3.5	2,021	5,400	
Load Reduction Required to Goals Under Low-Flow Conditions						
Percent Reduction	59%	2%	41%	44%	31%	

Alternatives Considered

- Alternative 1A & B
 No Action / Institutional Controls
- Alternative 2A & B
 Tier 1 Sediment Reduction (Tributaries and North Clear Creek)
- Alternative 3A, B & C Water Treatment at Argo, at New Plant in NCC, varying Tiers of Sediment Reduction

Alternative 4A & B

B Passive (Wetland Substrate), Combined Active and Passive Water Treatment with Tier 2 Sediment

Preferred Alternative (4B)

- Treatment of Gregory Incline and Gregory Gulch ground water at Bates Hunter
- Treatment of National Tunnel with a wetland
- Sediment Controls Detention ponds & mine waste capping on Russell & Gregory Gulch
- North Clear Creek improvements
 Cost 11.8 Million, \$900,000 / year operations





Low Flow

















Anticipated Load Reduction (NCC) Alternative 4B

Source Area	Percent Reduction in Loading for the Given Flow Regime		
	Low-Flow	High-Flow	
Gregory Incline	99%	85%	
National Tunnel	85%	85%	
Gregory Gulch	25%	45%	
Russell Gulch	20%	40%	
Chase Gulch	10%	5%	
Non-Point Sources	40%	40%	

Waste Pile	Remedial Action	Capped Surface Area (acres)	Volume Removed (cy)	Length of Channel Stabilization (ft)
Old Jordan	Remove (to Druid)		2,900	200
Mattie May	Rock Cap			
Baltimore	Rock Cap	10.0		2,700
Argo	Rock Cap	10.0		
Pittsburgh	Rock Cap			
Druid	Soil Cap	19.0		
Upper Nevada Gulch (South Aspect)	Rock Cap	16.5		4,800
Upper Nevada Gulch (North Aspect)	Soil Cap	16.5		
Gregory Gulch #3	Remove		3,700	300
Centennial	Remove		1,500	100
Niagra	Remove		5,600	200
Iroquois	Rock Cap	3.0		300
Hazeltine	Soil Cap	0.9		300
Anchor	Soil Cap	1.9		300
	Total	67.8	13,700	9,200

Provide Comments on the Proposed Plan



Next Steps

Public Comment 8/23

 Agencies consider comments and prepare a Record of Decision by 9/30/2004

