



NEWS RELEASE

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Milestone Reached on SH119 Main Street South Project in Black Hawk

Black Hawk, CO- The SH119 Main Street South Reconstruction project in Black Hawk is celebrating a major milestone. The project is a coalition whose major partners include CDOT, CDPHE, EPA and the Silver Dollar Metropolitan District. American Civil Constructors (ACC) has removed approximately 2000 cubic yards of mine waste from the north fork of Clear Creek. That amount includes virtually all of the materials which caused the section of stream to be a Superfund site. The waste, laden with heavy metals and mining residues from turn-of-the-century dredging and mining practices, was hauled by truck up to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment's Church Placer mine waste repository in Gilpin County. The waste material will be capped with clean dirt and graded and seeded. An additional 15,000 cubic yards of clean dirt and rock were hauled to the state regulated repository for use in future remediation projects.

During excavation, a historic mining shovel "excavator" was salvaged from the site and donated to the Nederland Museum of Mining History. The Museum has its "sister-shovel" in their collection and claim the excavator dates back to the 1920's.

The stream channel is also being reconstructed using clean material and has already begun carrying the flow of the north fork. Upon completion of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) mine drainage remediation project, it is anticipated that the stream will support aquatic life, including brown trout.

"Completing this part of the project marks a major milestone for the Main Street South reconstruction project. Once the CDPHE's treatment plant is built, visitors to Black Hawk will start to see a noticeable difference in the water quality in this branch of Clear Creek. The stream will literally be brought back to life." said Medill Barnes, Silver Dollar Metropolitan District.

The project, which started in November 2010, involves widening SH 119 from two to four lanes, beginning at the south end of Black Hawk and continuing south approximately ½ mile. Other aspects of the project include:

- New bridge over North Clear Creek, straightening a curved highway segment.
- New bike/pedestrian path and bridge.
- Creek side retaining walls and rock slope cuts.
- Intersection reconstruction at Douglas Mountain Drive, including new turn lanes.
- Paving six miles of SH 119 between the new widened section and the U.S. 6 junction

American Civil Constructors, Inc. of Littleton, Colo., is the prime contractor. The project is scheduled for completion in summer 2012.

About the North Clear Creek Valley Restoration Project:

CDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, CDPHE, EPA, the Silver Dollar Metropolitan District (SDMD), and a number of other agencies, have combined resources to mitigate mining impacts under Superfund, and to improve fish and wildlife habitat and transportation safety along the corridor. CDOT formed the North Clear Creek Mitigation Advisory Committee (NCCMAC) because some of the projects, especially mine cleanup, are administered by other state or federal agencies. NCCMAC has allowed various entities to share information and coordinate information gathering.