

## **Executive Summary**

### **Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Tiger and Dinero Tunnels Restoration**

The purpose of this Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (RP/EA) is to inform members of the public about, and solicit comments on, proposed restoration actions within the Lake Fork watershed which is tributary to the Arkansas River. The natural resource trustee agencies, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of Colorado, are proposing these actions to address public losses of natural resources caused by contamination from the California Gulch Superfund Site. These projects involve the Tiger and Dinero Tunnels; they have been the subject of previous announcements and public meetings. The trustees will consider comments received during the public comment period prior to developing the final RP/EA. The final RP/EA will include a summary of comments received and Trustee responses to those comments.

The proposed projects in this RP/EA cover work that would be performed at abandoned mine locations in the Lake Fork watershed to improve surface and groundwater quality, and restore aquatic and terrestrial resources. They would be a key step to enhance ecosystem health in the greater Arkansas River watershed, which was impacted by mine-related contamination. Specific projects included in the RP/EA include:

- The Tiger Tunnel waste rock dumps and acid-mine drainage pathway elimination
  - Installing hydrologic/run-on controls to divert clean water
  - Relocating and capping waste rock dumps in an on-site repository
- The Dinero Tunnel acid mine drainage pathway elimination project
  - Install a bulkhead within the Dinero Tunnel

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) public review is required and is an integral part of the Trustees' planning process\*. This Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Tiger and Dinero Tunnels Restoration will be available for public comments for 30 days. Written comments can be provided to:

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\* The Tiger and Dinero Tunnel actions are proposed for implementation now because it is most cost-effective to conduct them in the near term. The trustee agencies are currently scoping further restoration projects with the public and those projects will also be funded by natural resource damages settlement monies. A comprehensive Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Upper Arkansas River Basin will be prepared addressing all future actions.