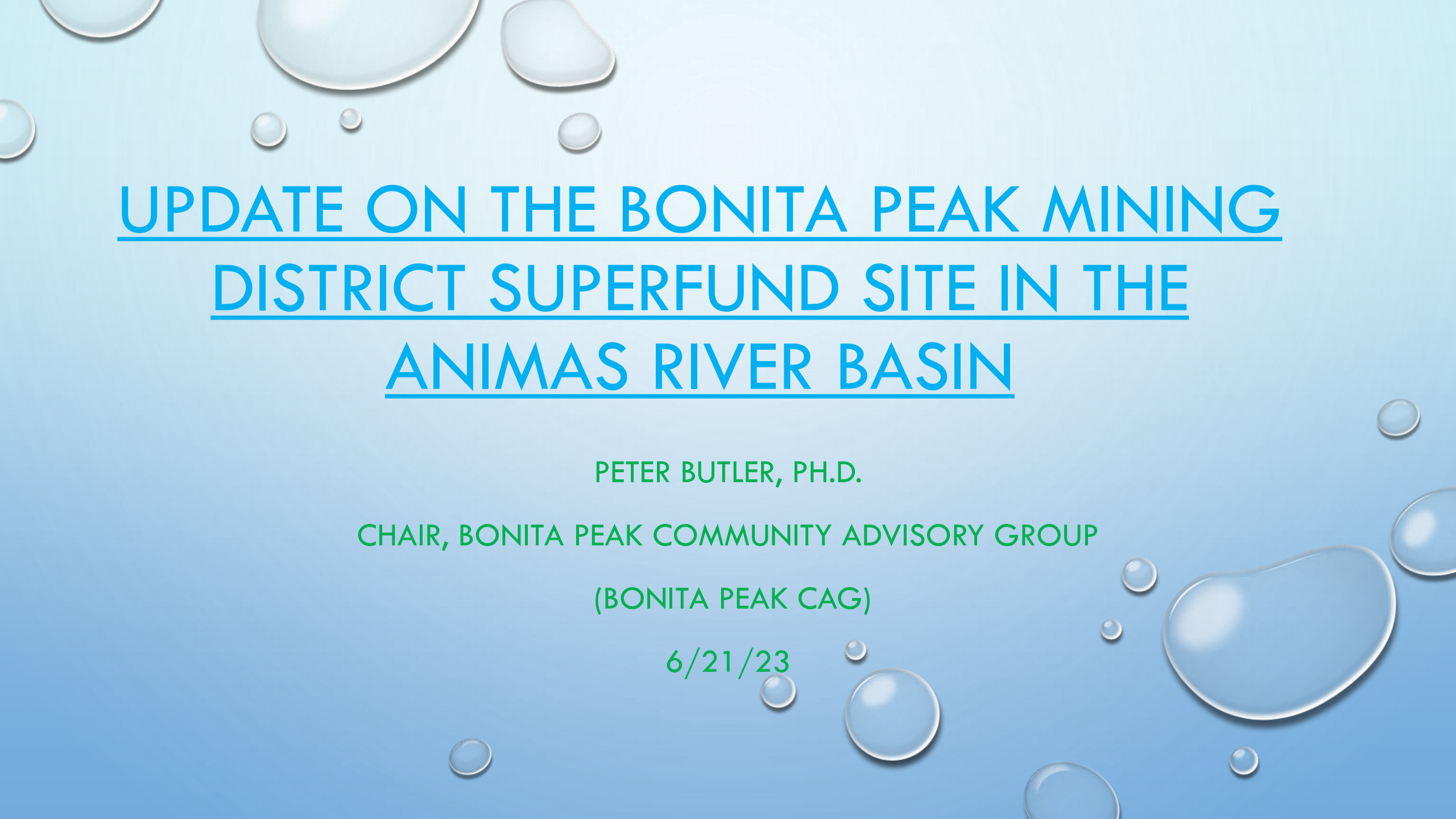


The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The main title is centered and underlined.

UPDATE ON THE BONITA PEAK MINING DISTRICT SUPERFUND SITE IN THE ANIMAS RIVER BASIN

PETER BUTLER, PH.D.

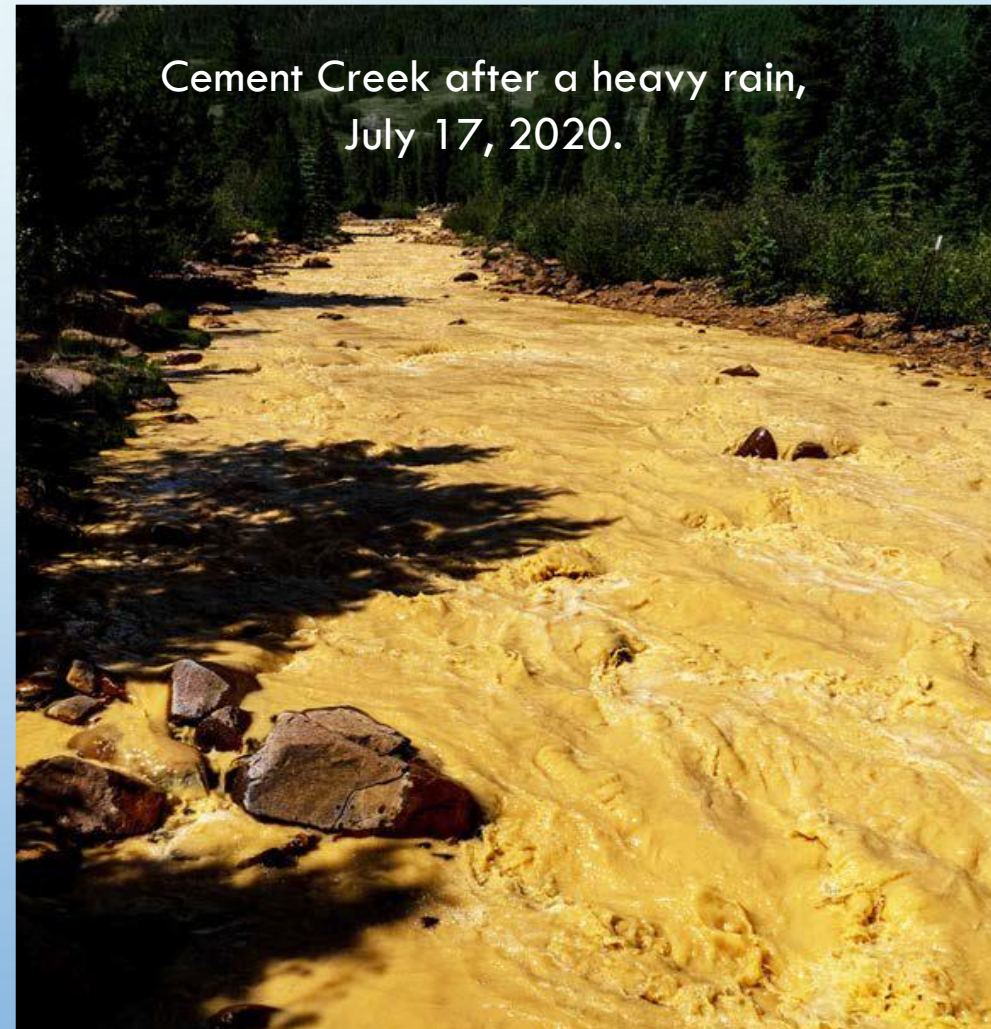
CHAIR, BONITA PEAK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

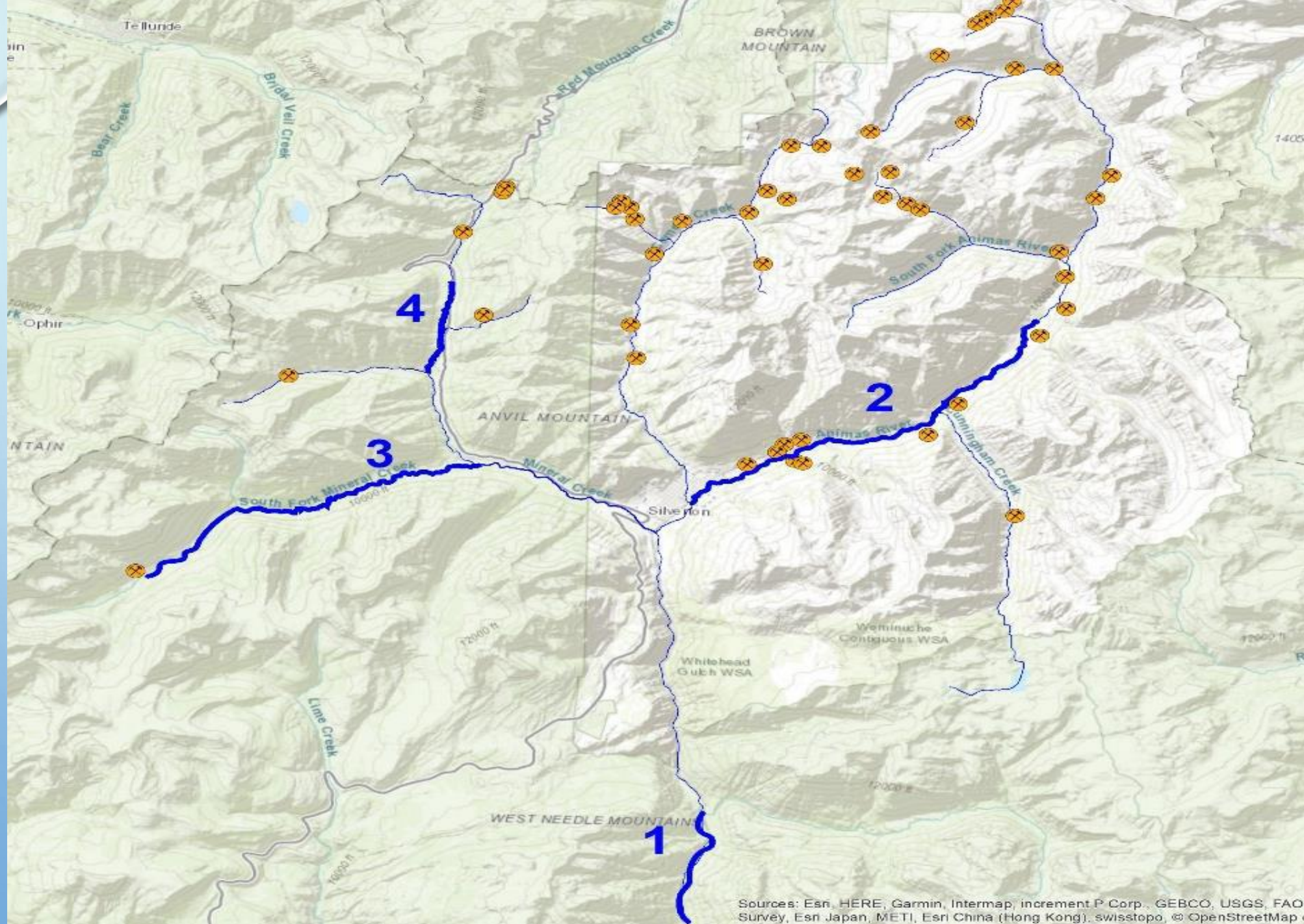
(BONITA PEAK CAG)

6/21/23

BONITA PEAK MINING DISTRICT (BPMD) SUPERFUND SITE

- DESIGNATED IN 2016, ONE YEAR AFTER THE GOLD KING MINE RELEASE.
- CONSISTS OF 46 MINE SITES AND TWO STUDY AREAS IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO.
- NO SET BOUNDARIES, EITHER OVERALL OR AROUND MINE SITES.
- THREE GENERAL SITE GOALS:
 - IMPROVE WATER QUALITY,
 - STABILIZE SOURCE AREAS, AND
 - MINIMIZE UNPLANNED RELEASES.





BONITA PEAK COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

- THE BONITA PEAK CAG HAS FIFTEEN LOCAL MEMBERS – FIVE FROM SILVERTON, NINE FROM AROUND DURANGO, AND ONE FROM FARMINGTON.
- THE CAG REPRESENTS A VARIETY OF INTERESTS AND MEMBERS ACT AS LIAISONS BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND EPA AND OTHER AGENCIES.
- WE HOLD MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETINGS.
- WE SAMPLE MONTHLY IN THE ANIMAS CANYON AND DO OUR OWN DATA ANALYSIS.
- PROPOSED THE ADDITION OF AN AQUATIC-LIFE USE DESIGNATION AND NEW WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ON A SECTION OF MINERAL CREEK.



SITE ACTIVITIES

- STABILIZATION PROJECTS
- DRILLING FROM LAKE EMMA TO THE SUNNYSIDE MINE POOL
- CONTINUED TREATMENT OF THE GOLD KING
- CONSIDERATION OF A NEW TREATMENT PLANT IN CEMENT CREEK
- STARTING THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS/FEASIBILITY STUDIES
- CONSTRUCTING A SITEWIDE REPOSITORY



CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAYFLOWER REPOSITORY HAS BEGUN.



POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP) SETTLEMENTS



- CERCLA LIABILITY SETTLEMENTS (FOR CLEANUP) AND NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGES SETTLEMENTS (FOR ACTUAL DAMAGES).
- MOST SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED. SOME WERE RELATED TO THE GOLD KING RELEASE, OTHERS WERE RELATED TO THE BPMD SUPERFUND SITE.
- THE LARGEST WAS SUNNYSIDE GOLD CORP. VS THE UNITED STATES (\$90 MILLION)

BIG PICTURE SUMMARY

- FOR THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE GOLD KING RELEASE (2015), EPA SPENT ~\$30 MILLION IN RESPONSE.
- SINCE THE SUPERFUND DESIGNATION (2016), EPA HAS SPENT AN ADDITIONAL ~\$85 MILLION.
- THIS YEAR ANOTHER ~\$20-\$25 MILLION WILL BE SPENT.
- SO BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, INCLUDING MONIES SPENT BY SUNNYSIDE GOLD, FS AND BLM, ABOUT \$160 MILLION WILL HAVE BEEN SPENT SINCE THE GOLD KING RELEASE.
- OTHER THAN THE TREATMENT OF THE GOLD KING MINE DRAINAGE, NO PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED THAT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE WATER QUALITY.

QUESTIONS?

