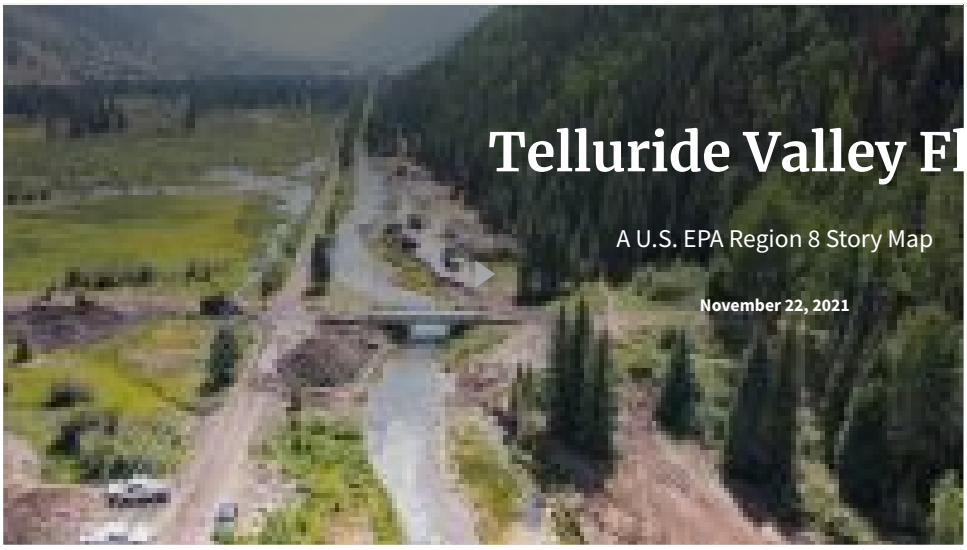
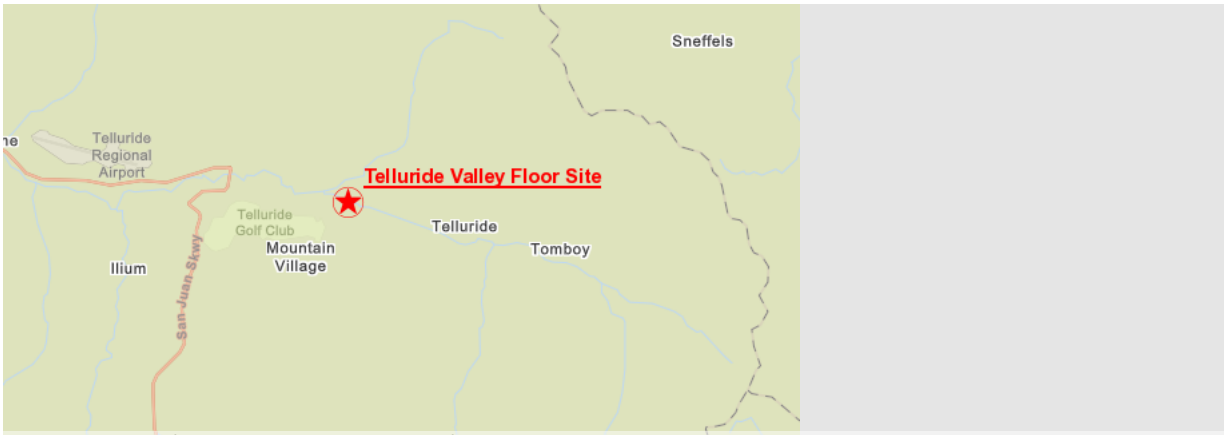


Overview

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with U.S. Forest Service, is conducting a joint Removal Action at the Telluride Valley F Site, which is located in Telluride, CO.



Site Location Map

EPA is the lead agency conducting the cleanup and has assigned Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Joni Sandoval, to oversee field activities. T Removal Action will be conducted in 2 phases. Phase 1 was an Emergency Response to stabilize eroding tailings in the San Miguel River, as provide dust and erosion control in an area closed off by signage containing mill tailings, that is frequently trespassed by bikers and trail pa Phase 1 was conducted in November 2020. The Phase 2 Time Critical Removal Action is being conducted to mitigate the remaining tailings pose a threat to human health and the environment and is currently underway.

This Story Map will provide an up to date summary of work progress during the Phase 2 Time Critical Removal Action.

Background

Phase 1

The Site is mixed ownership (small area of Town Property with mostly Federal lands) and was referred to the Environmental Protection Age (EPA) by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), due to resource and budgeting constraints in Fall of 2020. The EPA attended a Site Visit with the USI

Town of Telluride, and Trout Unlimited to conduct a visual Site Evaluation, as well as gain familiarity with the assessment done by the USFS prior years. Tailings were visibly sloughing off into the San Miguel River and being stirred up by bikers and trail users who did not heed war signs along the River. The OSC personally observed multiple recreators passing through the area in a short time, including a gentleman wit baby in a bicycle seat on a bike riding through tailings. The tailings contain high levels of lead on average between 2,000-10,000 ppm, altho some areas contain levels up to 100,000 ppm. Arsenic is also above the acceptable exposure limits.

Site Layout

Actions completed as part of Phase 1 included:

- Installation of erosion controls to mitigate runoff from the excavation and stockpile operations.
- Removed up to 3,000 cubic yards of tailing and stabilized/armored bank area.
- Installed a low water crossing for moving equipment and material.
- Stabilized hike/bike area by placing a thin cap of gravel over the tailings.
- Placed barriers around contaminated areas, until mitigated or cleaned up.
- Hauled excavated contaminated material to state-designated, responsible party-owned on-site repository.

Completed North Riverbank Lining and Arm

Installed Drainage Controls

Overview of Activities at TVF Boomerang Road Site

Phase 2

Site objectives of Phase 2 include:

- Protect human health and the environment by performing a Time-Critical Removal Action of old mill tailings containing high levels of le and arsenic.
- Health and Safety of the public and workers on-site.
- Communication with stakeholders including the community.
- Keep open recreational trails by rerouting trails around the work zone.
- Ensure dust suppression is performed with water trucks on-site to mitigate exposure to human health and the environment, as well as there are no off-site impacts such as wind migration.
- Safely transport and unload tailings at the repository for consolidation, treatment, and ongoing storage at the state permitted and regu Idarado tailings piles 5/6.
- Ensure no contamination is tracked off site of the Valley Floor or Repository.
- Provide air sampling and particulate monitoring upwind, in Town, and on-site at the repository to ensure there are no airborne tailings transport.
- Restore the river and Valley Floor back to its original conditions.

To view an overview of activities that are expected to be completed onsite, please watch the videos below.

TVF Boomerang Road Removal action

TVF Boomerang Road Removal Plan Updates Based on Community Feedback

Telluride Valley Floor/Boomerang Road Time-Critical Removal Action Site Work Update

Operational Objectives

The objectives during this 2-week operational period (11/08/21 - 11/22/21) were as follows:

1. Monitored and controlled recreational traffic around the work zone.
2. Kept stakeholders informed of EPA removal actions.
3. Created and emphasized a safe and efficient work zone for EPA crews.
4. Continued to excavate the borrow source for clean backfill material.
5. Continue to haul backfill material sourced from Colorado Department of Transportation.
6. Completed excavation and hauling of tailings in ST1, ST2, ST3 and NTN.
7. Completed backfill operations in ST1, ST2, ST3 and NTN.
8. Ensured daily data management functions are up to date to ensure accurate website reporting.

Current Activities

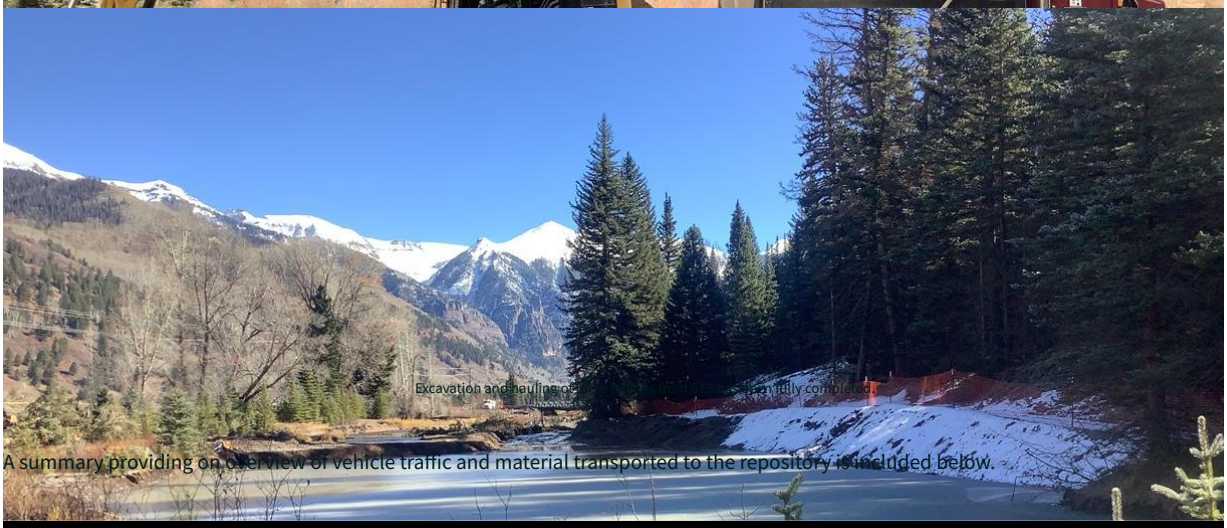
During the Current Operational Period, the weather during the mornings was in the low to mid 20s and in the afternoon it was in the mid 4(mostly clear skies. The total volume excavated by area is available on the GIS Dashboard in the Links Section. The Team completed the foll activities during this 2-week operational period:

- Maintained additional site security measures to prevent the public from entering the exclusion zone.
- Additional investigatory areas of tailings were screened and evaluated for potential removal on the Site footprint. Tailings areas were redefined and expanded and are available on the Map Viewer.
- 100% completion of excavation/hauling in location ST1, ST2, ST3 and NTN.
- Continued hauling backfill soil from borrow source and CDOT sourced material.
- Completed backfill operations in tailings locations ST1, ST2, ST3 and NTN.
- Seed and rake tailings locations ST1, ST2, ST3 and NTN.
- Restore river trail with no detours, restrictions, or limitations
- Remove any debris or trash found in the removal area.
- Updated the Telluride Valley Floor Site Update page with photographs depicting the removal activities to date.
- Continued development of stream restoration plans to return the river to a more natural state.
- Stream restoration engineer continue doing on-site work to prepare for restoration operations.
- Monitored road conditions outside the repository to verify no contamination left the repository foot print from EPA activities.
- Prepare for demobilization until the next operational period.

Mine tailings from ST1 South have been fully excavated. The area has also been completely backfilled with clean material.

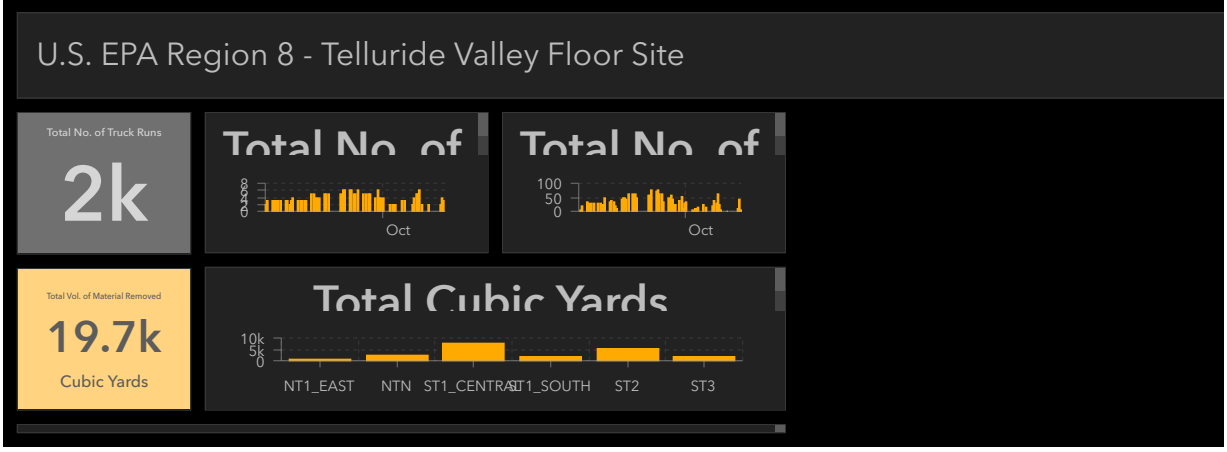
Excavation of ST3 is approximately 90% complete. The operator has piled up the excavated tailings in order to load dump trucks more efficiently.

Excavator loads dump truck at source to load dump truck with clean backfill material.



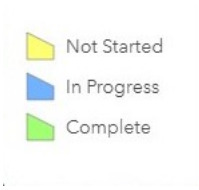
Excavation and hauling of [illegible] is now fully completed.

A summary providing an overview of vehicle traffic and material transported to the repository is included below.



Truck Load Dashboard

Excavation progress from the tailings piles is displayed here. The tailings areas are depicted in yellow to indicate that excavation progress h yet started, blue to indicate that excavation is in progress, and green indicates it is is complete.



Safety Issues

EPA will adhere to all CDC and local recommendations pertaining to COVID-19 during the site work.

EPA will adhere to all construction and hazardous substance safety best management practices.

EPA and contractor crews will adhere to dedicated speed limits for all EPA truck traffic through town, monitor any potential community im and redirect recreators outside the exclusion zone.

All site personnel will operate with an added level of safety in mind due to the conditions caused by the presence of snow.

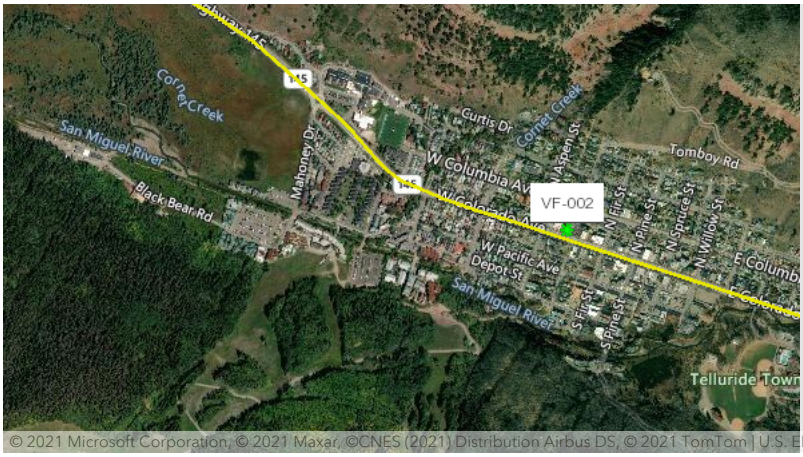
A safety stand down will occur for 30 minutes if lightning strikes near the work site.

Winter driving is in full effect due to slick and icy road conditions.

Planned Activities

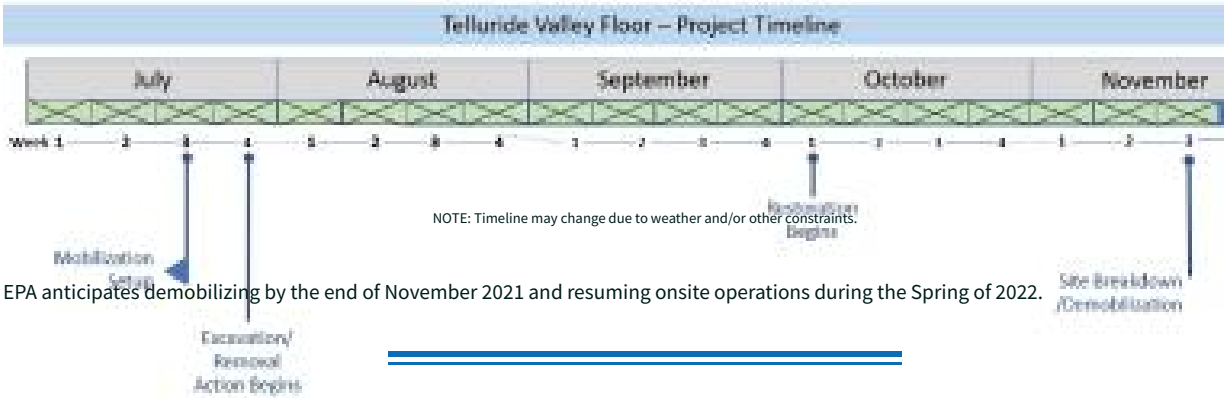
The next operational period is planned for the spring/summer of 2022. Until then, the EPA site team plans to:

1. Keep stakeholders informed of EPA removal actions.
2. Continue to create a safe and efficient work zone for EPA crews and the community.
3. Ensure data management functions are up to date to ensure accurate website reporting.
4. Put in place the on-site groundwork for stream restoration operations to begin.
5. Continue stream restoration engineering design
6. Demobilize crews and equipment from the Site for Winter/Spring on 11/20/2021.



Work Areas, Air Monitoring, and Vehicle Route

Timeline



NOTE: Timeline may change due to weather and/or other constraints.

EPA anticipates demobilizing by the end of November 2021 and resuming onsite operations during the Spring of 2022.

Map Viewer

A map viewer can be accessed by clicking the button below.

Map Viewer

More Information

Truck loading operations in ST2.

Loader operating in the ST1 excavation area.

Tailings excavation at ST1.

Archived StoryMaps from previous operational periods can be found on the Documents Section of the EPA website.

Archived Story Maps

More information can be found on the EPA website. Please click the button below to connect to the EPA website.

EPA Website