

Society Turn Tailings Pile 1 (ST-1) Remediation and San Miguel River Restoration Project Monthly Update-July 2020

The ST-1 Remediation and San Miguel River Restoration Project consists of three primary activities; 1) establishing new channel realignments away from tailings areas; 2) removal of tailings in areas south of current river and placement into a consolidation areas; 3) capping tailings and consolidated tailings areas, and backfilling of the abandon river channels, with native material sourced on-site from unnatural, manmade berms (restoring the natural landscape and eliminating the need for substantial material import).

Project Status (Period of June 28 - July 28)

1. Approximately 60% of the new river channel sections has been constructed (see Figure 1).
2. Berms 1, 3, 4 and 5 have been removed entirely and Berms 2 and 6 have been removed 80% and 60% respectively for tailings cap and fill material.
3. Tailings have been removed from Area A and placed in the Tailings Consolidation Area 1. Removal Area A backfilled with clean native soils and remaining tailings in Area A have been capped (recent heavy rain and associated river flow has not inundated Removal Area A or Tailings Consolidation Area 1).

Notes:

- River closure was put into effect on July 13, 2020 for public safety as part of construction operations.
- Occasional instream turbidity is due to project activities within the existing river channel and will occasionally be visible throughout the duration of the project. Turbidity is inevitable and a routine process of river restoration work, however the turbidity is not mobilization of tailings within the river.

Project Background

The project is part of a 1992 Consent Decree between the State of Colorado (State) and the Idarado Mining Company (Idarado) which outlines a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) (Figure 2) to be implemented as a result of natural resource damages from mining operations. Over the past several years the Town of Telluride, as the current property owner, has worked to develop a more comprehensive and naturalized remediation plan that provides additional protection of human health and the environment when compared to the remedial activities outlined in the original RAP. Figure 2 depicts the original RAP.

The presence of tailings as sediment and bank material along the San Miguel River degrades water quality, creating poor conditions for aquatic life, riparian and terrestrial habitat, and could pose a direct threat to public exposure. The primary purpose of the project is to remediate deposited mine tailings to protect public health and the environment.

The project has been authorized by Clean Water Act Department of Army Nationwide Permit 38, Colorado Department of Health and Environment Discharge Permit, Town of Telluride, Colorado Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division and the State of Colorado Attorney General's Office.

FIGURE 1. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT WORK PLAN

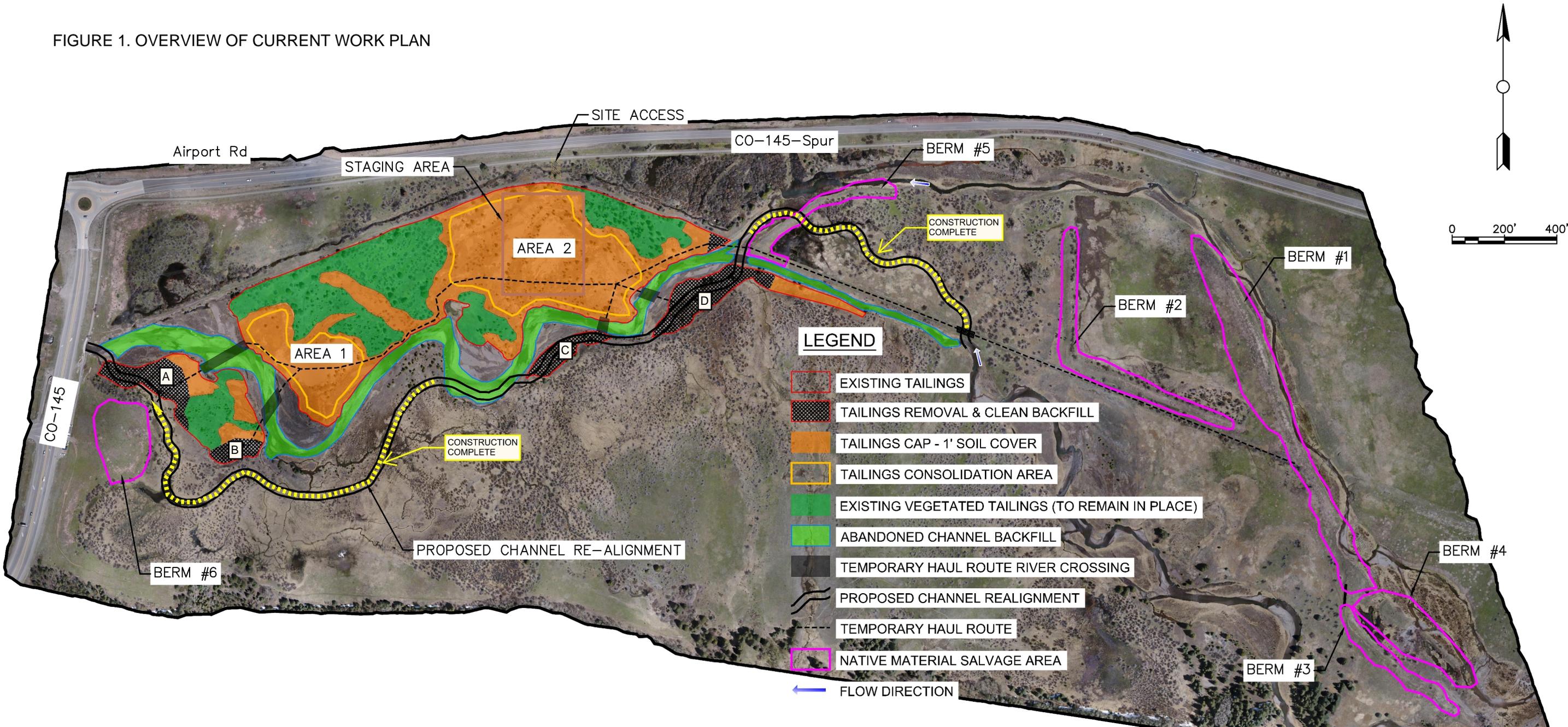


FIGURE 2. ORIGINAL REMEDIATION ACTION PLAN

