



## State of Colorado-CDPHE Abandoned Mine Impacts

Colorado Municipal League  
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## Agenda



- ◆ Overview: Water Quality Control Division
- ◆ Gold King overview...where and what happened?
- ◆ Involvement since spill...long term monitoring
- ◆ Lessons learned
- ◆ Where to go from here...work with local/other states/tribes and federal partners



## Water Quality Control Division



*"Protect and restore water quality for public health and the environment in Colorado."*




## CDPHE/WQCD Involvement



**Local Support**

- Support local public health agencies (San Juan Basin Health Department and San Juan County Public Health)
- Work with local government/states/tribes



**Water Quality Monitoring**

- Notify public water systems
- Health recommendations- people, livestock, wildlife
- Sample and monitor before, during, after



**Communications**

- Create information for public
- Respond to media
- Stakeholder outreach



## Lessons Learned

- ◆ Need for sampling & analysis protocols for variety of incident types - fire, flood, spills.
- ◆ Deployment box - sampling ready with resupply capability.
- ◆ Inter-agency protocol for establishing health recommendations.
- ◆ Consolidation of data - data gap analysis.

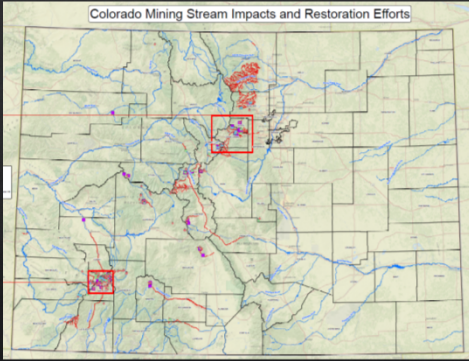


*"To reduce the risk of another release like Gold King, we are developing a statewide inventory of draining mines to prioritize for clean-up." State of State 2016*



### Mine Impacted Stream Task Force

- 23,000 mine features throughout state.
- Data gap analysis Ongoing with CGS.
- Coordinating with research entities.
- Coordinating with all regulatory entities.
- Need greater outreach with local/state/tribal partners.



### Regulatory Framework

- Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act - State delegated authority.
- Colorado Water Quality Control Commission Regulations.
- Division permitting policy.
- Good Samaritan legislation.
- Resourcing / Next steps???



*"When we recognize a threat to our natural environment, we need to take action. Last summer's Gold King Mine spill showed us what can happen when abandoned mines with environmental or safety issues are not properly remediated." State of State 2016*



### Questions?

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