

San Juan Mining & Reclamation Field Tours

Friday, September 25



Tips

- Please dress in layers and be prepared for cold, wet and windy weather.
- Wear appropriate walking shoes - only fully enclosed shoes are allowed (no sandals).
- Full-length pants and long sleeves are required - no shorts are allowed.
- Eye protection in the form of glasses or clear eye shields are recommended.
- Ability to walk over uneven ground, up steps, and over obstacles is required.
- Helmets will be provided at the site.
- 6' physical distancing is required outdoors and masks are required indoors.
- Bring plenty of water and sunscreen and/or sun hat. The high elevation can dehydrate you quickly, especially if you are coming in from sea level.

The elevation will vary as will the temperatures and the driving/walking surfaces will be rocky.

Ophir Tour Loop

Meeting Location - Park & Ride Lot near Society Turn Conoco Station

The Ophir Area Field Trips will visit the Carribeau mine site and the Matterhorn Mill site. The Carribeau mill and adit site at the entrance to Ophir was reclaimed by the Forest Service, EPA, conservation groups and landowners from the early 2000s to 2019 to improve water quality in the Howards Fork of the San Miguel River. Joni Sandoval of the EPA will describe how the project was implemented including rerouting drainage from the adit around the tailings, and removal of approximately 150,000 cubic yards of tailings and over 14,000 cubic yards of rock waste.

At the Matterhorn Mill, a few miles southwest on Highway 145 from Ophir, a project stabilized the mill building, improving its structural integrity and is in the process of remediating the mining waste and tailings piles. Camille Price who was formerly with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Jeff Litteral of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety will explain how the the U.S. Forest Service and San Miguel County are collaborating on this historic preservation of the mill and adjacent property to sustain the site for public enjoyment and education.



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Valley Floor

Meeting Location - Lawson Hill Park and Ride

DIRECTIONS: From downtown Telluride, drive west on Colorado Ave/HWY 145 spur. Continue straight until the traffic circle and drive south on HWY 145. Turn right at Society Turn Conoco station. Drive past it and please park at the Lawson Hill Park and Ride (it is on the same side of the road just past the Conoco). The tour will meet in parking lot.

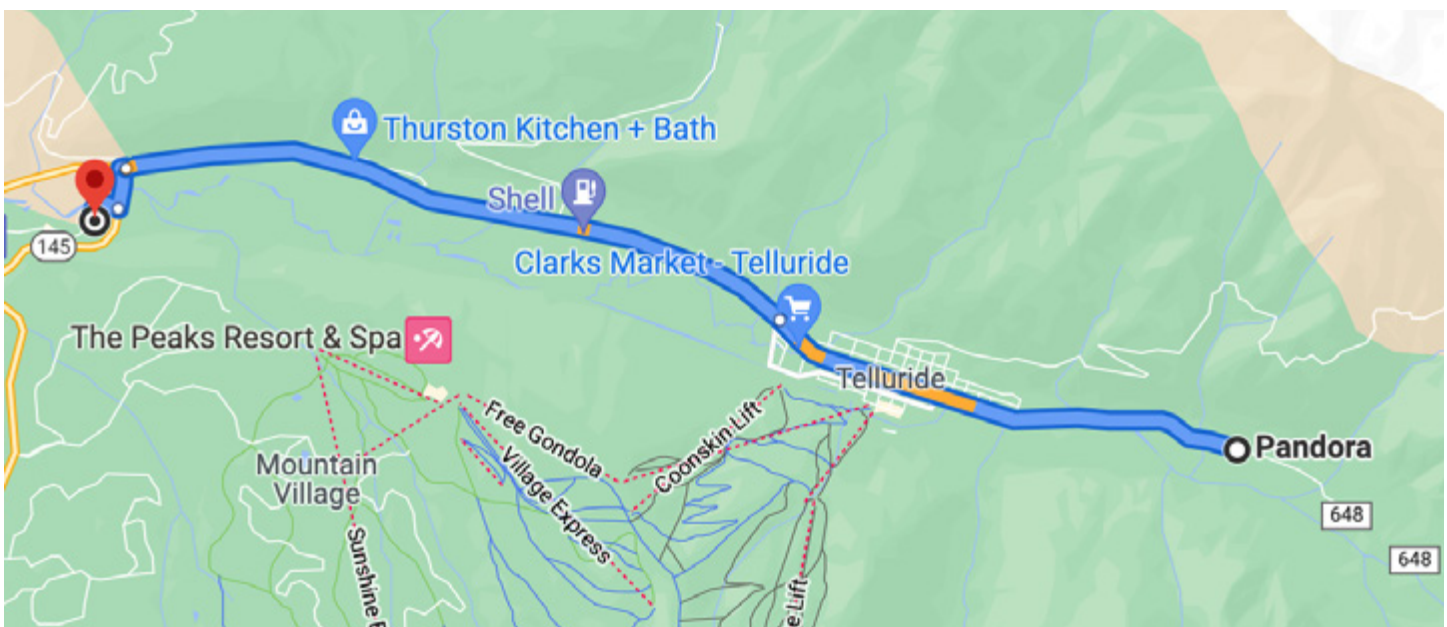
The Valley Floor tour will examine the 2020 ST 1 Project to realign the San Miguel River away from historic Idarado tailings and cap the tailings. The realignment of the river also ensured the tailings are no longer in the San Miguel's floodplain. Conference attendees will park in Lawson Hill Park and Ride and take the Galloping Goose trail (across from the Conoco) under HWY 145 to the Valley Floor where they will meet their tour guides and representatives from SJMRC. The project was completed by ERC and the tour is being led by Lance McDonald, Town of Telluride Program Director.

Pandora Mill

Second Meeting Location - Pandora Mill Yard

DIRECTIONS: From downtown Telluride, drive east on Colorado Avenue/HWY 145, continuing past Pandora Mill building and the Bridal Vail trail parking lot. Continue up the country road up to the first switch back and through the green gate. We will be parking at the portal level.

We will enter the Idarado Mine through the Mill Level Tunnel entrance to visit a newly completed flow-control bulk-head constructed to manage flows from the mine. The structure is designed to serve as a regulator valve to manage fluctuations in flow which can change daily. Devon Horntvedt, Newmont's Director of Colorado Legacy Site Management, will lead the tour. It is expected to take 30-45 minutes.



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Deep Creek Mine- Free Open House for All

11:00-1:00

Meeting Location - Deep Creek Mine

Deep Creek Experimental is an artist-mine collaboration that is repurposing an old mine quarry for redevelopment as an artist cooperative and light industrial creation space. Deep within one of the tunnels, artist Johannes Girardoni has created Chromasonic – Fluid State as a site-specific light and sound installation by Chromasonic, a studio and research lab founded by Johannes Girardoni Studio with sound artists and musicians Orpheo McCord and Joel Shearer. Chromasonic explores fundamental relationships between light and sound. Created for Deep Creek Mine, Telluride, CO, the 60-foot long installation is situated in the mine's longest shaft, a pitch-black space the length of a football field. In the heart of the mountain, Chromasonic – Fluid State is the site's only source of light.



This stop on the tours is open to all conference participants (no charge) as a lunch stop and open house. Bring a sack lunch and your water bottle to enjoy this unique mine-art collaboration.

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Directions: The mine is about 8 miles from Telluride. Head West on Highway 145 and take a right on Deep Creek Road. Follow the road past the houses, and look for the sign to park at the bottom along the road. From there, walk up the driveway to the mine. Please wear sturdy shoes and warm clothes. It will take about 10 minutes each way to walk. If you need a ride up the driveway, please let a SJMRC committee member know in advance. Cell service is spotty. [See Google Map.](#)

Silver Bell Grande Finale & BBQ

Silver Bell Mine, Ophir Loop, [Silver Bell Mine](#), HWY 145

DIRECTIONS: There is NO access from Ophir Road. Turn to gravel lot off Hwy 145 - 1/8 mile south pass Ophir Road.

The Silver Bell Mine, located just outside Ophir, Colorado, is a historic mill and assay office purchased by MD, Famous Artist. Together with agencies and partners, they have cleaned up and transformed the mine into a gallery and show space for the public to enjoy legacy mining history and modern creativity. MD invites conference attendees to attend the Silver Bell Tour, Art Show, and Conference Grand Finale intimate event to tour the facility and witness the lavish artworks of two artists on site. The two artists are [MD](#) and [Brooke Einbender](#). A complimentary BBQ for those who can attend the tour and show after Friday's tours.

Please join us at this unique venue that embodies the intersection of legacy mining, reclamation, and the arts.

