

SITE UPDATE
September 5, 2017

Site (SSID): Bullion Canyon (A8K8)
On Scene Coordinator: Martin McComb
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response.epa.gov/BullionCanyon

I. SITE PROFILE

Gold was discovered in 1865 at the base of what is now known as Bullion Canyon near Marysvale, Piute County, Utah. These placer deposits were traced upstream and the Ohio Mining District was formed. By 1869, the camps of Bullion City, Webster City and Virginia City were established and the first of several mills was constructed in the canyon. Mining continued in the canyon until approximately 1938. Mill tailings containing lead and other heavy metals have been discovered in two campgrounds west of Marysvale along Bullion Canyon Road: Fireman's Park and the Bully Boy camping area.

The objectives of this response effort are to:

1. Remove hot spots from Fireman's Park and consolidate this soil with material at the Bully Boy camping area.
2. Cap and revegetate the remaining contaminated soil at Fireman's Park.
3. Cap and revegetate contaminated soil at the Bully Boy Camping Area and permanently close the area to future camping.

II. SITE EVALUATION

Fireman's Park is a formal group campground and day use area managed by the Town of Marysvale that is 3.5 miles west of town near the historic Bullion Mill. The Bully Boy camping area is an informal camping area frequently used by local residents that is 6.2 miles west of town near the historic Bully Boy Mill. Utah's Department of Environmental Quality assessed both campgrounds, discovered elevated levels of lead and heavy metals and referred the Site to EPA's Response Unit.

Fireman's Park

EPA collected surface (0") and subsurface (0-6") soil samples from each individual campsite as well as the common areas in Fireman's Park. Laboratory results indicated that the three campsites to the east have concentrations of both lead and mercury in the surface and subsurface samples that exceed EPA's Residential Screening Level

(RSL). There are also slightly elevated levels of both lead and mercury in subsurface samples from the common areas (see below).

ID	Description	Lead (mg/kg)			Mercury (mg/kg)		
		RSL	Surface	Subsurface	RSL	Surface	Subsurface
5	Campsite	400	5330	6910	11	149	228
6	Campsite		1070	2210		29	57
7	Campsite		2700	7620		100	312
8	Common Areas		137	528		1	14

Bully Boy camping area

EPA found at least two historic tailing impoundments down gradient of the historic Bully Boy Mill. These tailing impoundments no longer hold water and semi-permanent camps have developed on top of the remnant deposits. The camps have been used by locals each summer season for decades. UDEQ collected five samples from the first six inches of surface soil in this area, and the laboratory results for lead in mg/kg were: 3780, 7750, 7760, 12,700 and 19,600. EPA's Residential Screening Level (RSL) for lead in soil is 400 mg/kg.

III. SITE ACTIVITIES

A. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Fireman's Park

Fireman's Park was temporarily closed to facilitate construction and restoration activities. Approximately 50 cubic yards of contaminated material was excavated to remove hot spots and achieve the appropriate drainage at the Site. All excavated material was transported to the Bully Boy Camping Area and added to the material that was capped in that location. The contaminated soil in the eastern end of the park was capped with at least 12 inches of non-contaminated material. Proper drainage and erosion control features were constructed and all areas in the removal zone were be restored and re-vegetated to support future camping and day use activities.

Bully Boy Camp

The area was permanently closed to camping and off-road vehicle use using large rocks and boulders. The soils in and near the Bully Boy Camping Area was re-graded and capped with at least 12 inches of non-contaminated material. Proper drainage and erosion control features were constructed and all areas in the removal zone were be restored and re-vegetated.

B. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Time-Critical Removal Action is now complete. Fireman's Park will reopen for use and the Bully Boy Camp will remain closed to camping. Property owners will maintain the vegetation and restoration of both properties.