

Park Mine Indian Creek Restoration Project, Broadwater County

Abandoned Mine Lands

July 2015

Background

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is issuing this update to keep you informed about upcoming construction activities in the Elkhorn Mountains. In August 2015, Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) will start restoration activities at Park Mine. Park Mine is located in the Helena National Forest, 12 miles west of Townsend, MT on Indian Creek Road. Historically, several mines were developed within the Indian Creek Mining District, including the Gold Dust, Little Annie, Bullion King, Park/New Era, and Venezuela Mines.



View of dam looking southwest.

Previous reclamation activities were completed at the Park Mine site in 1997 and 1998. The purpose of the reclamation project included limiting human, livestock, wildlife, and environmental exposure to heavy metals present in surface soils at the site. The reclamation was also designed to reduce the mobility of the contaminants to limit potential impacts to local surface water and groundwater resources. The reclamation project involved consolidation of tailings and waste rock dumps in a mine waste repository. Several waste rock dumps were regraded in-place, covered with clean topsoil and revegetated.



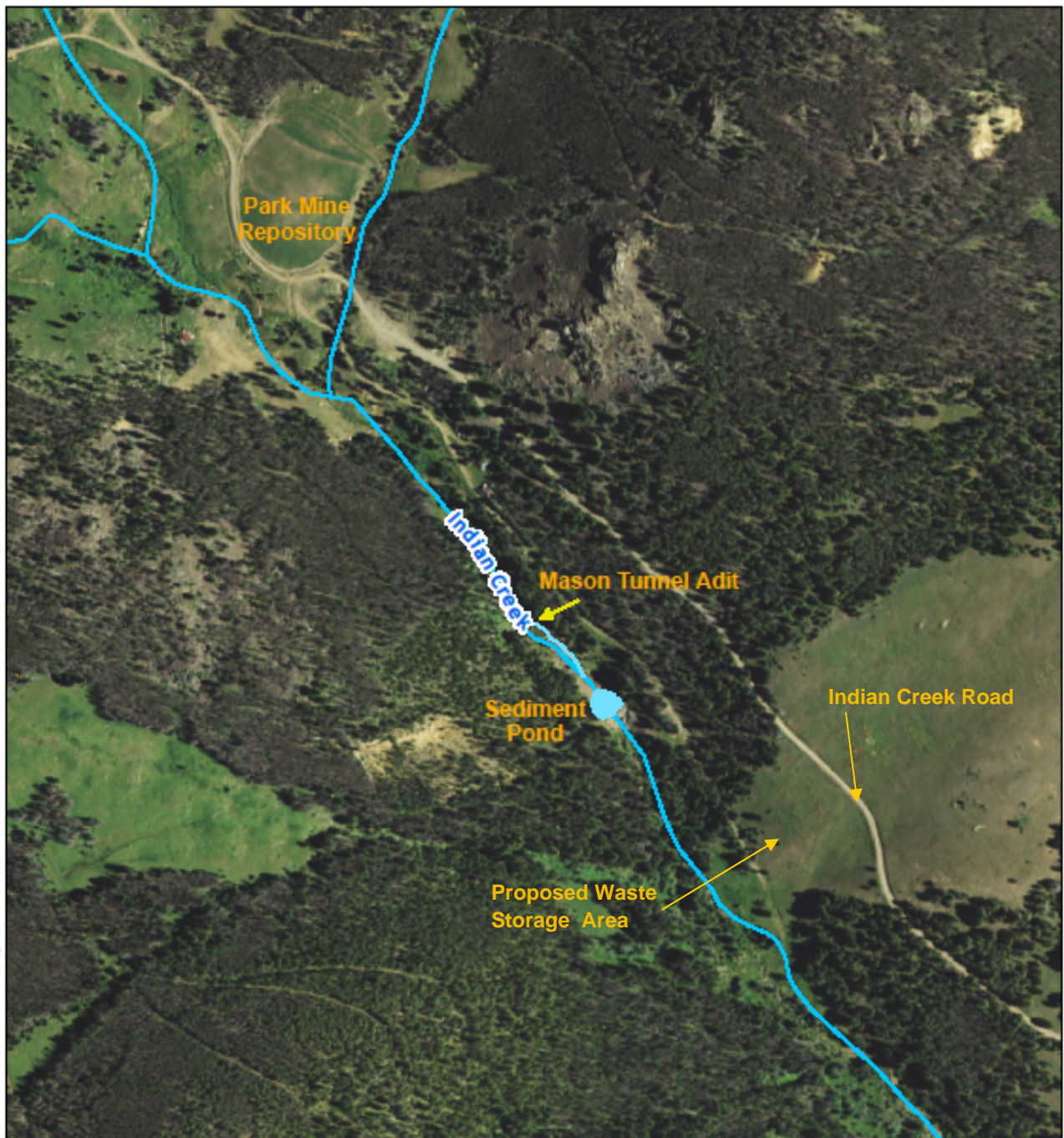
View of sediment pond from Mason Adit looking south.

In 1988, a pond was improved in the mine impacted area of the Mason tunnel as a "dip site" by the U.S. Forest Service when it was fighting fires in the Elkhorn Mountains. A roadway prism was improved across Indian Creek downstream of a sediment pond. The pond includes two corrugated culvert outlets. The pond was not included in the reclamation activities completed in 1997 and 1998. It was left in place to serve as a temporary sediment control structure while the upstream work stabilized. Substantial erosion of the downstream face of the prism has occurred, prompting the need to remove the dam and sediments and complete restoration of Indian Creek. This effort will eliminate the potential for release of the sediment from the failure of the dam, and protect the downstream reclamation completed in 1997.

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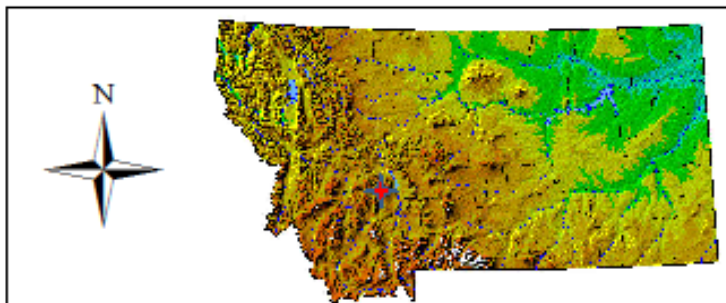


Figure 1
Park Mine
Indian Creek
Restoration Project
Broadwater County, Montana

0 125 250 500 750 1,000
Feet

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Sediment Pond Removal and Indian Creek Restoration

The preferred alternative for reclamation of the sediment pond and restoration of Indian Creek is the removal of the dam, disposal of the impounded sediments, and restoration of the stream channel. The project includes construction of a disposal area, excavation of waste material in and adjacent to Indian Creek, placement of the excavated sediment and dam material in the disposal area, regrading and covering waste material with cover soil, and restoration of Indian Creek to its original condition.

Schedule

DEQ will begin construction activities at Park Mine in August 2015. Initial activities will be limited to diverting water from Indian Creek and the Mason Tunnel Adit to below the dam in order to dewater the sediments located behind the dam. Dewatering the sediments will assist in follow-up excavation and disposal. Major construction activities (construction of the disposal area, removal of the sediment and dam materials, and restoration of Indian Creek) will begin in September 2015 and will be completed by the end of October 2015. Additional plantings and weed treatment may be required in 2016.

Questions? Concerns?

Contact:

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Information Located At:

Department of Environmental Quality
Abandoned Mine Lands
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Helena, MT
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[http://deq.mt.gov/AbandonedMines/
CurrentProjects.mcp](http://deq.mt.gov/AbandonedMines/CurrentProjects.mcp)

Comments are due 30 days after the EA is posted to the website. Comments may be mailed or submitted by email. Comments will not be taken over the phone.

County Commissioners Meeting

Date: Monday, July 13, 2015

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: Broadwater County Courthouse
515 Broadway St.
Townsend, Montana

DEQ will share information about upcoming work at the Facility, including a brief overview of the planned construction activities.