Remediation and Restoration of the Richardson Flat Tailings Pond in Park City, Utah

A Cooperative and Successful Effort



Richardson Flat

- Sits on about 570 acres 2 miles NE of Park City, Utah
- Study area is 260 acres
- Located adjacent to Silver Creek at the south end of a 6 mile long valley
- Currently on the Jordanelle-Rockport and Echo Reservoir flyway
- Important component of Silver Creek ecosystem



Richardson Flat

- Tailings pond for over 60 years.
- Regulatory scrutiny started in about 1984.
- United Park started covering project in 1983
- Elevated levels of zinc and cadmium in surface water (2 ppm Zn)
- Sediments over 5000 ppm lead







Silver Creek Watershed Stakeholder Process

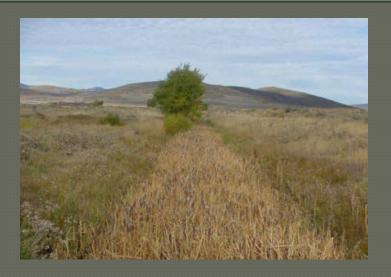
- Started in 1999 to look holistically at Watershed
- Federal, State and local Agencies as well as landowners are stakeholders
- NRD focus early in process.



Richardson Flat Focused RI/FS

- AOC for a PRP lead Focused RI/FS signed in September of 1999 by EPA and UPCM
- HHRA no issues for recreational use
- Ecological Risk Assessment 500 ppm lead for upland and 310 ppm lead – wetland as PRG's
- 18" of cover if contamination levels over 500 ppm and 12" of gravel in diversion ditch as primary remedial objectives
- NRD issues discussed at Watershed meetings and in the field with FWS personnel







Record of Decision and RD/RA Consent Decree

- EPA publishes Proposed Plan in 2004
 Bevill Exempt RCRA waste as well as CERCLA waste starts coming to Richardson flat in 2004
- Record of Decision is issued in 2005
- RD/RA Consent Decree negotiation begins in 2006





Restoration and Remediation

- Decision to combine remediation and restoration construction activities
- Consent Decree negotiated throughout 2007 and lodged in court in October
- Remediation/Restoration begins in November of 2007 in lowest areas of the site that are outside of Diversion ditch



Richardson Flat RD/RA Consent Decree 2008 construction

- 15 acre parking lot and 30 acres of recreation fields
- Work Plan with restoration language included language removing gravel cover in ditch
- One half of Diversion Ditch and all of the area south of County Roadway restored/remediated
- 120,000 yards of tailings removed along with 83,000 yards of clean fill placed
- 2500 linear feet of the South diversion Ditch are remediated and restored





2008 Remediation and Restoration Construction













Richardson Flat – 2008 Progress

2009 observations of 2008 construction activity













Richardson Flat – 2008 Progress

2009 observations of 2008 construction activity













Richardson Flat 2009 monitoring of 2008 remediation/restoration activities







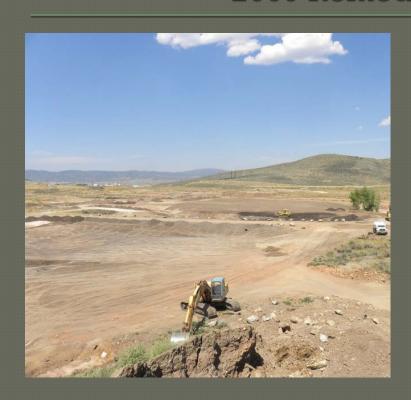


2009 Remediation/Restoration Construction

- Relocated and restored over 1800 feet of south diversion ditch adding 300 feet of ditch
- Removed over 70,000 cubic yards of contaminated material
- Added an additional 2 acres of seasonal and perennial wetlands



2009 Remediation/Restoration Construction





2010 Observations of 2009 Remediation and Restoration Activities







2010 Observations of 2009 Remediation and Restoration Activities







2010 Monitoring of 2008 Remediation and Restoration Activities













2010 and 2011 Remediation and Restoration Construction



2010 Construction and Restoration













Richardson Flat Future Tasks

- Monitoring, Maintenance of an area with a wide variety of species
- Restoration Plan
- Consent Decree
- Link NRD issues with Silver Creek
- 45 Species of birds
- Minimum of 15 species of macroinvertebrates
- 3 different amphibians





Future Work In Watershed

- RI/FS underway in Lower
 Silver Creek Richardson Flat
 OU-2
- Discussions among EPA,
 United Park and Park City
 regarding AOC for an EE/CA
 in Middle Reach Richardson
 Flat OU-3
- Current discussion indicate that AOC will include language that incorporates restoration work with remediation activities using the Richardson Flat case as a model.



Recommendations

• Regulators:

- Open lines of communication
- Be tolerant
- Be patient
- Understand needs of owner
- Understand what you want or need and express this to owner/prp

Owners/PRP's

- Open lines of communication
- Be tolerant
- Be patient
- Understand needs of regulator
- Understand what you want or need and express this to regulator
- KNOW YOUR SITE

