

## OURAY COUNTY

# Idarado to present watershed report

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The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) and Idarado Mining Company (Idarado) will present a status report focusing on Idarado's 20 years of remediation in the Red Mountain Creek watershed. The presentation is hosted by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) at the Ouray Community Center on Tuesday, Mar. 26, at 7:00 p.m.

The Idarado Mine Remediation Project resulted from a lawsuit brought by the State of Colorado against the Idarado Mining Company for damages to natural resources in 1983. The State and Idarado settled the lawsuit in 1992, with construction of the Mine Remediation Project beginning in 1993 and ending in

1998.

In the Red Mountain Creek watershed, Idarado sloped and revegetated over 100 acres of mine tailings and constructed water diversions around 15 mine waste rock piles. In addition to these efforts, projects restoring natural resources were conducted, including the City of Ouray's Uncompahgre River Restoration project, the purchase of open space in and by Ouray County and Idarado's transfer of nearly 5,500 acres to the Trust for Public Lands, which was subsequently transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for public use. However, remediation in the Red Mountain watershed isn't complete yet, and Idarado is currently working with the state on plans to conduct additional investigation and remediation in order to meet the performance objectives specified in the cleanup plan. Further work will

be guided by the "Evaluation of Zinc Loading for Red Mountain Creek" report which was completed in December 2012. The report is available to the public on UWP's Documents site at <http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org>

Camille Price, CDPHE manager overseeing the project, stated "Many people, including myself, have worked on the Idarado project for over 20 years. I am thankful for Idarado's commitment to meeting the water quality and tailings vegetation improvements agreed upon in the Consent Decree, and for the positive results we see from all the work completed in our important headwater regions."

Everyone is welcome to attend the free public forum. For more information, contact Price at [camille.price@state.co.us](mailto:camille.price@state.co.us).