TLR Strategy Aids Summit County Land Purchase Shoe Basin Mine Ready for Cleanup in 2004

Two years into the Peru Creek Basin Brownfields Assessment Project, Summit County Open Space and Trails Department completed one of its most important, yet complex, open space acquisitions, buying 105 acres of mining claims known as the Upper Transpacific Tourism property, in upper Peru Creek Basin. The County retained an option to purchase the adjacent 5-acre Shoe Basin Mine, in hopes that its applications to the Colorado Voluntary Cleanup Program and the USEPA Brownfields Cleanup grants program will both be approved. TLR developed the legal strategies to manage the liability associated with purchasing and reclaiming these mining properties. We also helped write the cleanup grant proposal.



The Upper Transpacific purchase and proposed cleanup of the Shoe Basin Mine are the most important acquisitions by Summit County thus far in Peru Creek watershed. The proposed reuse of the site is as protected open space with a trailhead and parking area allowing for backcountry access to the Argentine Pass area of the Continental Divide.

The Snake River Task Force, the local stakeholder group, has been active and helpful, throughout the Peru Creek assessment. Members of the task force include local citizens, US Forest Service, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology, University of Colorado, Summit County, TLR, Keystone Resort, and Arapahoe Basin Ski Area. Acreage purchased by Summit County as part of the Brownfields Assessment now stands at about 150.