



Eagle River
Watershed Council, Inc.

**Eagle River Watershed
Council**
Growth of a Watershed Group
October 5, 2011

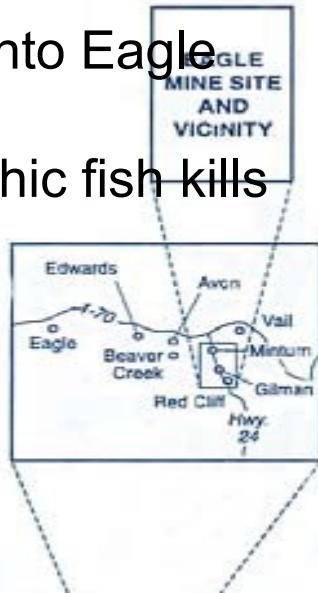
PROBLEM



Mine workings on the Eagle River in Belden
Early 1900s

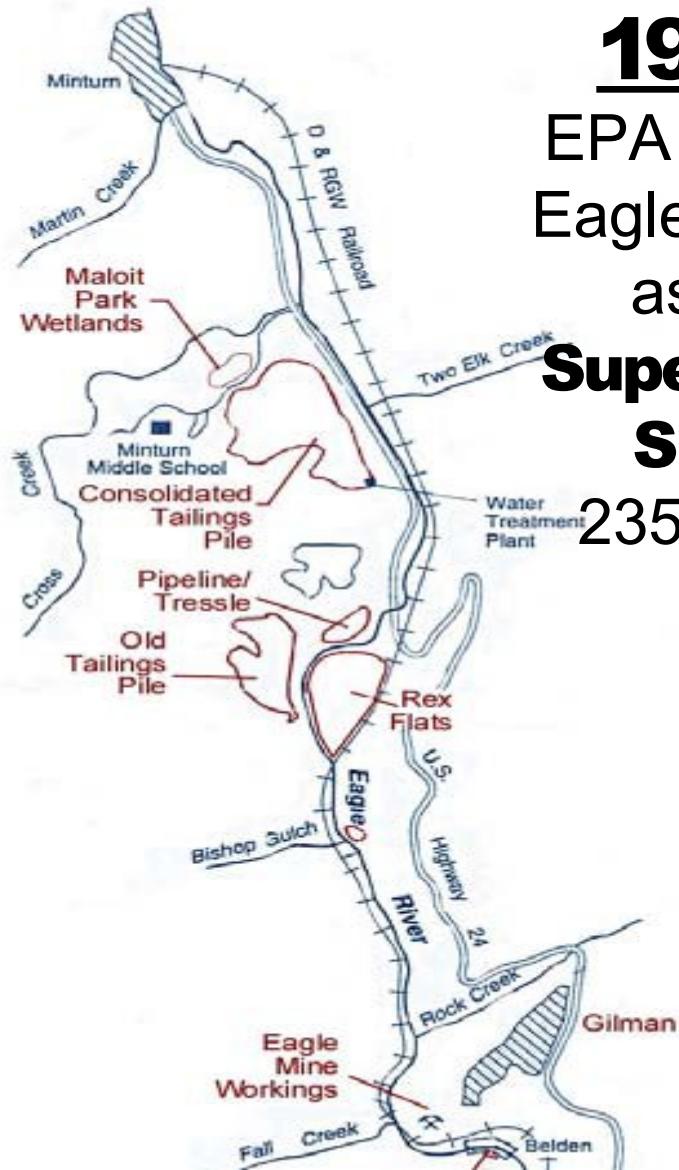
1984

- Mine closed & flooded
- Dissolved zinc, copper, cadmium, (arsenic, lead, iron, manganese) metal salts ran into Eagle River
- Catastrophic fish kills



1986

EPA listed Eagle Mine as a **Superfund Site**
235 acres



Eagle Mine Superfund Site



1988

Volunteer citizens' group
Eagle River Environmental Business Alliance
(EREBA)

formed to monitor the EPA cleanup.

THEY HAD PLENTY TO MONITOR!

The clean-up project encountered problems,
causing the Eagle River to turn orange and killing
aquatic life for miles downstream.

**EPA HAD TO COME UP WITH NEW
REMEDICATION PLANS – WHICH THEY DID.**

Roaster Pile #3 at Belden

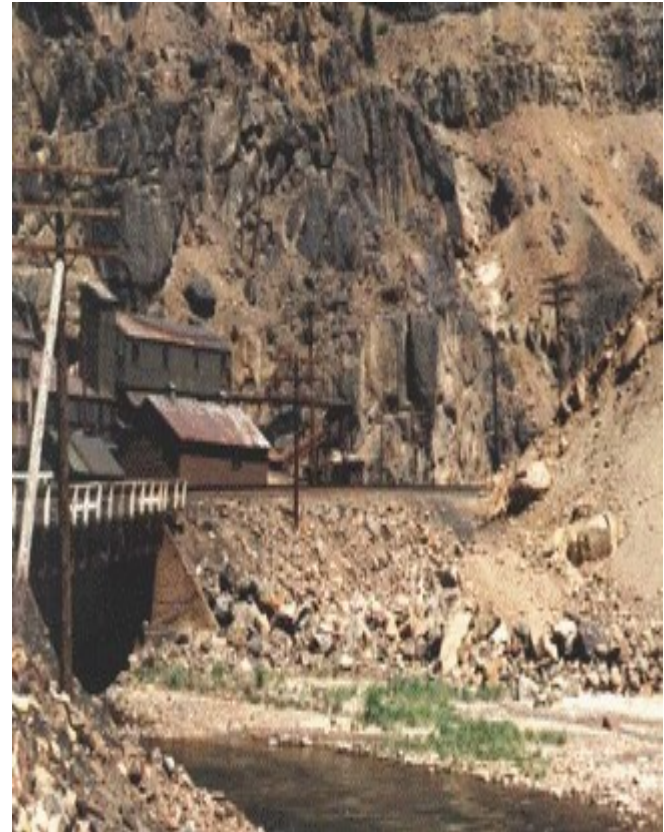


198
8

Roaster Pile #3 Remediation



1988



1994

Maloit Park 1988



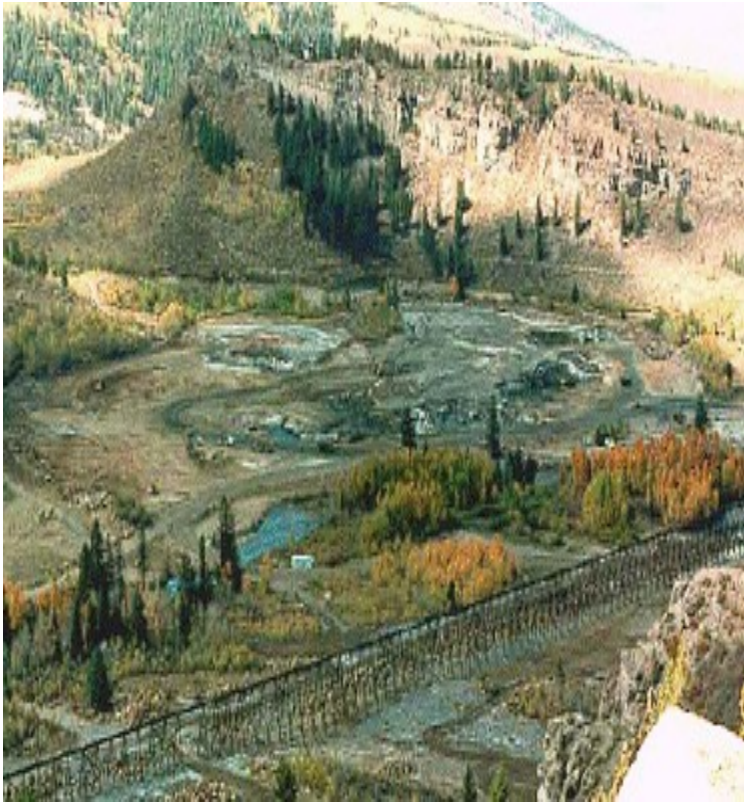
Maloit Park 1988



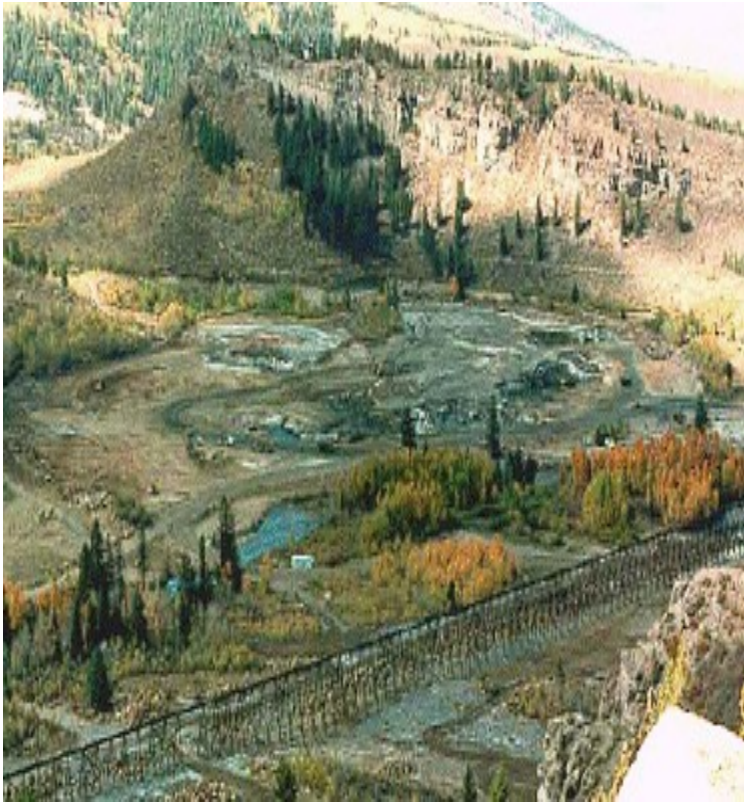
Maloit Park 1999



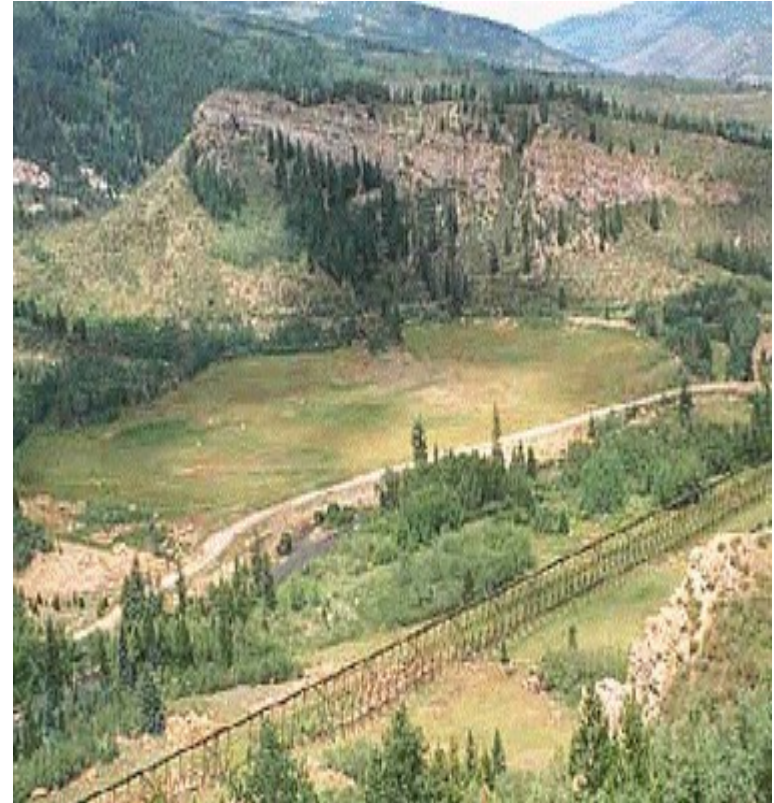
Old Tailings Pile Remediation 1988



Old Tailings Pile Remediation 1988



Old Tailings Pile Remediation 1999



1990s

**Eagle County
Watershed Groups**

- EREBA
- Black Gore Creek Steering Committee
- Eagle River Clean Up
- Community Pride Highway Clean Up
- 208 Water Quality Plan
- White River National Forest Association
- Developers of the 1996 Eagle River Watershed Plan



Black Gore Creek
clogged with I-70 traction
sand

1996 Eagle River Watershed Plan



Merged all groups into Eagle River Watershed
“Committee”

1996 Eagle River Watershed Plan

101 pages – 3 years

1. Establish Eagle River Watershed
“Committee” to generate and provide
information/education to the community

2. Develop prioritized action plan and
annual work programs around the
following topics:

Water Quantity

Water Quality

Wildlife

Recreation

Land Use

2000

Hire full time person to run organization
FUND RAISE!



Inventory and Assessment of the Eagle River

2003-2005

Scientific study by Dr. Brian Blodson, Colorado State University



Identified Eagle River in Edwards as a priority for restoration

How to complete a \$4 million
project?
FUND RAISE!



and create partnerships



Eagle River in Edwards in low flow

Too wide for depth

Too warm

Poor fish habitat

treatment

Drops sediment

Lack of riparian vegetation

Mixing zone for wastewater
plant



Work in river to narrow channel to make river colder, faster, deeper during low flow - and some surprises!



Restoration complete... at least this section





Oh, and then you need to revegetate to hold the new banks, cool the river, and feed the macroinvertebrates that the fish like to eat.



Get the community involved – and maybe get a new Board member!

October 15, 2010
Eagle River Watershed Council

State of the Rivers Report

Overview of the Eagle River Watershed
including a special section on the Colorado River

2010

And when your
community grows
faster than your
Watershed Plan...

- Take a look at
how

you've done

- Report to the
community

- Form a
stakeholder
group

- Update your

(1000)

Growth of a Watershed Group

1. 1984 - **Problem** – acid mine drainage
2. Loose partnerships created around the problem
3. 1993-1996 Watershed **Plan** created – creates recommended actions
4. 1996 – Eagle River Watershed Committee created - **community involvement**
5. 2000 – Eagle River Watershed Council, Inc. – create a **mission** statement and establish **501 (c) (3)**
6. 2000 – **Fund raise** to hire full time **coordinator**
7. 2005 Inventory and Assessment of the Eagle River – **scientific study** by CSU
specifies 7 recommendations and 8 **prioritized projects**
8. 2006 – today – Study utilized to raise **funds** for project realization
9. 2008 - \$4 mil. 1.6 mile Edwards Eagle River restoration started
10. 2009 – Exec. Dir. finds funds, hires **staff** to accomplish other projects
11. 2010 - State of the Rivers report – what's been **accomplished & monitored**

FUND RAISE!



How does a Watershed Group really grow?

Staff!!

Each staff member is responsible for a project
That project needs to be prefunded before hiring
VISTAs – full time and summer interns

Volunteers!!

Board
Community

How do you get volunteers?

Communicate

Growth of a Watershed Group

Problem

Plan

Community Involvement

Mission statement

501 (c)(3)

Fund raise

Coordinator

Scientific study

Prioritize projects

Fund raise

Hire staff

Publicize accomplishments

Monitor

Say thank you

Plan

Fundraise



Finish your
projects



Monitor

Thank your funders!

Natural Resource Damage
Fund
CDPHE
CWCB
Eagle River Water & San.
District
Upper Eagle Regional Water
Auth.
Eagle County
Town of Vail
Town of Avon
Town of Eagle
Town of Gypsum
Town of Minturn
Vail Resorts Echo
El Pomar Foundation
CDOT
CRWCD
Arrowhead Metro District
Edwards Metro District
Denver Water



Thank your volunteers!

SOS Outreach

Vail Mountain School

Red Canyon High School

Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy

Vail Christian School

ETC...

Marc's Questions...

What keeps stakeholders/donors/partners engaged?

Participation





Progress

S





Progress reports
Black Gore Creek's
Basin of Last Resort
before and after



Recognition

Partners:

CDOT

US Forest

Service

Town of Vail

Eagle County

What keeps you and staff energized and motivated?

What keeps you and staff energized and motivated?



CRAZY
MOUNTAIN
BREWING COMPANY

Vail Valley, Colorado

and each
other!!!

Most importantly...
Your questions?



Eagle River
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