

ENJOY A GLORIOUS DAY near Ironton/Red Mountain Pass learning about Ouray County's epic mining history from local experts while gently perusing some actual sites.

WHEN: Saturday, February 26th, 2011, from 10am-2pm (4 hours). It will include a catered lunch plus a hot toddy/tea and coffee.

WHERE: Meet at the Ouray Visitor Center at 10am, and then carpool up to the lower end of CR 31 where it connects into Hwy. 550.

MINES TO BE VISITED: Guston, Robinson, Genesse-Vanderbilt, Yankee Girl, and discussion of the Mtn King, Barstow, and the Idarado. The tour will be by skis or snowshoes on the lower end of CR 31

MORE BACKGROUND:

Your expert guides will be:

Don Paulson, curator of the Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS): He will address the cultural and historical aspects of each site.

Rachel Boothby of the Uncompahgre Watershed Project (UWP). She will speak about reclamation needs and options.

COST: A minimum of \$25/person.

Please write checks to the OCHS. Reservations required. Group size is limited.

CONTACT: More info/questions: Don Paulson, 325-0931;

RSVP: Rachel Boothby, uwpvista@gmail.com by February 20th.

The theme: A NEED TO PRESERVE AND A NEED TO RECLAIM

One of the more dramatic instances of point and counterpoint in Ouray County is the need to preserve the long silent historical mining structures of an era gone by and the modern-day need to remediate some of these mining sites to improve the health of our watershed. Many tourists come to Ouray County to explore mine sites and sift through the waste dumps for a shiny mineral or two. However, these structures are disappearing due to collectors' uninformed intentions, simple neglect and the passage of time, and the fact there isn't enough money to preserve them. Similarly, it has been documented that some of these same mine sites continue to have a negative impact on our watershed through their acidic mine drainage effluent containing harmful contaminants.

This is a fundraiser for the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) and the Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) – to draw attention to the need for both historical preservation and remediation of mine sites.

Proceeds are divided evenly between the two groups.