

## **Water Plan Grant POGG1 PDAA 201900002743**

Mountain Studies Institute

Silverton Science & Innovation Center Project

**FINAL REPORT March 2019 – March 2024**

### **Task 1 - Steering Committee & SSINC Business Plan**

A steering committee was formed as planned, and leveraged multiple funding sources to do a deep analysis and business plan for a Silverton Science and Innovation Center. The business plan was completed in spring 2022 and is attached with this final report.

While the SSINC is not moving forward as planned due to rapidly increasing land and construction costs, the groundwork laid through this process strengthened relationships, supported multiple stakeholders in their efforts to move mine remediation and restoration technologies forward, and created multiple years of economic benefit to Colorado mountain towns via the events listed below:

### **Task 2 & 3 - Silverton Innovation Expo / Mine Water Innovation Challenge**

Mine Reclamation and innovation events were held in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 as summarized below. Event programs, presentations, and video resources for each event are available on the Mountain Studies Institute website and are linked with each event below.

- [2019 Silverton Innovation Expo](#) and San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference – 135 attendees from across the country and beyond; a professor and student traveled all the way from Chile to participate. The sold-out event attracted 135 people from a diverse range of organizations, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service (USFS), Town of Silverton, private environmental consulting companies, venture capitalists, business accelerator programs, students, teachers, and non-profits. The three-day event featured tours to Lake Emma, Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund sites, 28 presentations and 4 technology pitches. Participant evaluations collected indicated very positive results. The evaluations highlighted the strengths of the event as the educational and informational field tours, the time for networking, and the importance of the collaboration. At least 75 attendees from the events stayed in Silverton, and most reported staying three nights. Attendees reported spending \$500-\$700 in Silverton during the events. With 125 attendees traveling to Silverton, we estimate a total of \$63,000 economic input into local businesses. (See Sept 2019 interim report for additional details)
- [2020 Mine Bootcamp Innovator Challenge](#) partnership with Telluride Venture Accelerator and – 47 people representing 7 companies attended a 10-day virtual bootcamp.
- [2020 Virtual San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference](#) with 120 attendees, plus 50 tour attendees of the Idarado bulkhead and Red Mountain tailings/acid rock drainage neutralization experiment.

- [2021 Innovation Bootcamp](#) with Telluride Venture Network and Newmont Gold including Phoenix Tailings, Copperstone Technologies, Intersphere, Genomines, and Solid Solutions Geoscience.
- [2021 hybrid San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference](#) in Telluride, including presentations, mine tours and “lightning round” innovation pitches on passive mine treatment methodology and rare earth metal recovery.
- [2022 in-person San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference](#) with 80 attendees in Ouray with keynote speaker promoting unique art/reclamation business using mine waste to make pigments for paint.
- 2023 planning shifted to expand San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference to the [Rocky Mountain Mining & Reclamation Conference](#) to be held in Leadville in May 2024. This event is expected to grow and continue into the future.