



Joy Jenkins
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Re: Commodore Mining District Superfund Site

April 27, 2015

Dear Ms Jenkins:

Colorado Preservation, Inc. has been involved with the Commodore Mining District through our signature program, Colorado's Most Endangered Places. This program incorporates an extremely competitive process to identify, rank and select historically significant sites that are threatened throughout the state. The strong significance, threat, and integrity of the Commodore Mine lead to its nomination and incorporation into our program in 2006.

The Commodore Mining District is extremely significant to the region and the state. Activities at the site reflect over 100-years of mining history from the early silver boom of the 1890s to the base metal production of WWII through its closing in the 1970s. This complex stands as a regional icon that has become one of Colorado's most scenic and photographed mining sites. Each year the structures are visited by hundreds of tourists along the 17-mile Bachelor Loop historic drive and the Silver Thread Historic and Scenic Byway. The development of the mine is also closely tied to the advancement of Creede; a community formed as a direct result of mining in the area. Today, the Commodore Mine is considered one of the best preserved mining sites in the state.

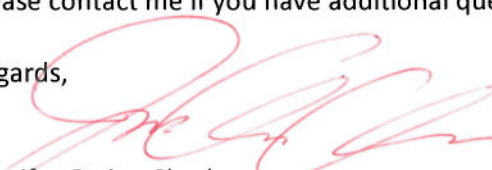
The preservation of the Commodore Mining District's buildings and landscape is strongly supported by Colorado Preservation, Inc. as well as the local Creede community. The Creede Mining Heritage has demonstrated it is a resilient organization with the vision, financial backing, grant experience, and community support to bring this project through fruition. Creede Mining Heritage has received grants from a number of private foundations to include the Hitchcock Foundation, HECLA Charitable Foundation and the Prothro Charitable Foundation. They have also acquired funding locally from the City of Creede through the Virginia Christiansen Trust, Mineral County, the Mineral County Tourism Tax Fund and the Creede Historical Society. Additionally, they have worked with the State Historical Fund at History Colorado obtaining grants for a local restoration project that is nearing completion, Sunnyside Chapel.

Creede is not alone in its desire to preserve and reinterpret important mining sites as a way to bring additional revenue to the region. Throughout the state organizations are identifying these buildings and planning for their incorporation as heritage tourism sites; properties like the Paris Mill in Park County, the Ute/Ulay Mill & Town site in Hinsdale County, and the Reiling Gold Dredge in Summit County are just a few recently identified projects.

Colorado Preservation, Inc. supports the preservation of the Commodore Mining District and will be a partner in providing technical assistance and outreach to the community on the project. The historical significance of this property is too great to the city and the state to lose.

Please contact me if you have additional questions or would like to schedule a meeting to in greater detail.

Regards,



Jennifer Orrigo Charles
Endangered Places Program Director