

# #1 How have you been affected by the spill?

56 individuals

61 comments about affect

## **Emotional** 20/61 = 33%

SAD

Water is important! Water is life!

afraid to drink/be in the water

I have been heart broken

Saddened by the event (the huge release of toxicity into the heart of our town)

Sad for animals and people affected.

My dog was very upset he couldn't go in

It's ugly

I am concerned about the long-term implications for the foodchain and ongoing water pollution from sediment and continuing mine leakage

"I don't live here but I think that this affects to other events & everyone in general. What a pity!! Losiento much!"

I lost my connection to balance during stress in my life

I can't honestly say that I have been affected. I am a cyclist. The river is not a huge part of my life. It was still very saddening to see this event

I couldn't S.U.P. but more so I felt sad for the river and those who rely on it for spiritual and economic gain

Living in Durango the river is everything to us. My peace of mind and sanity were very disrupted by this ugly spill.

Not much - I don't live in Durango. I was very sad to hear about it.

I was simply yet profoundly sad

Water is life, water is sacred. What words to express the desecration of life?

## **Profunda triztesa**

Negative - Saddness, no way to cool down, loss of beauty, my peaceful place

Personally angered but nothing more

## **Increased Awareness/Education:** 15/61 = 25%

Worldwide news

I think it made the mining issue come to light

It has given me a focus to teach chemistry for the year

Talking to people at the Colorado trail, saying Junction is safe

More connection with people/family out-of-state because of the news

Provided opportunity for education

Too much classwork on it

more determined to get the bigger story out about this: why regulations must be in place on our extraction activities

The spill has brought light and attention to many human-caused natural disasters and the nature of the human ego as well. I don't think that the spill is even a fraction as harmful as some of the things humans do to the earth. Profoundly tragic.

realization of larger issues surrounding this/these communities

Talked about in class A LOT

My concerns about water quality have been increased. Wishing for greater awareness

Positive - civic engagement

it also made me question judgement, authority and control over who oversees the river. Our environment reflects the health of our communities.

**Recreation: 15/61=25%**

I could not swim and go in the river

I couldn't use the river for awhile

Can't go in it

I couldn't go and play in the river!

Less interested in going in & river recreation

No rafting

Not being able to kayak/play in the water

Recreationally

Yes - not spending as much time on the river swimming or paddleboarding.

Recreation

I didn't go tubing this summer

I was affected by the spill with my connection to water. I was about to learn to kayak, that didn't happen. I stopped swimming and jumping in the river

**Recreation with family/community: 3/61 = 5%**

My family and I cannot go swimming anymore

My favorite spot where my kids play is now polluted. Missing part of our life

No but my community has. Although my two boys had to stay out of the river for awhile.

**No Affect: 9/61 = 15%**

Not affected

Other than lost of phone calls from friends and family out of state, I have not been affected at all

.

Short term: not much except access to the river. Long term: probably yes.

Very little, I was out of town.

The river hasn't affected me

It didn't affect me.

No effect other than a couple of days of bad smell

NO

Not at all

**Subsistence/water use: 2/61 = 3%**

The spill affected the crops I grow and affected drinking water to plants

I am a farmer and could not irrigate

**Economic 1/61 = 2%**

I work in an industry that relies on tourism. With the river in the news and after the spill, it has majorly affected business. Sad to see

## #2 What does the river mean to you?

70 individuals

88 different responses of values

### Intrinsic Value      37/88 = 42%

Beauty & life

Beauty, life, friends, happiness!

beauty, peace

Beauty, life, joy

Life, clean environment wildlife

Beauty, life

Beauty, wildlife,

Water is healing to me. Relief from stress. Connection, reflection of ourselves

Peacefulness, tranquility, family time

It means purity, life and love

Life!

Life,

Peace!

Life & peace

Life force, sustaining, beauty, , economy,

**"I mean everything is the life of any person or animal"**

"It is life, it is water that (tanamos?) cultivated our food"

Memories, friends

Food, fun, scenic beauty, life

Friend

Fun, health, restoration of drinking water

Fun and relaxation... Water! Beauty!

Water is life - rivers are life

Life, beauty, solace

Peace, adventure, spirit,

"The river water is life for all be vivienle(?)"

Life, pleasure, relief from stress, a place to go (always for free) a way to cool down

Fresh water and a relaxing place to go

Beauty

Life, god

Adventure and life

It means life and clarity

A place of peacefulness

, meditation

Life

A place that brings me clarity

"Life, adventure

### Community/Collective Value      20/88 = 23%

and a big part of Durango

I feel like the Animas is a strong connective thread. For Durango & all other communities it touches

The river is what makes Durango, Durango

It's a part of my town. It makes Durango even more special than it already is.

The river to me is beautiful piece of history we cherish and love. The river is also a way to gain people's attention  
It is the soul of our town. It is beautiful  
The Animas River is home to me.  
It ties everything together  
Interconnectedness  
Water brings life & connection within our community & beyond  
Place for my family to gather peacefully  
It is part of the reason I call Durango home  
Community  
The life/heartbeat of this area  
One reason why Durago is so unique  
I see it as part of a worldwide problem  
It is a place for fun with friends. Traveling at a slower pace for time.  
The heart of Durango  
and community"  
A great place to connect with my friends and nature

**Recreational Value 19/88 = 22%**

Fishing and kayaking  
Recreation,  
play,  
fishing, water sports, fun things  
Kayaking  
Recreation, resources,  
The river means that we can have fun during the summer  
recreation, resource  
Water ???  
Adventure, Fun!!  
Recreation water!  
recreation  
Fishing  
recreation,  
Having fun, a safe place to go  
Recreation, beauty,  
The river to me means soaking up the sun and cooling off  
Life, fun, recreation, fishing, swimming  
Water sports

**Ecological Value 8/88 = 9%**

Wildlife  
wildlife,  
It supports life, sustains ecosystems around Durango area  
Wildlife  
Life for humans and animals.  
Symbolizes health of our environment. Life for humans and animals  
Wildlife  
The river is so much more than a source of income, it is interconnected with every one of us -  
sustainability, safe, love

**Economic Value**     **3/88 = 3%**

Livelihood, fun, exercise, business, money, tourism  
economy  
financial support,

**NO**     **1%**

Not a whole lot

## **#3 What information or resources do you need about the spill or to recover from the spill?**

51 individuals

54 different responses

### **Discuss prevention/solution**     16/54 = 30%

Stop exploiting resources, stop only thinking about money, stop living your life believing everything you are told, and furthermore, find a permanent solution.

What can we do to prevent it from happening again?

Accurate facts from all perspectives; how will it be prevented in the future?

Solutions to the problem

"You need to know. What the solution to this tremendous problem. We must educate ourselves to (ovitg?) disaster"

What is the long term solution to fixing the Gold King Mine and others around it?

"We defend a haven today not tomorrow. Tomorrow will be late give you an opportunity(?) to the planet salvemoslo today for the future"

Yo siento mucho, mucho enojo de verla crueldad todo por dinero no importa lo que pase salvemos el rio

"I feel much, much anger see cruelty for money no matter what pass save the river"

"We are defenders of our rivers today (not?) tomorrow"

How to be involved in an effective way to make change for our environment

A total picture understanding of what can be done for 100% successful cleaning.

What can we do?

What can we do to fix it?

No more finger pointing. We need solutions!

"It will be in the future without rivers healthy must fight today for our rivers but not oumicos" ??

### **Long term affects, general**     16/54 = 30%

What may cause long-term effects

Long term

What will happen during spring runoff?

Ongoing testing of invertebrates and fish. Long term effects, I'd like to know more.

What are the long term effects.

What are the long term effects? Will the mines ever get cleaned up?

Will we, can we ever know if the water is safe for all the creatures in the rivier?

What are the long term effects?

What are lasting risks.

What is the potential of this recurring regarding the mine

#### **Long term affects, sediment**     6/54 = 11%

I would like to know more about the lingering sediment

Testing of sediment during turbulent conditions.

Sediment testing... worried about my kids on the beach

how to manage high water and sediment contamination

Sediment testing numbers

I'd need to know what we lost in the spill. Such as how important was the sediment we lost? What will it take to regain that?

**Water quality data 14/54 = 28%**

What were the chemical amounts from upstream before the spill?

What are safe levels? Not just what the EPA approves

Is it safe to go back in the river?

Real information!

How safe is it

Is the river safe?

Education, clarity

Is it safe?

Is it safe?

Is it safe?

Chemical info & levels & effects on humans & environment

Why was it yellow?

Is it safe to be in the water and the documents to prove it.

Timely, accurate information

**Policy info 3/54 = 6%**

Overview of current negotiations between federal govt, town, & stakeholders

Superfund

More specificity from the EPA about what the superfund entails, cost, and who pays for it

**Healing 3/54 = 6%**

More time to be near the river.

Are the people in charge of the river's wellbeing compassionate? Do they understand how the river's health reflects our own? - long term effects - how is this not going to happen again - how can we clean it up

In order to "recover" healing needs to take place. For the river, for the people. That could look different for different people; however, I think we could all agree healing needs to happen.

**Yo siento mucho, mucho enojo de verla crueldad todo por dinero no importa lo que pase salvemos el rio ???**

**Nothing 2/54 = 4%**

Nothing

I'm good right now.

## #4 What does the river need?

33 individuals

35 different responses

### **Public awareness/concern/affection** 17/35 = 49%

Response, compassion, empathy. Many people that actually care. The river needs people to set aside judgement and find a solution together

Love,

Land ethics

Time

Truth, respect as sacred

Time!

Love!

Love

TLC, not NAFTA

Mother Theresa (Ellen's mom)

HELP

Reclamation, time, and it needs us to use fewer resources

Time to heal. Nature is the best cleaner.

TLC

LOVE

Love

"needs lots of love and care, not more chemicals

### **Restoration** 9/35 = 26%

Less pollution

money for restoration

Clean up the leaking mines, and time

Dredging?

"River needs to take its course without any problem of chemicals and other wastes"

Water security (Intrinsic value)

Better protection

It needs to be cleaned. All of what spilled has settled to the bottom - clean it!

Clean up - from debris, old cars, chemicals, & more

### **Advocates** 7/35 = 20%

Many people that actually care. The river needs people to set aside judgement and find a solution together

Collective groups of people who share responsibility for future conditions

More community access and exposure for more enjoyment

Group effort. Continuous effort

People to be real

Advocates

More people who care about it

**Necesita mucho oyudo para que las personas que lo enfermavon poguen por el dano que hisieron ???**



**Expertise**     $2/35 = 6\%$

People who know what they are doing

Innovative thinkers and forward thinking scientists

## #5 What word should be in the name of the group?

Voices = 5x, most common

This is not a clear question

Buck up

Voices for the Animas

Save the Animas

H2O

The river is life

River runs through it

Splish splash takin a bath

River

Revival

Environment

Health

"salvation of mankind"

Duh

What group?

Clean

Strength

Life

"Vida"

River of Gold

Healing

Voices of the River

Voices of the River

Voices of the River

This is for the people who make this exhibition happen

Future

"Perditos"

Community

Lost Souls

Community Animas

Voices from the Animas

River

Soul fixer!

Whoops!

## #6 What issues should the group focus on?

39 individuals

52 different responses

### **Prevention** 15/52 = 29%

Prevention

awareness, prevention,

prevention

Prevention

Prevention

also how we can prevent it

prevention

preventing events like this from happening again

Prevention, solutions

prevention

Prevention

Prevention

Proactive policy development

History Not repeating itself

Prevention

### **Remediation** 11/52 = 21%

Long term pollution solution

Fixing it

recovery; solutions;;

Getting the river clean

Get it back to normal!

Long term reclamation with eco-friendly treatment plan

clean up

Recovery

Remediation techniques for acid mine drainage: 1. phytoremediation 2. mycoremediation 3  
chemical treatment/other

superfund

Getting the river back to normal!

### **Community Alliance Building** 9/52 = 17%

Linking organizations

Connecting communities along the river; recovery/healing; solutions; empowering communities;,  
collaboration

ALL affected communities

Which communities were affected the most

Spreading awareness; inspiring community involvement; instead of focusing on what already  
happened, create solutions; possible effects on economy environment, culture; more  
research

Bringing all interested parties to the table to discuss reclamation and prevention

Connecting the communities along the river , increasing the dialogue

Those who are affected downstream who do not have other access to clean drinking water.

Indigenous lives matter.

**Research**     **9/52 = 17%**

Deciphering fact from fiction

The effects of contamination on humans, wildlife, agriculture, etc.

What chemicals affect our river,

Research; long term health effects/habitat effects

The safety of being in the river and the facts to support that topic

The TRUTH about how bad it really is. How to prevent future mistakes!

monitoring programs

How to truly clean up the Animas river? They say it's clean, what about sediments?

Long term effects

**Education**     **8/52 = 15%**

awareness,

education

The group should focus on educating others and inform the public on how to clean up. Long term action plan; educating the public so a situation like this does not occur again in the future

Awareness

Education, impact,

educating the population

Opening the community's eyes to the everyday contamination

Awareness of the 1872 mining law

**?? Enforcareiz la limpieza del rio y pedira exigir, catigar a tos culables de una manera y otra**

# #7 What are some solution to protect your personal human future?

37 individuals

36 different responses

## Remediation/Research 14/36 = 39%

Long term clean up

It's not just AMD. We need to look at nutrients and biologicals, too

Clean up the mine tailings, require more controls at the source

Water treatment plant

Focus on the long-term rehabilitation

Be aware of possible dangers ahead of time

Accept superfund money

Give the public more answers

No blame game. Water treatment plant

Learn from our mistakes! Stop the circle of blame!

grey water systems

The long term effects from drinking the water

Develop the teaching to economically treat Acid Mine Drainage

Clean up leaking mines, pray for snow & heavy runoff

## Social Change/Activism 12/36 = 33%

I don't think the word solution is useful. What are some questions?

Becoming involved as a community and not playing the blame game. Solutions!

RADICAL change

Advocacy

Let's act up on it right NOW! We see the problem so let's make a change

Understanding what we can do in order to take preventative measures for the future

Get involved - people of integrity take action to clean up the messes of the past & of others who lack integrity

Placing the environment as a priority for our human community

Become an advocate

"enact laws that are effective to prevent these disasters"

Create a new model of economy where the ecological footprint is paramount!

Stay active in preserving and protecting the watersheds

## Education 10/36 = 28%

Educate myself & shower after tubing

Education, conservation, preparation, cohabitation

Education

Proactive prevention and education

Education and awareness

Learning from the past, teaching for the future

Educate, educate, educate

Education and being involved

Education to younger people about the importance of pollution

Education from RELIABLE sources

## #8 What are some solutions to protect the river's future?

45 individuals

46 different responses

### Policy 26/46 = 57%

Be careful with old mines

Use science to direct protection policy; organize priorities to put health before \$\$

GET RID OF THE EPA

NO CHEMICALS!

Change mining legislation

Destroy Silverton

**Educacion, ensorsar las leves que se implementen para que estas companias no se sientan que ellos puendan hacer dano sintenes reprecauciones**

Change legislation to put corporations liable for the problem in charge of fixing the problem

Rigorous protection of the old mines, no new mines

Accept superfund \$\$

Advocate for legislative change

Put ecological needs ahead of fiscal! Look at the big picture.

Make sure there are no more spills by ensuring the safety of mine waste

Superfund cleanup & water plant

Money for conservation

Reduce water consumption so we don't take as much from the Animas #zeroscape

Superfund

Make sure proper safety measures are being followed

Superfund

Adopt EPA recommendations

Adopt EPA's superfund suggestion

Clean up mines - I think superfund may be a longterm sustainable solution

Make current companies accountable. Change the mine laws of the 1800s

less mining

Superfund

Education; elect someone who cares about the environment

### Community Building/Activism 11/46 = 24%

Link together

Collaboration; not pretending it's not an issue/"happy mountain mentality"; education

Increase awareness of the importance of the river. Get communities from Silverton to the

Colorado River involved in future planning

Be an advocate for the river

What are some questions to protect the river's future

All communities down the watershed working together for the common good of the river we all use and love

Think broadly about human and non-human needs, beyond profit

EDUCATE SILVERTON!

Educate about the issue

Be proactive versus reactive

Awareness and remembering

**Remediation/Research 9/46 = 20%**

Research & development of new technology to reduce/treat mine waste

Restoration from the root and along the way

Find a permanent solution to mine waste storage & new sewage treatment plant

Clean up leaking mines! Restore riverbanks, trees, wetlands, remove concrete & trash

Clean up the mines

Find a solution to decrease the pollution

Start at the source

Cover tailings piles, water treatment on Cement Creek

Clean the mines gradually