

COMMUNITY UPDATE  
Cherry Creek Mines Cleanup  
October 2022

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service – Southwestern Region  
Prescott National Forest  
Arizona



**Environmental Cleanup Action**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will resume construction operations in October 2022 to begin Phase II of the Cherry Creek Mines environmental cleanup. The sites are located near Cherry, Arizona on the Verde Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest.

Past mining operations left mine waste material at six abandoned mines containing elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals. Phase I cleanup began in December 2021 and was completed in February 2022. Phase I work included consolidation of mine waste in an onsite repository and closure of mine features at the Bunker, Golden Idol, and Black Hawk Mines. Disturbed areas were seeded to improve long term stability.



Placing mine waste into Junction Consolidation cell

**Next Phase**

Phase II will include work at the remaining mines, the Logan Mine, Gold Eagle Mine, and Uncle Sam Mine, as well some remaining tasks at the Bunker and Golden Idol Mines. Mine waste material will be excavated and consolidated into engineered repositories at each mine. Each mine will be

stabilized using erosion control measures and seeding. Mine features will be closed using bat friendly grates.



Bat friendly grate installed at Golden Idol

Work will begin in December 2022 near FR531, FR96, and FR9604. East Old Cherry Rd and West Cherry Creek Rd will remain open during construction activities. Visitors and local community should use caution and be aware of heavy equipment in the area.

**Public Information**

For additional information about the project, please contact:

*Ernesto Maldonado*  
Project On-Scene Coordinator  
USDA Forest Service  
ernesto.maldonado@usda.gov

**OR**

*Todd Willard*  
District Ranger  
Prescott National Forest  
todd.willard@usda.gov  
928.567.4121  
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM