



SAN JUAN MINING & RECLAMATION CONFERENCE

September 21-24, 2020 – Southwest Colorado Adaptive Capacity in Uncertain Times

Miners and mining communities are no strangers to challenge and changing conditions. The year of 2020 brought with it a series of challenges and opportunities. As a result, the San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference (SJMRC) theme is “Adaptive Capacity in Uncertain Times” to encourage discussions of how the mining and reclamation community can plan for success in an uncertain world.

From global markets to pandemics and climate, change is the only certain constant. We seek to learn from the experiences and insights of those with approaches to adaptive management and risk assessment that respond to changing conditions and pivot to take advantage of current and future trends. We are interested in discussing trend outlooks, best practices, and solutions from the perspective of adaptation and pivoting to respond effectively to disruptions in dynamic times.

The mining and reclamation industries face special challenges because they are often located in geographic areas with extreme weather, remote locations, and limited infrastructure. Further, national policy and global market dynamics play central roles in moderating or dictating local options for resilience and recovery. Adaptive capacity refers to the ability of a system to adjust to changing conditions, moderate potential damages and risks, take advantage of opportunities, and cope with the consequences. Indeed, adaptive capacity is the interplay between the level of exposure, dynamics of risk, and the potential for mitigation.

Through sharing useful information about these topics, the 10th annual San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference aims to create a productive forum with helpful takeaways and more innovative projects. We welcome you and hope that you will find many opportunities for sharing and networking.

Conference Format

True to the form of adaptation, this year the conference will evolve in order to protect the health and safety of the conference's attendees, presenters, exhibitors, and host community. The 2020 conference will offer a mixed format, including a digital platform with broadcast discussions, videos, coffee conversations, happy hours, and smaller local tours in multiple communities.

SJMRC 2020 Sessions

This year, inspired by our current evolving situation in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we invite prospective presenters to look at how to adapt to uncertain times and dynamic futures. We understand the challenges associated with an online format and we also embrace the opportunities to try new ways of sharing. Therefore, our goal is to present a highly interactive experience that allows for opportunities to engage with presenters, peers, and exhibitors. We will continue to adjust the schedule as we learn more about the pandemic.

Emerging Talent, Student Solicitation and Awards

Students are encouraged to apply for all the theme categories listed below. Students that apply by June 15th will be considered for a presentation during any of the conference sessions. In addition, a second call for posters/presentations for SJMRC Emerging Talent session will open August 1st. This section of the conference will invite students to share highlights of their work in a special session of the conference dedicated to emerging professionals. In addition, the Steering Committee will be offering awards for the top three student posters and/or presentations. Judges will involve scientists, faculty, and industry representatives. Posters and presentations will be judged on scientific merit, significance in the field, and visual appeal or oral presentation. To be considered, applicants should select “student” or “emerging professional” on their application.

THEMES

For the conference session topics, we encourage presenters to integrate how our current circumstances necessitate a shift in thinking and adapting to changing dynamics as inspiration for presentations. We look forward to conversations that explore how we prosper in a variety of ways during “business as *un*-usual.”

- **What is Adaptive Capacity: what does it mean to adapt from different perspectives?** Adaptive capacity is the ability to respond and pivot to mitigate risks to danger, and on the flip side, take advantage of emerging trends. This session helps us to understand what pivoting means to different stakeholders and from perspectives in reclamation. We seek to explore the role of resources, policies, technology, and strategy to take advantage of the emerging trends.
- **Learning from History and Hard Knocks: applying lessons learned from historic pandemics, economic crashes, and other hard times.** History can teach us a lot. Especially during 2020, we can play with the idea of hindsight (aka seeing 20-20) and foresight by learning from case studies of past pandemics, historic mining, Spanish flu, COVID-19, and even evolution or ecology. Presenters are invited to draw lessons from history, nature, and biomimicry, as well as other cultures, places, and times.
- **The Future of the Old Ways: going back to get to the future.** Sometimes the best path forward is a historic technique applied in a new way. This session seeks to highlight projects and success stories that applied an old technique in a new way or to a new end. Presenters are encouraged to explore how the revival of an old mining or reclamation application brought positive results.
- **Risk Management and Decision Making in Uncertain Times.** Successful efforts and organizations figure out ways to effectively manage their risks to thrive in an uncertain and rapidly changing world. Some rely on experience, many others leverage a more disciplined approach. This session will dive into frameworks, forecasts, strategies, and decision support processes to reduce risk management.
- **Assessing Uncertainty: reducing risk and failure with monitoring, data, and analysis.** Monitoring, data, and analytical results can mean the difference between averting risk and succumbing to danger. This session will present cases where technology, monitoring, data collection, and analysis served to help manage risk, reduce exposure, or optimize results.
- **Challenge as Inspiration: the future of reclamation.** Today’s increased environmental challenges, budget limitations, and other constraints offer creative pressure to meet the growing demands for water and a clean environment. This session will share examples of innovative management and approaches that emerged from the tension of the challenge.
- **Early Career and Emerging Talent: NextGen leaders in technology and innovation.** This session will feature emerging talent and early career leaders who are exploring topics in reclamation, water quality, and innovative methods to remediate, communicate, and collaborate. All topics related to the above sessions are encouraged from students, recent graduates, and young professionals.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

The SJMRC committee invites abstracts for presentations, posters, and roundtable discussions to support the themes of this year's event. Please submit all information contained in the form (last page), including your abstract, by **June 15st** at 5 p.m. MST. Abstract titles are limited to 12 words and abstract descriptions should be no more than 250 words. We welcome the submission of abstracts for oral presentations (20 minutes), posters (digital format, up to 42" x 60"), and topics for roundtable discussions (\leq 12 person break-out groups). We will balance content contributed by industry, government, businesses, students, research, and nonprofit organizations in the final program. Your contribution should align well with the outlined themes.

If you are uncertain about which category suits your topic or you have any questions related to abstract submission, contact Michelle Furi at michelle@mountainstudies.org.

VIRTUAL TOURS, SITES, & DEMONSTRATION SUBMISSIONS

The Conference Committee is seeking to offer a tour experience in tune with the evolving nature of COVID-19 travel restrictions and guidelines. We invite proposals for virtual tours via video and smaller, local group tours. We are interested in sites that will be of interest to our audience of operators, investors, active researchers, and practitioners, who are striving to innovate solutions and advance best practices for reclamation and mining technology. We invite proposals to explore sites, technologies, products, projects, and services that address any aspect addressing legacy and/or draining mines and acid generation, including but not limited to: characterization, IT sensing and support, remote power, access, treatment technologies, bi-products, market solutions, system approaches, and others.

Applications will be accepted for any site in the San Juan Mountain region, such as Silverton, Ouray, Rico, Telluride, Gunnison, Lake City, Creede, Durango, and Ridgway. As travel guidelines and restrictions are yet to be announced for fall 2020, we will ultimately respect local governmental directives. The current plan is that the conference would promote smaller tours in each community, rather than encourage distant travel to a central location. Depending on the level of responses received and Colorado evolving travel guidelines, additional opportunities may be developed for showcasing projects and technologies alongside the conference, to be decided by August 15th.

IMPORTANT LINKS AND DATES

Abstract Submission Requirements:

- Complete the online abstract submission form [HERE](#).

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

Submission due: June 15th *

**Information for a special call for students and emerging professionals will be released by August 1st. All students who are interested in presenting are encouraged to apply by June 15th and will be considered for both opportunities.*

QUESTIONS

Please direct all questions to <mailto:michelle@mountainstudies.org>, 970-387-5161.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!!!