



# Snapshot

## Resolution Copper Project – Tailings Alternatives

### #3: Near West Ultrathickened

#### **SIMILARITIES WITH ALTERNATIVE 2**

Represents a variation of the proposed action described in the May 2016 General Plan of Operations.

Change in embankment design for a tailings storage facility (TSF) to a ‘modified centerline’ configuration consisting of earthfill and cycloned sand.

Split-stream tailings processing method with two tailings types:

- Non-potentially acid generating (NPAG) tailings (also known as scavenger tailings)
- Potentially acid generating (PAG) tailings (also known as pyrite tailings)

A suite of engineered seepage controls -- including engineered low-permeability liners, compacted fine tailings, and/or a “grouting” process to seal ground fractures -- would limit and contain seepage, along with downstream seepage collection ponds.

Location on the Tonto National Forest would be identical to Alternative 2.

#### **Numbers:**

3,300 acres – disturbance footprint at tailings storage  
4,900 acres - total footprint within fenceline for

auxiliary facilities

10 miles- embankment length

#### **DIFFERENCES WITH ALTERNATIVE 2**

Use of physical barriers to segregate PAG tailings in a separate cell from NPAG tailings. Cycloned sand would be used to build low-permeability ‘splitter berms’ between the two tailing storage areas.

Proposal to reduce initial amounts of water retained in NPAG tailings and encourage rapid evaporation as well as reduce seepage potential through:

- Additional on-site thickening of NPAG tailings; increasing thickness by 5 percent, reducing overall water amount in the facility
- ‘Possible use of Thin-lift’ (also known as thin layer) deposition, to enhance evaporation

Fewer estimated number of years to close the reclaim pond. By using ultrathickening methods that reduce water entering the tailings, officials estimate closure in 5 years compared to a 25-year estimate in Alternative 2.

#### **Numbers:**

510 feet – embankment height

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#### **ALTERNATIVES OVERVIEW**

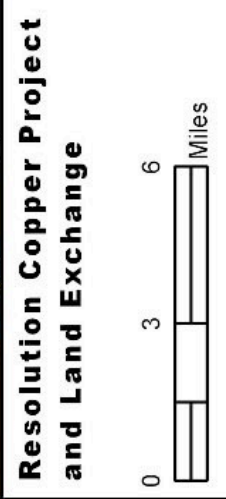
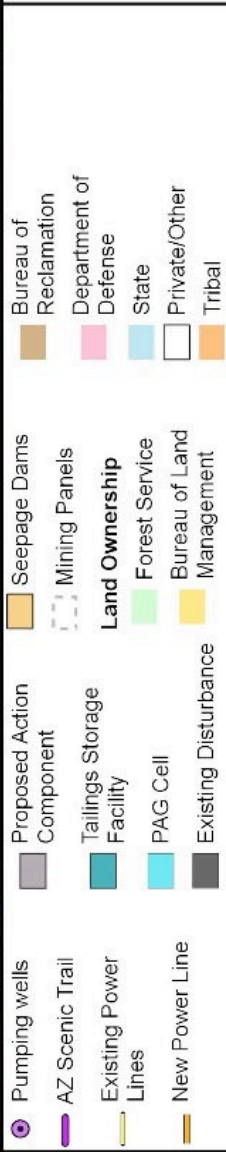
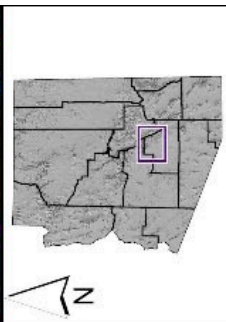
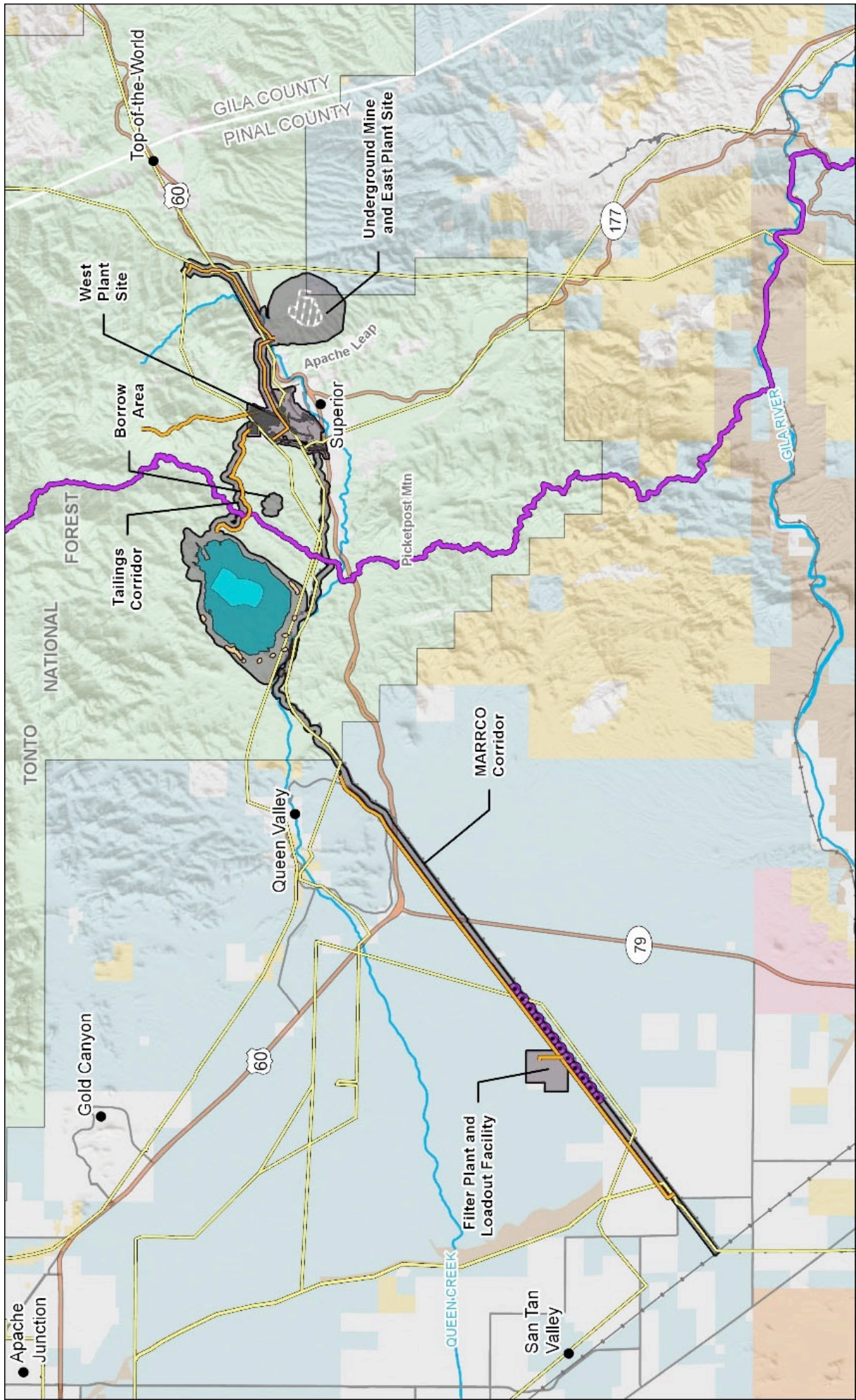
The National Environmental Policy Act requires the Forest Service to investigate alternatives to the various aspects of the proposed action as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process for the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange.

Alternatives are a mix of reasonable strategies that meet the purpose of and need for the proposed action, while resolving or addressing key issues identified during scoping.

In addition to the No Action Alternative (sequentially

known as Alternative #1), the Forest Service is considering five reasonable “action” alternatives. A Draft EIS document will include an alternatives chapter that expands on each reasonable alternative. The Forest Service is projecting a late July/early August 2019 release of the Draft EIS.

Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange info is available at: <http://www.resolutionmineeis.us/>.



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