



# Snapshot

## Resolution Copper Project – Tailings Alternatives

### #6: Skunk Camp

#### **SUMMARY**

Development of this alternative centers on three components:

- Its location largely is isolated from human residences and other infrastructure
- Located adjacent to an existing mine (Ray Mine)
- Location enables use of cross-valley embankments/dams requiring less fill to retain tailings compared to a ring-like impoundment. This, in turn, simplifies construction and operations

Tailings would be delivered as a thickened slurry in two separate pipelines from the West Plant Site to the Skunk Camp tailings storage facility (TSF).

Non-potentially acid generating (NPAG) tailings would be cycloned to produce embankment fill with cycloned overflow -- the finer particles -- thickened at the TSF before discharge into the impoundment.

Potentially acid generating (PAG) tailings would be deposited in two separate cells, behind a separate cycloned sand downstream-type embankment, to the north (upstream) end of the facility. The much larger volume of NPAG tailings would be behind its own embankment of compacted cycloned sand and

deposited immediately south of (downstream) and adjacent to the PAG tailings.

A combination of geomembrane liners, compacted fine tailings and/or a “grouting” process to seal ground fractures would provide a low permeability layer to seepage. A seepage collection pond also would be placed downstream.

#### **Location**

Arizona State Land Department and private property; the Dripping Springs Wash Basin between Dripping Springs and Pinal Mountains, 13 miles upstream of its confluence with the Gila River

#### **Numbers**

4,406 acres – disturbance footprint at tailings storage

10,079 acres - total disturbance footprint with auxiliary facilities

490 feet – height of tailings

\*1,465 acres – additional disturbance for northern pipeline corridor to convey tailings

\*1,944 acres -- additional disturbance for southern pipeline corridor to convey tailings

***\*{Two pipeline routes currently undergoing analysis; one route would be built if this alternative is chosen}***

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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 June 2019 release of the Draft EIS.

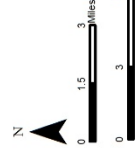
Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange info is available online at:

<http://www.resolutionmineeis.us/>.

RESOLUTION COPPER  
PROJECT AND  
LAND EXCHANGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT

**Legend**

- Cities
- Arizona Trail
- Project Area
- Tailings Storage Facility
- Land Ownership**
  - Forest Service
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - Department of Defense
  - Private/Other
  - State



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