



Snapshot

Resolution Copper Project – Tailings Alternatives

#6: Skunk Camp – North Option

SUMMARY

The Forest Service has identified this alternative as the Lead Agency’s preferred alternative.

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 requiring less fill to retain tailings compared with 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 suite of engineered seepage controls including engineered low permeability liners, compacted fine tailings, and/or a “grouting” process to seal ground fractures would provide a low permeability layer to seepage would limit and control 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

4,000 acres – disturbance footprint at tailings storage
8,600 acres - total disturbance footprint with auxiliary facilities

490 feet – embankment height

3 miles – embankment length

*20 miles and 1,465 acres – length and additional disturbance for northern pipeline corridor

*Two options – a northern pipeline corridor, and a southern pipeline corridor -- were analyzed for tailings conveyance from the West Plant Site

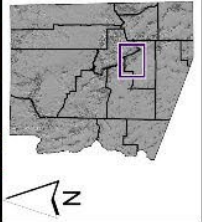
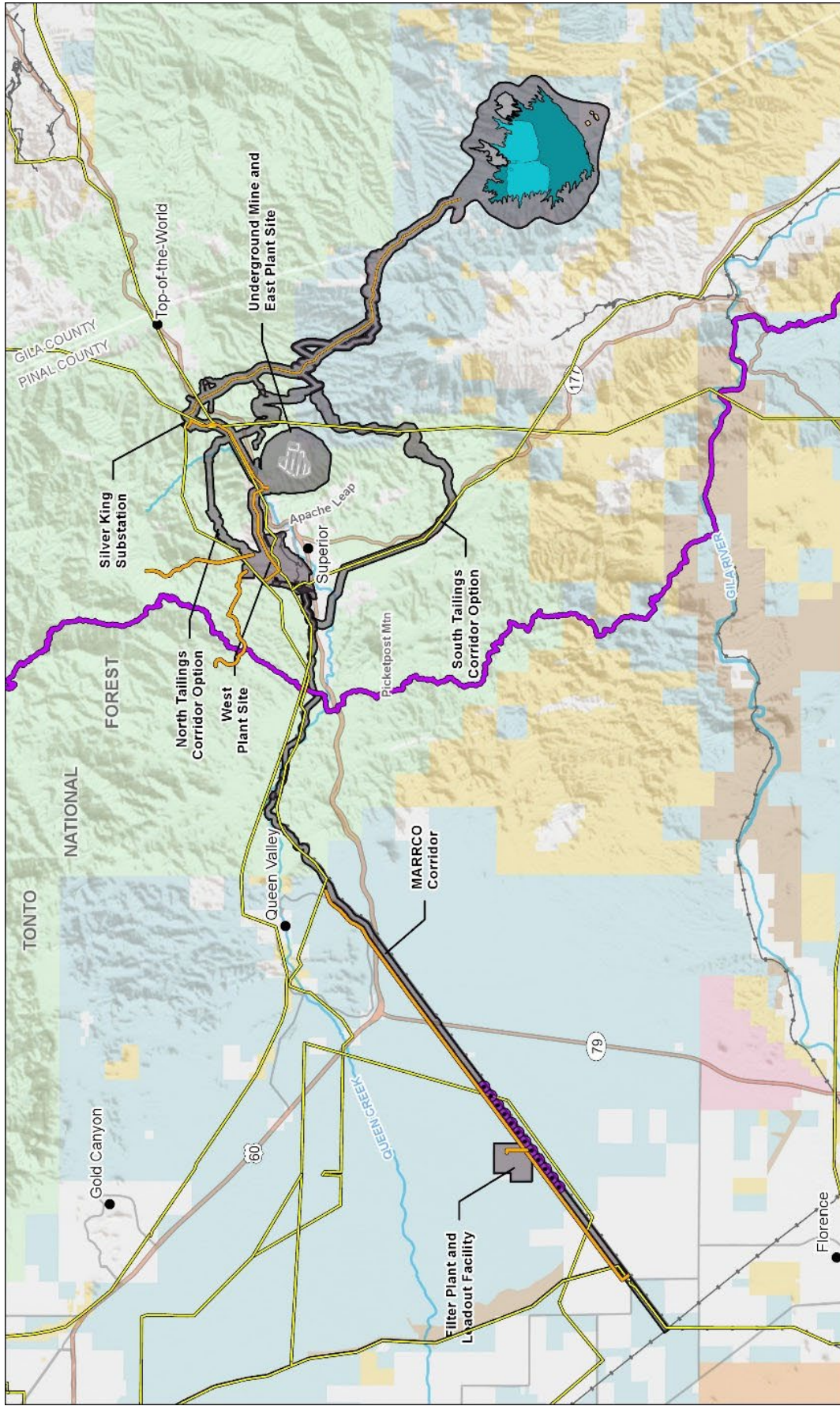
ALTERNATIVES OVERVIEW

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



- Pumping Wells
- AZ Scenic Trail
- Existing Powerline
- New Transmission Line
- Railroad
- Project Area
- Tailings Storage Facility
- PAG Cell
- Borrow Area
- Mining Panels
- Seepage Dams
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense
- Private/Other
- State
- Tribal

Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange

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Miles