

RESOLUTION COPPER CONSERVATION MEASURE FOR ESA SECTION 7 CONSULTATION 02EAAZ00-2020-F-0822

Prepared for: Resolution Copper
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INTRODUCTION

Resolution Copper (Resolution) has proposed to develop conservation lands for the federally listed Arizona hedgehog cactus (AHC; *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* var. *arizonicus*) as part of conservation measures brought forward in support of Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation (No. 02EAAZ00-2020-F-0822). AHC has been documented within the proposed disturbance limits of the Resolution Copper Project (the Project).¹ The Project Area is defined as the preferred alternative and described in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange* (FEIS; USDA 2020). Portions of the Project Area where AHC have been documented are on both private lands and on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands administered by the Tonto National Forest (TNF), within Pinal County, Arizona (**Figure 1**).

A Biological Assessment (BA), submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in June 2020, determined that the Project “may affect, and is likely to adversely affect” AHC. In response, Resolution has proposed the conservation of no less than approximately 100 acres of private lands located in Pinal County, Arizona within an area known as JI Ranch.

This document provides a summary the proposed AHC conservation measure, its rationale, and a description of associated activities and reporting.

PROPOSED CONSERVATION MEASURE AND RATIONALE

AHC occupies portions of the highlands of Pinal and Gila counties between Superior and Globe, Arizona. Its known range extends from the Superstition Wilderness, south to Devils Canyon, east along US 60 to Top of the World, Arizona and south to the Mescal and Pinal mountains (AGFD

¹ WestLand has conducted numerous AHC surveys in the Project Area and vicinity (WestLand 2004a, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011a, b, 2013a, c, 2014a, 2016a, b, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020a) and has detected AHC during surveys of the Pre-feasibility Action Area (WestLand 2008, 2010, 2013a, 2014a, 2016b, 2018), the East Plant Site (WestLand 2016a, 2017, 2020a), the 230-kV powerline corridor, and the Skunk Camp North Revised Corridor (WestLand 2020a, Figure 2, 2020b). In May 2020, an additional AHC survey was completed on approximately 100 acres of a since dismissed alternative powerline route that was being considered as part of the Skunk Camp North Revised Corridor. Ultimately, direct disturbance would be limited to access roads, pipeline placement (to be installed below grade where practicable), powerline structure footprints, and the mine subsidence area (or Fracture Zone).