

# Wetlands and Riparian Areas

## Current Conditions

Approximately 429 acres of wetlands have been delineated within the mine site focus area. Palustrine emergent, shrub/scrub, and forested wetlands exist within the mine site and off- site focus areas and will be impacted by construction and operation of project components by crossing through (primarily roads) or dewatering (indirect impact). These impacts are allowed through the Clean Water Act, Section 404 permitting process administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A compensatory mitigation plan approved by the USACE as part of the 404 permitting process will account for the loss of acres and/or functions and values.

## Summary of Impacts

Impacts to wetlands as measured by acres (direct and indirect), functions and values and wetlands crossed.

Impact	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Wetland Acres - Direct	172.1	162.5	173.5	<b>158.2</b>	0
Wetland Acres - Indirect	48.6	46.7	<b>40.3</b>	48.6	<b>0</b>
Riparian Acres - Direct	1129.1	<b>1079.9</b>	1293.1	1102.6	0
Functions and Values (units)	759.3	761.5	444.6*	<b>756.3</b>	0
Wetlands Crossed	139	86	181	<b>62</b>	0

Notes:

**Bold indicates least impact by metric for that alternative excluding Alternative 5 (no action).**

\* Wetland functional assessment information is not available for wetlands potentially impacted by the EFSFSR DRSF and TSF (Alternative 3-specific components), the total functional units lost under Alternative 3 is not comparable to total functional units lost under other action alternatives.

## Reclamation/Restoration/Mitigation

- **Alternative 1:** A Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan will address the loss of 759.3 wetland functional units.
- **Alternative 2:** Appendix D-2 of the DEIS is the Conceptual Mitigation Plan for Streams and Wetlands prepared by Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. (Midas Gold) to fully compensate for impacts to Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and proposes the following:
  - Replacement of 161.4 acres of wetlands
  - Development of 1218.9 wetland functional units.
- **Alternative 3:** A Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan will address the loss of wetland functional units when additional information is available.
- **Alternative 4:** A Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan will address the loss of 756.3 wetland functional units.
- **Alternative 5:** No wetland functional units will be developed.

## Net Change

- **Alternative 1:** The Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan will propose compensation similar to, or greater than the minimum needed for permitting.

- **Alternative 2:** Appendix D-2 of the DEIS is the Conceptual Mitigation Plan for Streams and Wetlands prepared by Midas Gold to fully compensated for impacts to WOTUS and proposes the following:
  - Replacement of 161.4 acres of wetlands which is approximately a 1 to1 ratio for the proposed 162.5 acres to be impacted.
  - Development of 1218.9 wetland functional units is nearly 38 percent more than the 761.5 functional units impacted.
- **Alternative 3:** The Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan will propose compensation similar to, or greater than the minimum needed for permitting.
- **Alternative 4:** The Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan will propose compensation similar to, or greater than the minimum needed for permitting.
- **Alternative 5:** No wetland functional units will be developed.