



**Non-Time-Critical Removal Action
Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis
Upper Granite Creek, Grant County, Oregon
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

May 2011



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Prepared For: USDA Forest Service
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

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Report Date: May 2011

Project Number: 2723018

Cover Photograph: Former Stamp Mill Foundation, Monumental Mine.

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	VI
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.0 SITE CHARACTERIZATION	1
2.1 Previous Investigations/Studies.....	1
2.2 Site Description and Background.....	1
2.3 Summary of 2006 Human and Ecological Risk Assessment.....	4
2.4 Data Gap Investigation (2007)	5
2.5 Data Gap Assessment (2009)	6
2.6 Source, Nature, and Extent of Contamination	6
2.7 Human Health Risk Assessment Update Summary	11
2.8 Ecological Risk Assessment Update Summary.....	11
2.9 Human and Ecological Hot Spots	12
3.0 SITE CLEANUP CRITERIA	12
3.1 Potential Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements.....	12
3.2 Risk-Based Cleanup Concentrations.....	15
4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF REMOVAL ACTION OBJECTIVES	15
4.1 Removal Action Objectives.....	15
4.2 Removal Action Justification	15
4.3 Scope of the Removal Action.....	16
4.4 Removal Action Schedule	16
5.0 IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES.....	17
5.1 Identification and Screening of Removal Action Options and Alternatives	17
5.2 Identification and Description Alternatives For Further Evaluation	17
5.3 Analysis of Selected Removal Action Alternatives	24
5.4 Cost Estimates	25
6.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES	25
7.0 RECOMMENDED REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVE	25
7.1 Upper Granite Creek Waste Rock (Near GC-03).....	26
7.2 Monumental Mine.....	26
7.3 Cap Martin Mine	27
7.4 GC-7 Mine.....	27
7.5 Tillicum Mine.....	28
7.6 GC-5 Mine.....	28
7.7 Golden Fraction Mine - Middle Area.....	28
7.8 Golden Fraction Mine – Lower Area	28
7.9 Central Mine.....	29
7.10 Summary of Recommended Removal Action Alternative	29
7.11 Recommended Removal Action Cost.....	29
REFERENCES	31

CONTENTS (continued)

TABLES

Table 1.	Surface Water Analytical Results
Table 2.	Pore Water Analytical Results
Table 3.	Sediment Analytical Results
Table 4.	Background Soil Analytical Results
Table 5.	Soil and Waste Material Analytical Results
Table 6.	Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure and Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure Results for Soil and Waste Material Samples
Table 7.	Vegetation Analytical Results
Table 8.	Summary of the Nature and Extent of Contamination – Monumental Mine
Table 9.	Removal Action Technology Screening Summary
Table 10.	Comparative Analysis of Retained Removal Action Alternatives
Table 11.	Attributes and Advantages of Removal Action Alternatives

FIGURES

Figure 1.	Site Location Map
Figure 2.	Upper Monumental Mine Site
Figure 3.	Lower Monumental Mine Site
Figure 4.	Cap Martin Mine Site
Figure 5.	GC-7 Mine Site
Figure 6.	GC-6 Mine Site
Figure 7.	Sheridan Mine Site
Figure 8.	Tillicum Mine Site
Figure 9.	GC-5 Mine Site
Figure 10.	Golden Fraction Mine Site – Upper and Middle Portions
Figure 11.	Golden Fraction Mine Site – Lower Portion
Figure 12.	Central Mine Site
Figure 13.	Aquatic Station and Floodplain Sample Locations
Figure 14.	Background Soil Sample Locations
Figure C-1	Upper Monumental Mine Test Pit XRF Sample Locations
Figure C-2	Lower Monumental Mine Test Pit XRF Sample Locations
Figure C-3	Upper Waste Rock Sections
Figure C-4	Lower Waste Rock Sections

APPENDICES

Appendix A.	Photographs
Appendix B.	Wetland Delineation Report
Appendix C.	Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments and Update Memorandums
Appendix D.	Applicable and Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
Appendix E.	Cost Estimates

CONTENTS (continued)

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARAR	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act
CES	Cascade Earth Sciences
COPC	Contaminants of Potential Concern
COPEC	Contaminants of Potential Ecological Concern
cy	cubic yards
DGI	Data Gap Investigation
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
HHRA	Human Health Risk Assessment
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
SI	Site Inspection
µg/L	micrograms per liter
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) has prepared this Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for completing a Non-Time-Critical Removal Action related to hazardous substances in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed (Site) near Granite, Oregon. A total of nine separate localities comprise the Site: Monumental Mine, Cap Martin Mine, Tillicum Mine, Sheridan Mine, Golden Fraction Mine, Central Mine, and Granite Creek (GC) -5 Mine, GC-6 Mine, and GC-7 Mine.

The purpose of the EE/CA is to develop alternatives, make comparative analysis between the alternatives, and recommend a preferred alternative based upon the comparative analysis of the alternatives. The goal is to minimize or eliminate any release or threat of release of a hazardous substance into the environment or impact on public health and welfare. The scope of the proposed Removal Action is to achieve cleanup of Site related hazardous substances to acceptable levels of risk to humans and the environment.

The following four alternatives were evaluated and compared as potential Removal Actions and were evaluated individually and collectively against three criteria: effectiveness, implementability, and cost.

- Alternative 1: No Action (\$0)
- Alternative 2: Onsite Containment (\$499,00)
- Alternative 3: Excavation and Onsite Containment/Disposal in Repository (\$903,000)
- Alternative 4: Excavation and Offsite Disposal (\$6,155,000)

A mixture of Alternative 1 - No Action; Alternative 2 – Onsite Containment; and Alternative 3 – Excavation and Onsite Containment in a Repository are recommended as the most appropriate and cost-effective alternatives. The total cost to implement this Recommended Blended Alternative is \$691,000. A brief discussion of the areas selected for onsite containment and no action are discussed below:

Monumental Mine

- The Monumental Mine is the most significant of the mines within the watershed, with wastes totaling 39,000 cubic yards (cy). Waste samples contained arsenic concentrations of up to 11,400 mg/kg, which is well in excess of the arsenic cleanup level of 143 mg/kg calculated for the Site.
- Impacts to surface water in the unnamed tributary were measured and appear to be the result of contaminated waste rock and tailings deposited in the headwaters of the stream.
- The recommended alternatives for the Monumental Mine include the following:
 - Upper Shaft Area – Placement of arsenic-contaminated waste rock in the partially open shaft to reduce physical hazards. The remainder of the material will be contoured to the surrounding terrain and covered/revegetated, or placed in an onsite repository.
 - Upper Monumental Mine, millsite, and settling ponds - Removal of arsenic-contaminated waste rock, tailings, and concentrates and placement in an onsite repository. The settling ponds (wetland) may need to be mitigated in accordance with federal guidance. The Upper Adit discharge will be diverted along the access road and infiltrated into surrounding native material using buried perforated sewer pipe.
 - Lower Monumental Mine – The main waste rock pile and the crusher fines will be graded and consolidated onsite. The graded pile will be sloped to allow stormwater runoff and covered/revegetated. Water from the adit/lower settling pond will be diverted around the reclaimed waste rock pile into the uncontaminated hummocky area and ultimately into the unnamed tributary. This area will be evaluated further during the Removal Action design for potential wetland mitigation.

Golden Fraction (Middle)/Central Mines and Upper Granite Creek Near Station GC-03 – Onsite Waste Rock Contouring

- The Middle Golden Fraction Mine contains small waste rock piles with elevated concentrations of arsenic. The waste rock piles are located upslope from Granite Creek, with no evidence of erosion into the stream.
- The Central Mine has several small waste rock piles with concentrations of arsenic near the cleanup level of 143 mg/kg. The piles are located near Forest Service Road 73 and are easily accessible to the public.
- The small waste rock pile located near Granite Creek background station GC-03 was identified with an arsenic concentration in excess of the cleanup level. The pile is located along a closed Forest Service road, but is accessible to the public.
- These locations will be re-contoured to blend in with the surrounding terrain. The areas will be covered with soil that can be scavenged from around the area and revegetated.

Golden Fraction (Upper and Lower), Cap Martin, Sheridan, Tillicum, GC-5, GC-06, and GC-7 Mines – No Action

- These mines were identified with concentrations of arsenic in waste rock piles at or well below the cleanup level.
- The mines are located in remote sections of the Upper Granite Creek watershed, with limited access to the public.
- Based on this and the remote nature of these mines, CES recommends that no action be taken.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) has prepared an Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for completing a Non-Time-Critical Removal Action at nine abandoned mines and associated millsites (Site) in the Upper Granite Creek Watershed of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and in accordance with:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup authorities [42 USC 9604(a) and 7 CFR 2.60(a)(39)] and Federal Executive Order 12580;
- The provisions of National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR 300.415(b)(4)(i);
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) “Guidance on Conducting Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions under CERCLA” (USEPA, 1993).

Nine separate localities comprise the Site: Monumental Mine, Cap Martin Mine, Tillicum Mine, Sheridan Mine, Golden Fraction Mine, Central Mine, Granite Creek #5 (GC-5) Mine, GC-6 Mine, and GC-7 Mine. The locations of the mines are shown on Figure 1. Photographs of the mines are included in Appendix A.

The reader is referred to the “*Site Inspection, Granite Creek Mines, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Oregon*” (EA, 2003); and the “*Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment, Granite Creek Mines, Wallowa Whitman National Forest*” (CES, 2006) for additional information. The purpose of the EE/CA is to develop alternatives, make comparative analysis between the alternatives, and recommend a preferred alternative based upon the comparative analysis of the alternatives. The goal of the preferred alternative is to minimize or eliminate any release or threat of release of a hazardous substance into the environment or impact on public health and welfare.

2.0 SITE CHARACTERIZATION

2.1 Previous Investigations/Studies

- 2003 – Site Inspection (SI) conducted by EA Engineering, Sciences, and Technology, Inc.
- 2006 – Risk Assessment conducted by CES.
- 2007 – EE/CA Data Gap Investigation (DGI) conducted by CES.
- 2008 – Draft EE/CA Report submitted by CES.
- 2009 – Supplemental DGI at the Monumental Mine conducted by CES.

2.2 Site Description and Background

The Site is located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, along a maintained scenic byway and Forest Service roads where the Monumental, Golden Fraction, and Central Mines can be easily accessed. However, access to the other mines is very difficult due to the unmaintained roads and downed timber. The following sections provide a brief overview of the key features of the nine mines included in this EE/CA. All waste rock/tailings volumes and distances are considered approximate, and are based on measurements completed in the field.

2.2.1 Monumental Mine

The Monumental Mine is situated on moderate to steep hillsides near the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to Granite Creek; vehicle access to the mine is easy via County Road 73 (Blue Mountain Scenic Highway) by

driving east 3.8 miles on Forest Service Road (FR) 7345. The mine is the largest of the nine mines that comprise the Site, and is split into three areas (the upper shaft area, upper mine/mill area, and lower mine/mill area), see Figures 2 and 3.

Upper Shaft Area

The upper shaft area consists of a partially open shaft, multiple trenches and cuts, excavation pits, and several waste rock piles. The waste rock pile adjacent to the shaft (200 cubic yards [cy]) is shown on Figure 2; however, 3,000 cy of waste material is scattered in numerous piles throughout the area. The partially open shaft presents a possible physical hazard to humans and terrestrial wildlife.

Upper Mine/Mill Area

The upper mine/mill area has an open adit (Upper Adit) and associated waste rock pile (15,000 cy). The adit was observed with minimal flow in 2009, which infiltrated into the eastern section of the waste rock pile. The remains of a 20-stamp dry crushing mill, flotation table (referred to as “floaters” in the EA, 2003 report), chlorination plant, and stone conduit (chlorination flue) are located at the former millsite. A layer ranging in depth from 6-inches to 4-feet deep of pink-colored concentrations/tailings from the former floatation table is spread along the surface to the northwest of the former mill (400 cy).

Water flows from a spring northeast of the former mill into a series of settling ponds, all of which are connected by surface water flow. The upper and middle settling ponds have developed into a small (0.08-acre) wetland system. The settling ponds contain 1,000 cy of tailings from the former mill. Tailings are exposed on the southern section of the wetland, and are situated under the root system of hydrophytic vegetation within the wetland.

Lower Mine/Mill Area

The lower mine/mill area contains one open adit (Lower Adit) and associated waste rock pile (18,500 cy). A former crusher and associated waste material (1,200 cy) are located adjacent to the north of the large waste rock pile. The lowest settling pond is located south of the adit. Water seeps from the open adit through a constructed ditch to the lower settling pond. No apparent tailings were observed in the lowest settling pond, although no sediment samples were collected during the field activities. No outlet for the lowest settling pond was observed during field activities, but seeps located at the base of the lowest waste rock pile suggest water is seeping through the pile.

A “hummocky area” is located adjacent to the south of the lower waste rock pile (EA, 2003). This area consists of parallel cuts in the hillslope, and may be associated with former exploratory cuts in the hillside. Based on Niton x-ray fluorescence (XRF) readings, the material does not appear to be contaminated from hardrock mining activities. Wet areas were observed at the bottom of the cuts in 2009. As such, the hummocky area may provide suitable hydrology for wetland mitigation activities during the Removal Action, if needed. In addition, a cabin, collapsed adit (Adit #3), and small waste rock pile (100 cy) are located north and upslope of the crusher. No water was observed emanating from the adit during field activities.

2.2.2 Golden Fraction Mine</

waste rock located along FR 680 and Granite Creek. Evidence of erosion of the lower section of the waste rock pile was noted in Granite Creek. A seep was observed emanating from the adit, which creates a small marshy area (Figure 11). There was no evidence that the seep discharged into Granite Creek.

2.2.3 Central Mine

The Central Mine is located 0.6 miles downstream of the Tillicum Mine on a moderately steep slope on the north side of Granite Creek, which is accessed from FR 73 and either FR 7345 (upper area) or FS 680 (lower area). The mine contains four possible collapsed adits, five waste rock piles, and other mine features (Figure 12). During field activities, water was not observed emanating from the adits.

Of the five waste rock piles at the mine, the following is a summary of the volumes:

- 50 cy of waste rock located below the lower adit (Adit 1) on a bench above Granite Creek;
- 300 cy of waste rock below Adit 1 with the toe of the pile located adjacent to Granite Creek;
- 40 cy of waste rock is situated in two piles below the upper adit;
- 200 cy of waste rock associated with the adit northeast of the upper adit; and
- 60 cy of waste rock associated with the adit north of the upper adit.

A waste rock berm, likely created as a result of hydraulic mining activities, runs the east-west direction 75 to 100 feet upslope of Granite Creek.

2.2.4 Cap Martin Mine

The Cap Martin Mine is located 1.4 miles downstream from the headwaters of Granite Creek (which bisects the mine); Figure 4 shows the site layout. The mine is accessible from County Road 73 by driving east 2.45 miles on FR 7345 and hiking down through heavy brush and blow-down 0.2 miles to the mine.

Two collapsed cabins and one standing cabin are located on the north side of Granite Creek. Four collapsed adits are located at the mine: Adits 1 and 2 on the south side of Granite Creek, and Adits 3 and 4 on the north side of Granite Creek. Three waste rock piles (300 cy) and a thin outwash fan are associated with Adits 1 and 2. Two waste rock piles (1,200 cy) are associated with Adits 3 and 4. Two springs/seeps are located on the south side of Granite Creek. There was no evidence that the seeps discharged into Granite Creek.

2.2.5 Unnamed (GC-7) Mine

The mine is located adjacent to an unnamed tributary on the north side of Granite Creek, 0.25 miles below the Cap Martin Mine. The mine is accessed from County Road 73, then hiking east 1.06 miles up an abandoned road (FR 680) adjacent to Granite Creek, then bushwhacking north on an unnamed tributary to the mine. Figure 5 shows the site layout, which consists of one collapsed adit and associated waste rock (300 cy) in two piles above and adjacent to Granite Creek.

2.2.6 Unnamed (GC-6) Mine

The mine is located adjacent to an unnamed tributary on the north side of Granite Creek, 400 feet downstream of GC-7 Mine. Access is from County Road 73, then hiking 0.95 miles up FR 680 along Granite Creek. The mine consists of one partially collapsed adit and two waste rock piles (100 cy; Figure 6). No water was observed emanating from the adit or surrounding piles.

2.2.7 Sheridan Mine

The Sheridan Mine is located 0.25 miles downstream of the Cap Martin Mine on moderately steep slopes on the south side of Granite Creek. The mine is accessed from County Road 73, then hiking 1.07 miles up Granite Creek along FS 680 to an unnamed tributary discharging from the south. The mine includes one collapsed adit, a possible adit or prospect, and 125 cy of waste rock associated with the collapsed adit (Figure 7). A seep discharges from the collapsed adit into a marshy area. There was no evidence during field activities that the seep discharged into Granite Creek.

2.2.8 Tillicum Mine

The Tillicum Mine is located 0.25 miles downstream of the Sheridan Mine on moderately steep slopes along the north bank of Granite Creek. The mine is accessed by hiking down the slope from FR 7345 or hiking 0.6 miles up Granite Creek along FS 680. The mine consists of two collapsed adits (upper and lower), 700 cy of waste rock, and 600 cy of possible dredge spoil piles/waste material, which are situated in five piles east and west of the collapsed lower adit (Figure 8). No water emanated from the adits during field activities.

2.2.9 Unnamed (GC-5) Mine

The Unnamed (GC-5) Mine is located 0.3 miles downstream of Tillicum Mine, and is accessed from County Road 73, then hiking 0.3 miles up Granite Creek along abandoned FR 680. The mine consists of one collapsed adit (with no signs of water discharge) and 400 cy of waste rock, located below the adit, adjacent to Granite Creek (see Figure 9). Evidence of erosion of the lower section of the waste rock pile was noted in Granite Creek. A seep was observed 150 feet west of the adit, which infiltrates into the soil upslope from the Granite Creek floodplain. It does not appear the seep is related to the adit at the mine.

2.2.10 Upper Granite Creek Station GC-03

A small waste rock pile (20 cy) is located adjacent to Granite Creek background aquatic station GC-03. The waste rock pile can be accessed by foot from closed FR 720 from FR 7345.

2.3 Summary of 2006 Human and Ecological Risk Assessment

Based on the results of the SI (EA, 2003), CES prepared a Human and Ecological Risk Assessment in 2006 (Risk Assessment; CES, 2006) for five of the mines (Monumental, Cap Martin, Tillicum, Sheridan, and the Central Mines). The following provides a brief summary of potential risk associated with these mines.

- Human Health Risk Assessment
 - Current and future potential receptors were identified as hunters, hikers, and campers.
 - Arsenic and lead were identified as the soil/waste rock, sediment, and surface water non-carcinogenic contaminants of potential concern (COPCs).
 - No unacceptable non-carcinogenic health effects are anticipated under both the central tendency exposure (CTE) and reasonable maximum exposure (RME) conditions.
 - Arsenic was the only carcinogenic COPC identified at the mines.
 - Carcinogenic risks were predicted from exposure to arsenic-impacted surface water and soil/waste rock under both the CTE and the RME exposure conditions at each of the mines.
 - The Monumental Mine had the highest arsenic concentrations and therefore represents the highest level of human risk.
 - No carcinogenic risks were predicted from exposure to sediment.

- Human health “hot spots” are areas of unacceptable risk, where the concentrations are high enough that there is a preference for treatment (ODEQ, 1998). Hot spots are present if chemicals are present in concentrations exceeding risk-based concentrations corresponding to:
 - 100 times the acceptable risk level for human exposure to each individual carcinogen;
 - 10 times the acceptable risk level for human exposure to each individual noncarcinogen; or
 - 10 times the acceptable risk level for exposure of individual ecological receptors or populations of ecological receptors to each individual hazardous substance.
- No hot spots were identified at the mines.
- Ecological Risk Assessment
 - Ecological impacts were predicted for immobile species, primarily plants and terrestrial invertebrates, due to contaminants of potential ecological concern (COPECs) in soil and waste rock (list of COPECs provided in Appendix C). Local and regional populations of these and other terrestrial species are unlikely to be significantly impacted.
 - Ecological impacts were also predicted for aquatic life and wildlife exposed to COPECs in surface water and pore water. However, the lack of background data in 2006 made it more difficult to predict the potential for impacts.
 - Benthic invertebrates and wildlife appear to have the potential to be impacted by total arsenic, cadmium, and zinc, which are present at elevated concentrations at nearly all sediment sample locations. The lack of background sediment samples likely results in an overestimation of these potential impacts.
 - The Monumental and Tillicum Mines have more locations with elevated COPEC concentrations in soil/waste rock than the other mines and therefore represent the highest level of ecological risk.
 - Ecological “hot spots” are generally defined as concentrations greater than 10 times the ecological risk-based screening concentration (ERBSC). Multiple ecological hot spots were identified at every mine.

Based on the Risk Assessment, CES recommended that an EE/CA be prepared and that a DGI be conducted to quantify the data gaps associated with the SI and Risk Assessment. Subsequently, the Forest Service added four additional mines to the investigation (GC-5, GC-6, GC-7, and the Golden Fraction Mine).

2.4 Data Gap Investigation (2007)

In June 2007, CES conducted a DGI at the Site to collect information and samples to fill in data gaps presented in the Risk Assessment (CES, 2006). The scope of the DGI was to:

- Verify previously identified hazardous substances, mining features, and volumes at the Central, Sheridan, Tillicum, Cap Martin, and Monumental Mines;
- Inspect the new mines (GC-5, GC-6, GC-7, and the Golden Fraction Mines) and collect waste rock, soil, and water samples;
- Collect three background sediment, surface water, and pore water samples from Granite Creek, and also collect four streambank/floodplain sediment samples (Figure 13);
- Collect background soil samples within the upper Granite Creek watershed (Note: these samples were collected as part of the New York Mine Complex SI [locations are shown on Figure 14];

- Assess each mine for alternatives for the EE/CA (i.e., access, repository locations, etc.); and
- Develop human health and ecological risk assessment updates based on the new data collected. Results of the updated risk assessment identified a cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg for arsenic.

The DGI was successfully implemented and the data collected were combined with information obtained during the SI and Risk Assessment and are summarized in Section 2.5. For additional information regarding the scope of the DGI, refer to “*Field Operation Plan, Data Gap Investigation of the Upper Granite Creek Watershed, Grant County, Oregon*” (CES, 2007).

2.5 Data Gap Assessment (2009)

In September 2009, CES completed a DGI at the Monumental Mine, which included:

- Adit and spring sampling to characterize the quality and flow rate for potential water diversion during and after the Removal Action;
- Additional topographic survey of waste rock piles, tailings, and pertinent features for accurate volume estimation;
- Detailed field screening of waste rock and tailings with an XRF to guide additional sampling and analysis activities;
- Collection of waste rock and tailings samples for laboratory analysis for total metals and toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) metals; and
- Wetland delineation of the upper and middle settling ponds for possible mitigation activities (Appendix B).

The DGI was successfully implemented and the data collected were combined with information obtained during previous events and are summarized in Section 2.5. For additional information regarding the scope of the 2009 DGI, refer to “*Scope of Work and Cost Estimate – Data Gap Assessment: Monumental Mine*” (CES, 2009).

2.6 Source, Nature, and Extent of Contamination

This section gives a brief overview of the source, nature, and extent of contamination of the Site, which is specifically focused on the hazardous substances of concern identified in the SI, Risk Assessment, and DGIs. Information from the SI conducted by EA in 2003 has been incorporated with the DGIs performed by CES. Laboratory analytical data from each investigation is presented in Tables 1 through 7. Table 8 includes a summary of the extent of contamination at the Monumental Mine, with XRF and analytical data collected as part of the 2009 DGI. As shown in the tables, XRF data provided uncertain correlation with laboratory data. However, the XRF was useful as a screening tool to assess lateral and vertical extent of arsenic concentrations at the Site, and provided pertinent data for submittal of samples to the laboratory for analysis.

2.6.1 Surface Water Pathway

Surface Water – Granite Creek

A total of 13 surface water samples were collected in Granite Creek during the SI and DGIs; 3 were collected from background locations, 8 were collected near the mines to assess the impact on the aquatic environment, and 2 were collected downstream of the Site above and below the confluence of Granite Creek and Lucas Gulch, 0.5 miles downstream of the Central Mine

No human health screening criteria were exceeded in any of the surface water samples. However, during the SI, laboratory method detection limits (MDLs) on arsenic and thallium were higher than the screening criteria (EA, 2003). Arsenic, concentrations estimated at 0.6 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) were detected in two of the background samples, which exceeded the human health screening criterion of $0.018 \mu\text{g/L}$. Barium was the only contaminant detected that exceeded an ecological/aquatic screening criteria ($4 \mu\text{g/L}$), with concentrations ranging from 34.9 to $52.9 \mu\text{g/L}$ in all the downstream samples. Barium was not analyzed in DGI background samples because it was not identified in the Risk Assessment as a COPC.

The MDLs as reported in the SI for four contaminants (cadmium, mercury, selenium, and silver) were higher than the respective ecological/aquatic screening criteria (EA, 2003). Therefore, it is unknown if concentrations of these contaminants are higher than the screening criteria. However, the contaminant loading from the mines within the Upper Granite Creek Watershed on Granite Creek appears to be negligible.

2.6.2 Surface Water – Springs/Seeps

A total of 13 surface water samples were collected from seeps and springs at or near the mines (Table 1).

Monumental Mine - two samples were collected from the adit seeps emanating from the Upper and Lower Adits; two samples were collected from the spring at the headwaters of the unnamed tributary; two samples were collected below the lower waste rock pile in the unnamed tributary; and three samples were collected from the upper and lower settling ponds.

Other Mines - two samples were collected from springs at the Cap Martin Mine; one sample was collected from the adit seep at the lower Golden Fraction Mine; and one sample was collected from a seep near the GC-5 Mine.

Below is a summary by constituent.

- Arsenic was detected above the human health screening criteria of $0.018 \mu\text{g/L}$ in 11 of the samples with concentrations ranging from 1.3 to $105 \mu\text{g/L}$; arsenic was not detected above the MDL in two of the samples, but the MDL was above the human health screening criterion (EA, 2003).
 - The highest concentrations of arsenic were exhibited from the samples collected from the Monumental Mine upper settling pond (81.8 and $105 \mu\text{g/L}$).
 - Arsenic concentrations from the Monumental Mine adit seeps ranged from 21.8 to $27.2 \mu\text{g/L}$.
 - Elevated concentrations of arsenic (21.4 and $24.2 \mu\text{g/L}$) were also identified in the samples collected from the unnamed tributary below the lowest waste rock pile at the Monumental Mine.
 - An elevated concentration of arsenic ($51 \mu\text{g/L}$) was also identified in the sample collected from the headwaters during the 2009 DGI. However, the 2003 sample was not detected above the MDL of $6.0 \mu\text{g/L}$. The 2009 result may be indicative of high total suspended solids (TSS) for the sample (142 mg/L). Conversely, the sample collected in 2003

- Lead (ranging from 9 to 29.4 µg/L) was detected above the lowest aquatic criteria (2.3 µg) at the GC-5 Mine seep, and two samples from the Monumental Mine.
- Magnesium (ranging from 55.4 to 374 µg/L) was detected above the human health and aquatic screening criteria (50 and 120 µg/L, respectively) in two samples (Golden Fraction seep and unnamed drainage near the Monumental Mine).
- Mercury (0.141 µg/L) was only detected in one sample (GC-5 seep) above the aquatic criteria of 0.012 µg/L.
- Method detection limits as reported in the SI for three contaminants (selenium, silver, and thallium) were all greater than the respective ecological/aquatic screening criteria (EA, 2003). Therefore, it is unknown if concentrations of these contaminants are higher than the screening criteria.

Overall, several of the seeps/springs are elevated with hazardous substances, mainly arsenic. Considering arsenic concentrations were below laboratory MDLs within Granite Creek downstream from the adit seeps, they do not appear to be significantly contributing contaminants to the stream. However, arsenic concentrations of 21.4 and 24.2 µg/L in the unnamed tributary downslope from the lowest Monumental Mine waste rock pile indicate mining related impacts in this tributary, which discharges to Granite Creek. The tributary supports a native population of redband trout, which are a species of concern (SOC). In addition, summer steelhead spawning and rearing habitat is located up Granite Creek to the confluence with the unnamed tributary (StreamNet, 2010). Middle Columbia River Steelhead are listed by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As outlined in the SI, bull trout were also observed within Granite Creek upstream to the Cap Martin Mine (EA, 2003). Bull trout are also listed as “threatened” under the ESA.

2.6.3 Pore Water – Granite Creek

A total of 14 pore water samples were collected in Granite Creek during the SI and DGIs; 3 were collected from background locations, 9 were collected near each mine to assess the impact on the aquatic environment, and 2 were collected downstream of the Site above and below the confluence of Granite Creek and Lucas Gulch, 0.5 miles downstream of the Central Mine. These two downstream samples are not included in the following discussion because they appear to be impacted by other sources (i.e., Boston Mine, East Eddie Group, and the Ajax-Magnolia Mine Complex). Below is a summary by constituent (see Table 2).

- Arsenic was not detected above the aquatic life screening criteria of 150 µg/L in any sample.
- Barium exceeded the ecological/aquatic screening criteria (4 µg/L) in every downstream sample with concentrations ranging from 31.0 µg/L upstream of the Cap Martin Mine to 60.8 µg/L downstream of the Central Mine. Barium was not analyzed in DGI background samples because it was not identified in the Risk Assessment as a COPC.
- Iron was detected (5,560 µg/L) above the ecological/aquatic screening criteria of 1,000 µg/L in one background sample (GC-PW-02), but all other samples did not exceed the criteria.
- Lead was detected above the lowest aquatic criteria (2.05 µg/L) in two pore water samples near the Central Mine (2.4 µg/L at ST-PWP-09 and ST-PWR-10).
- Magnesium was detected (259 µg/L) above the ecological/aquatic screening criteria of 120 µg/L in one background sample (GC-PW-02), but all other samples did not exceed the criteria.
- As reported in the SI, the MDLs for three contaminants (cadmium, mercury, and silver) were all greater than the respective ecological/aquatic screening criteria (EA, 2003). Therefore, it is unknown if concentrations of these contaminants are

2.6.4 Stream Sediment – Granite Creek

A total of 23 sediment samples were collected from Granite Creek during the SI and DGIs; 3 were collected from background locations, 16 were collected near the mines to assess the impact on the aquatic environment, and 4 were collected downstream of the Site above and below the confluence of Granite Creek and Lucas Gulch, 0.5 miles downstream of the Central Mine. These four downstream samples are not included in the following discussion because they appear to be impacted by other sources (i.e., East Eddie Group and the Ajax-Magnolia Mine Complex). A total of four bank samples were also collected from the streambank along Granite Creek in the floodplain during the 2007 DGI. Below is a summary by constituent (Table 3).

- Arsenic was detected above the lowest aquatic life screening criteria of 5.9 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in every sediment and streambank sample, with concentrations ranging from 9.3 mg/kg (downstream of the Sheridan Mine) to 127 mg/kg (streambank upstream of the Central Mine).
- Cadmium was detected above the lowest aquatic screening criteria of 0.6 mg/kg in one sediment sample (upstream of the Central Mine at 0.62 mg/kg), and three streambank samples (0.85 – 1.5 mg/kg).
- Chromium was detected above the lowest aquatic screening criteria (37 mg/kg) in one sediment sample (upstream of the Cap Martin Mine at 45.6 mg/kg) and one streambank sample (near the Central Mine at 42 mg/kg).
- Lead was detected above the lowest aquatic screening criteria (35 mg/kg) in one sediment sample (upstream of the Central Mine at 52.4 mg/kg) and in two streambank samples (45.3 and 45.8 mg/kg both near the Central Mine).
- Mercury was not detected above the lowest aquatic screening criteria (0.174 mg/kg) in any sediment sample, and only one streambank sample (upstream of the Central Mine at 0.23 mg/kg) was detected above the criteria.
- Silver was only detected slightly above the lowest screening criteria of 1.8 mg/kg in one sediment sample (1.9 mg/kg upstream of the Tillicum Mine); two streambank samples were also slightly above the criteria near the Central Mine (2.4 mg/kg and 3.27 mg/kg).

2.6.5 Soil Pathway

A total of 65 waste rock, tailings, and soil samples were collected as part of the SI, and DGIs. Of these, 24 samples were collected during the SI conducted by EA in 2003, 21 samples were collected by CES during the DGI in 2007, and 20 samples were collected by CES during the DGI in 2009.

A total of 46 test pits were advanced with an excavator or hand auger during the 2009 DGI. Each test pit was screened at selected vertical intervals with an XRF for arsenic concentrations. From these, 20 samples were submitted to the laboratory for analysis. Table 8 includes a summary of the locations and arsenic concentrations, while Figures C-1 and C-2 identify the locations of the test pits.

Overall, arsenic is the main contaminant of concern at all nine mines that comprise the Site. Arsenic concentrations in waste rock and tailings are highest at the Monumental Mine. Concentrations ranged from 1.7 mg/kg (GC-6 Mine) to 11,400 mg/kg (Monumental Mine), which were all greater than the EPA Regional Screening Level of 1.6 mg/kg (industrial soil) and most were above the ecological screening criteria of 9.9 and 37 mg/kg. Several other constituents (antimony, lead, mercury, and zinc) were elevated when compared to background and regulatory screening criteria.

Acid Base Accounting (ABA) was analyzed on 28 waste rock, tailings, and soil samples.

- The acid base potential (ABP) is the result of the acid neutralizing potential (ANP) minus the acid generating potential (AGP). A negative ABP indicates that the AGP is greater than the ANP, and thus the material has the potential to produce acid rock drainage (ARD).
- Waste rock ABP's ranged from -20 (Monumental Mine Crusher) to 98 (Upper Monumental Mine Waste rock Pile) t CaCO₃/Kt (ABP units are presented as tons of calcium carbonate needed to neutralize a kiloton of waste [CaCO₃/Kt]).
- Generally ABP values below -20 indicate a strong potential for ARD and values above +20 indicates that material is unlikely to form ARD. Based on these results, waste material near the Monumental Mine Crusher has the potential to produce ARD.

Thirty waste rock, tailings, and soil samples were submitted for the TCLP and the synthetic precipitation leaching procedure (SPLP) for the eight Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) constituents (arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and silver).

- There are no applicable standards for SPLP; however, the results can be compared to RCRA TCLP disposal limits.
- Most of the samples did not contain concentrations of constituents in the TCLP or SPLP extracts in excess of the TCLP limits. However, samples collected from the Monumental Mine flotation table and former chlorination plant contained TCLP and SPLP arsenic at concentrations of 15.6 and 9.4 mg/L, respectively. In addition, the sample collected from the Monumental Mine upper settling pond contained TCLP arsenic at a concentration of 8.5 mg/L (Table 6). The USEPA TCLP regulatory threshold for arsenic is 5.0 mg/L.
- Under the Bevill Exclusion (40 CFR 261.4(b)(7)), waste derived from the extraction (gangue and waste rock), beneficiation (milling, flotation), and some processing are exempt from hazardous waste designation under Subtitle C of RCRA. As such, tailings material derived from the ore processing at the Site may be exempt from RCRA hazardous waste designation. Furthermore, the TCLP analysis uses a weak organic acetic acid solvent commonly found in municipal landfills. However, organic acids are not typically present in waste material found at mines and other field sites, and the TCLP usually overestimate the concentration of leachable metals in mine wastes.

2.6.6 Groundwater

Groundwater samples were not collected as part of the SI or DGI field activities. Groundwater that discharges from adits, seeps, and springs is addressed under the surface water pathway. As outlined in the SI (EA, 2003), shallow groundwater at the Site does not likely form a laterally continuous aquifer due to the presence of igneous intrusions and shallow bedrock. Localized shear zones may also influence groundwater flow. The closest drinking water well is 4 miles from the Site near the Town of Granite and is several hundred feet deep. Therefore, impacts to the well are not expected from the Site sources and activities, and the groundwater pathway appears to be incomplete.

2.6.7 Air

Air samples were not collected as part of the SI or DGI field activities. Arsenic and other contaminants were likely released to the air during the mining and milling processes as dust and particulate matter. Chlorine gas was also probably discharged from the chlorination flue at the mill during milling

However, further assessment of the air pathway is not recommended because addressing and/or eliminating the soil exposure pathway will render the air exposure pathway incomplete.

2.7 Human Health Risk Assessment Update Summary

An update to the human health risk assessment (HHRA) developed in 2006 was prepared as part of this EE/CA and is included as Appendix C. A brief summary of the conclusions is presented below. Arsenic and lead were identified as the soil/waste rock, sediment, and surface water COPCs. Quantitative risk assessment determined that no unacceptable non-carcinogenic health effects are anticipated for exposure to COPCs in all media.

Arsenic was the only carcinogenic COPC identified in soil, waste rock, sediment, and surface water.

- Unacceptable carcinogenic risks from exposure to arsenic in waste rock under the RME recreational exposure scenarios were predicted at four of the nine mines: Monumental Mine, Cap Martin Mine, Tillicum Mine, and Central Mine.
- The Monumental Mine had the highest arsenic concentrations and therefore represents the highest level of human risk.
- No unacceptable human health risks were identified from exposure to arsenic under the CTE.
- No carcinogenic risks were predicted from exposure to sediment or surface water.
- Carcinogenic risks from ingestion and dermal contact with arsenic-impacted soil and waste rock under the RME, worst-case conservative estimate of exposure, exceed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) regulatory standard of 1×10^{-6} excess cancer risk at the Site.
- Based on analytical results for Sheridan, GC-05, GC-06, and GC-07 Mines, no unacceptable carcinogenic risks are anticipated under both the CTE and RME exposure conditions.
- No hot spots were identified at the Site.

Per OAR 340-122-0040(2)(a) and OAR 340-122-0084, risk-based cleanup concentrations can be calculated to mitigate a hazardous substance release. A risk-based cleanup concentration for soil and waste rock was calculated to be 143 mg/kg total arsenic, which is well above the average background arsenic concentration of 10.7 mg/kg.

Following completion of the 2009 DGI, CES reviewed the updated data with our risk assessors to determine the overall impact of the new data on the existing risk assessment and cleanup level. Since all arsenic concentrations exhibited during the 2009 DGI were within the range of those previously identified at the Site, risk appears to remain consistent. As such, the cleanup concentration for the Site was confirmed at 143 mg/kg (Appendix C).

2.8 Ecological Risk Assessment Update Summary

An update to the Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) developed in 2006 was prepared as part of this EE/CA in accordance with ODEQ guidance (ODEQ, 2001) and presented in Appendix C of this report. A brief summary of conclusions is presented below.

- Elevated concentrations of several COPECs (aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, cobalt, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc) are present in soil, waste rock, surface water, pore water, and sediment at the Site.

- Immobile receptors (i.e., plants and invertebrates) are likely to be adversely impacted within the boundaries of the Site; especially at the Monumental Mine; where the highest concentrations of arsenic were identified in waste rock.
- Several ecological hot spots were identified, including antimony, arsenic, lead, mercury, and silver in waste rock at the Monumental, Tillicum, Golden Fraction, Cap Martin, and Central Mines; as well as samples collected from waste rock along Granite Creek.
- Individual birds and small mammals are likely to be exposed to COPECs in the waste rock piles and may be adversely impacted. However, population level impacts are not expected because of the relatively limited distribution of the COPECs compared to the home ranges of these more wide-ranging terrestrial species.
- Elevated risk ratios for barium and zinc were observed in surface water and pore water and an elevated risk ratio was observed for silver in pore water. The farthest upstream and farthest downstream stations have the highest concentrations of several COPECs in surface water and pore water. This suggests Monumental and Tillicum Mines (or other downstream source) may be contributing a majority of the COPECs to Granite Creek.
- Elevated risk ratios were observed for total arsenic, cadmium, and zinc in sediment.
 - o These contaminants appear likely to have the potential to impact immobile aquatic receptors or those that are frequently exposed to COPECs in sediment (i.e., benthic macroinvertebrate), especially in the lower reaches of the Upper Granite Creek watershed.
 - o Cadmium was the only COPEC that had a hot spot that exceeded both the ERBSC and background concentrations by a factor of more than ten. However, this was a pore water sample collected in Granite Creek downstream of Lucas Gulch. As stated above, Granite Creek in this area appears to be impacted by other sources (i.e., Boston Mine, East Eddie Group and the Ajax-Magnolia Mine Complex).
- The total arsenic cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg recommended to reduce human health risks is expected to reduce the ecological impacts that were predicted for the Site. Ecological risk-based cleanup concentrations cannot be calculated unless a more detailed species specific ERA is performed.

2.9 Human and Ecological Hot Spots

A hot spot is generally defined as an area that presents an unacceptable risk and the contamination is highly concentrated, highly mobile, or cannot be reliably contained (ODEQ, 1998). No human health hot spots were identified because the areas that indicated human health risk were not deemed to be highly concentrated and/or highly mobile, and they could be reliably contained with proper engineering controls.

Numerous ecological hot spots were identified in all media at the Site because the areas that indicated ecological risk were deemed to be highly concentrated (i.e., > 10 times the ERBSC). OAR 340-122 (Hazardous Substance Remedial Action Rules), require that certain actions be taken for “hot spots” of contamination, which includes the “treatment” of hot spots, to the extent feasible, as part of a remedial action selected or approved by the director of ODEQ.

3.0 SITE CLEANUP CRITERIA

3.1 Potential Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements

ARARs are “*applicable*” and/or “*relevant and appropriate*” federal and state environmental requirements. The *applicable* requirements include cleanup standards and other important requirements, criteria, or

limitations promulgated from federal or state laws that apply to hazardous substances and Removal Actions. *Relevant and appropriate* requirements are not necessarily applicable, but may be suitable for use because they address issues or problems sufficiently similar to those that exist at a site. In addition to ARARs, federal and state environmental and public health guidance and proposed standards that may not be legally binding but could prove useful are standards “*to be considered*” (TBC).

Federal, state, and local potential ARARs are used to 1) evaluate the extent of site cleanup needed; 2) scope and develop Removal Action alternatives; and 3) guide the implementation and operation of the preferred alternative.

The NCP (40 CFR 300.415(j)) establishes that Removal Actions shall “to the extent practicable, considering the exigencies of the situation, attain applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements under federal environmental or state environmental facility siting laws.”

- To determine whether compliance with potential ARARs is practicable, two factors are specified in 40 CFR 300.415(j): (1) urgency and (2) scope of the Removal Action.
- The scope of the Removal Action is often directed at minimizing and mitigating potential hazard rather than eliminating the hazard. Therefore, even though a particular standard may be an ARAR for a particular medium, it may be outside of the scope of the immediate problem. For example, removal of a hazardous substance source may improve groundwater or surface water quality without meeting water quality criteria, thus not meeting the potential ARAR, can be an acceptable Removal Action.

The potential ARARs are grouped as federal or State of Oregon potential ARARs; no specific local potential ARARs were identified (Appendix D). Potential ARARs are identified by a statutory or regulatory citation, followed by a brief explanation of the potential ARAR, and whether the potential ARAR is (1) “potentially applicable”, (2) “potentially relevant and appropriate”, or (3) “to be considered”. In accordance with Section 121(e) of CERCLA, no permits are required for an on-site Removal Action. However, as discussed above, substantive requirements, which a permit might otherwise address, must be met to the extent practicable.

Potential ARARs are either: chemical-, location-, or action-specific.

- Chemical-specific requirements address chemical or physical characteristics of chemicals or hazardous substances. These values establish acceptable amounts or concentrations of chemicals that may be found in or discharged to the ambient environment.
- Location-specific requirements are restrictions placed on the concentrations of hazardous substances or the conduct of cleanup activities because they are in specific locations. Location-specific ARARs relate to the geographical or physical positions of a site rather than to the nature of hazardous substances at sites.
- Action-specific requirements are usually technology based or activity based requirements or limitations on actions taken with respect to chemicals or hazardous substances. A given cleanup activity could trigger an action-specific requirement. Such requirements do not themselves determine the cleanup alternative but define how to perform chosen cleanup methods.

The following sections outline the key potential ARARs for the Site.

3.1.1 Key Chemical-Specific ARARs

Soil, Sediment, and Water Quality Standards

As allowed by ODEQ regulations, risk-based cleanup concentrations were calculated for human exposure to soil/waste rock, surface water, and sediment at the Site (see Section 4.2). Ecological risk-based cleanup concentrations were not calculated for ecological receptors. Additional site-specific ecological risk evaluation would be needed before ecological risk-based cleanup concentrations can be calculated. Therefore, the following potential ARARs are considered key for the Site.

- National Recommended Water Quality Criteria (Section 304(a) of the CWA)
- Oregon Water Quality Standards (OAR Chapter 340 Division 41, Table 20)
- Federal Freshwater Sediment Standards, Threshold Effects Level and Probably Effects Level, as outlined in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Screening Quick Reference Tables (NOAA, 2008)

3.1.2 Key Action-Specific ARARs-

Solid Waste Disposal Requirements

The Solid Waste disposal ARARs establish the performance standards for proper handling and disposal of solid waste; outline responsibilities of various entities and stakeholders; and outline requirements for solid waste handling facility location, design, construction, operation, and closure. All substantive requirements for closure and post-closure of non-municipal landfills (OAR 340 Div 95) are potential ARARs.

3.1.3 Key Location-Specific ARARs

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines

Portions of the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) are potentially ARARs for assessing Site removal action alternatives. The NWFP include standards and guidelines that are potentially relevant and appropriate to actions at the Site, including activities within, or that affect Riparian Management Areas. These standards and guidelines control the design, construction, and use of temporary and permanent roads and other modifications within Riparian Reserves. In addition, the standards control solid waste and mine waste facilities within Riparian Reserves.

Ecologically Sensitive Areas

Possible ecologically sensitive location-specific ARARs at the Site will be considered during the design phase of the removal. These include the following key ARARs:

- Endangered Species Act (USC 1531(h) - 1543)
- Section 404 CWA (33 CFR 330) and Executive Order Number 11990 – Protection of Wetlands (40 CFR 6.302(a) and Appendix A)
- Executive order Number 119988 – Floodplain Management (40 CFR 6.302(g) and Appendix A)
- Oregon Wildlife Diversity Program and Plant Protection (OAR 635, Division 100)

Historic and Cultural Requirements

- National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC § 470)
- Historic Site, Buildings, Objects, and Antiquities Act (16 USC § 461-467)
- Archeological and Historic Preservation Act (16 USC § 469)

3.2 Risk-Based Cleanup Concentrations

The human health risk-based cleanup concentration for soil and waste rock was calculated at 143 mg/kg total arsenic. Ecological risk-based cleanup concentrations cannot be calculated unless a more detailed species specific ecological risk assessment is performed. Removal or containment of waste rock and soil to the cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg should control migration of contaminants and exposure routes and will be considered protective of ecological receptors.

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF REMOVAL ACTION OBJECTIVES

4.1 Removal Action Objectives

Removal Action objectives are specific goals for protection of human health and the environment that identify response actions to adequately address human health and ecological risks. The objectives for the Removal Action include:

- Protection of human health by minimizing exposure and hazards to onsite receptors.
- Reduction of possible mobilization of hazardous substances by removal of waste material or capping in-place with appropriate restoration.
- To the extent practicable, compliance with ARARs.

4.2 Removal Action Justification

The NCP states that an appropriate Removal Action may be conducted at a site when a threat to human health or welfare or the environment is identified. The Removal Action is undertaken to abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or the threat of a release at a site. Section 300.415(b)(2) of the

NCP outlines eight factors to be considered when determining the appropriateness of a Removal Action; these factors are assessed against the preferred alternative in Section 7.0, outlined below:

Removal Action Justification Table

Factor	Site Summary	Justification
(1) Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants	Complete exposure pathways to human and ecological receptors were documented from exposure to contaminant-impacted waste rock, soil, tailings, and stream sediment. Arsenic was detected up to 11,400 mg/kg in waste rock, which exceeds the USEPA Regional Screening Level of 1.6 mg/kg for industrial workers. Leachable arsenic concentrations of 15.6 and 8.5 mg/L were exhibited in samples collected near the floatation table and upper settling pond, which were above the hazardous waste disposal limit.	Yes

Factor	Site Summary	Justification
(2) Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems	Impacts to the unnamed tributary to Granite Creek were documented during field activities. The primary sources of the impacts appear to be via erosion of waste rock and tailings. Sensitive ecosystems, including an onsite wetland (Appendix B); wildlife breeding areas; and wild and scenic rivers are located near the Site and the 15-mile downstream target distance. The unnamed tributary, which emanates from the lower waste rock pile at the Monumental Mine, supports a native population of redband trout (SOC). Listed “threatened” Middle Columbia River Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Steelhead and bull trout have also been documented in Granite Creek upstream to the confluence with the unnamed tributary.	Yes
(3) “Hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers that may pose a threat of release”	No drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers were observed at the Site.	No
(4) High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface, that may migrate	Surficial waste rock, soil, and tailings are contaminated with arsenic. This hazardous substance is susceptible to chemical mobilization and transport by snow melt and possible acid mine drainage percolating through the contaminated materials.	Yes
(5) Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants to migrate or be released	High runoff conditions, particularly in the spring and during summer thunderstorms, may erode and transport contaminated waste rock and tailings that are located within the floodplains.	Yes
(6) Threat of fire or explosion	No known fire or explosion threats is present at the Site.	No
(7) The availability of other appropriate federal or state mechanisms to respond to the release	The Site is on land administered by the Forest Service and is not currently listed or proposed for listing on the National Priorities List. Thus, the Forest Service is the agency with CERCLA authority over the National Forest System land.	No
(8) Other situations or factors that may pose threats to public health or welfare of the United States or the environment.	The Site is located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, along a maintained scenic byway and Forest Service roads where the Monumental, Golden Fraction, and Central Mines can be easily accessed. However, access to the other mines is very difficult due to the unmaintained roads and downed timber.	Yes

4.3 Scope of the Removal Action

The scope of the Removal Action for the Site is to achieve cleanup of site-related hazardous substances to acceptable levels of risk to humans and the environment. The scope includes the following:

- A combination of removal and capping of arsenic-contaminated waste rock, tailings, and concentrates in excess of the Site-specific human health cleanup goal of 143 mg/kg.
- Mitigation of physical hazards.
- Site restoration following implementation of the Removal Action.

4.4 Removal Action Schedule

The Removal Action process should be completed in a period of 18 to 24 months, not including the post monitoring, which should be conducted for at least 3 to 6 years following the Removal Action. Time period

includes allotment for assessing data gaps, design of the recommended Removal Action; review by the client and appropriate regulatory bodies; public comment; preparation of bid documents; completion of the Removal Action; and completion of the final Removal Action Report.

5.0 IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the selection of a Removal Action using a four step process:

1. Identify technologies and processes potentially applicable to the Site.
2. Screen technologies and processes to eliminate ineffective or unfeasible technologies.
3. Develop alternatives using combinations of technologies that pass the screening process.
4. Evaluate the alternatives according to criteria described in Section 6.3.

5.1 Identification and Screening of Removal Action Options and Alternatives

The purpose of identifying and screening technology types and processes is to eliminate those technologies and process options that are unfeasible and/or do not meet potential ARARs. General Removal Actions are refined into technology types and process options. Multiple treatment technologies and process options have been evaluated for mine/mill solid waste. Most of these are not considered feasible because they would require extensive treatability studies, which are cost prohibitive, and not considered appropriate. Table 9 summarizes the results of the screening process for developing alternatives.

5.2 Identification and Description Alternatives For Further Evaluation

Conceptual alternatives were developed from the technologies that passed the screening process. Key design features are estimates only and provided for comparison purposes. Using the retained process options, the following alternatives were selected for detailed analysis:

- Alternative 1 – No Action
- Alternative 2 – Onsite Containment
- Alternative 3 – Excavation and Onsite Containment in Repository
- Alternative 4 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Because waste rock samples collected at the GC-6, Sheridan, and Upper Golden Fraction Mines were below the risk-based cleanup concentration, Removal Actions at these mines were not considered. The Monumental Mine, GC-5, Cap Martin, Lower and Middle Golden Fraction, and Central Mines were considered for further evaluation.

5.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

No Removal Action would be completed to control migration of hazardous substances, or reduce the toxicity or volume. This alternative would require no further investigation or monitoring action and would be used as baseline against which other removal options can be compared as suggested by the NCP.

5.2.2 Common Items for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4

Several items are common to Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, and will be discussed and outlined in this section. Evaluation of these common items against the evaluation criteria is included in the overall evaluation of each of the alternatives. A summary of the common items is outlined in the following:

Building Material, Equipment, and Debris Demolition / Disposal

The SI identified a six-inch transit pipe at the Central Mine area (EA, 2003). Transit pipes traditionally consisted of cement mixed with asbestos fibers to increase strength and durability.

- Asbestos is regulated under the Clean Air Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and by OSHA due to unique and significant health risks associated with disturbance, handling, and disposal. As such, workers without requisite asbestos-related training will not be allowed to conduct abatement activities at the Site.
- Based on this, the pipe should be handled and treated as suspect asbestos-containing material (ACM). The suspect ACM will be kept in non-friable condition and removed under the supervision of an ODEQ licensed asbestos contractor.
- Handling, transport, and disposal will require treatment of suspect ACM that prevents it from becoming friable. The material will be transported to a landfill permitted to accept asbestos waste (e.g., Baker County Landfill). The landfill will be notified in advance the material is considered suspect ACM.

All metal, wood, equipment, and other miscellaneous nuisance debris that pose a potential physical or chemical hazard to Site users will be removed from the Site. CES estimates that 3 truck loads (10 cy each) of building materials will be disposed in the onsite repository.

Historic Preservation

To the extent possible and practicable, the Monumental Mill and crusher foundations will be left intact; tailings and concentrations above the cleanup concentration will be removed using hand tools, vacuum trucks, or small equipment.

Cover Soil Borrow Area

Cover material will be obtained from surface material in the former clearcut in the Upper Granite Creek Saddle, a one-mile (one way) haul route on FR 7453 east of the Monumental Mine. Test pits completed during the 2009 DGI in this area showed the following general shallow lithology:

- 0 – 1 feet: soft ash/organics
- 1 - 2.5 feet: loamy material/cobbles
- 2.5 – 4 feet: weathered granite

Volcanic ash soils in the Blue Mountains of Northeastern Oregon support productive conifer forests, although displacement may negatively affect juvenile tree growth (USFS, 2008). Nonetheless, various grass species produce high forage yields on cleared volcanic ash soils, which also reduce erosion, and allows for succession to shrubs and trees (Pumphrey, 1970).

The proposed borrow area is currently vegetated with root intrusions into the ash/loam layers, indicating the material has the capability to support forest vegetation. A blend of the ash, loam, and upper one foot of the weathered granite should provide a suitable mix as cover soil for revegetation of excavated or contoured waste rock piles. The lateral extent of the borrow areas will be dependent upon the depth to which material may be excavated, the area of disturbance could vary between 0.25 acres to 2 acres. Additional cover soil may be scavenged from the hummocky area south of the lower waste rock pile at the Monumental Mine. Re-graded areas will be covered with a 1-foot soil cover (6-inch equipment compacted lift and 6-inch loose lift). This is considered sufficient because most of the waste rock,

Repository

The proposed repository in the Upper Granite Creek saddle will be excavated from the cover soil borrow area. As discussed, the lateral extent of the borrow area and repository will be dependent upon the depth to which material may be excavated (between 0.25 and 2 acres). Excavated borrow soil will be used to cap disturbed areas at the Monumental Mine and will be stockpiled to be used as the cap for the repository. The repository will be constructed with 3H: 1V slopes or flatter, depending upon the extent of the borrow area footprint. The repository will be graded to prevent erosion and ponding, and runoff channels will be constructed around the base of the repository, as necessary.

Waste material generated from the Monumental Mine will be compacted in one-foot lifts in the repository to obtain the desired slope. The cover will consist of a two-foot soil cover (one-foot equipment compacted lift and one-foot loose lift) from borrowed cover material. Cleared materials, including slash, trees, and boulders would be stockpiled to be used for erosion control on the repository cap and to regulate access from public roads.

The Removal Action design will include additional details regarding the proposed repository. As discussed in Section 2.6.5, tailings from the former flotation table and settling pond failed the TCLP regulatory threshold for arsenic. Therefore, the need for an impermeable liner and/or additional RCRA municipal landfill requirements will be assessed further during the Removal Action design.

Revegetation and Erosion Control

All disturbed areas, excavation areas, covered waste material, and the repository (Alternative 3) will be revegetated with the application of seed, fertilizer, and mulch. The seed mix will be selected following consultation with the Forest Service. Fertilizer will consist of 16% total nitrogen, 16% available phosphoric acid, 16% total water soluble potash, and 5% sulfur applied at the rate of 400 pounds per acre. Certified weed-free WoodStraw™ mulch would be applied at 70% coverage to control erosion during plant establishment.

Stormwater and snowmelt run-on would be controlled on the upgradient side by constructing run-on control berms; these will be incorporated into the grading activities so separate run-on ditches will not be required.

Monumental Mine Spring

The Monumental Mine spring, located downslope from the Upper Monumental Mine adit, currently discharges to the upper settling ponds. The settling ponds contain tailings and elevated concentrations of hazardous substances; therefore, during the Removal Action, water will be diverted around the wetland and discharged downslope from the lower waste rock pile into the unnamed tributary.

The size and type of the pipe will be determined during the Removal Action design, but a 12-inch corrugated plastic pipe would be more than sufficient based on the flows observed. Following tailings removal activities and revegetation of the ponds and wetlands, water will be diverted back to the upper settling pond.

Monumental Mine Adit Seeps

The Monumental Mine Upper and Lower Adit have minimal flow and relatively low arsenic concentrations, and currently infiltrates into the adjacent waste

the hummocky area on the south side of the lower waste rock pile using an open rock-lined channel. Details regarding the design of the channel and possible use of the hummocky area for wetland mitigation will be included in the Removal Action design.

Surface Water Management

Water emanating from the Monumental Mine Lower Adit currently discharges to the lower settling pond. There is no evidence of a surface water outlet from the lower settling pond to the unnamed tributary. However, there is evidence of surface water flow over the access road into the settling pond area during high flow events. A 12-inch HDPE culvert will be installed under the access road to convey water during high flow events.

Road Maintenance and Decommissioning

During the Removal Action, select access roads will be minimally improved and closed to traffic. Currently, the undulating topography of FR 7453 precludes access for haul equipment. Therefore, filling in select areas will be necessary to upgrade the road for haul access. The old road bed to the Monumental Mine Upper Adit will require repairs, widening, and upgrades to allow access for machinery and trucks. The access road to the Monumental Mine Lower Adit will need minor upgrades for access. FR 680 will require upgrades, including widening and filling to provide access for machinery to the Central Mine.

Water will also be applied, as needed, to control fugitive dust emissions. CES will obtain permission from local Forest Service staff to withdraw water from Granite Creek and/or the unnamed tributary and lower settling pond, with appropriate cautions taken to withdraw water from designated fire water withdraw points and fish screens on intake hoses.

Upon completion of the Removal Action activities, old mining roads within the limits of the Site and temporary access Forest Service roads will be decommissioned and revegetated in coordination with local Forest Service staff. Decommissioning will consist of re-contouring the road for proper drainage, ripping to 12-inches, seeding, and mulching. Following decommissioning, large boulders, trees, or appropriate Wallowa-Whitman National Forest road closure methods will be employed to limit unauthorized vehicle access. The length of roads to be decommissioned will vary based on the alternative selected. All other Forest Service and county roads will be left open using signs/flagging. Oregon Department of Transportation approved signs will be used on Forest Service and county roads.

5.2.3 Alternative 2: Onsite Containment

Under this alternative, all waste material at the Site that exceeds the cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg total arsenic would be contained onsite and cover soil applied to assist with the establishment of vegetation. The volumes of material to be contained are summarized below:

- Monumental Mine – 39,200 cy of waste rock, tailings, and concentrates
- Cap Martin Mine – 1,500 cy of waste rock
- GC-7 Mine – 300 cy of waste rock
- Tillicum Mine – 1,300 cy of waste rock
- GC-5 Mine – 400 cy of waste rock
- Golden Fraction Mine – Middle (120 cy of waste rock) / Lower (380 cy of waste rock)
- Central Mine Lower Adit – 650 cy of waste rock
- Granite Creek aquatic station GC-03 – 20 cy of waste rock
</

All disturbed areas and re-graded areas will be re-contoured and revegetated as outlined in the Common Items (Section 5.2.2). Details regarding the onsite excavation/containment at each mine are provided below.

Monumental Mine - Upper Shaft Area

The piles will be pushed into the partially open shaft, to the extent practicable, to reduce physical hazards. The remaining material will be re-contoured and blended into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 50 cy.

Monumental Mine - Upper Waste Rock Pile

Under this alternative, the northern and southern edges of the waste rock pile would be pulled out to provide a gentler slope. However, the overall slopes will likely be steeper than desired for onsite containment. Timber would likely need to be logged north of the existing pile to provide area for waste rock material placement. Trees currently growing on the waste rock pile will be logged and stockpiled and later utilized on the re-graded pile for erosion control. The estimated volume of cover material is 1,600 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be several large dozers and excavators, and standard haul trucks.

Monumental Mine - Millsite and Settling Ponds

Under this alternative, no action would occur in the settling ponds since they are currently covered with an organic layer and hydrophytic vegetation. The millsite areas exceeding the arsenic cleanup goal will be covered. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 100 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator and standard haul trucks.

Monumental Mine - Lower Waste Rock Pile and Crusher

Under this alternative, the northern and southern edges of the large, flat waste rock pile would be pulled toward the center, to provide a gentle slope (e.g., 3H:1V). In addition, the small waste rock pile associated with the collapsed adit and the crusher area will be consolidated with the re-graded pile. The graded pile will be covered as described above with clean material in the hummocky area adjacent to the south end of the pile, and from the main borrow area. The hummocky area was observed to support vegetation during the DGI field activities and should provide suitable organic cover material. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 1,700 cy.

Trees currently growing on the waste rock pile will be stockpiled and later utilized on the re-graded pile for erosion control. Equipment planned for this alternative will be several large dozers and excavators, and standard haul trucks.

Cap Martin Mine

Under this alternative, the waste rock (1,200 cy on the north side and 300 cy on the south side) would be re-contoured on each side of Granite Creek to blend into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 1,500 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator and small dozer. Access to the mine will be via FR 7345. About 1,000 feet of primitive road would need to be constructed through the heavy brush/blow-down.

GC-7

and small dozer. Access will be via FR 680 (along Granite Creek) with a primitive spur road used to access the mine.

Tillicum Mine

The Tillicum Mine has two collapsed adits, providing concave topography on the hillslope. As part of the alternative, waste rock at the Tillicum Mine Upper and Lower Adits (1,300 cy) will be excavated and placed into the existing collapsed adit portal and re-contoured to blend into the surrounding terrain. Excess waste material would be blended into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 300 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator and small dozer. Access to the Tillicum Mine will be accomplished using FR 680, along Granite Creek.

GC-5 Mine

The GC-5 Mine has a collapsed adit, providing concave topography on the hillslope. Waste rock at the GC-5 Mine (400 cy) will be excavated and pulled back into the existing collapsed adit portal and re-contoured to blend into the surrounding terrain. Excess waste material would be blended into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 50 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator and small dozer. Access to the GC-5 Mine will be accomplished using FR 680, along Granite Creek.

Golden Fraction Mine – Middle Area

Under this alternative, the four small separate piles (120 cy) will be re-contoured to blend into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 30 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator with a blade. Access will be from FR 7345, located upslope of the waste rock piles.

Golden Fraction Mine –Lower Area

The Lower Golden Fraction Mine has a collapsed adit, providing concave topography on the hillslope. As part of this alternative, waste rock (380 cy) from the Lower Area will be re-contoured to blend into the collapsed portal and surrounding terrain. Excess waste material would be blended into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 60 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator and a small dozer. Access will be accomplished using FR 680, along Granite Creek.

Central Mine

The Central Mine has two collapsed adits, providing concave topography on the hillslope. Waste rock at the Central Mine (650 cy) will be excavated and pulled back into the existing collapsed adit portals and surrounding terrain. Excess waste material would be blended into the surrounding terrain. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 100 cy. Equipment planned for this alternative will be a small excavator and a small dozer. Access will be accomplished using FR 680, along Granite Creek.

GC-03 Waste Rock Pile

Under this alternative, the waste rock pile adjacent to Granite Creek aquatic station GC-03 will be pulled away from the Granite Creek floodplain and re-contoured using a small excavator with access from the west on the spur road (FR 740) originating from FR 7345. The re-contoured waste rock will be covered with soil that can be scavenged from around the immediate area and revegetated in the same manner as the

5.2.4 Alternative 3: Excavation and Onsite Containment

Under this alternative, all waste material at the Monumental Mine that exceeds the cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg total arsenic would be excavated disposed in an onsite repository, all other waste material would be contained onsite as outlined in Alternative 2. The volumes of material to be removed/contained are summarized below:

- Monumental Mine – 39,200 cy of waste rock, tailings, and concentrates – Onsite Repository
- Cap Martin Mine – 1,500 cy of waste rock – Onsite Containment
- GC-7 Mine – 300 cy of waste rock – Onsite Containment
- Tillicum Mine – 1,300 cy of waste rock – Onsite Containment
- GC-5 Mine – 400 cy of waste rock – Onsite Containment
- Golden Fraction Mine – Middle (120 cy) / Lower (380 cy) – Onsite Containment
- Central Mine Lower Adit– 650 cy of waste rock – Onsite Containment

Visual observations and an XRF will be used to delineate the extent of the excavations and confirmation samples will be collected and sent to the laboratory to document the removal. The preferred repository location is the former clearcut in the Upper Granite Creek Saddle, east of the Monumental Mine. The round-trip haul route is 2 miles on FR 7345 from the Monumental Mine. The clearcut provides relatively flat terrain to contain the material, and access to the public can be minimized with road decommissioning following the Removal Action. Large boulders may also be obtained from the clearcut, which can be used at the Site to limit public access.

All disturbed areas, excavated areas, re-graded areas, and the repository will be revegetated as outlined in the Common Items (Section 5.2.2). Details regarding the onsite excavation/containment at each mine are provided below.

Monumental Mine - Upper Shaft Area

The waste rock piles will be pushed into the partially open shaft, to the extent practicable, to reduce physical hazards. The remaining material will be placed in the repository.

Monumental Mine - Upper Waste Rock Pile

Waste rock that exceeds the cleanup goal will be pushed downslope with a dozer to FR 7345, where it can be loaded and hauled to the repository via traditional dump trucks. Trees will need to be removed near the haul road to provide access for equipment to load dump trucks. The trees will be used for erosion control on the excavated areas or the repository.

Monumental Mine - Millsite and Settling Ponds

Tailings and concentrates from the millsite and settling ponds that exceed the cleanup goal will be removed using an excavator and transported and placed in the repository using standard dump trucks. The wetland area in the settling ponds (0.08 acres) will be mitigated in accordance with USEPA CERCLA guidance. Options for wetland creation near the upper repository adit drainage and in the hummocky area adjacent to the lower waste rock pile will be considered as part of the Removal Action design.

2H:1V slopes will be constructed from the outlet of the settling pond to the wetland. The settling pond outlet will be armored with geo-textile and rip-rap to prevent erosion. The estimated volume of cover material needed is 1,700 cy. The estimated volume of clean organic media for the wetland is 100 cy. A 12-inch HDPE culvert will be installed under the access road to convey water during high flow events. No action would occur at the collapsed adit and small waste rock pile (100 cy) located north and upslope of the Crusher.

Cap Martin Mine, GC-7 Mine, Tillicum Mine, GC-5 Mine, Golden Fraction Mine, Central Mine, and GC-03 Waste Rock Pile

Under this alternative, waste rock at the Cap Martin, GC-5, GC-7, Tillicum, Golden Fraction, and Central Mines and GC-03 waste rock pile would be managed as discussed under Alternative 2.

5.2.5 Alternative 4: Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Under this alternative, all waste material at the Site that exceeds the cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg total arsenic would be excavated and transported offsite for disposal. The volumes of material to be removed are summarized below:

- Monumental Mine – 39,200 cy of waste rock, tailings, and concentrates.
- Cap Martin Mine – 1,500 cy of waste rock.
- GC-7 Mine – 300 cy of waste rock.
- Tillicum Mine – 1,300 cy of waste rock.
- GC-5 Mine – 400 cy of waste rock.
- Golden Fraction Mine – Middle (120 cy of waste rock) / Lower (380 cy of waste rock).
- Central Mine Lower Adit– 650 cy of waste rock.

Access to the mines would be the same as outlined in Alternative 2. Articulated haul trucks would be used to transport the waste material from the mines to a staging area (located to be determined) where the material would be transferred into highway approved haul trucks for transport. Visual observations and an XRF will be used to delineate the extent of the excavations and confirmation samples will be collected and sent to the laboratory to document the removal. Since the tailings and concentrates from the Monumental Mine exceeded the RCRA disposal limit, CES assumes the material would have to be disposed at the Arlington, Oregon Subtitle C facility (round trip haul of 430 miles) as Subtitle D facilities are not likely to accept the material. The excavated areas will be re-contoured to blend into the surrounding terrain. All disturbed areas and excavated areas will be re-contoured and revegetated as outlined in the Common Items (Section 5.2.2).

5.3 Analysis of Selected Removal Action Alternatives

As required by the CERCLA guidance (USEPA, 1993) and the NCP (40 CFR 300.415), Removal Action alternatives that were retained after the initial evaluation and screening have been evaluated individually against the following three criteria (effectiveness, implementability, and cost), and listed subcriteria.

- **Effectiveness**
 - Compliance with Removal Action goals and objectives
 -

- **Implementability**
 - o Administrative feasibility
 - o Technical feasibility
 - o Availability of services and materials
 - o State and community acceptance
- **Cost**
 - o Direct capital costs
 - o Indirect capital costs
 - o Annual maintenance and inspection costs

Table 10 outlines the comparative analysis of the retained alternatives against the listed criteria.

5.4 Cost Estimates

Evaluation of costs consists of developing conservative, order-of-magnitude estimates based on the description of work items developed for each Removal Action alternative. A similar set of assumptions is used for all the alternatives, so that the *relative* difference in cost between alternatives is represented. Appendix E provides cost estimates with the capital, indirect, operation and maintenance costs, as well as the 20 year Net Present Value (NPV) of each of the alternatives. Costs are presented below:

<u>Alternative</u>	<u>Estimated Cost (NPV)</u>
Alternative 1 – No Action	\$0
Alternative 2 – Onsite Containment	\$499,000
Alternative 3 – Excavation and Onsite Containment in Repository	\$903,000
Alternative 4 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal	\$6,155,000

6.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The effectiveness of the retained alternatives was evaluated based on advantages in each of the evaluation criteria outlined in Section 5.2, as well as the removal action goals and objectives. Table 11 contains a summary of the advantages of each of the retained alternatives. Based on the information presented in Table 11, excavation and onsite containment/disposal was retained due to the following:

- Reduces risk to human health and the environment to an acceptable level;
- Provides a reduction in the mobility of contaminants;
- Removes possible acid-generating waste material from the headwaters of the unnamed tributary;
- Improvement of wetland functions and values;
- Most technically feasible to construct;
- Complies with potential ARARs; and
- Reduces physical hazards at the upper shaft.

7.0 RECOMMENDED REMOVAL ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Based on the conclusions of the detailed analysis and comparative analysis of alternatives above, CES recommends a combination of Alternative 1 - No Action; Alternative 2 - Onsite Containment, and Alternative 3 - Excavation with Onsite Containment in a Repository, with justification for recommendations. The

Common Items listed in 5.2.2 will also be incorporated into the Removal Action plan, but are not repeated below.

7.1 Upper Granite Creek Waste Rock (Near GC-03)

A soil sample collected from the pile adjacent to Granite Creek (near aquatic station GC-03) exhibited arsenic concentrations of 337 mg/kg, which exceed the risk-based cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg. Removal of material from the area offsite or into a repository would be cumbersome for a relatively small amount of material (20 cy). Additionally, road upgrades would be necessary to allow haul trucks to access the pile.

Based on this, CES recommends that the pile be pulled away from the Granite Creek floodplain and re-contoured using a small excavator with access from the west on a spur road originating from FR 7345. The re-contoured waste rock will be covered with soil that can be scavenged from around the immediate area and revegetated in the same manner as the other areas.

7.2 Monumental Mine

7.2.1 Upper Shaft Area

The waste rock piles scattered around the Upper Shaft Area (3,000 cy) were identified with an arsenic concentration of 860 mg/kg, which exceeds the cleanup level of 143 mg/kg. The piles will be pushed into the partially open shaft, to the extent practicable. Filling the open portion of the shaft will reduce the physical hazards associated with this portion of the Site. The remaining material will be re-contoured and blended into the surrounding terrain. Remaining exposed waste rock will be covered with cover soil as described in the alternatives.

7.2.2 Upper Waste Rock Pile

The Upper Monumental Mine waste rock pile contains concentrations of arsenic as high as 2,920 mg/kg, which is well above the cleanup level of 143 mg/kg. The steep slope of the waste rock pile will not likely allow re-contouring of the material, without significant mobilization and/or erosion downslope toward the unnamed tributary and wetland. Moreover, stabilization of cover material over the existing pile will be difficult, considering the steep slope of the pile. Equipment access on the steep slopes is likely impractical, but the possibility of re-grading the waste rock within the existing terrain will be further assessed in the Removal Action design.

Based on this, CES recommends excavation and disposal of the material in the repository at the Upper Granite Creek Saddle (see Section 5.2.2). The waste material will be pushed downslope from the Upper Adit with a dozer to FR 7345, loaded, and hauled to the repository for placement. This option removes contamination upgradient from the headwaters of the unnamed tributary, and thus, a potential source of contamination to the spring and wetlands at the Site. Trees removed near the loading area along FR 7345 will be stockpiled and re-used for erosion control following removal and cover soil placement.

7.2.3 Monumental Mine Millsite and Settling Ponds

The millsite and settling ponds contain concentrations of arsenic as high as 11,400 mg/kg, and leachable

based on this and the remote nature of the mine, CES recommends no action be taken at the Lower Golden Fraction Mine.

7.9 Central Mine

The Central Mine is easily accessed and visible from FR 73 and either FR 7345 (Upper Area) and FS 680 (Lower Area). Waste rock samples collected at the Central Mine indicated total arsenic ranging from 27.4 to 295 mg/kg (with an average of 144.6 mg/kg) was either below or slightly above the cleanup concentration of 143 mg/kg.

Due to the high visibility, easy access, and elevated concentrations of waste rock in several of the samples, CES recommends the waste rock material at the mine will be re-contoured onsite in the portal excavations and the surrounding terrain. The re-contoured waste rock will be covered with non-impacted soil that can be scavenged from around the immediate area and revegetated in the same manner as the other areas.

7.10 Summary of Recommended Removal Action Alternative

The follow table provides a summary of the recommended Removal Action alternative, by mine/feature.

Mine/Feature	Recommended Removal Action
Upper Granite Creek Waste Rock Pile	Onsite Containment
Monumental Mine – Shaft Area	Onsite Containment
Monumental Mine – Upper Waste Rock Pile	Excavation/Containment in Onsite Repository
Monumental Mine – Millsite and Settling Ponds	Excavation/Containment in Onsite Repository
Monumental Mine – Lower Waste Rock Pile/Crusher	Onsite Containment
Cap Martin Mine	No Action
GC-07 Mine	No Action
GC-06 Mine	No Action
Sheridan Mine	No Action
Tillicum Mine	No Action
GC-05 Mine	No Action
Golden Fraction Mine – Upper Area	No Action
Golden Fraction Mine – Middle Area	Onsite Containment
Golden Fraction Mine – Lower Area	No Action
Central Mine	Onsite Containment

7.11 Recommended Removal Action Cost

The recommended Removal Action includes a combination of Alternative 1 - No Action; Alternative 2 – Onsite Containment; and Alternative 3 – Excavation and Containment in onsite Repository. The total estimated cost to implement the recommended Removal Action is \$691,000, as outlined in Appendix E.

Forest Service Disclaimer:

This abandoned mine/mill site was created under the General Mining Law of 1872 and is located solely on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Forest Service. The Forest Service has conducted a PRP search relating to this site and has been unable to identify any

Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket. Instead, this site should be included on EPA's CERCLIS database. Consistent with the June 24, 2003 OECA/FFEO "Policy on Listing Mixed Ownership Mine or Mill Sites Created as a Result of the General Mining Law of 1872 on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket," we respectfully request that the EPA Regional Docket Coordinator consult with the Forest Service and EPA Headquarters before making a determination to include this site on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket.

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TABLES

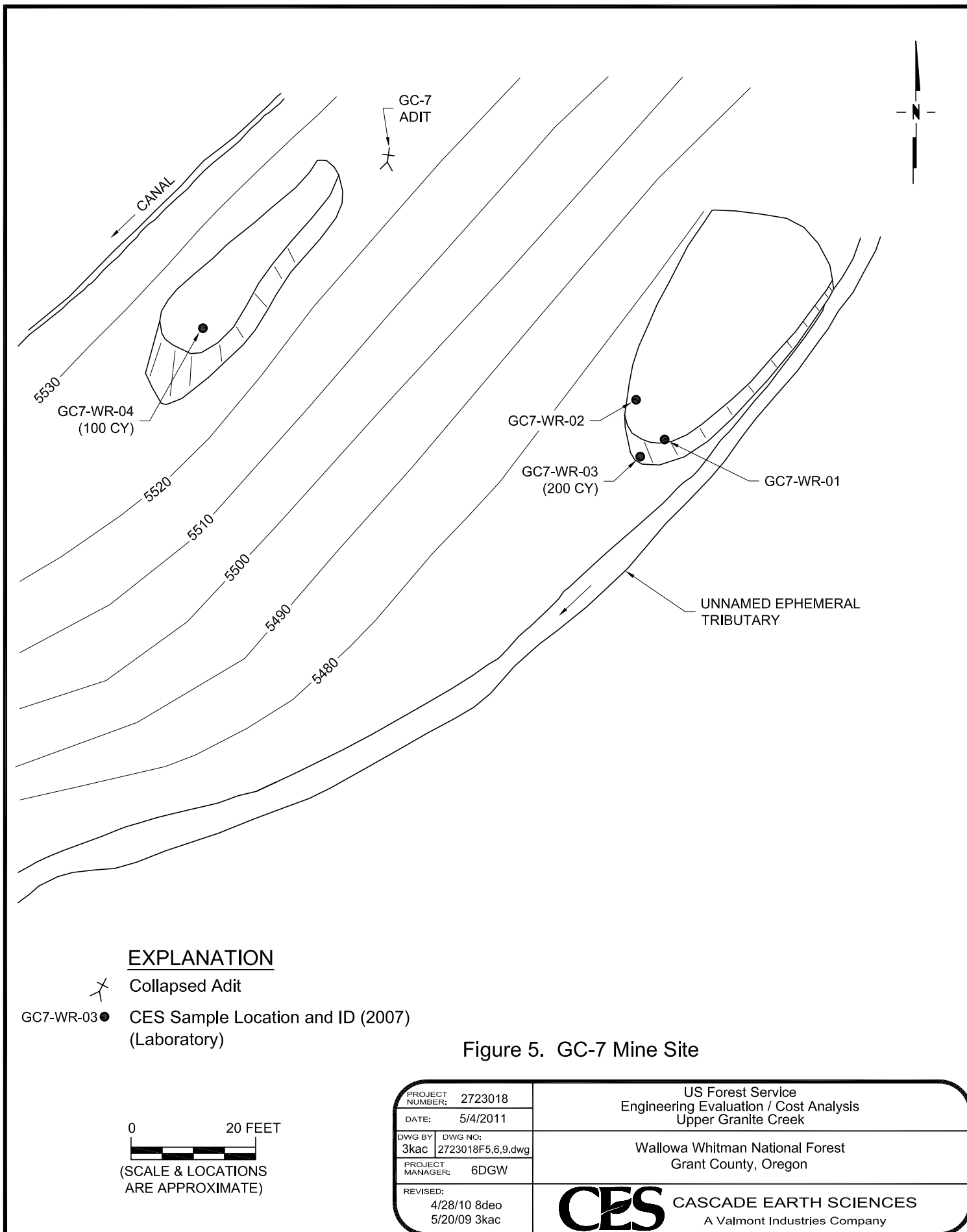
Table 1.	Surface Water Analytical Results
Table 2.	Pore Water Analytical Results
Table 3.	Sediment Analytical Results
Table 4.	Background Soil Analytical Results
Table 5.	Soil and Waste Material Analytical Results
Table 6.	Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure and Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure Results for Soil and Waste Material Samples
Table 7.	Vegetation Analytical Results
Table 8.	Summary of the Nature and Extent of Contamination – Monumental Mine
Table 9.	Removal Action Technology Screening Summary
Table 10.	Comparative Analysis of Retained Removal Action Alternatives
Table 11.	Attributes and Advantages of Removal Action Alternatives

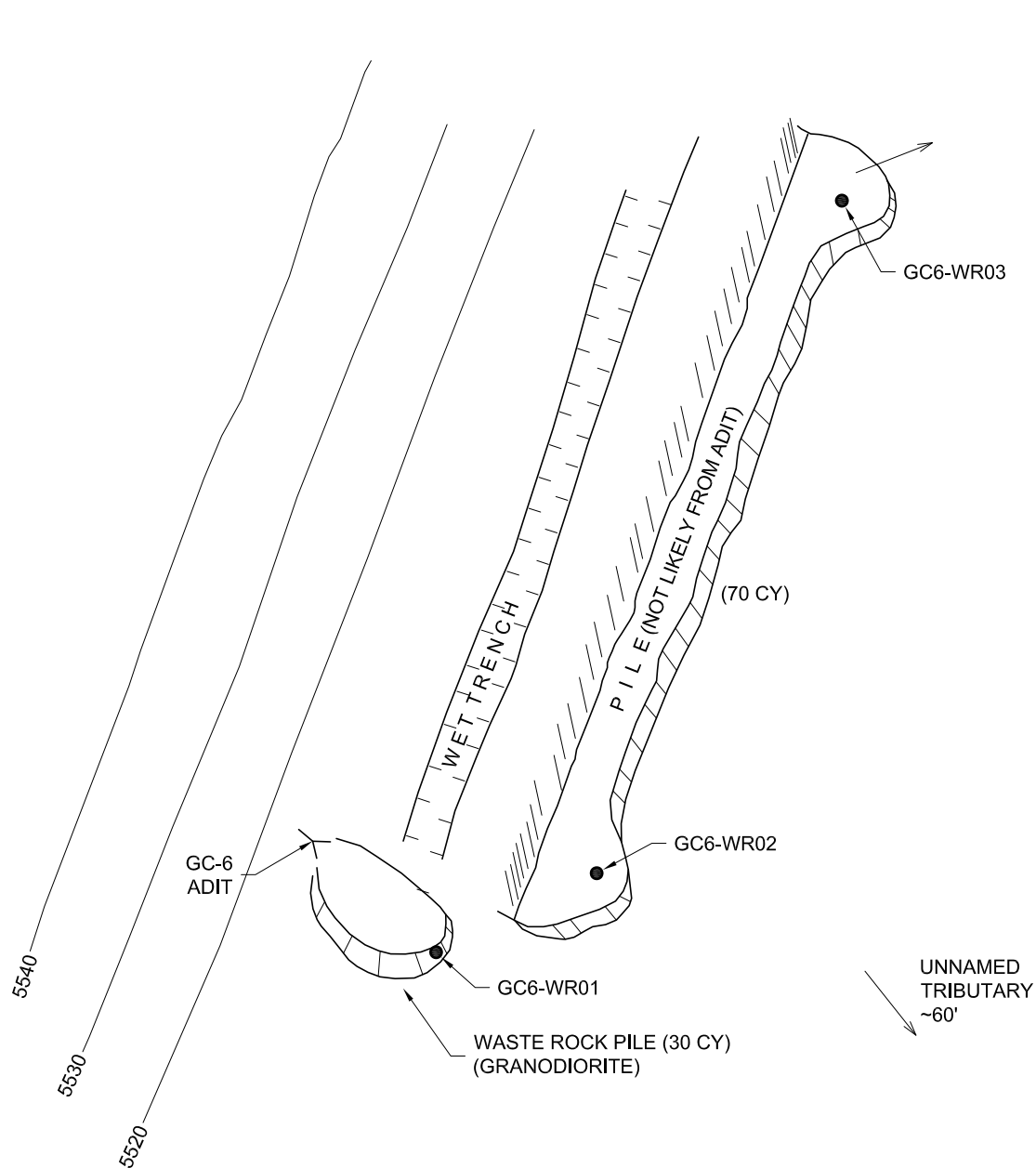
Table 8. Summary of the Nature and Extent of Contamination - Monumental Mine
Upper Granite Creek Removal Action Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Oregon

Location	Test Pit ID	GPS Coordinates ¹	XRF Arsenic Concentration ² (Depth in Feet)	Sample ID Number	Laboratory Arsenic Concentration ³	General Notes
Upper Waste Rock Pile Area						
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#1	N 44° 51.626' W 118° 21.121'	45 mg/kg (1 foot) 79 mg/kg (2 feet) 94 mg/kg (3 feet)	NA	NA	Appears to be outside of the waste rock pile boundary
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#2	N 44° 51.622' W 118° 21.138'	751 mg/kg (1 foot) 442 mg/kg (2 feet) 365 mg/kg (3 feet) 1,445 mg/kg (4 feet) 191 mg/kg (5 feet)	MMDGA-WR-2-4	164 mg/kg	Sample collected at 4 foot depth, out of waste rock at about 5 feet bgs
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#3	N 44° 51.627' W 118° 21.138'	429 mg/kg (1 foot) 1,189 mg/kg (4 feet) 992 mg/kg (8 feet)	MMDGA-WR-3-4	2,240 mg/kg	Sample collected at 4 foot depth. Waste Rock pile >8 feet deep.
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#4	N 44° 51.616' W 118° 21.128'	163 mg/kg (1 foot) 293 mg/kg (4 feet)	NA	NA	Waste Rock pile 4-5 feet deep.
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#5	N 44° 51.620' W 118° 21.134'	1,116 mg/kg (1 foot) 32 mg/kg (6 feet) 126 mg/kg (8 feet) 483 mg/kg (9 feet)	MMDGA-WR-5-1	2,920 mg/kg	Sample collected at 1 foot depth. Waste Rock pile >9 feet deep.
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#6	N 44° 51.576' W 118° 21.179'	<16 mg/kg (0.5 feet) 63 mg/kg (1 foot) 40 mg/kg (3 feet) 85 mg/kg (6 feet)	NA	NA	Not waste rock material
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#28	N 44° 51.619' W 118° 21.146'	1,309 mg/kg (surface) 727 mg/kg (0.5 feet)	MMDGA-WR-28-0.5	740 mg/kg	Refusal at 0.5 feet with hand auger, no access with excavator due to steep slopes
Upper Waste Rock Pile	#29	N 44°				

FIGURES

Figure 1.	Site Location Map
Figure 2.	Upper Monumental Mine Site
Figure 3.	Lower Monumental Mine Site
Figure 4.	Cap Martin Mine Site
Figure 5.	GC-7 Mine Site
Figure 6.	GC-6 Mine Site
Figure 7.	Sheridan Mine Site
Figure 8.	Tillicum Mine Site
Figure 9.	GC-5 Mine Site
Figure 10.	Golden Fraction Mine Site – Upper and Middle Portions
Figure 11.	Golden Fraction Mine Site – Lower Portion
Figure 12.	Central Mine Site
Figure 13.	Aquatic Station and Floodplain Sample Locations
Figure 14.	Background Soil Sample Locations
Figure C-1	Upper Monumental Mine Test Pit XRF Sample Locations
Figure C-2	Lower Monumental Mine Test Pit XRF Sample Locations
Figure C-3	Upper Waste Rock Sections
Figure C-4	Lower Waste Rock Sections





EXPLANATION



Open Adit

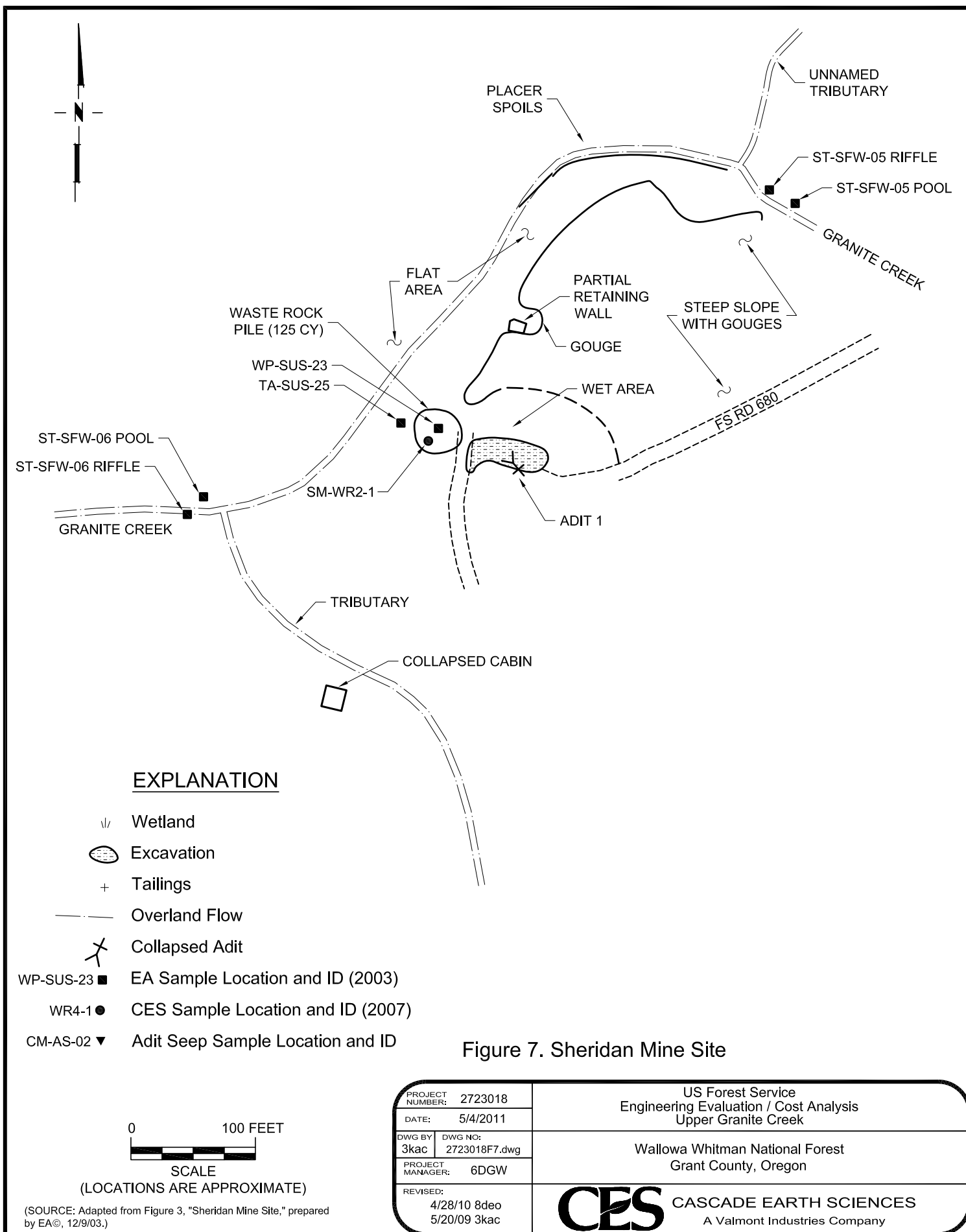
GC6-WR03 ● CES Sample Location and ID (2007)

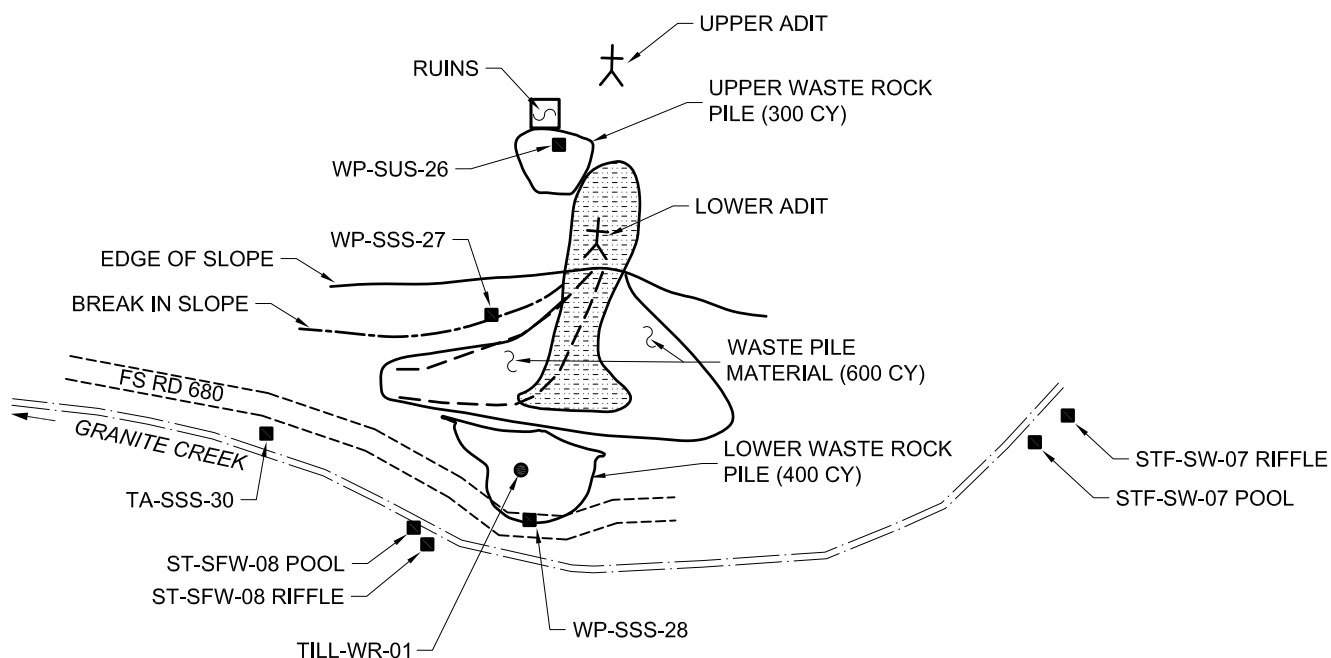
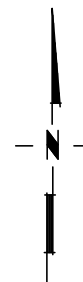
0 20 FEET

 (SCALE & LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE)

Figure 6. GC-6 Mine Site

PROJECT NUMBER: 2723018		US Forest Service Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis Upper Granite Creek
DATE: 5/4/2011		
DWG BY: 3kac	DWG NO: 2723018F5,6,9.dwg	Wallowa Whitman National Forest Grant County, Oregon
PROJECT MANAGER: 6DGW		
REVISED: 4/28/10 8deo 5/20/09 3kac		 CASCADE EARTH SCIENCES A Valmont Industries Company

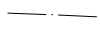




EXPLANATION



Excavation



Overland Flow

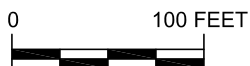


Collapsed Adit

ST-SFW-08 ■ EA Sample Location and ID (1003)

TILL-WR-01 ● CES Sample Location and ID (2007)

CM-AS-02 ▼ Adit Seep Sample Location and ID



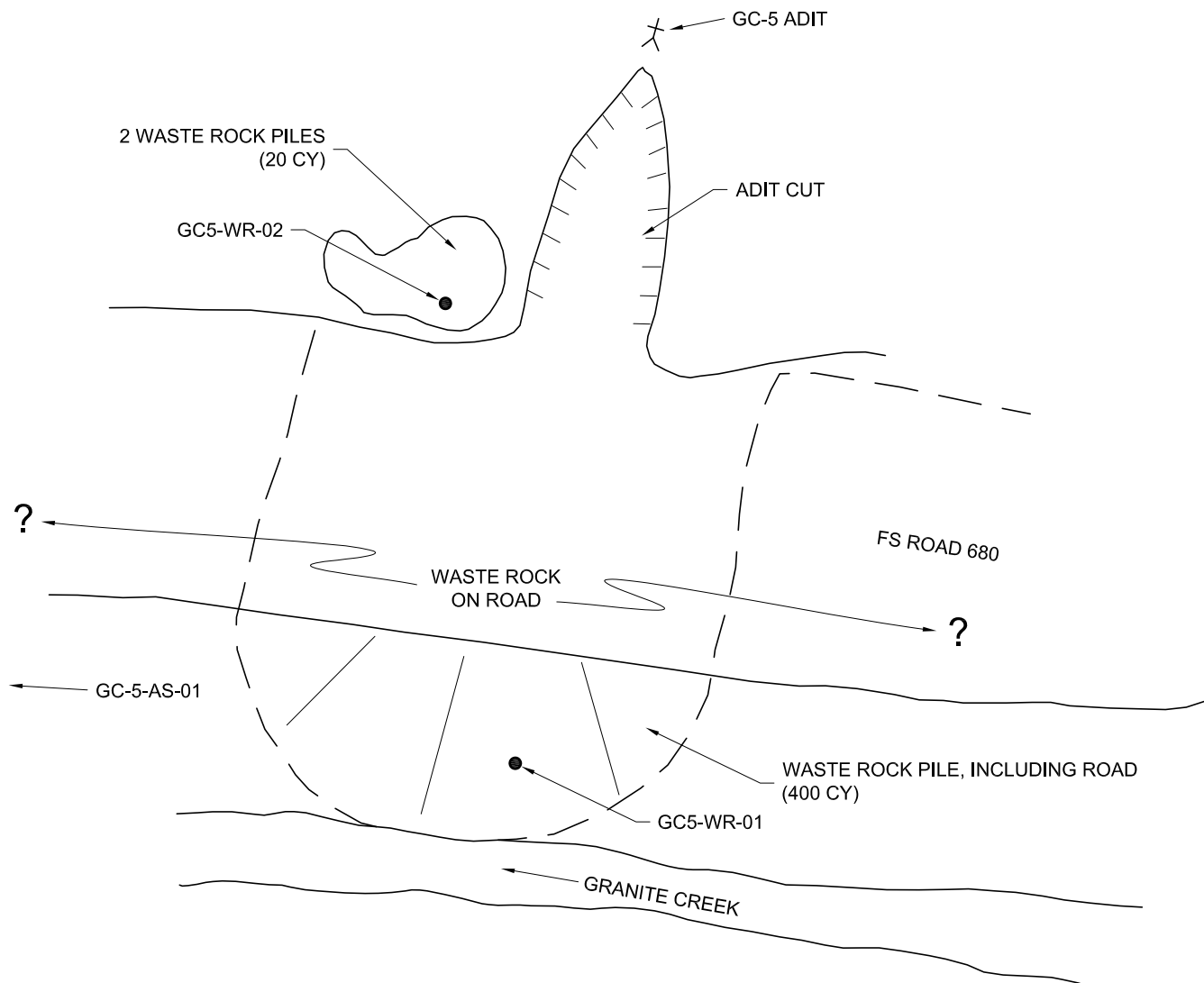
SCALE

(LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE)

(SOURCE: Adapted from Figure 4, "Tillicum Mine Site," prepared by EA©, 12/9/03.)

Figure 8. Tillicum Mine Site

PROJECT NUMBER: 2723018	US Forest Service Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis Upper Granite Creek
DATE: 5/4/2011	



EXPLANATION



Collapsed Adit

GC5-WR-02 ● CES Sample Location and ID (2007)



Figure 9. GC-5 Mine Site

PROJECT NUMBER: 2723018		US Forest Service Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis Upper Granite Creek	
DATE: 5/4/2011			
DWG BY: 3kac	DWG NO: 2723018F5,6,9.dwg	Wallowa Whitman National Forest Grant County, Oregon	
PROJECT MANAGER: 6DGW			

