

Vegetation

Current Conditions

Approximately 2,310 acres of occupied whitebark pine habitat has been identified within the analysis area. Up to six species of sensitive and forest watch species with known occurrences in the onsite and off-site focus area may be indirectly impacted by mining operations. As many as 27 species of sensitive and forest watch plants have modeled potential habitat that could be directly disturbed by mining operations.

Summary of Impacts

Impacts to Whitebark Pine and Sensitive and Forest Watch Plant Species as measured by acres (direct and indirect), loss of individuals, and number of species affected.

Impact	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
Disturbance of Whitebark Pine Occupied Habitat (Acres)	257.8	243.2	237.2	123.6	0
Removal of Whitebark Pine (number of individuals removed)	1,027	997	892	613	0
Indirect Impacts to Known Occurrences of Sensitive and Forest Watch Species (Number of Species)	6	6	6	3	0
Direct Impacts to Modeled Potential Habitat for Sensitive and Forest Watch Plant Species (Acres)*	4,137	4,076	3,601	3,454	0
Direct Impacts to Modeled Potential Habitat for Sensitive and Forest Watch Plant Species (Number of Species)*	27	27	27	27	0

* Note that there may be overlap in areas by species, so this total may misrepresent the total area affected. See Table 4.10-4, 4.10-9; 4.10-13 and 4.10-17 of the DEIS.

Reclamation/Restoration/Mitigation

Reclamation/Restoration/Mitigation for Whitebark Pine

All Alternatives – The United States Forest Service (USFS) has designated three required mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to whitebark pine occupied habitat (DEIS Appendix D-1, Table D-1). Decommissioning and reclamation by Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. (Midas Gold) of project features (portions of the transmission line and Burntlog Road), will allow for this species to recolonize where suitable habitat exists.

Once a preferred alternative is identified by the USFS, a biological assessment will be completed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which may identify additional mitigation measures to further avoid and minimize the impacts to whitebark pine and its habitat.

Reclamation/Restoration/Mitigation to Known Occurrences of Sensitive and Forest Watch Species

- All Alternatives – DEIS Section 4.10.2.2.5 indicates the impacts on these species and their habitat would be indirect and would not likely contribute to a trend towards ESA listing or loss of viability of the species within the planning area (i.e., Boise National Forest and Payette National Forest-administered lands).
- All Alternatives – The USFS has designated six required mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to known occurrences of sensitive and forest watch species (DEIS Appendix D-1, Table D-1).
- All Alternatives – Midas Gold has proposed ten mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to known occurrences of sensitive and forest watch plant species (DEIS Appendix D-1, Table D-2).

Reclamation/Restoration/Mitigation to Modeled Potential Habitat of Sensitive and Forest Watch Species

- All Alternatives – USFS has designated two required mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to modeled potential habitat of sensitive and forest watch species (DEIS Appendix D-1, Table D-1).
- All Alternatives – Midas Gold has proposed ten mitigation measures to minimize the impacts to known occurrences of sensitive and forest watch plant species (Appendix D-1, Table d-2).

Net Change

- All Alternatives – Mitigation measures proposed by Midas Gold to minimize the impacts to whitebark pine known occurrences and modeled habitat of sensitive and forest watch plant species are qualitative in nature. It is the intent of Midas Gold to meet and exceed the required USFS mitigation measures.