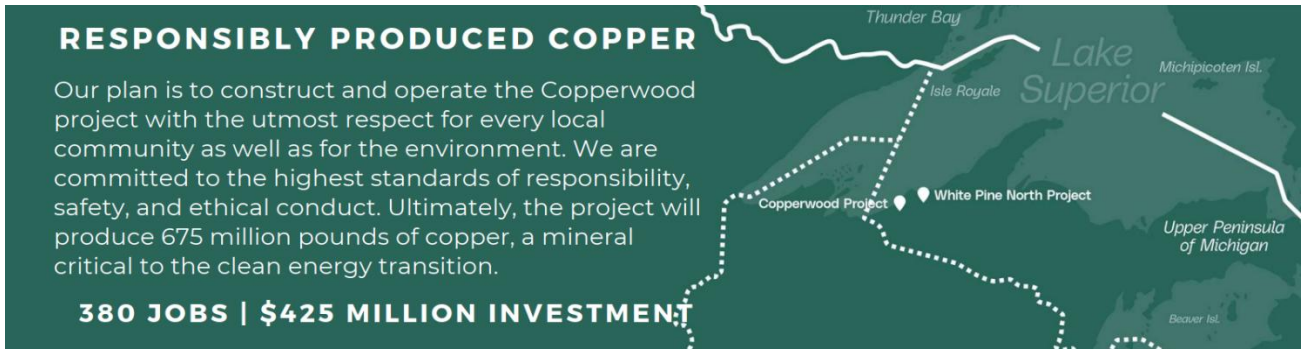
Highland Copper | Copperwood Project



COMMON QUESTIONS:

Why Copper? Copper is a vital part of our modern world, and crucial to emerging technologies and renewable energy systems such as electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, wind turbines, solar panels, hydropower generators, and more. Current demand for copper exceeds the supply, and even with recycling we still need to develop new sources to help the world's energy systems transition away from fossil fuel. The amount of copper produced from the Copperwood Project could support the production of more than three million EVs!

What kind of mine is it? The mining will be underground, where ore is extracted using a method called room-and-pillar mining. Once conveyed to the surface, the ore will be milled and separated into fine copper concentrate and waste material (tailings). The concentrate will then be sent to an off-site plant for further refinement, and the tailings will be deposited on-site into an above-ground Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF).

How will you manage rock waste? The tailings will be pumped in a slurry form to the plastic-lined TDF. Water collected in the TDF will be returned to the mill, stored for future use, or treated and released. At closure, the mine will be filled with water and openings plugged, buildings removed, and the TDF will be covered with a plastic liner, clean soil, and revegetated with native plants. Careful monitoring of the site will follow for 20 years post-closure.

How big is the footprint? The mine will cover approximately 505 acres, including access roads, reconstructed streams and wetland areas, a process plant, an ore stockpile area, several support facilities, sewage ponds, and the TDF. No old-growth forest will be impacted, and Highland Copper is committing to preserve hundreds of acres of rare wetlands in a nearby location.

What is the impact on water? Is Lake Superior in danger? The mine will not use any water from Lake Superior. The water required for operations will be captured from natural precipitation and recycled and reused as much as possible. Any water discharged from the facility will be processed through a water treatment plant to ensure that it meets strict cleanliness standards. Groundwater and surface water throughout and downstream from the facility will be continuously monitored for contamination through a network of monitoring wells and sampling stations. The Copperwood Project is rigorously engineered to ensure that no pollution of groundwater, surrounding streams and rivers, or Lake Superior will occur.

But doesn't the waste produce acidic drainage and other toxic pollution? Thorough geochemical analyses show that, due to the non-reactive nature of the ore, no acid generation is expected to occur. A review of the study by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) concurred with this conclusion. The tailings will contain trace amounts of various metals as well as other components of the ore and processing chemicals, which will be stored safely within the TDF with a carefully engineered lining and drainage collection system. All water that comes in contact with mined material will be collected and reused, or treated and released.

Don't tailings dams always fail? Tailings facilities constructed with modern engineering designs account for extreme weather events due to climate change and are based on rigorous standards, and thus are very unlikely to fail. The TDF at Copperwood will cover over 300 acres of total area and will be constructed and maintained under the supervision of certified professional engineers. It will be implemented in three stages to mitigate any risk of failure, with regular monitoring and reporting. The groundwater and surface water monitoring network will continuously track water quality and geotechnical stability around the TDF and throughout the site.

Won't other forms of pollution occur? Will tourism suffer? Copperwood is near the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, North Country Trail, Presque Isle River, and Lake Superior, but will be unnoticed by the vast majority of visitors. There is a roughly one-mile section of the North Country Trail that is in close proximity to Copperwood, and some noise from trucking and operations may be detectable at this location. Measures to address dust, noise, and light pollution will be implemented throughout construction and life of the mine, including covered conveyors to reduce dust, processing the ore in an enclosed building to reduce noise, and directing lights downward. When Copperwood ends operations, site closure activities will bring the property to a natural and revegetated state, and it will be minimally noticeable by visitors to the area.

What is the economic impact? The mine will support hundreds of high-paying jobs directly and through vendor partners, with a total of approximately $1.3 billion in new personal income expected. Local schools and businesses will see increased activity, and state and local tax revenue is projected at over $15 million per year. There will be significant improvements to roads, electrical supply, and other infrastructure throughout the region.

Does the community support it? The Copperwood Project has been endorsed by: Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, and Ontonagon Counties; Bergland, Bessemer, Carp Lake, Erwin, Ironwood, Marenisco, Ontonagon, Wakefield, and Watersmeet Townships; Cities of Bessemer, Ironwood, Wakefield, and Ontonagon; Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, Gogebic Community College, and many other local, regional, and statewide organizations.

Please contact us at info@highlandcopper.com or visit HighlandCopper.com for more information!

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