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Comments: Hello Folks,

I appreciate that this subsidiary of a South African company is extracting important rare earth metals otherwise only available from South Africa and Russia. The current holding pond (lake really) is soon to be brimmed, thus requiring a new one. My primary practical concern is that the company has posted bond for future maintenance long after they have abandoned the mine or have had some crisis that causes them to declare bankruptcy to then re-emerge as another company without responsibility. As you know, this is a common route by which EPA Superfund sites begin at taxpayer expense.

As to revegetation on tailing retention walls and rock heaps, there is the thought of adding native forbs to the seed mix to benefit pollinators like bees (Fort Bridger PI Mat Ctr developed a Phacelia and a lupine specifically for this purpose). However, if heavy metals uptake by plants is a worry (e.g. nickel), I'd skip those forbs and stick with grasses to avoid poisoning native bees.

Thanks for your time in reading my comments,  
yours, jim cane