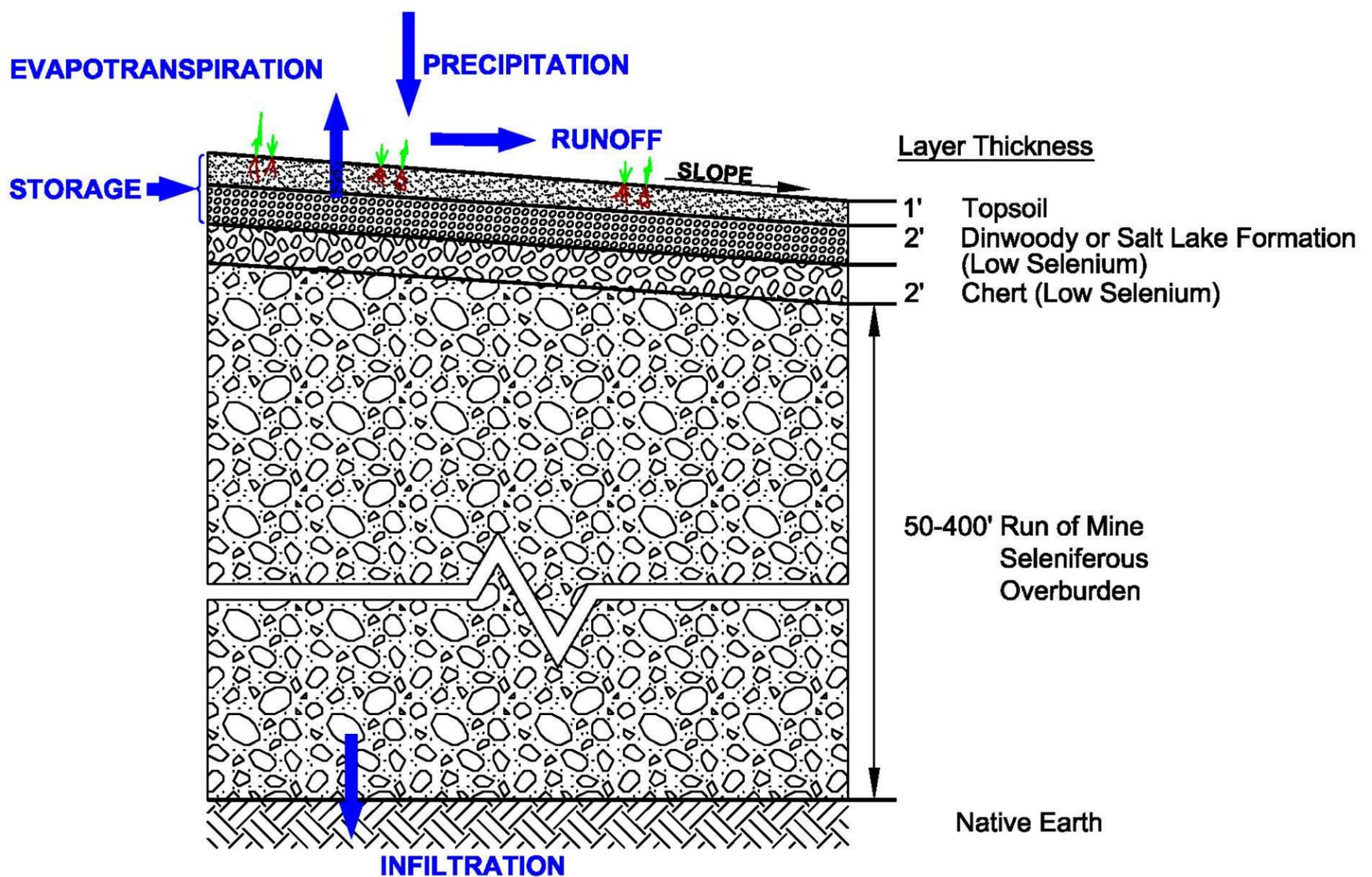


PROPOSED OVERBURDEN COVER DESIGN



All seleniferous overburden is proposed to be covered with a store and release cover system. This cover system consists of (from bottom up) 2 feet of low selenium chert, 2 feet of Dinwoody and/or Salt Lake Formation (low selenium, clay-rich material) and at least one foot of topsoil. This cover system is expected to limit the amount of net percolation of meteoric water through seleniferous overburden by increasing runoff as well as facilitating moisture storage in the topsoil and Dinwoody or Salt Lake Formation layers making it available for plant uptake and evapotranspiration (soil evaporation plus water taken up by plants). Stormwater control measures such as run-on control ditches and other BMP's would also be utilized to limit the amount of water that may infiltrate into the covered seleniferous overburden fills.

Most (89%) of the overburden produced during mining would be used for pit backfill; however, there are areas where overburden fills would extend outside the pit boundaries. In these locations, the original ground would be stripped of all topsoil and sub-soil and prepped to assure any meteoric water that may infiltrate through the base of the overburden fill will not result in a surface seep expression.

The objectives of the permanent re-vegetation of disturbed areas include managing erosion, establishing a plant cover suitable to support the post mining land use of grazing and wildlife habitat, as well as supporting the evapotranspiration function of the proposed cover system.

Most of the annual precipitation falling on the cover would be removed from the site by runoff and evapotranspiration without ever coming into contact with seleniferous overburden. A small portion of the annual precipitation would percolate through the cap into the overburden where it could eventually infiltrate into the underlying bedrock and groundwater.