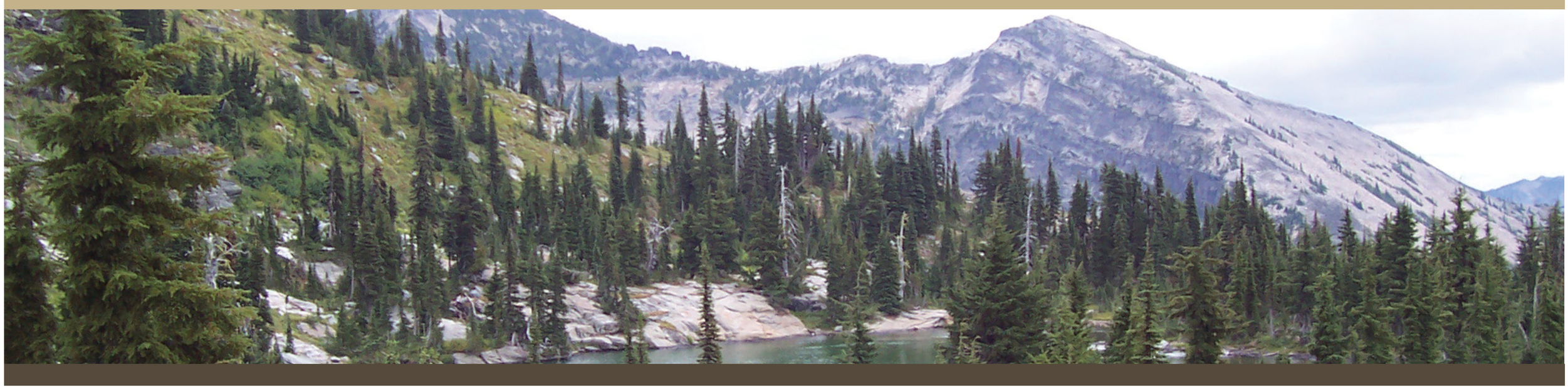


Alternative V – Phase I

Key Activities and Features

- Evaluation Adit construction (1.5 – 2 years) using conventional mining methods.
  - 16 to 18 feet high by 20 feet wide with an estimated length of 6,300 feet at a 10% decline.
  - 10.4-acres disturbance at the adit portal site.
  - 90,000 tons of waste rock and 88,000 tons of ore.
  - Unmineralized waste rock used to construct adit pad downslope of adit entrance. Ore and alteration waste zone rock selectively separated and stockpiled at the adit.
- Access via the existing Rock Creek Road (NFS road #150) and Chicago Peak Road (NFS road #2741).
- Lined 600,000-gallon stormwater/mine water containment pond constructed on the portal patio. Excess water from the evaluation adit and the stormwater containment pond overflow would be pumped through a pipeline to a temporary wastewater treatment system at the support facilities site near the intersection of NFS road #150 and Montana Highway 200.
- Pipeline to temporary wastewater infiltration ponds and 13.8-kV powerline buried in same trench in the existing NFS road prism.
- Wastewater treatment system consisting of precipitation, clarification, and filtration for solids and metals; an ion exchange system; and a biological nitrification/denitrification system to remove inorganic nitrogen. Treated water conveyed through a temporary buried pipeline and discharged to infiltration ponds within the paste tailings facility footprint.

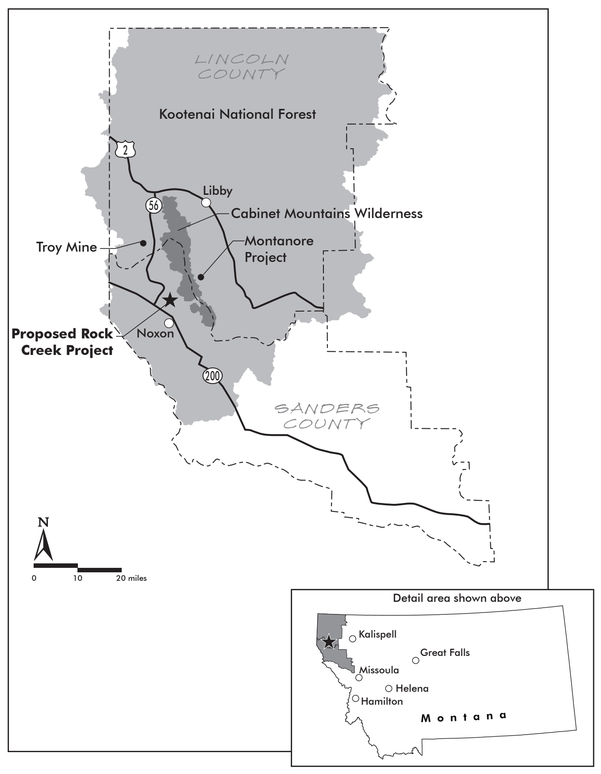
The Evaluation Adit Plan in the exploration license approved by the DEQ includes several changes to Alternative V from that presented in the 2001 FEIS. The most significant of these include:

- providing power to the evaluation adit site through a powerline rather than using generators,
- burying the evaluation adit water pipeline in the access road rather than placing the pipeline aboveground,
- modifying the layout and location of Phase I support facilities, and
- discharging treated mine water from the evaluation adit to infiltration ponds (groundwater) rather than to the Clark Fork River.

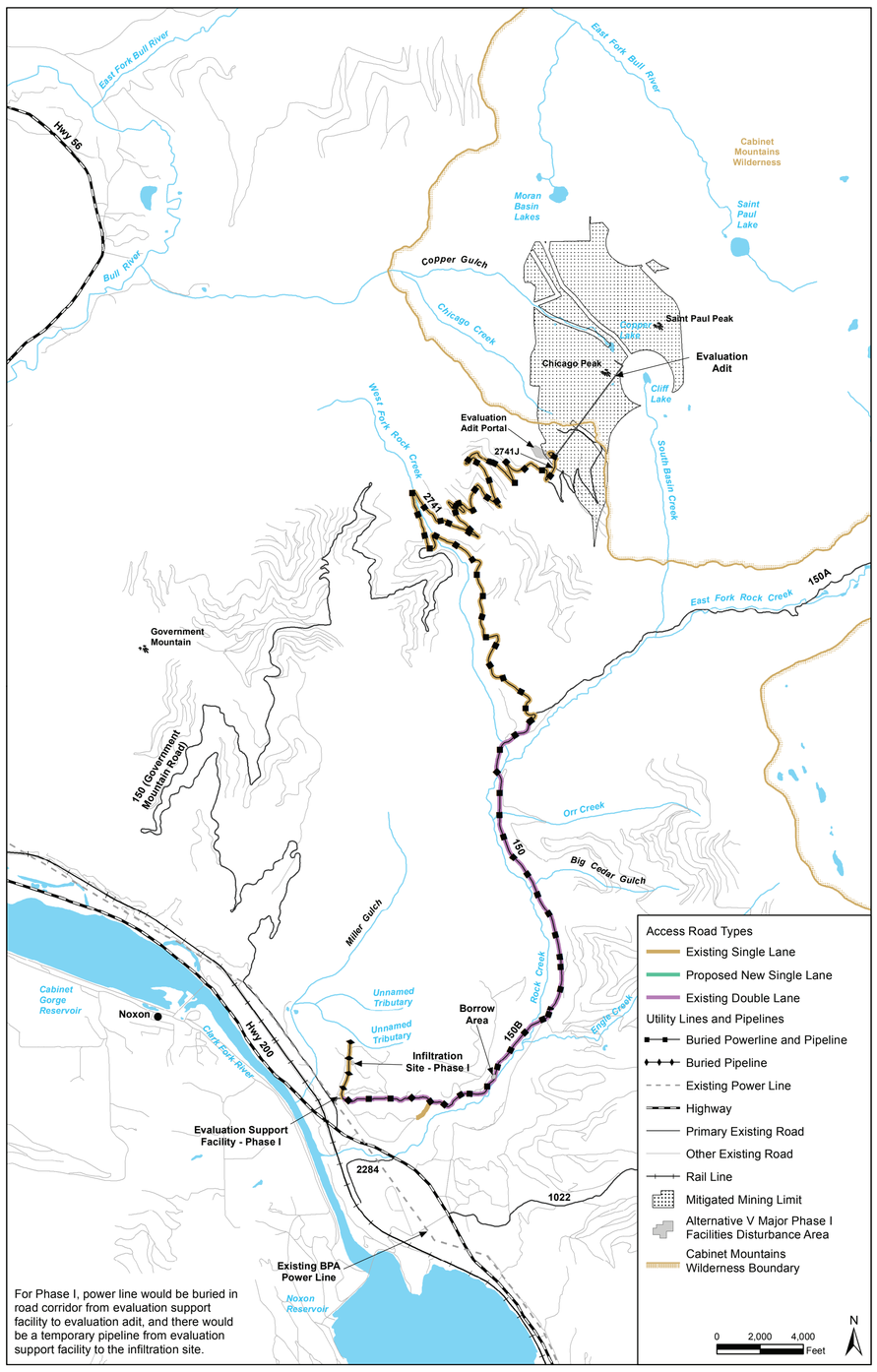
Data Collection

The adit would be used to:

- Evaluate a portion of the ore zone in the Chicago Peak ore block and compare this information with drill hole information in this area;
- Evaluate the Copper Lake Fault and collect additional information on the strike, dip, and offset of the fault;
- Obtain rock mechanics data to aid underground mine design;
- Obtain hydrologic and geochemical data to supplement previous data and analysis; and
- Obtain bulk ore samples for metallurgical testing.



Location Map, Rock Creek Project, Kootenai National Forest.



Alternative V Facilities, Pipelines and Roads, Phase I