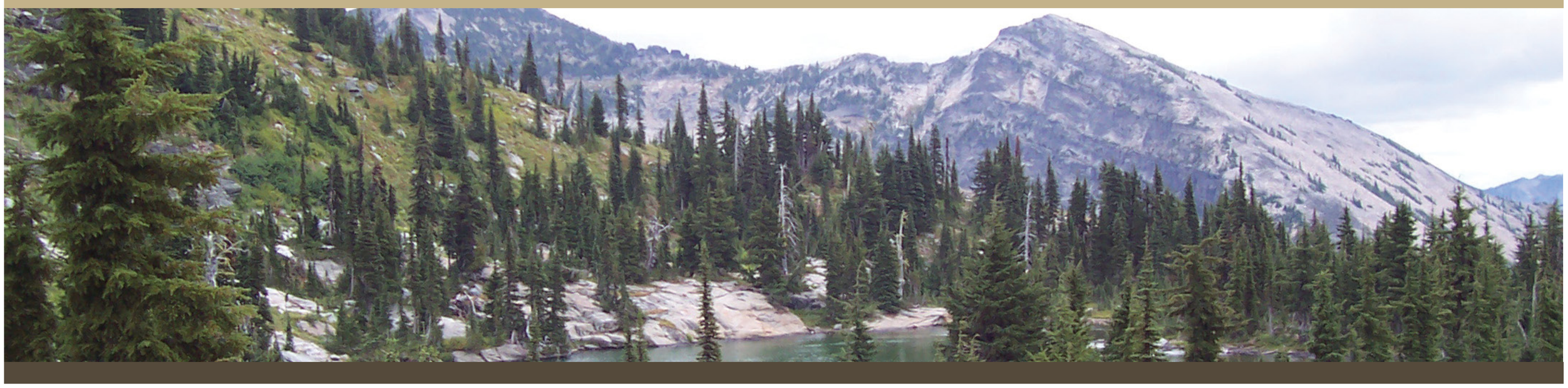


Riparian Effects

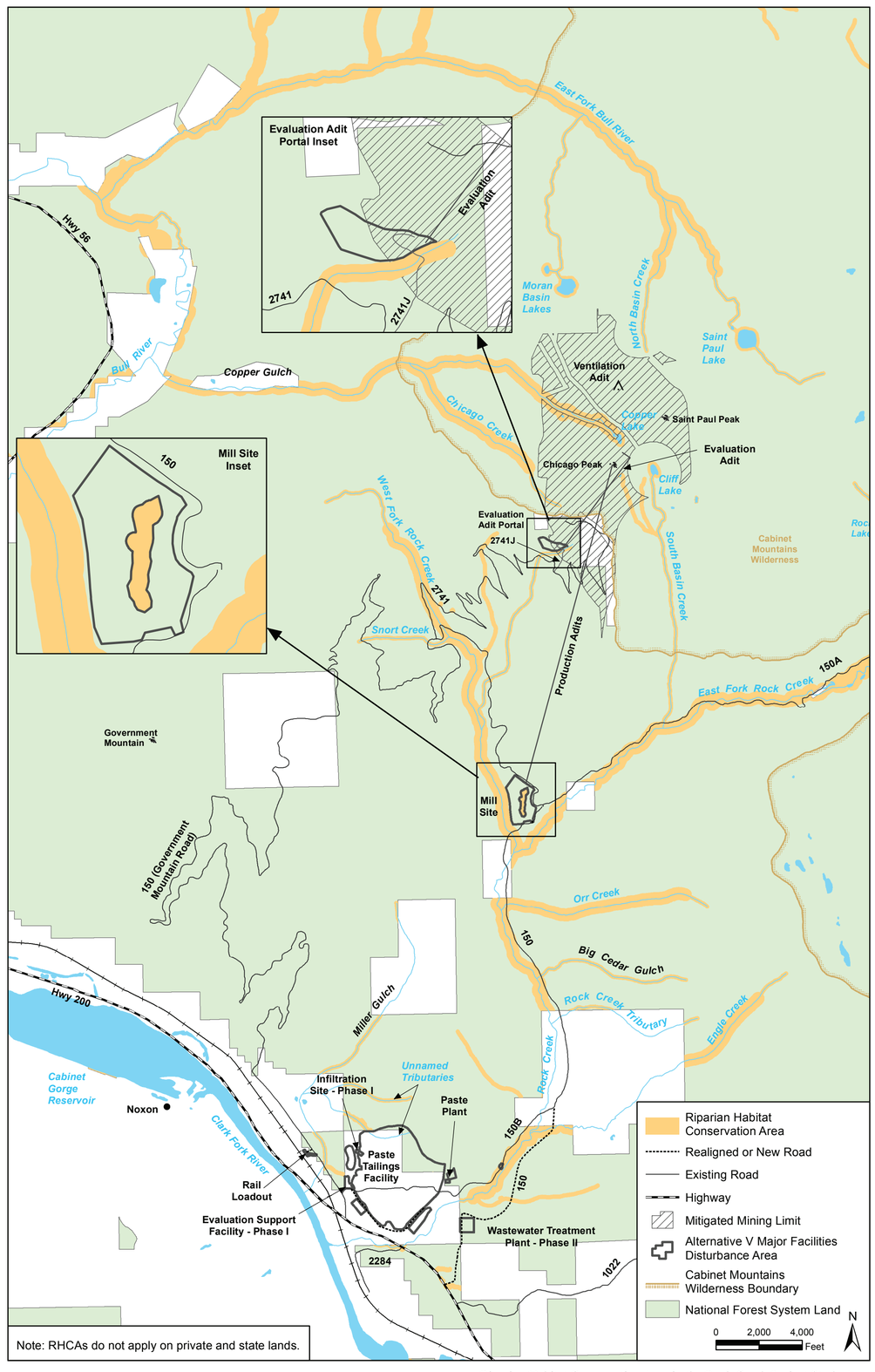
Effects on Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs)

- Effects to RHCAs were minimized to the extent possible. Approximately 2 acres of RHCA would be affected within mine disturbance areas.
- Most effects would occur where riparian vegetation would be removed along reconstructed or improved access routes and bridges.
- About 9 acres of powerline corridor would be within a RHCA. Clearing associated with the powerline would consist of removal of hazardous trees. Minimum ground disturbance would occur in the clearing area and impacts on nonhazardous trees, brush, and herbaceous vegetation would be temporary.

Design Features, Mitigation, and Monitoring

RCR would:

- Modify Alternative V mill site disturbance boundary and NFS road #150 re-reroute to avoid RHCAs.
- Modify paste tailings facility disturbance footprint to eliminate impacts on isolated NFS land wetlands.
- Leave an unaltered vegetation buffer between Rock Creek and the road and utility corridors, where possible.
- Maintain a 300-foot buffer between the mill site and streams.
- Develop and implement an agency-approved Road Management Plan for Phase II that minimizes effects on RHCAs.
- Implement road design features and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize effects on RHCAs, such as paving of reconstructed segment of NFS road #150 and paste tailings facility service road, gravelling improved segments of main access roads, performing regular maintenance of unimproved roads, and constructing bridges on main stream crossings versus culverts.
- Update RCR's watershed assessment and monitoring plans with any new data collected during Phase I, if appropriate.



Riparian Habitat Conservation Area in the Rock Creek Project Study Area

Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) in Alternative V Disturbance Area