

Changes in tribal access due to the restricted access Operations Area Boundary

Current Conditions

- Tribal access and use of the region has long-standing and on-going cultural importance and subsistence value. Currently there is no restricted access on United States Forest Service lands in the Stibnite Gold Project (SGP) area. Some restrictions are in place on private lands.

Mine Impacts/Protective Measures

- **Alternative 1:** The SGP would restrict tribal access in the 3,533-acre SGP footprint and the 13,446 acres of public land within the Operations Area Boundary. There would be no public access road through the mine. The length of time of restricted access is 20 years. This could result in loss of tribal cultural practices important to tribal identity. Access through the SGP site would be re-established post-mining. Burntlog route, a new off-highway vehicle connector, and new over-snow vehicle groomed trails would provide new and/or improved access to the SGP area and vicinity, providing tribes year-round access to previously inaccessible traditional use areas. The upgraded Meadow Creek Lookout Road portion of the Burntlog route could result in increased use of the River of No Return Wilderness by recreational users, impacting tribal members if there is an actual or perceived decrease in their access to, availability, and/or quality of tribal resources. The impacts described for tribal rights and interests regarding each alternative are potential effects that will be further addressed and may be further mitigated or otherwise resolved through further ongoing consultation and other measures between the draft and final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for the SGP.
- **Alternative 2:** Same as Alternative 1, except the SGP footprint would be 3,423 acres. Also, seasonal public access would be provided through the mine site. The Riordan Creek Segment of the Burntlog route could result in increased use of the Black Lake area and River of No Return Wilderness by recreational users, impacting tribal members if there is an actual or perceived decrease in their access to, availability, and/or quality of tribal resources.
- **Alternative 3:** Same as Alternative 1, except the SGP footprint would occupy 3,610 acres and the public land within the SGP Operations Area Boundary would occupy 17,034 acres.
- **Alternative 4:** Same as Alternative 1, except the SGP footprint would occupy 3,219 acres, and the Burntlog route would not be constructed; the existing Yellow Pine route would be used for mine access and public access to Stibnite. Seasonal public access would be provided through the mine site.
- **Alternative 5:** Except for the Golden Meadows Exploration mine site area, future access to subsistence resources and for cultural uses in the existing SGP area would remain unchanged.

Reclamation/Restoration/Mitigation

- **Alternative 1:** During reclamation, new sections of the Burntlog route would be decommissioned and the expanded sections would be decommissioned to prior width; a new public access road would be constructed over the backfilled Yellow Pine pit reconnecting the Stibnite Road to Thunder Mountain Road. The over-snow vehicle (OSV) route between Warm Lake and Landmark would be re-established on Warm Lake Road.
- **Alternative 2:** Same as Alternative 1, and the existing seasonal public access road through the site (Stibnite Road) will be reconstructed over the backfilled Yellow Pine pit reconnecting the Stibnite Road to Thunder Mountain Road.

- **Alternative 3:** Same as Alternative 1, except public access across Yellow Pine pit (Stibnite Road) will be connected to Thunder Mtn Road via the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River (EFSFSR) tailings storage facility (TSF) pipeline route or public access route through Blowout Creek drainage.
- **Alternative 4:** Same as Alternative 1 in that the existing seasonal public access road through the site will be reconstructed over the backfilled Yellow Pine pit reconnecting the Stibnite Road to Thunder Mountain Road. However, the widened Stibnite Road would *not* be returned to its pre-mining width and following reclamation, mine traffic would be greatly reduced. This could benefit recreation experiences for visitors to the areas/sites east of the mine site off Thunder Mountain Road (FR 50375), and encourage use of tribal resources east of the mine that was displaced during mining operations due to increased road traffic and road closures.
- **Alternative 5:** Except for the Golden Meadows Exploration mine site area, future access to subsistence resources and for cultural uses in the existing SGP area would remain unchanged.

Net Change

- **Alternative 1:** Following mine closure, no net change in tribal access.
- **Alternative 2:** Following mine closure, no net change in tribal access.
- **Alternative 3:** Following mine closure, no net change in tribal access with exception of modified route through the reclaimed mine site (EFSFSR TSF pipeline route or public access route through Blowout Creek drainage).
- **Alternative 4:** Following mine closure, potential increase in tribal access.
- **Alternative 5:** Following mine closure, no net change in tribal access.