

My comments in this letter are in reference to the Stibnite Gold Project EIS #50516. It appears that the proposed Burntlog route includes passage through the Chilcoot Peak Research Natural Area (RNA) on the Boise National Forest. Currently, the RNA is roadless. I do not understand how road construction through part of the RNA can be compatible with the objectives and management of the RNA as outlined in the RNA's Establishment Record. How are discrepancies between the purpose and integrity of the Chilcoot Peak RNA being reconciled with this proposed largescale road-building disturbance and its associated impacts?

Clean-up of the environmental damage related to legacy mining at Stibnite is a commendable part of the proposed operation, however, the project will leave behind its own form of legacy damage including large toxic storage ponds that we would be naïve to think can never fail. Such failure would be catastrophic to the South Fork Salmon River. This is the main reason I cannot support the project as currently conceived.