

HEALING HAWK INLET PETITION

Greens Creek Mine is the only U.S. mine allowed to operate in a national monument because it was “grandfathered-in” when the monument was created by an act of Congress in 1978. As a condition to this exception, **the mine must continually demonstrate that it is not causing “irreparable harm” to Admiralty Island National Monument.**

Between 1979-1981, extensive pre-mining studies on the population and diversity of marine species in Hawk Inlet were conducted to create a robust set of baseline data that could be compared to monitoring data once the mine began operating to determine if and how the mine was impacting the Monument. Since opening in 1989, the mine has been expanded twice, adding 42 years of operation and 8.5 million cubic yards of toxic waste. The U.S. Forest Service is currently considering another expansion proposal from Greens Creek Mine, which would allow it to operate for another 10-15 years and create an additional 4 to 5 million cubic yards of acid-generating tailings and waste rock.

To date, nearly 40 years later, neither the U.S. Forest Service nor the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (responsible for managing the health state waters, including Hawk Inlet) have ever repeated the baseline studies to measure the impacts of the mine. **It is critical that the Forest Service require the 1979-81 baseline assessments to be replicated in order to determine if harm has been done to the Monument *before* approving an expansion that could cause further harm to the Monument and all who depend on it.**

SIGN OUR PETITION URGING THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE TO:

1. Replicate the 1979-81 baseline studies to fully understand the cumulative impacts of Greens Creek Mine to the marine and upland environments of Admiralty Island National Monument before approving an expansion.
2. Make Hawk Inlet a "living laboratory" where innovative science, monitoring plans, and policies necessary to protect our fish, land, and people can be implemented to understand and prevent the negative impacts of metal mining.