



Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

2207 Jordan Ave
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-6942
www.seacc.org

August 20, 2021

USDA Forest Service

ATTN: Pat Dryer/Niblack Surface Exploration Project Tongass National Forest

8510 Mendenhall Loop Road

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Comment period extension request, 2021 Blackwolf Copper and Gold Niblack Surface Exploration

Dear Mr. Dryer,

The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council respectfully requests a 30-day extension of the public comment period for the 2021 Blackwolf Copper and Gold Niblack Surface Exploration project.

The public comment period for this surface exploration project was limited to 7 days and scheduled during the busy summer season when many Alaskans are unable to address important public comment opportunities. We note that the comment period is scheduled during the 45-day objection window for the Kensington Mine Draft Record of Decision and extending the Niblack comment period beyond the August 23 Kensington deadline would avoid conflicting public input periods.

Extension of the public comment period presents no additional burden to the Forest Service and would allow the public a better opportunity to focus on the Niblack project and would assist the public in providing well-informed comments.

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully request that you extend the comment deadline through Monday, September 20, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of our request,

Aaron Brakel

Inside Passage Waters Program Manager

SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL