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First name: Thomas

Last name: Williams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: THOMAS C. WILLIAMS

3170 FRITZ COVE ROAD

JUNEAU, AK 99801-6807

(907) 957-0071

May 11, 2025

Pete Schneider

United States Forest Service (USFS)

8510 Mendenhall Loop Road

Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Herbert Glacier Cabin

Dear Mr. Schneider;

I am strongly opposed to approving a USFS cabin in the Herbert River Valley as described in the Herbert Glacier Cabin proposal. In fact, I am opposed to placing any USFS cabin in the Herbert River Valley unless the New Amalga Gold Project determines that a mine is unfeasible and the project is abandoned.

I have lived in Juneau for 48 years next month and have been a frequent user of the Herber Glacier Trail. During that entire time there has not been a single proposal of which I am aware to place a cabin in the Herbert River Valley. However, only now, when there is the possibility of a viable mine in the valley, there is sudden interest in creating a user conflict between the mine and a cabin. And not surprisingly, it appears that the proposed location of the cabin is either on or proximate to a federal mining claim.

It is evident that this proposal is just another attempt by those who object to mining to kill a potential new mine or at least provide a basis for significant and costly legal challenges. We most recently saw such challenges related to the Kenniston Mine north and west of Berners Bay, with a case that ultimately had to be decided by the US Supreme Court after many years of litigation. This proposal is nothing less than a disingenuous attempt to create a basis for challenging the opening of a new mine.

The Trump administration is on record as supporting mines, as they are an important part of our economic and national security. The New Amalga Gold Project, the potential mine in the Herbert River Valley, if viable and opened, will have a significant favorable economic impact on the vast majority of borough residents, local businesses and the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) government.

There is no doubt that recreational opportunities are very important to Juneau residents, including me and my family. Heretofore, our local mines have been significant supporters of the Juneau community with minimal impact on recreational opportunities. However, given the vast amount of recreational land available in the Tongass National Forest, there should be plenty of alternative opportunities for additional USFS cabins that will not hinder critical economic development within the CBJ.

Therefore, I strongly urge the USFS to abandon all efforts to place any USFS cabin in the Herbert River Valley until and unless the New Amalga Gold Project determines that a mine is unfeasible and the project is abandoned.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Williams

cc:Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Representative Nick Begich
Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins