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First name: Dinah

Last name: Hobson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: LETTER OF OPPOSTION 10-25-20

Dinah Hobson's Letter of Opposition against the North Extension Project to store tailings for Hecla Mining Company known as Greens Creek by the USDA Forest Service.

Mr. Matthew Reece

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Project Manager

USDA Forest Service

8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd.

Juneau, AK 99801

Mr. Reece:

First, I would like to thank the Auke Kwaan people for speaking on their Haa Aan[acute].

We are adamantly opposed to granting additional Kootznoowoo/Admiralty Island lands for tailing piles to Hecla Mining Company known as Greens Creek as it will damage more salmon fishing streams. We ask that the Forest Service consider yellow lighting, or cease and desist granting additional lands for Hecla Mining Company for their storage of their tailing piles. That USDA Forest Service re-write more equitable land and stream protection policies from the indigenous world view. That the current land policies by the USDA Forest Service have implicit biases written into them by using a colonial frame of reference when it comes to approving land/water decisions. We saw this happen by the annexation of the northern end of Kootznoowoo/Admiralty Island to City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). Therefore, it is not good enough for the USDA Forest Service to conduct inept testimony from indigenous people only to say you collected our testimonies; then, just file it. We respectfully ask that you consider re-writing your land policies for equity to include indigenous viewpoints not just colonial land concepts (Gilio-Whitaker 2019). The USDA Forest Services staff needs do their job to protect more of our salmon fishing areas on Kootznoowoo/Admiralty Island.

As you know, Kootznoowoo/Admiralty Island are traditional Tlingit Indian lands wrongfully acquired through land theft, terrorization methods, unequal colonial public land policies, and through germ warfare. Tlingit Indians have their title to their lands on their at[acute]ow. Title to our lands are on our Chilkat blankets, headdresses, totem poles, clan hats, and clan houses. Each at[acute]ow tells the clan history of the Tlingit people and their land ownership. As an example, the Woosh-Keet-Taana Shark Clan never put their lands up for sale, and there is no record of purchase of our lands to anyone. You use paper as evidence for title to land, however, we use our at[acute]ow as proof of our title to Kootznoowoo/Admiralty Island. Gunaalch[acute]esh [acute]. Thank for considering an indigenous land request against granting additional lands for tailing pile collection for Hecla Mining Company. Please respond in writing comments about our request from this letter. We protest against granting additional lands for tailing piles for Hecla Mining Company in this manner.

Dinah M. Hobson, Kootznoowoo Shareholder

Ling[acute]t X'ei[acute]x Yaanaxd[acute]l xa  
Assembly

CC: CBJ

Nei K'ee Tl[acute]a Yoo Xat Duwasaakw

Friends of Admiralty Island

Dleit Kaa X'ei[acute]x, Dinah Hobson, Y[acute]o Xat Duwas[acute]akw  
Defense Fund

Bristol Bay

Woosh-K[acute]et-Taan, [Acute]y[acute] X[acute]t  
Angoon Community Association

Noow H[acute]t, Yee Dulx [acute]y[acute] X[acute]t  
Kootznoowoo Inc.

L'eined[acute] Y[acute]di, [acute]y[acute] x[acute]t  
Juneau Empire Paper

Aanx' aak H[acute]t, Yee Dulx,  
Game, Subsistence

AK Dept. of Fish &

Ax [acute]esh