

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

First name: Tom

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: January 4, 2021

Matthew Reece, Project Manager

Juneau Ranger District

8510 Mendenhall Loop Road

Juneau, AK 9980

Re: Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Reece:

I urge the US Forest Service to approve Coeur Alaska's Plan of Operations Amendment #1 (POA #1), which is the proposed action in the Kensington Mine Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

As one of the largest private employers in southeast Alaska, Coeur Alaska not only provides good paying jobs to area residents, Coeur's operating expenditures also have a significant positive impact on the local businesses that provide mine support services. For example, the company I work for provides services to Coeur. Extending the life of Kensington under POA #1 will also result in additional construction jobs. In addition, the local taxes that will be collected as a result of approving the extension of the life of the Kensington mine, whether they be sales taxes or property taxes, will continue to provide increased funding for basic government services, such as schools, police and fire protection and public utilities.

Adoption of the "No Action" alternative will result in an increase in the local unemployment rate as well as forgo a significant amount of those local taxes. To unnecessarily limit the life of a major economic component of Juneau and southeast Alaska by adopting the "No Action" alternative would significantly and adversely impact the quality of life and health of Juneau and southeast residents. Why would the USFS want to do that to its neighbors?

As for the other three alternatives, they would either be more damaging to the environment, adversely impact mine production, unnecessarily increase mine operation costs and/or require a different plan of action than Coeur's proven historical operation plan. In short, there is no rational reason to change a proven method of operation when the alternatives create more issues. And all three of the other alternatives do just that. As the

proverbial saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Inasmuch as it is my understanding that POA #1 is consistent with the USFS's Tongass National Forest Management Plan, the benefits of approving POA #1 vastly outweigh any other alternative. Consequently, I urge the USFS to approve Coeur Alaska's POA #1 in the Kensington Mine Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your consideration of the above facts when making your decision.

Tom Williams