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Comments: I am writing in support of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure as described in their North Extension Project (NEP). I favor Alternative D. Alternative D provides for an expansion of the existing TDF that builds on the existing successful facility, avoids new monument disturbance outside the existing lease boundary, and avoids direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources. Mines such as HGCMC must pass through one of the most stringent and involved permitting processes anywhere in the world and they have met this challenge. Their daily operations are governed by dozens of stringent permits, and they devote significant resources to prevent impacts to their surrounding environment. HGCMC has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence for the past 35 years. It also is a significant contributor to Juneau's economy and a generous community supporter. For these reasons, I support HGCMC's tailings expansion, Alternative D.

Thank you,

Steve Ball