

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/8/2023 8:00:00 AM

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Comments: [External Email]COMMENT - Greens Creek North Extension Project

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Dear Forest Supervisor Sherman,

I conditionally support Alternative B.

Greens Creek Mine has demonstrated that it would follow and fulfil requirements to operate in Admiralty Island National Monument under the specific condition that it does not cause irreparable harm.

The burden of proof in demonstrating that the Greens Creek Mine is not causing irreparable ecological harm is on the mining company itself; the Forest Service in turn is required to provide careful and objective regulatory oversight and, if appropriate, approval, regarding how the mine is run, how pollution is monitored, and how potential environmental contamination events are evaluated and addressed.

I support Alternative B if the following conditions are met:

- The Forest Service should require a fugitive dust ecological risk assessment to clearly identify the impacts of these contaminants, including lead, zinc, mercury, and cadmium on the environment, and implement a fugitive dust monitoring and mitigation plan reported at regular dates to the Forest Service.
- As part of the environmental risk assessment, additional studies and monitoring of the plants, lichens, soils, sediment, water, and wildlife near the tailings facility and in Hawk Inlet should be implemented, and repeated regularly so that changes in the environment at Hawk Inlet can be better understood.
- A mixing zone in Hawk Inlet is unnecessary. The mixing zone, with its zones of acute and chronic toxicity, is not necessary to mine operations. The Environmental Protection Agency allows "flow augmentation," or addition of water prior to discharge, as a supplement to treatment. The Forest Service should require any mine effluent leaving a project on the Monument to meet Alaska Water Quality Standards. A plan to add salt water can be developed that would ensure that fish habitat at the end of the pipe is protected.

Additionally and without making it a requirement, the US Forest Service and Greens Creek could report efforts they are making to participate in 'tailings reduction'. That might include finding ways to utilize that which we've considered waste, therefore reducing the volume of tailings. I understand this would only happen if it is profitable and safe.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

nancy waterman