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Comments: [External Email]Greens Creek North Extension Project Comment

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Dear Forest Supervisor Sherman,

At a time when drought and climate change are causing alarmingly low freshwater levels in the West with city floods in the Eastern U.S., in Europe, Australia, essentially around the Globe, but most clearly evident here in many of these man-made desert oases (Arizona's Phoenix & Tuscan, or Nevada's Las Vegas & Reno, and the like!), at the same time needing to share what little gentle, soaking rain available with toxic holding ponds; this rain already made toxic with plastic nano-beads, lasting forever as contaminate-pollution adulterating all precipitate that &quot;replenishes(?),&quot; contributing disruption to our entire hydrological cycle and hormonal systems, the Willow Project and its greenhouse gases are a carbon and methane global &quot;BOMB,&quot; the sanction of which is not only the antithesis of smart water management, in this age of OUR human terraforming laisses faire expansion, but is a condemnation of life's quality for our pro-generations through the millennia!

With humanity as the preeminent resource allocating agent of Earth, it is our responsibility, nay our sole survival requirement (as Earth's most accountable voice of its REASON ...and our d'etre!) to administer equitably these gifts to ourselves' and all organics as stewards for future generations. Our failure to achieve this universal constant of equilibrium is seen in the species extinction of our food-chain, and in ALL organic life, but is a universal verity confirmed by the 'balance of nature' maxim. Privatizing for personal profit any of these 'commons' is tantamount to selling our souls for immediate pleasure, just speeding the enhancement of this &quot;imbalanced&quot; disruption.

It is this teetering balance most often manifesting in all the civil violence often robbing us of our young, fresh minds, with this irresponsible, and often unaccountable, massacre of gun deaths! We also witness this &quot;manifested, disruptive violence&quot; in oceanic acidification bleaching coral reefs and beaching great whales. But is testified to, most clearly, in the cavalcading frequency of armed conflict resolutions on our city streets and in the mental ill-health inspired, with gun manufacturer marketing of, battlefield assault weapons to &quot;World of War Craft&quot; aficionados, This, in turn, has given rise to the rash of self-consumed, autocratic despotism, politically reeking discord around the world!

I am writing to oppose Alternatives C and D in the Greens Creek North Extension Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and offer conditional support for Alternative B, the proposed Alternative. Greens Creek Mine is an important economic engine for Southeast Alaska, producing valuable silver, lead, and zinc. Congress has allowed the mine 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:

- Metals-laden contaminated tailings dust has been blowing from the tailings disposal area for over 30 years. The Forest Service should require a fugitive dust ecological risk assessment to clearly identify the impacts of these contaminants, including lead, zinc, mercury, cadmium, and others, on the environment, and implement a fugitive dust monitoring and mitigation plan that prevents the contaminated tailings from continuing to spread to the surrounding land and waters.

- 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 need to be implemented. The original 1981 environmental baseline studies should also be replicated. These studies characterized the pre-production (pre-mine) environment, including, among other things, sampling species population and diversity in Hawk Inlet. While some methodologies and detection limits may have changed since the baseline studies were conducted, every effort should still be made to replicate those studies 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.

- Section 505(4)(B) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act requires the Forest Service to modify any mining plan to eliminate or mitigate activities harmful to fish habitat. A simple and inexpensive plan to add salt water can be developed that would ensure that fish habitat at the end of the pipe is protected.

Until these issues are addressed, expansion of the tailings facility is not appropriate. If these issues are addressed, Alternative B has the least negative impact on the environment and presents the lowest risk of the action alternatives, and as such is my preference.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

John Sonin