

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/22/2023 6:08:38 PM

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Comments: I am writing to express my full support for the proposal of Alternative D to expand the tailing facility at Greens Creek Mine.

The Greens Creek Mine, throughout its history, has maintained an exemplary record of environmental performance that merits acknowledgment. This record is especially noteworthy given the inherent challenges that mining activities can pose to environmental conservation.

A particularly salient example of Greens Creek Mine's commitment to sustainable practices is its early adoption of dry stack tailings. This initiative has considerably minimized the mine's environmental footprint, reducing the surface acreage impact from 150 acres to a considerably less 30 acres. This innovation is not only beneficial from an environmental perspective, but it also sets a precedent for other mining operations worldwide to embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Moreover, the role of Greens Creek Mine in supplying vital minerals such as silver, indispensable for the burgeoning renewable energy sector, particularly solar technologies, cannot be overstated. The expansion of the tailings facility, as envisioned in Alternative D, will guarantee the continued provision of these crucial resources for U.S. industries for the next 40 years.

In addition to its environmental contributions and provision of critical resources, Greens Creek Mine also plays a significant role in supporting Juneau's community. Hundreds of jobs are attributed directly to the mine's operations, contributing to the stability and growth of the local economy. Furthermore, its significant contributions to our local tax base and scholarship programs are instrumental in fostering educational opportunities in environmental science, forestry, and mineral development, as well as governmental oversight, arts, and local infrastructure.

Alternative D has been designed with utmost consideration for environmental impact. It has been proposed to avoid any disturbance to fish-bearing reaches of Tributary Creek, ensuring the preservation of local ecosystems and biodiversity. This commitment reflects the mine's dedication to striking the delicate balance between industrial growth and environmental preservation.

Considering the outlined factors, I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to approve the proposed Alternative D for Greens Creek Mine. By doing so, the Service would be endorsing a project that not only advances the U.S. renewable energy sector and supports the local economy, but also showcases how responsible and sustainable mining practices can be implemented.

Thank you for considering my comments in this matter. As a 46-year resident of Juneau, I trust that the U.S. Forest Service will make a decision that supports sustainable industry practices, local economy, and environmental preservation.

Paulette Simpson