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First name: Budd

Last name: Simpson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write as a long-time sport fisherman with over 40 years experience fishing in Southeast Alaska, and frequently in the Hawk Inlet area near the Greens Creek mining activities. In light of the USFS' mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests to meet the needs of present and future generations, I fully support the Alternative D proposal to expand the tailings facility at the Greens Creek mine. Throughout the four decades I have spent fishing in the area, I have experienced no adverse impact from the mining activities on health or quality of the adjacent waters, or to the species that I and other sport or commercial fishers routinely target. Greens Creek has consistently demonstrated its commitment to environmental responsibility using the dry stack tailings system. Under Alternative D, this would avoid disturbance of the fish-bearing reaches of Tributary Creek and ensure that the mine will continue to operate without negatively impacting the sport or commercial fisheries in the area. The mine plays a crucial role in supporting the local economy, and also provide vital minerals, like silver, which is increasingly necessary for renewable solar technologies. The mine's ongoing operation aligns with the USFS' mission by balancing the needs of our local economy, the country's energy needs, and the environment. Accordingly, I urge the USFS to approve the proposed Alternative D for Greens Creek Mine, and thank you for considering my comments in this process.