FIRST THINGS FIRST
ALASKA FOUNDATION

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Don Habeger
Executive Director

May 12, 2025

Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Downs, District Ranger:

The First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTF) is a member-driven educational nonprofit organization with a mission of a strong Southeast Alaska economy through responsible economic development and natural resource management.

The positive contributions of mining to the local economy are well established. For example, the Greens Creek Mine and the Kensington Mine are the top two private property taxpayers within the City and Borough of Juneau.

Furthermore, the March 2023 Greens Creek Mine North Extension Project DSEIS (v1, p. 3-280) notes the significant local employment impact of mining. “Within the goods-producing sector, the natural resources and mining sub-sectors are the most substantial source of jobs and wages.”

The proposed Hebert Glacier Cabin development is an excellent example of how recreational opportunities and resource development can coexist in Southeast Alaska. The Forest Service should install interpretive signage at the cabin site, focusing on both the historical and present-day contributions of mining in the Herbert Glacier area and the Juneau Gold Belt.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Herbert Glacier Cabin project.

Sincerely yours,

Don Habeger
Executive Director

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.