



Sierra Borealis

alaska report

SIERRA CLUB ALASKA CHAPTER
SEPTEMBER 2013



Help Plan the future of Chugach National Forest

Attend a public meeting in Southcentral Alaska

The Chugach National Forest has just announced its fall public meetings – to promote the first phase—the assessment phase—of a three year process to revise its forest plan. This plan revision, and now very specifically the current round of meetings, provide Sierra Club Alaska Chapter members with the best opportunity in ages to influence Forest management. Members of the public can speak out to preserve the Chugach’s extraordinary roadless lands and can urge the Forest Service to make a good recommendation for wilderness for its Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area—which includes most of the lands around famed Prince William Sound. Please plan to attend at least one of these public meetings:

This next round of public meetings follows a preliminary series of public meetings held by the Chugach Forest in February of 2013.



photo: Rebecca Dameron

A Sierra Club national outing visited Prince William Sound in July and enjoyed the spectacular Wilderness Study Area. (see article pp 4-5)

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST PLANNING FORUM:

Schedule of meetings:

- **Valdez:** Monday, September 23, 6-9 pm, Prince William Sound Community College Room 117;
- **Cooper Landing & Moose Pass meeting:** Tuesday, September 24, 6-9 pm, Cooper Landing Community Center;
- **Soldotna:** Wednesday, September 25, 5:30-8:30 pm Soldotna Sports Center;
- **Seward:** Thursday, September 26, 6-9 pm, Seward Public Library and Museum;
- **Cordova:** Monday, September 30, 6-9, Masonic Hall;
- **Girdwood & Whittier meeting:** Wednesday October 2, 6-9 pm Girdwood Community Center;
- **Anchorage:** Thursday, October 3, 6-9 pm Chugach National Forest 161 E. 1st Avenue, Door 8.

The Alaska Chapter chose promotion of wilderness for the Chugach’s Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as a Chapter project for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Forest Plan revision process gives us a valuable opportunity -- *continued page 2*

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Chugach Plan public meetings

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to promote that project by urging the Forest Service to recommend the WSA as Wilderness in its new plan.

Only Congress can designate wilderness. But agency wilderness recommendations are influential with members of Congress.

The Chugach, Alaska's second and America's second largest national forest, covers much of the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and the Copper River Delta. It is the recreational background for half of Alaska's residents – all of urban Anchorage.

Possibly America's wildest, least roaded national forest, the Chugach doesn't even have a single acre of designated wilderness or a single mile of designated wild and scenic river. Yet it contains the country's largest Congressionally-mandated wilderness study area, the 2.1 million acre Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area. In its previous Forest plan revision, from 2000 to 2002, the agency made a disappointingly small recommendation for wilderness of parts of this WSA—even less than its initial recommendation in 1984. In particular, they failed to recommend the valuable wetland habitat of the Copper River Delta for wilderness protection, or to recommend most of the eligible rivers for wild river status. The areas they recommended were largely the "rock and ice" and glacier-covered portions of the Chugach.

In the fall public meetings, you can express your concern for preserving the important wild places and vital salmon habitat on the Chugach. For example, here are some requests to make at a meeting and in your written comments afterwards:

Ask the Forest Service to recommend for wilderness **ALL** areas in the Wilderness Study Area that meet wilderness standards--specifically:

*Recommend wilderness for all of the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands, both east and west of the river in order to permanently protect the habitat of wild salmon, shorebirds and waterfowl, brown bears, and wolves of the Delta. Wilderness is the only way to permanently protect the Delta from being overrun by clear-cutting, coal mining, oil and gas drilling, and the sprawl of large-scale industrial tourism.

* Recommend wilderness for important areas in Prince William Sound like Knight and Montague Islands, Jack and Sawmill Bay; this would keep large-scale unregulated industrial tourism from these areas, maintain their natural quiet, and help wildlife species continue to recover from the Exxon Valdez oil spill. (Montague Island is not within the WSA--but it deserves wilderness too.)

* Recommend wilderness for all critical brown bear habitat, the Kenai River valley, Resurrection Creek, Snow, and Twenty-Mile River valleys.

* Recommend wilderness for eligible areas of the WSA that are near Whittier, as it is increasingly important

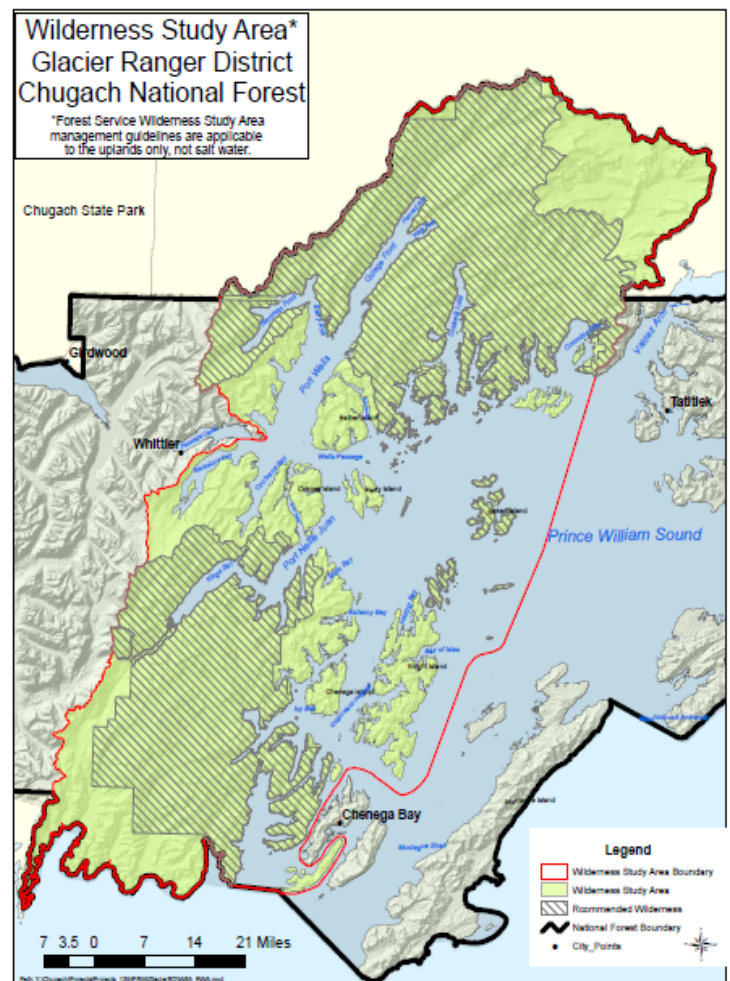
to assure urban populations can enjoy a real wilderness experience via day use.

*Recommend ALL eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes. This would protect these valuable salmon migration streams and rearing habitat.

* Recommend Wild river status for all the world-class salmon rivers of the Kenai Peninsula, including the Twentymile River complex, Snow and Resurrection Rivers.

* Recommend the restoration of natural quiet on the forest. Ban jet skis and helicopters throughout the WSA in all recommended wilderness and WSR rivers and strictly limit ATVs and snowmachines.

And remind the Forest Service that by law,



they must guard and preserve the wilderness qualities of the huge Nellie Juan-College Fjord WSA, at least until Congress takes up consideration of this area and designates certain areas for protection. ❖

Possibly America's wildest, least roaded national forest, the Chugach has not a single acre of designated wilderness nor a single mile of designated wild and scenic river.

Update on two Alaska bills in the U.S. Senate

Among numerous public land bills awaiting full Senate votes are two Alaska bills strongly opposed by the Sierra Club: S. 156, Huna Tlingit Traditional Gull Egg Use Act and S.340, the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization and Jobs Protection Act, both by Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Mark Begich (D-AK).

S. 156 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow subsistence gathering of glaucous-winged gull eggs in Glacier Bay National Park by members of a local Huna Tlingit tribe. Since the late 1990s, opening the park to this use has been a goal of the park's superintendents and their staffs. S. 156, the legislative culmination of their project, marks the first time in Park System history that the agency has urged Congress to open a national park to consumption of wildlife.

S. 340 would permit the Sealaska Corporation, a Southeast Alaska Native regional corporation with 70,000 acres remaining to select under its land grant authorized by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), to move out of its selection areas established by Congress and take the authorized acreage from timber-rich areas of the Tongass National Forest.

Studies have shown that the areas Sealaska wants on Prince of Wales Island and nearby islands are critically important habitats of the Alexander Archipelago wolf and the Queen Charlotte goshawk. For example, Dr. David K. Person, a forest ecologist specializing in wolf-deer predator-prey dynamics, has concluded that the Forest Service's current 8,449-acre Big Thorne timber sale on Prince of Wales would likely result in the eventual loss of the wolves as deer habitat is logged off and the wolves subjected to increased hunting and trapping, both legal and illegal, facilitated by the network of logging roads. Sealaska logging would also harm local communities that rely on intact forest habitat and productive salmon streams to sustain their livelihoods, which depend on

sport and commercial fisheries, fish and wildlife-related tourism, and subsistence. (For background on these two bills, see *Sierra Borealis* March and June 2013, and Dec 2012, available at www.alaska.sierraclub.org/--click on "newsletters")

Congress is currently dealing with the Syrian situation, the budget, the debt ceiling, the farm bill, and immigration. Battles over these issues are expected to delay consideration of less pressing measures and push some of them over into the 2014 second session of this Congress.

Nevertheless, it would be unwise to assume that the Glacier Bay, Sealaska, and other public land bills will carry over into next year. There may still be time for full Senate votes on these bills.

➔ What you can do:

Help protect Glacier Bay National Park and the wolves and goshawks of the southern Tongass:

- Let Senators Murkowski (907)271-3735 and Begich (907)271-5915 know that you strongly oppose their two bills. Sealaska can take its remaining selections from the areas Congress set aside in ANCSA for this purpose. And there are traditional Huna Tlingit gull egg gathering sites outside Glacier Bay National Park that the Huna Tlingit residents of Hoonah can readily utilize.
- You can also ask family and friends in Alaska and in the other 49 states to come to the aid of the park—and other national parks they cherish. If this world-class wildlife sanctuary is opened to subsistence, a precedent could be set that could result in similar attempts aimed at other national park sanctuaries in Alaska and elsewhere.
- Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, a vocal advocate for the national parks, inherited the Glacier Bay controversy when she became Secretary earlier this year. Ask her to review the NPS's radical departure from federal law and NPS policy. (202)208-6416 or feedback@ios.doi.gov. ❖

-- Jack Hession

Alaska Wild 50 says "Wilderness—Good for Alaska!"

Alaska Wild 50 is an Anchorage-based group of representatives from conservation and Native organizations as well as from the federal land agencies now meeting together regularly to plan for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014. The group is also communicating with similar local groups in Juneau and in Fairbanks, to help coordinate a number of events in Alaska next year, including a forum to talk about the importance of wilderness to Alaska.

How can you help? First, "Like" the Alaska Wild 50 Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaWild50>) after which you will get regular updates. Then, contact Sierra Borealis editor Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org) or Sierra Club Anchorage staffer Lindsey Hajduk (lindsey.hajduk@sierraclub.org or (907)276-4088, if you have ideas for ways to celebrate next year – or if you would like to help in the planning--you are welcome to join.

You can also help by sending us pictures of your experiences in wild Alaska that we could post to the Facebook site (giving proper photo credit).

Alaska Wild 50 has selected its own special Alaska logo – to supplement (not replace) the red, white, and blue national Wilderness50 logo, with its slogan "Yours to enjoy, to protect".

And Alaska Wild 50's ideas about Alaska wilderness are expressed by our slogan, "Wilderness—Good for Alaska!" ❖

-- Barrett Ristroph and Vicky Hoover



Sierra Club 2013 national outing enjoys Prince William Sound

The 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Chugach National Forest plan revision. The Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area around Prince William Sound.

What's the connection between these three topics? These were the three interrelated conservation themes of the July 2013 Sierra Club national outing to Prince



photo: Rebecca Dameron

First paddling day out, gearing up to clean a beach on Ingot island

William Sound—a kayaking service trip with the U.S. Forest Service. The July 2 – 8 trip led by Sierra Club national outings leader Jan Lockie, assisted by Rebecca Dameron, was the first national outing to feature the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act as a conservation topic.

Inspiration for the trip was the news that the Sierra Club's Alaska Chapter had chosen—as a Chapter project for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act—promoting designation of wilderness in the longstanding Wilderness Study Area surrounding Prince William Sound. Alaska Outings Subcommittee leader Jan Lockie seized upon the idea of a trip to kayak in Prince William Sound to familiarize people with the relevant area, ran (or rather paddled) with it, and took it a big step farther – she turned the basic idea into an energetic service project with the Forest Service.

It doesn't get much better than that – kayaking in spectacular Prince William Sound and at the same time doing useful work to help the Forest Service clean up remote beaches!

The leaders worked closely with the Forest Service to design the trip and to coordinate beach cleaning work in Prince William Sound. In fact, three Forest Service staffers, (David Ilse, Glacier Ranger District Recreation officer, and Tim and Barbara Lydon, wilderness rangers) joined trip members and stayed with the trip for the entire week of camping, kayaking, and working. Their guidance, energy, and lively

information enormously enhanced the trip experience for participants and leaders alike. All three are engaged in promoting management of the WSA as wilderness.

Work and relaxation around Knight Island

After first staging in Anchorage, in the midtown Bent Prop Inn, the dozen trip staff and participants went by chartered bus to Whittier—jumping off place for Prince William Sound. A water taxi whisked them and gear and kayaks to Ingot Island, just off the larger Knight Island. Here they set up the trip's first camp on the beach. Before the first day ended, they got kayaks in the water for an introductory paddle, and next day was entirely spent in paddling to investigate nearby beaches and begin clean up. Storm forecasts led the trip to move a day sooner than anticipated to Camp 2 -- located a long afternoon and evening's paddle away in Herring Bay on Knight Island.

This long paddle with a very late dinner was how they celebrated the Fourth of July.

Herring Bay was more of a rain forest campsite than a beach site. Here, the steady moist and misty weather (typical of coastal Alaska) dictated less paddling to distant beaches and more time spent nearby in dismantling an old abandoned research camp to restore the area's wilderness qualities. Each day saw good hearty meals as devised by leader Jan, sociable campfires to burn discarded wood pieces and to dry gear, some nearby paddling, and talks by trip conservation officer Vicky Hoover on opportunities presented by the 2014 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and by ranger Tim Lydon on the Forest Service's activities around the Chugach. A highlight one evening was feasting on

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photo: Vicky Hoover

The flotilla returns to camp at Herring Bay on a typical misty day

and highlights 50th Anniversary of Wilderness and Chugach Forest plan

photo: Rebecca Dameron



Trip members hard at work dismantling an abandoned old work camp on Knight Island -- to restore the area's wilderness character

coho salmon freshly caught by Barbara Lydon and grilled over a beach fire.

Another on-trip highlight was a morning visit from Chris Pallister, founder and chief project leader with Gulf of Alaska Keeper (<http://www.goak.org/>). This organization has done amazing amounts of work removing marine debris from Prince William Sound beaches. Chris and his two assistants explained how the normal vast quantities of marine debris that wash up on beaches in the Sound – especially on the outer islands like Montague Island—have now been overwhelmingly increased by the onslaught of massive debris washing up from the Japanese tsunami.

Chapter hosts party for trip members in Anchorage

An extra special highlight --a dazzling party--awaited trip participants on their return to Anchorage--after they had a chance to shower and change from well-used work and paddling gear.

Alaska Chapter volunteers, on learning that a national outing was to come to Prince William Sound and not only do valuable cleanup service in their state, but also promote their 50th anniversary project of seeking wilderness around Prince William Sound, wanted to sponsor or co-sponsor this trip. Although they learned that there is no official way for a Chapter to "sponsor" a trip in its state, they decided to go ahead informally and host a "thank you" Chapter picnic/barbeque in Anchorage for trip participants at the trip's end. And Chapter Chair Pam Brodie also invited as many local (Anchorage area) Chapter members as possible – to allow them to meet trip members and to learn more about Chapter activities. Thus the event became a

rare Chapter gala gathering and party—and was hosted at their home by Chapter treasurer Pat Fort and his wife Irina. With delicious Alaska salmon and other mouth-watering specialties, it was a memorable evening for all.

Promoting the Big 5 - 0

This national outing discussed the anniversary in its advance announcements, brochures and other write-ups, and during the trip, and then sent information about it in follow-up after-trip messages. The Chapter's project of seeking wilderness for Prince William Sound was constantly emphasized as well as the opportunity existing right now to convince the agency to make a good wilderness recommendation for the WSA as part of its current Chugach Plan revision (see *article pp. 1 and 2.*) Trip members will keep on getting updates on the Forest Plan and alerts when it is time to attend meetings or send in written comments.



photo: Russ Maddox

The festive spread for the Chapter party at Pat Fort's house in Anchorage

Comments on a draft forest plan are the most effective way to call for the agency's recommendation for wilderness. (Wilderness designation requires Congressional action, but an agency's formal recommendation can influence members of Congress.) ❖

-- Vicky Hoover

2013 Gwich'in Gathering in Arctic Village: *celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Gwich'in Steering Committee*

Twenty-five years ago the chiefs from fifteen Gwich'in villages in Alaska and Canada came together to speak with one voice. The issue they were facing in 1988 was development in the birthing grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, where their spiritual and cultural connection to the land and caribou dates back thousands of years. This issue had only recently come into political prominence—after publication by Interior Department of the so called “1002 report”—a study mandated in section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), on whether the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife refuge was suitable for oil development. The Reagan Administration gave the nod, and bills to open it to exploration and drilling as well as to preserve it as wilderness soon appeared in the Congress.

The Gwich'in leaders realized how seriously this effort affected them. At that first gathering, the chiefs deliberated on how to react to the political events and unanimously decided to speak in one voice against the proposed development. They formed the Gwich'in Steering Committee to oversee their communications and lobbying efforts and have been working vigorously to raise their message ever since. This momentous gathering in 1988 was the first time that people had ever come together from all the Gwich'in communities widely spread out over northern Alaska and northwest Canada.

Most Sierra Club members know this as our campaign to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling. The coastal plain, which the Gwich'in people call the “Sacred Place Where Life Begins” is the birthing grounds of the caribou herd—named after the Porcupine River. We have been allies in our campaign for permanent protections of the land, wildlife, and communities that depend on it—together fighting not only for the environment but for human rights.

It was an honor for me to be invited to Arctic Village this summer for the Gwich'in Steering Committee's 25th Anniversary celebration on August 24 and 25. Some of the chiefs that had presided at the first gathering in 1988 were there to recall the committee's history and share memories about elders who have since passed. And all the nights were ended with dancing in the community hall until the sun went down—which is pretty late this time of year!

The entire village opened up to some 50 attendees from afar during the two-day celebration, which centered around the Tribal Hall with presentations, stories, awards, big community meals, and lots of dancing. The village dance group performed traditional dancing, and guests performed too -- including Allison Warden who brought her Inupiat perspective and blew everyone away with a rap performance, Sihasin who performed traditional Navajo

dances and their contemporary rock music, and Red Thunder's front-man Robby Romero who rounded out the evenings. After late nights of music I would retreat to my tent, which was staked out behind the home of Gwich'in Steering Committee chair and longtime leader Sarah James, one of my inspirations.

It is inspiring to see such strong, consistent leadership throughout these communities. Each village has worked to assure the youth follow in their elders' footsteps, and the tradition of leadership continues; many new leaders were recognized throughout this summer's celebration. For 25 years the dedicated stance of the Gwich'in people against development for the coastal plain has been one of the chief reasons why the contested area has remain protected: we're closer than we've been in a long time to making that permanent.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing to finalize its first management plan for the Arctic Refuge. We expect that plan to recommend additional wilderness for the Arctic Refuge—about half of which is presently wilderness. It is our hope, and the hope of many Americans, that Congress acts on the agency recommendations so that the coastal plain may finally receive the permanent protection it deserves.

Just after the Gathering, Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell actually visited Alaska and spent time on the coastal plain in the Refuge. Though Secretary Jewell missed the Gathering, Gwich'in Steering Committee board member Kay Wallis brought the wishes of the community to the Secretary afterwards with a signed caribou antler. Secretary Jewell heard loud and clear that the agency wilderness recommendation is the latest move in a decades-long campaign to protect such a sacred place. ❖

-- Lindsey Hajduk



Photo: Gwich'in Steering Committee

Board member Kay Wallis presented Secretary Jewell with a signed caribou antler from the 25th Anniversary Celebration in Arctic Village. This antler represents the hopes and prayers of the Gwich'in Nation to protect always the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. **Mahsi' choo dilak naii!**

Admiralty Island: Forest Service to expand Greens Creek Mine

Tongass National Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole has issued a decision to allow a limited expansion of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's tailings facility in Admiralty National Monument in Southeast Alaska. The agency's Record of Decision (ROD) described the Selected Alternative—based on Alternative D from the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), with four modifications.

The Selected Alternative allows the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company to expand the existing tailings disposal facility further south into Admiralty Island National Monument by about 18 acres (ROD, Figure 2). An additional 8 acres is authorized to be developed outside of the Monument for rock quarry and reclamation material storage sites and expanding an existing water management pond. The Selected Alternative expands the facility's capacity by about 2.1 million cubic yards, delaying the time at which the capacity is reached by approximately 10 years, from 2019 to 2029 at the expected rate of fill. No tailings will be deposited in sections of Tributary Creek that are classified as Class I or Class II fish habitat, and a second tailings facility will not be constructed.

Alaska Chapter voices concerns on tailings issues

Sierra Club comments on the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PDEIS) in 2012 raised significant concerns about deficiencies in the document:

"the deficiencies of this PDEIS are so egregious and out of line with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that a supplemental DEIS is required in order for the public and government agencies to have enough information to evaluate decision alternatives for the proposal.

Notable examples of how the document is deficient are the lack of any water quality alternative, lack of a cost benefit analysis comparing various decision alternatives, lack of a cultural analysis, and lack of any meaningful analysis as to how the decision alternatives relate to National Monument standards for Admiralty Island...It appears National Monument values are being sacrificed to compensate for poor business and planning decisions made by the project proponent. Only the No Action Alternative precludes further encroachment into the National Monument. The primary reasons [for allowing encroachment into the Monument] appear to be the economic advantage of the operator and poor planning of the operator and USFS. The mine operator requested permission to add acid-generating waste rock deposition... apparently assuming that National Monument values were expendable compared to operator profits. This is not an acceptable rationale for the permanent loss of National Monument values."

Potential future mine expansion was a concern: "the PDEIS does not disclose the total expected need for mine tailings disposal over the life of the mine; it is likely that new reserves will ...be discovered, as they have in the past. The additional tailings will have to be put somewhere....The action

alternatives should discuss the impacts of potential future expansion... "

The comments pointed out the extreme difficulty the mine operators face in meeting water quality standards for in Hawk Inlet and uncertainty whether mining effluent could meet requirements.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) requires the Forest Service to deny approval for any mining-related actions that would cause "irreparable harm" to the Monument. The permanent destruction of Class 1 and 2 streams in the Monument is certainly "irreparable harm" that must be prohibited.

The modifications made to the earlier proposal by the Record of Decision did not resolve Sierra Club concerns.

Background

The Greens Creek Mine is an underground metals mine (primarily lead, zinc, silver, and gold) located near Hawk Inlet on northern Admiralty Island. It is located approximately 18 miles southwest of Juneau and 38 miles north of the community of Angoon on Admiralty Island's west side. The mine and portions of the tailings disposal facility are within the Admiralty Island National Monument. At its nearest point, the Kootznoowoo Wilderness is less than two miles from the mine's mill and mine portal. In 1980, Congress provided for mining within the Monument at the Greens Creek site in Section 503 of ANILCA. The mine has been in operation since 1987.



The community of Angoon had opposed expansion of tailings disposal; they worried about potential pollutants contaminating their drinking water and ground water. The Alaska Chapter's comments expressed strong support for the Angoon Community Association's review of Tlingit cultural resources and reiterated that "the people of Angoon and the Sierra Club have a long history of cooperation in preserving the cultural, natural, wildlife and wilderness values of Admiralty Island, including our joint effort... to establish Admiralty Island National Monument & Kootznoowoo Wilderness."

For more information on the Forest Service decision, contact Forrest Cole, Tongass Forest Supervisor, at (907) 228-6281 or fcole@fs.fed.us; or Chad Van Ormer, Admiralty Island National Monument District Ranger, at (907) 789-6202 orrcvanormer@fs.fed.us.

(Irene Alexakos helped in preparation of this article.) ❖

Alaska Chapter and Group Elections Ahead!

The Sierra Club has the largest, most effective grass-roots activist network of any conservation organization in the nation. Its activist volunteers set Sierra Club policy and priorities in democratic processes. Every year, local volunteer leaders are elected by the members. And this process is especially vital in Alaska: there's no state where the environmental issues loom larger and more pressing than here. Alaska's lands are truly NATIONAL interest lands and people around the nation look to us to marshal our forces to help preserve Alaska's environment as a national legacy as well as for ourselves.

Would you like to help decide Sierra Club policy and Sierra Club priorities in Alaska? Our Chapter's volunteer Executive Committee does just that. Elections will soon be held for positions on the Executive Committees of the Alaska Chapter and the regional groups within the Alaska Chapter. If you are a Sierra Club member and would like to run, or would like to nominate another member who is willing to run, please contact a member of the Alaska Chapter Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members, for 2014-15 term, are:

Irene Alexakos -- irenealexakos@yahoo.com

Mike O'Meara -- mikeo@horizonsatellite.com

Patrick Fort -- cpfort@uaa.alaska.edu

Executive Committee terms are two years, and the terms are staggered so that half the committee is elected each year. In addition to its six elected members, the Alaska Chapter ExCom includes a liaison from each of the three regional groups and the Chapter's delegate to the Sierra

The deadline to submit names to the Nominating Committee is Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

Club Council, ex officio, if that person is not already on the ExCom. (The Sierra Club Council, composed of delegates from all Chapters, meets annually in San Francisco to convey Chapter concerns to the Board of Directors.)

The three regional groups in the Alaska Chapter are the Tongass Group representing Southeast Alaska, the Knik Group representing Anchorage and Southcentral, and the Denali Group representing Fairbanks and Interior Alaska.

The Nominating Committees will report the names of nominees to the Executive Committees on Tuesday, October 29. Members who wish to run but are not nominated by a nominating committee may run if they submit to the committee a petition to run signed by fifteen (15) members of the appropriate chapter or group. The deadline for candidate petitions is Tuesday, November 12. This is also the deadline to submit ballot issue petitions. The chapter Executive Committee will appoint an Election Committee at its regular teleconference meeting on Tuesday, November 19; no candidates may serve on the Election Committee.

Ballots will be printed and mailed Friday, December 6. Marked ballots must be received at the Sierra Club office in Anchorage by Monday, January 13, 2013, and will be counted by the election committee starting at 5:00 pm. (This notice and schedule are in compliance with Sierra Club bylaws.) ❖

-- by Pamela Brodie, chapter chair

Sierra Borealis / alaska report

is the newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club

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(click on newsletters)



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We are eager to have the email-addresses of more of our members--so we can notify you directly when a new issue of **Sierra Borealis** is posted. To help us save paper and postage, *please send your email address to chapter chair Pam Brodie, pbrodie@gci.net*. Include your name and mail address and 8-digit member number for identification.

Thanks, Pam