



A Nonprofit Public Interest Law Firm Providing Counsel to Protect and Sustain Alaska's Environment

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Dear Friend,

One of the hallmarks of Trustees for Alaska is our capacity to respond to a wide range of threats from one end of this vast state to the other. We are unique in our ability to provide free legal representation on so many environmental issues. Please read on to learn more about our current work.

Groups Seek Designation that the Chuit River Watershed is Unsuitable for Coal Mining to Protect Salmon

On the west side of Cook Inlet, roughly 45 miles from Anchorage, the Chuit River and its tributaries form one of the most important salmon-producing systems in Southcentral Alaska. All five species of Pacific salmon found in Alaska originate in the Chuit River watershed, and salmon from the watershed are integral to local subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries. However, despite local concern and recognition by the Alaska Department of



Fish and Game that the Chuit River and its tributaries are important to anadromous fishes, PacRim Coal, a Delaware-based company owned by Texan investors, has been working with state regulatory agencies to plan an extensive coal strip mine that would unearth

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EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFTS

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PLANNED GIVING

Making a planned gift through your will or estate to Trustees for Alaska is an effective way to meet your financial goals and earn a tax-deduction while helping

roughly eleven miles of a stream that is prime salmon spawning and rearing habitat and dump millions of gallons of pollutants each day into Chuit River tributaries.

In response to these threats, Trustees for Alaska, on behalf of the Chuitna Citizens Coalition, an association of individuals living near the proposed mine site, and Cook Inletkeeper, a community-based organization with the mission to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet, filed a petition with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources seeking to have the streambeds of anadromous water bodies and riparian areas within the Chuit River watershed designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining. If approved, these important lands and streams within the Chuit River watershed would be off limits to surface coal mining and protected from the most serious effects of the Chuitna Coal Mine. While the proposed Chuitna Coal Mine threatens permanent destruction of one of Alaska's most productive and valued fish-producing systems, and would sacrifice local interests and the Alaskan way-of-life in favor of outside investors, Trustees for Alaska is committed to protecting Alaskan interests and the important fish, wildlife and water resources Alaskans depend upon.

EPA Allows More Pollution from Red Dog Mine, Threatening Alaska's Water Resources and Jeopardizing Health and Jobs



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reissued a Clean Water Act permit that allows the Red Dog Mine to discharge more pollution into Red Dog Creek, which flows into Ikalukrok Creek and the Wulik River, the source of drinking water for the City of Kivalina,

threatening Alaska's water resources and placing the health and jobs of village residents in jeopardy.

Teck Alaska, Inc., which has operated the Red Dog Mine for the past 20 years, applied in 2008 to renew its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to expand mining operations into the Aqqaluk Deposit, which will extend the life of the mine by another two decades. Despite 20 more years of operations at Red Dog, which the EPA has penalized for violating the previous permit, the EPA issued a permit in January that allows significantly more pollution by relaxing permit limits for toxics such as lead, zinc, and cyanide, as well as total dissolved solids and ammonia. EPA's concession to the mine constitutes illegal "backsliding" under the Clean Water Act.

protect and sustain Alaska's valuable ecosystems -- now & in the future! For more information about making a planned gift call Tracy Lohman at (907) 276-4244, ext 106.

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Please consider making a 2010 gift to Trustees for Alaska now via our secure website -- every bit will help Trustees for Alaska fight and win Alaska's tough conservation battles this year!

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The new permit also sacrifices a two-mile-long stretch of Arctic grayling and Dolly Varden habitat in order to dilute the mine's waste using "mixing zones" instead of using feasible pollution controls at the point where the mine discharges into Red Dog Creek.

The EPA issued the permit over the objections of the local tribal governments most affected by the mine's waste despite a recent promise by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to promote justice, aggressively implement the Clean Water Act, address mining impacts on fresh water, and respect tribal governments.

The Native Village of Kivalina IRA Council, the Native Village of Point Hope IRA Council, Alaska Community Action of Toxics, the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, and Kivalina residents Enoch Adams, Jr., Joseph Swan, Sr., Leroy Adams, Andrew Koenig, and Jerry Norton appealed the NPDES permit to ensure that EPA does its job to safeguard Alaskan's water resources, the health of its citizens, and vital jobs and revenues. Trustees for Alaska represents the Native Village of Point Hope and the conservation groups, and the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment represents the Native Village of Kivalina and Kivalina residents.

The Tribes and groups also appealed the State's certification of the new NPDES permit for the Red Dog Mine in mid-January.

State Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Threatens the Arctic Refuge

In our continuing effort to protect the Arctic Refuge, on January 8, 2010, Trustees for Alaska filed an appeal in the Alaska Superior Court challenging the constitutionality of the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) finding that the Beaufort Sea Areawide Oil and



Gas Lease Sale is in the best interest of the State. The Beaufort Sea lease area comprises approximately 2 million acres of state-owned offshore tidal and submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea between Point Barrow and the Canadian border, including nearly all of the offshore land adjacent to the coast of the Arctic Refuge. Due to the lack of state review and the potential impacts of offshore oil and gas development in the Arctic on sensitive and endangered species, coastal and marine ecosystems and the subsistence way-of-life, we believe that by approving the lease sale, DNR failed to safeguard the public interest in violation of the Alaska Constitution. Trustees for Alaska represents Resisting

Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands (REDOIL),
Gwich'in Steering Committee, Alaska Wilderness League, Center
for Biological Diversity, and Northern Alaska Environmental Center
in the appeal.

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