

Palmer Mine

Spotlight on Southeast Alaska Mines

OVERVIEW

The proposed Palmer Mine in the Chilkat Valley threatens the world's largest seasonal bald eagle gathering, Southeast Alaska's top wild coho salmon run, and private wells in the Chilkat Watershed. The nearby communities of Klukwan and Haines depend on the Chilkat River's abundant wild salmon for subsistence, economics, and our way of life. The mine would be built 18 miles upstream from the Chilkat River and Klukwan, and 35 miles from Haines. Canadian company, Constantine Metal Resources and Japanese company, DOWA Metals & Mining, are seeking to profit from Alaska's mineral resources at the expense of our fish, wildlife, water quality, and cultures. The costs of this mine far outweigh and outlast any potential short-term benefits.

QUICK FACTS

THE CHILKAT RIVER

**Clean water:**

Water quality monitoring has found no harmful levels of pollutants or heavy metals.

**Salmon under threat:**

Historically strong Chilkat Chinook runs have already failed 6 times in the last 8 years. We need to protect them at all stages of life if they are to survive. How can we consider polluting the Chilkat when fishermen are already facing restrictions to conserve Chinook?

**Subsistence lifestyle:**

Everyone in the Chilkat Valley depends on salmon in some way.

THE PROPOSED MINE

**Ore:**

Silver, zinc, copper, gold, and barite would be extracted and processed.

**Mining district:**

Multiple mines are planned in the area.

**Area:**

Includes 82,000 hectares of mining claims and leased lands.

**Massive sulfide deposit:**

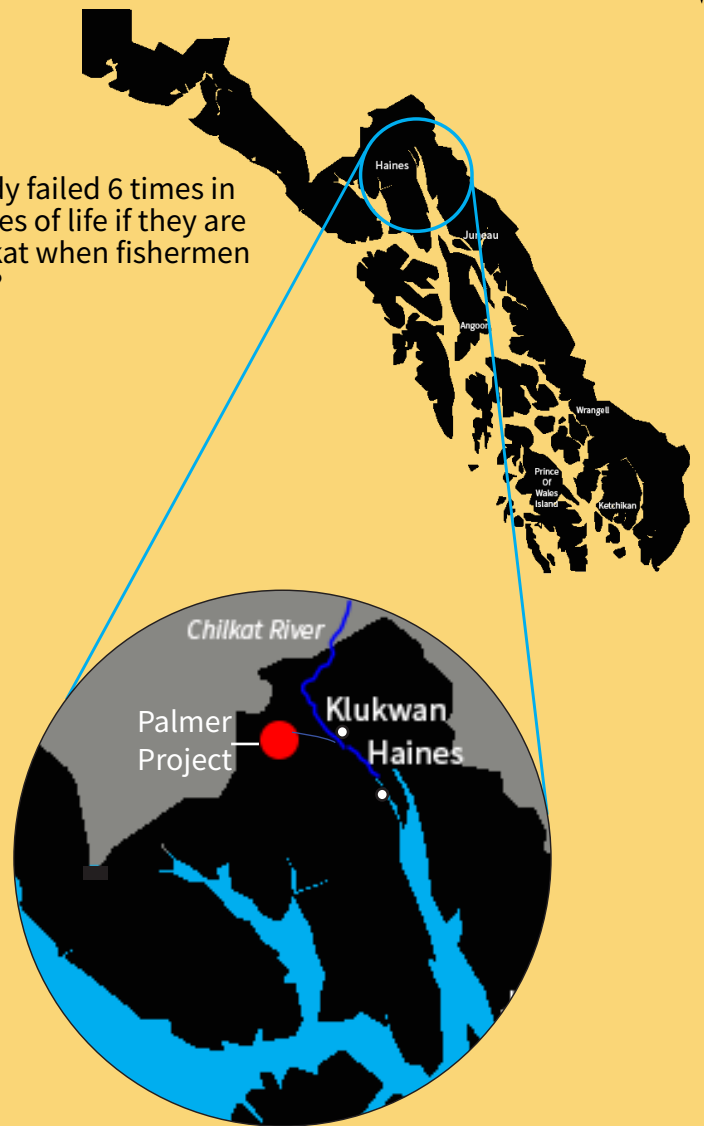
Likely to lead to acid mine drainage, which could impact aquatic life.

**Wastewater:**

Design capacity is approximately 1,500 gallons per minute at peak flow.

**No public process:**

Tunnel excavation will not go through an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



DIGGING DEEPER

REASONS FOR CONCERN



Acid leaching potential: This area contains a volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) deposit. All sulfide mines produce acid mine waste, but wet climates like that of the Chilkat Valley intensify the risk of acid mine drainage - toxic, acidic wastewater leaching into our watershed.



Impacts that last forever: Acid mine waste requires treatment for perpetuity. Constantine tells us the life of the proposed mine would be 10-15 years, but the impacts could last forever, and taxpayers may be on the hook for treating the acid mine waste long after the mining company is gone.



An area prone to earthquakes: The seismic nature of the Valley could threaten the integrity of waste storage structures. In October 2018, 11 earthquakes occurred over the course of 48 hours, all around the perimeter of the Palmer Mine.



Insufficient baseline data: Constantine will be discharging wastewater into the ground where the groundwater and surface water are likely connected--we have no evidence that the wastewater will not make it to surface water. Constantine's baseline water quality monitoring has been too limited to determine natural water quality conditions.



Avoided public processes: Constantine has shifted the location of the mine's entry portal from federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to Alaska Mental Health Trust (MHT) land, skirting the NEPA process, including Environmental Analysis/Impact Studies that include a "no action" alternative, transparency, and a public process.



No consideration for climate change: Constantine's Plan of Operations addresses five years of industrial activity, but many of the impacts will last for perpetuity. Constantine is only using current climate and weather data to plan for these impacts, ignoring the rapidly changing climate. Climate models predict a warmer, wetter, stormier Chilkat Valley within decades.

TAKE ACTION

As of July 2019, Constantine Metals released a preliminary economic feasibility study to court investors and determine whether they will advance the project from the exploration stage to mine development.

The proposed mine is not inevitable. We will keep you informed on upcoming opportunities to take meaningful action to protect the Chilkat Watershed. In the meantime, here are some resources to get started.

Learn More and Find Resources

- From SEACC: www.seacc.org/chilkat
- From Lynn Canal Conservation: <http://www.lynncanalconservation.org/mining>
- From Rivers Without Borders: <http://riverswithoutborders.org/about-the-region/chilkat>
- From Earth Justice: <https://earthjustice.org/cases/2017/defending-the-chilkat-river-watershed>
- From American Rivers: <https://endangeredrivers.americanrivers.org/chilkat-river/>

Get Involved

- Express your concerns to Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority at: info@mhtrust.org
- Contact DOWA to ask them to stop investing in the Palmer Mine: metalmine@dowa.co.jp
- Participate in your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- Write to your local leaders to request action to protect the Chilkat River
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper

Spread the Word!

www.seacc.org



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