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Pebble delay a positive step, but EPA needs to act to protect Bristol Bay

Washington — Today it was revealed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is demanding environmental mitigation measures for the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska, which includes restoring, preserving or improving 3,000 acres of wetlands to compensate for those areas that would be disturbed.

Statement by Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

“Today’s delay is a positive step. The Bristol Bay Watershed is the source of the world’s greatest, most productive wild sockeye salmon fishery, providing more than 50 percent of global supply, sustaining indigenous people, commercial fishing and one of the premier destinations for sportsmen in the nation.

“This has always been the wrong mine in the wrong place. It shouldn’t have taken an impending election and years of the administration moving the permitting process forward before the president recognized this. What’s needed now is EPA action to permanently kill this mine. A delay is not enough.

“We should be clear that despite today’s news, much of wild Alaska remains perilously at risk from this administration’s policies including gutting roadless protections for the Tongass National Forest and auctioning off the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil companies.”

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Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state’s land, waters, and wildlife. We believe that Alaska’s long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans’ quality of life.



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