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Subject: {Broadband Leaders} Proposed Pebble Mine, Alaska
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Hi all you wonderful Broadband Leaders,

For the past month I have been in a tiny, predominantly Aleut village on the Alaska Peninsula (where we spend parts of every year), and I was speaking with a friend about the proposed Pebble Mine. She had grown up in the village and lived there for most of her life. She told me that it was a difficult subject: it would provide good jobs for local people, but it could cause irreparable harm to the Bristol Bay fisheries, a major source of both income and subsistence harvest for this village and most other villages in Southwest Alaska. She brought up the fact that the Pebble people had claimed that the proposed earthen mine was not a risky endeavor as there were few earthquakes, and recently the area was hit with a pretty good quake!

A few days later I was in Iliamna, another small southwest village where the Pebble Partnership mining conglomerate is headquartered, and I thought of the local people who would soon be out of jobs (I hoped) as I watched their trucks running back and forth through the village. But I also thought of the beautiful wilderness around me, the mountains, the grasslands, the tundra, the huge passage of migrating birds, the local swans and cranes and ducks and geese, the king and silver salmon and the arctic char and other fish we so love to catch and eat, the huge brown bear whose rely on the spawning salmon, the caribou and lynx and wolverine and wolves who rely on the pristine environment for their food supplies, the seals and whales and sea otters that feed just yards offshore in the Bay. I thought of the potential damage to this wonderful land of blue waters and green tundra and yellow grasses and snow covered peaks, and there was just no balance in the judgement. The jobs would be for a limited few for a limited time; the wildlife and environment could be damaged forever, and cause long term revenue and food supply loss to the local peoples. We are so excited to share this article with you, and urge you all to write letters supporting the ban to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. Stopping this project has been one of the Alaska Soles Broadband's major pushes for the last three years, and we hope to celebrate its final demise soon!!

Thanks for all that all of you do. And may summer find us wildly excited to be out in our wild spaces!!

Loren J Karro
(she, her, hers)
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"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself, but for one's community."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg



EPA proposes to veto Pebble Mine to protect salmon-rich Bristol Bay

By **Liz Ruskin, Alaska Public Media** - May 25, 2022

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing protection for the Bristol Bay watershed that would permanently ban the Pebble Mine.

The EPA announced the proposed ban Wednesday morning, using its authority under a section of the Clean Water Act called 404(c). It's the "veto" of Pebble that fishermen and tribes in the Bristol Bay region have requested for years.

"Where that mine is is the spawning beds of the greatest salmon-producing rivers in the world," Curyung tribal chief Tom Tilden said earlier this month at the U.S. Capitol. He'd gone there to press for a mine veto, as he and others have done many times before.

The company seeking to build the open-pit gold and copper mine, Pebble Limited Partnership, has said it would enrich the region with good salaries and other income.

It has repeatedly argued that its state-of-the-art mine design will have no significant effect on Bristol Bay's fish run.

EPA's new Region 10 administrator, Casey Sixkiller, does not see it that way.

"Two decades of scientific study show us that mining the Pebble Deposit would cause permanent damage to an ecosystem that supports a renewable economic powerhouse and has sustained fishing cultures since time immemorial," Sixkiller said in the EPA news release announcing the proposal.

As an example, the EPA notes that the mine plan calls for destroying 8.5 miles of fish streams.

The EPA action would be similar to the veto the Obama administration proposed in 2014. That one was called a "pre-emptive veto" because it came before the Pebble Partnership had submitted its permit application.

During the Trump presidency, Pebble finally submitted a mine plan. But the Republican-led government seemed to be of two minds. The EPA took steps toward dismantling the

Obama administration's barriers to mine development but reversed course, and then reversed course again.

Ultimately, in late 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rejected Pebble's permit application to dredge and fill in the area. Pebble is appealing that decision.

The EPA's latest proposal is broader. If made final, it would ban any dredging or filling of federal waters and wetlands in service of mining the Pebble Deposit, at least within the footprint of the mine plan Pebble drafted.

The EPA's proposed ban will be published in the Federal Register this week and will be the subject of public hearings next month. The agency will accept written comments through July 5.

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Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) is a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Learn more and become a member at www.greatoldbroads.org.

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