

**The plan “does not comply with Clean Water Act guidelines” and “the proposed project is contrary to the public interest.”**

November 27, 2020



Kow-Ear-Nuk and salmon catch, early 1900s. Photo public domain, Wikipedia.

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## public interest.”‘

Here we have some common sense and a definition of “public interest” that even a simpleton could understand. This nitwit project will likely never see the light of day and we commend the A.O.E. for their action.

Alaska Indians have been relying on salmon for decades and this mine would have threatened salmon fishing for many.

This is the type of simple reasoning that the State of Florida could certainly emulate when it comes to protecting some of their unappreciated treasures such as their priceless springs.

Read the complete good news [here at WJCT](#).

*Comments by OSFR historian Jim Tatum.*

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*– A river is like a life: once taken,  
it cannot be brought back © Jim Tatum*

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# Army Corps of Engineers Denies Permit To Controversial Alaska Gold Mine

By [Laurel Wamsley](#) & Liz Ruskin • 15 hours ago Nov. 25, 2020

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has denied a permit for the massive Pebble Mine project in Alaska – a proposed open-pit copper and gold mine that would be upstream from the world’s largest sockeye salmon fishery.

The Corps said in a statement Wednesday that it has determined

that the plan “does not comply with Clean Water Act guidelines” and it had concluded that “the proposed project is contrary to the public interest.”

Fishermen and tribes have been fighting the mine proposal upstream of Bristol Bay for a decade, fearing it would harm the wild sockeye salmon at the heart of the area’s economy and indigenous culture.

The project’s outlook became cloudier in August when President Trump’s son, Donald Trump, Jr. – an avid fisherman – [tweeted his opposition to the mine](#).

Nanci Morris Lyon, co-owner and operator of Bear Trail Lodge in King Salmon says she got the news by text. “It is an incredible relief. I felt like sitting down and just crying,” she says.

Lyon says the prospect of the mine has held the whole region hostage for years. Lodge owners like her didn’t know if they could invest in their businesses. Commercial fishermen weren’t sure they could buy new boats.

She says Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump had stayed at the lodge about eight years ago.

“I always said that I had faith that after they had visited here and they spent time here, they understood that this place didn’t need something like that marring it, scarring it, ruining it forever.”

Pebble Limited Partnership CEO John Shively says the company plans to appeal the Corps’ decision. He [told](#) the *Anchorage Daily News* that it was a “lost opportunity” and said the company was “dismayed by today’s news.”

He pointed to conclusions in the Corps’ [environmental report from July](#) on the mine, which said the project would have no measurable impact on Bristol Bay salmon. But that report was

ambiguous, since it also said the mine would harm the area's water resources.

The Corps noted that its review process had taken nearly three years and is "based on all available facts and complies with existing laws and regulations. ... USACE is committed to maintaining and restoring the nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development."

The Pebble Mine came under increased scrutiny in September when an environmental group [released secret recordings](#) in which the then-CEO of Pebble claimed to have swayed politicians into either supporting or keeping mum on the project. Executives also were caught saying that they ultimately planned a much larger mine that they had requested a permit for...

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