

Soundkeeper

Clean Water — Strong Communities

Summer 2017



Hello Keepers!

As usual the summer has flown by and already we're heading full tilt towards fall. Here's your summer update on the issues Prince William Soundkeeper has been working on your behalf.

Port Gravina - Chugach Alaska Corporation has completed the permitting process for operating a stone quarry near Secret Cove in Port Gravina. The final Environmental Assessment by the US Forest Service was issued on May 25, 2017. The EA can be viewed here: http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservic.download.akamai.com/11558/www/netpa/101919_FSPLT3_3992557.pdf

Chugach Alaska Corporation will likely begin work sometime this year. Chugach National Forest Resource Manager, Dave Zastrow and Minerals Manager, Steve Hohense will be formulating a monitoring plan and site visits in the near future concerning the effected National Forest lands. The Forest Service will also be the likely lead for key on-site implementation project milestones.

La Touche Island 'Subdivision' Contamination - The remains of the Beatson-Kennicot copper mines on La Touche Island in western Prince William Sound have left a legacy of water and soil contamination across the site. Poisonous mining tailings were used to build roads and building pads for the private lots created in and around the Beatson site that have been available for purchase since the 1980's.

Rio Tinto, the subsurface owner, intends to submit a report to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation this fall on the types, level, and extent of contamination found from the 2015/16 sampling activities. Once DEC reviews the information they will make a decision about what kind of cleanup is needed.

Cordova Recycling and Waste Reduction Issues - The baler conveyor belt is broken and the city isn't sure they want to pay to have it fixed. Along with general refuse, cardboard and aluminum are not being baled and recycled. Waste is being open dumped into the landfill. Open dumping is going to create a cascade of negative environmental and health issue. Already bears are a problem at the landfill with more frequent close bear/human encounters, and trash being spread.

The Cordova City Council, Mayor, and City Manager need to hear from you! Cordovan's have worked hard and long to get a recycling and waste reduction plan in place. Our progress is being set back and may even be sidelined by policy decisions. The question: Should the City fix the baler conveyor belt? We say emphatically YES- at the very least to utilize for recycling! Call, write, and/or corner your City Council Member/Mayor/City Manager when you see them and tell them how you feel about getting the fixing the baler and continuing our waste reduction plan!
<http://www.cityofcordova.net/government/mayor-council/city-council>

National Actions - PWSK joined 130 grass roots, citizen advocacy organizations across the country in signing on to a letter to **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** regarding legislative rollbacks for natural gas infrastructure, through **H.R. 2910 Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act**. Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski is a Chairman on the Committee. National WaterKeeper Alliance Network and its partners have been bringing concerns and grievances to FERC in recent years regarding abuse of FERC implementation of the Natural Gas Act. This letter requests that Congressional Hearings be held in both the House Energy & Commerce Committee and the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources into the abuses of power and law communities are suffering at the hand of FERC and as a result of the use and issue of the provisions of the Natural Gas Act, and that no action is taken to "streamline" review and approval of natural gas infrastructure projects until hearings and reforms have been pursued. For more information on this subject:
<http://waterkeeper.org/fight-for-a-fairer-ferc-dive-into-democracy/>

In June Congressman Don Young introduced **H.B. 232 the State National Forest Management Act of 2017** which would allow states to acquire up to 2 million acres of National Forest System lands, including all roads, campgrounds, and public-use cabins. If passed, this bill would remove multiple-use management and allow for clearcutting. This action threatens the public's utilization of the National Forest and its resources and recreational opportunities that arise from their availability. For a short-term gain of timber harvest, the public would also be trading long-term degradation to local economies which rely on a healthy, intact forest ecosystem and the public's right to access.

Keeping the Boat Afloat - We've got a \$10,000 budget for 2017 thanks to the **New-Land Foundation** and your generous membership support. Thank you!

Kate McLaughlin, President

Keep updated on issues that affect Prince William Sound's water quality and ecosystem, follow us on [Facebook](#). [Donate](#) or become a [Keeper](#) and help PWSK continue to advocate for Prince William Sound's water quality and you!