



Media Advisory

BC Mines Threaten Southeast Alaska Fisheries and Tourism

Alaskans Speak Up to Protect Salmon; View Chris Miller Taku Photo Exhibit

Date: 10/15/13

Contacts:

Chris Zimmer, Rivers Without Borders, zimmer@riverswithoutborders.org, 907-586-2166

Mark Kaelke, Trout Unlimited, mkaelke@tu.org, 907-321-4464

For Immediate Release

JUNEAU, Alaska -- Trout Unlimited and Rivers Without Borders will host an event at the Silverbow Inn in Juneau Wednesday evening, Oct. 16, to inform the public about threats to Southeast Alaska fisheries and tourism jobs from a large-scale mine proposed for British Columbia. An exhibit by Juneau photographer and fisherman Chris Miller, "The Taku – A River Divided," will also be on display. Light refreshments will be served. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

A slew of mining projects are proposed for northwest British Columbia in major trans-boundary salmon rivers such as the Taku, Stikine and Unuk. These salmon-rich waterways support Southeast's billion-dollar salmon fishing industry. The proposed mines offer few if any economic benefits to Southeast Alaska but have the potential to pollute rivers, harm tourism and taint Southeast Alaska's global reputation for producing premier wild salmon products.

The project farthest along in permitting is the massive open-pit/underground Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell mine (KSM), located in the headwaters of the Unuk River, one of Southeast Alaska's largest king salmon producers. The Unuk flows into Misty Fjords National Monument near Ketchikan, a popular attraction for many of the region's one million annual visitors. Canadian regulators are seeking public comment on KSM until Oct. 21, 2013. Alaskans can comment using this online form:

<http://americansalmonforest.org/ksm-comment-form/>

WHO: The public is invited.

WHAT: A presentation about KSM and other Canadian mine projects in northern British Columbia that could harm Southeast Alaska's fishing and tourism industries while offering few if any economic benefits to Alaska. Also, a photo exhibit by Juneau's Chris Miller titled, "The Taku – A River Divided."

WHEN: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013.

WHERE: Silverbow Inn, 120 2nd Street, Juneau, AK.

WHY: Because Southeast Alaska's multi-billion-dollar fishing and tourism industries, jobs and other interests must be considered as Canada moves ahead with these mining projects in trans-boundary watersheds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://americansalmonforest.org/transboundary-issues/>

<http://riverswithoutborders.org/>

###