



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Glacier
Ranger
District

P.O. Box 129
Forest Station Road
Girdwood, AK 99587

File Code: 1500/2800

Date: February 2, 2012

Jennifer Murrell
Natural Resource Specialist II
SOA-DNR-SCRO-Leasing Unit
550 W 7th Avenue Ste 900c
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Dear Ms. Murrell,

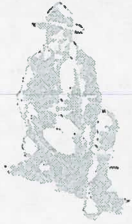
The Glacier Ranger District supports the Glacier Winner Creek Mineral Closing Order. Withdrawal of this area is important to the continued investment in recreational development by businesses in the Girdwood Community; including Alyeska Resort and Chugach Powder Guides. In addition, withdrawal provides certainty to other small businesses which provide recreational services on both these state lands and the adjacent federal lands of the Chugach National Forest. Lastly, withdrawal offers the best form of protection for the existing Winner Creek and Upper Winner Creek trails, both are trail segments of the significant and historic National Iditarod Trail.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tim Charnon
TIM CHARNON
Glacier District Ranger

cc: dhiibner
geoff.gross





ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 569-9229 • FAX: (907) 569-9225 • www.alaskaminers.org

February 6, 2012

The Hon. Cathy Giessel
The Hon. Bill Hawker
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska

Re: SB181 and HB285

Dear Senator Giessel and Representative Hawker;

As you both are aware, the Alaska Miners Association is a long established group dedicated to promoting the responsible development of Alaska's mineral resources. The Alaska Miners Association is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. The AMA is composed of more than 1400 individual prospectors, geologists and engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials. Our members live and work throughout the state.

We recently took up the questions that are addressed in your respective bills as identified above, regarding a mineral closure order in the Glacier and Winter Creek drainages in the Girdwood area. We are specifically appreciative of the process followed by DNR, in evaluating the proposed areas as to their mineral potential and other values. We support the closure orders and agree with the assessment that these lands are properly suitable for expansion of the recreation uses. We would note that should such use cease, we would like to see the closure orders reversed and the areas reopened to mineral development.

Again, we appreciate the chance to comment and support the effort to accomplish these particular withdrawals. Thanks to you both for all of the hard work and dedication you provide to the citizens of Alaska in your roles as legislators.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or need additional information.

Cordially,

Fred Parady
Executive Director