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May 12, 2025

Michael Downs
Attn: Herbert Glacier Cabin Project
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Downs:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes regarding the United States Forest Service (USFS) Juneau Ranger District's Herbert Glacier Cabin Project Scoping Proposal.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. AMA's more than 1,400 members come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Alaska's miners are individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

Mining and recreational activity in Alaska have coexisted for several decades; it is a principle and practice AMA members are committed to.

The Herbert Glacier Cabin proposed location appears to be within an unpatented federal lode mining claim block that has been filed and active since 2007. The claims cover a highly mineralized area in which the geology harbors ore bodies in specific places. Selection of a site to be used for recreational lodging, which can be easily placed anywhere, within an area of active mineral exploration could unnecessarily invite land use conflicts that do not and should not exist, and could incite litigation and appeals for years.

AMA requests that the USFS table this cabin proposal and consult with all users of the area to determine an alternative location, outside of active mining claims, that will mitigate and eliminate conflicts with active mining claims. AMA and its members stand ready to work with you on a site that is satisfactory for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director