



Forest Service

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News Release

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Public Input Sought for Cleanup of Ross Adams Mine on Prince of Wales Island; Cleanup Expected to Begin this Year

JUNEAU, AK – July 8, 2020 - A former uranium mine located on the USDA Forest Service's Tongass National Forest near the southeastern end of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, is expected to move forward later this year to on-the-ground cleanup activities. Two mining companies have agreed to fund the project.

The cleanup will consolidate contaminated mine rock and any remaining ore from the site and place those materials in an on-site repository at the mine's open pit location. The repository for the hazardous materials will be covered with clean soil and engineered to protect human health and the environment. In addition, the cleanup will remove non-hazardous remnants of the mining operation, including the remains of buildings and equipment. Newmont USA Limited and Dawn Mining Company agreed to fund the cleanup, estimated at \$7 million.

To proceed with on-the-ground cleanup activities, the Forest Service is requesting input on the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (ASAOC). The ASAOC is the central agreement between the Forest Service and the mining companies involved in this cleanup. The comment period will remain open for 30 days from July 8 through August 7.

The public may view the agreement, along with all project documents and comments received, on the Forest Service website:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd574452>.

Members of the public may also submit written comments by email to Linda Riddle, the Alaska On-Scene Coordinator, at linda.riddle@usda.gov; or by mail:

- Forest Service Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau AK 99802; Attention: Linda Riddle, Alaska On-Scene Coordinator.





The Ross Adams Mine is approximately 38 miles southwest of Ketchikan. The nearest towns are Metlakatla, 28 miles to the northeast across Clarence Strait and Hydaburg and 33 miles to the northwest on the western side of Prince of Wales Island. There are no established Forest Service roads or hiking trails connecting the Site to Prince of Wales Island communities. The mine site is only accessible by float plane or boat, or overland by hiking through rugged terrain.

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