

National Wildlife Federation

PACIFIC REGIONAL CENTER — ALASKA OFFICE

Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

PROTECTING BRISTOL BAY

Alaska's Bristol Bay region, one of America's most spectacular places and home to the world's largest runs of sockeye salmon, is being targeted for large-scale mineral development. The Pebble gold and copper mine—planned for the headwaters of Bristol Bay's best wild salmon rivers—would be the largest open pit mine in North America. It would scar this wilderness landscape forever and could destroy the salmon that make Bristol Bay unique.

Bristol Bay's salmon are the bedrock of an ecosystem that supports a wide array of wildlife, including bears, wolves, moose, caribou, and waterfowl. The region's pure waters, healthy habitat, and breathtaking wilderness setting generate billions of dollars for the local economy by sustaining a thriving commercial fishery, attracting trophy salmon and trout anglers from all over the world, and supporting the centuries-old subsistence lifestyle of Alaska Natives. The proposed Pebble Mine threatens the entire economic, social, cultural and ecological health of the region.

As former Alaska Governor Jay Hammond said: "I can't imagine a worse location for a mine of this type unless it was in my kitchen."





PEBBLE MINE

The Pebble open pit gold and copper mine puts at risk the most spectacular and abundant ecosystem in North America. If built, Pebble Mine will:

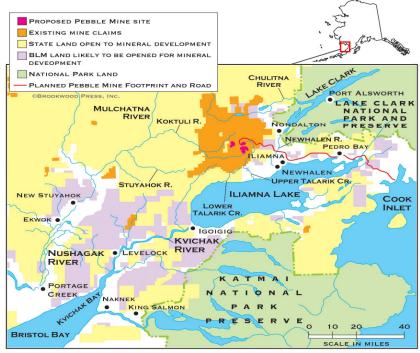
- Be the largest open pit mine in North America, up to two miles wide.
- Require massive earthen dams to contain lakes of toxic mine waste.
- Be located in an unstable seismic zone prone to frequent earthquakes.
- Require a 100 mile road into wilderness, and a major new fossil fuel power plant generating enough power to supply the city of Anchorage.
- Require nearly 35 billion gallons of water a year, critically reducing flow to multiple salmon rivers.

PUBLIC LANDS IN THE BAY

The proposed Pebble Mine is not the only threat to this pristine land.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recommended opening more than one million acres of vital fish and wildlife habitat in the Bristol Bay watershed to future hardrock mines like Pebble.

These public, wild lands are integral to the health of Bristol Bay's salmon-supporting habitat and BLM must be convinced to pursue a future for the region that supports the renewable natural resources of Bristol Bay over the short-term gains from mineral extraction.



SALMON, CLEAN WATER, AND MINING

One of the most important components of a healthy, sustainable fishery is clean water. Sockeye, in particular, require not only pristine rivers and creeks to spawn, but also large, freshwater lake systems where they spend time as juveniles before heading to sea.

For thousands of years, Bristol Bay has been untouched by development, providing optimal conditions for returning salmon. Up to forty million sockeye salmon return to this watershed each year, contributing over \$400 million per year to the Alaskan economy.

Toxic by-products are an inevitable result of open pit mines like the proposed Pebble Mine. In fact, the hardrock mining industry is the single largest source of toxic waste and one of the most destructive industries in the country. This puts salmon at great risk, as they are highly sensitive to the slightest increases in certain metals like copper, interfering with their sense of smell, direction, and ability to evade predators.



Jim Wagner

WORKING TO STOP PEBBLE MINE AND PROTECT BRISTOL BAY

National Wildlife Federation is working with a growing coalition to stop the Pebble Mine and safeguard the irreplaceable resources of Bristol Bay. Native communities, sport and commercial anglers, and conservation groups are all working together toward this common vision.

NWF's Three-Pronged Strategy:

- Close loopholes in the Clean Water Act to ensure hardrock mines like Pebble are not permitted unless they can protect clean water.
- Prevent mining on Bristol Bay's pristine federal lands and waters.
- Support NWF's Alaska affiliate, Renewable Resources Coalition, to stop Pebble Mine and future hardrock mining proposals on Bristol Bay's state lands.

HOW TO HELP

Make Your Voice Heard:

Join our email list and receive timely updates on Bristol Bay and learn what you can do to help protect it: www.nwf.org/action.

Donate:

Support our work and help protect this unique wilderness legacy. Please call our office at 907-339-3902 or mail your donation to the address below.



