

INSPECTION REPORT: GREENS CREEK MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Date of Report: Tuesday, April 27, 2023
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Casey Loofbourrow

Ranger District: Admiralty National Monument, Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Overcast. Temperature: Mid 30's (°F).

Exploration in accordance with operating plan	Not Applicable
Timber removal following timber sale contract	Not Applicable
BMP for erosion control	Satisfactory
Water Quality BMP	REQUIRES ACTION
Public safety & fire prevention	Satisfactory
Reclamation work adequate and timely	Satisfactory
Road maintenance adequate and current	Satisfactory
Tails placement in accordance with plan	Satisfactory
Waste Rock placement in compliance	Satisfactory
Company supervision of operation	Satisfactory
Operating in a clean and orderly manner	Satisfactory

Any conditions noted as UNSATISFACTORY will require follow up action by the Mine Inspector and a written memorandum to the operator, outlining the necessary work.

Any conditions noted as Requires Action will require attention from the operator and suggestions for necessary work are listed below

Transportation to the site was provided by Alaska Seaplanes.

Dave Landes (Chief Environmental Engineer, HGCMC) and Paula Lillesve (Permitting and Compliance Coordinator, HGCMC) accompanied Casey Loofbourrow (Geologist, USFS), and Austin Kief (Geologic Technician, USFS).

The site inspection included: The A and B access roads, 920 area, Site 23, Pond A, 7.4 mile B-Road Bridge (Killer Creek Bridge), 5.6 mile B-Road landslide area, 3.4 mile B-Road bridge (Falls Creek Bridge), 3.0 mile B-Road bridge (Zinc Creek Bridge), and the Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF).

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

Date/Item No.	Item Description	Status
424-2: 8/31/2022	Stormwater sediment BMPs on the downhill side of the Falls Creek Bridge abutment are in disrepair. BMPs require improvement to effectively contain sediment or prevent sediment from accumulating on the abutment.	PENDING. Freezing temperatures and winter conditions have decrease surface water runoff.

426-1 10/26/2022	Stormwater sediment BMPs on the uphill side of the Falls Creek Bridge abutment are not functioning as designed and turbid water is reaching Falls Creek. BMPs require improvement to reduce turbidity of runoff prior to discharge into Falls Creek.	PENDING. Freezing temperatures and winter conditions have decrease surface water runoff.
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NEW ACTION ITEMS

429-1: Ponded turbid water on Killer Creek Bridge was leaking through damaged bridge liner.

ACCESS ROADS

The A and B access roads appeared in good condition.

920 AREA

The Greens Creek discharge was 7.3 cfs (Photos 1-2) and 1.3 cfs was being withdrawn for operational use.

The Greens Creek bridge appeared in good condition, with sediment deflection concrete barriers preventing sediment from reaching bridge abutments, and metal splash guards preventing sediment from being transported over the bridge edge due to traffic (Photo 3).

Pond A was in good condition with substantial surge capacity (Photo 4).

Good housekeeping practices were observed at the 920 warehouse (GPO, Appendix 5 BMP Plan, page 39). All petroleum/chemicals observed were properly stored within secondary containment (Photo 5).

7.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (KILLER CREEK BRIDGE)

NEW ACTION ITEM 429-1: Turbid water was ponding on the Killer Creek Bridge was leaking through damaged bridge liner (Photo 6).

The Killer Creek Bridge otherwise appeared in good condition (Photo 7), with sediment deflection concrete barriers preventing sediment from reaching bridge abutments. Due to winter conditions the abutments were not able to be inspected.

3.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (FALLS CREEK BRIDGE)

The bridge surface appeared in good condition with functioning sediment deflection barriers and no ponding water (Photo 8).

PENDING ACTION ITEMS 424-2 AND 426-1: Stormwater sediment BMPs on the bridge abutments require maintenance. Due to winter conditions and deep snow the abutments were not able to be inspected.

3.0-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (ZINC CREEK BRIDGE)

The Zinc Creek bridge appeared in good condition, with sediment deflection concrete barriers preventing sediment from reaching bridge abutments (Photo 9).

Turbid water was previously observed discharging from the stormwater BMP colloquially known as the “Gnome Pond” (Report 423). The “Gnome Pond” was observed covered in snow and ice with reduced inflow from runoff (Photo 10). This location will be closely monitored in future inspections.

TAILINGS DISPOSAL FACILITY (TDF) AREA

The current active tailings deposition location is just south of the center of the tailings pile (Photo 11), approximately adjacent to 1.0 mile of the B-Road.

At the time of the inspection, Pond 7 (Photo 12) was collecting contact and process water, and Pond 10 (Photo 13) was not receiving water.

The water treatment plant was discharging approximately 1800 gpm to Outfall 002.

PHOTOS (Image files available upon request)



Photo 1. Greens Creek looking upstream from the 920 weir.



Photo 2. Greens Creek looking downstream from the 920 weir.



Photo 3. Greens Creek bridge and 920 portal.



Photo 4. Pond A, below the 920 area.



Photo 5. Chemicals stored in appropriate secondary containment at the 920 warehouse area.



Photo 6. Killer Creek Bridge liner damaged, allowing turbid water to infiltrate.



Photo 7. Killer Creek Bridge.



Photo 8. Falls Creek Bridge surface.



Photo 9. Zinc Creek Bridge.



Photo 10. "Gnome Pond" stormwater ponds.



Photo 11. Tailings disposal facility.



Photo 12. Pond 7.



Photo 13. Pond 10.

Thanks to HGCMC for a safe visit.

/s/ Casey Loofbourrow