

## INSPECTION REPORT: GREENS CREEK MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
Date of Report: Monday, August 28, 2023  
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Richard Dudek

Ranger District: Admiralty National Monument, Juneau Ranger District  
Weather Conditions: AM: Partly cloudy, PM: Sunny. Temperature: High 60's (°F).

Exploration in accordance with the operating plan	Not Applicable
Timber removal following timber sale contract	Not Applicable
BMP for erosion control	Satisfactory
Water Quality BMP	Satisfactory
Public safety & fire prevention	Satisfactory
Reclamation work is adequate and timely.	Satisfactory
Road maintenance is adequate and current.	Satisfactory
Tails placement is in accordance with approved plan	Satisfactory
Waste Rock placement in compliance	Satisfactory
Company supervision of the 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 outlining the necessary work to the operator.\*\*

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

Transportation to the mine site was the HGCMC morning shift crew boat, and from the mine site, a late afternoon floatplane flight to return to Juneau.

Dave Landes (Senior Environmental Engineer, HGCMC) accompanied Richard Dudek (Geologist, USFS).

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

**NEW ACTION ITEMS: No new action items were found during this inspection.**

### STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

**No pending action items.**

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### New Action Items:

**No new action items to report.**

## **ACCESS ROADS**

The B access road appeared to be in adequate condition during the inspections of mine site facilities along this access road. HGCMC has plans to conduct additional ditch cleaning and maintenance along mile marker 7.2 B-Road.

## **920 AREA**

The Greens Creek weir discharge was 41 cfs (Photo 1), and 1.5 cfs was being withdrawn for the 920 facilities.

The 920 bridge was in good condition, and the splash guards were functioning as intended (Photo 2).

Pond A was in good condition and was receiving mine site contact water (Photo 3).

Good housekeeping practices were observed at the 920 warehouse (Appendix 5 BMP Plan, page 39). All petroleum/chemicals were stored adequately within secondary containment (Photo 4).

## **860 AREA**

Both upper and lower C ponds were in good condition with enough capacity for stormwater runoff (Photos 5-6).

## **Site 23**

HGCMC continues to stage Class 1, 2, and 3 waste rock at this location (Photos 7-8). Class 4 waste rock is kept underground and disposed of underground (Appendix 11 Waste Rock Management Plan, page 11).

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

The Killer Creek Bridge was in good condition, and the associated BMPs were functioning as intended (Photo 9).

## **SITE E**

FY 2023, HGCMC has removed 17,000 cubic yards of waste rock from this location and disposed of it in the TDF (Photo 10).

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

The bridge surface or wear layer was in good condition, and the splash guards worked as intended (Photo 11).

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

The Zinc Creek bridge was in good working condition, and HGCMC plans to modify/upgrade the gnome pond's outlet (Photos 12-13).

## **TAILINGS DISPOSAL FACILITY (TDF) AREA**

The current active tailings placement location was in the eastern section of the TDF's S3P1 area. At the time of the inspection, Pond 7 was receiving mine site water, and HGCMC personnel were conducting routine pond dredging to increase its capacity (Photo 14).

The dewatering bags staged in Pond 10 are for collecting sediments from the dredging activities at Pond 7 (Photo 15). The sediments collected in the bags will be disposed of in the TDF.

The water treatment plant was discharging approximately 1,400 gpm to Outfall 002. The turbidity and pH were 0.79 ntu and 7.7, respectively.

HGCMC plans to upgrade the water treatment plant by replacing older pipes, tanks, and instrumentation.

During the inspection, contractors were constructing a new degrit basin in the TDF's S3P1 southwest area to help capture sediment-laden water from entering Pond 7 (Photo 16).

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**PHOTOS** (Image files available upon request)



**Photo 1. The Greens Creek Wier.**



**Photo 2. The 920 Bridge.**



**Photo 3. The 920 Area Pond A.**



**Photo 4. The 920 warehouse storage container with secondary containment.**



**Photo 5. The 860 Area Lower Pond C.**



**Photo 6. The 860 Area Upper Pond C.**



**Photo 7. Waste rock storage area Site 23. Class 1 waste rock is separately staged from class 2/3 waste rock.**



**Photo 8. Site 23 class 2/3 waste rock.**



**Photo 9. The 7.4-mile marker B Road Bridge (Killer Creek Bridge).**



**Photo 10. Site E. The waste rock removed from this site is disposed of in the TDF.**



**Photo 11. The 3.4-mile marker B Road Bridge (Falls Creek Bridge).**





**Photo 12. The 3.0-mile marker B Road Bridge (Zinc Creek Bridge).**



**Photo 13. The Gnome Pond outlet pipe.**



**Photo 14. Pond 7, with a dredge, is seen in the background.**



**Photo 15. Pond 10 with dewatering bags temporarily staged inside.**



**Photo 16. The construction of the TDF degrit basin.**

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Thanks to HGCMC for a safe visit. /s/ Richard Dudek

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