

The Nature Conservancy, Alaska Chapter
Board of Trustees Resolution: September 25, 2010

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy is committed to the long-term vitality, diversity and abundance of fish and wildlife in the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds of the Bristol Bay region.

WHEREAS, the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds comprise a global center of sockeye salmon diversity and Bristol Bay as a whole produces an estimated 51% of the world's sockeye salmon and 10% of the world's wild salmon population.

WHEREAS, for the last four years, the Conservancy has undertaken rigorous scientific investigation at a cost of roughly \$2.5 million, including commission of several peer-reviewed independent reports, to assess the potential risks to these resources posed by large-scale mining in these watersheds

WHEREAS, based on our understanding of the risks and the state of current, proven mining technology, large-scale mining in these critical watersheds at this time presents an inappropriate risk to the salmon systems of the region

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conservancy recommends that in the Kvichak and Nushagak watersheds mining and other activities will not be allowed that:

- destroy or impair wild salmon habitat, such that the sustained abundance in the watersheds is placed at significant risk
- require water withdrawals that may exceed ecological flow needs for fish and wildlife
- need active management in perpetuity to avoid environmental contamination¹
- result in acid mine drainage that cannot be eliminated by proven methods and technology established at comparable sites and scale²

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Conservancy believes that a very high bar is necessary in this region and the above criteria should form the foundation of that bar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Conservancy will work together with local communities, state and federal agencies, businesses and other stakeholders to further refine and characterize this bar such that we maintain the vitality, abundance and diversity of these salmon systems.

¹ By "active management" we do not mean long-term monitoring or correcting unforeseen problems, both of which are required by law. The intent is to avoid planned management such as active mechanical and water quality management systems that must be maintained in perpetuity.

² It is important to note that by "comparable sites and scale" we do not mean "identical." The intent is to find a project with similar geological, hydrologic, and meteorological conditions at a scale relevant for comparison purposes.