

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
RESOLUTION # 82-97-FB

RELATING TO QUARTZ HILL MOLYBDENUM MINE ACCESS
ROUTE ON THE KETA RIVER

WHEREAS: The U.S. Forest Service is considering whether to grant access for a bulk sampling road from U.S. Borax' Quartz Hill molybdenum claim to tidewater along either the Blossom River or the Keta River; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, during 20 years of study, has identified the average yearly run of commercially important pink salmon in the Blossom River at 106,000 and at 120,000 in the Keta River; and

WHEREAS: The Blossom and Wilson Rivers join together prior to entering the ocean and salmon runs in both rivers will be affected by mining associated activity in the Blossom River drainage; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified the average yearly run of all commercially and recreationally important salmon in excess of 600,000 in the Wilson-Blossom Rivers as compared to less than 200,000 in the Keta River; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement estimates the sedimentation entering the Blossom River as a result of road construction would be five to six times that which would enter the Keta because of the steep terrain along the Blossom route; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement finds the erosion and landslide potential along the Blossom so serious "that sediment deposition on spawning areas occurring during construction could have permanent effects by altering the composition of stream substrates and causing decreased survival of salmon eggs;" and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team concluded the marine disposal of tailings from the mine is more likely to occur at the mouth of the Keta River in the Boca de Quadra; and

WHEREAS: The Keta River access route represents an opportunity to limit the impact of road construction and mining activity to a single drainage; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska National Interest Land Claims Act clearly emphasizes that fisheries are to be protected in relation to all activities associated with Quartz Hill development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Board of Fisheries that the U.S. Forest Service is urged to approve access to the mine site along the Keta River, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Ketchikan Area Forest Supervisor, the U.S. Forest Service Chief, Governor Jay S. Hammond, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski, and U.S. Representative Don Young.

ADOPTED: January 16, 1982
Juneau, Alaska

VOTE: 4-2



Nick Szabo, Chairman
Board of Fisheries