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rm@neobee.net



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# Save Bristol Bay

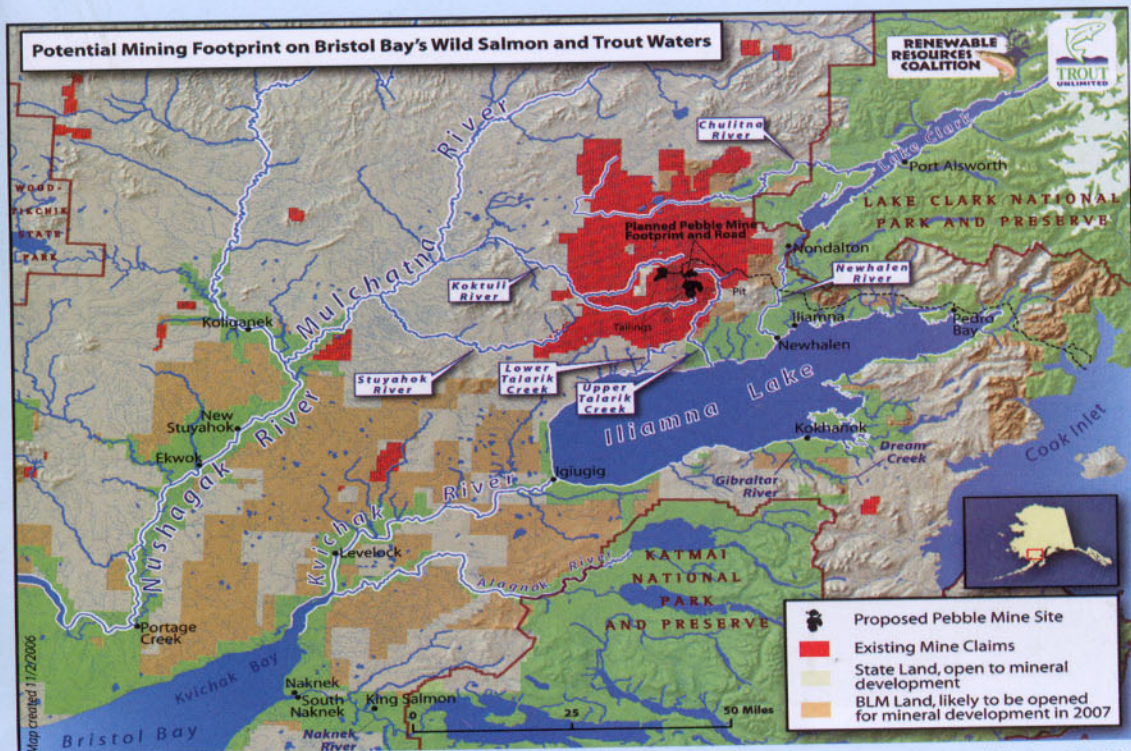


Alaska's Bristol Bay region is a land of rolling hills, open tundra, and countless creeks and streams that feed into larger rivers. It's unreachable by road, leaving visitors to arrive by air and then travel by smaller planes or boats to go further afield.

Unfortunately, this sportsperson's paradise is threatened by the prospect of large scale mining, the likes of which North America may have never seen before. Development of the Pebble Mine and potentially several others on both state and federal lands puts at risk the world's largest runs of wild salmon (with tens of millions of fish harvested every year), trophy rainbow trout, and all the other wildlife that support a thriving commercial fishery, sport fishing economy, and subsistence way of life for the area's local residents.

Approximately 1,000 square miles of state-owned land in southwest Alaska have been staked with mining claims. Because the area is remote and lacks infrastructure, there has not yet been a major mine developed. But that could potentially change if the Pebble project was approved. Pebble is a planned copper-gold-molybdenum mine that would lie northwest of Lake Iliamna, America's "other Great Lake" - it's the size of Lake Erie.

Pebble is a partnership between Canadian (Northern Dynasty) and British (Anglo-American) mining interests. The proposal's scale is staggering. The developers are saying it could be one of the world's largest mines. Preliminary plans show it may include a massive open pit (2 miles long, 1.5 miles wide, and 1,700 feet deep) to extract minerals relatively near the surface, and also involve an underground mine to access deeper minerals. To hold back the toxic byproducts of the mining process, a tailings pond covering in excess of 10 square miles, hundreds of feet deep, would be held behind a series of earthen dams. The largest dam would be the biggest on earth - over 4 miles long and over 700 feet tall - in an area known for earthquakes. Estimates say the Pebble project will produce 3 billion tons of waste over its lifetime! To fill the need for water (three times as much as is used daily by Alaska's largest city - Anchorage, pop. 270,000), the companies have applied for the water rights to Upper Talarik Creek and both forks of the Koltuli River. Upper Talarik supports trophy rainbow trout (think 10 pounds plus) and sockeye and silver salmon that migrate up the Kvichak River and through Lake Iliamna. The Kvichak sockeye run is historically



the largest in the world, numbering in the millions of fish annually. King salmon that spawn in the waters of the Kaktulis are part of Alaska's largest runs of kings in the Nushagak/Mulchatna system. Good luck sustaining those runs if their waters are taken away or polluted.

Lake Iliamna to connect the port with the Pebble site. Power would need to come from somewhere. Thousands of workers would be required to construct the mine operate it over its lifetime. If Pebble wins approval, the likelihood of additional development on state lands and over 1 million

acres of Bureau of Land Management lands in the region would increase dramatically - and the dominoes could fall in a very damaging way. The area involved lies between two national parks, two national wildlife refuges, and the country's biggest state park.

The Bristol Bay ecosystem supports over 5,500 jobs that depend upon healthy lands, clean water, and thriving fish and game populations and contributes over \$330 million

annually to Alaska's economy. It also provides food for thousands of residents in dozens of villages across the region. In 2005, over 4,200 peo-

ple





ple were employed in commercial fishing and fish processing. Nearly 1,000 more were employed in sport fishing and hunting operations that host anglers and hunters from across the globe.

The primary hunting opportunities in the region involve caribou, moose, and brown bear.

Degradation of water quality in this region would impact these game species. Bears in this region grow to large sizes and depend heavily on fish in their diet.

This is a stark example of long-term versus short-term thinking. Should we allow this part of the world to continue to function as it always has, supporting incredible fishing and hunting opportunities, a way of life and a vibrant economy? Or will we gamble this world-class sporting destination and its renewable resources on a massive mining project, operated by foreign interests with questionable track records around the world, fraught with potential disaster and with a finite lifespan? Thankfully, user groups which have traditionally been at odds have come together to fight this ill-conceived scheme. Commercial fishermen, local subsistence users, and sport fishing

and hunting interests have set aside their past differences and are working side-by-side to protect the resources which support them all. Opposition to the mining plans has been registered by Alaska's Republican Senator Ted Stevens, Wildlife Forever (the conservation arm of the North American Hunting Club and North American Fishing Club), Dallas Safari Club, Izaak Walton League of America, Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishers, the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and nearly 100 companies in the sport fishing industry. You can do your part by sharing this story with your friends and family, and urge them to do the same.

Bristol Bay is truly a global treasure for fish and game and those who enjoy and depend on them. The time is now for individuals, groups, and companies from across the globe to become involved in this battle. This is a fight we can and must win.

To learn more, visit  
[www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org](http://www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org).



# PROTECT BRISTOL BAY

**GUIDELINE** **Mustad** *Thomas & Thomas* **BRUNTON** **LEED**

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**PEBBLE MINE**

The famed Bristol Bay region of Alaska is home to the world's largest runs of wild salmon, some of the best trophy rainbow trout fishing in the world, and is a mecca for sportspersons. Unfortunately, the area is facing the threat of being turned into a massive mining district, complete with huge open pits, toxic tailings ponds, and some of the largest dams on the planet. Join these conservation organizations and sporting businesses in fighting to protect one of the world's greatest angling and hunting destinations. Visit [www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org](http://www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org), [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org), and [www.renewableresourcescoalition.org](http://www.renewableresourcescoalition.org) to learn more and get involved.