

We are heading for some explosions just across Cook Inlet from Anchorage. The small, first explosion may go unnoticed but the next one will be huge and overwhelming. This is the proposed Chuitna Coal Project. The Alaska Fly Fishers and each of you can have a voice in preventing these explosions.

PacRim Coal LLC has proposed to mine coal from beneath a channel of Chuitna River, which supports all five species of salmon and non-anadromous fishes – just 45 miles from Anchorage. Mining would involve approximately 13 miles of Middle Creek, an important tributary to Chuitna River, up to 300 feet deep (this sounds like a *canyon* to me) over 25 years and would destroy the stratigraphy and the associated groundwater, and wetlands. They have promised to reconstruct the stream after mining. This is scientifically impossible and this has never been accomplished. And, if this mine is permitted, even more miles of stream and fish habitat will be ruined by more coal mining in the Chuitna River drainage and other drainages as well.

Before this explosion can occur, PacRim must obtain legal rights to use the waters of Middle Creek by applying for Instream Flow Reservations for their use. Fortunately, the Chuitna Citizens Coalition had applied prior to PacRim for Middle Creek water rights in an effort to protect salmon habitat, and maintain existing sport, commercial, and subsistence uses of the resources.

This is your opportunity, until April 9, 2015, to contact Alaska Department of Natural Resources to support the Coalition's application for water rights to preserve Middle Creek and protect the resources of the Chuitna River and avert the destruction of this resource by mining.

Also, we must remind the ADNR, our Governor, and our Legislators to “not trade one resource for another” and to avoid setting a precedent of allowing the destruction of anadromous fish habitat for the sake of other economic development.

You can be confident that the coal industry and all other interests will soundly lobby the ADNR to favor development. Your (our) voice must stand up to support these natural resources.

Here is what you can do:

- Send your comments to the DNR (and your legislators):

David W. Schade, Chief of the Water Resources Section
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1260, Anchorage, AK 99501-355
(907) 269-8645
E-mail: david.w.schade@alaska.gov

Get more information:

- <http://chuitna.org/>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/s/8guwghgjyimiwhu/FACTSHEET-ISF.pdf?dl=0>
- Bill Hauser: karelbill@gci.net