

JOHNSON TRACT MINE PROJECT

PROTECT COOK INLET FROM INDUSTRIAL MINING

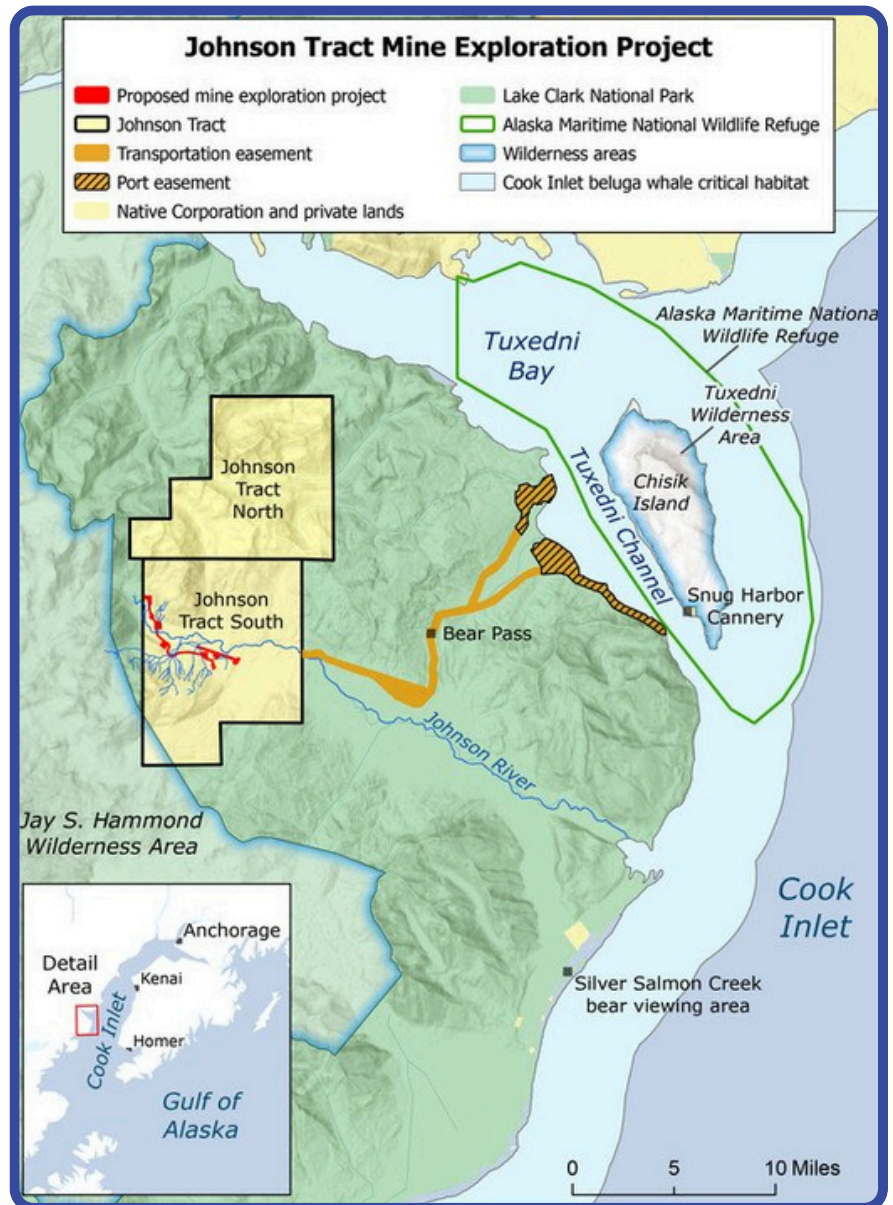
What is the Johnson Tract Mine Project?

The Johnson Tract Mine Project is a proposed gold mine on the West Side of Cook Inlet | Tikahtnu.

The mine would be built in Lake Clark National Park, on a Cook Inlet Regional Corporation (CIRI) land inholding. This region contains:

- The salmon-bearing Johnson river
- Beluga whale foraging grounds
- Ecotourism, commercial fisheries, and subsistence harvesting grounds
- The largest seabird nesting colony in Cook Inlet

Although CIRI (a native corporation) has contracted Contango Ore to develop the project, several local tribes are taking action in opposition to the project.



Map Credit: Center for Biological Diversity

TAKE ACTION



Current Status: Contango Ore received a Clean Water Act permit allowing a mine tunnel, 20 mile haulout road, and 5000 ft air strip.

Cook Inletkeeper, Center for Biological Diversity, and Chickaloon Traditional Council are litigating the permit on the grounds that there was inadequate analysis of the potential for acid mine drainage and for impacts to Beluga Whales.

Learn more: www.inletkeeper.org/johnson-tract-mine



What's at stake?



Ecotourism – Lake Clark National Park hosts one of the densest Brown Bear populations in the world. Johnson Tract threatens the delicate trust bears and humans have developed in the area, which is essential to for the local bear viewing economy. Bear viewing ecotourism in the region supports \$37 million in annual sales and \$10 million in direct wages to South Central Alaskans.



Endangered Cook Inlet Belugas – At last count, 331 Cook Inlet beluga whales are left in Cook Inlet | Tikahtnu. Tuxedni Bay is a quiet refuge for Cook Inlet belugas and is their only known winter foraging & feeding grounds. Noise pollution from the proposed industrial port and increased air traffic would disrupt the whales' navigation and communication.



Bird Habitat – This region supports 187 species of raptors, waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds, and songbirds. Shorebirds and seabirds are the fastest declining populations by species in the world. In a death by a thousand cuts scenario, Johnson Tract would be another devastating stressor that would fragment & pollute their habitat.



Subsistence & Commercial Harvest – The mouth of the Johnson River rivers is home to one of the last healthy Cook Inlet Razor Clam populations. These clams are an essential food source for bears and a traditional food source for local Alaska Native Peoples. Acid mine drainage and heavy metal leaching from mining exposes wildlife like clams and salmon to toxins that can cause ecosystem-level damage.

Why Trade Critical Habitat for a Non-Critical Mineral?

- Gold is a non-critical mineral. Only 8% of the global gold demand is used in industry. 92% of new gold is made into jewelry or stored in vaults.
- At today's production rates, recycled gold can fill more than 100% of the need for practical applications, like electronics, semiconductors, and implants.
- Johnson Tract Gold Mine is being planned as a 5 - 7 year project but could forever alter the health and character of the region.

For Alaskans, the cost-benefit analysis doesn't add up.

Developing this mine sets a dangerous precedent for similar industrial activity in other parks and preserves.