On July 15, 2015, I visited the 1350 adit and tailings disposal facility (TDF) at the Greens Creek Mine after performing annual biomonitoring sampling in Greens Creek. Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company Environmental staff Gunnar Fredheim and U.S. Forest Service fisheries technician Christina Mounce accompanied me.

In 2014, Hecla reclaimed the area around the historic 1350 adit area (Figure 1) by seeding and grading adjacent waste material to drain towards the adit for water collection and treatment. Hecla maintains fencing around the open adit (Figure 2), which exhausts air as part of the underground ventilation system.

At the TDF, Hecla contracted SECON to prepare the expansion area, work Hecla expects to continue through 2017 (Figure 3). Tailings will occupy about 12 acres of the 18 acre expansion (Chris Wallace, Environmental Affairs Manager, Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company, Juneau, personal communication).
Figure 3.—Site clearing and preparation for expansion of the TDF, looking west.

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