



INSPECTION REPORT: GREENS CREEK MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
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Date of Inspection: Thursday, January 22, 2026
Date of Report: January 30, 2026
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Scott Leslie

Ranger District: Admiralty National Monument, Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Clear and Sunny. Temperature: upper 30's (°F).

Exploration in accordance with the operating plan	Not Applicable
Timber removal following timber sale contract	Not Applicable
BMP for erosion control	Satisfactory
Water Quality BMP	Satisfactory
Public safety fire prevention	Satisfactory
Reclamation work is adequate and timely.	Satisfactory
Road maintenance is adequate and current.	Satisfactory
Tails placement is in accordance with the approved plan	Satisfactory
Waste Rock placement in compliance	Satisfactory
Company supervision of the operation	Satisfactory
Operating in a clean and orderly manner	Satisfactory

Any conditions noted as UNSATISFACTORY will require follow-up action by the Mine Inspector and a written memorandum outlining the necessary work to the operator.

Any conditions noted as Requires Action will require attention from the operator, and suggestions for necessary work are listed below

Transportation to and from mine aboard the “Admiralty Wind”.

Paula Lillesve, (Environmental Manager) and Emilia Wozniak (HGCMC Environmental Technician) accompanied Scott Leslie (Minerals Program Manager, Tongass NF USFS) during this inspection.

The site inspection included the A and B access roads, Freshwater Plant, DB-01, A Pond, 920 Area, C Ponds, Site 23, D Pond, DB-03, 23 Pond and pump building, 7.4-mile B-Road Bridge (Killer Creek Bridge), Waste Site E and E Pond, 3.4-mile B-Road bridge (Falls Creek Bridge), Gnome Ponds, 3.0-mile B-Road bridge (Zinc Creek Bridge), Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF), Pond 10, and Pond 7.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

Date/Item No.	Item Description	Status
N/A	On January 14, 2026, HGCMC reported the recent snow accumulation, warm weather, and rain events led to elevated levels of runoff and snowmelt that had increased projections which could cause discharge through the emergency spillway at the Pond 7/10 dam system. Mitigations were taken by HGCMC including the shutdown of mill operations and initiating discharge of treated water through the ARV piping. They reported that although water did travel from Pond 7 to Pond 10 via connection pipes, no contact water entered the spillway at Pond 7 and the mitigations worked to lower the levels in Ponds 7/10. A final report will be submitted by HGCMC detailing the event when final water sample results are returned from the lab.	Report has been submitted





STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

Date/Item No.	Item Description	Status
07/24/2025 – 446-1	3.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (Falls Creek): Sediment draining in several places from beneath bridge to creek and area around abutments. Bridge deck liner appears to be failing.	HGCMC looking at scheduling bridge resurfacing in April. This would be replacing the decking and the liner to fix the sediment leakage. They are not sure yet if the new liner that they are going to be testing will be installed on all the bridges, but it will be installed on at least one. The new liner is a self-healing liner that should in theory last longer than the current liner, but it will be tested this year. If it is successful, the intent will be to use it on all the bridges with sediment draining issues.
07/24/2025 – 446-2	3.0-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (Zinc Creek): Sediment dropping from beneath entire span of bridge and collecting underneath and entering creek. Bridge deck liner failing.	See above Status.

ACCESS ROADS

The A and B access roads were in good condition, and roadside stormwater BMPs were all in functioning condition.

920 AREA

Greens Creek Weir (Photo 1).

Freshwater Plant, Greens Creek weir discharge flow at **25.15 cfs** and **1.47 cfs** being withdrawn for the 920 facilities. Plant clean and orderly (Photo 2).

920 Bridge in good condition. Metal sheeting placed along the bridge decking to mitigate for smoother surface transition at abutment joints (Photo 3).

Degrit Basin (DB-01) appears in good working order (Photo 4).

Pond A appears to be in good working condition with no visible overflow (Photo 5).

920 Warehouse Good housekeeping practices were observed at the storage containers with petrochemicals properly stored with secondary containment (Appendix 5 BMP Plan, page 37) (Photos 6 & 7).

Ore Pad in use staging ore from 920 adit ready to transport to mill (Photo 8).

C PONDS

The upper and lower ponds appear to be operable with no visible signs of overflow (Photos 9 & 10).

D POND and Pump

Intact and appears to be functioning as intended (Photo 11 & 12).

SITE 23

HGCMC continues to stage Class 1, 2, and 3 waste rock at this location. Class 4 waste rock is kept and disposed of underground (Appendix 11 Waste Rock Management Plan, page 11). Class 1 rock (argillite) is used as an inert capping material over top of Class 2 and 3. (Photo 13).

Degrit Basin BD-03 Runoff entering basin as designed and appears to be functioning as intended. The 23 Pond can be seen in the background (Photo 14).

23 POND and PUMP

The pump area area was clean and orderly. Pond appeared to be operable with no visible signs of pond overflowing (Photos 15 & 16).





5.5-MILE B-ROAD

Showing where runoff has occurred in the functioning stormwater ditch and runoff entering culvert as part of the stormwater features along the road. (Photos 17 & 18)

7.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (KILLER CREEK BRIDGE)

The bridge surface decking was in good condition, but bridge liner is torn in places. HGCMC has had a contractor on site to evaluate corrective measures to the bridge surface. Sediment still leaks from under bridge at abutments. (Photo 19).

WASTE SITE E and E POND

This is an old, early unclassified waste rock site. Material is being stored here to be moved to Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF). Much of the material has been moved to the TDF. The area was in stable condition with active drainage toward the stormwater pond (E POND). The area continues to be used for road rock staging (Photo 20). E pond appeared in good shape but frozen at time of the inspection. Electric bear fence has had one wire pulled out of the post. (Photos 21 & 22).

3.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (FALLS CREEK BRIDGE)

The bridge decking appeared to be in good condition, but sediment is leaking through and collecting beneath the bridge. A contractor is looking at bridges for repair options. (Photos 23 & 24).

3.0-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (ZINC CREEK BRIDGE)

The bridge decking appeared to be in good condition, but sediment is leaking through the entire span of the bridge. Waddles in place and collecting sediment. A contractor is looking at bridges for repair options (Photos 25 & 26).

GNOME PONDS near 3.0-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE

Ponds mostly froze over but still draining as designed (Photos 27 & 28).

TAILINGS DISPOSAL FACILITY (TDF) AREA

Good housekeeping practices were observed in the TDF water treatment plant (Appendix 5 BMP Plan, page 37). The water treatment plant was discharging approximately 1161 gpm to Outfall 002 with a pH of 8.0, and turbidity of .91 NTU (Photo 29).

Pond 7 and Spillway. No evidence of water overflow (Photos 30 - 32).

Culvert transporting water from the 920 area entering Pond 7 (lower right pipe) and the 4 culverts that connect Pond 7 to Pond 10 in the event of overflow (Photo 33).

Pond 10 Overflow culverts in the foreground entering pond. Water collected in Pond 10 is pumped directly into the TDF water treatment plant. Photo 34:

Pond 10 showing “bathtub ring” marking the highest-level water rose in the pond (Photo 35).

Overview of Pond 10 (Photo 36).



PHOTOS (Image files available upon request)



Photo 1: Greens Creek Weir.



Photo 2: Freshwater Plant readings.



Photo 3: 920 Bridge.



Photo 4: Degrit Basin (DB-01).



Photo 5: A Pond.



Photo 6: 920 warehouse storage container.



Photo 7: 920 warehouse area.



Photo 8: Ore pad.



Photo 9: Lower C Pond.



Photo 10: Upper C Pond. Evidence of raised pond level but no overflow outside of the pond.



Photo 11: D Pond.



Photo 12: D Pond Pump.



Photo 13: Site 23 Class 2 & 3 Material on top of storage area.



Photo 14: DB-03 and 23 Pond and Pump in background.



Photo 15: 23 Pond Pump.



Photo 16: 23 Pond.



Photo 17: 5.5 Mile B-Road showing where runoff has occurred in the stormwater ditch.



Photo 18: 5.5 Mile B-Road runoff entering culvert as part of the stormwater ditch along road.



Photo 19: 7.4 Mile Bridge (Killer Creek) waddles and hydroseed present collecting sediment.



Photo 20: Disposal Site E showing road maintenance gravel storage.



Photo 21: Disposal Site E Pond looking West.



Photo 22: Disposal Site E Pond looking East.



Photo 23: 3.4 Mile B-Road Bridge (Falls Creek).



Photo 24: 3.4 Mile B-Road Bridge (Falls Creek) sediment leaking through from under decking.



Photo 25: 3.0 Mile B-Road Bridge structure (Zinc Creek).



Photo 26: 3.0 Mile B-Road Bridge (Zinc Creek) showing sediment catchment features.



Photo 27: 3.0 Mile B-Road Gnome Ponds downstream looking down from road.



Photo 28: 3.0 Mile B-Road Gnome Ponds outfall.

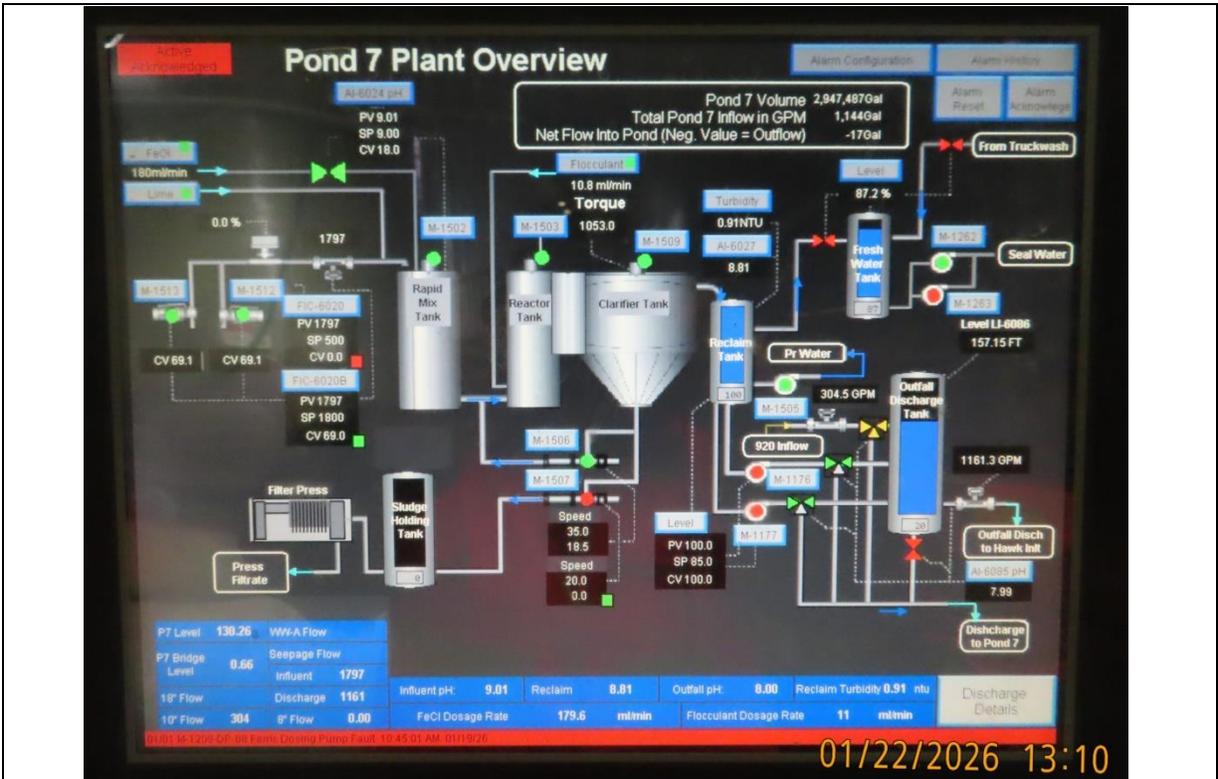


Photo 29: TDF water treatment plant readings.



Photo 30: Spillway at Pond 7. No evidence of water overflow.



Photo 31: Pond 7 spillway outfall. No signs of overflow entering this area.



Photo 32: Pond 7 and spillway in the background.



Photo 33: Culvert transporting water from the 920 area entering Pond 7 (lower right pipe) and the 4 culverts that connect Pond 7 to Pond 10 in the event of overflow.



Photo 34: Pond 10 Overflow culverts in the foreground entering pond. Water collected in Pond 10 is pumped directly into the TDF water treatment plant.



Photo 35: Pond 10 showing “bathtub ring” marking the highest-level water rose in the pond.



Photo 36: Overview of Pond 10.

Thanks to HGCMC for a safe visit.
U.S. Forest Service: /s/ Scott Leslie