



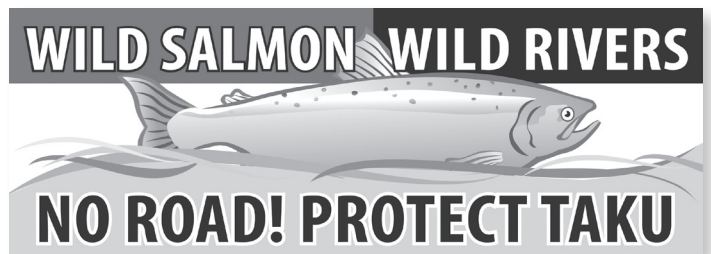
FALL 2016

Who We Are

Children of the Taku Society (COTTS) is a volunteer non-profit Yukon-based society of citizens of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN). Many of us live in the heart of TRTFN traditional territory, in or near Atlin, B.C. We have joined together to restore and protect the culture, traditions and heritage of the TRTFN in our traditional territory.

We work with TRTFN leadership and citizens to protect the benefits, health, productivity and integrity of the Taku watershed for future generations.

COTTS was originally created in the summer of 2012 as a forum for citizens who wanted to have their voices heard, in a way that is independent of TRTFN leadership. We will maintain appropriate, peaceful, grassroots community action to resist any effort by any company to reopen the Tulsequah Chief mine. COTTS applauds the 2012 consensus Mandate by the Joint Clan Forum of the TRTFN opposing the Tulsequah Chief project. That Mandate calls for all necessary steps to be taken to ensure that the Tulsequah Chief mine, as proposed, is not developed in Taku River Tlingit Territory.



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COTTS is not opposed to any and all development on traditional TRTFN land. In fact, we enthusiastically support and are eager to attract development in the northern part of our territory in areas already served by infrastructure, which are not as environmentally fragile, culturally vulnerable or vital to our wild salmon fishery as the areas near the proposed Tulsequah Chief mine and along the proposed road route. We encourage resource development that supports our goals and enhances the economic stability of our nation and community.

However, we oppose, and if necessary, will peacefully resist development that threatens our land, sovereignty, or use of our traditional territory by future generations.

Chieftain Metals Bankruptcy News

On September 6, 2016, Chieftain Metals went into receivership. This essentially means the company trying to develop the Tulsequah Chief mine in the lower Taku is now bankrupt. This is big news, as the TRTFN formally opposes this project and has challenged its Environmental Certificate in court. Seven years ago another Tulsequah Chief mine proponent, Redcorp Ventures, also declared bankruptcy.

It is not yet clear what Chieftain's new receivership status means regarding the permits the company has held for the mine project, or who is now responsible for the ongoing acid mine drainage problem at the mine site. What is clear is that it's time to look beyond an extremely contentious mine project that now has no backer or support. With a legacy of continued pollution and compliance problems, lawsuits, formal opposition from the TRTFN, growing concern from our Alaska neighbors, empty promises for Atlin, wasted B.C. taxpayer dollars, and now two bankruptcies, we advocate a fresh new vision for the lower Taku.

Why not provide real jobs for our people by cleaning up the Tulsequah site and reopening the water treatment plant? Rather than pushing a mine, and road, that the Taku River Tlingit oppose, and threatening the Taku's outstanding salmon habitat, we believe tackling this long overdue reclamation work would provide genuine long term

benefits to our community and the watershed. Here is a chance for B.C. to work with our First Nation to do right by our people and our home for a change. We see a great opportunity for B.C. and Alaska to cooperate in this endeavor, along with Canadian and U.S. federal governments, Alaska Tlingit tribes, NGOs, foundations, and industry as well. It won't be easy to find funding and hammer out intergovernmental agreements to set this idea in motion, but surely effort focused in this way makes much more sense than promoting a mine nobody wants.

The Taku watershed is nearly pristine, and can be again if we move beyond the idea of developing it with mining. Promoting the Taku as our homeland, and the largest totally intact watershed on North America's Pacific coast, and the region's number one salmon producing river system, can bring sustainable benefits far more valuable than a short lived and environmentally incompatible mine venture.

B.C. has long been saying that the only way to fix the Tulsequah pollution problem is to develop a

new mine on the site. Tulsequah Chief has been permitted since 2002, yet the project has been unable to get off the ground. It's time to address the cleanup problem now, bringing real work in the process, and embrace a new day for the Taku in the heart of our homeland.

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A New Approach for the Taku

COTTS wants to be known for more than our efforts to oppose the Tulsequah Chief project, located in the sacred territory of our ancestors. We believe that there are many ways that development in the Taku and Nakina can benefit Taku River Tlingit citizens and we are excited about moving ideas forward.

COTTS is interested in creating opportunities for TRTFN members to gain economically from other agencies and businesses that are cashing in on our land and resources. Outsiders to Atlin and non-TRTFN people are profiting from outfitting businesses on the Nakina, and in the process, they are hosting tourists from all over the world who are willing to spend thousands of dollars to fish for sport in our territory. How can we, as stewards of the land, holders of the culture, and seedlings for the future generations, 'get in on the action' on our own rivers?

COTTS proposes working together in a collaborative process that engages various stakeholders, including First Nations, Alaska Tribes, non-Indigenous citizens, federal and provincial/state governments, NGO's, and interested developers to create something that will benefit our community and bring health back to this beautiful ecosystem. We can transform the Tulsequah Water Treatment Plant into a project that will address the acid drainage issue, preserve our cultural rights to the lands, and encourage sustainable development and tourism.

We are looking to you, the citizens of Atlin, the TRT nation, and our downstream neighbors, who all have an interest in this watershed, for input as we envision a new way of using the Tulsequah site to support our economy, while also striving to preserve the culture and lands we care so much for.

ACCOLADES FOR THE GOOD STUFF

TRTFN in partnership with Atlin residents are coming together to assist in the newly proposed Atlin Community Greenhouse Project. What a wonderful idea!

COTTS supports and gives recognition to those who are working to create new and innovate ways to feed the community. This project has had some hiccups due to lack of interest in maintaining the garden and greenhouse. If you want to help create a more sustainable Atlin for its residents, contact them to get involved! Everyone benefits when we all put in a little effort. Find more information on the Facebook page: Atlin Community Greenhouse Project.

A community greenhouse is a great idea and other communities across the Yukon have experienced wonderful benefits from making their own community gardens.

A THOUGHT FROM COTTS CO-FOUNDER, CHANTELLE HART

I am lucky enough to be able to participate in our cultural traditions by going down river each year to harvest and dry fish with my mother. She has taught me to keep our culture strong by preserving our Tlingit traditions in the land of our ancestors. Every year that I can go to the Nakina in the heart of our sacred territory is a gift and an honor.

My mother, Yvonne Jack, was taught to cut salmon and dry it by her mother, Evelyn Jack, and they cut fish side by side on



a fish cutting table that was built by my grandfather, Sylvester Jack.

My mother taught her children to cut fish on that same table. It's an

example of our enduring culture. One day I will have the great honor of teaching my children to cut fish on this same table, thus teaching a fourth generation how to respect and love the culture and lands that mean so very much to our people. Gunalcheesh to the land of our ancestors and the Tlingit people that came before me for giving me the gift of the Nakina.



Chantelle Hart (COTTS President) and her mother, Yvonne Jack (COTTS Vice President), at their fish camp on the Nakina River, a tributary of the Taku.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

We need your help to continue to enforce the aforementioned November 2012 JCM Mandate to protect the Taku, and to create a new vision for the Taku watershed.

COTTS will be moving forward with our vision for the Taku. We want to take this dream and turn it into a proposal that helps build our nation from the inside out. If you want to help us turn this dream into something positive for our Taku River Tlingit homeland, please talk to us. We invite your ideas about how to use the recent Tulsequah bankruptcy as an opportunity to bring positive change to the Taku and to the people who live in the area. The Tulsequah Water Treatment Plant is already in place, and can be used to create jobs while also protecting TRT culture and the lands of our traditional ancestors.

Collaboration is key to the success of this long-term vision. If you have interest in helping or lending your voice to this cause, COTTS would love to hear from you. Please contact us with your ideas or suggestions, or if you would like more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

Child of the river, child of the land, together we walk, hand in hand.

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