

Heritage Site to include the Glacier Bay National Park and its environs.

## **18.46 Tatsenshini-Alsek River System, Canada and USA**

AWARE that the Tatsenshini-Alsek river system in the St Elias Mountains of Canada and Alaska is one of the world's most beautiful and magnificent;

AWARE TOO that the 2.7 million acres surrounding this river system is the only gap in a 25 million acre Arctic and sub-Arctic area which includes the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and the Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve in the United States and the Kluane National Park in Canada;

RECOGNIZING that the entire area is unique and worthy of consideration for the World Heritage List

MINDFUL of the fact that a mining company has found a mineral deposit near the confluence of the Tatsenshini and Alsek rivers, and is proposing to establish an open pit mine to mine these minerals and to construct a road some 70 miles in length through primeval territory to reach the Haines Road in Canada;

CONCERNED that the dam and road would irreparably damage a potential World Heritage Site and two world class rivers;

CONCERNED ALSO that the tailings from the mine would poison the water of the Tatsenshini-Alsek river system below the mine, causing fish kill, impairing the livelihood of native people in the area and damaging the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve;

AWARE that the mining company has applied to the Government of British Columbia for a permit to proceed with the establishment of the mine at a site known as Windy-Craggy and that this permit could be issued at any time soon;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. RECOMMENDS the Governments of both the United States and Canada to examine the potential adverse environmental and social impacts of the proposed mining activity through the bi-national International Joint Commission (IJC);
2. RECOMMENDS to the Government of British Columbia, Canada, that it not consider issuing a permit to mine at the Windy-Craggy site near the confluence of the Tatsenshini and Alsek rivers until the environmental review referred to above is completed;
3. REQUESTS the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to consider this area of the St Elias Mountains for National Park status;
4. RECOMMENDS that the Governments of both the United States and Canada consider extending the St Elias-Wrangell-Kluane National Park World

