

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The National Park Service (NPS) is evaluating a proposal submitted by Randy Elliott for the purpose of accessing and conducting a gold placer mining operation on patented mining claims located at Dan Creek within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST). Elliott, the operator of the claims, submitted a Mining Plan of Operations (MPO) as required by Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 9A, Section 9.9, detailing his proposed means and methods.

The Dan Creek claims are privately-owned property which was patented in 1912 without surface use restrictions. This environmental assessment (EA) examines and analyzes the proposed placer mining plan and reasonable alternatives to ensure that it satisfies the requirements of 36 CFR 9.10, and would not significantly injure or adversely affect federally owned land.

The EA provides an overview of the proposed project and analyzes two alternatives and their impacts on the environment: Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, and Alternative 2, the Proposed Action Alternative to authorize access to Dan Creek and proposed mining operations with National Park Service stipulations. It has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500 *et seq.*)

The NPS Alaska Region utilizes the July 2007 “Interim User’s Guide to Accessing Inholdings in National Park System Units in Alaska” and employs the criteria and processes articulated in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve’s (WRST) 2008 “Established and Maintainable Access to Inholdings Programmatic Plan and Environmental Assessment” to describe, analyze and grant the operator an Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 1110(b) Right-of-Way Certificate of Access (RWCA) for access to Dan Creek to conduct his mining operations. That RWCA will include the terms and conditions for use of motorized equipment within an access corridor running from a point on the Dan Creek Road just north of the western approach to the Nizina River Bridge to the private property boundary on lower Dan Creek.

Interested parties may review the EA online. Go to the NPS website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=34379> to retrieve the EA and provide your comments.

A copy may also be obtained by contacting Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve at 907-822-5234, PO Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573. Comments on the EA may be sent by mail to the park at the above address during the 30-day public review period, lasting from May 18 through June 18, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact the Superintendent Rick Obernesser or Senior Management Analyst Danny Rosenkrans at (907) 822-7240.