



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Mile 106.8 Richardson Hwy. P.O. Box 439
Copper Center, AK 99573-0439
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March 13, 2013

Dear Interested Party:

I am pleased to announce the release of the public review version of the Kennecott Operations Plan and Environmental Assessment. The document presents alternatives for management of the Kennecott Mines National Historic Landmark (NHL) and considers the environmental consequences from implementation of those alternatives. The document includes proposals for historic structure stabilization, management of cultural resources, vegetation, access and parking, interpretation, and utilities and infrastructure.

This document represents several years of collaboration between staff at Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve, staff at the Alaska Regional Office, and the McCarthy/Kennecott community. The planning process has involved intensive public involvement and review, including the following opportunities for public input:

- Project scoping, which helped define the scope of the project and issues to be addressed.
- Public review and comment during the summer of 2011 on the National Park Service (NPS) proposed action for management of the NHL. This was a summer-long process and involved community meetings as well as review and comments by a sub-committee of the McCarthy Area Council.
- Public workshops in the summer of 2012 on interpretation, management concepts, transportation and access, parking, and the shuttle turnaround.

The Kennecott Operations Plan and Environmental Assessment is available for public review and comment for six weeks. All comments must be submitted by April 30, 2013. Public comments will be addressed in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that will accompany the final Kennecott Operations Plan and Environmental Assessment.

The document can be accessed in several ways, including the following:

- Electronically through the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/wrst> .
- Electronically through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=34130> .
- Request a hard copy by calling 907-822-7276 (Bruce Rogers) or e-mailing bruce_rogers@nps.gov

You can submit comments in the following ways:

- Electronically through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=34130>.
- By e-mail to Bruce Rogers at bruce_rogers@nps.gov
- By mail to the following address: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve; ATTN: Bruce Rogers; P.O. Box 439; Copper Center, Alaska; 99573.

Thank you for your continued interest in this planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Obernesser" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rick Obernesser
Superintendent

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA

A large, faded watermark of the American flag is visible in the background of the lower half of the page. The text "TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA" is printed in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the top of the flag graphic.