

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The National Park Service (NPS) has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing a proposal by Copper Valley Wireless (CVW) to construct two new communications facilities and improve one existing communications facility on public lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve (WRST). This project would connect the McCarthy, Alaska, area to an existing fiber optic cable in Chitina, Alaska, providing local residents, businesses and visitors access to state-of-the-art broadband and telecommunications services. The NPS is considering issuing two new rights-of-way and amending one existing right-of-way for the purpose of permitting this action.

CVW proposes to build one of its two new communications facilities on land identified as eligible wilderness in WRST's 1986 *General Management Plan, Land Protection Plan, Wilderness Suitability Review (GMP)*. The NPS has determined the proposed project would be consistent with the 1986 *GMP*, following approval of the wilderness eligibility boundary revision described in Appendix C of the EA.

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 construct, modify, operate, and maintain the three McCarthy Communications Sites. 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.*)

Interested parties may review the EA online. Go to the NPS website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=31122> 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 December 3, 2010, through January 2, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Environmental Protection Specialist Geoffrey Bleakley at 907-822-7235.