

Park service: 3 mining studies available

The National Park Service recently announced the availability of three environmental assessments on mining operations within two national parks in Alaska.

The documents were prepared to assess proposed plans of operations in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

The environmental assessments

describe potential impacts on park resources and evaluate several alternatives to the proposed operation. The park service has determined that the operations would not result in significant impacts on the environment.

The operation in Bering Land Bridge is for placer gold exploration. The two operations proposed in Wrangell-St. Elias include placer gold and a small-scale test of cyanide

leaching of old mine tailings. It is currently underway.

The two operations in Wrangell-St. Elias are enjoined from starting work because of a preliminary injunction issued by the U.S. District Court of Alaska.

At the request of the park service, the court has relieved the placer operation from the injunction based on the findings of the environmental assess-

ment, while the Department of Justice is currently in the process of seeking relief from the injunction for the other operator.

Copies of the environmental assessments are available for review at the National Park Service office in Anchorage, 2525 Gambell Street. They are also available for review at park headquarters in Glennallen and Nome.