

Placer Mining grants awarded

Seventeen Alaskans have been awarded Innovative Placer Mining Demonstration Grants from the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources, Governor Sheffield announced last month.

The program, created last July, provides funds for research in innovative placer mining methods

with the goals of decreasing environmental damage from placer mining operations, reducing water pollution, and improving recovery of fine gold.

A total of 81 grant applications were received by the February deadline, with a total price tag of about \$7 million.

Sheffield said those projects

that proposed to study and test new, innovative mining techniques that reduce water use received special consideration. Some of these methods involve recycling dirty wastewater in order to reduce the amount of silt and sediment dumped into streams, and thereby reduce damage to valuable fish spawning beds.