

Park Service seeks comments on mining

The National Park Service has reopened the public comment period on proposed amendments to mining regulations, and interested people have until Sept. 4 to submit comments.

The proposed amendments are intended to eliminate confusion that resulted from the overlapping applicability of both the Title XI access regulations of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the Mining in the Parks Act regulations.

While Title XI of ANILCA provides

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for access to mining claims in the Alaska parks, mining operations throughout the national park system are subject to regulation under the Mining in the Parks Act. Confusion has occurred because some people

presumed that the ANILCA provision assuring access to claims superseded requirements of the Mining in the Parks Act.

The proposed amendment to the mining regulations provides a clear cross-reference to the Alaska access regulations. It also clarified the point that a plan of operations is required for mining inside park boundaries — whether on patented or unpatented claims and regardless of the means of access, according to Park Service

officials.

Those who want a copy of the proposed rule may contact Floyd Sharrock, Chief, Division of Mining and Minerals, Alaska Region, National Park Service, 2525 Gambell St., Room 107, Anchorage 99503-2892 or call 271-2618.

Written comments should be sent to Carol McCoy, Land Resources Division, National Park Service, Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-3127.