Nabesna Mine Site
Community Fact Sheet

February 2010 Update

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
and Preserve

This fact sheet is an update of recent activities related to the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) process underway at the Nabesna Mine Site.

SUPPLEMENTAL SITE INVESTIGATION

In August 2009, the National Park Service (NPS) undertook environmental sampling of the Nabesna Mine Site (Site), located at the end of the Nabesna Road in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST). This Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) was conducted to address data gaps and update existing Site information for characterization of the Site, to facilitate the evaluation of human and ecological risks at the Site, and to support the development and evaluation of Site cleanup alternatives.

The following activities were conducted as components of the 2009 SSI. Additional groundwater data were acquired to fully assess environmental contamination and transport mechanisms. These data were collected through the installation and sampling of eight monitoring wells. In the process of drilling the monitoring wells, soil borings were taken. These boreholes provided information regarding the relationship between subsurface geology and permafrost on groundwater and surface water. The SSI included sampling of surface water and sediment at 23 locations. The Site is located in an area with naturally occurring metal-rich soils. Hence it required a thorough examination of the background characteristics of soil, sediment, and surface water in order to establish Site-specific background concentrations for consideration in the selection of Site cleanup goals. A delineation of the tailings was completed through visual observations and field screening of metals in surface soils at approximately 230 locations.

This information will be used in the assessment of site conditions, risk to human health and ecological receptors, regulatory compliance, and cleanup alternatives. The results will be incorporated into an EE/CA Report that will be made available to the public upon completion (anticipated to be fall 2010 or later).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions concerning the field work or any aspect of the Nabesna Mine Site EE/CA, please contact Greg Nottingham at (303) 415-1483 or Danny Rosenkrans at Park Headquarters in Copper Center (907) 822-7240.