

# 2009 Field Investigation Community Fact Sheet Nabesna Mine Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park  
and Preserve



This fact sheet is a supplement to the May 2009 Community Fact Sheet for the Nabesna Mine Site, describing Site conditions and the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) process underway at the Site.

## SUMMER 2009

During the month of August 2009, the National Park Service (NPS) will be completing an environmental investigation of the Nabesna Mine Site (Site) at the end of the Nabesna Road in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST). The field work will be led by NPS contractor, The Johnson Company, who will be performing environmental drilling and sampling from approximately **August 10 to September 6, 2009**. Although most of the work will focus on the tailings piles located on either side of Nabesna Road, NPS also will be accessing creeks and streams to the north and south of the tailings. The investigation will include drilling soil borings and installing groundwater monitoring wells on and near the tailings, collecting groundwater samples, sampling surface water



and sediment from Cabin Creek and Jack Creek, and collecting soil samples. This investigation is needed to fill data gaps and update Site information to permit the full characterization of the Site consistent with applicable laws and regulations. The data will be used to identify Site contaminants, determine pathways of contaminant migration, evaluate human and ecological risk, and analyze an array of potential cleanup alternatives. The resulting information will be presented for public review and comment in an EE/CA Report expected to be completed by spring 2010. This will be a significant milestone in the process of addressing human health and environmental concerns at the Site.

The investigation will involve the use of two track-mounted drill rigs. These rigs are expected to make one trip each way along Nabesna Road and spend the remaining time at the Site. Trucks and all-terrain vehicles also will be used to transport equipment and workers to and from the Site each day.

The Nabesna area of WRST and Nabesna Road will **not** be closed to traffic or visitors during this investigation. Residents and visitors, however, are asked to take extra precautions for their safety and the safety of the sampling crew. Please drive carefully between Devil's Mountain Lodge and the Nabesna Mine Site since the crew will use this road often. It is recommended that a safety zone of 25 feet be maintained around any working drill rig. Drums should not be opened or otherwise disturbed at the Site because they could contain contaminated material from the drilling and sampling activities. If you are hunting in the area, be aware that a sampling crew may be moving within a mile radius of the Site through brush or trees by foot or on off-road vehicles. If you see or know of any dangerous conditions or potentially threatening animal activity, please advise a member of the sampling team or a WRST Ranger immediately.

## 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.