

State wants input on land selection, will hold meet

For the past two years the Department of Natural Resources has been engaged in a project designed to identify lands throughout Alaska which may be suitable for state selection.

The department has developed and used a comprehensive resource assessment to put together a "pool" of 45 million acres for possible selection and plans to further refine this pool to determine the best possible lands for selection. The state hopes to receive conveyance to a large portion of its remaining Statehood Act land entitlement (about 30 million acres) as part of a final d-2 lands bill.

As part of the land selection project, the department will be holding some 19 public meetings throughout the state. The meetings will serve several purposes. First of all, it is important to explain to Alaskans the

WASILLA: February 23, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Wasilla Senior High School.

GLENALLEN: February 25, 1978 -- 10:00 a.m. -- Glenallen High School.

DILLINGHAM: February 27, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Council Chambers.

NEW STUYAHOK: March 2, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m.

NAKNEK: March 1, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Borough Assembly Chambers.

BETHEL: March 8, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Council Chambers.

MCGRATH: March 9, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Hall.

GALENA: March 10, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Hall.

RAMPART: March 11, 1978 -- 1:00 p.m.

CIRCLE: March 12, 1978 -- 1:00 p.m.

FAIRBANKS: March 13, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- University of Alaska -- Wood Center Ballroom.

DELTA JUNCTION: March 14, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- Delta School.

JUNEAU: March 20, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Borough Assembly Chambers.

NOME: March 22, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- City Hall.

KOTZEBUE: March 23, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m.

BARROW: March 30, 1978 -- 7:30 p.m. -- North Slope Borough Building.

complicated issue of land selections, what the significance of the selections may be and how the state lands will fit in with federal and Native lands in Alaska.

Secondly, the meetings will give the public a chance to review the state's work thus far. The 45 million acre pool of lands which the Department of Natural Resources has identified does not represent selections. Rather, it is a tentative package of general interest areas. The lands in the pool have been chosen for various values which represent potential for settlement, agriculture, forestry, coal, oil and gas, recreation, access, and others.

Third, the department is interested in gathering more local knowledge of these lands as well as hearing people's thoughts concerning the types of lands

and the locations of lands which the state is considering. Since this tentative pool must be refined, the public input gained from these meetings will play an important role in shaping the eventual selection package.

If you have any further questions you may call the Department of Natural Resources, Planning and Research Section in Anchorage (279-5577).