

Public comments sought by BLM

An application to set aside a 774 acre natural area for research and education in the Tongass National Forest has been filed with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Public comments or requests for a public hearing on the proposed Dog Island Research Natural Area will be accepted by BLM's State office in Anchorage until May 16.

The U.S. Forest Service requested last fall that Dog Island, approximately 25 miles southeast of Ketchikan, be withdrawn from location or entry under the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights.

The land would remain part of the Tongass National Forest under U.S. Forest Management.

Prospecting and location of mining claims has been temporarily banned, pending action on the application by the Department of Interior.

The public lands and water involved have been established as a research natural area, typifying the southern part of southeast Alaska. The area contains a tree called Pacific Yew.

BLM will conduct an investigation to determine the existing and potential demands for this land and its resources. BLM will also prepare a report for the Secretary of the Interior who will make the final decision on the withdrawal.

Comments should be sent to the Chief, Branch of Lands and Mineral Operations, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501.