



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Forest Service drafts changes to documents that guide mining in Admiralty and Misty Fjords national monuments

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (July 18, 2014) – The U.S. Forest Service has released for public comments a proposed supplement to the part of the Forest Service Manual that guides mining operations on Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords national monuments in Southeast Alaska.

Mining within the two national monuments on the Tongass National Forest – Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords – is subject to a complex set of legal requirements as provided in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), most of which apply only to these two national monuments. The draft supplement will provide additional guidance to the Forest Service officials who are responsible for authorizing and administering mining operations on Admiralty and Misty. The proposed supplement offers the Alaska Region's view of how to interpret the applicable legal requirements in a consistent and holistic fashion.

The proposed supplement and related documents are available on the Forest Service Alaska Region website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r10/landmanagement/planning>. Comments on the proposal must be received by August 22, 2014.