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| |  | | --- | | The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Kettle Range Conservation Group. Formed in 1976, KRCG has a long history of advocating for preservation of Wilderness, safeguard and restoring native biodiversity. Today, I write in regards to U.S. Forest Service proposal to indefinitely authorize special-use cabin permits in ANILCA wilderness. KRCG members use Alaska wilderness for recreation, however and more importantly, we appreciate untrammeled wilderness for its intrinsic existence values and for its pristine fish & wildlife habitat.  In 1980, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to preserve and protect nationally significant public land in Alaska for present and future generations. By that time, unauthorized cabins had been constructed on federal lands, inside and outside areas ANILCA subsequently designated as Wilderness. In 1987 the U.S Forest Service created a program that issued special-use permits for these unauthorized cabins. These permits were renewable every five years and nontransferable, terminating upon the death of the last immediate family member of the original claimant.  KRCG opposes U.S. Forest Service changing its 1987 policy to allow open-end authorization of cabin special-use permits in designated ANILCA wilderness.  Kettle Range Conservation Group appreciates this opportunity to comment.  Sincerely,  Timothy Coleman  Executive Director  Kettle Range Conservation Group  P.O. Box 150  Republic, WA 99166 | |
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