

**From:** [Karla Hart](#)  
**To:** [Berger, Jennifer - FS, AK](#)  
**Subject:** [External Email]Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Cabin Policy #ORMS-3666 Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, March 9, 2024 8:30:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-1.png](#)  
[PastedGraphic-2.png](#)

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I just learned about this comment period on March 7, went to the website and saw March 9 listed as the end of the comment period - see screenshot, end of introductory paragraph:



This evening, March 9, I remembered I needed to comment, and went to the comment page, and found a March 8 date at the bottom of this screen shot of the comment page, and the link to add a comment no longer active:



Since there is a clear conflict in dates provided, I expect that the Forest Service will honor my email sent on March 9. Please confirm this.

I ask that the comment period be extended for 60 days and that better outreach be done within the Tongass. I was unaware of this until a friend, who is retired Forest Service, learned of it just a day before that. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, resident of the Tongass for over 60 years, and an active citizen with lots of long-time Alaskan friends. I was hearing nothing about this, indicating that adequate outreach was not done.

I do not believe this rule change is in the public interest. There was good reason to phase out the existence of these cabins when ANILCA was passed. Allowing one transfer allowed the extension of use of these cabins for many years in most cases. It has been more than forty years since anyone was allowed to add one of these private cabins on public lands. Ending the leases with the deaths of the existing permit holder, or after one transfer in the rare case that an original cabin owner is still holding the permit, respects the majority of Alaskans who were not even born when ANILCA was passed, let alone having lived here since then.

While I know many people who have and value these pre-ANILCA cabins, this privatization of public lands and key areas for recreation and subsistence activities excludes the many for the few. There is increasing pressure throughout the Tongass. Many of these cabins that I know of are used for very short periods for hunting or other activities, and are unoccupied, but occupying public lands all year.

Traditional subsistence activities can still take place in the same areas without the private cabins. The vast majority of residents of the Tongass Region do not have access to these cabins, yet many hunt, fish, berry pick, etc. while camping or using public use cabins.

Perhaps these cabin locations can be assessed for suitability for replacing the private cabins with public use cabins or even three-sided shelters. Renting a public use cabin is far more affordable than maintaining one of these existing old cabins, and more equitable to many.

Regards,

Karla Hart  
Juneau, Alaska