



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1430
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Main: 907.269-8690
Fax: 907-269-5673

October 4, 2024

U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
Hoonah Ranger District
Attn: "False Bay Cabin Construction"
PO Box 135
Hoonah, AK 99829

Submitted online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=64003>

Re: False Bay Cabin New Construction # 64003

Dear Ms. Duvall,

The State of Alaska (State) reviewed the False Bay Cabin Construction Project. The proposed project includes constructing a new road and marine accessible cabin, vehicle parking area, vault toilet outhouse, woodshed, and trail access to the beach. The project location is on Chichagof Island, approximately 25 miles from Hoonah on Forest Service Road 8530 adjacent to False Bay on Northern Chatham Strait. The below comments represent the consolidated views of the State resource agencies.

The State is supportive of public use cabin development in the Hoonah Ranger District and of this proposal to construct a new public use cabin and related infrastructure. The cabin will create increased access to hunting opportunities. Cabins and other hard sided shelters play an important role in enhancing public use and access to federal public lands in Alaska and can provide for the health and safety of people using public lands. Congress sought to protect access to public lands for harvest and recreation uses with the numerous cabin provisions in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

The project website mentions a buoy that is not further described in the scoping proposal. Any buoy anchored in State of Alaska waters would need a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); please reach out to DNR for further assistance.

We request the following considerations when maintaining existing or constructing new cabins:

- Plans for cabins that are used for hunting or trapping should include a meat pole separated from the cabin for cabin occupant use.
- ANILCA allows the use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws on federal lands, which could be used to supply fuel for the woodstove. We suggest providing guidance for appropriate firewood harvest locations and techniques to protect resources while also supporting cabin users.

Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed project. Please contact me at (907)269-0880 or by email at catherine.heroy@alaska.gov to coordinate any follow up discussions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Heroy
Federal Program Manager