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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts New Cabins project. The State of Alaska (State) reviewed the pre-scoping and scoping information for this project. The comments in this letter represent the consolidated views of State resource agencies.

The State is supportive of cabin development in the Tongass and of this proposal to construct nine new public use cabins at road-accessible locations within the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts. We request the Districts also consider ways to maintain existing cabins located in off-road locations. Off-road cabins provide unique recreational experiences and life-safety needs often not provided by road-accessible cabins for those using remote US Forest Service (USFS) lands for recreation, subsistence, and other uses.

Aware of the important role cabins play in the health and safety of people using public lands in Alaska, Congress provided allowances for continued cabin construction and use in a number of sections of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), including in designated wilderness (ANILCA 1315(c) and (d)).

It would be helpful for future project documents to address USFS plans for future maintenance needs of these, as well as existing, cabins.

The State appreciates the efforts to expand recreational opportunities in the Tongass National Forest. Please contact me if you have any questions or to discuss any of these issues.