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First name: Todd

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposed ANILCA Cabin Policy change.

My family and I have been utilizing a cabin in upper Seymour Canal on Swan Island for nearly 45 years. This cabin and the surrounding areas have always been an extremely important and special place to all of us. My father began using the cabin in the mid 70's, letting me and my brother join around 1989. We have since started our own families and we all continue to make trips 3-4 times a year. It has become our traditional deer hunting spot as well as a place to get away and enjoy the tranquility of Seymour Canal with our children. Dad passed in 2015. He always told us when he was gone, to take him out on the point in front of the place and spread his ashes. So, in the spring of 2016, my brother, my Aunts and I did just that, laying him to rest and enjoy his favorite place.

Over the years I have assisted the permit holder in upkeep of the place. Keeping it weather tight and as presentable as possible. Lately, with the current policy in place, we have become more gunshy spending large amount of money performing repairs. We just don't know how much longer the permit will last. I was ecstatic when I heard the news of a possible change allowing transfers. Our number 1 mission would be getting permitted to replace the cabin with something up to date and less intrusive on the area.

Aside from the enjoyment my family and many others get from these cabins, they can also be very important in an emergency for all others. We deliberately latch our doors from the outside to allow access to anyone in need. A place to get out of the weather and get warm and dry is paramount during certain months. Having these cabins spread around remote areas are a great safety blanket for others recreating around them.

I think my story is very similar to the users of all the other cabins in this program. These cabins have become part of the family so to speak. They provide a place to get away from the regular world, a place to harvest and fill our freezers, recreate with family, enjoy the beauty of Southeast AK, and in my case, sit in the grass and chat with my old man again.

Please consider my letter and all others in favor of this proposed change. These places truly are special and important to the people who have the opportunity to enjoy them.

Thank for your time,

Todd Kirtley

Juneau, AK