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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a decades-long user of a family owned ANILCA cabin, I wholly support the proposed special use permit policy change to allow multiple re-issuances of special use permits in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. The cabin used by our family and friends can be referenced in USFS file #2720, likely at the USFS Office in Juneau, Alaska. The cabin is located on Swan Island, in the Seymour Canal area of Admiralty Island and the Tongass National Forest.

Family, friends, and I have utilized the land, cabin and area resources since the original cabin was built in 1959. It is an important aspect of our culture and history and provides us with the ability to live a subsistence lifestyle by harvesting deer and seafood annually, to recreate in the area throughout the year, and enjoy its beauty whenever we are able. The families who utilize this cabin have resided in Southeast Alaska since the late 1800s and have always been stewards of the land and sea. Four (4) generations of our family have utilized this cabin and after decades of use, it is nearly impossible to detect. We respect the land and waters of Seymour Canal and the surrounding environment and want to see the area preserved as much as the USFS and others do. Cabins in this area have a positive impact on the economy while having minimal physical impact on the land.

The existing policy only allows one re-issuance of the special use permit, which will disallow the traditional use of this area for future generations. The single re-issuance restriction has been a topic of great discussion over the years and the consensus among permit holders is that it is a moral and costly mistake. It erases centuries of tradition, history and resource utilization as well as unnecessarily burdens the economies of nearby hubs.

Please accept this comment as being in support of the proposed permit policy revision that will allow multiple re-issuances of special use permits in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.