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First name: Mark
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I would like to express my support for the proposed policy revision addressing special use permits for privately owned cabins on the Chugach National Forest. Our family cabin at the mouth of the Eyak River was purchased by my parents prior to passage of the ANILCA in 1980. That investment was made based on the belief that the cabin would be available to our family for as long as we used it and would be fully transferable to other families if we became unable to use it. I believe that the passage of ANILCA was a mistake as it was unfair to the people who purchased the cabins expecting them to have some future resale value. Even after passage of the ANILCA our family has invested considerable time and effort in maintaining our cabin to conform with the wishes of the USFS and to maintain the character of the National Forest. After passage of the ANILCA many other cabins in the area have been either completely abandoned or not adequately maintained. Maintenance costs in the area are extremely high and many cabin owners are unwilling or unable to afford the cost of maintaining a cabin that cannot be resold or can be sold one time to an owner who must eventually relinquish it. This policy has resulted in many cabins suffering from deferred maintenance becoming a blight on the National Forest. Several members of our family use this cabin for traditional uses such as recreation, fishing and hunting. While we do not plan on selling it, the costs of maintenance and upkeep are easier to justify if the cabin has some future value. In conclusion, I support the proposed policy revision. First of all it is fair, reverting back to the policy that was in place when the original investment was made. Second, the proposal will enable other cabin owners to justify investments in maintenance and upkeep thus enhancing the appeal of the area and the beauty of the Chugach National Forest. Thank you for your willingness to correct this policy and thank you for your consideration of my comments.