

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/7/2024 7:03:54 PM

First name: Sharon

Last name: Leach

Organization: National Forest Homeowners

Title: Executive Director

Comments: This comment is submitted on behalf of National Forest Homeowners which represents and advocates for Recreation Residence Program permit holders on National Forests. Established by Congress in 1915, the Recreation Residence Program, per current Forest Service policy, is a valid use of National Forest System lands and an important component of the overall National Forest Recreation Program [59 FR 28727].

As the national association representing Recreation Residence Program permit holders on National Forests across the nation, we support allowing the ANILCA cabin permits to be renewable and removing the current restrictions on transfer from the current permit holder.

We recommend the ANILCA cabins with Use Code 121 be given the option of becoming Recreation Residence cabins. The Recreation Residence Program provides existing policies and regulations for the management and administration of cabins and permits on National Forests, and would allow the permits to be part of an existing program for families, including those who use their cabins for hunting and fishing.

On a national level, cabins on Forest Service lands bring over 6.5 million recreation visitor days annually to forests and generate over \$200M of economic benefit for rural economies near cabin locations. Beginning in 2025, over \$35M of annual permit fees will be retained by the Forest Service for the administration of the Recreation Residence Program and to support other recreation programs on our national forests. We believe the proposed change of policy regarding ANILCA cabins could extend these same types of benefits to Alaska forests and rural communities.

Additionally, we ask that the Forest Service provide a breakout of the differences in permit terms and rules between the Recreation Residence Use Code 123 and the proposed new Use Code XXX to inform permit holder decision-making.