

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/7/2024 10:41:04 PM

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Comments: The Alaska Region is revising the Forest Service Handbook (FSH), Region 10 Supplement for special uses administration (FSH 2709.11-2021-01) to provide updated direction on authorizing individual use, privately owned cabins under Section 1303 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) - commonly referred to as "ANILCA cabins." The Region is proposing a policy change that will allow the Forest Service to continue authorizing the renewal or reissuance of special use permits for ANILCA cabins for traditional and customary uses that are compatible with the purposes for which the unit or area was established.

I have twenty years residency in Southeast Alaska. For 13 of those years I worked in the Forest Service Recreation program in Craig, maintaining public use cabins in Wilderness and non-Wilderness areas. I oppose this revision. These private cabins were supposed to be phased out after the first generational transfer. By allowing for non-familial transfer, the Forest Service isn't perpetuating "traditional and customary uses." Those can occur with or without a permanent structure. It is allowing private dwellings to continue to exist in places where they were supposed to be phased out. In Wilderness this is especially inappropriate. Many of the activities used to access or maintain the structures impact the surrounding areas negatively and there is no restriction or enforcement capacity to ensure that private cabin owners are treating the surrounding public lands with care and respect. The Forest Service is already struggling to maintain its own recreation cabins, so the uses, conditions, and impacts associated with these structures may not be well understood. Also, this comment opportunity doesn't include enough information for the public to understand the existing conditions of these private cabins. There are no photos, no lists of locations, no list of private cabins. How many are there? Where are they located? What condition are they in? How are they accessed and maintained? Is there a public use cabin nearby? Is there a trail or other public facility in the area? I'm almost always disappointed at the lack of clear information the Forest Service provides with some of these public processes, but this one is especially lacking in detail.

The Forest Service should do what its original regulations stipulate and phase out private cabins on public lands. At the very least, it should better inform the public about what exactly the situation is before making a decision.

Thank you.

Katie Rooks