

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2024 5:04:20 PM

First name: Sue

Last name: Halligan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In 1980, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to preserve and protect nationally significant public land in Alaska for present and future generations. By that time, unauthorized cabins had been constructed on federal lands, inside and outside areas ANILCA subsequently designated as Wilderness.

Directed by ANILCA, in 1987 the U.S Forest Service created a program that issued special-use permits for these unauthorized cabins. The intent was to phase out these cabins, nowhere more important than in Wilderness, which is managed for its wildness.

Now the Forest Service has proposed removing restrictions from these permits, including the number of times a permit for an ANILCA cabin may be reissued or who may be listed on that permit. For Wilderness, these changes could mean generations upon generations of a persisting structure.

Cabins don't belong in designated Wilderness. The U.S. Forest Service must leave its policy unchanged and phase out ANILCA cabins, as was the original intent. These cabins were never meant to persist in Wilderness, and to change this policy would undermine ANILCA and the Wilderness Act.