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Comments: As you well know, 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. These permits were renewable every five years and nontransferable, terminating upon the death of the last immediate family member of the original claimant. The intent was to phase out these cabins, nowhere more important than in Wilderness, which is managed for its wildness.

Your proposed removal of 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 is totally against the intent of the 1987 ruling. The need for unaltered wilderness can not be stated strongly enough and your proposal is contrary to maintenance of the Alaska wilderness. Do not allow the continuation of these originally illegal cabins.