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Comments: Re ANILCA: Phase out cabins and other structures on wilderness lands.

Squatters plague and have plagued public lands since the beginning of the U.S. For example, in 1832, Congress set aside the Hot Springs of Arkansas as an intertribal reserve. White squatters took over despite the reserve and sold healing hot baths. The Union Army routed the squatters during the Civil War, and after the war, new squatters arrived and took over. As the old squatters filtered back in the scene, fights broke out, and squatter versus squatter cases went to court - and to appeals court in 1870. Congress saw the turmoil over these public lands and set aside the Hot Springs of Wyoming and Montana as Yellowstone National Park. New Zealand made a similar move. By 1876, the court ruled for neither squatter and returned the Hot Springs of Arkansas to federal control. The Cavalry that managed Yellowstone was dispatched to remove the squatters who defied the law - and after warnings, an unexplained fire broke out and burnt the bathhouse establishments to ruins, effectively removing the squatters. Contentions like this one don't need to be the norm in Alaska's wilderness, and if allowed, where's my spot for an illegal cabin? I want one too.

Cabins do not belong in dedicated wilderness which the USFS holds in trust for the people. Cabins compromise the untrammeled wilderness values that brought the designation of wilderness. If the USFS allows cabins to remain, eventually a concession to roads must come from the USFS. The declaration of wilderness did not include plans for homesteading on a permanent basis. A firm time line to phase out habitations should be established - perhaps with a brief extension - but the letter of the law and its agency policies should expressly say NO to permanency. TV has given rise to pipe dreams of wilderness living, like the book INTO THE WILD where the guy died from lack of medicine in his hermitage. The only fair and impartial action to be taken is to close the flood gates - or open them all the way to anybody wanting rent-free land.