

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2024 5:59:03 PM

First name: Harvey

Last name: Brown

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the special-use permit program for cabins built on federal lands in Alaska, particularly those located within designated Wilderness areas.

I have visited some of the wilderness areas in Alaska and seen some of the cabins.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980 stands as a landmark achievement in protecting wild places for future generations. It's critical that the U.S. Forest Service upholds the original intent enshrined within ANILCA and the Wilderness Act: to safeguard the untamed character of these invaluable landscapes.

While I acknowledge the existence of unauthorized cabins constructed before ANILCA, it is concerning to see a move away from the established program. This program, implemented in 1987, issued non-renewable and non-transferable permits, designed with the express purpose of phasing out these cabins - especially those situated within Wilderness areas.

The news of the Forest Service proposing to lift restrictions on permit renewals and inheritance is deeply troubling. This could lead to a situation where these structures become permanent fixtures within designated Wilderness, undermining the very essence of these wild places.

Wilderness, by definition, is managed to prioritize its untamed state. The presence of permanent cabins directly contradicts this core principle.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to maintain the current policy and its commitment to phasing out ANILCA cabins, particularly within Wilderness areas. Let us honor the original intent of ANILCA and the Wilderness Act, ensuring these irreplaceable wild places remain untamed for generations to come.