

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2024 9:50:42 PM

First name: Rene

Last name: Voss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The presence of cabins within designated Wilderness areas directly contradicts the very purpose of Wilderness. Established by the Wilderness Act of 1964, Wilderness Areas are meant to be untrammeled by permanent improvements of any kind. These areas are specifically protected for their natural condition, offering a chance to experience solitude and primitive recreation. Cabins, by their nature, introduce a level of development that disrupts this core principle.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980 included a provision allowing certain pre-existing cabins to remain within newly designated Wilderness areas. However, the original intent behind this provision was for these cabins to be phased out over time. Allowing these cabins to persist indefinitely undermines the long-term goals of ANILCA and the Wilderness Act.

Continuing the current policy of allowing ANILCA cabins within Wilderness weakens the very foundation of the Wilderness preservation system. The U.S. Forest Service should uphold its existing policy and see through the original intent of phasing out these cabins. This will ensure that future generations can continue to experience the unique and irreplaceable value of true Wilderness.