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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a current owner of a cabin on Forest Service land in the State of Washington, and a former resident of Alaska, I would like to state my support for the proposed policy change. The proposal that establishes a new category of permit that can be renewed or reissued is sound. As mentioned in the National Forest Homeowners public comment, cabins bring family-oriented recreation visitors to the forest, provide economic benefit to the rural communities near cabin locations, and provide a fair return to the government via annual fees paid by the permit holders. These benefits occur while using a tiny portion of forest lands. The ~100 ANILCA cabins combined occupy less than 30 acres of the nearly 22 million acres of Alaska National Forest lands. There are over 57 million acres of designated Wilderness land in Alaska and the cabin impact on the forest, including those in wilderness areas is negligible. The cabins, which are mostly boat in access are not only used by the permit holders, family and friends, but offer emergency shelter to those in need, providing a valuable public service.

I am dismayed to find the Wilderness Watch organization has chosen to run a disinformation campaign in an effort to voice their opposition to the proposed policy change. After reading some of the responses that are clearly repetitive boiler plate text provided by that organization, it's obvious most of these folks have never visited Alaska, nor understand the proposed policy change. Claims that these cabins are "unauthorized" are simply untrue. My understanding is these cabins were authorized and built prior to the 1980 passage of ANILCA and have continuously been under authorized permits ever since. Bringing stability to the program provides significant benefits, at virtual no cost or impact to our National Forests. Thank You.