Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/9/2024 4:55:19 AM First name: BettyAnn Last name: Benware Organization:

Title:

Comments: The unauthorized cabins constructed on federal land designated as Wilderness were constructed certainly with the knowledge that they were being constructed without authorization on public lands which could be designated as Wilderness. Those who built them were aware of the risks when they built and were nevertheless given an extremely extended period to enjoy their camps under renewable permits until the death of a legatee of the permit holder. Suddenly these "lessees" of the land on which they encroached who perhaps should have been evicted and fined at the time for destruction of forest and trespass are being considered to become perpetual lessees which is virtually making them fee owners of the land. This is like giving them ownership because they knowingly trespassed and destroyed forest. Would this also allow them to profit further by transferring their "leases/permits"? There was a similar situation in the mid-20th century in New York State and the use of the structures was terminated after a certain period; it was always understood that the land belonged to NYS because it did belong to the state. What makes these individuals who trespassed worthy to be the chosen to be given the benefit of these public real property assets and excludes the other citizens from also getting permanent permits to build themselves camps? What is fair? Shall the ideal of "wilderness" in Alaska be abandoned so that anyone who wants to trespass may do so and, upon building of a structure, qualify for a perpetual permit/lease?