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First name: Ryan

Last name: Wheeler

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To the US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Forest Service's proposed Herbert Glacier Cabin Project.

Herbert Glacier is a treasured area that provides opportunities for a wide range of recreational and subsistence activities, including fishing, hunting, trapping, berry picking, hiking, and camping. According to a 2022 Alaska public use survey, this site was the most requested location in the Tongass for a new public-use cabin-a clear indication of its popularity and significance to both local residents and visitors.

Placing a cabin approximately one mile from the glacier terminus along the existing 4.4-mile Herbert Glacier Trail would meaningfully expand public access to this high-value recreation area. The cabin would offer hikers and cyclists a safe and comfortable place to rest and enjoy the stunning scenery. The inclusion of a helicopter landing pad would also provide accessibility for those unable to make the journey by foot, broadening the opportunity for a more diverse range of users to enjoy this exceptional landscape.

In summer, when Juneau experiences an influx of cruise visitors and popular areas become congested, Herbert Glacier offers a quiet refuge for those seeking to reconnect with nature. This project will enhance public enjoyment of the Tongass in a way that aligns with our shared values of sustainable, low-impact outdoor recreation.

Thank you for considering this valuable addition to our public lands.

Sincerely,

Ryan