



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Natural Resources**  
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

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May 12, 2025

Tongass National Forest, Juneau Ranger District  
Ranger Michael Downs  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road  
Juneau, AK 99801

Submitted online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=67953>

Re: Juneau Ranger District Proposed Herbert Glacier Cabin Project

Dear Mr. Downs,

The State of Alaska (State) reviewed the Tongass National Forest, Juneau Ranger District, proposed Herbert Glacier Cabin project. The project includes a new recreation cabin, accessible to the public by helicopter, bike, or foot via the Herbert Glacier Trail. The cabin site is roughly 13 miles north of the Juneau International Airport and one mile from the current terminus of the Herbert Glacier. Additional proposed infrastructure would include a vault-style outhouse, a gathering area, a helicopter landing site, and access trails. The comments below incorporate input from the Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Fish and Game (ADF&G).

The State is supportive of public use cabin development in the Juneau Ranger District. Cabins play an important role in enhancing public use and access to federal public lands in Alaska. Congress sought to protect such access to public lands for harvest and recreation uses with the numerous cabin provisions in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This proposed cabin is in an area that already experiences substantial recreational use including hunting, trapping, and fishing. A detail that was missing from the scoping information is that this area is within the boundaries of an active federal mining claim. The Forest Service, as a multiple-use land management agency, must consider impacts to other land uses during project development and should ensure that the development of recreational cabins does not negatively impact these pre-existing mining rights.

If the Forest Service approves this proposed cabin project, we request the following considerations when constructing and maintaining this cabin:

- Helicopter use for both construction and maintenance activities should align with the recommendations put forth by the Wild Sheep and Goat Foundation.
  - Winter helicopter exclusion November 1 to April 30
  - Kidding helicopter exclusion May 1 to July 15
- We request the Forest Service limit helicopter use at the site to administrative purposes only.
- The construction of this cabin is likely to cause an increase in use of the area, increasing the potential for improperly managed attractants creating negative

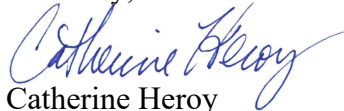
human/bear interactions. The cabin should be built in a way to help prevent bears and other wildlife from getting on the porch and from breaking windows. The Forest Service should provide instructions to users on proper disposal of trash.

- ANILCA allows the use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws on federal land. Though the cabin is proposed to be heated by a propane heater, the site is also proposed to include a campfire ring. We suggest providing guidance for appropriate firewood harvest locations and techniques to protect resources while also supporting cabin users.

### **Closing**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed project. Please contact me at (907)269-0880 or by email at [catherine.heroy@alaska.gov](mailto:catherine.heroy@alaska.gov) to coordinate any follow up discussions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Heroy  
Federal Program Manager

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