

**From:**  
**To:** [FS-comments-alaska-tongass-juneau](#)  
**Subject:** NGRA NEPA  
**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 4:29:03 PM

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Although I have not closely followed project 53780, I recently reviewed the project documents available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53780> and have the following comments (in decreasing order of importance):

1) **Planned bus parking:** I'm sure considerable thought has gone into the current proposal, but I'm concerned that the current design will continue to place noisy and diesel-fume-emitting buses to be in close proximity to major viewing areas. I'd much prefer a design which placed all/most buses further away (e.g., the current bus waiting lot) and used electric trams/carts to transport people closer to the visitor center. This would require a different emphasis on infrastructure and operational support, but would be far superior to the current plan. The tram could have multiple stops and include informational talks during the ride. Having said this, I would keep a number of spaces, similar to the existing supply, for use by locals both during the off-season when the tram is not running and in-season for visitors who arrive by car and do not need the tram.

2) **Boat transportation:** If power boats are allowed on the lake, they should be restricted to electric for environmental and experiential reasons, and be designed and operated to minimize wake which might be an issue for wildlife (e.g., terns).

3) **Walkway/Overlook over existing kettle pond:** My initial reaction to the walkway is that in passing over the kettle pond it will detract from the esthetic experience. Any view of the glacier will likely be temporary as trees grow to obscure the view. If additional pedestrian capacity is desired, it might be better to find ways to widen the existing path from parking to the visitor's center.

4) **Trail from camping area to visitor area:** Although the volume of people walking from the skater's cabin area to the visitor center would likely be relatively low, I'm concerned that encouraging this pedestrian corridor will have a negative impact on the experience of campers, and I suggest eliminating this planned change.

5) **Improved trailhead parking:** I view the improvements to add parking to the various trailheads as a welcome addition. It would allow for safer access and reduce the number of vehicles parked on the side of the road.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,  
Bill Diebels, Jr.

