

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvement Project

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT FORM

The USDA Forest Service requests comments on the proposed project by **March 19, 2020**.

Write comments below, and submit them during the February 20, 2020 public scoping open house. Or, send comments via: fax (907-586-8808), email (comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@usda.gov), or mail or hand deliver (see back for address).

NAME (OPTIONAL): _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, EMAIL (OPTIONAL): _____

COMMENTS: Until tonight, I thought the USFS was taking a measured approach to balance the influx of boats with a peaceful natural experience. I'm realizing I shouldn't have trusted this planning process and am dismayed by the industrial approach I saw proposed tonight. First of all, Do NOT allow motorized boat use on the lake, except for emergency purposes. Even one motorized boat produces so much noise pollution it entirely wrecks the peaceful, natural experience of being outside. It will be an impossibly slippery slope that you will not be able to control or resist public pressure to allow increased use. People are innovative. Trust that two operators will develop alternative, quiet propulsion of boats. There are already paddle options that get people to the rim of the glacier, and result in a more rewarding, memorable experience relative to buzzing around in a loud, fast motorized vessel. Speeds need to be kept low to protect habitat at the lake edge. There is a ton of information about this in the literature about hugely negative impacts of motorized access on lakes, that has now become impossible to reverse due to public pressure.

If needed, attach sheets to provide additional comments

Project Website: www.fs.usda.gov/project?project=53780

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COMMENTS: Secondly, your proposal to "realign" Steep Creek to "improve salmon habitat" raises many red flags for me. This appears to be a regression to an old school and lazy tactic to mold and change nature to human will, instead of developing creative and innovative approaches to reduce human footprint and alterations. I urge you to review past practices to better understand the destructive impacts of straightening or redirecting salmon streams, and noise pollution from motorized boats. This would be the worst plan to allow motorized power boats. The sound will be continued in this horse shoe & valley and will wreck the outdoor experience for everyone, but especially locals who moved to this area to enjoy the peace + quiet. For you to even consider allowing motorized boat access demonstrates your dismissal of the tourism board and also lays bare your shortsightedness + lack of understanding. Please direct people interested in motorized boat access to find alternatives, and I think they will find something so much better that will improve the overall glacier experience for everyone.

If needed, attach sheets to provide additional comments