

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): Mary Hausler

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

COMMENTS: First of all, a 2 day lead up before a public meeting like this is not enough. I could be wrong, but I think that is all it was.
My comments:

① Too much parking lot near the center of everything. Why not use the huge bus parking lot area & just have a few spaces in the existing lots for handicap parking & run electric shuttle buses. All that pavement & traffic will likely have detrimental effects on stream water quality & presents a big barrier for bears & other wildlife to have to negotiate to get to the stream. This is supposed to be a natural area not a parking lot!!

② Big raised walkway from welcome center to visitor center over pond totally unnecessary.

③ Hate, hate, hate the idea of motorized boats on the lake. Why? Why? Why? I hope they will at least be electric but please, please don't have them.

If needed, attach sheets to provide additional comments

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NAME (OPTIONAL): Mary Huesler

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

COMMENTS: _____

④ Lakeshore trail - the cross country skier & hiker in me likes the idea of a bridge across the Mendenhall R. but the trail & bridge combined will mean that you open up the whole Dredge Lake area to many thousands of people every summer. Many of them will stay along the lakeshore, but many will head inland & ~~off~~ I predict you will get lots of new trails created - look what happened to the trail out to Huggert Falls with the increase in visitors. The construction of the new trail there hasn't really solved the problem of people going everywhere

⑤ ~~the~~ Remote glacier center area - This whole idea of moving large groups of people across the lake to get closer to the glacier seems silly to me. If people want to get close to the glacier they can hike there already. (cont.)

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NAME (OPTIONAL): Mary Hauser

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

COMMENTS:

(5 cont.) Improve the trail there if you must, but they can get there via West Glacier Trail. The idea that people ~~need to be~~ who are not physically able to hike to the glacier need to take a boat ride to get closer doesn't seem to take into account that many (most?) of these tourists will be going to Glacier Bay & doing just that. Do we need to add the constant buzz of boats across the lake to satisfy the whim of some tourist from Kansas? This is supposed to be a natural area. Has anyone thought about the wildlife that live here or do we all just bow down to the tourist dollar anymore?

(6) Lakeshore trail - ~~The~~ The F.S. currently closes some of the moraine ecology to give the bears some breathing space, but you are proposing to

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NAME (OPTIONAL): Mary Hauster

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

(6 cont.)
COMMENTS: open up far more areas for people to easily access. Not everyone will stay on the trail. I predict you will have more tourist/bear encounters, more pressure on local wildlife, and more habitat degradation,

⑦ I like the idea of ~~the~~ removing the culverts from Steep Creek, putting in a bridge that allows both people and wild life to pass under. I also think that rerouting sections of Steep Creek so that it is farther from the road, meanders more, and provides better spawning habitat is an idea with merit.

I have more to add but I'll do it online.

If needed, attach sheets to provide additional comments