

From:
To: [FS-comments-alaska-tongass-juneau](#)
Cc:
Subject: Mendenhall Glacier visitor facility "improvement" project
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 12:44:12 PM

I already submitted some more specific comments at the Feb. 20 Open House, but wanted to add a few more comments after I had calmed down from my first look at the project. The theme of this project seems to be to "Pave paradise and put up a parking lot." Overall, I am reminded of our approach to traffic congestion in this country. We have too many cars so we build more roads which fill up with even more cars, so we add more lanes and more roads which fill up with still more cars. It seems to me that the problem is too many people not that we need more infrastructure. This is supposed to be a natural area set aside for its beauty. This plan shows far too little consideration for that beauty and for the animals and plants who call this place home and have no where else to go. It also does not seem to have considered whether the current model of corporate tourism is even sustainable. Why are we as a community putting nearly all our eggs in this mass tourism basket when the whole world is shouting at us that we can't continue on this road without dire consequences. Not only are community after community around the world objecting to the overtourism of their homes, but whole ecosystems are collapsing under our relentless demand for more and more travel, more and more resources, more and more greed and disregard for natural communities. Cruise ships are the biggest carbon emission producing hogs going. Governments are going to have to start cracking down on them along with unlimited jet travel if we have any hope of bringing down carbon emissions to the levels that we need. It's not smart to continue to build our economy around a moribund industry. The coronavirus has demonstrated what a fantasy world we are living in respect to so many things. The cruise ship industry is part of that fantasy and we need to recognize that. In any sane world the days of giant cruise ships would be in its death throes. It remains to be seen whether we as a culture have that level of sanity.

My request is that you don't pave paradise. Don't destroy the heart of the place. Move all existing parking except for some handicap parking back to the big bus parking lot and use electric shuttle buses to bring people to the visitor center. Or they can walk. Take some pavement away. Stop trying to cram too many people into an area that should remain natural and mostly wild.

Mary Hausler