

Hello USFS:

Here are my comments on the Mendenhall Visitor Recreation Area proposed plan.

I have lived and recreated 40 years in the West Glacier area,

It has been ^a the joy of my life to live in this beautiful, quiet, corner of Glacier with clear streams, a nearby glacier, a glacial lake, snow covered mountains, fresh air.

Growing up in Chicago as an apartment dweller, this environment is a garden of eden and "heaven". No wonder tourists come here, often from polluted, overcrowded, noisy cities.

I understand that you want to balance two user groups: Trailside residents and Tourists.

Here are my comments.

① Visitor Center

a) Historic MGVC - glad changes will bring back original architectural intent of the building

b) ^{New} Welcome Visitor Center

Excellent idea ^{for} increased usage

Architecturally - can main viewing windows be semi-circular to watch Historic MGVC?

This would be a softer presence to watch the land contours. looks abrupt in that landscape.

Mendenhall Visitors Recreation Area Plan
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd, Juneau 99801

② Saedje Lake Area

- a) Keep it quiet for wildlife: birds, bears, salmon, critters - big & small.
- b) Small access parking lots an excellent idea to get cars off the road
- c) peripheral trail improvements a good idea, but no improvements in quiet area
- d) no lakeshore trail - keep what is there quiet with 'unsanctioned' trails

③ Campground - Mendenhall Lake

- a) Parking lot and cabins a good idea in theory but the campground is little used except on holidays. My observations, over the years.

④ Parking lots near Visitor Centers ^{③ commercial parking, staging - good ideas}

- a) expansion an excellent idea for East side lot for commercial vehicles and West side lot for local parking
- b) Do not cover Zig Zag Pond, but put boardwalk to the East of the Pond
- c) only electric buses in the Recreation Area

⑤ Renew Glacier Visitor Area

- a) Do not invest in these ideas

Motorized boats - what is the energy source - gas, diesel, electric? You did not specify in the plan. Pollute the lake w/ fuel, fumes, noise and we are following what is happening elsewhere on the planet!

Mendenall Visitors Recreation ^{Area} Plan

(6)

West Glacier Area

- a) No boat launch - no noise or fuel pollution
- b) West Glacier Spur Trail Construction an excellent idea because currently it is unsafe.
- c) Keep the West Glacier area quiet except for campground and currently vendors who offer rafting, canoe, and paddling.

Looking @ the Alternative Plans, my thoughts and suggestions fall within Alternative 4.

Maybe because I live and have lived so close to this wonderful area, I believe "less is more".

Yes, we have to accomodate tourists and yes, we have to listen to local input.

And yes, the population pandemic is encroaching on this lovely area of the planet.

Happeslly we will be wise enough to sustain this area for future generations of birds, bears, salmon, critters great & small.

We are not the only residents here!!!

We are stewards of the planet, not of tourists.

Sincerely,

Constance Troller


