I am a 40-year resident of Juneau and am discouraged to see all the proposed changes in the MGRA. I think we should keep most people to areas already developed. I support some changes on the west side of the lake like a few cabins and improvements on the West Glacier Trail. Some of the things that bother me the most are:

* I hike the southern end of the lake and any trail that brings large numbers of tourists along that area should be discouraged. It doesn’t make sense to destroy all the habitat, whether it is in the woods or along the shoreline for a trail. Skiers, bikers, and walkers, already have places in the MGRA. Since I walk my dogs off leash in that area, as do many people, I am concerned that tour groups of bikers, guided hikers and cross-country skiers would displace dog walking, or make it a leash only trail year- round.
* Why does the Nugget Falls trail need to be made into a loop? I walk to Nugget Falls and It seems like the current trail can accommodate all the tourists. Also, I’d hate to see all the tourists walking along the lake when the current trail hides them so nicely. Plus, you know the tourists (and some locals) will do foolish things near the bird nesting areas, even if it is accidental. Why encourage them to walk closer to a sensitive bird nesting area? When I walk to the Falls, I often walk along the lake to avoid all the people. Don’t spoil that for those of us who don’t mind crossing the small creeks on the stepping stones.
* Any type of motorized boats, even electric boats, on the lake should be prohibited. Their presence will ruin the peace and quiet of the lake that we all treasure and I think boats will distract from the view.
* The motorized boats will be taking tourists to the far side of the lake. I often hike on that side of the lake, and that will change the experience for myself, as well as others who want to experience the glacier with less people. Have you considered the safety of people to getting closer to the ice? Potential falling ice could be a hazard. I also don’t want a barge with toilets on it at that end of the lake. Talk about disrupting the natural beauty of the area!

I think moving the visitor center to the large bus parking lot and utilizing electric shuttle buses is a good idea! That solves a lot of the congestion and exhaust-spewing. Just make sure to put lots of bathrooms for the tourists.

I think I echo a lot of people who aren’t opposed to some development. Just keep it simple. Keep the development to the bare minimum. Please don’t turn our beloved MGRA into an amusement park!

Thank you,

Anne Post