

Royal Hyway Tours (dba HAP Alaska-Yukon) transporting guests to the MGRA from Princess, Holland America, Carnival, Cunard, Seabourn, Disney, and Alaska Dream cruise lines supports the planning effort towards improving access and improvements put forth by the USFS for the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.

While we don't endorse any one option -- providing an opportunity for any visitor to Juneau who wishes to experience viewing Mendenhall Glacier, walking out to Nugget Creek Falls, connecting with USFS staff, or viewing the area landscape and wildlife is a key initiative for us. Current demand to visit the MGRA has exceeded the existing commercial allocation program that hasn't seen much change since the mid-1990's.

Whichever option is chosen, we suggest that a phased in approach may be prudent. For example, access along the lake shore between the eastern visitor center zone and the river (that doesn't impede the Dredge Lake area) would allow guests more complete views of the ice and be accessible to most visitors during a standard 75 to 120-minute visit. If at a future date the desire to cross the river to the west side or expand onto the lake with boat options is deemed desirable, the access infrastructure would already be in place. We already know that the trail out to Nugget Creek Falls has helped ease congestion in the area and helped protect the tern habitat area. Following the lake shore in the other direction would further spread visitation access without infringing on the wilderness areas beyond the shoreline.

We look forward to continuing involvement in this process as the USFS and the community work towards improving an already world class experience.

Respectfully,

**Bill Hagevig**

Division Manager, HAP Alaska-Yukon  
Juneau, Alaska