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Organization: Ascending Path

Title:

Comments: comments

Hi David,

We submitted some comments online, but I saw that there was some sort of issue[hellip]

We actually got what looked like an automated FB message, but it quickly disappeared. Weird.

Anyway here's some comments from Heather and me and Ascending Path LLC on the proposed plan:

* Tourism Businesses with existing NFS permits in good standing who lose access to their operating environment by natural factors such as flooding or other environmental causes beyond their control, should be given fast track priority for speedy permit amendments to fix access and continue business. For example, if a company which gets the public onto a glacier by foot, loses access due to glacier melt, but makes a request in the same semi primitive motorized area to use helicopters to continue their current offering, then that request should be considered and approved immediately.

* Lands designated as semi primitive motorized use should be utilized commercially as much as viable with existing permit holders to maximize public access and use. While simultaneously, places like Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Areas should be strictly maintained as non-motorized for commercial use.

* The DRC at Spencer Whistle-Stop area should be changed to "Roaded Natural" as this is consistent with existing and historical use.

* Public access into the mountains, rivers and glaciers in Alaska is inherently limited by a dearth of roads, and physical terrain barriers. By reducing Recreational land access spectrum, for example, from semi-primitive motorized down to primitive, NFS is essentially eliminating practical public use of our land. In many parts of Alaska, aircraft and helicopters are the only practical way (aside from walking for several days) to access certain locations.

* Sustainable commercial eco-tourism operations should be given priority over other land uses, like mining, timber harvest or other resource extraction.

Great job on all this by the way, I was very impressed by the meeting that my Ops Manager and I attended in Girdwood. That meeting was by far the most valuable element on this for us. Specifically how many NFS experts there were to speak with, including Terry herself. I felt that evening was extremely helpful and productive to understand the project and be able to dialogue with our NF Land Managers.

Kind Regards,

Matt Szundy

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