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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed future of the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.

However, my experience on public comments on federal/state/city issues has been that public comments are rarely a determining factor in the fate of issues, seems to be just an illusion of letting the public think their comments can mean anything.

As a 70 some resident of Juneau who grew up visiting the glacier as a child and who has watched it taken over by tourists over half the year now, I am afraid like many world destinations, we are "loving our glacier" to death.

I strongly object to adding another large parking lot where beavers and other wildlife now live. If tourists want to get closer to the glacier, only non motorized water craft are to be allowed in the water and only so many a day. I also object to more trails and I guess just in general the increase of human traffic in this area. Improvements to the current viewing area is good, as would walking areas around the center. Developing into more wooded, pristine areas is just going to drive what wildlife is left away from this area.

I fear that for the benefit of the cruise/tourist industry, plans are to turn a natural outdoor experience into a Disneyland experience. If the tourists want to have that experience they can go elsewhere.

As it is now I do not make a visit to the glacier during the tourist season unless I have an out of town visitor and then try to plan at a quiet time.

Last summer I visited the Bouchart Gardens in Victoria BC in June. What a nightmare. It was so crowded you couldn't even stop to look at the lovely flowers. The whole experience was terrible and that is how the tourists will feel when you go through with this proposed plan. Sometimes "less is more"!!!!!!

Linda Cryan