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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello USFS,

Thank you for developing a master plan for park expansion in Juneau. I am glad to have an opportunity to offer my comments below.

The plan's expansion of trail system truly appeals to me, I believe that new trails (Lakeshore!) and improvements on favorites (Power Line, Crystal Lake, Dredge Lake, Photo Point, Steep Creek) are sure to attract and delight locals and visitors alike. Thank you for that vision and work.

My husband and I reserve Monday mornings in summer for our weekly glacier visits. We are both in our 70s and love getting outside to enjoy the wonders around us here in Juneau. We have increasing concerns about the effect of the number of visitors who arrive. We worry not only about the impacts on glacier, landscape, and wildlife, but also the quality of experience our visitors take away with them on a crowded bus. The rickety old diesel busses are a huge concern. I wonder how much impact diesel emissions have had on our rapidly disappearing Mendenhall Glacier. I believe with a little more effort, there could be alternative plans to bringing, AND PARKING more busses in our favorite, accessible recreation area. What about running electric shuttle busses from town? CBJ could apply for federal grant funding to make this happen. Also, perhaps using electric carts similar to the ones in airport hallways, could help get those folks with mobility issues even closer to the glacier, and beauty around them.

Please do not put bus and vehicle parking so close to a welcome center. There can be a drop off area, as plan indicates. And please, plan parking a LOT further away! Beautiful spaces need not be for vehicles, but reserved for people walking, in strollers, wheelchairs, wagons, carts. Perhaps close parking could be allowed during the winter for Fireside Chats and such.

Bears, porcupines, deer, wolves called the area home long before people came in such great numbers. The Tlingit people, original stewards of the land, demonstrated their use and reverence of the natural world. Now, the black bear population seems to be increasing, thanks to the excellent diligence of our rangers. Thank you, USFS for managing that detail so well over the years. Still there is less and less room for both wildlife and increasing numbers of visitors. I like the raised road idea, giving bears ample space to move through their home without danger of being hit by a car.

Again, thank you for allowing comments. My main concern is diesel busses in the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.

Sally Donaldson