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First name: Laura

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good afternoon,

I am a Juneau resident writing with comments on the proposed action at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. I regularly recreate in this area and bring guests and visitors to enjoy its natural beauty as well. Some of the ways that I personally utilize this recreation area are kayaking and paddle boarding in the summer; skiing, snowshoeing and skating in the winter; and hiking and dog walking all year round. The natural splendor of the Mendenhall Glacier speaks for itself, but the area around it is also a calm, precious place that does not need to be changed in order to be enjoyed.

As a frequent user of this recreation area, I take its facilities seriously. This place is so special to locals, not just in the summer when it is utilized by tourists. I would like to strongly encourage that you DO NOT expand parking for buses or add more vehicle access and instead utilize remote parking with a shuttle bus powered by sustainable means (bio oil or electric, which in Juneau is hydroelectric and therefore doubly sustainable); DO NOT allow motorized boats on the Mendenhall Lake; and PLEASE DO keep sustainability and renewable energy in mind in any changes or updates to current facilities.

Rather than seeing additional resources committed to accommodating buses, specifically diesel buses, I would much prefer a shift allowing for more sustainable methods of transportation to be utilized. The Mendenhall Glacier is already seeing the global effects of climate change. It seems silly, ironic even to continue to encourage diesel buses or boat engines to be utilized in this area - a place where we see the direct effects of their use on our planet.

The people of Juneau do not want to see more buses (diesel buses specifically) at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, and we do not want motorized vessels to be allowed to operate on the Mendenhall Lake. Please take these comments into consideration as you move forward. The Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area is an important asset to our community and way of life. The people of Juneau enjoy it year-round, not just tourists in the summertime, and we want to ensure that it continues to be beautiful and pristine for us to enjoy.

Thank you,
Laura Steele