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First name: George

Last name: Schaaf

Organization: City & Borough of Juneau Parks & Recreation Department

Title: Director

Comments: Please find comments from the City & Borough of Juneau Parks & Recreation Department regarding the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Facility Improvement Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Best, George

George Schaaf

Director

Parks & Recreation Department

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Juneau Ranger District

Attn: MGRA NEPA

8510 Mendenhall Loop Road Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Comment on MGRA NEPA Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvement Project and for all of the USFS efforts to improve this unique and valuable recreational facility.

As the Parks and Recreation Department for the City and Borough of Juneau, we manage over 6000 acres of parkland, many miles of trails and over 35 parks and recreation areas.

We support efforts to promote sustainable tourism. Specifically, the restoration of Steep Creek will benefit education of visitors and the improvement to fish habitat will support recreation and subsistence activities throughout Juneau. Improvements to viewing and educational opportunities should not result in detrimental impacts to the creek and riparian area.

The proposed trails and changes to the trail system should connect to the greater Juneau Trail System. There are many highly used trails in the Mendenhall valley including the Dredge Lake trails, Kaxdigoowu Trail, Montana Creek Trails, and Under Thunder Trail. These provide important connections to communities and CBJ recommends that these connections be preserved and improved.

Parks and Recreation recognizes the importance of the transit system in providing equitable access to recreation. We recommend partnering with the CBJ and private entities to link transportation and transit networks between downtown and the MGRA. CBJ is interested in collaborating with the USFS on this partnership and possibly committing funding to this effort.

Parks and Recreation supports expansion of the MGRA to allow for continued recreational opportunities as the glacier advances. Juneau residents benefit not only from the recreational activities provided by the MGRA and facilities, but we also benefit from the economic opportunities

that result from the tourism industry.

Sincerely,

George Schaaf, Director