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First name: Doug

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Tighe,

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed action to "improve" visitor facilities at the Mendenhall Glacier.

My primary concern is that the plans appear to ignore the reality of the climate crisis, and instead seeks to respond to expected increases in tourism by increasing access and facilities for more diesel buses and paved areas. And it proposes to do this at a time when it should be obvious that the Mendenhall Glacier itself is receding due to the climate crisis.

The federal government, including the USFS, should be mobilizing to mitigate the climate crisis, instead of making it worse by enabling an increase in cruise ship travel and tourism. As you are probably aware, cruise ship travel has a very high carbon footprint relative to other means of travel, in fact, about three times that of air travel.

The federal response to the corona virus pandemic should serve as an example for the needed response to the climate crisis. While the two-month delay in responding to the pandemic is analogous to the decades of inaction by the US Government on climate change, we are seeing a turn around on the pandemic. Can the USFS change its tune and realize just how urgent it is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, now? The visitor center should be a focal point for educating the touring public about the reality of climate change and its impacts.

That said, there are aspect of the plan that I support including the bridge and trail connecting the visitor's center with the campground. I do not support an additional parking area for that trail within the campground.

I also support restoration of the section of Steep Creek along the entrance road, including replacing the culvert with a bridge for better wildlife and fish transit.

Thank you,

Doug Woodby