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Comments: I'm writing in favor of the revisions the Forest Service is proposing to the Alaska Region Supplement, Forest Service Manual 2720 directive. The visitation at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area has grown extensively since the directive was last written. Consistency is needed in permit requirements across any type of commercial activity at the site. Since the agency has been regulating both tour companies and point to point transportation for a number of years, in order to accommodate the visitation growth and reduce conflicts amongst user groups, it makes logical sense to have the directive language clarified to assist in that regard.

Permit holders are subject to a variety of terms/conditions/stipulations which improve the organization and safety operations at the Mendenhall site. Permit holders are also subject to fees that support the facilities and maintenance of the site as well. Having some companies subject to a permit, which is highly competitive to obtain, and others not, creates conflicts and management complications.

As the agency proceeds with master planning and facility development at the site, being able to manage and control commercial use via permit requirements will continue to be pivotal in the success and visitor enjoyment of the site.

Sincerely, Jessica Schalkowski