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Comments: This is particularly addressing the vastly higher number of tours allowed on Ward Creek Trail at many times over the numbers allowed on any other trails and not allowing any on most.

As a Ketchikan resident I am truly concerned about the possibility of 100 people on tours all together throughout the entire day from 8 to 6 during tourist season on the Ward Creek Trail which is 4 times more than Connell Lake: limit[mdash]25 people tops and Lunch Creek trails[mdash]25 people tops[mdash]while other hiking trails allow mostly none or single digit amounts. I am excluding Ward Lake in this. As I understand it there was a commercial use plan for trails that was written in 2005 that has been used since as a basis. It has been a long time since 2005 with changes along the way and now Ward Cove cruise ships in addition to those ships downtown projected to be coming in larger numbers; this plan does not make sense, just moving along in an outdated and unbalanced configuration at Ward Creek's expense. I am very concerned there will soon be overcrowding on Ward Creek Trail which would be punitive to anyone trying to enjoy a walk or hike in that area, tourists and locals alike. There are 1.4 million cruise ship passengers projected for 2022 in Ketchikan while there were around 878, 000 in 2005. That is just cruise ships. This would of course mean an increase in a portion of these visitors on the cruise ships coming on the trails with guides. Other sources of increases in tourism would add even more that would contribute to this concerning overuse of Ward Creek Trail. Even capped off at 100, could surmise it would be at full capacity with continued use all day long or even more numbers with monitoring not part of the plan and hard to imagine here. Please do not push locals out potentially from this specific trail with filled to capacity tours or more because of the increasing numbers of tourists. I understand and believe tourists have every right to experience these trails but overpopulating the Ward Creek Trail with 4 times more than the two trails mentioned above while other hiking trails have no entry for tours or very small numbers at all needs to change or the outcome could be significantly detrimental to all who want to enjoy experiencing that stretch of forest. I believe protection in this area from over populating with tours streaming all day long in disproportion to any other trails needs to happen in the face of more tourists than ever. It is an unfairly proposed situation which needs to change proactively or could be a serious problem and loss to many if it does not. Thank you very much for inviting comments on the Ward Lake Recreation Area Plan.