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Comments: I am a resident of Juneau who lives less than 3 miles from the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center and a ten-minute walk from the Dredge Lake trailhead. I am strongly opposed to two parts of this proposal.

1) The allowance of motorized boats on Mendenhall Lake and construction of temporary docks to support them - This is entirely out of character with the area and would be detrimental to wildlife and visitors at and around the lake. I think the DEIS underestimates the noise impact that motorized boats will have. The DEIS states that noise would only impact visitors and wildlife in the immediate vicinity of the lake, and that speed limits could be imposed to restrict noise. Based on personal experience, I do not believe either statement is accurate. I frequently hike the West Glacier trail, and have found that noise travels extremely far from the lake. From the point at which the West Glacier Trail ends and the McGinnis trail begins (a few hundred feet in elevation above the lake), I have been able to hear helicopters taking off from the glacier and ice fall into the lake. I believe boat noise would be able to carry the same distance, contrary to the DEIS. I also believe that even if speed limits on motorized boats were introduced, they would not be enforced. Enforcement of current rules (such as keeping dogs on leash) on even heavily trafficked trails like the Nugget Falls trail is lax to non-existent, and I have no reason to believe this would change. In addition, the introduction of motorized boats would disrupt the experience of pedestrian visitors (who would likely still make up the vast majority of visitors) in other ways. Specifically, it seems a given that boats would be driven up to the face of the glacier, meaning there would end up in the photos of other visitors, many of whom would prefer a "pristine" image of the lake and glacier over one clogged with boat traffic. There are of course also potential pollution issues as addressed in the DEIS from fuel spills, trash thrown overboard, etc. that would come with motorized boat use and an increased number of people on the lake overall.

2) The proposal to incorporate the Dredge Lakes area into the MGRA and develop it for tourist use - As previously mentioned, I live extremely close to this trail complex, and use it to walk my dog at least once per week. Developing these trails as a tourist attraction makes little sense. The trails are inter-looping and often free of distinct landmarks (many go to or around small lakes surrounded by forest, which can all look the same to an unfamiliar eye). Although there are several well-made maps posted at trail forks, it seems almost certain that tourists, especially those not accustomed to undeveloped areas, would get lost. Rescue of these individuals would require the use of local Juneau resources and money. Also, while certainly not lacking in views, the Dredge lake trails are fairly mundane by Juneau standards. There are other trails in Juneau already popular with tourists that can provide a better experiences, such as the those from the glacier visitor center, Mt. Juneau, or associated with the Mt. Roberts tram. Additionally, Dredge Lake is extremely popular with local pedestrians, dog walkers, and cyclists (myself included). This is especially true in the summer, when the sheer number of visitors on the Nugget Falls and East Glacier trails often resemble crowds at Disneyland. While I consider it perfectly reasonable to avoid visiting the glacier in summer if I want to take a more quiet and relaxed walk or hike, I do not think it's reasonable to turn over another area primarily enjoyed by residents for quiet and near-solitary recreation to tourists. Besides Dredge Lake and the Mendenhall Glacier areas (on both east and west sides of the lake), the only hiking trail of considerable length (2+ miles) within a short distance of the residential parts of the Mendenhall Valley is Montana Creek, much of which is in poor shape. While there are plenty of other hiking trails further away (30+ minutes drive), it seems unfair to force Valley residents, who make up 75% of Juneau's population, to cede the trail complex on their literal back doorstep over to out-of-town tourists. It gives the impression that the creators of this development plan are prioritizing economic gains through tourist revenue over recreational opportunities for the local community.

I am also leery of the prospect of expanding parking at the visitor as I believe the number of visitors to the glacier during the peak tourist season is already bordering on excessive, but I understand that simply keeping the current parking lot probably would do little to limit visitor numbers.

I am fully supportive of the plans for Steep Creek habitat restoration and making improvements to the visitor center. I am also tentatively optimistic about construction of public cabins and the creation of new trails. I have no particular opinions about the other proposed changes.