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Organization:

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Comments: The Mendenhall Glacier area is one of our favorite and most frequent places that my family looks to for outdoor fun and adventure. We are excited to learn that improvements are in the works and appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

I've been hiking and Nordic skiing in Juneau for over 25 years and I'm happy to report that the last 5 or so years I've noticed that our trails have never been busier. Especially at and around Mendenhall Glacier.

The proposal includes multiple trail improvements which I'm excited about. When considering options please include winter access for Nordic Skiing. Our current groom-able Nordic trails do not meet the increased demand for winter recreation. Please consider the following:

Trails built wide enough to accommodate ski grooming equipment;

A pedestrian bridge over the Mendenhall River connecting the Campground to the proposed Lake Shore Trail;
Continuous ski trails from the Glacier Visitor Center, across the Mendenhall River, through the Campground and onto the west side of the lake;

Addressing parking capacity during the winter;

Adding electric vehicle chargers (the JNSC is hoping to purchase an electric snow machine, too!);

The employment of a professional Nordic ski trail architect so the trails can accommodate multi-season, multi-sport users of the area.

Outdoor adventure and easy access to hiking, skiing, camping and fishing are the number one reasons my family loves Juneau and adventuring around in the Mendenhall Glacier is at the top of that list. I'm writing to you on April 3rd. It's blowing and raining at sea level and snowing at 500+ feet-it's spring according to the calendar but for those of us looking to get outside it's winter. Please prioritize improvements for winter recreation. Thanks for all you do.