

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/3/2022 8:20:55 PM

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Comments: I have been following the proposed plans for the Glacier area for years, and although there are many good things proposed, some of the biggest ideas are a step in the opposite direction from anything I would have thought would come out of all the meetings and studies and time invested.

One of the things I was interested in seeing in the new DEIS was what solution the Forest Service design professionals would come up with for moving the motor coaches away from the front parking lot and how they would create a more dynamic and modern approach for visitors to this area.

I was more than surprised to see that none of the three action plans went in this direction at all. In fact, they do just the opposite and make room for more motor coach traffic and parking right up front than there is now.

Alternative 2 and 3 would go from the current three spots to thirteen spots for motor coaches. The new plans still have the buses (54 passengers each) loading and unloading on to fairly skinny sidewalks, not at all conducive to hundreds of people coming and going in waves all day long.

Under past Forest Service management there had been talk of alternatives to motor coaches up front and of trying to make that whole area more peaceful and comfortable for visitors. The new plans have discarded that thinking completely. Moving the motor coaches back should have been a starting line for improvements with most of the other improvements revolving around this model.

The plans in the DEIS talk of many ways to spread people out, as the glacier area gets more crowded, but then that same DEIS moves even more traffic into that already crowded and small first parking lot area. It makes no sense. Separating the viewing areas from the parking and loading areas seems such a logical first step and the direction I have thought for years that the Forest Service wanted to move. Visiting parks around the country in the last eight years, most of the new designs try to hide the parking areas and use paths to take people from the parking to the views. That is the kind of approach we should be using at the glacier. The current parking ideas that are presented in the DEIS are such an old style approach (cars and buses as close as possible) that I can't imagine where the thinking behind them came from.

Alternative three and four move the regular car parking lot back to the other side of the zig zag pond (second parking lot area). That should be the closest any vehicles get. The commercial drop off and pick up should be in this area. Take the engine noise, back up alarms, diesel smell and tightly packed groups, and move them away from the area where people get there first big view of the lake and glacier.

To make that front area even worse is the placement of the new visitor center. Where guests and locals currently stand and get that first sweeping view of Nugget Falls, the Glacier, Stroller White and Mt. McGinnis, the view will be partially blocked by a big glass building. We need another facility, for leaning about the area and more bathrooms if nothing else, but the chosen location, right in the view, is terrible. Move it back where the buses should be or put it at the top of the zig zag walkway with a spectacular view of everything and blocking nothing. Instead of a building on the shore it could be a world class venue, much like the view from the current facility. Don't block that first view of the big scene with a building.

I like the idea of a raised and wide walkway along the shoreline. That beach area is often crowded or flooded. I like the idea of a bridge over the river. It would help to tie the whole area together.

I know these plans have been in the works for years and many people have put a lot of time in on them, but some of what has been proposed isn't right. What happens at the Glacier is for the next fifty plus years. The time these plans have been in the works should have no bearing on getting it right. If we make big mistakes now, we will be stuck with them for a long time. I think parts of this project need to be looked at anew and maybe some people brought in who have different ideas and solutions then just what has been presented so far. We should strive to make this an incredible spot and not just look to solutions for problems.