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Comments: Here are my comments about the proposed projects in the MGRA:

I live in Juneau and love the Mendenhall rec area. I know the USFS feels obligated to make changes to this area due to the amount of commercial interest in this area, but this isn't Disneyland, this is my home and a national resource. A project of this size must consider costs and benefits and the scope of who is impacted appears to be centered on the commercialization of this national resource with the local community as an afterthought.

I run all the existing trails and ski them in the winter. I completely avoid this area when cruise ships are in. The magic of Juneau isn't an hour among thousands cruise ship passengers looking at a melting glacier; Juneau is at its best when it is a sunny 25 degree day and families are skiing around the lake saying hi to neighbors.

And here are my key points:

Please-no boats on the lake. They will change the whole character of the lake, are an eyesore, and will create noise (even the electric ones).

I'm not in favor of the modular and movable visitor center, hardened trails from the lake, and toilet facilities anywhere up there (this includes the barge option). The whole idea of chasing the ice is misguided. It's well known that most of the tourists are not very physically capable and have limited time due to the cruise ship schedule. In only a few years, the glacier on that side has retreated several hundred yards. This is only going to get worse in the next few years.

Keep the Welcome center in the same spot. Arches National Park has a welcome center at the front of the park and doesn't move its center. Same with many other parks. Visitors can go explore on their own. Bathroom facilities such as composting toilets in strategic locations would probably be a better idea.

Consider the amount of time that a visitor is in Juneau. Typically it is from 7am to 1pm, or within that same amount of time (5 hours). Do they have time to adequately do the activity you're building substantial infrastructure for? No, they don't.

I support more hike in public use cabins in the area. The existing ones are the perfect size.

I support more xc ski trail grooming in conjunction with the Juneau Nordic Ski Club.