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Comments: While I have a lot to say about the proposed changes to the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvement plan I only have time to present my main points. I think changes should be made to improve the health of the ecosystem and in part to improve conditions for tourism. I am very much opposed to motorboat (gas or electric) access to the glacier via the Mendenhall Lake. I am very much opposed to building a second visitor center at the site above the current glacier. The glacier is going to continue to recede so there is no need to chase it. In the 202 plus years that I lived in Juneau the glacier has receded from the Nugget Falls to its current position. We can surely predict its position in the next 10 years with models.

There is no need to make this area a theme park as is the case downtown when all of the boats are in. Even now when there are more than 3 large cruise ships, the glacier area is unbearable for the local residents. More and more there are ridiculously large guided groups going up the West Glacier trail. I imagine widening this trail will improve access but will also encourage more bicyclists and large groups. Does this further the health of the ecosystem? I think not.

Boats on the glacier with all of their emissions will not enhance the health of the ecosystem. I am guessing many of the proposed changes will not enhance the ecosystem and will instead degrade habitat. Ecotourism only survives if bears continue to inhabit the stream area and goats which I see regularly on the west side of the glacier will find more distant refuge.

I would like to see wildlife corridors and trail maintenance. Enhancing the West glacier trail would be a good idea for access for large groups.

I am no longer a Juneau resident but I will continue to come back to enjoy the exquisite hiking. I no longer hike the West Glacier trail in the summer because of the impact of tourists on the trails. The helicopters are another issue but I won't discuss my issues with that.

Basically I would not invest money to pursue the vanishing Glacier. Look what has happened in Anchorage with the Portage Glacier. Can one even see it anymore??