

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/10/2022 12:08:56 AM

First name: Martha

Last name: Fischbach

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My comments come from over 30 years of living in Juneau and visiting the Mendenhall Glacier area, a degree in Recreation (Therapeutic Emphasis University of Minnesota), Minors in Psychology and Dance, and additional special areas of study of Early Childhood Education (Certified Nursery School Teacher), Art and Physical Education, almost all of those areas relating to aspects to be considered in this comment period.

Abstract:

Basically, I would recommend a very different approach from the options offered, one that could provide more jobs; more protection for the environment, flora and fauna; more money from users of the facilities; use of modern technology to allow more people to enjoy our awesome corner of the world.

Basic Focus:

1. Quality, rather than quantity; personal experience, rather than increasing tons of people being herded
2. Get what you pay for, something for everyone, from free, to many dollars worth
3. Something for everyone, (rather than everyone gets everything)
4. High level of education and enforcement of protective measures for the irreplaceable pristine environment
5. Create new jobs
6. The wealth (money) is still there, just distributed in different ways
 - a. the entities interested in money still get it, quite possibly lots more
 - b. the entities interested in preserving our natural world, get that, with higher level of protection
7. Use the current planning for a new Disney theme park, in Florida or California, for folks who can't get here, so you haven't wasted all that time and effort making those plans

If the current proposals go forward, I believe it will destroy the pristine environment, the natural order of life around the Glacier, never to be recovered. The current plans remind me of a Disneyland theme park, which is totally out of place. Getting every more people to stampede through, disrespecting or not being really interested in the specialness of the area, is not the answer. The pictures you can take now, will not be possible any longer, if there is a big building in the middle of the area, or boats are motoring all over, or people are trekking all over the place, upsetting the natural animal trails, forest and water areas, that support what we have now. The experience we now can get, will no longer be possible, so you won't be able to sell it anymore.

Basic tenant/goal:

We (humans) are the "guests" of the area, flora and fauna, not the other way around. Displacing all of this will not keep it there. Leave no "footprint" or sign you were there.

Here are some ideas:

Many levels of interaction possible, the more impact on environment, the most it costs the individual

1. On board ships, a naturalist, can do show and tell and/or there can be high tech virtual shows, that see/feel like it.
 - a. Virtual reality shows
 - i. On board ship
 - ii. Convention center downtown
 - iii. Make movies of different experiences (sight, sound, tactile, smell, etc.) available for free, or fee, depending on level of experience afforded
 - iv. Pay more for more natural stuff (fragrances, leaves, twigs, herbs, honey, jewelry, etc.
 - v. Provide markets for locals/natives to educate and sell items to tourists.
2. Take bus to Glacier area
 - i. For low fee, take bus and stay on bus, with naturalist explaining things

- ii. For more \$, you can get off bus and have photo op
 - iii. For more \$\$, you can walk the trails
 - iv. For more \$\$\$, you can do deeper nature experience (longer trails or hikes, kayaking...the more exposure/use of nature, the more it costs)
3. Toll booth for going onto land, per person, or vehicle, or ?
 4. Passes for locals, varying levels of participation and cost, depending on impact.
 5. Limited access, on lottery system, cabins, campsites, kayak, etc.
 6. Naturalists are both guides and guardians, to keep close eye on the tourists who want the varying levels of experiences, protecting the animals and plants and land, from misuse, and giving the tourists a more rich experience
 7. Juneau Ak becomes synonymous with natural beauty, healing, wealth (of different kind), sought after and rare, rather than given away, with little or no value and sometimes no respect
 8. Have various Routes, like Glacier, Sheep Creek, Douglas Island, for buses and other vehicles
 9. People can earn or win credits by working the area, for rights to access.
 10. Remember Nature's currency-energy, respect, wisdom, listening, balance,
 11. Build apartment complex or dormitories, for naturalists/employees, on edges of the land, not prime visit/view area, with little impact on nature, for ease of worker accessibility.
- I would be happy to discuss further with anyone interested.