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

#### BOATS:

I am not in favor of boats (even the electric ones) on the lake as the noise will change the peaceful grandeur of the glacier and the lake. You wouldn't hear gulls, lapping water from the lake or the falls, or any quiet whatsoever. You would hear boats.

The potential of polluting the lake is too great as there is always operator error. The boats themselves would be contributing to the climate change that is melting the glacier in the first place. The lake is not charted and levels rise and fall drastically, so it doesn't seem safe. Boulders and silt can't possibly be good for the boats.

There are ALREADY commercial paddle tours on the lake capable of docking without docks. They are not as much of an issue but do interfere in capturing the majesty of the glacier in photos. But they are quiet and do not disturb the peace and ruin the experience. Boats with many passengers would most certainly be an eyesore and would be impossible to avoid while viewing or photographing the glacier.

When we have had visitors come, not of them one cared if they touched the ice. In fact it was the vastness, the size, the majesty of the glacier and surrounding mountains of which they were in awe and we as locals are today. This would be RUINED with boats. The DEIS seems very incomplete especially with regard to boats on the lake.

#### REMOTE VISITOR CENTER AREA:

I'm not in favor of all the proposed use at the Remote Visitor Center Area. Currently, it is a nice, remote hike that both small commercial groups, locals, and independent tourists use. This will be upended if up to 1000 tourists per day use the same spot. 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. Why do the tourists need to "chase the ice" when most locals don't feel the need? Those who are capable and have time will do so. We already have helicopter tours that place them on the ice.

#### LAKESHORE TRAIL AND OUTER DREDGE LAKES LOOP TRAILS:

The statistics provided that claim 95% use of visitors is flawed. Did you count or study anything during the pandemic? It was not 95% visitor use during the pandemic. The only reason that it is most of the time is because the cruise ships bus them in by the millions. The local population cannot compete with those numbers and therefore the locals look to see when the cruise ships are in and they AVOID the area. Locals are discouraged from using the area from APRIL 1st NOW through OCTOBER 31st...more than half the year. Because of this, we use a different area and that is the Lakeshore Trail and the Outer Dredge Lakes Loop Trails. We walk our dogs and retreat there to avoid the masses of visitors and commercial tours, for peace and quiet.

Therefore, the Lakeshore Trail and Outer Dredge Lakes Loop Trails should be retained as they are. A paved trail with a line dividing traffic is out of place. Commercial tours and massive visitor use would prohibit off leash dog walkers. Families with kids, bicyclists, bird watchers, dog walkers and others have long enjoyed along the shoreline and in the inner portions of Dredge Lakes. Bringing over 55,000 tourists into these treasured places would just be the start. Locals currently share the MGRA with tourists at Nugget Falls, Steep Creek, Moraine Ecology Trail, Photo Point, MGVC, East Glacier Trail, and the west side of the lake. It shouldn't be too much to ask to have one area off-limits to tourists.

I am a nordic skier who is not in favor of paving the lakeshore trail for the reasons above. I would rather enjoy meandering on my skis without tracking through Dredge Lakes and on the Lakeshore, to avoid the demise of the area as we know it. It is quiet, pristine and pleasant.

#### VISITOR CENTER:

Why is there a concession? The concession has been promoted as "Pie for locals". Sitting inside at the glacier with masses of people is not a place I would think of when I want to eat pie. Maybe I could see hospitality coffee

and tea. There is already a problem with food and bears at the glacier. According to the forest service last year when there were few visitors, the bears did not do as well without all the people around.

#### NUGGET FALLS TRAIL:

Why does the Nugget Falls Trail have to be a loop? Many locals walk the lakeshore to avoid the traffic on the hardened, forested route to the falls. Can't that route be widened if traffic is such a problem? I have walked the hardened trail and although there is a fair amount of people on it at times, I never felt it had more people than it was currently designed for. Keeping the crowd inside the woods solves a visual problem and prevents their noise from carrying across the lake.

#### TRANSPORTING TOURISTS:

I live on the back loop road. The bus traffic is horrible. I can't imagine being in a bike tour and having all these buses whizzing by every two minutes. I'd really like to just have electric buses at the MGVC and/or have a circulator system of electric buses that shuttles passengers. The diesel buses are loud, and spew carbon dioxide. The DEIS says the tourists won't have time to board cruise ship buses and then reboard circulator buses, so how do they have the time to board and reboard boats crossing the lake and then hike to the glacier? The DEIS also says many of the tourists aren't very physically fit and getting on and off buses will be a problem. So how do they have strength to board and reboard the boats and then hike? The rationale in the DEIS doesn't make sense.

#### CABINS:

It's not clear why we need so many cabins in the campground or why we need them to be so big. Big cabins mean big groups, which means more noise and more traffic. The DEIS doesn't really discuss what the effects of these cabins will be.

#### EXPANDING MGRA:

I am not in favor of expanding the MGRA as it is beginning to encroach upon residential neighborhoods. It is much like changing zoning from residential to industrial and people find their quality of life has been altered at the whims of a developer.

In fact, the presentations of this project have felt very much like those of a real estate developer because the aspects of the project are catering to the guiding companies and the cruise lines who stand to profit off of the design. I thought the forest service policy would be to protect the natural environment and only do what it takes to make it safe to share with visitors for years to come. It shouldn't be a completely guided, Disneyland adventure, where you are queued up for boat rides and dodging crowds. Where is the ability to solo explore and discover the magic of the area? All the bells and whistles detract from the natural experience.

#### UNLIMITED GROWTH OF TOURISM:

The project is trying to make concessions to too many outside parties. There should not be exponential unlimited growth which will never offer a meaningful visitor experience and will degrade the local experience and discourage any local use of the area. Unlimited tourism only benefits the greed and profit of private business. In every other public park, limited entry permits are necessary and it should be considered here as well in this small area.

#### ASPECTS THAT I AGREE WITH:

I believe there needs to be a better bathroom facilities and perhaps a slightly larger center to welcome guests.

I am in favor of formalizing the West Glacier "scramble" trails to the glacier because they will prevent resource damage, be safer, and help keep people from getting rescued.

I am also in favor of realigning Steep Creek for better salmon management.

I am also in favor of the trailhead parking lots on the Glacier Spur Road.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.