

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/10/2022 5:58:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I've lived in Juneau for the better part of 26 years. I haven't always lived in the Valley, as I do now, but I have always loved and regularly used Dredge Lakes Trails, Powerline Trail, many of the trails of East and West Glacier, the campground, and Mendenhall Lake. Off-leash dog walks, bike rides, kayak trips, birding treks, skiing, skating, northern light viewing, blessed to come across bear and wolf tracks, watching porcupines, mountain goats, bears and salmon, recharging my personal batteries by forest bathing in the unspoiled beauty of this clean, pristine, peaceful-thru-all-seasons but tourist season. I have proudly taken my visiting family and friends to explore these areas. The life in this place feeds my soul. I visit some part of it almost daily.

I heartily object to allowing any motorized boats on Mendenhall lake. The result would be:

- 1.Noise pollution disturbing birds, wildlife, and my peace and ability to hear and enjoy birdsong, glacier calving, waterfall, and the serenity of the area as nature offers it.
- 2.Fossil fuel and odor pollution
- 3.Negative impact on sockeye salmon and harbor seals
- 4.Hazard and nuisance to kayakers and other recreational and non-motorized users
- 5.Would diminish view of glacier and lakescape to see boats and docks and crowds

The lake and shoreline are perfect in their natural presentation. You cannot improve on it; don't diminish it.

Please DO NOT allow motorized boats on Mendenhall Lake!

Please DO NOT fill and pave ponds!! Keep the impact of buses as minimal as possible.

1.Relocate bus drop-off and pick-up to the current bus parking area, it's plenty big enough and a short and lovely walk. Someone suggested an electric trolley to carry those who can't walk to the VC; that would be much preferred.

a.Keep busyness, noise, and pollution of idling engines away from the glacier and lake.

b.Consider putting the welcome center with restrooms in this same location.

2.Don't fill ponds and wetlands for parking. Ugh! Pave paradise and put up a parking lot? Please DON'T!!

As for the proposed Welcome Center, as currently planned, it would block the view of the lake and glacier and has all the aesthetic charm of a shoebox. I've seen a sketch drawn by Laurie Craig as a suggested alternative. It actually compliments the existing Visitor Center and is in a location that does not interfere with the views, bears' pathways, and access to the beach below the pavilion. Please consider and support LC's suggested alternative in the location between the kiosk and existing VC or, if not there, at the current overflow bus parking area.

The proposed Shoreline Trail would dominate the beach and landscape. Keep the shoreline natural, please.

Alternative 4, offering less visible inside trail improvements is MUCH preferable to cluttering the shoreline with manmade elevated walkways. The shoreline is beautifully walkable and x-country skiable as is.

Please DO NOT allow commercial tour groups or motorized vehicles of any kind in Dredge Lakes trails!

Remember the forest bathing and recharging of personal batteries and peaceful off-leash dog walks mentioned previously? This is critical to the quality of life for those of us who live here.

People come to see bears. Bears need adequate space to live, forage, rest, nurse their cubs, escape, transit, fish for salmon, and climb trees, safety, and privacy. If you compromise their space, privacy, and habitat, we risk dangerous encounters, and most importantly, we risk losing the bears altogether.

This place is perfect as is. Don't change it to accommodate droves of visitors who'll only ever spend a couple of hours. If these changes are made, the impacts will be irrevocable. You'd do better to mitigate the impact of visitors to keep this area wild and wonderful and unspoiled.