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Comments:

I agree with the many suggestions of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club and those of Renewable Juneau in addressing the many issues raised by the alternative proposals.

However, the proposed large, block shaped 'Welcome center' will block the best view currently. In addition, the Proposed motorboats on Mendenhall Lake will deter from the overall quiet, wild setting and should be left out. Of concern is the number of boats that would be on the lake, along with the safety issues of boats and passengers ferrying across the lake. Gas/diesel motorboats would be noisy and smelly, ruining the quiet and pristine nature of the lake, glacier and mountain views. Fumes from the busses idling in the parking area are already bad on days busses are parked. Gas/diesel fumes drifting across the lake would cause more pollution and be an annoying smelly distraction.

Unfortunately, in Alternative 2 the Forest Service continues to propose massive parking lots at the end of the Glacier Spur Road rather than reducing traffic congestion with solutions that don't bury sensitive wetlands under rock.

A remote parking lot with electric circulating trams would solve the problem. The encroachment of many additional parking spaces near Steep Creek will create more urban noise along the walkways and threaten the waters with oily engine waste. Other action alternatives (especially Alternative 4) would at least minimize the size of the parking lots and would not commit the area to another century of outdated mass-transit modes. I believe as stated by Renewable Juneau, you are also missing an opportunity to demonstrate that exceptional experiences and resources are more important than convenience and that efficient, renewable-energy powered public transit is good for everyone.

I'm also in favor of new trails connecting the east and west sides via the pedestrian bridge across Mendenhall River which will open up nordic skiing and biking among other healthy, non-motorized activities. I encourage you to make trails as wide as practical (10'-14') for best use in our winter season. Expanded boardwalks for wildlife viewing along Steep Creek are improvements over the current boardwalks which are often too crowded. Restoration of Steep Creek itself is a positive habitat change and the new vehicle/pedestrian bridge across it is long overdue.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.