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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I object to this proposal first and foremost because the Federal government has no authority to regulate the use of the Lake and its submerged lands. When Alaska became a state in 1959, the Statehood Compact gave ownership of navigable waters and submerged lands to the State of Alaska. Court cases have upheld Alaska's ownership in similar situations. Since the State of Alaska owns Mendenhall Lake and its submerged lands, the Federal government has no authority to regulate the use of the Lake and its submerged lands.

From a personal perspective, I and my family have used this area for over 40 years. It is a most unique and special place and unlike any other in the Juneau area. We love the hiking, the trails, the ability to watch the undisturbed natural cycles of wildlife, such as the bears and the salmon spawning in Steep Creek, the peace and quiet that surrounds the area, and hiking and walking with our dogs at Dredge Lake.

Many, many times, I have come to the Glacier to unwind from the unavoidable stresses that we all undoubtedly experience at times. We are not alone in our love for the Mendenhall Glacier area. Visitors and locals alike enjoy the area as it is now.

So, in addition to the legal issues, I personally object to this plan for some of the following reasons, all of which boil down to a plan that would commercialize this special place: motorized boats, danger and harm to the harbor seals that return to the Lake and gather at the mouth of Steep Creek where the proposed docks and shelters would be located; damage to the sockeye salmon who rear in Mendenhall Lake; other impacts on wildlife; noise, pollution, view obstruction, compromising safety for visitors, a plan that will not take into account the special place for locals and independent visitors.