

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/10/2022 5:55:17 AM

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Title:

Comments: I have lived all my life 0.8 miles from the Mendenhall Glacier visitor center. As a child, my family spent all the time we could within the park, from hiking the east and west glacier trails to Nordic skiing on the lake and in the dredge lake system. In the summers I worked jobs funded by tourism, I am by far no stranger to what sustains my community. However, in recent years, I have stayed away from the park. The crowds, the people, and the noise have been more than enough to keep me and many of my local friends away.

When I first read the new park DEIS I was appalled, boats? Paved trails? And an increase to the capacity? When I read these things the first thing I did was look into the terms used in the article (nice job making it hard for the average person to understand) as well as the implications of such a proposal. Then once I was sure I understood I set out to determine if these proposed plans were necessary.

My standpoint as a Juneau resident and an individual who benefits from tourism is that these plans are simply unjustified. Already the park is not operating at full capacity so the need for the increase is unjustified.

Furthermore, the party size of twelve people used for the calculations of the park's capacities is a randomly chosen number while public trail monitoring data represent the average group size as 2-3. Additionally, the USFS admits that to achieve these new capacities, the building of additional cruise docks would be necessary, plans for which have not been finalized nor have been approved. In essence, the USFS is putting the cart before the horse when it comes to building new infrastructure. Please don't make our wonderfully natural park an amusement park.

To put it simply I want

NO Boats

NO paved Trails

NO Urban designations

NO commercial allocation in Dredge Lakes

I REJECT 2% per year commercial growth

CAP commercial capacity at current levels