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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've been an Alaska resident for 43 years, and was privileged to spend a decade of that time living within easy recreating distance of the Mendenhall Glacier. I skied, biked, hiked, and paddled uncounted thousands of miles within the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, viewed and photographed wildlife, and partnered with Juneau photographer Mark Kelley to create a book celebrating its beauty.

I am totally shocked and appalled by the development proposals outlined in option two of the current DEIS, which I believe would do demonstrable and irreparable harm to the MGRA, both aesthetically and ecologically. Trail density and quality is already optimal; adding more would degrade the wild character that residents and visitors alike enjoy, and would disrupt wildlife that is already stressed enough by the commotion of many thousands of our kind. Building a much larger visitor center smack dab in the view, with its footprint overlapping and/or obliterating sensitive and valuable wildlife habitat, would heap on further damage. Adding a flotilla of 40-some passenger power boats plying back and forth would complete the Disneyfication of the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area and hasten by wave and wake action the demise of Alaska's most accessible glacier, while utterly destroying the pristine natural character of its setting.

As one who loves the Mendenhall Glacier, I ask the Forest Service to reconsider this myopic plan to de-Alaskify, degrade, over-develop, and ruin one of The Great Land's natural treasures.

Sincerely,

Nick Jans