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First name: Mary Last name: Toland Organization:

Title:

Comments: From 1975-1999 I lived, worked and raised a family in Juneau. Twenty of those years were in Mendenhall Valley, a view of the Mendenhall Glacier from our driveway. Considering current climate research, I remain deeply concerned about aspects of expansion plans for Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facilities. Improving access for tourism may come at a tremendous cost to the entire glacial ecosystem and surrounding habitats if not done conservatively. The powerful impact of standing at the toe of a receding glacier should not be underestimated. My experience at the Exit Glacier, near Seward, is forever etched in my heart. I understand the focus of this project is accommodating and expanding tourism experiences at Mendenhall Glacier. Until humans recognize the detrimental environmental impacts of travel/tourism, this will be the dilemma. I urge you to reject any aspect of this project that encourages "remote access". Increasing motorized traffic on the lake and accommodating more and more tourists is the opposite of environmental stewardship. Managing access, as currently practiced via daily pass requirements at Denali National Park, should be seriously considered. In life, we don't always get everything we want. It its time to recognize the fragile situation of this remarkable natural wonder and protect it, not facilitate it's demise by putting tourism and economic growth first. Thank you.