Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2023 6:05:42 PM First name: Mary Last name: Johns Organization: Premera Blue Cross Blue Sheild of AK Title:

Comments: I work downtown but have lived in the heart of the Mendenhall valley for nearly 20 years. I have seen the impacts form the growing numbers of arriving tourists and it is distressing to me. While I understand that there are great economic boost from tourist I have to wonder when does it become too many people?

I feel blessed and invigorated by the treed view of the glacier from my home and love to see others enjoy that too. With that being said I am very concerned about increasing access to this areas by motorized boats on Mendenhall Lake. I am also very concerned for proposed change that disrupt the natural topography, impact wildlife and challenge habitats that the area provides. I wonder is there ever going to be too many people and when is enough enough?

Folks come to AK for bucket list goals and that is truly thrilling that our little town can help to achieve that for people but again when does it stop being special and just another tourist spot with a Disneyland mystique. We already have so many buses loaded with tourists herded around like cows that truly trying to enjoying the magic of the Mendenhall Glacier is tough on peak days.

So I polite beg, ask yourselves, when will it be too many people? When will the experience cease to be special? I think by over improving the area and making it more touristy you will be taking away what truly makes this area special and allowing it to be common place. By creating large impacts on the area you will be taking away the rustic outdoor experience and what people want to see and experience when they come to AK. Maybe we should try to keep this area special and step away from the "If you build it they will come" -mentality.

I agree that there probably needs to be changes and/or improvements but please let us manage what we have better. Please make mindful and less environmentally impactful developments, lets keep the area as wild as we can and amend current operations in the most ecologically ethical ways. Please let us try to keep the Mendenhall Glacier Area a truly magic place.