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Comments: I am in favor of alternative #1, no new development.

Our federal tax dollars should not be spent to expand access to the Mendenhall Glacier area. Expansion of access will adversely affect Juneau residents in a number of ways:

1. Expansion will benefit foreign flagged large cruise ship companies that pay nothing in U.S. taxes. They have routinely polluted Alaska's air and water and some of them are felony polluters, having been caught dumping raw sewage, bilge oil, garbage, and heavy metals in the very "pristine" Alaska waters they sell to tourists. Some companies have been convicted of felonies under U.S. law. Allowing those companies to bring more bus loads of tourists to the Mendenhall Glacier will further pollute the area with diesel smoke from the buses, and will cause even more congestion in the area. It is nearly impossible for hikers to navigate the crowds that were there in 2022. The cruise lines are predicting another half a million tourists in Juneau during the 2023 cruise season, up to 1.6 million people compared to just over a million in 2022.

2. More tourists will mean more shore excursions including flightseeing trips over the glacier. Flightseeing is dangerous and already drives Juneau residents to distraction due to the noise pollution. The flight paths of the helicopter tours are over residential areas and over large commercial stores like the Juneau Fred Meyer store. Helicopters are high maintenance machines. Flying over residences and our largest commercial grocery store is an invitation for disaster.

3. Home owners on the Skater's Cabin side of the Mendenhall Glacier will be severely impacted by increased vehicular traffic in the area should alternatives that expand parking and allow boat traffic be realized. Their lives will be disrupted from April through October of every year. Juneau residents are already severely impacted by cruise ship tourism. Expansion of the Mendenhall Glacier area will make it many times worse.

Please do not move forward with expansion of the Mendenhall Glacier visitor's area. The U.S. Forest Service should have had an option for decreasing the number of visitors allowed in the area due to pollution, overcrowding, and expenditure of U.S. tax dollars that will benefit foreign corporations that pay nothing in U.S. taxes. I am a retiree and am taxed on my Social Security and State of Alaska pensions. Why should I pay for billion dollar industries that will benefit from U.S. tax dollars and yet pay nothing?