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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been a resident of Juneau for over 40 years. For three summers -1979, 1980, 1981- I drove tour buses for Holland America to the glacier from cruise ships. My family of four and I ride our mountain bikes throughout the Dredge Lakes, East Glacier, Under Thunder, Moraine Ecology Loop, and west glacier areas. One of my daughters has worked for Cycle Alaska giving bike tours to the MG area. All the trails are a blast. Its interesting to see how many different users there are, not just how many. With the proposals and alternatives, more people can access the MG area with bikes, feet, and skis, and have even more fun and adventure than currently possible.

The two most amazing high-use areas in Juneau -IMO- are Eaglecrest and the MG area. Both have been developed more and more as time passes. My view is that both retain their ecological integrity or should be developed to ensure that. We can still go to both areas and find adventure, solitude, and find relatively intact nature.

I am a member of both the Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance and the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. My comments below will look familiar: I've borrowed from the Nordic Ski Club's recommendations. They seem reasonable to me and I support their choices below. Seems to me the ski club's position on trails is precisely what mountainbikers would support. I'm writing both as a mountainbiker and nordic skier. Should add that I run and hike often in the MG area.

Steep Creek Intertie - make this under/overpass skiable in the winter. A connection between the Dredge Lake trail system and the Powerline & Under Thunder Trails would allow for seamless skiing along the east side of the valley, through Dredge Lake, across the Mendenhall River, on up to the Montana Creek valley, and into Spaulding Meadows.

Lake Shore Trail - make this trail wide enough for machines to groom for winter skiing.

Mendenhall River Bridge - this is a critical component to making the Mendenhall Valley a fun area.

Dredge Lakes Loop - encircling the Dredge Lakes area, a 12' wide trail would enable winter grooming for skiers, bikers, and walkers alike.

Mendenhall Campground Cabins - the proposed caretaker's cabin at the entrance should double as a winter-time warming hut for skiers. I am concerned about the impact the other campground cabins will have on deteriorating grooming conditions by non-skiers accessing cabins on foot, and suggest placing cabins elsewhere on the west side of the lake where there is road access.

Skater's Cabin Parking - the additional parking lots in alternatives 5 - 7 are preferred over adding parking inside the campground (alternatives 2 & 3) near the proposed Mendenhall Bridge.

Tolch Rock Spur Trail - located in the SW corner of the MGRA, this link would connect the MGRA network of trails to the Montana Creek drainage trail system.

West Glacier Trail Ski Loops - the Forest Service should keep the "high" and "low" loops in all alternatives, allowing for winter-time ski grooming (this may include improvements to the current West Glacier Trail to allow for winter grooming operations).