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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Greetings,

I have enjoyed spending time in the MGRA for the past 43 years with my friends, family, and dogs. Over the years, I have appreciated many of the improvements, but I am very concerned over some of the proposed "improvements."

To start on a positive note, I think it is a great idea to have the visitor's center and parking area where the current bus parking area is now. Eliminating the congestion by the viewing area will make for a much better experience for everyone. A high quality walkway would encourage people to walk to the viewing areas and electric shuttles would keep down the noise and pollution. I also like the idea of a cabin in the campground area.

There are several issues that cause me concern. Motorized boats on the lake: terrible idea. Please refer to Jim Sepel's comments in the 2-14-23 edition of the Juneau Empire. This is his area of expertise and if he thinks it is a bad idea, it is. People go to the glacier for serenity and an armada of motorized boats would be jarring and a pollution nightmare. I also worry about how the west side of the lake can accommodate all of the people getting on the boats. Montana Creek Road can not handle that kind of traffic. The amount of commercial use of the west side seems right as it is now. Taking people near the face of the glacier doesn't seem like a safe thing to encourage. Port-a-potties on a dock at the glacier-no!

In the second place, a road (called a trail...) along the southern edge of the lake would ruin the Dredge Lake area for all of us who enjoy this area so much on a daily/weekly basis. Though I am a member of the Juneau Nordic Ski group, I absolutely disagree with their stance. This is the best area to walk, ski, bike, and walk with dogs on somewhat developed trails. Developing the trails would change the entire character and I wouldn't be surprised if dogs were banned or required to be on leash if this area is developed. This is also an important area for wildlife and thousands of people passing through would destroy that.

Finally, what experience are you trying to give the tourists? People who come to Alaska are probably in to nature, not development. The glacier is disappearing all too quickly and I don't think it is worth developing the area for millions when there will be less tourists in the future interested in viewing an area where a glacier used to be.

Sometimes less is better.

Thank you for paying attention to all the comments made in the last round.