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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for considering, revising, and returning more alternatives to the proposed changes at Mendenhall Glacier Visitors Center. Please consider that local knowledge is invaluable in protecting what the mind-boggling numbers of cruise ship visitors take for granted.

MGVC Comments 2/2023

Respect and protect bear access to the fish and the creek. Acknowledge bear viewing activity and limit and manage platforms at heights and distances according to specifications at other Alaska bear viewing venues. Maintain and respect seasonal trail closures prioritizing bear access. Give bears the under-road access at Steep Creek in the open bottom culvert. Consult local former MCVC directors (several still live in Juneau) with years of experience and knowledge of bear routes in the areas where trail changes are proposed.

No food or beverage service.

Keep any additional buildings out of the viewshed whether on arrival near the kiosk, from the existing visitor center, or from the base of Nugget Falls. Any construction of new buildings needs to be well back of the panorama view area currently enjoyed on arrival near the kiosk. Bus arrival busyness and fumes could be kept back at the current bus lot. Bathrooms there and an electric shuttle would ease congestion in the current arrival zone.

Additional seasonal use buildings/welcome center should be modest and able to be completely closed and winterized. The highest need being bathrooms and some rain shelter. Most visitors are only in the area for a short period of time. Consider making the visitor center film available for purchase to those who don't have time or cannot access the center due to the crowds.

No paving over of any ponds.

No boats on the lake. No remote visitors center.

Widen current trail to Nugget Falls to allow two-way access.

I oppose the Dredge Lake area being annexed into the tourism management zone. This is traditionally a local use area. I am not convinced a 14ft wide hard surface trail or a bridge across the Mendenhall is needed in an area that currently is rustic foot paths. The footbridge across the Mendenhall near Thunder Mountain High School reportedly cost Two Million dollars and that was years ago. If this "trail/road" does end up in the final plan, please allow for cross country grooming equipment operation in the bridge design and keep the main trail tucked back from the shoreline.

